

Bethany Hilltop News



March 2009

**Bethany
United
Methodist
Church**

**Pastor
Rev. Allynn
Walker**

**Youth Minister
Justin Aymer**

Don't Give It Up, Take It On!

Do you remember giving up something for Lent? I always gave up chocolate, the *supreme* sacrifice! No more chocolate chip cookies, Snickers, or brownies. Not even when my father would ask me to make brownies for him. I would make the brownies but not even lick the bowl!

Whenever I gave up chocolate for Lent, it was with the understanding that as soon as the resurrection was successfully accomplished, it was all over. Easter morning would come and I would throw open my bedroom door and gaze upon the beautiful sight of a basket filled with chocolate bunnies! So if you think about it, I never really gave up anything for Lent. I simply postponed my usual chocolate indulgences for a few short weeks.

Now I ask myself, is that what God wants? Scripture tells me no. In John 3, Nicodemus was trying to understand Jesus' true identity and mission. Jesus told him the only way he could so do was to TAKE ON a new identity; he had to become one who born of the Spirit. Only in the Spirit could Nicodemus come to experience the Kingdom of God and recognize Jesus as the Messiah whose coming established it.

Lent isn't about giving up small indulgences or small vices, just so that we can greedily wallow in them post-Easter. Lent is our annual opportunity to TAKE ON that which

will enable us to welcome the Spirit into our lives and embrace Christ and his mission.

Instead of giving up for Lent, why don't we TAKE ON....

1) family prayer time? What if you were to take on the spiritual practice of family devotions a couple times a week, or even every day, for the season of Lent? Or if you're single, team up with a friend.

2) those people in your life who need the love of Jesus? Consider inviting them to one of these: an Easter Egg hunt for children Saturday morning, April 11, or our Easter morning worship services.

TAKING ON leads to taking up . . . the cross. The whole point of a Lenten season is to lead us to the foot of the cross, to bring us to our knees in repentance and gratitude at the love of Jesus. Lent isn't a season of joyless self-deprivation. Lent should be the annual opportunity we have to open ourselves to the Spirit, allowing new possibilities and greater responsibilities to find their place in our lives. What will you take on for these next few weeks, so that you will be led to the cross, ready for the resurrection, even ready for the arrival of the Kingdom of God?

In Christ,

Pastor Allynn

Youth Planning Team Meeting

March 15

12-2 pm

Lunch included

RSVP Justin

SPRING
FORWARD
MARCH 8TH



DON'T BE LATE FOR
CHURCH

Inside Out Conference

On April 3-4, Columbia Bethany UMC will be hosting the inaugural *Inside Out Conference*, which is organized by *Living the Adventure Ministries*, a mission and evangelistic ministry based in Waterloo, Illinois.

Inside Out is a conference for Young Adults and College Students (18-35). 1000 Generations will lead worship and Matt Henson is the evangelist/speaker for two great nights of awesome singing and life-changing words from Scripture.

The gatherings will begin at 7:00pm each night.

On Saturday, during the day, there will be opportunities to serve at local mission sites around the St. Louis Metro Area. There is no registration cost for this event. If a person can take part in the evening gatherings, but not during the day on Saturday, that is fine. There will be opportunities in the near future for people to RSVP to work at one of the mission sites.

Inside Out desires to bring Young Adults together in an environment focused on the Holy Spirit changing hearts and minds, so that they can go out in mission and service sharing the life-change they have experienced. If you want to know more about this event or would like to invite other people, contact Matt Henson (Executive Director and Evangelist for *Living the Adventure Ministries*) 618-830-6670 or matt@livingtheadventure.net

“FORGED IN THE FIRE”

Jesus said, “go, make disciples...” It is not enough to welcome people when they come to our church. We must offer *radical hospitality* and invite them to come and also go where they are! The sad truth is that more people than ever, right here in the Columbia area, do not have a saving relationship with our Savior.

As our world has changed, so must our evangelism. The ways we can effectively reach people for Jesus must be adjusted to the realities of the 21st century. Let’s begin to learn what that might look like for Bethany!

A great start will be attending the “Forged in the Fire” Conference at **Fairview Heights Christ UMC, March 27-28**. The cost is only \$10 no matter how many we bring.

Pastor Allynn is asking all you to join her at this Conference if..

- you serve as a leader in any capacity at Bethany
- you have a passion for evangelism
- you want to learn how we can fulfill our mission to reach the lost for Jesus

THE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 27, 7:00--9:00 pm

and

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

with dinner on our own 4:00-6:00 pm.

See Pastor Allynn for more information or to indicate your desire to attend some or all of the Conference. Registration deadline is March 20. Let’s step forward in faithfulness to the Great Commission to go and make disciples!

www.bethanyonthehill.org

Check out the new and improved website! We have a webmaster, Jeff Giesege, who has given it a great new look. (By the way, we are excited that Jeff, his wife Julie and son Brandon will be joining Bethany this month!)

We are trying to take the website up a notch. We believe this is one of the ways we can offer radical hospitality. There is information about the church, upcoming activities, lots of photos of events, and audio of Pastor Allynn's sermons.



News from Justin...

CAMP:

Register by April 13, 2009 and take off \$25 from registration fee. Sign up for camp now with Justin.

We will be doing some fundraisers in the spring to help with the cost of camp.

Jr. High - July 14 - 18
(7th - 9th Grade)
(\$160)

Sr. High - June 21 - 27
(8th - 13th Grade)
(\$200)

Mission TRIP:

Sign up now with Justin.

Red Bird Mission Work Camp - KY

June 7 - 13

(\$255)

visit www.rbmission.org/Ministries/communityh.html for more information



No Cardboard Please!

Times are hard and people are losing their jobs, so I guess it's no surprise to hear that Otto, the paper and cardboard collector at our church, got laid-off. The company Otto worked for, Green Fiber, is going out of business March 1, 2009. The company will pick up your paper and cardboard until March 1, 2009. The recycling bin will then be moved away forever. However, we have found and contacted a new company called "Abitibi," and for this area they are located in St. Louis, MO. We signed an agreement with them to pick-up our recycled paper in the container bin starting in March. The big change is that they don't collect cardboard. The old company, Green Fiber,

made a solution out of their recycled paper and cardboard collection. The new company, Abitibi, makes paper for newspaper from their collection and they can't collect cardboard for that need.

They told me they supply the Post Dispatch and two out of three newspaper companies in the United States with recycled paper to make their newspapers. They collect newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school paperwork, and junk mail. They will not collect or pick up plastic, glass, metal, trash, cardboard, or phone books.

Their mascot is Pepper the Dog. He is called Pepper the paper retriever.

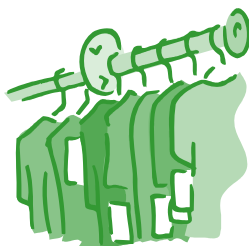
Did you know that 40% of everything in a landfill is paper? Did you know each year, people in the U.S. throw away enough office and writing paper to build a 12-foot high wall from New York City to Los Angeles?

We will continue to make a little extra money for our church. We will also help keep our town, county, and state a little greener with your help.

Remember though, no more cardboard after March 1, 2009.

Thank you,

Church Trustee,
Sam Stimmel

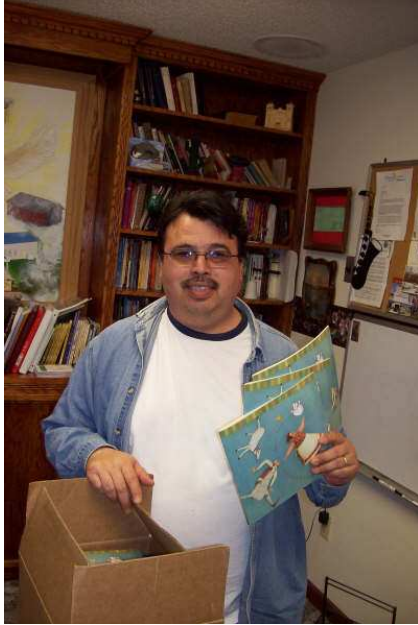


Time to clean out the closets! The youth Rummage Sale will be April 25th!

We will also need wire hangers to hang clothes and if any one feel really handy we could use some clothes racks.

See Lisa Bromley about the racks.

Hispanic Ministry



Pastor Adrian Garcia
 Jesus es el Senor
 United Methodist Church

Pastor Adrian Garcia is smiling at the Spanish Bibles and children's literature Bethany donated. Since 1992 Pastor Garcia and his wife Lilly have been ministering to the migrant workers and Hispanic people in Cobden, Il. We praise God for the awesome work they do for the Lord. When Pastor Allynn gave him these books, he fondly remembered the contributions the people of Bethany made in helping build the bunk house on their property. He sends his thanks.

Dorothy's Disciples Sunday School Class

Come join this unique and informal ladies' class as we study our Bibles and encourage each other. The class is named in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Adams who loved and mentored these ladies for several years. Visit one time and you will want to come back. We meet at 9:30 each Sunday morning in the Conference Room.

Brenda Brewer, Facilitator



YOUTH NIGHTTIME SKI TRIP