

May 2010

Bethany Hilltop News

Pastor
Rev. Allynn Walker

My View from the Hill

“Let us go on towards perfection.” Hebrews 6:1



Have you ever wondered about this verse? I have because I thought only Jesus was perfect. Then I learned that the word perfection is translated from the Greek word teleios. To the Greeks a thing was teleios if it perfectly carried out the purpose for which it was designed.

We can go on towards perfection as we obey God and stay in the center of His will for our lives. It is not a perfection that means we are perfect in the world's sense of the word. We are not perfect parents or employees or pastors. We are perfect only as we open ourselves to carrying out the purposes of God for our lives. Perhaps this story will help illustrate what I am saying.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his back. One of the pots had a crack in it. The other was perfect and always delivered the full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For many years this went on, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house. Of course the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

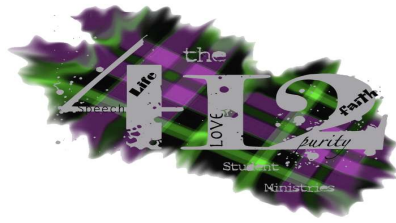
But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of

its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. One day it spoke to the water bearer, “I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out. Because of my flaw, you have to do all this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts.”

The bearer replied, “did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.”

God has purposes for which He has uniquely gifted each one of us. Let us go on towards perfection through our obedience to Him and in so doing, bring beauty to our world and glory to Him!

In His Service,
Pastor Allynn



News from The 412.

We recently went to Tulsa at the end of March for Acquire the Fire. We had a great trip and God really did some things in the hearts of the youth that went. The speakers taught about topics that teenagers deal with everyday. We also saw some good bands, and the skits and worship were amazing.



The 412 has a couple of events coming in May that you should mark your Google calendars for:

May 15th – Camp Workday

May 21st – Summer Kickoff Concert at Bethany, national recording artists BrightGray is coming to Bethany to Kickoff the Summer. The concert is free for all, so invite all your friends.

Also look for The 412 on Facebook and become a Fan.



LADIES HONORED - MAY 8TH , 2 PM

In honor of the ladies at Bethany (all ages), the Fellowship Committee is having a tea on Saturday, May 8th at 2 pm. Please feel free to bring your Mother, sister, aunt, a friend or any other young, mature or in-between lady who is important in your life. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Also, we think it would be fun if everyone wore a hat. Hope to see you there.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in Him.” Nahum 1:7

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection -- through prayer.

Let's continue this tradition. At Bethany we will have a sign up sheet in the lobby. We are asking you to commit to praying wherever you are during one of three time periods: 6 am – noon, noon – 6 pm, 6 pm – midnight. We're not expecting you to pray that entire six hours! The commitment is to pray anytime during that time slot, according to your schedule and time you have available.

For more information, go to the National Day of Prayer website: nationaldayofprayer.org. They have good advice for your to prepare yourself, what to pray, why we pray, and steps to take after your prayer time.

Beulah Camp 2010

Beulah the Beginning (Entering grades 2 – 4) July 9 – 10
 Beulah Bible Camp (Entering grades 5 – 7) July 5 – 8
 Beulah Jr. High Alive (Entering grades 7 – 9) July 13 – 17
 Beulah Youth Institute (Entering grades 8 – 13) June 20 – 26



Please see me if your child is interested in attending camp or if you are interested in being a chaperone. I would love to see every age group represented from Bethany this year! See me or email me @ dlr516@yahoo.com with any questions. Thank you! Donna Roth

Life Network of Southern Illinois

In 2009 Life Network provided pregnancy center services to 156 brand new clients and a total of 1000 women, men and children at the Waterloo Center and the Washington Park Satellite Center. These services are offered with compassion, the assurance of confidentiality, and at no cost. This is a life affirming ministry! Bethany is so grateful to support the work being done there in the name of Jesus.



A fun and educational way to provide financial support is through the Baby Bottle Drive. At Bethany, on Mother’ s Day, bottles will be available for you to pick up. Take them home and fill them with change, paper money, or maybe even a generous check. On Father ’ s Day you will bring the bottles back to the church. Parents: please consider using the bottles to teach your children about sharing our resources with those in need and the sanctity of life. May God bless your generous giving!

“Hometown Harmony” to Perform in Waterloo

I’d like to invite anyone interested to a choral presentation of a variety of hymns and spiritual songs on Sunday evening, May 16 at 7 pm at the United Church of Christ in Waterloo. The concert is free. There will be an opportunity for a free will donation to be given to local charities. The concert will be presented by a new community choral group called “Hometown Harmony.” Please join us for an evening of fun and beautiful music. Hope to see you there!

Kim Hesterberg