



Bethany Chicago

Newsletter

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May 2009

Staying connected in exciting new ways

Bethany Church has taken a new step in building its community online. In addition to the website, www.bethanychicago.com, there is now a Bethany community presence on Facebook.com.

For those not familiar, Facebook is a free-access social networking website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook with fellow computer science major students and his roommates Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes while he was a student at Harvard University. Website membership was initially limited to Harvard students, but was expanded to other colleges in the Boston area, the Ivy League, and Stanford University. It later expanded further to include any university student, then high school students, and, finally, to anyone aged 13 and over. The website currently has more than 200 million active users worldwide.

Titled "Bethany Chicago - United Church of Christ," the new Facebook Group pertaining to this church already has 18 members, including the creator of the page Jeff Peek, administrator Shaun Baer, and Pastor Bill Bordonaro. "I think this will be a great new way to make people aware of what's going on at Bethany," said Baer. "It encourages those involved in the group to stay connected to one another outside these walls."

Many churches have a presence on Facebook for a variety of reasons. The most beneficial reasons are that through a Facebook connection, reminders about upcoming church events and programs can be easily communicated. Additionally, members of the group can invite others to our public events, providing additional free marketing opportunities.

Through chat and other communication tools, this area also can be used as a forum to spark discussion about faith, scripture, and other topics. "The beauty of the site is how it will grow and change based on the needs of the community," added Baer, "and we look forward to seeing more members using this as a way to stay connected."

I'm not on Facebook yet but I want to join this group...how do I get started?

Getting started is easy. All you need is an e-mail address. Simply visit www.facebook.com and follow their registration instructions.

What about my privacy? I don't want all kinds of strangers to see my profile.

Facebook is very concerned with people's safety and privacy. Please be sure to take the time to read through all the steps carefully and select the privacy settings for your profile that are right for you. Remember, you can always change them later if you would like to expand or limit your profile's accessibility.

I have more questions or need help getting started...can I call someone?

Absolutely...feel free to call the office manager, Shaun Baer, with any questions.

facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



Message All Members

Promote Group with an Ad

Edit Group

Edit Members

Invite People to Join

Create Related Event

Leave Group

Share +

Group Type

This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.

Admins

- Shaun Baer
- Jeff Peek (creator)

Phone: 773-472-0729; Fax: 773-472-1096; 4250 N. Paulina St. Chicago, IL 60613

Rev. William Bordonaro, Pastor

Email: bethanychicago@sbcglobal.net ; www.bethanychicago.com

Worship and Sunday School Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



Pentecost is Approaching

There are three major festivals on the Church's calendar each year. Two are easy to identify: Christmas and Easter. The third, Pentecost, takes a little bit of thought. The 50th day following Easter, Pentecost celebrates the arrival of the Holy Spirit, and is often referred to as "the birthday of the Church".

The dominant color of Pentecost is red, symbolic of the tongues of flame that appeared over the believers' heads, prompting their ability to speak boldly and in a variety of languages the Good News of the Risen Christ. On May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, Bethany will be adorned with red geraniums to go with red banners and red paraments. We would invite you to wear something that matches the day's color scheme.

Following worship, we will be assembling sandwich suppers for Night Ministry in the Fellowship Hall. On Monday, June 1st, the sandwiches will be taken to the Night Ministry headquarters on Ravenswood, placed on the Night Ministry bus, and distributed to persons in need. Specially marked envelopes will be included in bulletins during the month of May allowing you to make a further contribution to this vital operation.



Alfred Pfeiffer (1920-2009)

Al Pfeiffer served three terms as President of Council at Bethany Church during the latter 60's and early 70's. "His church meant a lot to him", recalled Vera Pfeiffer, Al's wife of nearly 62 years. Alfred O. Pfeiffer died on April 23rd at the age of 89. A memorial service was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville on April 30th.

Our condolences go out to Vera, to their children, Gregory and Donna, to grandchildren, Matthew, Kevin and Jessica, and to all who mourn Al's passing

Calling All Bread Bakers

There are, the apostle would remind us, a variety of gifts represented within the Church, and among those gathered in the local congregation. It has, for example, been a pleasure to see the growing pool of lectors, and to listen to a choir of eight, with the potential of ten or more, on Easter morning. The goal of a worship committee may be understood in terms of allowing the gifts of God's people to be used to their fullest advantage.

While some may enjoy the chance to sing or speak in public, the gifts of others may be less visible but equally important. Paraments may be changed, banners designed, candles replaced and the elements of Holy Communion prepared completely "behind the scenes". Sharing the bread baking responsibilities on a Communion Sunday has been, I've long discovered, one of the more delightful opportunities for service among those so gifted. I can still see Rocky River's Joan Zeager, rushing in at 7:59 with bread hot out of the oven for 8AM Communion. (I shouldn't write about these things before breakfast.)

Nicole and I will be maintaining a sign-up list of bread bakers for upcoming services. You may already have a bread recipe that you prefer. If not, the office has one that can be made available to you upon request. I would only ask that the bread be easily torn and not prone to crumble. Flatter, pita-style breads I've found work best. Let us know if you'd like to take a turn at this, or any other "behind the scenes" activities related to Sunday morning worship.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Bethany United Church of Christ will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, May 17th. All active members are urged to attend and exercise their privilege of a vote.

Two council positions will need to be filled. Bethany thanks Karen Theel for her service to the congregation during the past two terms, along with Scott Esser, who has completed Carol Turner's term on council. May God bless you, as you have been a blessing to us through your faithfulness.

In addition to the reception of reports from officers and organizations of the church, we will be showing, during the luncheon that will follow the meeting, pictures from the past twelve months that illustrate the life of our congregation. It has been a good year for Bethany Church, and we hope that you'll be able to join us for this "year in review".



Bethany's Easter 2009

Attendance soared past 100 for the first time in years, the weather cooperated to allow an outdoor Easter egg hunt, the Theel women provided breakfast pizza and chocolate fondue, a choir of eight (including five men) proclaimed the resurrection to a Gospel beat. This was Easter 2009.



SIGN-UP REMINDERS

Thank you to the following persons who have volunteered to provide flowers, serve as lector or host a coffee hour during the months of May. Contact

MAY 10

L: Linton Childs
F: Pastor Bill
C: Alice Peterson

MAY 17

L: Nicole Macaluso
F: Angela Zawada
C: Angela

MAY 24

L: Sara Bosch; F: Sara Bosch/Bryan Haas; C: Sara and Bryan

MAY 31

L: Jeff Peek
F: The Peek Family
C: The Peek Family

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2...RUTH RODRIGUEZ

8...BARBARA KIELY-BERENS

20...PASTOR BILL BORDONARO

23...LINDA ZAWADA

28...BECKY GENI

31...JEFF PEEK



Join us for Outdoor Worship this Summer at Bethany

Beginning June 7, Bethany United Church of Christ will be moving its worship outdoors. Enjoy the beautiful grounds of Bethany while participating in this unique worship experience with family and friends. Services will begin at 10 a.m.

Bethany United Church of Christ
4250 N. Paulina St.
Chicago, IL 60613



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God
is still
speaking,