



# The Encourager

*"Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another..." I Thess. 5:11*

Volume 25, Issue 8

August, 2014

**Bethesda Church**  
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## The Encourager

If you have an event or news you would like to have published, please submit articles to the church office by the second Tuesday of the month.

E-mail: [bethesda@bethesdachurch.com](mailto:bethesda@bethesdachurch.com)

## Vacation Bible School



**August 4-8,**  
**9:00am 12:00pm**  
**Ages 3 - 6th**  
**Grade**

## "PLEASING GOD..."

You've heard it said, "You can't please all the people all the time". How true this is! It is interesting how this idea relates to our experience in ministry. We are not to be men-pleasers but God-pleasers in all that we do. One of the most dramatic moments during the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ is when the Father's Words could be heard from heaven, "...This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased..." As God voices His pleasure in His Son we cannot help but be moved at the possibility that God could in some way take pleasure in us. We crave to hear the words "well done thou good and faithful servant." It has blessed me through the years to see the emphasis the Apostle Paul makes of this significant idea. Pleasing God was his greatest desire in life. It was his central aspiration. In II Corinthians 5:9 he wrote, "Therefore we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him!"

Do we have a sense in our lives of giving pleasure to God? Could He conceivably be laughing with joy with every victory and obedience in our lives? I say, yes! Paul in his many references to pleasing God establishes its parameters. We know that "without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6) And we also understand "they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8). So God's pleasure grows though our increased reliance on Him and obedience to Him. We can choose to walk by sight or we can choose to walk by faith. The faith walk is not a result of our independent effort, "for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

As we go through the process of growth in our Christian walk the bottom line is "God awareness", and a desire to please Him. We are to "try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:10) and we are obedient... "for this is well pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians

3:20); Paul emphasizes that we have, "received instructions as to how you ought to walk and please God..." (I Thessalonians 4:1); so that we might all "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects." (Colossians 1:10)

In a wonderful way we find the Apostle Paul stating over and over again that for him the highest objective was pleasing God. In I Thessalonians 2:4, he says "so we speak not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts." That is to be the ultimate "calling" for all of us. "Oh God, may you find pleasure as you examine the motives and attitudes of my heart!"

The question then arises...but didn't Paul talk about "pleasing all men in all things"? The fact is, the more clearly we see the context of Paul's statement, the more a "God focus" is reinforced. In this passage, (I Corinthians 10:33) Paul is addressing the need for others to be saved. Earlier, (I Corinthians 9:19-25) Paul talked about "becoming all things to all men." A fleshly focus away from God and on pleasing men has the selfish, self-seeking motive of our advance and our betterment. But here a clear motive is explained. Paul is "not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many." In truth, he is in greatest harmony with God's pleasure when he subjugates his rights and his personal preferences in order to reach out to others for their salvation.

In Romans 15:3 we read that "even Christ did not please Himself." In verse two we are challenged, "...let each of us please His neighbor for his good, to his edification." So in this Paul was not a man-pleaser in the negative sense. His eyes were on his God and his desires are clear...God first, others second (in service, edification and witness) and self last. What blessing is ours as we desire above all else, "to be pleasing to Him!" God bless you as you seek to give pleasure to God. (Hebrews 13:16)

*~Pastor Mark Matychuk*

## Getting to Know You...Steve & Tracey Eimer

Tracey was born in New Bedford, MA and her folks are still living in the same house where she and her two sisters grew up. She graduated from

high school there and went on to Southeastern Massachusetts College in Dartmouth. Tracey worked for a local radio station in sales

and had great fun doing car commercials.

Steve, his two brothers and sister, lived

(Cont. pg. 2)

## Prayer & Praise Requests

**LARRY BAKKE** - Carolyn was surrounded by her family when she went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, July 11th. Her service was at Bethesda last Tuesday. Pray for Larry, their daughters, Mari and Merodie, and their family and friends during this difficult time.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - (August 4-8) Please be in prayer for all the kids that come through this next week. Pray that if they do not yet know Christ as their Savior they would not only be able to hear, but also respond to that call. Also, pray for the teachers, leaders, and all the volunteers this week. Pray that this week would be a memorable week for all those involved!

**STEVE & BARB SHERMAN** - Barb was having trouble with her eyes. She has inflammation of the optic nerve. It was decided that they would come to the

states to pursue treatment. She had an appointment on Friday, July 18th and has had several tests done. Please pray that they are able to get a diagnosis so they can begin to deal with it.

**DISCOVERY CONFERENCE** - We are excited to have over 150 people registered for the conference this year. Pray for Les Feldick as he prepares and that Iris continues to get stronger every day. Pray that the conference will be a great blessing for all who attend.

**REVIVE TWIN CITIES UPDATE** - Great news!! Many have been led to the Lord at our Revive Twin Cities and many seeds planted. In the last three days, just on my team alone, we have had 4 people come to Christ and shared the gospel with over a dozen people. God is working in incredible ways with revive twin cities.

### Getting to know You...cont.

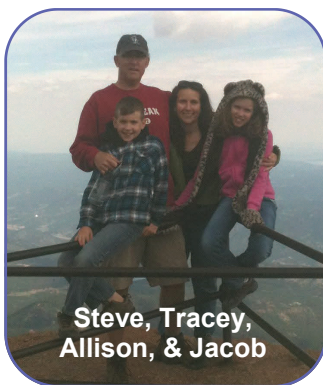
"between New Jersey and Miami"!!! His folks ran resorts all over the East. When I asked where he graduated from high school, his answer, "Tempe, Az."!!!

That little drummer boy gets around! He was in a band in college and played snare drums in the Navy. Speaking of ---everyone in his family has a military background including Grampa who rode his horse in the Cavalry. College was getting a bit expensive so Steve took some time off to make some money which took him to New Bedford. A lady who ran a Christian bookstore and became a friend said, "You've got to meet Tracey". Now, she was also telling Tracey, "You've got to meet Steve" but Tracey wasn't interested. Steve's good friend also told Steve, "You've got to meet Tracey". Now, neither the bookstore lady nor Steve's friend knew each other, but they both knew Tracey. It was Tracey's birthday and her friends threw her a big party. The bookstore lady was invited ---and---she brought Steve!! The rest is history----it was a God thing.

Steve works as a Telecom Program Manager for AT&T. He had to make a trip to Minnesota in November. It was cold and overcast and he thought, "Why would anyone live here?"

Tracey had had a miscarriage and Steve

had gone back to finish college when they discovered little Miss Allison was on the way. No health coverage, Steve in school....so he took on two part-time jobs. Those were lean years. Then Jacob joined the family and they were living in Colorado Springs with a picture window bringing Pike's Peak right into their home. But, as they put it, "what is beauty if you have no church family". They just couldn't find fellowship and proper Gospel teaching. Several job opportunities presented themselves...but every door closed...until.....DREADED MINNESOTA!!



Steve, Tracey,  
Allison, & Jacob

Steve explored the Internet for a dispensational church and found Bethesda.

Their first Sunday they were greeted with open arms---Pastor Mark's message hit them right between the eyes---and Kathy signed Steve up as our little drummer boy. God is good!

Shortly after they arrived at Bethesda I noticed a lovely young lady and an energetic young man jumping right into helping move tables and set place settings in the Fellowship Hall. Hadn't a clue who they were but they were sure willing workers. Turned out to be Allison and Jacob and they are still helping all over the church. Pike's Peak loss

-----our gain!

By Shirley Calvin

## God Bless You on Your Special Day!



### August Birthday

8-02 Christina Deyoe  
8-04 Jason Burma  
8-05 Hanna Huston  
8-06 Vern Hendrickson,  
Everett Koskovich  
8-07 Hannah Jones  
8-09 Noah Russell  
8-11 Bruce Anderson  
8-12 Laura Larson  
8-14 Mary Mueller  
8-15 Gary Johnson  
8-16 Betty Crownover  
8-17 Claudia Hennen,  
Ray Lundgren  
8-18 Warren Anderson  
8-20 Rachel Matychuk,  
Heidi Russell  
8-21 Marian Berglund  
8-23 Henry Bottema  
Sharlene Czajkowski  
8-24 Sara Burma, Carol Huston  
8-25 Mary Ann Dalbey  
8-26 Dave Lewis  
8-27 Dave Russell,  
Steve Wickstrom  
8-28 Marjorie Pagel  
8-29 Paul Ebert  
8-30 Jackie Butterfield,  
James Wolke  
8-31 Melody Zunker

### Anniversaries

8-01 James & April Loppnow  
8-02 Dave & Wanda Teply  
8-04 Milton & Leota Anderson  
8-06 Andrew & Sarah Dykstra  
8-14 John & Ellen Simonsen  
8-15 Duane & Jennie Herbranson  
8-20 Ellsworth & Pearl Schwandt  
8-21 Duane & Kendra Larson  
8-22 Tom & Mary Vellani  
8-24 Bob & Sharlene Czajkowski  
8-26 Paul & Diane Ebert  
8-31 Zack & Joanna Gowdy

### Missionary Birthdays

8-01 Naomi Hodgson  
8-04 Arnie Selfors  
8-06 Elijah Hodgson  
8-08 Brianna Roth  
8-12 Joel Molina  
8-25 Danae Benton  
8-26 Michelle Campos

### Missionary Anniversaries

8-05 Steve & Barb Sherman  
8-11 Joel & Darcy Molina  
8-16 Mike & Terese Benton



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div>Jul 2014</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Sep 2014</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<b>1</b>  <b>2</b> 8:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast  9:00 AM VBS Sanctuary Set-Up
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<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Classes  10:15 AM Worship Service  6:30 PM Anchor  VBS Meeting/Lunch and Room Set-Up, 12:00 pm	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Summer Quest Bible Studies	<b>7</b> 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> 																																																																																				
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RPG 2014

What happens when you combine a 55 passenger bus, camping, mountain dew, nachos, Sand Creek, MOA, service projects, 70 teenagers, about 17 leaders, 1 Bible speaker, and 4 teaching sessions? You get RPG in Minnesota. We had life, energy, laughter, crying, embarrassing moments, energy, disgusting moments (ask my cousin about what came out of her husband's nose), intense Jenga games, and –oh did I mention there was tons of energy!?

We had Marc Johnson come up for the second year to be the speaker of RPG and he did a fantastic job interacting with the students. I noticed that he made the time and effort to meet, greet, learn everyone's name—and then he remember them! He also spoke about how to *Renew* our lives in light of Christ. He challenged the students to stop trying to figure life out themselves and believe in Christ, give up their secrets, give up their past, and trust God to provide all they need in life.

We also had the fantastic opportunity to go to Sand Creek Adventures.

All of us got to go work on teamwork in the low ropes as well as go down on the zip lines. Some of the really brave students took it to the high ropes course and challenged themselves to do more than they thought they could.

Out of the original 70 students about 55 remained for a three day missions trip after the Family Bible Conference concluded. The mission trip focused on helping others since they had just been poured into during the conference. They did a bunch of yard work on Sunday afternoon for some of our own church members as well as for some of the community that is right around Bethesda. On Monday and Tuesday they headed out to two organizations to help remodel and paint—and these projects were not push overs. They worked hard!

It was fantastic to have the RPG conference here this year. I enjoyed seeing how God challenged the students to step outside of their comfort zones. It was encouraging to see how some of the youth were also stepping up and taking leadership roles among their peers. And it was a lot of fun to see the youth room being so crammed that there was hardly any room to even try to play ping-pong!

## Korner

idz

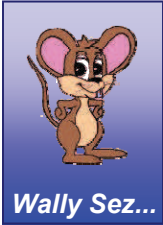


### GGF FAMILY CONFERENCE KIDS

Everyone in the GGF kids program had a great time. The 12 Older kids learned all about the Armor of God, and how we can put it on every day. They had a team competition to learn verses and apply what they had learned. The 8 younger kids learned from many of the classic Bible stories about how to serve and worship God. We also had a fun time with kids from both groups going to the zoo and seeing some of God's cool animals. We can all remember to put God first and serve him in everything we do every day.







**Jamee & Julie Francis** were so taken with their mission trip to Haiti they both agreed they'd do it all again. Jamee became "doctor" as she was so knowledgeable and well prepared to treat 900

patients in just two days. There is great need there.

It is so interesting to hear **Ken & Mary Mueller** reminisce about their days with migrant workers in California. I've always thought they were Mexicans but come to find out these folks were from Arkansas and Oklahoma and they were seeking a better life during the 1950's. That reminds me of an old, old song; "Hey Okie if you see Arkie tell him Tex has got a job for him out in Californy" Both Mary and Ken agree these were dear people. As part of the Grace Gospel Conference a group of 80 youth from Grace churches, plus some of our own young people tented at a campground in Jordan. They did various service projects in local communities in Prior Lake, Savage, and Minneapolis, and for some folks in our congregation. One night they all had a barbecue at the Francis home. **John & Julie** were attending the conference so **Michael & Jamee** did all the cooking and entertaining.

These young people were amazing. They were all very polite, friendly, and rarin'-to-go. There is great hope for the next generation everyone. Being little, I can see lots of work being done by so many volunteers. The church is really very attractive thanks to these good folks. **Howie Cleveland** and his crew of painters, **Marcy Dugan** and her kitchen crew, **John Toeller** who just does everything and anything that needs doing, **Rhonda Brandt** and teenagers who volunteer at Camp, **Sherri Jones**, **Mary Cleveland**, and **Kathy Matychuk** who transformed the bathrooms into gorgeous "powder rooms" and decorated the Fireside Room so delightfully, **Carol Huston**, our resident artist, who invited even adults into the Nursery with her adorable wall murals. I could go on and on. This church family is fantastic!!! Now, its time for VBS! And once again ladies are busy baking cupcakes, cookies and brownies to make the little ones happy. So many come out to help.

#### Thought for the Month

Summer is fleeting! Wake up every day as happy as a cat with two tails!!!

## GGF Family Bible Conference

It was a blessing to host the 2014 Family Bible Conference at Bethesda Church this summer. In so many ways it was an opportunity for us to show loving hospitality to the Fellowship of churches that is so important to us. This is the first time this gathering has been held in the Minneapolis metro area and the response has



been uniformly positive leading some to even state that this has been the best conference they've ever attended. The attendance was lower for the conference at 274 than most of the recent conferences and this was maybe tied to this being a new location. The



Youth program called RPG however was tremendous and involved 80 very enthusiastic individuals who had their own speakers and small group times and a wide range of activities. What was notable was that the responses were extremely appreciative for the hospitality and service of the Bethesda congregation. From being greeted at the door in welcoming fashion to being picked up or driven to the airport for a flight connection, in so many ways our



church had a great opportunity to extend the love of Christ. What a joy it has been that as a church we truly took it upon ourselves to serve each person who came. In so many ways our whole congregation participated in



preparations, housing of out of town guests, setting up and cleaning up for each and every meeting, programs for the children of all ages, outings for adults that were creative and fun, and fellowship meals, lovely banquets, delicious snacks and treats that never seemed to end. The



services themselves were a joy as our worship team carefully prepared songs tied to the message theme and truly contributed to our hearts receptivity to the delivering of God's Word. The singing was so enthusiastic and heartfelt that we could sense the Lord's



blessing in each service. One of the highlights of course were the many meals we shared together. It was obvious that a combination of great leadership and numerous eager volunteers made each meal an easy time to gather in fellowship and truly enjoy breaking bread together. It makes such a difference when so many willing hands pull off each event in seamless manner.



This conference was a joy to attend, a blessing to prepare for, and an expression in all ways of love and devotion for our Lord Jesus Christ who is our Head and whom we serve. Praise the Lord for this great blessing!

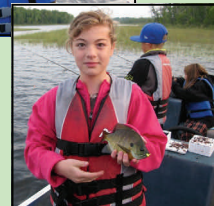
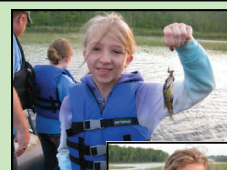




## Bethesda Church FAMILY CAMP



at Timber Bay  
August 29-September 1, 2014  
*Speaker: Pastor Robert Nix*  
Plan to join us for this wonderful time of  
fellowship and learning from God's Word.  
Information available at church or call  
the office at 952-226-6651



## Pacesetters Stillwater River Cruise

**August 19, 2014**

For those not attending the whole Discovery Conference there is an opportunity to enjoy a special part of this time. A three hour Riverboat Cruise and Lunch leaving from Stillwater, MN. at 12:30 and the cost is only \$25.00. A



van will leave from church at 11:00 a.m. We expect this to be a great blessing. *After the cruise we will be going to an Antique Shop and then enjoy some ice cream.* Sign up at church. There will be a great time of fellowship with over 150 people from the conference. Call the office at 952-226-6651 or sign up in the foyer.

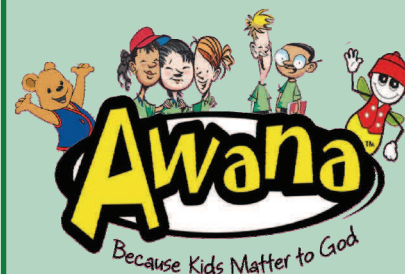
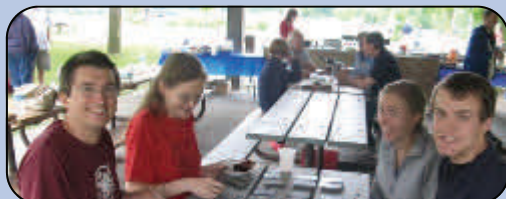
## Church Picnic

Sunday, August 10th  
after church at Cleary  
Lake Park, Prior Lake

Bring  
your  
whole  
family!



Bring a dish  
to share!



Mark Your  
Calendar's for the  
first night of Awana!

Begins Wednesday

**September 17th**

6:45 pm - 8:15 pm

**Boys and Girls Ages  
3 Years - 6th Grade**