

March 2010

Bethany Hilltop News

Pastor
Rev. Allynn Walker

My View from the Hill

The Season of Lent



At our Ash Wednesday Service on February 17, I invited all of us to observe a Holy Lent. In the words of the liturgy read that night, we do this "by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial, and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."

The 40 days of Lent are a time for intentional spiritual introspection and contemplation. Is this something that appeals to you, or do you think you're too busy?

Consider these words from C. S. Lewis in Mere Christianity. "God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

Or in the words of St. Augustine's famous prayer, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in Thee." Has your heart rested in God today? Have you found yourself running on fumes? Does your soul seem empty?

Let this season of Lent, Feb. 17 to Easter, be a time that we rededicate ourselves to spiritual reflection and renewal. Pick up an issue of the *Daily Bread* devotionals available in the church lobby. Subscribe to an email site to receive daily devotions like upperroom.org or crosswalk.com. Consider spending an extra five minutes every day in prayer. Perhaps you could fast one lunch per week and give the money saved to charity. You can also fast from one night of TV a week, or anything else in order to focus more on God.

Time with God each day will fill your spiritual tank and feed your soul. Don't run on empty! Don't starve your soul! Be ready for Easter as we celebrate the good life God gives us now and the great life He promises us for eternity.

Pressing on, *Pastor Allynn*

Greetings from Bethany's Youth Minister

We are so excited to be here!

I am overwhelmed by the warm welcome and open arms that met us here at Bethany! We were both nervous walking into a new church with new people and were amazed to find that we were instantly at home here – and were so quickly made apart of the family. We appreciate your love and are very excited to get to know you all better. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about us and our hopes for the youth group at Bethany.

I came to know Jesus as Lord while in youth group at age 15. My family did not attend church regularly, but I was invited to youth by a friend and it drastically changed my life. I remember so clearly how I thought and felt at that age and how God changed my future by erasing my past. For this reason, I know how powerfully God can use young people and He has given me a heart for this upcoming generation.

I met my wife, Jaclyn, at our church's college group in 2006 and we were married in December 2007. Jaclyn too has a heart for youth and together God has given us a vision for the kids here at Bethany. We hope to teach God's love in a way that is real and relatable while training disciples who are effective in spreading the Gospel.

We praise God for bringing us to this church and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to follow His call. We look forward to what He will do with these kids and are excited to serve alongside you in obedience to His word.

God Bless You All,

Jonathon Wilson

SPRING AHEAD!!

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 14TH**





Saturday, April 24

Spring is just around the corner and once again it's time for the Youth Rummage Sale. So please start cleaning out those closets. I challenged everyone last spring to clean 1 closet out, let's try for 2! Not that we lacked for items to sell - everyone has done a great job! The Rummage Sale is Saturday April 24th, we will start gathering items two weeks before that. If you have any questions please call me at 281-7025 or the church office.

Thanks a bunch and God Bless!

Lisa Bromley

Fellowship Committee News

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all who attended the Valentine dinner and made valentines for the vets at the Jefferson Barracks Rehab Center. The valentines were delivered that night and were greatly appreciated. We hope you had a good time at the dinner and look forward to many more fellowships throughout the year.

Youth to attend Acquire the Fire in Tulsa OK March 26-28

Acquire the Fire is a 27 hour life transforming event built around bringing volume and clarity to God's voice in the lives of teenagers. For more than two decades, ATF events have delivered...

- **Decision-making** opportunities for Christ
- **Pattern-breaking** challenges for living "real-life" with God
- **Future-shaping** perspectives that help youth see themselves in God's big plan

This is an event of a lifetime. There will be the greatest worship bands, the greatest audio feast, and the greatest, most mind blowing interactive ministry youth have ever experienced at a Christian event. Youth of Bethany, join the hundreds of thousands of young people who will give God 27 hours at an ATF this year and walk away transformed.

For more information contact Jonathon Wilson.

The Youth are selling Butter Braids and Pre-Portioned Cookie Dough.

This is to raise money for the Acquire the Fire conference coming up in Tulsa, and also to help raise money for Beulah Camps this summer. Please support our youth by buying some **DELICIOUS GOURMET COOKIES OR PASTRIES.**



Pastors Glenn & Manny with the Berang people - part of the church outreach mission of the Philippine Church