



THE MESSENGER

April 2011

LIVING IN ITHACA

THOUGHTS FROM DAVE

The 30 Hour Famine!

ON APRIL 15TH AND 16TH, A GROUP OF OVER 50 PEOPLE (41 6-12 GRADE STUDENTS) IS PARTICIPATING IN WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE—GOING WITHOUT FOOD FOR 30 HOURS SO OTHERS CAN EAT. WE'LL EXPERIENCE REAL HUNGER FOR OURSELVES WHILE RAISING FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE DIRE SITUATION IN JAPAN. WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SOME REAL FINANCIAL HELP TO A PART OF THE WORLD THAT WE ARE SO DISTANT FROM. THIS IS A GREAT EVENT EACH YEAR AS WE MEET IN THE FAMILY CENTER FOR AN OVERNIGHT FILLED WITH GAMES THAT TEACH US ABOUT HUNGER AND POVERTY, LESSONS THAT CAUSE US TO THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO WITH IT, WORSHIP THAT HELPS US DRAW NEAR TO GOD, AND FELLOWSHIP THAT MAKES THE TIME GO QUICKLY. BUT IN ORDER FOR THIS EVEN TO BE A SUCCESS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO SUPPORT US! EVERY \$1 WE RAISE WILL BE MET WITH A 6 TIMES MATCHING GRANT SO THIS IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TO DONATE, SEE US AT THE TABLE IN THE FOYER, VISIT WWW.30HOURFAMINE.ORG/DONATE AND SEARCH FOR BETHEL GROVE YOUTH GROUP TO FIND OUR GROUP, OR FIND A STUDENT AFTER CHURCH AND OFFER TO SUPPORT THEM. CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO EITHER BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH OR WORLD VISION AND ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. AS THIS WEEKEND APPROACHES, PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BLESS AND TRANSFORM US AS WE "LOVE HUNGRY."

WANT TO HELP WITH THE FAMINE THIS WEEKEND? CALL ERIC AT 277-3333 OR E-MAIL ERIC@BG.ORG. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

APRIL 17

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL (12:15PM)
AND
QUARTERLY MEETING (1:00PM)**

"What's it like to live in Ithaca?" Sometimes this question is asked of me from friends and acquaintances living in other states. My answer almost always includes the word "unique." How would you answer the question?

With the release of the 2010 United States Census data and the recent WeLiveNY Summit at Cornell, I am inclined to think that Ithaca and Tompkins County must look forward and think about the recent population growth. The Census informs us that the County has grown by 5.3% in the last decade. The recent Summit extolled the need for young entrepreneurs to consider making Upstate New York their home. It is ironic that this County is growing, while other areas are facing serious decline.

Many reasons can be cited for the population growth, among them retirees returning to Ithaca and students staying after graduation. While the workforce displays age diversity, there is a need for substantial growth in the younger population of our region. With the retirement of Baby Boomers and the constant transition of graduate students, a kingdom mentality must be central to the ministries of local churches. It requires us to view our connection with God's work beyond the walls of Bethel Grove.

This kingdom perspective rejoices in the growth of a wide variety of campus ministries and solid evangelical churches in our county. It rejoices in the vital Christian presence through organizations like Ithaca Pregnancy Center, Community Faith Partners and others that represent Christ in this region. Over the twenty-three years our family has lived in Ithaca, much growth has taken place in the desire to partner together for the gospel of Christ. More needs to happen in the next decade.

Yet, we can let these truths make us complacent and not ask a personal question. What does it mean for you, me, and Bethel Grove to be part of God's kingdom work in the larger community of Ithaca? In recent weeks, the sermons have reminded us of the call to "Love God, Love Others and to Engage the World for Christ." These commands are descriptive of the life of a disciple. As we pursue them together, let's pray for God's Spirit to bring people to Christ and let's proclaim Jesus in all that we do and say.

I am excited about the year ahead. It offers many opportunities for growth in personal and corporate commitment to the advancement of Christ's kingdom in Tompkins County. Let's pray that way and make ourselves available for the gospel to be proclaimed and lived out in this "unique" community.

Resurrection

Preparing to Celebrate

Sunday, April 17

9:00 and 10:45am - Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 21

7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service

New Life Presbyterian Church, 100 West Seneca Street

Friday, April 22

7:30pm - Good Friday Communion Service

Sunday, April 24

7:00am - Early Easter Service/Breakfast

9:00 and 10:45am - Easter Worship Services



April 9th @ 6:00pm
 April 10th @ 10:45am

Starring the BG kids!
 Here at Bethel Grove
 Admission: 1 smile

Set during dress rehearsal for a church talent show, a misunderstanding leads the kids to think there's an "Ultimate Superstar" coming to see the show. They proceed with the rehearsal, led by Paula, Randy and Simone, thinking that a celebrity is coming to see them perform. During their acts, including a country-western dance, a comedy act, an Elvis impersonator, a worship anthem, and much more, the children have to deal with issues of pride and being "good enough for a superstar". In the end they finally discover that Jesus is the one and only "Ultimate Superstar!"

A lively 45 minutes of singing, dancing and great acting! You won't want to miss it!

Ithaca Women's Bible Study Spring Seminar and Salad Supper



Bethel Grove Bible Church will be hosting the Ithaca Women's Bible Study's Spring Seminar on Thursday, May 12. Betty Lamaio from Webster, NY will be speaking on fear. Supper is planned at 5:00pm - bring a salad to share. Sessions with Betty begin 7:00pm. More details to come.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

We ask for your help to nominate people to serve the Lord through an elected office at Bethel Grove. Please submit (1) names of church **members** you would like to nominate, (2) the office for which you are nominating them, and (3) a brief comment as to why you are nominating them. All nominations must be in by May 1st and you do not need to be a member to make a nomination. Copies of the nomination form are available in the church foyer and the church office. Also available is a handout entitled "Spiritual Qualifications for elected Church Officers". As the title suggests, this document is designed to answer questions you might have about whom you can nominate. You do not need to talk to the person before submitting their name. You may submit several names, as we frequently find not everyone nominated is able to serve at this time.

Nominations can be submitted anytime through Sunday, May 1st. Please drop them in the box in the church foyer, mail it to the church office in care of the Nominating Committee, or give them to Charlie Cramton or Dave Jones. The Nominating Committee will review the nominations, contact those eligible for leadership, and ask them to prayerfully consider accepting the nomination.

The Committee will inform the congregation of the nominees for the various offices. On Saturday, June 18, as part of our Annual Meeting, we will conduct the election of church officers. The Nominating Committee consists of Charlie Cramton, Doug Weber, Jim Smith, Dan Walker, Lori Marion, Mary Smalley and David Jones.

Barry Segal Heads To Haiti April 15-24



An opportunity to serve in a Haitian special needs orphanage has presented itself to me through a series of events. Kids Around the World is a Christian organization dedicated to serving children and families affected by war, natural disasters, illness, and poverty. They accomplish this by building playgrounds, teaching Christian education workers, providing physical check-ups and providing nutritious meals for children. To find out more about this endeavor contact Barry by email- segalbarry@yahoo.com, call me at 607-279-0105.



Dear friends in Christ at Bethel Grove Bible Church,

This letter of thanks should've gone out several years ago for all the tremendous support that you have lent to our various ministries. For the delay I ask your forgiveness. The blessings that the brothers and sisters in Christ at Bethel Grove have provided to the brothers and sisters in Christ at Trinity Lutheran are manifold -- you have sent people to support our community ministries such as Feed My Starving Children, the Vacation Bible School we hold, our preschool and after school ministries, and in general we have been aware of your prayers and the partnership in the Gospel that we share. It is indeed refreshing!

Most recently we were reminded of your congregation's generous nature through the reception of a very gracious gift for Feed My Starving Children. Your \$500 gift buoyed many spirits as we considered the impressive task set before us; it is large and daunting, but with faithful people like you we are confident that Christ will help us complete the task. Blessings upon your faithful ministry!

In Christ's Love, Service, and Fellowship, Pastor Rob Foote and the people of Trinity Lutheran Church



Housing need for the Hicks family

Over the course of the summer, Aaron and Holly Hicks, and their children are coming to Ithaca on sabbatical leave from World Harvest Mission. They need housing for one month in the Ithaca area. If anyone is able to sublet or provide housing please contact the church office (277-3333 or bg@bg.org).

To read more about the Hicks family, see the Global Missions pages of your church directory.

Children's Ministry News!

Spring is in the air and lots of new and exciting things are happening in Promiseland. You may have noticed a "Free" table in the basement for the past few Sundays. Please help yourself to items we no longer need for the children's ministry.

Babies: We have lots of them and more on the way. Since January we have added 3 babies.

Tiny tots: In January 2, babies moved up to the tiny tots room. They are enjoying romping around with 10 other toddlers, playing, eating snacks and learning about Jesus. Thanks to Rosalie Ross and two of her friends, the closet next to the tiny tot room has been purged of outdated curriculum and materials and is now able to be used more effectively for storage of classroom materials and resources. The girls also helped to organize the art closet in the same hallway.

Twos: In January, 6 tiny tots moved into the two's room. We have an average of 15 children in a small, but cozy space where they can play, eat, and learn about Jesus. We have really appreciated the additional teen volunteer helpers each Sunday. Due to the large number of children, we will be expanding the room into the adjacent closet space across from the kitchen. Thanks to Dan Walker, the tables and table racks have left their long term storage place and moved on to other locations. We plan to move the children's table and other classroom supplies into the closet space soon and are excited at the prospect of providing a larger play space for the children to move around in.

Preschool: In January, 3 two's (who turned 3) joined the class of 3-5 year olds for art projects, free play, bible stories, structured games and snacks. Since this room is filled with lots of active children, we have done a little rearranging to make more open space. We plan to shorten the legs of the wooden tables in order to make them more usable. In addition, we are updating classroom toys and books and will be adding a new storage cupboard soon.

Kindergarten: In the 9:00 class, the children have been learning about the **Parables of Jesus** under the direction of Linda and Mick Thomas. They have enjoyed creating foam pictures that represent the bible stories, playing games, and learning how to apply the parables to their lives.

First grade: In the 9:00AM class, Beth Larson and Joy Boyce have been teaching the children about the friendship between **Jonathan and David** and how to be good friends. The children really like creating bulletin boards in the classroom, learning about the Bible, and eating special snacks. On March 27, the kindergarten and first grade classes met together as a combined class with the first grade teachers.

Second grade: In the 9:00AM class, Mary and Frank Smalley and Cheryl DuMond have led the children in a study of **Character Qualities** and being like Jesus. They often come back to talk of the **ABC's of Salvation**. Three children have professed to be believers at home with their parents already this year---Praise the Lord! Eight years old is not too early to make this important life decision! Their favorite "Courage" verse of Joshua 1:8 is reinforced each week by Patricia Pollock's stories of **Kids of Courage** around the world. The children like learning about God, like to hear stories, and enjoy eating cookies for snack.

A highlight of 2nd grade each year is the Purple Party---reinforcing the "Kindness" of Lydia in Acts 16 by inviting some "elderberries" of BG to come and share stories of hospitality. This year, Daniel Fisher, Andrew Richards, Eh Gay Moo Hser, Joshua Deets and their teachers hosted Juanita Elwood, Ruth Walker, and Diana Jenkins. From purple decorations, to purple clothing, to purple goodies to eat---all enjoyed our festive event! Next, the class is looking forward to joining the 3rd grade class for a pasta lunch that includes their parents.

Third grade: In the 9:00 class taught by Donna Stauffer and Mark Psiaki, the children are learning about the life of Jesus and the early apostles. The children enjoy: putting on their own skits, learning more about God, learning what happened to important people like Paul and Peter, and playing games like "balls in the basket" where their thinking is prompted.

Fourth and Fifth grade: In the 9:00am class, Patricia Pollock, Alan Pauling, and Mary Psiaki faithfully teach the children from the Old Testament. So far, they have run through the foundation found in Genesis through Ruth. They have memorized Joshua 1:9, Numbers 6: 24-26 and Deuteronomy 6:5. They made 40 parachutes, to be used in the **Voice of the Martyrs** ministry in Columbia, and celebrated the event with cookies. The parachutes will be used to send radios, bibles and Christian

materials to people who live in remote areas. On a weekly basis, the children enjoy: completing their workbooks, reading stories and finding out more about God, reading about things in the first five books of the bible and looking forward to learning more in the future. They also like reading out loud in class, sharing about their lives, having fellowship and forming friendships.

Children's Church: At 10:45am, Amy Bach, Peter Lundquist, and Joanna Fisher teach the kindergarten through 3rd graders about **Jesus Amazing Miracles** both in Bible times and today. They enjoy: singing, hearing bible stories, collecting money for Jeremy and Bethany Colvin in Zambia, praying and sharing about how God is at work, watching and participating in skits and puppet shows, eating snack and playing structured games. So far, they have raised \$184, which will be used to buy chickens. The chicken eggs are given to local people who are struggling with the side effects of medications taken for HIV and to help boost their protein intake and improve their quality of life. Last week a parent offered to match the total amount of money collected for this project. When told about this opportunity, one child commented, "That means if we raise \$500, we will be able to send \$1000 to Zambia!" The classroom wall has stacks of egg cartons representing each dollar brought in so far, and still has room for more!

Musical: Under the guidance of Sandy Sorensen, Zach Adams, Naomi Larson, Stacey Ives, Stacy Shelley and a host of other volunteers, children in grades 4-8 have been diligently practicing their songs and dances for the **Ultimate Superstar** musical. The musical will be performed on April 9th @ 6:00pm and April 10th during the 10:45am service at Bethel Grove. Residents from the McGraw House and a several other church congregations have been invited to join us for a lively 45 minutes of singing, dancing and great acting! The following describes the musical content.

Set during dress rehearsal for a church talent show, a misunderstanding leads the kids to think there's an "Ultimate Superstar" coming to see the show. They proceed with the rehearsal, led by Paula, Randy and Simone, thinking that a celebrity is coming to see them perform. During their acts, including a country-western dance, a comedy act, an Elvis impersonator, a worship anthem, and much more, the children have to deal with issues of pride and being "good enough for a superstar". In the end they finally discover that Jesus is the one and only "Ultimate Superstar!"

This musical presentation is uplifting and appropriate for all ages, so please join us at one of the performances. You won't want to miss it!

Promiseland family events: We started off our Promiseland family get togethers with a bang; I mean a bounce, at **Nicki's Party Place** in March. The parents enjoyed meeting other parents and chatting with each other while the children bounced their little hearts out and then enjoyed a special snack in the party room. We look forward to many more fun times of learning, serving and fellowship this spring. We hope that many families of young children will grow in their faith and be encouraged as we get together for future monthly events. Some planned events include:

- May**- walking in Ithaca Pregnancy Center's Walk for Life and participating in Community Faith Partnership Care Day
- June**- attending BG's church picnic and meeting at a local park
- July**- joining BG families camping at Chenango Valley State Park and meeting at a local park
- August**- meeting at a local park or playground

We are grateful for all the Lord is doing in Promiseland in the lives of the children and their families and are excited to have new families join us each month. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry by helping directly with the children or sharing your talents of organization or other needed skills, please contact us and we will find a place for you to serve. Thank you for your prayers and willingness to be part of this ministry.

Faithfully serving the Lord,
Amy Bach, Promiseland Coordinator
Carla Smith, Promiseland Administrative Assistant



Events For Your Calendar

April 10 - April 16

10th 9:00am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Musical Performance
12th 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
13th 7:00pm Mid Week Worship
15-16th 30 Hour Famine
16th 7:00pm Hands Of Praise Concert

May 1 - May 7

1st 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services
Communion Sunday
5th National Day of Prayer
6th 7:00pm Mid Week Worship
7th IPC Walk For Life

April 17 - April 23

17th 9:00 & 10:45am Worship, Palm Sunday
12:15pm Dish to Pass
1:00pm Quarterly Meeting
21st 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service
New Life Presbyterian Church
22nd 7:30pm Good Friday Communion Service

May 8 - May 14

8th 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services
Mothers Day
10th 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
11th 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

April 24 - April 30


24th 7:00am Easter Breakfast
9:00 & 10:45am Worship, Easter Sunday
No Educational Program
Childcare for Infants to Pre-school
26th 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
27th 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

May 15 - May 21

15th 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services
16th 7:00pm Leadership team meeting
18th 7:00pm Mid Week Worship
21st Community Faith Partners Care Day

New Arrivals

 Sarah Rosalind born to Mike and Jessica Fenwick on September 12, 2010.

 Aelwen Chu born to Liam and Jose McAllister on March 14.

 Charles Nicholas born to Nic and Christy Brenner on April 1st.

Wedding News

Matt Jones and Ashley Cole will be married on Sunday,

April 10 in Lancaster, PA. Their address will be 2026 North Broad Street in Philadelphia, PA 19121.



Car Needed

BG friends, Terry and Mary Ann Murphy, will be in the Ithaca area May 7-18. If you have a car you could lend during this time for their use, please contact them at 206-355-2805 or e-mail mam@swissmail.org.