

Bay Tidings

May-June 2009

Bay Tidings is the newsletter of Bay Evangelical Covenant Church. The intent is to share information and events of the church. The evangelism committee welcomes any comments or suggestions.

www.baycovenant.org

Pastor's Corner...

A Spring/Summer to Do List

*Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Note to Reader: As I was working on my Pastor's Corner, it felt like I had covered this ground before. Sure enough, when I checked the archives, I had written something similar (and better) in Spring 2006. So the following is an updated and edited version of that 2006 PC.

Spring is upon us. To this I say, "Thank God". The weather is turning nice, I am itching to get in the garden, and vacation plans are made. The golf clubs and mowers are being reconditioned and much of the busyness of the school year will wind down soon. Brats on the grill, burgers on the grill, chicken on the grill... need I go on? Ok, for some of you, I'll mention that other sport-baseball. A wonderful time of year this is. However... (you knew this would be coming!), as plans are made and the enjoyment of the season comes, I know that we will not be seeing each other as often as usual. I don't hold this against anyone, rather, I am glad so many of us are able to get away and enjoy the season. Most of you will be spending time with family and though you are not at Bay Covenant, I know you aren't skipping church (right?). I know though, that for most people, getting out of the routine of coming to one's home church and other programs can lead to forgetfulness. With this in mind, I thought I'd make a good 'To Do' list for the Spring/Summer:

While out and about this season, let us:

1. Rejoice. By this I mean that we seek the enjoyment of our experiences and in reflection of this joy, express it toward God, acknowledging that all good things come from him. Enjoyment can be passive and without thought, rejoicing is always active, involves reflection and is directed toward God.
2. Pray. Many of our activities are ones that do not require a great deal of mental activity-gardening, barbecuing, mowing, etc. Make a commitment to pray during these types of activities. Pray especially for your brothers and sisters at Bay Covenant Church.
3. Give Thanks. Let your life be seen as a response of gratitude to God for who he is and for what he has done for you. Let your gratitude then lead you to greater generosity with your life and gifts.

It is my wish that as we do these things we will truly be refreshed and ready for a new season of work at Bay Covenant.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, please forgive us. Just fill out a card in the back of church and give it to Pastor Ron or Heidi. We'd love to remember your special day!

May – Birthdays

- 1 - Molly Skow
- 2 – Keri Lund
- 6- Max Hanisch
- 9 – Bruce Benkley
- 12 - JL Zoekler
- 22 – Ronnie Skow
- 27 – Wendy Benkley
- 29 – Nicole Bentz
- 30 – Heidi Gustafson
- 31 – Deisy Hendricksen

Anniversaries

- 25 – Gary and Sheri Stock
- 27 – Drew and Ashley Leatherberry
- 28 – Ron and Denise Skow
- 31 – Adam and Alicia Koenig

June – Birthdays

- 9 – Drew Leatherberry
- 11 – Wendy Jung
- 20 – Gary Stock
- 22 – Alicia Koenig
- 25 – Hope Hanisch
- 28 – Rebekah Ribbens

Anniversaries

- 15 – Dan and Mary Meier
- 18 – Mike and Sue Esmay
- 18 – Bruce and Wendy Benkley

Congrats to...

...Max Hanisch on his upcoming graduation from UW-Milwaukee. We're proud of all your accomplishments and prayer for God's blessings for your future!

Bible Studies

Get involved in one of the Bible studies available this summer. Study God's word and be blessed by what He has waiting for you. If you haven't attended in the past, no problem, Just jump on in.

- Tuesday – 10:00am – church
- 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings
- Women's study
- 2nd Sunday –Men's group

Dinner Groups

Have you thought about getting together with church friends for dinner – either hosting or bringing something to share at the meal? Wendy Benkley announced such an idea in church and we are looking for more feedback. We are thinking of getting together either May 15 or May 29 for some fun fellowship. Let Wendy Benkley know if you would be interested in getting together.

Summer Hours

Beginning **Sunday, May 24** continuing through Labor Day, our worship service will begin at **9:00am**. There will be no Sunday School classes through the summer months. Please make sure you make it to church at this new time.

Frisbee Golf

Do sunny summer Sunday afternoons sound good to you? How about a round of Frisbee golf? Let's get together with the whole family on **Sunday, June 14**. We'll meet at Bairds Park at around 11:00 for a picnic lunch and a fun time of Frisbee golf. Bring your lunch and a Frisbee golf disc. If you don't have any, someone will have an extra for you to use.

VBS

Yes!! Plan for two days a week during weeks of **July 20-24** and **July 27-31** for a great time of fun and learning. Invite your friends and watch for the exact dates coming soon!!

A Prayer for our Mothers

Dear Lord,
Today we pray for mothers—
Our own mothers, and mothers
everywhere,
Who have made such a major
contribution to the good qualities we
have, sometimes through genetics, more
often through great effort and patient
instruction, and who have done their best
to gently polish away our rough edges.

Lord, please bless our mothers for the
endless hours of time they spent and the
boundless energy they invested in us.

Bless our mothers for their sacrifices on
our own behalf as they often gave up or
deferred their own dreams so that we
could have ours.

Bless our mothers for always being there
for us, for being the person we know we
can turn to when we need comfort,
encouragement, of just a hug.

Bless our mothers for making a home for
us where we could feel safe, where we
felt we belonged.

Most of all, Lord,
Bless our mothers for their unconditional
love, for loving us no matter what, and
for frequently showing love in ways that
make us feel valued and cherished.

Lord, please bless our mothers mightily.
Strengthen them, soothe them, wrap them
in Your infinite love and shower them
with blessings too numerous to count,
too magnificent to describe. We love
them, admire them, respect them, and we
wish that You would give them back
many times the good they gave us.

In Jesus name we pray,
Amen

Sunday School Picnic

Our last Sunday School classes will be
held on **May 17** at 9:00. Thank you to
all of the teachers who taught adults and
children during the school year. Your
dedication is appreciated and God's
word has been spread.

Plan to stay for a **potluck meal** along
with fun and games after the worship
service. Find a favorite family recipe or
a new one you have been just waiting to
try out. This is the perfect time!! There
will a **donation** at this meal going to the
camp fund to help all those going to
camp, both this summer and adult
retreats in the fall and winter.

This fund is in place to help keep the
cost down. The more money in the fund,
the more we are able to help out! Let's
make sure no one misses this experience
due to finances.

Internet Use

Check out our website at
www.baycovenant.org.

If you have any announcements for an
upcoming bulletin, you may now email
the church office at
rjung@baycovenant.org by
Thursday of that week. Bay Covenant is
going hi-tech!!

Summer Camps

The summer camping season will soon begin. Kids will go to sports camps, science camps and art camps. We also have camps where God's Word is lived out in every aspect of the camp.

Covenant Point in Iron River is one of those camps.

These kids are already signed up for a great week filled with learning more about their relationship with Christ and having a great time!! Please keep them in your prayers as they attend. Keep the camp staff in your prayers as they prepare to share God's word. As you make your plans for the summer, think about attending family camp.

June 21-27 Katie Gustafson

June 28-July 4 Beth Esmay

Erik Gustafson will be on staff as a counselor for the summer. Tori Bentz, Beth Esmay and Brent Gustafson will serve on the work crew starting in July.

There is still time for you to register and have a great experience at camp! Don't miss out!!!

CHIC Updates

July 12-17, over 4000 kids from across the country and internationally will arrive at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

During their week at CHIC, the students will have the opportunity to participate in a unique, hands-on service project that will benefit feeding programs all over the world, including Asia.

CHIC is teaming up once again with [Feed My Starving Children](#), an organization dedicated to feeding those who suffer most from malnutrition and hunger. Throughout the week, there will be two-hour work sessions in the afternoon available for them to participate in. During each session, they will serve by packaging meals.

Ways to help from home

Pray for:

- Transportation needs for the thousands who will be coming to CHIC
- Students as they make preparations to come to CHIC
- Counselors that God would be already preparing them for what they will encounter at CHIC
- Worship leaders
- Those who will be ministering in counseling services

Who's going from Bay Cov?

Dave Woods will drive our kids and be the counselor from our group. Kids attending from our church are:

Beth Esmay

Brent Gustafson

Nate Jung

Ben Olejniczak

Haley Woods

Mike and Sue Esmay will meet them there and serve as staff people for the week doing what is needed to make the week a success for all.

Cans for CHIC

There is still time to save those aluminum cans and keep them out of the landfills. The kids are continuing to raise funds for their trip to Tennessee. Save those cans and bring them in to church. There is a box waiting for them in the back hallway. We will wait until the time is right and then bring them to the recycle center where we can redeem them for cash. What a great thing! It helps those going to CHIC and it helps us go "Green".

CHIC 2009 News

To those of you who dabble on the internet and want to follow what's going on as the days get closer to CHIC, just log on to www.CHIC2009.org. Check out the site. There are some amazing things planned for the week!

Bay Family Highlights

Meet the Lightbodys. Julie and Eric began attending Bay Covenant Church in 2002 and were married at Bay Covenant on Dec. 27, 2003. They moved away for a few years as Eric's job changes necessitated moving.

Eric and Julie grew up in the Mishicot area. They had known each other since sixth grade, but officially started dating their sophomore year of high school. Both attended UW-Green Bay. Eric's degree is in Computer Science with a minor in Business Administration. Julie has a degree in Social Work with a minor in Human Development and an emphasis in Child welfare. Eric currently works at UW-Green Bay as a Web Developer and Julie is a stay at home mom.

They have 2 children. Their daughter, Harmony Faith, is 3 years old and loves music, singing, dancing, swimming, doing crafts, playing with her brother, nonstop talking and being outside. Their son, Noah John, is 1 year old and loves music as well. He enjoys climbing on everything, getting dirty and taking baths. He would live in the bathtub if he could. He also has to know where his big sister is at all times and will not go to sleep without her in their room. They have also sponsored Ingrid, their Compassion Child for about 2 years. She is nine years old and likes being outside, spending time with her siblings, and going to school. Each time in her

letters, she shares something new she learns about God.

Eric likes to play the electric and acoustic guitar, as well as the hand drum. He is heavily into coffee. He likes to buy the coffee beans green, roast and grind them himself. Their coffee makers are not the standard found in most homes. He also enjoys racing mountain bikes in the Wors series all over Wisconsin during the summer. They are planning to start Harmony in it as well this year and make it a family event.

Julie loves being outside in warm weather, going for walks, hiking, camping and gardening. She also enjoys cooking and baking. She is learning to crochet and make cards as well. Her most favorite thing is spending time together as a family. They hope to someday travel and visit Italy, Ireland, and Australia to name a few.

They hope God's plan is to keep them in Green Bay for a while to be near family. They enjoy participating in Wednesday Night Ministry. The past year has been difficult for them, but it has made them trust God more in their lives. They believe everything happens for a reason and know God will not give them more than they can handle. As Julie says "We are so fortunate and blessed that he answered our many prayers for our son and our family as well. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement."