



Let me share with you some interesting statistics:

Percent of generations which can be found in Church on Sundays:

- Born before 1945 (Builder Generation) 65%
- Born 1946-1964 (Boomer Generation) 35%
- Born mid 1960's – early 1980's (Generation X) 15%
- Born 1980's – 1990's (Generation Y) 4%

Obviously, Generation Y is quite concerning. Many people who are church goers wonder why this generation is so turned off about church. Well, much has already been written as to why and the whole topic is still under a lot of study. The reasons are multiple. Institutional allegiance is very much on the wane among younger people. They do not trust institutions (the church is an institution) and see no need to be loyal to one. Among this generation, the experience of community goes well beyond physically getting together ... there is a whole technological side to community (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) that many folks of the Builder Generation know in name only. The list goes on and on as to the possible reasons why Generation Y has no interest in traditional church as we know it today. Even the "hip" church's with bands, screens, and with T-shirt and Jean wearing pastors struggle to connect with Generation Y.

These are interesting times for the church. One thing I do know ... Generation Y, like the generations before them, is very much interested in spirituality, belief, and God. That hasn't changed. In fact, some of the Generation Y folks that I know are eager to engage in discussions of God and spirituality.

Our conference of churches (Northeast Valley Conference) of the Grand Canyon Synod is in the initial stages of exploring an outreach ministry to the Generation Y demographic. It has a name at this point, ZION. It involves creating a space in Old Town Scottsdale that is an open community for anyone to engage and discuss (without judgment) their spiritual concerns, thoughts, and ideas.

Our church leadership has decided to provide some modest initial financial support (along with the other churches of our conference) to help explore the possibilities of such a ministry. This support will help send two or three 20/30 something's to attend a national conference on such ministries. They will report back to the conference and we will then continue to explore ways of implementing this ministry.

It is this kind of collaboration with other churches (in this case, ELCA Lutheran Churches) that gives us a chance of reaching Generation Y. We cannot do it on our own anymore. Christian outreach may be evolving into a new creature. Maybe church outreach needs not to be centered around or coming from an individual congregation so much, but rather be more of a collaborative effort put forth by a number of faith communities with a the same vision. I find that to be exciting and perhaps a way that God is calling for us to come together rather than being isolated worshipping islands doing it all on our own. Maybe those days are coming to an end.

Always trusting,
Pastor Rick



God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers. ~Jewish Proverb

May 13th ... Mother's Day is the day we honor all women: those who are mothers, daughters, role models, mentors or friends. Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers of Bethany.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Part of Good stewardship in any congregation is to keep active an ongoing conversation as to our financial ministry. As the stewardship of prayer involves being regular in prayer and not praying in moments of need or crisis only... so, also, do we report to you (financially speaking) regularly not just when the need is desperate.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We on the Stewardship Team are pleased to report good news in this 1st quarter of 2102. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our members and winter worshippers, so far this year God's blessing has graced Bethany's ability to financially support the ministry we do. While in recent years, it has not been unusual to have a better 1st quarter than a 2nd and 3rd, this year's 1st quarter has been very good as you will notice in looking over the financial information provided below.

We give a BIG THANK YOU to all who have been faithful in this regard. It is also no secret that the leaner months of summer are just about upon us. So, while it is good to be heading into those months with some cushion, it is also important that we *keep our eye on the ball*. This is to say, please be regular with your offerings these summer months. If you are away, please remember Bethany as you visit places near and far. Basic church operations and ministry continue even as our summer attendance is half of what it is in the winter and spring months. Faithfulness knows not the seasons of the year. Faithfulness is God's constant call that we respond with gratitude for blessings received.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER (Cont'd)

Many physical improvements have and are taking place on our church campus. We all appreciate this as do the outside groups who utilize our facilities. We take pride in our worship space and grounds and understand that this makes a statement to our community. We take pride in who we are and always want to convey that we are an inviting place, extending God's welcome to all. Your regular worship, involvement, and generosity help give us, as a community of faith, the ability to extend God's welcome to our neighbors, our extended community, and to the world.

Meanwhile, our ministries of service continue and grow. For instance, we are launching into a ministry with Grace Lutheran (center city Phoenix) to help serve the homeless. It all works together ... worship, involvement, and generosity. We have good spiritual momentum going on here. Let's keep the ball rolling, even through the hot summer months; now to the facts of our financial ministry.

The following is the financial summary through March 2012. Our income for January-March was \$58,025.94 which is 8.55% above our budget amount of \$53,347. Expenses were \$48,809.81 which is 4.5% under budget. This gives us a Net Income for these months of \$9,216.13 which is 393% above or budgeted Net Income amount of \$2,342. We are so blessed to have a great congregation, full time and winter visitors that have supported the Bethany's Ministry and our goals for calendar year 2012. We will continue to disclose our monthly financial status. Again, a BIG THANK YOU for your faithfulness.

Your Stewardship Team

Eileen Cook, Chuck Farley, Jean Hoos,
Linda Casey, Don and Mary Steinnes, Pastor Rick

CLEBRATING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

For the next 4 years beginning with this year, 2012, we will be lifting up gifts of the spirit that God gives us. God gives these gifts in order for us to be servants in the world, to be the hand of Jesus. Each year a different gift will be highlighted. The spiritual gift for any given year will inform our stewardship emphasis, our Lenten theme, worship focus from time to time, and generally find its way into a lot of what we do here at Bethany.

These gifts we will be highlighting come from the Apostle Paul's list of seven spiritual gifts as he speaks of them in Romans 12:6-8. Here is the line up for us here at Bethany:

- 2012 – Serving
- 2013 – Mercy
- 2014 – Teaching
- 2015 – Leadership

Additionally, we will have an artistic display in the sanctuary to visually remind us every week of the gifts we have chosen as our yearly focus. Much of each year will go on as it usually does, but it will be interesting to see how God works with us when we intentionally focus on the gifts he gives.



SUNDAY, MAY 27TH ... WEAR RED!!



*Help for Those
in Need*

SERVING WITH GRACE

Serving with grace is indeed a way to be a servant ... you know, not complaining, being humble, serving with a smile and lots of love. And of course, Bethany servants serve in this kind of style. But serving with Grace is also a new ministry we are launching here at Bethany. We are teaming-up with Grace Lutheran Church in central Phoenix in an effort partner with them in their ministry to the homeless.

Grace Lutheran was the first organization in Phoenix to open its doors to the homeless in the summer of 2005. That year it stayed above 110 degrees for many days. Twenty one people died in just one week from exposure and Grace opened its doors. They continue that tradition each summer from June 18th through August 31st. They serve meals and snacks, offer clothing and hygiene supplies as well as other activities. Bethany can help in a few different ways: volunteering time, donating sack lunches, prepare a hot meal, gathering for donation snacks and water. Please watch the bulletins weekly to see how you can help.



May 1st - Book Club meets in the church office conference room. Bring a sack lunch at Noon, or come at 12:30 when discussion will begin of *The Litigators* by John Grisham. Everyone is welcome – whether or not you've read the book.



HEALTHY PACKS

(A Kid-Friendly School-Based Food Program)

During the school week, select children receive free breakfast and lunches provided by their school. The Healthy Packs program is targeted toward children who have limited access to food during the weekends. The collected foods are sealed into small amounts so that children can prepare the items for themselves if their parents are unavailable. Here is a partial list of items we can provide: Pop-top canned meals, tuna / chicken pouches, canned vegetables, fruit cups, small cereal boxes, instant oatmeal, peanut butter & cheese crackers. Our donations can be placed in the box in the church.

SHOP-WITH-A-COP – Bethany is supporting the Scottsdale Police Department's Shop With-A-Cop program. Funds collected will assist with their back to school drive for the purchase of clothing and supplies. There is a basket on the table at the back of the church for your donations. Let's be generous!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

LWR is projecting a proposal to provide clean water and save lives in as many poor villages as possible. Bethany's "Loud Church" has agreed to divide the "pretzel jar" in a village by buying a safe clean water system and a few animals. It is projected that by the end of May the jar will have taken in over \$400 since our last purchase of animals was sent in this past December. Well done, Bethany givers.

EAST VALLEY MEN'S CENTER – sign up on Sundays, May 6th & 13th to provide food items – bring your donations on Sunday, May 20th... then join a fun group on Monday, May 21st at 8:00 am to assemble the lunches.

LAY COMMUNION VISITATION

"The Priesthood of all Believers" is a phrase used among Christians to refer to the concept that the ministry of the church is a calling to which all persons (laypersons and clergy) are to be participants. Though Martin Luther probably didn't use the exact phrase as we've stated it here, it was with him that the concept of laypersons being vital to the doing of ministry was formalized.

With that little bit of history, I want to start a layperson Communion Visitation Team. This would involve laypersons bringing communion to our homebound members. While we do not have a large number of homebound persons, a small team of communion visitors might be making one communion visit each month. I would still be in the rotation of making communion visits; we would simply share the privilege and honor.

My goal is to begin assembling willing participants and doing some training this summer and then inaugurate this ministry in the fall. On Sunday, May 20th after worship, there will be an informational meeting for those who may be interested. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me.



Congratulations to Andrea Gunderson, daughter of Lenny & Janet Gunderson. Andrea graduates on May 3 with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Economics from the W. P. Carey School of Business. She will also have a Certificate in International Business. Her Undergraduate Convocation Ceremony will take place at Wells Fargo Arena at 8 am and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony is at 7:30 p.m. at Sun Devil Stadium.

Andrea thanks Bethany for on going support and the scholarship funding which helped her tremendously.



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| May 2 | Brad Gerdes | |
| May 3 | James Hepola | |
| May 9 | Tracy Hepola | May 20 Bill & Eileen Cook |
| May 14 | Janice Fornes | May 24 Don & Jeanne Ketchum |
| May 19 | Lundon Aaby | |
| May 27 | Barbara Lund | |
| May 31 | George Hoos | |
| May 31 | Charlene Choc | |

GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

Someone said to me a few days back, "I bet some people wish you would go away!" (in my efforts to get them to participate in the Bethany-linked Gift Cards offered by Fry's and Basha's). I thought it was amusing, but at the same time there might be a great deal of truth in that wish. If you are one who has such a wish, let me just say that the easiest way of getting me to go away is to agree to participate in this painless, totally cost-free program of earning money for our treasury. Won't you join the several other members of the congregation who are already participating and earning some really nice rebates from Fry's and Basha's, all at no expense and little effort to themselves? And to those who are participating already, a hearty thank-you from all of us who benefit from your involvement, including even the ones who haven't yet started participating. Bill Small

Scout News for May 2012

The Scouts attended Scout-O-Rama where they WOWED the crowds with their epicurean delights. Troop 442 demonstrated their cooking skills with their Deep Fryer and Dutch Ovens, cooking a different handout each hour of the event! They came home with three ribbons for their efforts. We can be proud of the way they represented Bethany at Scout-O-Rama this year! Asst. Scoutmaster Larry Morgan and Mr. Gene Haugen attended along with Scoutmaster Stieg. We offer A BIG HEAP-HOW and THANK-YOU to them for their support of the scouts at this event.

Another new scout has come to Troop 442. The scouts welcomed Parker Henderson and his Dad Marty to their meeting on Tuesday April 17th. Parker has decided to join troop 442 and has completed the requirements for the rank of Scout already. Welcome Parker!!!

Preparations continue for summer camp at Camp Geronimo. Four scouts will be attending from July 7th to the 14th. Mr. Pete Wastak will be relieving Scoutmaster Stieg for part of the week so he can attend his granddaughter's wedding in Oklahoma.

The main goal of the troop for advancement in the coming weeks is to complete the three Citizenship Merit Badges under the direction of Mr. Jim Horton with the assistance of Mr. Larry Morgan. Classes began on January 10 and will continue until the badges are complete. Also, the senior scouts are helping Scouts Parker, Ethan, Andrew and Josh to complete their requirements for advancement to higher ranks by the end of the school year.

These Bethany Scouts have demonstrated in the past few weeks that they are ready and capable of managing their meetings and outings. I offer a BIG Thank-You to the adult leadership and parents of Troop 442 who stepped up and provided the required adult leadership while I recovered from surgery.

As we move toward the coming summer experiences, the scouts will be busy with many projects in which the troop is engaged. All boys ages 11 to 18 are welcome to join these scouts in this great adventure. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in Reynolds Hall. Scoutmaster, Jack D. Stieg

Bethany Church Council Minutes
April 10, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotions: Paula Sturgeon

Next time: Debbie

Roll Call: Tom Aaby, Joe Beard, Char Choc (excused absence), Chuck Farley, Tracy Hepola, Nancy Leholm, Pastor Rick Lawrence(excused absence), Karen Maglich, Debbie Slifer, Mary Ann Steinnes, Paula Sturgeon.

We Celebrate Our Past

Secretary's Minutes from March 17, 2012 (accepted) Tracy
Treasurer's Report - balance sheet attached (accepted) Chuck
- Discussed counters and need for volunteers and scheduling a meeting after church on Sun. April 15th to discuss .
Pastor's Report- attached Pastor Rick

We Proclaim God's Word

Teaching Moment -attached Paula

Ministry Team Reports

Church in Society Debbie
- Discussed Grace Church volunteering and Malaria campaign.

Christian Outreach Char

Education Paula

- Discussed adult ed; Little Friends; VBS last week of July

Fellowship - attached Nancy

Stewardship - will meet April 22nd after service Mary Ann

Transformation Pastor Rick

Worship & Music Karen

Property - attached Tom

Youth & Family Ministry Tracy

All reports accepted by Council

We Present Our Offering

Old Business

Vision Staffing Report

Joe & Karen

New Business

Adjust By-laws for Financial position Council and Mary Anne Clark

Discussed Chuck being added as check signer

Campus Enhancement report

Joe

Sponsoring water for Pueblo family dinner –

Tracy

- Agreed that Bethany will donate water for a fundraising dinner at Pueblo elementary with funding from Youth and Ministry. Should be around \$50.

We Give Thanks to God

Prayers of Thanks and Intercession

We Adjourn to Serve

Venture Prayer

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Respectfully, Tracy Hepola



Our Bible Study!

BROWN BAG BIBLE SERIES

The Tuesday Bible Study Series is continuing with discussion of *Honoring Our Neighbors Faith...* join the group for a *bring your own lunch* and fellowship at Noon; discussion begins at 12:30.