Upcoming Events & Service Opportunities

TODAY, 12:30pm & 6:30pm,
CE Brick Room
Are you new to the Bethany community? Our **NEWCOMERS MEALS** are a great start to getting connected. Join us for lunch at 12:30pm or dinner at 6:30pm to meet staff, council members, and fellow newcomers. Contact Diane Travis, *dianet@churchbcc.org*

TODAY, 10:15am, CE Brick Room
HALF PINTS PRAISE CO. KICK-OFF
Kids in grades K-2 are invited to join children's choir, a fun place to learn choral techniques and play games. Contact Pat Collins, *collinspatricia5@gmail.com*

Tues., Sept. 20, 7pm, CE Room 7
ALL-CHURCH PRAYER MEETING
Join us as we lift up our prayers for Bethany ministries, prayer chain requests, and general needs in our community. Contact Lindsay Harron, *lindsay_harron@comcast.net*

Wed., Sept. 21, 5:30pm, CE Brick Room
WISE & WONDERFUL (SENIORS) DINNER
If you are age 60 or over, join us for a potluck meal and fellowship! Main dish is provided; please bring a side dish to share. Contact Kyara Christian, *kyara@spu.edu*

Fri., Sept. 23, 6pm–Sun., Sept. 25, noon
POST COLLEGE/EARLY CAREER CAMPING TRIP
We're heading to Gold Basin Campground for one last camping trip of the summer! Cost is $25; register online at *churchbcc.org*. Contact Megan Dobrasz, *megand@churchbcc.org*

Sun., Sept. 25, 10am
BETHANY NORTH OPEN HOUSE
Bethany North is having an open house to celebrate its first birthday! Join us for the worship service at 10am in the Spartan Gym (202 NE 185th St., Shoreline, WA) and stay after for a BBQ and birthday party on the Spartan Field. If you've wanted to see the North campus or simply want to tell friends or family who live up north about it, this is the day to come and check it out. Contact Scott Sund, *scotts@churchbcc.org*

Restocking the pews with envelopes and welcome cards could be a great way to **SERVE AS A FAMILY**. Commitment is once per month; any time between Thurs. morning and Sat. morning. Sign up for this and other family service opportunities at *churchbcc.org/serve*.

Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 28,
6:30pm, CE Building
PIONEER CLUB is a Wednesday evening program for kids that helps them build friendships and learn about God in a safe, fun environment. Register your child(ren) at *churchbcc.org*. Pioneer Club can't be successful without the help of adult volunteers; if you'd like to serve the church in this way, contact Katie Walker, *katiew@churchbcc.org*.

Sundays, Oct. 2–Dec. 18, 10:30am,
Chapel Lower Level
STUDIES IN GALATIANS
Summer is almost over but the heat continues in Paul's earliest letter to Christ-followers. Join us for an in-depth look at an epistle many consider to be the foundation of the Protestant Reformation. Study leader: Jim McClurg, *jimm@churchbcc.org*

WELCOME TEAM: Help create a welcoming environment for visitors and members alike before they even walk through the doors; openings available for parking attendants (Bagley lot) and crossing guards. We also have openings for ushers and greeters at all services. Sign up at *churchbcc.org/serve*.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES needs volunteers in all services (9am, 11am, 5pm, and 7pm) for nursery and preschool classes. Contact Earl Radford, *earlr@churchbcc.org*.

Do you like coffee and conversation? Consider joining the **OVERFLOW CAFÉ COFFEE TEAM** and help make coffee for people to enjoy before and after the morning services. Sign up for this team at *churchbcc.org/serve*.

We value the college students who worship with us, and know that it can be hard to transition into college (or to return after the summer). Join the **COLLEGE HOST MINISTRY** to be matched with a college student (or two), and help them feel welcome and connected at Bethany. Contact Megan Dobrasz, *megand@churchbcc.org*

Sundays starting Oct. 2, 5pm, Clsrms. A&B
Bethany's **ENGAGED and EXPLORING ENGAGEMENT** classes are for couples already engaged and in serious dating relationships, respectively. These seven-week courses cover the core issues facing couples as they approach marriage and engagement. More info and registration available in the Community Groups Catalog (page 9).

THE ROOTS OF HEALTH

Sept. 18.11

bethany community church

Inviting people to God, to community, and to wholeness

churchbcc.org

Sunday 09.18.10	**Bethany Green Lake Worship Services**, 9am, 11am, 5pm, 7pm (Assisted listening devices available at the sound booth) **Bethany West Seattle Worship Service**, 9:30am **Bethany North Worship Service**, 10am **Half Pints Choir Rehearsal**, 10:15am, CE Brick Room **Newcomers Lunch**, 12:30pm, CE Brick Room **Veritas Youth Ministries: Middle School,** 5pm, Chapel **Sunday Night Dinner**, 6–7pm, CE Auditorium **Foundations Membership Class**, 6:30pm, Chapel Lower Level **Newcomers Dinner**, 6:30pm, CE Brick Room
Monday	**Food Bank Open Hours**, 6-7pm, CE Foyer
Tuesday	**All-Church Prayer Meeting**, 7pm, Classroom B
Wednesday	**Pint Size Choir Rehearsal**, 5pm, Sanctuary **Wise & Wonderful (Seniors) Dinner**, 6pm, CE Brick Room **Wednesday Night Dinner**, 6pm, CE Auditorium **Veritas Youth Ministries: High School**, 6:30pm, Chapel **Chancel Choir Rehearsal,** 6:45pm, Sanctuary
Thursday	**Post College/Early Career Women's Study**, 7pm, CE Building
Friday	**Veritas Youth Ministries Band Night**, 5pm, Chapel **Post College/Early Career Camping Trip**, 6pm **Deaf Coffee House**, 7pm, CE Auditorium

For a complete list of this week's upcoming events and classes, please visit churchbcc.org.

Last week's offering	$ 51,193
Year to date income*	$3,119,442
Year to date expenses*	$2,936,808
**9.1.2010 through 7.31.2011.*	
New building debt	$4,310,966

Last Week's Attendance	
Green Lake AM	1,207
Green Lake PM	556
Green Lake Children	246
North Campus	222
West Seattle Campus	40
	2,271

John 15:1–6
Formation: the Horticulture of Grapes & Greatness

Pastor Richard Dahlstrom

Jesus makes three observations about the path to fruitfulness.

I. There are other vines – "I am the true vine"

II. Fruitful branches are still subject to pruning (verse 2)

A. You can be "in Christ" and not _____

B. Fruitful branches are still _____

1. Delay
2. Prisons
3. Thorns
4. Failure

III. "Abide in Me" is a command. What does abiding look like?

A. II Corinthians 3:16–18

B. I Thessalonians 5:17

My step toward abiding:

SUNDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Usher/greeter
- ☐ Children's Ministries
- ☐ Shuttle driver
- ☐ Crossing guard
- ☐ Parking attendant
- ☐ Overflow Cafe coffee team

(*Please print clearly.*)

Name _____

Email _____

At which service are you interested in serving? _____

Want to see our full list of available service opportunities? Visit churchbcc.org/serve.

spiritual formation

leadership mission care

SPIRITUAL FORMATION is the shaping of our inner character and outer conduct to conformity to Christ, as we respond in obedience to God's revelation and transforming work in us.

Six years ago, my family moved back to Washington from Pasadena. The day after we pulled into Seattle, we drove up to Mt. Vernon to help my father-in-law plant a vineyard. Over the years, we have watched the vineyard grow. Vineyards take three years to begin bearing fruit, and by the fourth year, the 2.5-acre vineyard yielded eight tons of grapes. These last two years have been recovery years, as external circumstances such as weather, disease, and the impact of other crops in the area have prevented the grapes from ripening. Such is the story of one who works the field.

This summer, I have been helping to prune, which means cutting off the branches that are growing downward and tucking the other branches under the guide wires so that they have maximum access to sunlight. I have found the process to be therapeutic and also instructive in understanding spiritual formation.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine, you are the branches." If you look at a grape vine, you see how the vine comes up out of the ground, veers off into two, and then all the branches grow directly out of the vine. Each branch draws its water, nutrients—even identity—directly from the vine. The character of the vine determines the character of the branch. And the character of the branch, in turn, determines the character and quality of the fruit. As Jesus goes on to say, the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, and in the same way we cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Him. And bearing fruit is really what we, the branches, are all about—forming the character of Christ in our lives so that all we do and say and are reflects Him.

There is another player in this analogy: the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit [the vinedresser] takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit." Vines, if left to themselves, grow wildly out of control and bear little or no fruit. A vine needs a vinedresser to cut and prune in such a way that the purpose of the vine is fulfilled—bearing fruit. As the branches, we submit to the pruning work of God, knowing that He will transform our growth into fruit. He will prune the long, gangly tangents of our life so that our energy and intentions goes into that for which we were created.

—Nancy Eckardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation & Groups

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Fall Community Groups are here! Registration goes through the end of the month, and most groups will start the last week of September or the first week of October.

Anyone and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in these groups. Groups can be a great way for you to grow in your faith, and they are intended to be a safe place for those who might not be familiar with the Christian faith. Browse the catalog, sign up for a group, and invite a friend!

To sign up for groups (we suggest no more than two), stop by the info desk in the foyer to pick up a catalog and registraion card; be sure to fill out both sides of the card before you hand it back in. To register online, visit *bit.ly/fall-groups*; you'll need your catalog handy for group details. All registrations—regardless of how they're submitted—will be processed once a week on a first-come, first-served basis and will be confirmed via email. We will contact you as soon as possible if we are not able to place you in the requested group(s).

Contact Karen,
communitygroups@churchbcc.org

take the next step

How do we ensure that we are connected to the vine? Here are several ideas and resources to help you form a new habit, be accountable, and discover your unique fruit.

Form a new habit that focuses your attention on Christ.

- Find a devotional to read each day; check out:
  crosswalk.com/devotionals
  christianity.com/devotionals
  backtothebible.org/devotions
  henrinouwen.org/resources
- Download and journal through the sermon reflection questions (posted weekly at *churchbcc.org*).
- Commit to praying through your commute to and/or from work or school.
- Practice *Examen*, where you review your day before going to sleep, inviting God to show you where He was present during the day and how you responded; jot down what comes to mind. Find more information at *bit.ly/theexamen*.
- Join a group that focuses on Bible study. Prayerfully study the Scripture during the week in preparation for the group. (If you are not already in a group, there is a Sunday morning class beginning Oct. 2 that will study the book of Galatians. Open to all adults; 10:30am–noon in the Chapel Lower Level.)

Be accountable to other followers of Christ.

- Ask a close friend to hold you accountable to new habits, and to point out possible areas where your fruit doesn't reflect the character of Christ.
- If you are in a Small Group, consider together how to add accountability to your time together. For ideas, visit *bit.ly/accountabilityideas*.
- Find someone older than you, or more spiritually mature than you, and ask them to mentor you.

Discover your unique fruit—Christ's life and character uniquely expressed through your experiences, ability, skills, and gifts.

- Join the "Fit to be Plied" Community Group (page 11 in the catalog) and learn how God has created you uniquely.
- Find out more about spiritual gifts by taking an online inventory like the one at *bit.ly/giftsanalysis*.
- Find and commit to a place of ministry at Bethany where you can "try on" new roles as a volunteer; available opportunities are listed at *churchbcc.org/serve*.

bethany community church

Inviting people to God,
to community, and to wholeness
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staff@churchbcc.org
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Children's Ministries
Pastor Earl Radford
earlr@churchbcc.org, ext. 125

College & Post College/Early Career
Pastor Megan Dobrasz
megand@churchbcc.org, ext.120

Congregational Care
Pastor Phil Maulding
philm@churchbcc.org, ext.117

Executive Director
Jim McClurg
jimm@churchbcc.org, ext.118

Leadership Development
Sr. Assoc. Pastor Joe Springer
joes@churchbcc.org, ext.130

Missions and Outreach
Elli Oswald
ellio@churchbcc.org, ext.133

North Campus
Pastor Scott Sund
scotts@churchbcc.org

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