

ANNUAL REPORT

2010–2011



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NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

BY RICHARD DAHLSTROM

“The Story God is Writing.”

“...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

Hebrews 12:1,2 (NASB)

If you’ve run a relay, you know the importance of story, because a relay is one big story with four little ones wrapped up inside it. Maybe you’re the one who holds the baton for that crucial third leg of the race. The whole race before you has been unfolding, and you’ve been watching. Now the second runner reaches out to you, and in a brief instant the torch is passed the race is in your hands. Yours is not the only chapter, and it’s not the final chapter—but it’s your chapter, the time entrusted to you to carry the torch.

The last several years, Bethany has been collectively carrying the torch through a season of tremendous growth as part of God’s bigger story. We’ve added staff and new satellite locations, developed partnerships in Uganda and Rwanda, and much more.

This report contains recollections of how God has been faithful this past year through the various ministries carried out through Bethany. But remembrance is only important to the extent that it grants us faith to move into God’s future.

That’s why I hope you’ll not only read this report, but join us for a very important discussion about ‘the future of Bethany’ when we convene our annual meeting on Monday evening, November 7 in the Sanctuary at the Green Lake campus. It’s there we will be talking about big changes in how we’re approaching stewardship, giving updates on our church health initiatives, and sharing the initiatives that we’ll be addressing as begin a season of strategic planning for the future.

We’ve turned a corner in the race, and we can see new seasons filled with opportunity and challenge, right in front of us. I’ve never felt more honored, or more excited, to be a part of Bethany. I’ll see you on Monday the 7th, as we move into God’s future; together for His glory.

Richard Dahlstrom
October 27, 2011



CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

BY EARL RADFORD

“A place for kids from birth through sixth grade to learn about Jesus and help families build a strong spiritual foundation.”

In September 2010 we launched a new chapter as Katie Walker and Jan Radford were deployed to support children’s ministries at two new satellite campuses via “church in a box”. Marissa Johnson, who began as an SPU student intern within our Children’s Ministries, transitioned to serve as Children’s Ministry Director at the West Seattle Campus. Laurie Esko, a veteran children’s ministry leader, was hired in April to the position of Bethany North Children’s Ministry Director. The logistics of coordinating three campuses was a huge undertaking that required much of our team’s time and energy.

Meanwhile, back at the Green Lake campus, a transformation began to make the Christian Education Auditorium fun and kid-friendly as we installed ten virtue banners, KidsTown backdrop, and upgraded audio/video systems. A huge project completed by Mary Maulding was installation of five KidCheck Stations (children’s check-in) as well as two additional stations at Bethany North. Jean Ballance continued as curriculum specialist to resource all three campuses, as well as overseeing “UpTown,” our K-2nd grade Sunday morning children’s experience. Katie Walker headed up MOPPETS and Wednesday Pioneer Clubs, as well as Sunday preschool. Thanks also to Janey Cullison, who managed the nursery on Sunday and throughout the week.

Sunday attendance at the Green Lake campus grew to an average of 220 kids (98 volunteers), Bethany North to 52 kids (33 volunteers), and Bethany West Seattle to an average of 16. Outreach events this past year included gingerbread house building, Harvest Party, NITRO, Easter egg hunt and Kids Summer Adventure (KSA). All were very well received and grew from over the previous year’s attendance. The goal a year

ago was to involve 400 kids in KSA, and we reached 403! Our very first elementary summer camp took place at Camp Berachah and served ten children. As expected, these events require many, many volunteers (including some of you who are reading this report) to effectively love and care for each child. Almost 500 volunteers have committed to the various ministry programs and events in Children’s Ministries, which includes over 100 who serve each week throughout the entire year. God bless you! Volunteers help make the “invisible God visible” to the youngest and smallest of Bethany.

In the midst of all this activity, we never lose sight of the fact that the purpose of Children’s Ministries is to contribute to the spiritual formation of our children. We want every child to know Jesus and to experience deeper faith. We strive to make the abstract concept of faith real and something that can be trusted, such as trusting a chair will hold them before they sit down. We teach that faith isn’t based on circumstances, but rather on who God is and what He does. And we help children understand that living the life of a believer often takes guts and courage as we study faith heroes in the Bible.

As our Children’s Ministries continue to grow, we trust that every family will experience the benefit and blessing of participating in a ministry with direction and purpose. We want to continue to encourage parents, whether through baby dedications or parenting Community Groups, children’s weekly “take home” papers or KidsTown monthly newsletters. Our paid staff and hundreds of volunteers consider it an honor to be part of ministry to the next generation.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

BY NICK STEINLOSKI

“Weekly gatherings, special events, and retreats to reach students with the truth of Jesus Christ at their point of need, and helping them grow in their faith.”

It is my privilege to oversee the Middle School and High School Ministries (Veritas), with over 100 students, interns, and thirty volunteers. After twenty years of youth ministry I continue to be excited about what Jesus is doing in the lives of students. This past year we have seen some amazing growth in the lives of many of the students.

The Middle School group continues to grow. When we separated the group from the High School ministry two years ago we averaged eight students, six boys and two girls. Today we have 30 students attending on an average Sunday, with over 50 middle school students overall in the ministry.

We held our first Middle School summer camp at Island Lake, and the students had an amazing experience. Our partnership with Crista camps also extends to our winter camp at Miracle Ranch where we have gone the past two years. We see students taking steps to really own their faith and allowing Jesus to mold them into the person He wants them to be. With a great team of adult leaders this ministry is poised for more growth.

Our High School ministry is seeing a lot of new faces. It was fun to watch our ministry grow, even during the summer months. For example, we welcomed four new students who returned from summer camp feeling the need to get involved

with a church youth ministry. They found Bethany’s Veritas program, and now are not only attending regularly but have all been connected into a small group and are being mentored in their new faith.

We continue to be blessed with amazing interns. They all stepped up and served in creative and meaningful ways. The hands-on experience they received prepared them for a life of serving students and for leadership in all areas of life.

Our youth ministry leadership team is the backbone of the youth ministry and one of the best teams I have ever worked with. This group of adults gives so much of their time and heart to this ministry. They are committed to the spiritual formation, mission, care, and leadership development of each student. They are meeting with students one on one, in small groups, in large venues like Sunday night, Wednesday night, camps and events to help students grow.

Thanks for supporting the youth ministry of Bethany Community Church.



COLLEGE/POST COLLEGE

BY MEGAN DOBRASZ

“College: An environment for college-aged adults to connect with God and each other, with opportunities for involvement in the larger community of faith. **PCEC:** A place for those in their 20s and 30s to connect together, serve together, and learn together.”

- College ministry: Small Groups for men and women, inaugural host ministry, monthly worship nights, winter retreat, quarterly class, leadership team formation.
- Post College/Early Career: Bible studies and Community Groups for men and women, bi-monthly social hours, winter retreat, summer series, monthly events (service opportunities, panel discussion on work, just-for-fun events).
- Sunday Night Dinner: weekly meal (September to June) between the evening services.

How we’ve seen God move: Praises!

Last year brought with it a renewed college leadership team. Three members in particular stand out: Zach and Sonja Erickson, and Holly Wakefield. Zach and Sonja have a history of college ministry here at Bethany and after returning to Seattle have re-engaged with the demographic they love so much. Because of their experience with higher education, they took the reins on the quarterly classes. These classes run for four weeks each quarter and meet near SPU’s campus. Last year we discussed calling and romantic relationships. One of my favorite things about Zach and Sonja is their ability to walk into a room of students and immediately begin to make connections with them. Holly Wakefield joined our team last year and brought with her an energy and enthusiasm to make college events fun in the midst of intentional spiritual growth. Her gifts in this arena were particularly seen at the winter retreat. With 30 students up in the woods and snow she helped create a space to connect, laugh, share, and grow in a way that can’t be replicated in a two-hour event.

Our College Host Ministry began this past year, pairing students with non-students to help build community, make Bethany feel a little bit smaller, and to provide care and prayer

for students who are in a transitional time of life. Hosts pray for their student, send them quarterly care packages, and invite them to an activity (dinner, theatrical show, sporting event) once a quarter. The great success of this ministry has made it a staple in the current year’s College Ministry.

With so many people at Bethany in the Post College Early Career demographic, we seek special opportunities to involve people in this age group in the life of Bethany and to serve them wherever they may be in their spiritual journey. Typically a first stop may be one of our twice monthly social hours. In a very casual way people can begin to form connections outside of a Sunday service while getting a feel for the variety of people that Bethany draws. With as many as 30 people coming to such gatherings, there are many chances to find a new close friend.

We’re also thrilled to have more Bible Studies and Community Groups than ever before. Thursday nights are busy with both men’s and women’s studies involving more than 100 people and many leaders. This has continued to be a place of spiritual growth for those involved.

The weekly Sunday Night Dinner throughout the school year was the ultimate in “fellowship.” Something special takes place when people share a meal together, and time and time again I hear from people who met and have become close friends at the meal. Throughout the year we had many who volunteered to make these dinners happen and 15 or so people who committed to serving here consistently, including seven dedicated leaders who prepared delicious and creative meals week after week.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BY DIANE TRAVIS

“Monday night groups, weekly studies, and special events for women to connect, be inspired, serve, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.”



The mission of Bethany's Women's Ministry is to walk alongside women as they navigate the seasons and challenges of life, and to invite each woman into relationship with God and into relationship with others. The hope and wholeness these relationships bring is a hope that changes our hearts, a hope that spills out into our world.

Almost 500 women are involved in various Community Groups, studies, and support groups, with over 50 committed leaders serving in various aspects of ministry. Our Monday night gatherings create a space for women to come together to receive Biblical teaching, support, prayer, and vision, and we have provided childcare at these gatherings to enable all women to be able to participate. The Community Group model has been adopted and it's been very successful. Several of the Community Groups have continued to meet as Small Groups.

A new weekly Bible study has been established, and is led by pastors and interns. This year we are studying the life of Moses (Exodus through Deuteronomy). We hope to continue this study each year and "walk through the Bible" in seven years. This class will offer interns a place to teach and offers a setting

where attendees can meet the pastors and interns in a more intimate setting.

In order to add to structure and direction, Women's Ministries created an Advisory Board and prepared guidelines and a purpose statement. The 2011-2012 Members are: Suzanne Obendorf, Lia Kontraros, Erica Goos, Rita Anderson, Tara Tyler, Kerry McCarter, and Maren Goodwin.

Four annual events have been established under the guidance of our events team, and we have also placed an emphasis on outreach in partnership with Tabitha Community Meals.

Please join me as I praise God for His amazing faithfulness and goodness and for His Spirit working in and through the women of Bethany. Pray that our women will continue to receive transformation, guidance, encouragement, support and vision from our God.

Thank you.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

BY ERIC HENDERSON

“Creating a space for worship through music, teaching, Scripture, and prayer where God reveals and we respond.”

- Sunday Worship: Weekly services at each BCC campus.
- Choirs: Chancel Choir, Ensemble Choir, Children’s Choirs (Pint Size and Half Pints), Brass group.
- Special Services: Thanksgiving Eve, Longest Night, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter.
- Community Groups: Sing with Me, Worship Round Up, Make a Joyful Noise.

Ministry Highlights

The worship ministry continues to support Sunday worship in four venues at three campuses. In the last year, we’ve grown from seven services to eight, with the addition of a second evening service at the Green Lake campus.

As our services have grown, so have our teams. In the last year, 36 new people have joined the worship ministry as a part of a band or the tech team. As a result, we are now a ministry of close to 90 leaders at the Green Lake campus. This growth has largely been fueled by two Community Groups: Worship Round Up and Sing With Me. Both of these groups exist to train leaders and make the worship ministry more accessible to the congregation. Recently, Bethany North Worship Director Ben Koole started another worship Community Group called Make A Joyful Noise. The groups model has proven itself to be a powerful tool for not only building community, but also for building our ministry.

Just after our last annual meeting, we hired BCC’s first Technical Director, Bart Brueck. Bart brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the areas of A/V and IT and is having a huge impact on all things technical on a weekly basis.

This fall, we were pleased to welcome a new intern to the worship ministry. Justin Crews is an accomplished violinist and has a degree in Video Production from the Art Institute. He is currently studying ministry at Northwest University. Over the next year, Justin will be helping us in a number of ways and learning all he can as he prepares for a potential career in full time ministry.

Our Choir Director, Pat Collins, and Accompanist, Laurie McFarland, continue to do an excellent job leading our choirs and special groups. I am continually thankful for the amount of intentionality and hard work that goes into these ministries.

I am often reminded how rare it is for a church to have as many worship leaders as we do. While all of our musicians are worship leaders, these folks lead the band and the congregation, choose music and prepare for rehearsals. A huge thank you to Chris Gough, Graham Crozier, Brian Hibbard, Jeremy Welch, Josh Anway, Ben Koole, Jeremy Blocher, Stacia Haisch, Adam Runions, Grace Blum, and Josh Gebhardt for your faithfulness in leading our community in worship and for sharing your gifts with us.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

BY NANCY ECKARDT

“Shaping our inner character and outer conduct to conform to Christ, as we respond in obedience to God’s revelation and transforming work in us.”

This year has been a transition in my role from the broad term of Discipleship Pastor to Spiritual Formation, and the exchange of Leadership Development with Groups. I have been grateful for the opportunities for new growth and am regularly blessed by the people in the congregation who step forward with the desire to serve their community here at Bethany.

Discipleship/Spiritual Formation

As overseer of Discipleship, my role is to provide and facilitate opportunities for the congregation to grow in their faith in and intimacy with Christ, which is then reflected in their outward conduct and practices. We have seen this in the Sunday response cards, with over 120 people indicating that they were either committing or recommitting their lives to Christ. We have sought to encourage this forward movement in our congregation’s faith through a variety of classes and groups.

In 2010–2011, we welcomed 184 new members into Bethany’s family, thanks to the capable membership sponsors who guided them, as needed, through the process. As I look through the list, I see many names of people who demonstrated their commitment by being deeply involved in the various ministries of the church, including Community Group leadership, Tabitha Ministries, and our Welcoming and Communion Teams.

Baptism is always a highlight for me, and it is a privilege to share in the public confession of faith that each person is making. This past year we celebrated 30 baptisms, each one with a different story of how God drew them to Himself and how they responded.

Several of our core classes, including Alpha and Financial Peace University, were well attended and effective in encouraging and equipping those who attended. Alpha continues to provide a place of safety for those with questions or “bones to pick” with the Christian faith, and our leaders really enjoy entering into the lives of those who are there. And our fabulous cooks always set the stage for a wonderful, warm evening together. FPU continued to grow in its numbers as well as its stories of success around people’s relationship with their finances. We look

forward to another year of growth in this class, thanks to capable and passionate volunteers.

Sunday morning classes, which followed the Community Group model, were filled with a cross-section of people at Bethany, including multiple generations and different walks of life. Thanks to the capable teachers, attendance remained high throughout; those who attended were challenged in mind and heart, and had an opportunity to get to know others in the group.

In an effort to encourage the congregation to develop in their private and family devotional life, I wrote two guides this year, at Advent and Lent, which helped people read and meditate on Scripture during the week, and prayerfully let the words sink in and change their perspectives. It was encouraging to hear feedback on how God had spoken to people during those times of intimacy with Him.

Leadership Development

Over the past year, I had the privilege of walking alongside our interns. Each intern gets experience in a specific ministry area, and also meets with me once a week as a group. It has been a time of getting to know one another and learning from each other. This year our theme was shepherd leadership, using the book, *While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks*, by Timothy S. Laniak. This year we had M.Div students as well as undergrads, which served to enrich the shared experience the interns have in their weekly meetings.

We offered three leadership conferences this past year—in August, January, and April. Each one included a large-group session, where all the lay leaders were together, and one of the pastors spoke to vision or a common theme for everyone. For the second half, we split up into our leadership areas for more ministry-specific training. These training times gave leaders a chance to meet others leaders, catch a vision for the church and how their part in it contributes to the whole, and to receive training that would help them minister and lead more effectively.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

BY PHIL MAULDING

“Carrying out the one-another commands of Scripture as we love, encourage, and support each other spiritually, emotionally, physically, and materially as the incarnational body of Christ.”

- **Pastoral Care:** Counseling, hospital visits, funerals; **Prayer Ministries:** Sunday Prayer Team, Prayers & Squares, prayer chain, monthly prayer meeting; **Marriage Ministries:** Exploring Engagement, engaged class, newlywed groups, marriage mentoring, weddings; **Men’s Ministries:** Guys Retreat, Purity Ministry, mentoring, prayer, Downtown Breakfast, small groups, community groups, men’s events; **Deaf Ministry:** ASL Interpretation, Green Lake Deaf Coffee House; **Stephen Ministry; Benevolence; and Wise & Wonderful Seniors.**

Becky Weinz is our new lay leader for prayer ministry. Becky has two years training in a prayer ministry school and brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to all of our prayer ministry. If you get a chance to take a prayer class or training from Becky, you’ll be blessed. Also, if you ever need prayer please access our dedicated and confidential Sunday service prayer team members wearing the orange and black lanyards following any service.

Prayers and Squares ministry provided nine people in the Bethany congregation with prayer support through a hand-tied quilt, as well as several more mini-quilt squares to the ladies of Tabitha. The All-Church Prayer Meeting is being led by new leaders, Lindsey and Viv Harron, and you’ll find this a powerful time of prayer. Nancy Repenning and her team of over 80 silent prayer warriors on the email Prayer Chain faithfully pray for BCC ministry, pastors, and congregational requests week after week.

The marriage ministry has worked with over 100 couples in our pre-engaged and engaged classes. The Brittles and Whitneys are anchoring this ministry, as they invest in future strong marriages at Bethany with humility, passion, and skill. The pastoral team performed over 40 weddings this past year. Plus, our dedicated mentoring couples have led numerous newlywed small groups.

The Men’s Ministry at Bethany has experienced genuine growth during this 2010 to 2011 year. Much of this is thanks to our new

intern, and answer to prayer, Joel Arthur. Joel is a M-Div student at Fuller Theological Seminary and has provided some much needed leadership, vision, and support to our various men’s ministries. As a result, we’ve seen a very tangible commitment to prayer, community, and purity as each of these groups doubled in size.

This was the first year that Deaf Ministry participated in the BCC Women’s Retreat. We’re sad to say goodbye and thank you to Dov Wills, who for the past 12 years has faithfully provided ASL Interpretation at our Sunday services and events. Green Lake Deaf Coffee House is still the place to be within the deaf community on a fourth Friday of the month.

Dozens of “care receivers” were served by our faithful team of Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers this past year, representing hundreds of hours of 1-to-1 confidential Christian care giving. This ministry continues to be a vital part of how we care corporately for our congregation.

Through the Benevolence Fund and Food Bank we helped those in need by distributing almost \$40,000 in benevolence to single moms, people who were unemployed/laid off, and those on fixed income in our congregation and community.

Wise & Wonderful – those humble seniors continue to enjoy a meal and fellowship together monthly. Kyara Christian brings youthful enthusiasm as she and her team help support this ministry.

As Bethany has continued to grow, this year has seen the passing of the baton in some of my previous responsibilities. Elli Oswald has taken on the Food Bank and outside benevolence. Pastor Nancy Eckardt has stepped in to help with newlywed groups and their mentors as part of her new Small Group responsibilities. I’m so grateful for these godly women on our staff. This has allowed me to focus more on our care ministries and pastoral counseling.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

BY ELLI OSWALD

“Making the invisible God visible in our community and around the world by embodying the reign of Christ in word and deed.”

- **Tabitha Ministries:** Shelter, Food Bank, Community Meals, future Medical Clinic; Local Partnerships; Orphan Care; External Benevolence; Spilling Hope; Missionary Support; Global partnerships; and Short-term Mission trips.

Wow, I can't believe I have been at Bethany for a year now! Time has flown by. I assumed I would have it all figured out by now, but God continues to challenge me every day. However, looking back, I can see many amazing blessings that have come together in the Missions and Outreach ministry at Bethany.

I have spent much of this year getting to know the existing lay leadership of Missions and Outreach at Bethany and developing new leaders. I have been working to develop a structure that allowed all the elements of Missions and Outreach to work together toward one Mission. At the end of the summer, a formal Mission Leadership Team finally came together. The team includes leaders of sub-teams that work in our local ministries, missionary support, short-term trip planning, global partnerships, and education and awareness of our congregation. I am excited to see what we will accomplish together in the coming year.

An unexpected, but incredibly fulfilling aspect of my work this year has been helping to develop the Mission theme as part of Bethany's overall "healthy church" emphasis. After six months with a Mission Visioning Team and countless hours reading and meeting with other Bethany pastors, we have refined the mission principles that will guide this aspect of spiritual health at Bethany.

Tabitha Ministries continues not only to meet basic needs in our community, but to provide opportunities to build bridges between rich and poor, hungry and filled, homeless and housed. Tabitha Shelter increased its number of nights hosting homeless woman from three to four nights a weeks in January. Tabitha Food Bank has provided about 840 bags of food to families in our neighborhood this year. And a new ministry, the Tabitha Medical Ministry, is preparing to partner with the Aurora Commons and Puget Sound Christian Clinic in a mobile medical clinic on Aurora next year.

Several special events contributed to Bethany's local outreach this year. In November, a Community Group provided a Thanksgiving Day meal for almost 300 people in need. During the Christmas season, Bethany attendees provided over 800 gifts to low-income families

through Bagley School, Greenwood Food Bank, Vision House in North Seattle, and Navos in West Seattle. This summer Bethany's PCEC Ministry started a monthly community service program, serving with local organizations around the city. In August, Pastor Nick led a team that spent four days living, learning, and serving Aurora Avenue, strengthening our relationships with the businesses and people living there. Gene and Catherine Séguin continue to lead the Adoption and Foster Care ministry that builds support for orphans and vulnerable children in our community and around the world. And throughout the year, service Community Groups have provided opportunities to plug into our neighborhoods, from feeding the homeless downtown to supporting refugees in South Seattle.

Our Spilling Hope initiative expanded its vision to include a new partnership for transformational development in East Africa. After a vision trip with Richard, Brian Wolters, and Scott Altus, we entered a five-year partnership with World Relief in Rwanda, empowering local churches to reach the most vulnerable people in their own communities. Spilling Hope was led by 30 dedicated volunteers, as the congregation was challenged to simplify their lives, participate in learning opportunities, and give generously. The result was increased awareness and gifts exceeding \$260,000 which helped Living Water International to build wells in Ntungamo, Uganda, and for World Relief to start a Church Empowerment Zone in Musanze, Rwanda.

Bethany also supports its own members who are called into missions, and last year we provided financial assistance to 29 long-term missionaries, 16 short-term missionaries, and 3 mission agencies—men and women who are serving around the world, from Vietnam to Kenya, Costa Rica to the UW campus in Seattle. A booklet featuring our missionaries was part of a 40 Days of Prayer initiative in the spring, and a new "missions wall" was introduced in the Sanctuary lobby, highlighting five Bethany missionaries each quarter.

Short-term trips provided opportunities for people to witness the work of God around the world. In December, Jim and Judy Underhill led a team to Mexico to serve with Foundations for His Ministries, and in September, Courtney and Wayland Cossey led a team to kick off Bethany's partnership with World Relief in Rwanda. The members of this team were transformed by their experience and continue to respond to the calling God placed on their hearts during their trips.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

BY JOE SPRINGER

“Identifying, developing, training, and encouraging God’s people to provide principled, Christ-centered leadership both in the church and marketplace.”

A Few Highlights

- 11 interns working within various ministries of Bethany. Interns at each satellite campus.
- Quarterly all-church leadership meetings with 80-120 leaders in attendance.
- Community Groups designed around people’s vocation.
- Community Groups helping people to learn and utilize their gifts.
- Working with ministry areas to help integrate the four themes of church health.
- Coming in 2012:
 - Gathering seminarians and those preparing for careers in ministry who worship at BCC
 - National recruitment of interns
 - Additional resources to help people discover/ use their gifts

This Year’s Blessings—Praise the Lord!

We have a great team of interns who are serving in a number of different capacities this year. Please remember these individuals in your prayer and offer them encouragement if you see them around. They’re a blessing to us and we’re thrilled with how God is using them.

- Joel Arthur: Men’s Ministry
- Aly Quatair: College Ministry
- Justin Crews: Worship/ Arts
- Drew McMurray: Youth
- Nick Davenport: Youth/ Jr. High
- Daniel Friesen: Youth
- Josh Anway: Bethany West Seattle
- Alec Glass: Bethany North
- Matt Gebhart: Generalist (working in several ministry areas)
- Jenny Shaw: Generalist (working in several ministry areas)



BETHANY WEST SEATTLE

BY SHONNIE SCOTT

“What an amazing first year for Bethany Community Church in West Seattle.”

Last March, Bethany West Seattle celebrated the first birthday of its very first pilot worship service. We hosted a public open house with brunch and “indoor playground” at High Point Community Center (HPCC) gym. This past September, Bethany West Seattle celebrated the first anniversary of one full year of weekly worship services. What an amazing year!

Since Bethany West Seattle began, many servants have made huge ongoing commitments to reach a stage of development where worship services run smoothly and many additional aspects of local body life and mission are beginning to take shape.

Each Sunday morning, one of five truck driver team members picks up the Bethany West Seattle equipment truck from a secure parking lot and arrives at HPCC at 8am. For the next 90 minutes, worship director Josh Anway, worship team members, A/V team members and Pastor Shonnie go to work transforming a large multi-purpose room into a “sanctuary” where people can encounter God and enjoy the hospitality of God’s people gathered. Welcome team ushers and greeters arrive at 9am to complete hospitality set up and get in position to provide a warm reception to worship attenders.

Children’s Director Marissa Johnson arrives at 8:30 and begins to do the same with three children’s classrooms, turning rooms into spaces where kids will meet Jesus, have fun and be loved on by a large team of children’s ministry volunteers who Marissa has organized into smooth running rotations. Marissa also leads bi-monthly children’s ministry volunteer training meetings and volunteers are growing steadily in their ministry skills with children.

Vibrant worship is led by Josh Anway and rotating teams of musicians each week. Bethany West Seattle especially enjoys the “family moments” in worship services: baby dedications (eight this year), members’ stories of God’s transforming work in their lives, celebrating the service of ministry teams, and receiving new members (10 this year).

In the summer months, monthly picnics take place after worship on the HPCC grounds. Check out photos on our Facebook page.

Bethany West Seattle staff and volunteers have built strong and loving relationships with HPCC staff. We have prayed with staff about health issues, job searches, and other needs. They have told us Christ’s aroma lingers in the building during the week between our worship services—that the presence of Bethany West Seattle has actually changed the atmosphere of the community center.

We have shown up and served at a number of HPCC-sponsored neighborhood events this past year and by further increasing our “missional presence” this year, we hope to make Jesus even more visible to those who come to HPCC. We have also built a very congenial relationship with the church that uses the center immediately after we exit. Rather than putting every last chair and table we’ve used back into storage, we leave the room set up in the way we know they arrange it for their worship services. Everywhere we can, we’ve worked to build partnerships with those we cross paths with at HPCC.

Bethany West Seattle has formed at least four Community Groups for each issue of the Community Group catalog. The young mom’s group and the West Seattle Post College Early Career group are ongoing in West Seattle. In addition there are a few self-organized small groups in West Seattle.

Shonnie meets with both Bethany West Seattle staff members, Josh and Marissa, individually once a week, and all three Bethany West Seattle staff meet as a team every other week. Encouraging and developing staff and ministry team leaders has been Shonnie’s primary emphasis this past year.

Every first Sunday of the month, we hold a Bethany West Seattle monthly prayer meeting. Every second Sunday of the month, Pastor Shonnie meets with all the Bethany West Seattle ministry leaders (Leadership Community). Each Leadership Community meeting we hear a team member’s “story,” report on ministry developments, discuss BCC-wide initiatives and upcoming events, and keep an eye to our vision and purpose. The question always before us “How does God want Bethany West Seattle to be a unique gift to West Seattle?” What’s our corporate calling? Pray that we will continue to discern and live into that calling in 2012!



BETHANY NORTH

BY SCOTT SUND

“We feel blessed by the growth and development of Bethany North.”

This Year’s Blessings at Bethany North: God is Good!

On Sunday, September 25, we celebrated our one-year birthday/anniversary that we creatively coined “a Birth-iversary.” More than 140 adults and 90 children joined us as we transformed our worship space at the Spartan Gym of Shoreline Center into a party atmosphere with a bouncy house, laser tag course, and great food. It was an amazing celebration.

As we continue to build community, Bethany North has increased the number of Community Groups every successive quarter, providing multiple opportunities to fellowship, pray, and learn with one another. Monthly summer BBQs at Richmond Beach State Park were widely attended. We have a congregation that is definitely getting to know one another well!

Our vision is not only to build community within our congregation, but also to make Jesus known in north King and south Snohomish counties through service to our neighbors. We deeply desire to be the hands and feet of Christ in our communities, allowing our actions to speak more loudly than our words. Toward this end, we partnered with the Union Gospel Mission in a Sock Drive. Socks are the single most requested

item by people who are homeless. Over the course of just four Sundays, the folks at Bethany North donated over 350 pairs of socks. It was a great step toward blessing others.

This DNA of service replicated itself many times in our first year. Members of Bethany North served at the Arden Senior Center, Syre Elementary School, and Jacob’s Well, Vision House’s shelter for homeless moms and kids that is currently under construction in Shoreline. Our congregation demonstrated its desire to serve over and over again.

In October, 18 people began taking part in the first ever Bethany North Foundations class, the journey into membership of Bethany Community Church. With so many of our people being new to Bethany, this class provides a valuable gateway into deeper involvement with our church.

After 13 months, we are very pleased with the growth and development and new life springing up in our church. It’s been an amazing ride so far!



FINANCE COMMITTEE

BY TOM NEILL

“The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds, securities, books of account, and all other valuable papers of the church.”

Year in review

Bethany continued to expand in the scope and complexity of its ministries this past year, including the launch of satellite locations in West Seattle and Shoreline, the addition of new staff, and a significant increase in missional outreach. All of this, of course, had a significant impact on our budget. The vision set forth at the beginning of the past fiscal year was one of aspiration and faith, as we prayerfully looked to God to provide the resources necessary to fulfill ambitious plans. As the economy continued to struggle, we were constantly reminded of our dependence upon God and the need to remain faithful in stewarding the resources entrusted to Bethany.

Income & Expense

Despite the troubled economy, we budgeted for a rather healthy 15% increase in general offerings this past year. We were amazed once again at God’s faithfulness as Bethany was blessed instead with a 27% increase in offerings, reflecting both the generosity of God’s people and cumulative attendance growth of more than 20% across our three campuses. Preliminary year-end results indicate that general offerings, missions, benevolent, and building offerings fell short of cash disbursements by approximately \$68,000. However, final audited results should show a net gain for the year when certain expenses are capitalized according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Assets & Liabilities

Bethany purchased two properties during the past year with cash reserves. The first property is the home on the corner of N. 81st and Green Lake Dr. N. across the street from the Christian Education building. This property has provided much needed maintenance and storage capacity as well as space for

a small vegetable garden for Tabitha Ministries. The second is a duplex west of Bethany on N. 80th St., purchased at a deep discount at public auction. Rental income will provide positive cash flow to church ministries.

No new debt was added to our balance sheet. Payments on existing debt to our mortgage holder and interest payments to private bondholders were made in full and on time. All existing loan covenants were satisfied.

2011-2012 Budget

Once again, we have been led to step out in faith and plan for a generous response to the vision God has set before us. Believing that stewardship of one’s personal resources is an important component of spiritual health, Bethany’s leadership has embarked on a new approach to giving that is detailed in a Stewardship Booklet that was distributed to the entire congregation. A key component of this approach will be to combine general offerings, designated funds, and special offerings—including anticipated Spilling Hope contributions—into a single budget as a means of emphasizing the central role of the local church in responding to needs locally and globally. We look forward to teaching and discussion on this important topic in the year ahead.

As Treasurer, I am thankful for God’s faithfulness to Bethany and to the vision that is before us. This budget is a step of faith, and a journey that I hope all of us will take together. I would like to express thanks to BCC Executive Director Jim McClurg, Business Manager Tim Nygard, and to all the members of the Finance Committee for their hard work, wisdom, and good humor.



COUNCIL REPORT

BY KAREN ALTUS

“The Church Council, at their first meeting following the annual meeting, shall elect from their own number a chairperson.”

As I complete my second term as Council Chair, I'd like to share the efforts and accomplishments of the Council this year according to the duties and authorities outlined in the BCC bylaws:

“The Church Council shall be responsible for the overall administration and management of the church,”

- Requested and reviewed monthly reports from ministry staff and operations teams.
- Participated in “Appreciative Inquiry” planning retreats with church staff.
- Approved five-year Memorandum of Understanding with World Relief/Rwanda.
- Considered and approved guidelines for the promotion of materials considered relevant to the spiritual life of the congregation and mission of BCC.
- Approved more than 180 new membership applications and two property acquisitions.
- Utilized the Human Resource Committee to address employee policies, evaluations, and compensation.
- Continued to work on bylaw revision proposals to adapt to changes produced by continued growth.
- Convened a Facilities Task Force to determine BCC’s deferred maintenance needs.
- Supported Finance Committee efforts including budget development, capital asset management, annual audit, and creation of an online giving option.
- Faithfully approved an operating budget which anticipates the highest level of income and expense in our history, and relies on a shift from “campaign” to “stewardship” financing.
- Appointed a Nominating Committee for the annual selection of board candidates.
- Created a Strategic Planning Task Force to consider transitions in all areas, including the role of the council, senior leadership, stewardship and development, and congregational growth.

“and shall provide for the spiritual guidance, instruction, and protection of the congregation.”

- Invited ministry staff to join in Council meetings and asked for monthly updates and prayer requests.
- Provided oversight and guidance to senior management on

ministry development.

- Lead “40 Days of Prayer” by committing to the first 12 hours of prayer in the prayer room.
- Provided guidance for and support of our senior pastor by creating a Pastoral Care Task Force to focus on issues of balancing growing responsibilities with personal limits and determining long-term strategies.
- Approved licensure for two new pastors, Shonnie Scott and Scott Sund.
- Prayed for all BCC staff and provided encouragement, praise, and recognition (and BBQ).
- Shared in the life of the body by being in community, attending worship, volunteering to serve, leading community groups and supporting ministries and events.
- Strove to be an example by participating in spiritual disciplines including Bible reading, hospitality, prayer, service, stewardship and living generously.
- Maintained membership in the BCC prayer chain and prayed for the needs of the Bethany community and God’s Kingdom.

I'd like to thank our Vice Chair, Jill Going, and our Secretary, David Enfield, and everyone on the Council for their service this year. We are all volunteers, just as so many of you are volunteers at BCC and in other areas of your life. As Bethany continues to grow at our three campuses and beyond, I would like to invite you to be even more involved in the amazing work God is doing in our community:

- When you are at Bethany, look around. See what is not getting done, and offer to help.
- Support the staff; ministry staff, facilities staff, operations staff. Get to know them, share kind words, small gestures, and thanks.
- Pray for Bethany, for the staff, the volunteers and all of the members and participants. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders and Council members. Pray that God would be glorified in all that we do.

Thanks for the privilege of serving as your Council Chair.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

2011

“The Church Council shall be responsible for the overall administration and management of the church, and shall provide for the spiritual guidance, instruction, and protection of the congregation.”



BOB NISKANEN



DAVE ENFIELD



KAREN ALTUS



JILL GOING



JIM UNDERHILL



JOHN MATSUMOTO



JONATHAN BERGSTROM



NATHAN KORPELA



RODNEY STILING



SUSAN LANE



WARREN GREGORY



COUNCIL NOMINEE

KYLE TYLER

Kyle was raised in the Seattle area and lives in Bothell with his wife, Shannon, and four children: Ella (9), Luke (7), Nolan (5), and Alice (3). He has attended Bethany for 15 years and has been a member for 12. In the late 1990's, he was active with Bethany's college ministry and went on two mission trips to Costa Rica. The first trip inspired him to return for a semester of Bible school in San Jose at Portantorchas, which is part of Capernwray Missionary Fellowship. Kyle co-led the Communications Team for the campaign leading to Bethany's Sanctuary building, and more recently was part of the launch team for Bethany North, where he now worships.

Kyle is part of T-Mobile's eCommerce Merchandising team and is active with Young Life Club, where he serves as a Team Coordinator to plan meetings and mentor leaders. Kyle is excited for the opportunity to work with the Bethany Council and to help our church become an even greater blessing to our community.



TREASURER NOMINEE

TOM NEILL

Tom has attended Bethany for the past 32 years and has volunteered in a number of ministries during that time. He has served as Bethany's treasurer and as a Council member. Tom is a CPA, and is a shareholder in the public accounting firm of Finney, Neill & Co., P.S. in North Seattle.

His 30 years in public accounting include tax services, financial statement preparation, and business consulting experience in a large variety of industries, such as real estate development, construction contractors, affordable housing, fishing and seafood, manufacturing, not for profit organizations, insurance, service organizations, and professional services.

He graduated from the University of Washington in 1980 and received his CPA license in 1983. He is married to Megan, and has four children ranging in age from 20 to 31.

