

# Extensions of Grace



Volume III, Issue 2, March/April, 2008

Building a Beloved Community Through "Extensions of Grace"

## Profiles in Grace

### Elder Bill Heifner: "Dr. Bill" brings his skills to church, his faith to work

by Sandee Lehmann

**E of G: Tell us briefly about your faith journey.**

Dr. Bill: My faith journey began early, due to parents who were faithful churchgoers and believers as well. I still have my certificate for being enrolled in the Cradle Roll at Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, MO. Through the faithful work of many Sunday School teachers and pastors, I heard the Gospel and responded to it at the early age of 8. I had the privilege of my heart for God continuing to be watered by youth pastors and a college Baptist Student Union chapter.

In college, as I began to think of and consider the claims of Christ on my life totally on my own, I genuinely began to understand the forgiveness and love that God offered to me personally. The Gospel became real to me. I particularly began to get off of my performance track. Ephesians 2:8-9 became the verses I knew I had to live by, "For by grace, you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." For the first time, I truly began to ask God to forgive me and knew that he had done that!

**E of G: Briefly tell me about your family.**

Dr. Bill: I grew up as the

youngest of three children. My father passed away in 2001, and my 89 year-old mother lives in St. Louis. I am struggling some with the aging parent issues, as my mother is facing a battle with



The Heifner family

Alzheimer's disease.

My beautiful wife, Noranne, and I met here in Madison. We went to Middleton Baptist Church at the same time but never met there. We met on a "group" date. It took me a month to ask her out, and I was an hour late to our first date! That's not the best way to impress someone, but we were married after a year. Noranne then left her job with Campus Crusade for Christ. We have two wonderful daughters, Annie (17) and Allie (15). We have enjoyed every stage of their lives, including the teenage years!

**E of G: How long have you been a member of High Point Church?**

Dr. Bill: I have been a member for 19 years. Noranne and I became members of Middleton Baptist Church in 1988, after we

our congregational members and attendees when they have been in the hospital. I see that as elders we must lead, and must do so by the example of servant leadership. I believe God desires that we be faithful in carrying out these duties, as it is His Church, and we are entrusted with it by Him and by the congregation.

**E of G: When you are not playing the role of elder/dad/husband, what is your ministry outside the church/home?**

Dr. Bill: I am a family practice doctor through the UW system. The Oregon Clinic in Oregon (WI) and Meriter Hospital in Madison are my primary places of practice. I also have a passionate heart specifically towards women with unplanned pregnancies. I enjoy teaming with the caring network of resources and individuals available through Care Net. I also have a passion to teach teens, not only in church, but also in area schools, about abstinence and how to make healthy choices in their lives.

**E of G: If/When you have "spare" time, what do you like to do by yourself or with your family and friends?**

Dr. Bill: I absolutely love to sing and enjoy participating in the Church Cantata. I enjoy anything that has to do with music. I also

were married.

**E of G: Tell us about your role as an elder – a brief job description in your own words.**

Dr. Bill: I was a part of the governance committee that rewrote our bylaws a couple of years ago. In that, we assigned the responsibilities of spiritual oversight, shepherding the congregation, and church leadership to the Elder board. I believe my personal gifting is strongest in the area of shepherding. I love praying for our congregation, ministries, those who are sick and in distress.

I have enjoyed visiting some of

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## Bill Heifner

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have enjoyed getting back into running. My two daughters do cross-country running, so this is something we enjoy and do together. My family enjoyed participating in Elijah's Run this past summer. Hopefully we can do it again this summer. My wife and I also enjoy watching movies together.

***E of G: When you pray for High Point Church, how do you pray?***

Dr. Bill: Ever since becoming an elder in 2002, I have longed for and prayed consistently that we be united in love for one another (Colossians 2:2). Due to our imperfections as humans, our busyness, and our difficulty with getting out of our comfort zones, we tend to live fragmented lives. This is reflected in our church. I pray that, though the process is difficult, God would continue to perfect us in love for one another.

I pray for our leadership, particularly our staff, elders, and deacons, deaconesses, and ministry leaders and the various ministries of the church by name.

Given that my daughters are teenagers, and Noranne and I help team teach the high school Sunday School, I do pray for our students, for their parents and homes, and for them to be built up and welcomed into the work

of God in their life through studying God's Word together.

***E of G: What is God teaching you right now, in and through your assignment to the Elder board of High Point Church?***

Dr. Bill: God has taught me that being a leader in a church is not easy. He has made it clear that I am not big enough, talented enough, or smart enough to do the work of leadership on my own or on our own as elders. This dependence on Him has energized my prayer life.

I have to be careful not to be so consumed with "doing" the work of an elder, that I lose sight of my "being" an elder. God wants me to be faithful to the work of the church, but also to His call to a relationship with Him and right relationships with people in the Body of Christ.

I also believe strongly in the Biblical model of partnership in leadership, that no one person can try to do it all. The present day structure of our church calls for partnership between lay leaders and staff. It is my prayer we can grasp this and let God make this work to His purposes at High Point and around the world through our ministry together.

## 2007-08 will have been "transitional" years

from the Elders of High Point Church [elders@highpointchurch.org](mailto:elders@highpointchurch.org)

How many times have you heard someone say that our church is in a time of transition?

The word *transition* may not seem adequate to capture the uncertainties, sacrifices, and challenges that lie ahead. Some of us may even feel that the word transition is a euphemism that belies the emotions of our recent experiences.

With the departure of Pastor Bill Mugford, who served our church for nearly 12 years, the elders knew that one to two years might pass before the congregation would be able to call a senior pastor. We also believed that the Lord would be at work in our Body as the search for a senior pastor got underway.

With God's grace, we as a congregation can seek a vision for our future, determine our identity as a church, heal those who still hurt from past experiences, strengthen our ministries, and unify ourselves in testimony to the love and power of Jesus Christ.

The search for an intentional interim pastor is beginning in earnest, and congregational opinion will be invited as this process goes forward.

We want to correct a misleading statement that was made at the congregational meeting. It is not true that the elders had virtually recruited an intentional interim pastor even before the congregational vote in January. We did speak to an individual who does provide that type of service to churches, but our discussions focused on the general role of an intentional interim pastor, not on recruitment of any one individual. We have sought, and will continue to seek, counsel from Godly men and women, including local pastors.

It was not possible financially for our church to have both an intentional interim pastor and a senior associate pastor. The elders believe that an intentional interim pastor will have the skills and experiences that we need to guide our church through this period before we call a full-time senior pastor.

Without question, our former senior associate pastor, Ridley Usherwood, with his unique gifting and background, touched many lives in his service to our congregation. It is a painful separation.

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Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual MCF sponsored

# Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m.  
in the Micah Center



Tell your neighbors, bring your friends, and join us for a morning filled with fun and fellowship as we hunt eggs, make crafts, play games, enjoy treats...and most importantly celebrate the real reason of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!



Questions? Contact Meredith Stier  
at [meredithstier@hotmail.com](mailto:meredithstier@hotmail.com)



## Upcoming MCF Events

May: Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) Clean-up day

## Maundy Thursday communion service

March 20  
7:00 p.m.

## Good Friday

March 21  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

## Easter Sunday

March 23  
9:00 a.m.  
& 10:45 a.m.



## Library Corner

by Donna Fox



Our annual used book sale raised \$350 for the library. Thank

you to all who participated and helped to make it a success. We were pleased to be able to donate all remaining books to REM, an agency in Madison that works with cognitively disabled adults. They will use them to raise funds for their programs.

Be sure to stop in the library to see our new "art collection". We are featuring art done by the students of HPCS. It will be changed out monthly, and you will be amazed at the talent that is displayed! Thank you students and Mrs. Schoeffler.

## "Transitional" years

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ration when a pastor leaves a church. We as elders recognize and respect the feelings of grief that accompany the hard decisions of the last month. We are committed to doing all we can to heal and unify our church.

It is imperative that we keep pace with God's leading during this time of change. We should not do things in the flesh, however tempting it may be at times to accept a quick solution so that we can be done with a problem.

We elders are now considering several steps that will help our church to move forward in a way that is shaped by prayer and that glorifies God. In the days ahead, we will communicate with you frequently, through *Extensions of Grace*, town meetings, congregational meetings, and conversations with individuals and groups.

We ask for your prayers specifically concerning the following efforts which are either in process or under consideration: obtaining wise and experienced Godly counsel for our future leadership

process, seeking a vision for High Point Church, identifying and calling an intentional interim pastor, beginning the search for a senior pastor, strengthening the partnership between elders and staff, enhancing the communication between elders and the congregation, and pursuing a cordial, welcoming, and honest relationship with those who have left or may consider leaving our church.

We all need to pray that our ministries remain strong and continue, through God at work in us, to change lives, "extending Christ's grace to all, one person at a time."

To contact the elders, email them at [elders@highpointchurch.org](mailto:elders@highpointchurch.org).

Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, March 30  
6:30 p.m.

## SnoCamp touches youth

by Jodi Anderson

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Skiing. Snowshoeing. Broomball. Tubing. Around-the-world ping-pong. Cafeteria food. Twenty-below windchill. What do these things have in common? Senior High SnoCamp 2008!

On Friday, February 8, the

Fellowship, shifted the paradigms of not only 27 teenagers, but also of five leaders.

Mike challenged us to stop using the Bible as a tool to fix our lives. He asked us to read it like the greatest piece of literature that it is. It is the story of God's love for us, he said, and we have a part in it. What are our stories? We had a whole weekend to mull this over, by ourselves and in our small groups, and will probably be thinking that over for some time to come.



High Point youth hauled their sleeping bags, backpacks, and snow gear onto a bus and headed up to Camp Forest Springs, located near Medford, WI. This year, Mike Anderson, the Youth Pastor at Bethesda Christian

Saturday was a day of fun, fun, fun! Steve-o headed up a wicked game of broomball, which went into overtime. Some of us stayed warmer in the activity room, playing ping-pong, foozeball and carpetball. Others

## From the Nursery

by Brooks and Katrina Boyd

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It is so nice to see the world coming alive after so much snow and cold! This is also a new season for the Nursery (Birth – 2 Years), and we Coordinators would like to inform you of a few updates. The Lord has indeed been working in our ministry as we continually pray for those families that we serve.

We promise we do not have rigid rules that state that we exist to help parents only if you check your child in before the service and then come and get them afterwards.

If you want to try them in worship with you and it just is not working, please feel free to enlist our help, even if there is only 15 minutes left in the service. And vice versa, if you dropped your precious child off, but are really enjoying the music and think they would as well, please come get them and share that experience!

Through God's guiding, through direction from Elmbrook's Children's Ministry Conference, and through discussions with Sheila Eichorst, we have some new ideas for High Point's Nursery

1) New signs are up! Please feel free to peruse the list for Suggested Donations (hint hint, wink wink, shameless plug) above the donation box to the right of the check-in counter. Volunteers will want to check out the Health and Safety sign leading into the toddler room.

2) The safety of the children with whom we have been entrusted is important to us. We feel very responsible for your children. Children of this age cannot defend themselves or tell anyone if injustices are happening to them. Sadly, we live in a world that is fallen, and as such we do hear about kidnapping, abuse, and other tragedies.

Therefore, we are going to be stepping up the security of the Nursery. **Every person who works with the children – either regularly or on a sporadic basis, adult and non-adult volunteers alike – MUST agree to have a background check done, and MUST be wearing a nametag at all times** so parents will have no question about who is authorized to be working with their little

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rented snowboards or skis and headed for the well-groomed



hill. Jessica Peckham rallied a few girls to go snowshoeing.

It was also a day of reflection. Zach Rohrer and Jacob Rubnitz led worship on Saturday evening, sharing a song they had co-written. Some of the students wanted more. I, along with the help of Zach, Jacob, Mike, Steve, Chelsea Niece and Emily Hauptman, led a worship session that lasted for more than an hour and a half! The students

were so blessed by this that they have requested to work it into our regular Wednesday night meetings.

The weather, chilly as it was on Sunday, could not touch the warmth of friendship and fellowship. Bonds were forged that will not easily be broken. We leaders are proud of our teens and know that God used this weekend to draw them closer to Him, so that they will mature into godly men and women.





# High Point Christian School

## Educate their minds, Touch their hearts, Impact their lives

### HPCS welcomes kindergarten teacher

by Mona Small, Principal

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Nicole Leatherwood, our High Point Christian School kindergarten teacher for second semester. Mrs. Leatherwood worked with HPCS kindergarten teacher Mrs. Parise (who moved to Iowa due to her husband's job relocation) and long time kindergarten teaching assistant Mrs. Snapper during the closing weeks of first semester, in order to facilitate a smooth transition for our students. Mrs. Parise's official last day at HPCS was Friday, January 25, 2008. Mrs. Leatherwood's official first day was Monday, January 28, 2008.

Mrs. Leatherwood holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education (K-8). Her previous work experience includes teaching in a multi-aged classroom (grades 1-3) in all subject areas as well as substitute teaching in kindergarten, first and third grades. She states:

"I take my responsibility to teach and share about Christ's love and saving grace very seriously. It is an integral part of who

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I am and I carry this over into my teaching.

"I maintain the belief that every child can learn and has the right to learn. Every child has God-given dreams and ideals that I, as a teacher, can help him or her achieve. Each one is a part of society and plays an important role. Training them about the world and life through a Christian education is essential as they grow and learn. They should gain critical thinking skills as well as understand the basic foundations of education in the mathematical, language, and writing process.

"I embrace teaching with enthusiasm and am eager to be a part of the Christian learning community, working toward the success of the students."

Mrs. Leatherwood is the daughter of missionaries and has lived and attended schools in the Philippines and on the Zuni Reservation in New Mexico. Nicole and her husband recently moved to Madison from Bellingham, WA, and attend High Point Church.



### HPCS receives award for Koats for Kids

by Alicia Lundal

On January 17, local TV station Channel 3 came to the school to recognize our HPCS students for their donations in the annual Koats for Kids program. Our students collected over 900 winter coats. This is the 17th year in a row HPCS has received an award for either most coats collected per student or for most coats collected overall.

Principal Mona Small jokes



that she is getting to know Chief Meteorologist Gary Cannalte pretty well as he brings the award every year!



### Scholastic Book Fair – Reading Road Trip 2008

by Alicia Lundal

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Do you like *Olivia the Pig*? Does the thought of *Clifford the Big Red Dog* make you smile? Well, we have an event for you!

HPCS will once again be hosting their annual Book Fair – Reading Road Trip – March 11-13, 2008. This is a wonderful event for anyone with a love or need for children's books. There will be a family event on the evening of Tuesday, March 11, at 5:00 p.m. where families can shop together, participate in fun activities (door prizes!), and enjoy pizza and refreshments. There will also be a preschool story time

on Wednesday, March 12 at 12:00 noon in Micah A. ALL preschool children are invited to attend this special time of our Reading Road Trip.

Please feel free to stop by the Micah Center and check out all the literary offerings for young children and the young at heart.

#### Reading Road Trip at HPCS

March 11 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Family night begins at 5:00 p.m.

March 12 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Preschool story time at 12:00 noon in Micah A

March 13 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Fun had by all at Winter Carnival

by Alicia Lundal

The first ever HPCS Winter Carnival was held on Friday, February 8. Carnival games filled the Micah Center, food and other fun filled the gym, the prize booth took over the nursery and laughter filled the halls. The HPCS Parent Support Organization (PSO) sponsored this event as a FUNdraiser for the school.

Each classroom – from preschool through grade 8 – manned

a carnival game and supplied a basket of "goods" for silent auction. The carnival was open to the general public, as well as our school families. Many thanks to the PSO, teachers, and families who helped make this event a success. While the weather outside was cold that evening, warm smiles filled HPCS.

## Elmbrook Children's Ministry Conference '08 inspires

by Demah Nuerty & Emida Roller

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As we have been seeking our Lord's guidance in how to serve Him in the Children's Ministry here at HPC, we were blessed and affirmed to hear what He is doing in other ministries in other cities at Elmbrook's Children's Ministry Conference '08 – Inside-Out. It was also a blessing to worship Him with brothers and sisters He has called to minister to children and their families from all across the Midwest.

The testimony of the keynote speaker, Phil Vischer, creator of Veggie Tales and Big Idea Production, was encouraging. He spoke from his heart about the consequences of working for the Lord without His blessing.

Demah Nuerty was challenged at the conference to minister more to the families of HPC by assisting them in the spiritual



growth of their children, something he feels our Lord has been asking us to step up.

The grade schoolers and teenagers at HPC have also been on his heart. Demah would like to improve in the area of helping them to grow into the body of HPC, by serving them and helping them to gain a better understanding of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He was encouraged in the workshop he attended about how to help children to make the transition from childhood into young adulthood as an important part of building up our HPC congrega-

tion.

Emida Roller went to the *Rethink a Different Perspective on Familiar Stories*. The speaker talked about telling the stories in the Bible using the 5 Ws and 1 H – Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How; and taught them how to compare the Gospels to add depth to stories.

She also attended *Parents Involvement in Spiritual Formation*. Emida learned that parents should model their faith to their kids. Parents should use life's experiences to have meaningful God conversations, use every opportunity to discuss life situa-

tions and how to apply the Bible to these circumstances, and to use spiritual rituals at home. They were encouraged to find opportunities to serve together as a family. Kids who serve by the age 12 will serve their whole life. Family devotions were also encouraged.

Lastly, Emida attended a workshop called *Creative Crafts with a Purpose*. She learned about free art versus coloring page art. The attendees were encouraged to use recycled materials to fan the children's flame and encourage them. Another important tip: Always ask kids to tell you about their work!

Overall, the HPC contingent at the Elmbrook conference learned much and are ready to implement what they learned here with our kids!

## Places everybody! Auditions!

by Kendra Thompson

High Point Church Children's Ministry is proud to announce two theatrical events – a spring pageant and a summer musical!

### The Careless Gardener April 4, 7:00 p.m.

We are all gardeners! But, we hope to be better gardeners than Annabelle. Annabelle envisioned a vivid, color-filled perennial garden when she planted her flowers. But lack of understanding and neglect left her flowers brown, shriveled and overrun with weeds. A garden angel, butterflies, fireflies and ladybugs comfort Annabelle's struggling flowers with song, prayer and Bible verses. Pleas to God are finally answered when Annabelle's Grandma comes for a visit. Grandma Violet teaches Annabelle that we are all gardeners, accountable for the gardens we grow. With Grandma Violet's help, Annabelle is able to nurture her plants back to health.

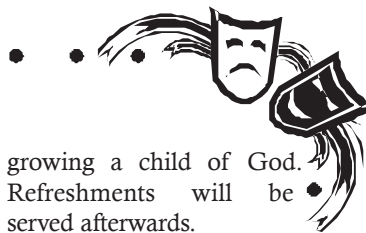
On Friday, April 4, 2008, our Sunday School children will perform this delightful musical tale. Please come and enjoy *The Careless Gardener*. It is a lesson for all on

growing a child of God. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

### The Obedient Renegade A Queen Esther tale

As punishment for passing notes in social studies class, Emily and Morgan are given an extra-curricular assignment: find a woman in history that changed the world through her obedience. Unfortunately, these best friends believe "obedient women never make history." That is, until an angelic librarian named Gabriella takes them back through time. Thanks to Gabriella, Emily and Morgan find themselves right in the middle of Queen Esther's story! Through Esther, Emily and Morgan discover that obedience to God is a powerful and virtuous trait.

*Auditions will be held mid-April and are open to all, with parts available for the young and young at heart. Rehearsals begin in May. Performances will be, July 12 - 13, 2008.*



## How to Help the Eichorsts

First, foremost and always: Prayer!

Gifts of money can be given through High Point Church, designated to the Eichorsts (not tax deductible)

## Family bowling a fun time for all

by Demah Nuerty

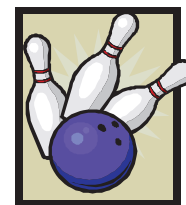
Sheila and I have been discerning from our Lord the need to serve the families of the children at HPC more by assisting and equipping parents in the spiritual growth of their little ones. We want to create events that will help families to meet others in the congregation whom they may not be able to meet during Sunday morning services.

The Family Bowling event we held on January 26 was one of several events we hope, by the grace of our Lord, that we can use to minister to families at HPC and to give families an opportunity to invite their neighbors and friends to attend.

It was such a blessing to see the

number of families who came to the event, especially the number of children who came and wanted to bowl! We had a good time, and I believe that our Lord used us indirectly to minister to those who were at the bowling alley, Schwoeglers Park Towne Lanes.

It is our hope in the Lord that more families will join us for our upcoming events for the family! Watch the High Point Church website and Sunday PowerPoint slides for details.



## Nursery

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ones.

Parents, we encourage you to question ANYONE not wearing a nametag – even (and especially!) us.

Additionally parents, from now on expect to be asked for your Parent Claim Tag BEFORE you receive your child, and to receive your child only after you have produced the correct Parent Claim Tag. We do not want to scare you away, but want you to know that your children are very important to us and that we are taking precautions to make sure nothing bad happens to them while they are in our care.

3) Children learn by imitation. And they are *smart*. They can be holding up a plastic toy cell phone to their ear upside down or turned around the wrong way, but they know what that little toy resembles and what Mommy or Daddy does with it. We've seen other children try different sets of plastic baby key rings to "unlock" the Nursery doors. Children learn

by imitation, and that trend does not diminish as they leave the nursery and speed towards teenagedom.

As such, we want our non-adult (under 18 years) helpers to observe their parents in worship, or be taught how to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ by being in Sunday School. Therefore, we would like to see a **maximum of two non-adult helpers per week** serve in the Nursery, while others are participating with their families, partaking in worship, and growing in God. **The first two of these helpers to sign up in a given week will be the helpers chosen for that week.** Children/teens are encouraged to attend either of the sanctuary services at 9:00 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. with their families, or the Kids' Celebration worship during first service for grades 1-5 in the gym, plus various Sunday School classes occurring during second service.

4) We have been learning more about the 4th Commandment – "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy*" (Exodus 20:8). In Mark

Buchanan's book *The Rest of God*, he makes some important points about the Sabbath, about rest.

*God gave us the gift of Sabbath – not just as a day, but as an orientation, a way of seeing and knowing. Sabbath-keeping is a form of mending. It's mortar in the joints. Keep Sabbath, or else break too easily, and oversoon. Keep it, otherwise our dustiness consumes us, becomes us, and we end up able to hold exactly nothing.*

Child care workers suffer a huge burnout rate, both in spiritual ministries and in secular society. We do not want our regular volunteers to suffer an emotional burnout. We want to provide everyone with the rest they need to feel rejuvenated and enjoy working with our little ones. Thus, we are calling on the parents who have children in the Nursery for help. (And anyone else who is reading this who is feeling the call to assist, we would love to welcome you!)

**We ask parents with children attending the Nursery to commit to volunteering 3-4 Sunday serv-**

**ices a year** (either 1st or 2nd service, not both on one Sunday), **half of which should occur from May through August.**

We want to give the regular volunteers (who have no children currently attending the Nursery) the summers off, and be staffed purely by parents during the summer months, so that the "regulars" can be fresh and excited by the time September rolls around. We have sign-up sheets for which to plan months in advance, and we are developing a system by which you could check online for which Sunday you are signed up.

*Thank you so much to everyone who is willing to volunteer their time, help us keep our children safe, and teach them about the Lord.* Brooks and Katrina are committed to play more of an active role in making sure you feel "thanked," so sign up to help often enough and you may be there on one of the random Sundays we bring in treats for the volunteers!

We cannot do this without your help, and thank you for letting us enjoy and serve your children!

## Men's Ministry is cookin'

by Craig Fonzen

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February is typically full of Men's Ministry activities, usually capped off by the Valentine's Dinner Theater hosted, prepared and served by the men of High Point. This year's dinner had to be cancelled due to a lack of volunteers and the necessary time to prepare. I hope and pray that many of you, who have participated in past VDT dinners, will step forward again and help us create an exciting evening of fellowship, food, and entertainment for our wives, girlfriends or care groups. This call also goes out to men who have not volunteered in the past but are interested.

The old-world cry of "The King is dead, long live the King" went out on Friday evening February 1, 2008, to John Karr – our new HPC Chili Cook-Off Champion! John's last minute tasty entry earned the approval of HPC men over seven other hot, spicy, sweet, very spicy, colorful,

really spicy...well you get the idea...entries. Don Freidig's secret-sauce-sweet entry placed second, and Bob Becker's burn-the-silver-off-the-spoon entry came in third. Congratulations John, Don and Bob!

Dietrich Gruen delivered a timely message about three (scriptural) cavemen: Elijah, David and Peter, and how they dealt with failure, futility and fear. Gruen encouraged us to ask ourselves, "What are you doing here?" just as Elijah was asked by God. The answer to Elijah was "wait," and it is to us too. After "waiting on the Lord" each received their answer: Elijah a renewal, David a refuge and Peter a resurrection and restoration in a right relationship with Jesus. Gruen's message was an encouragement to all.

The next morning, Saturday, February 2, about 15 men carpooled to join almost 5,000 men at the annual statewide "No

Regrets" Men's Conference held at Elmbrook and Westbrook Churches. This year's conference, *Becoming a Man of Significance*, was headlined by Pastor Ken Luck, the Men's Interactive Bible Study leader at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.

Pastor Luck dared us to live each day with an "intentional abandon toward a strong purpose." He explained that in order to live a life of significance we need to put **R.I.S.K.** into our daily routine. Luck broke down the **RISK** acronym as follows:

**Right** view of God – My conception of God influences my courage for God.

A.W.Tozer said "right notions, produce radical actions [for God]".

**Identity** with God – I will risk more for God when my identity is firmly in God.

**Sacrificial** mentality and ability to endure the sufferings of this world.

**Kingdom** advance – an explosive change occurring in my heart.

Luck challenged us to not look for the safe Christian life, but to live a life of significance marked by **RISK** and [God's] Reward. He pointed us to Matthew 11:12, "*From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.*"

Over 30 seminars targeted a variety of areas relevant to men's needs and provided men ample opportunity to reflect and grow in their walk with Christ.

I would strongly encourage each man at HPC to reserve February 6 & 7, 2009, for the HPC Men's Chili Cook-off and "No Regrets" Conference. These are two great events to strengthen us individually and build up the body of Christ at High Point Church. To sample more great cooking, fun and fellowship, reserve February 14, 2009, for the High Point Valentines Dinner Theater in the Micah Center.

# How to get your hands DiRTy

by Bill Taylor

[billdian@tds.net](mailto:billdian@tds.net)

I grew up singing, "In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth." The truth of that deeply ingrained hymn hit me again in a town just 40 miles west of LaCrosse, WI. When Rushford, MN, was hit by a "500-year flood," we don't say (as some might), "Let those Viking fans/Lutherans/Catholics over there take care of their own!"

Rather we believers say, "How can we help?" And while we pitch in with willing hearts and bodies, we sing, "In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

Four of us – Will Blead, Charles Pierce, Bill Taylor and Rick Zynda – came over just last January. We drove to Rushford on Friday night, put in a full day's work on Saturday, and returned that night. Under the direction of the community's "Rushford Volunteer Central," we worked as a general clean-up crew, a "dead plumbing" remover, a "new bathtub" installation helper and more.

They supplied tools and instruction and a nice "dormitory" in which to stay, for as long as we had the time. The dormitory provided not only a comfortable place to stay (in the basement of a Lutheran church facility), but also delicious and adequate food. The houses we worked on were those for whom the owners, due to age or infirmity, need more help than most to get back on their physical, emotional and

financial feet.

The Epistle of James says "This is pure and undefiled religion, to visit widows and orphans in their distress." A fair number of those "widows and orphans" currently reside or hope to resume residing in Rushford.

HPC's DiRT Team plans to send a team to Rushford again on March 16 or 17 for a week of helping. Can you provide a willing heart and body? Are you a registered electrician or plumber with a willing heart? Are you somewhere in between? If so, there are opportunities to be "missional" in a very real, practical sense. Contact me, Bill Taylor, at 836-5013 or at [billdian@tds.net](mailto:billdian@tds.net) to see and hear more about getting your hands "DiRTy."

## DiRT GOES TO AFRICA

If you are particularly brave-hearted, you may consider volunteering to help rebuild a school in Liberia, under the auspices of Samaritan's Purse. A DiRT team will be going over from April 1 to 20; another, from May 1 to 20. This opportunity requires \$1000 on your part to cover the expense of getting you there, keeping you there, and getting you back home – while Samaritan's Purse picks up the rest of the tab (about \$1500!).

Liberia is in the SW portion of West Africa. Depending on the volunteer pool, Samaritan's Purse may limit participation to those more capable to build than was generally required for previous DiRT teams to Rushford, MN; Gays Mills, WI; New Orleans, LA; or Biloxi, MS.

Women: Save this date!

Friday & Saturday

May 2-3

Women's Weekend Away

(see you at the lake!)

# DR update & save the date!

by Jenny Boese

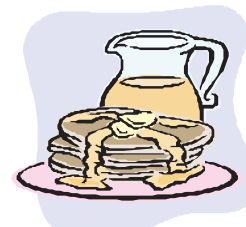
[boesejj@aol.com](mailto:boesejj@aol.com)

Great strides forward continue in Los Botados, Dominican Republic. We recently received an update from the field about how the newly completed community center will be used.

This community center, funded through High Point Church, has one main room, two small rooms and a bathroom. The facility will be used to host local community leader meetings, Bible studies for children (which will be taught by Pastor De León from the local evangelical church) and health education/training by the volunteer health promoters in the area. We even hear that the community is working to establish sewing classes for women. This will be an initiative of the Club of Mothers of Los Botados. The group already has several sewing machines. Praise the Lord!

traveled to the DR. We know Kelvin has a great love for the people in Los Botados and will be a blessing to this ministry.

Team 2008 will soon be finalized, so please keep this team and the entire DR Partnership in your prayers. It is only by the grace of God that this ministry exists and can impact lives.



Mark your calendars for April 6 – the DR Partnership's Annual Pancake Breakfast! Breakfast will be served all morning. Come get a great meal for a great price and an even better cause. Watch Sunday announcements and bulletins for more details...

Contact Jenny Boese with questions at 608-345-0032 or [boesejj@aol.com](mailto:boesejj@aol.com).

"Look at the nations and watch, and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." Habakkuk 1:5



More exciting news is that Food for the Hungry-DR has added another staff person to the FH team working in Los Botados. His name is Martín Martínez (Kelvin), a member of the Church lead by Pastor De León of the local evangelical church. The DR Partnership knows Kelvin well, and he's been an amazing blessing to each HPC short-term team that has



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## Can we forgive without God?

with Miroslav Volf

7:30 p.m., Friday April 18  
Rm 1100 Grainger Hall,  
975 University Ave.

## Church calendar for March & April, 2008

If your event is not listed here, please contact the church office at 836-3236 or [scheduler@highpointchurch.org](mailto:scheduler@highpointchurch.org).

### Special Events

Fasting & Prayer	March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17	7:00 p.m.
Movie Night	March 8	5:30 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt	March 15	9:30 a.m.
Congregational Meeting	March 30	6:30 p.m.
Good Friday service	March 21	1:00 p.m.
<i>The Careless Gardener</i>	April 4	7:00 p.m.

### Student Ministries Steve Dale (843-0748)

Junior High Sunday School	Sundays	9:00 a.m.
Senior High Sunday School	Sundays	9:00 a.m.
Trek (Awana)	Sundays	10:30 a.m.
Junior High Students – GIG	Thursdays	6:30 p.m.
Senior High Students – CEL	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.
College Students – Exhale	check Facebook for details	

### Children's Ministry Sheila Eichorst (836-3236 x129)

Infant & Toddler Nursery	Sundays	9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services
Early Childhood Sunday School (ages 2-5)	Sundays	9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services
Kid's Celebration	Sundays	9:00 a.m. service
Grade School Sunday School	Sundays	10:45 a.m. service
Kingdom Kids Choir	Wednesdays	5:45 p.m.
AWANA	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.
Sing, Dance & Play	Thursdays	10:30 a.m.
Revive – Special Needs Ministry	March 8, April 12	9:00 a.m.

### Adult Ministries

Manuscript Bible Study	Sundays	9:00 a.m.
Bible Study for All Ages	Sundays	10:45 a.m.
West Side Men's Bible Study	Mondays	6:30 a.m.
First Place Weight Loss Bible Study	Mondays	7:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball	Tuesdays & Thursdays	5:30 a.m.
Precepts (Men and Women)	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study	Tuesdays	9:00 a.m.
Men's Fellowship	Wednesdays	6:30 a.m.
Precepts (Women)	Wednesdays	12:00 noon
Women at the Well	Thursdays	9:00 a.m.
Thursday Evening Women's Bible Studies	Thursdays	7:00 p.m.
BASIC Singles Group	Fridays	7:00 p.m.
Men's Monthly Breakfast	March 8, April 12	8:00 a.m.
MCF Sunday Morning Gatherings	March 9, April 13	9:00 a.m.
BASIC Leaders Meeting	March 2, April 6	12:30 p.m.
Senior Adults Fellowship	March 7, April 4	6:30 p.m. (March 7 - 1:00 p.m.)

### Care Ministries

Intercessory Prayer Team	Sundays	8:00 a.m.
Divorce Care	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.
Divorce Care for Kids	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.
Families Anonymous	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Men's Shelter Meal Prep	March 7, April 4	6:00 p.m.
Stephen Ministers Training	March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22	6:30 p.m.
Prayer Leadership Team Meeting	March 19, April 16	1:00 p.m.
Hospice Quilt Dedication	April 13	1:00 p.m.
UW Memorial Service	April 27	1:00 p.m.

### Outreach Ministries

Hospitality Cafe	Sundays	10:15 a.m.
Missional Church Team Meeting	March 6	6:00 p.m.
Cross-Cultural ConneXions	March 9, April 13	12:30 p.m.
DR Pancake Breakfast	April 6	8:00 a.m.

### Music & Worship Arts John Georgeson (836-3236 x119)

Celebration Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.
The Careless Gardener rehearsals	March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30	1:00 p.m. (March 30 - 2:00 p.m.)
The Careless Gardener rehearsal	April 2	5:00 p.m.

### Administrative Ministries

HPC Staff Meeting	Tuesdays	1:30 p.m.
Bulletin Stuffers	Fridays	8:30 a.m.
Deaconess Meeting	March 10, April 14	7:00 p.m.
Elders Meeting	March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24	7:00 p.m.
Finance Team Meeting	March 11, 15, 22, April 15	7:00 p.m.

### High Point Christian School 836-7170

HPCS School Committee Meeting	March 18, April 15	7:00 p.m.
HPCS Honors Band Performance	March 5	9:50 a.m.
Scholastic Book Fair	March 11-13	
Spring Break	March 21-30	