

Staff Changes at Bethany

It was with mixed emotions that we received news from Mary Lloyd, Director of the Early Childhood Center, that she plans to retire at the end of this school year. It is sad to say goodbye to such a long-time staff member (15 years already!) yet it is wonderful that Mary is able to retire at a point where the program is as strong as it has ever been and enjoy the “good life”.

Mary started as the Assistant Director when the center opened in 1995 and became the Director in 2003. She has continually managed the staff and budget in an exceptional manner. We wish Mary the best in the many years to come. The BECC Board has formed a search committee to find a new Director that will continue to provide strong, Christian leadership to the program. If you have any questions, contact Becky Clausen or Stephanie Davy.

In January, we were able to finalize an arrangement with Covenant Village of Colorado to provide a Director of Health & Wellness to Bethany. Traci Shahan is a life long Lutheran who brings extensive experience and energy to this new facet of our pastoral care program. She will be formally introduced to the congregation during her installation at all services on March 7. Welcome to Traci!

The custodial staff at Bethany is in a period of transition as Ali Naitaqi pursues an opportunity to return to his native Afghanistan as a translator. Ali has been on staff since 2002, primarily working the evening and weekend shifts. We wish Ali safe travels. There are currently not any plans to replace Ali on the custodial team pending final confirmation from Ali as well as budget considerations for 2010/11.

Thank you...

...to Rhita Florey who provided a designated gift to Bethany for new chairs in rooms 208 and 210. The new chairs do not take up as much space and make it easier for the custodians to rearrange the room to accommodate the wide ranging uses of the rooms by the groups that meet there.

...to Larry Daub and Highlands Garden Center for the generous donation of flower bulbs to enhance the office entrance. Thanks also to Brenda Greenwald for her assistance in planting them.

Founders Campaign (continued from page 1)

\$2.04 million at the beginning of 2010. Our debt service has been reduced from \$1,166/day to \$549/day. As approved in 2008, the intent of the Founders Campaign is that the savings from our continued efforts to reduce the debt will be redeployed to other areas of ministry and need. Without this program, our financial outlook at Bethany would be significantly worse than it is today. Thank you to those who lead and have participated in this vitally important, commu-

nity effort to reduce our debt burden!

To date, we have received 425 commitments to the Founders Campaign for \$2,552,587 (including the initial \$1m donation to jump start the campaign). The goal remains 100% participation from the congregation for \$3m. If the 800 households that have yet to make a gift to the campaign were to commit to \$1/day through the end of the campaign in 2011, we would make this goal. If this is you, prayerfully consider your commitment to the Founders Campaign and “just do it”.

The BUSINESS of BETHANY

A Quarterly Newsletter from Bethany Administration



First Quarter 2010

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2009 Total Contribution Summary

Overall, total contributions to Bethany were down in 2009 compared to 2007 and 2008 (see summary below). For all that we receive we need to be grateful for the faithful support and generosity of so many people in this congregation. Since 2001, total annual contributions to Bethany have ranged from \$2.3 million to \$3.1 million.

Fund	2009	2008	2007
General Fund	\$1,933,905	\$2,087,742	\$2,173,209
Debt Reduction	\$388,450	\$580,494	\$202,154
Second Mile	\$61,363	\$50,266	\$88,584
Balloon Bash Fundraiser	\$0	\$65,698	\$33,209
Other Donations	\$24,720	\$53,346	\$60,976
TOTAL	\$2,408,438	\$2,837,546	\$2,558,132

2009 General Fund Results

Although we are on a fiscal year budget cycle at Bethany (from July 1 – June 30), it is helpful (and hopefully not confusing) to review results on a calendar basis to gain insight and understanding. The results on page 2 show that although General Fund contributions were down in 2009 compared to 2008, the operating income increased by more than \$30,000. The primary difference between 2008 and 2009 is the funding of the Founders Campaign Savings that kicked in at mid-year 2009.

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Founders Campaign for Debt Reduction Update

Through the Founders Campaign, we have been able to reduce our principal balance on our loan with two pre-payments totaling \$564,000. The first pre-payment with 2009 contributions was \$386,000 in September, and the second pre-payment was made in January 2010 totaling \$178,000. Since we refinanced our \$5 million loan with Thrivent in 2005, we have reduced our principal balance to

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(2009 General Fund Results continued from page 1)

Contributions	CY 2009	CY 2008
Member contributions	\$1,933,905	\$2,089,685
Year-end adjustments	\$0	\$28,551
Total	\$1,933,905	\$2,118,236
Expenses		
Personnel expenses	\$1,083,762	\$1,224,151
Program expenses	\$359,609	\$365,005
Benevolence	\$169,217	\$208,596
Interest payments	\$166,271	\$199,130
Total	\$1,778,859	\$1,996,882
Operating Income	\$155,046	\$121,354
Founders Campaign Savings	\$82,053	\$0
Capital Expenditures	\$10,553	\$17,304
Contribution to Debt Reduction	\$136,584	\$104,050
Net Income	-\$74,144	\$0

The Council has approved use of the bequest funds to make up the shortfall we experienced during the last six months of 2009 (or \$69,000). This was a necessary step to ensure that the Founders Campaign Savings funds remain fully funded as we enter 2010.



Dear Uncle BOB-
The church people are scaring me! It's as if they have completely lost all sense of kindness and decency. Over-reaction seems to be a consistent theme with all of the mean-spirited conversation I hear in the church office. I mean, it's ridiculous that a little church mouse like me would cause adults to scream, nearly use profanity, and talk about "killing" or at least "capturing." They have set traps hoping each day will be my last. They have even gone to the extreme of buying sonar devices to keep me away - as

if that makes a difference. It's just crazy!

I have no such ill will toward them – I do my best to “turn the other cheek”. I remain friendly and helpful despite their pleas for an “exterminator.” I keep to my own business and don't interfere with theirs. What else can I do? I know we don't see the world in the same way, but will they ever change their ways or will they always overreact to what they perceive to be “scary”? I'm finding that “overreaction” is a common adjective to describe people in the church. Is the same true outside of the church? HELP!

See you in church!

Facilities Corner

The roof over the main church office has been cleared of the rock that held down the 20-year old membrane. The new roof is scheduled to be installed by mid-February. Once complete, the Facilities Team will complete an evaluation of the roof and the contractor. The next roof area to be completed is the library/meeting room roof.

The Facilities Team has been working on a plan to host a Volunteer Day to address many of the maintenance issues at Bethany. If your spiritual gifts include handyman type tasks or hospitality (we'll need lunch), stay tuned for more details. If you would like to help organize such an event, please contact David Sather, head of the Facilities Team.

2010 Estimate of Giving Update

Our annual process to collect estimates of giving for the General Fund in 2010 was started with our Consecration Sunday celebration on November 4, 2009. The goal was to reach 600 commitments for \$1.8m. The results through January are summarized below for 2007-2010:



Pledge comparison - as of end of January

	2007	2008	2009	2010
New pledgers	185	94	124	74
Repeat pledgers	393	442	454	475
Total pledgers	578	536	578	549
New pledgers	\$337,864	\$196,811	\$198,978	\$154,508
Repeat pledgers	\$1,380,317	\$1,538,213	\$1,451,400	\$1,415,016
Total pledgers	\$1,718,181	\$1,735,024	\$1,650,378	\$1,569,524
Avg \$/pledge	\$2,972.63	\$3,236.99	\$2,855.33	\$2,858.88
Missing from previous year:		144	72	75
		320,126	188,888	\$168,012

This result indicates a slightly smaller number of estimates for 2010 versus 2009 with the average per estimate remaining the same. In the current economic environment, this is not a surprising result and indicates that we need to become more efficient and prudent with the resources we are given.

If you have yet to complete your estimate of giving for 2010, you can do so at anytime by visiting www.bethany-denver.org. **The Stewardship Ministry Team will continue to work hard to get Bethany closer to the goal of 600 estimates for 2010.** Regardless of your situation and the amount you are able to give to Bethany, an estimate should be part of every member's spiritual discipline and faith journey.