



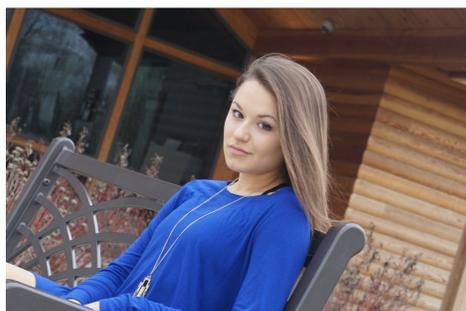
Bethel News

JUNE 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pre-school soccer & t-ball camp sign-up is now open on the church website! (Camp dates: June 7-10)
- First Family Festival will be June 10. Let the office know if you are interest in being part of the planning team for July or August!

Faith Story - MacKenzie Caldwell



This year, I feel that God has been working in me by showing me I need to rely on him because humans are fallible and relying on them leads to disappointment. I needed to learn that putting all my faith and hope in humans is not only foolish, but also can hurt both them and me, while God will never disappoint.

In the fall I am planning to attend SDSU to pursue a biology degree. I discovered I wanted to do something in the medical field a couple years ago. At that time, I was considering nursing. This year I took my dad's Anatomy and Physiology and I found something that I could really connect with. I have never enjoyed a class or wanted to study it as much as Anatomy, so I decided that I want to pursue a biology degree to attend medical school after my undergraduate studies. Surgery is the area I find most interesting

I realized this through a class trip to see the cadavers at SDSU.

Robertson's Ramblings- Beyond Welcoming

One of the things that I frequently hear about Bethel is that we are a welcoming and friendly church. In follow up conversations that I have with numerous first time guests, I regularly hear how welcoming and friendly Bethel is! I also know this to be the case, because my fam-

ily and I experienced it when we first came here. So thank you for warm handshakes, friendly smiles, and being intentional about making guests feel welcome!

So we make a guest feel welcome, but what happens next? Simply put, what happens next

is that we take it a step further. Everyone loves feeling welcomed by friendly people, but at some point we all desire relationships to move beyond what is typically received by a guest entering into a new place. The desire is for a person to move from first time guest to someone who sees Bethel as their

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Youth Mission Trip

June 6th-11th is going to be an exciting week at Bethel as a team of youth from MN alongside our youth are going to be serving and ministering to our community. On Tuesday through Friday morning, the team will be leading a free t-ball and soccer camp at Hillcrest Park for preschool aged kids. Currently, 64 of the 81 spots are filled and we anticipate most of those

remaining spots filling up soon. On Tuesday afternoon, the team will be doing a clean-up project in connection with the Brookings Park, Rec, and Forestry department. On Wednesday afternoon, the team will be divided up between the Habitat for Humanity ReStore store and helping with their the current house build in Aurora. Thursday plans are still being

worked out and Friday afternoon will be some fun at the pool before getting things set up for the Family Festival that evening! In addition, the team will be doing prayer walks and having times of teaching and worship each evening. Be praying that the ministry of this team would make an impact in Brookings as together we strive to Exalt God's Name, Equip God's People, and Evangelize God's World.

Ministry Highlight - WNK

By Diane Smart

Wednesday Night Kids or WNK, as we have come to call it, is Bethel's midweek activities program for preschoolers-5th grade.

In Early 2015, I was asked to part of a committee to begin talking about starting Wednesday night activities again. We met, and soon realized, that we were ready to put our hands in our Savior's and start the process of bringing Wednesday night activities back. We researched curriculums and narrowed our choices down to three: AWANA, Gospel Project, and a third one, that I for the life of me, can't remember the name of. We ultimately decided on Gospel Light. We decided we would start small, meeting only 2

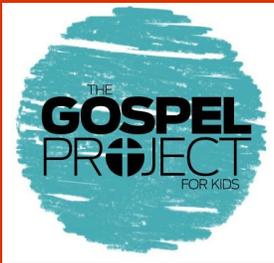
times a month. We chose to meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month, to meet alongside Night MOPS in an effort to reach out to the mothers and their children that came to Night MOPS.

WNK met for the first time on September 16, 2015. We were a small group, 4-6 school age kids BUT, there were 8 or 10 3&4 years olds! We met September through May. Our school-aged numbers continued to be small. We settled into a core group of 6 school age kids. We bumped up a few pre-kindergartners to the school age group because the preschoolers consistently had anywhere from 8 to as many as 12 little ones!

The Gospel Project curriculum is like VBS. We start the evening with our age groups (Preschoolers

and School age kids). Then we all meet together and teach the main lesson. We also sing songs and pray as a large group. The preschoolers go downstairs to have snack while the older kids go to the gym for games. The lesson we learned in large group always connected to the games the kids played. Then the kids go upstairs to discuss our lesson and sometimes do crafts.

Over the year, we covered a good chunk of Genesis. We started with creation and ended with Joseph and his family in Egypt. The curriculum always pointed us to Jesus. I thoroughly enjoyed serving with Dave Graves, Mindy Metzger, Deb Moore, Jenny Joffer, and Brianna Buseman.



"The preschoolers consistently had anywhere from 8 to as many as 12 little ones!"

Elder Report



In the wake of the Elder retreat this past spring, the elders continue to focus on the few issues of greatest importance heading into the summer. On May 9, instead of trying to deal with 20 or so different agenda items of varying importance and urgency, the elders tackled only four concerns, but each concern is large in scale and complex. The elders worked

to come to consensus on the nature of Lifegroups – when they should meet, and for how long. We hope to arrive at the implementation phase of a new Deacon board by the fall, and we are seeking input and feedback from the congregation about the possibility of hiring an associate pastor sometime in the near future.

The elders dedicated the entire second meeting in May to a discussion of a comprehensive Sunday School curriculum for the whole church, organized around the overarching principles of Exalt, Equip, and Evangelize. We agreed that the first three major topics to be taught to students of all

ages at the age-appropriate level should be God's Word, the Nature and Character of God Himself, and Man and his relationship to God. In the upcoming weeks, the elders will be working to flesh out the curriculum but will then look to the teachers to turn the curriculum into actual lessons and learning activities that inspire, motivate, and instill real learning in students starting in pre-school and continuing on throughout the whole life of the congregation member.

The elders invite your input and encourage you to consider what your role might be in the teaching of a new church-wide curriculum.

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Robertson's Ramblings (continued from page 1)

church home. The only way that move will happen, for most people, is in the context of relationships with others. If people do not establish any solid relationships within 2-3 months (or less) of attending a church, they will stop coming. For a person to truly connect and become a part of the body here at Bethel they need relationships; they need you.

They need you to invite them to dinner or out to lunch. They need you to invite them to join your group of friends when you hang out. They need you to randomly call, text, or email

them to see how their week is going. They need you to make an effort on Sunday mornings to see them, talk to them, check in on them. They need you to call them and let them know they were missed when they are not there on Sunday. They need you. To go beyond being welcoming and friendly, we need all of us! We have a great Connections team but they can't do it all. One of the reasons so many of us love calling Bethel our church is not because the people are welcoming and friendly; it is because the people here are family. We love and care

about them, and they love and care about us. Every Sunday when we come to Bethel, as you see all the people who have become your family, don't miss those who are longing for what we have. In the Gospel, Jesus left the comfort and familiarity of perfection to come here in order to draw us to the Father. May we leave the comfort and familiarity of our already established relationships every Sunday morning to draw others into the family. Let's strive together to go beyond welcoming this Sunday.... and every Sunday!



EXALTING · EQUIPPING · EVANGELIZING

714 17th Ave S
Brookings, SD 57006

Phone: 605-692-2858

E-mail: bethel@brookings.net

Pastor Josh: joshrobertson52@gmail.com

bethelbaptistbrookings.org

 Find us on Facebook!

Exalting His Name...

Equipping His People...

Evangelizing His World...

Upcoming Events

6/7-6/10 Pre-school Soccer/T-ball camp

6/10 Family Festival at Bethel

6/11 Men's Breakfast at Bethel 7 AM

7/9-7/10 Summer Arts Festival

7/22 Family Festival at Bethel

8/19 Family Festival at Bethel

Missions Focus - Tim & Mary Sue Austin



Tim and Mary Sue Austin serve at Dakar Academy in Senegal, Africa. While Tim has been a teacher at this boarding school, a big change is coming this next school year. With the current principal moving to the position of director at the school, a vacancy was left for the princi-

pal. Tim was asked to consider filling the role for one year. He prayerfully considered the options and made the decision to accept position of the Interim Principal.

Tim anticipates that this next year will be full of new challenges and opportunities to serve the students and fellow teachers. Mary Sue has agreed to be the principal's administrative assistant. The couple asks you to pray for them in this new endeavor.

Another part of the Austin's ministry at Dakar Academy is being substitute dorm parents for the guys in the Walker dorm. Every Tues-

day their friends, the Walkers, get a day off from dorm-parenting and the Austins step in. As a family, they share an afternoon and evening with the guys, then Mary Sue and the kids head home. Tim stays and leads the evening devotional, and then supervises study/ relax time until lights out. He spends the night there in case anyone needs attention in the night. In the morning, Tim gets the guys fed and out the door in the morning for school.

The Austins have four children: Hannah, Elizabeth, Samuel, and Benjamin. Hannah successfully completed her first year at St. Cloud Uni-

versity. Elizabeth is spending the summer back in the States as a manager of an ice cream shop at Trout Lake Camps.

Current prayer requests:

Praise God for his leading in the decision to accept the principal job for next year. Pray with us that Tim will do a good job in that role.

Praise God for his provision for another year of being fully funded.

The Austins have family members back home who are facing health challenges and personal tragedy. Please lift up their loved ones in prayer.