



# Bethel News

OCTOBER 2017

## Faith Story - Charis Prunty



When Aaron and I met in 2010 (on eHarmony!), I was living about 6 hours from here in Hastings, Neb. I was a newspaper reporter covering the school beat for the Hastings Tribune. I loved the school beat and I loved writing feature stories: stories about people. Those seemed a lot more fascinating than writing about what roadwork the county was planning or even what

new business was coming to town.

Driving to Aaron's farm once a month and meeting in Omaha once a month got tiring pretty quickly - I had to leave at 4 or 5 p.m. on a Friday, spend Saturday and Sunday until lunch together, then drive right back. I tend to fall asleep when I'm driving anyway so I was making two or three coffee stops per trip. After 9 months of this, I asked Aaron what he was waiting for. How long did we have to drive back and forth like this? He said he thought at

least a year...

Well, we agreed that day that I could look into jobs in Brookings. I found the Brookings Register and called asking for the editor, who was Ken Curley. I told Ken my situation and asked whether they had any openings, even part-time. He said no. They only had two news writers on staff and both jobs were filled, but I could send my resume and writing clips for them to keep on file, if I want-

Continued on page 2...

## Robertson's Ramblings— How to Walk into Church Next

### Sunday

Do you think about how to walk into church this next Sunday morning? If you are like most of us, probably not. It seems that some Sundays it is just a battle to get up, get out the door, and our only goal in walking into church is getting there before we are REALLY late. I just

finished reading a short book with that title: "How to Walk Into Church" by Tony Payne! I would encourage you to read it! Here are a four key points that stuck out to me that I would like all of us to consider next time we walk into church.

First, do it! Walk into church. Come, make church a priority every Sunday! While we could all list tons of reasons why we might miss church we need to realize the importance of coming to church. Coming to church is about you gathering to worship and hear from

Continued on page 2...

## Faith Story (continued from page 1)

ed. I sent them on Friday and drove to the farm that night for a weekend visit.

That weekend when I was visiting Aaron, we talked about it again and he said he wasn't quite ready for me to move closer; he wanted to wait a little bit. So I stopped looking (there weren't many writing jobs in Brookings anyway!).

The following Tuesday, I got an email from Ken saying "We might have an opening we could talk about." Between the time my resume arrived Friday and when he emailed me Tuesday, the full-time education and fea-

tures writer for the Register had resigned. Ken offered me the job over the phone, having never met me! I thought that was crazy so I arranged to drive up for an interview that Friday. I met Ken and the Register staff and they were no more crazy than any other newspaper I had worked for... I signed for an apartment in Brookings that day and moved two weeks later.

Choosing a husband is an intimidating task; after all, you'll be stuck with this guy for the rest of your life, so you want to make sure he's a good match! It felt like a lot of pres-

sure and at the time I was pretty fuzzy on how to "find God's will" for something like that. But then God gave us this gift of the perfect job opening up at the perfect time, and my resume already being in the editor's hands. After that I didn't have any doubts that Aaron and I should be married. He proposed about two weeks after I moved to Brookings, and we were married 9 months later. Still seems like a pretty good decision.

## Robertson's Ramblings (continued from page 1)

God along-side others, but it is also about you coming to serve, encourage, love, and help others grow in their faith (Hebrews 10:24-25). So walk into church this Sunday for your growth in Christlikeness and for the growth in Christlikeness of all the others who will come into church on Sunday.

Second, pray before you walk into church. Pray for God to make your spirit ready to receive and hear His Word, and to respond in worship. Pray

also for God to help you walk into church with an attitude to encourage and serve others! The author says we should even pray about where we should sit in order that God might lead us to sit somewhere for the purpose of encouraging another.

Third, sing and sing loud! When we worship God through song we are declaring to one another the Gospel and we all need to regularly hear the Gospel! So regardless if you can sing well or not,

you like the song or not, sing loud as that is a great way to encourage those around you to proclaim with joy the truths of the Gospel that are being sung together!

Fourth, have conversation about God and His Word. Did you notice the last couple weeks in the sermon notes page there have been two questions on there that are new? They are: What I learned from the sermon today and What I can share with someone else from the sermon today.

Those two questions are designed to make it easier for you to have conversations about God and His Word with others! So give it start this Sunday by sharing what God is teaching you with another person and ask them what God is teaching them. Trust me, this will be deeply encouraging and edifying to both of you!

May we all seek to walk into church with a little more thought and intentionality! See you

# Ministry Highlight— Wednesday Night Kids

**By Tyler Hanson**

***So it begins.***

The heat and hum of summer have wilted into withered-brown leaves and air that bites. Autumn has come, and with her, a host of new ministries.

Bethel recently launched its own *Wednesday Night Kids* program for children preschool age through fifth grade. I want to give you some highlights from our Wednesday nights so far:

***Children are engaging with scripture.***

Isaiah 55:10-11 teaches that, just as rain falls from heaven and does not return without watering the ground, God's words go forth from His mouth and do not return to Him void, but accomplishes the purposes for which He sends them. It is for this reason that we have structured our Wednesday Night Kids program to be scripture saturated: all lyrics to music used in worship are scripture verbatim; the curriculum itself slowly takes children through the Sermon on the Mount, and encourages them to be memorizing a different verse each week; each object lesson demonstrates a truth from the scripture

emphasized that particular week; and so on. These children are being watered with rain from heaven, and it will not return to God without giving sustenance to the soil. My prayer is that as children at Bethel engage more deeply with scripture, their hearts will savor their Savior and their souls will spring forth streams of living waters.

***Parents are discipling their children.***

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 teaches that God's words are to be written on our hearts, and that we are to diligently teach His words to our children. Many of the volunteers leading our Wednesday Night Kids program are parents of children who attend the program. So, every week, these kids see mom or dad teaching on Matthew 5:3, or praying aloud and encouraging the children to do so too, or singing and dancing to worship songs. All of these are excellent models for our children, for whatever is modeled to them is what they will eventually learn and replicate. The strength of our children's ministry, then, is in our volunteers! I thank God for them, for they are doing His work as they intentionally invest in His little ones.

***Children are having fun.***

It's great that children are learning and are engaging with scripture; it is great that they are being invested in from parents here at Bethel. *But they are also having lots of fun.* Whether gluing together a craft, playing a game, singing and dancing to worship, or participating in one of the many object lessons, children are encouraged to have fun as they learn.

All this is to say, praise God! How wonderful it is for His children to praise Him with radiant faces. Please join us on Wednesday nights. Perhaps you have a passion for blessing God's little ones; or maybe you're a parent looking to more intentionally disciple your children; or maybe you're a kid, looking to know God. Come and see what the LORD can do!

## Faith and Work— Megan Florestano



Hello Church!

My name is Megan Florestano. Some of you may know me from The Navigators or hanging out with some of the awesome women at our church, or you may recognize me as wife of that handsome worship leader, Andrew. Anyway, if I haven't met you yet, stop by sometime and say hi!

As I start my first year of graduate school at SDSU studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling, I am also blessed to have a graduate assistantship working in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment on campus. I have been reflecting on what it means to live out my faith

at school (and work). One of my prayers everyday going into work and school is that I will be bold about who I am in Christ and that I will not be ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16).

My first few papers for grad school were reflections on my personal values and why I want to be a counselor. I knew the easy answer was for me to give very practical reasons for my desire to be a counselor. I could have easily been generic, stayed anonymous, and flew under the radar. But that is not who I am. I am an ambassador of the King of the universe and I am not ashamed to belong to him. I do not want to appear passive about my faith in Jesus. So, I recently turned in two papers explaining that my purpose for pursuing counseling is because I feel like God called me to it, that my identity lies first in God and I find my wholeness and wellness in relationship with him.

Another prayer of mine is that the Lord

would give me good friends in my cohort for community, and friends with whom I can share the Gospel. I am seeking to live as an insider in this new community. I am genuinely a part of this group and I get to share who I am in Christ with them. Please join me in praying for my friends Teresa and Kelsey. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel them and pray that their lives will be transformed by the power of God.

Please also pray for my own personal time with God. After long days of class and work and homework, it can be tempting to choose sleep over spending time with God. Pray that I will rely on God for my strength and energy throughout the day so I can better serve him. As my former pastor, Jill Briscoe, used to say, "it is better to be sleep deprived than God deprived." Pray that God would do big things as SDSU, pray that he would give me and the other students, staff, and faculty boldness and opportunity to proclaim his good news.

# College Meals

30-40 hungry college students are hoping that YOU will sign up to host a meal after church this coming school year! They would love to get to know you and are not choosy about what you would like to serve. Meals are served in the Café following each Sunday service unless SDSU is on a 3 day weekend or longer holiday break. The first date this year was September 17.

Usually 2 or 3 families or individuals team up to serve a home cooked meal. Some individuals may contribute to the cost of the meal but are not involved in serving. There is a \$75 stipend to help defray some of the costs if you wish to turn in your grocery receipts.

The Café kitchen is set up to serve from rather than cook from and there-

fore has limited equipment. It is stocked with paper plates, bowls, and plastic silverware & glasses. If you wish to prepare and cook in the event center kitchen and bring it over that is fine or you may bake in the Café ovens or in your own crock pots. There are 2 large roasters and one crock pot that you can use from the event center kitchen. You are welcome to grab any serving utensil or bowl from the event center & just return. Everyone does it a little different depending on their meal choice.

Some examples of meals served this last year include tacos, roast pork & cheesy potatoes, chili, egg bake & muffins, BBQ's, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken, spaghetti, lasagna, chicken pot pie,

baked potato bar, brats & baked beans. Your choice of side dishes to go with the meal.....hot or cold veggies, salads, fruit, bread or chips. The students really enjoy a little dessert also....bars and ice cream are served a lot!

There are a lot of families who have hosted before that would gladly welcome you as part of their group so that you would not have to do all the planning the first time.

If you are interested but unsure of who to serve with or some of the other details in hosting a meal, please contact Karma Berndt, 690-7092 or [karmaerndt@gmail.com](mailto:karmaerndt@gmail.com). Otherwise, follow the Sign Up Genius link to choose your date.



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## Upcoming Events

- 10/9-10/20 Meals on Wheels
- 10/15 Men's Chili Cookoff
- 10/18 Prayer Oasis at Bethel
- 10/22 Sarah Hill's Baby Shower
- 11/1 Men's FCA Dinner
- 11/4 Men's Breakfast
- 11/22 Prayer, Praise, & Pie
- 11/23 Thanksgiving Day
- 11/30 Men's Prison Visit
- 12/16 Men's Night Out
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/31 New Year's Eve Prayer Service

## Missions Focus - Tim and Mary Sue Austin



Home Assignment has begun! Tim and Mary Sue Austin, along with their family, are back in the States until January. This family who ministers at the Dakar Academy, a boarding school for children of missionaries in Senegal, Africa, is looking forward to some rest and recuperation from their time on the mission field, and it gives them the opportunity to connect personally with as many family, friends, and

ministry partners as possible while they are home.

The Austins looked forward to time at their home base in Bovey, Minnesota. The past term on the mission field was fulfilling, but it came with its challenges. Just being home in Minnesota helps them be refreshed. Another highlight was when daughter Elizabeth graduated from Dakar Academy on June 8, 2017. "Bee" looked forward to a promising future as she started fall classes at Hibbing Community College. The family is excited about being nearby for her first few months of college.

Probably the biggest excitement for the Austins

was daughter Hannah Joy's marriage to Mark Mulay on August 5 at Calvary Community Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Tim described this Home Assignment as a strange combination of much needed rest and extraordinary busyness. Their ministry partnership network consists of 22 churches and about 100 individual supporters. They will connect personally with as many as possible during their six month in the States, which means they will be putting thousands of miles on the van they have leased.

Prayer items:

1. Pray that things get off to a good start at Dakar Academy with some new students, new staff, and a

few new policies.

2. Pray that their home assignment is a time of fruitful and mutually encouraging visits with their ministry partners.
3. Pray that through all the busyness of the coming months, they would be able to carve out some times for rest and recuperation before they return to the mission field in January.