

Mmm ... good!

Jonny Stange relishes a plate of spaghetti at an all-church fellowship meal Sept. 25. The meal preceded PLBC's annual business meeting. For results of the business meeting, see Page 3.



Women blessed by Bible Institute class

Keeping the eternal perspective in mind isn't always easy, but women attending the Bible Institute class, "God's Woman for the 21st Century," recently learned tools for widening tunnel vision.

Gwenn Will, who is teaching the class of 16 women, gave the floor to Dr. Jim Juvinal, a counselor from Fourth Baptist Counseling Center, for two evening sessions in October, during which he talked about the eternal perspective and femininity.



Gwenn Will

"I think everybody was very blessed by it," Gwenn said.

Gwenn is using training she received through the International Association of Biblical Counselors to teach the course.

"I think it's very interesting," said Paulette Quiring, who is in the class. "It's really talking about the needs of women and what we need spiritually, that we really need to focus on God and His Word. That

will help us in every aspect of our lives."

Deborah Lowe will also teach two of the classes: one on the biblical model for dealing with problems and one on suffering.

Meanwhile, missionary Kevin Zakariasen is teaching "Missions: What It Is and Where It Is Going" on Thursday evenings.

He has enlisted three special speakers: Pillsbury Baptist Bible College Professor Dan Morrell, who has been both pastor and missionary; Dr. Raymond Buck, who is past president of Baptist Mid-Missions and professor of missions at Central Baptist Theological Seminary; and Tim Van Loh, church planter in Japan.

"We're looking at culture and how to approach certain cultures when you have biases from your own culture and how to share the Gospel in an understanding way in a new culture," Kevin explained. "You can have all the best theological understanding, but if they're not understanding it, then you're sharing it for naught."

Zakariasens shift gears in South Africa

Being a missionary shouldn't involve westernizing a culture, Kevin Zakariasen has learned in his family's two-and-a-half years in South Africa.

"I've learned that in order to identify with a culture and a people, you need to first of all listen and convey a genuine attitude of being a learner and you need to genuinely love the people and the culture," he said. "The Bible will change the things in the culture that need to be changed on a biblical level. We need to appreciate the aspects of the culture that are there. In doing that, we create wonderful relationships, and that is one of the keys to having a profitable ministry."

The Zakariasen family is keeping culture appreciation in mind as they embark upon a new adventure. They recently switched from EBM's Bethesda ministry to Kopano Baptist Ministries. Under Bethesda's oversight, the Zakariasens started an Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) school. Sarah taught preschool, and Kevin taught the older students. "We were

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Kevin and Sarah Zakariasen have seven children: Benjamin, 15; Nathan, 13; Caleb, 10; Luke, 9; Cortney, 8; Jacob, 6; and Josiah, 3.

Transform holidays into 'holy-days' this year

By Pastor Ron Groschel

The special meetings with Dr. Mike Duffy are now history. His messages may be in the past but they are not forgotten.

On Sunday morning, Oct. 2, Evangelist Duffy challenged us from the epistle of 1 Thessalonians to model the passion and commitment of the early church in Thessalonica. In the evening service his message on pride had a powerful impact on all who were in attendance. "Pride," noted Dr. Duffy, "is at the root of every sin." He contended that the sin of pride keeps countless people from receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and it is pride that keeps Christians from making the



Pastor Ron Groschel

decisions they know God wants them to make. Wednesday night's message was on God's Great White Throne Judgment from Revelation 20. Two people responded to trust Jesus Christ as Savior and many other life-changing decisions were made. It was a great series of meetings. Many will be pleased to know that Dr. Duffy will be back with us in April 2006 for a financial seminar that he has presented all across the country.

It is hard to believe, but there are only two months left in 2005. The holiday season will soon be upon us. I encourage you,

yea, more than that, I implore you to make Jesus Christ the center of each and every holiday (that is, "holy-day"). At Thanksgiving we have so much for which to give God thanks. This year, delight the heart of God with an abundance of sincere thanksgiving. Moreover, make every effort to rescue Christmas for its originally intended purpose, to celebrate the coming of our great Savior, Jesus Christ.

Be careful to note and to take advantage of all the special church events coming up during these next two months. At this time of year may our hearts especially yearn for the soon return and Second Coming of Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mom's Time moves to Friday mornings

Mom's Time at PLBC will meet from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month through May 5.

Dates are Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 9; Jan. 20; Feb. 3, 17; March 3, 17; April 7, 21; and May 5.

Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Elisabeth Vork at (952) 226-4282.

PLBC facility serves as Prior Lake polling place

Prior Lake Baptist Church will be used as a polling place for Prior Lake Precinct 3 on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The Prior Lake City Council voted earlier this year to shift Precinct 3 from the city's fire station to PLBC. Precinct 3 is the second largest precinct in Prior Lake and has about 2,000 voters.

PLCS elementary students present fall musical Nov. 15

Elementary students at Prior Lake Christian School will present a fall musical at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Directed by Leah Byrd, the presentation, "Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes: Godly Answers for Sticky Situations," will include songs and dramatic sketches by the children.

Events planned for Christmas season

A flurry of events is planned for the holiday season, starting with Pastor's Christmas Open House at the Groschels' home on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16. A sign-up sheet for the event will be posted in the church office closer to the date. Attendees can bring their favorite finger food or dessert.

During Pastor's Christmas Open House, parents can take advantage of childcare provided by the youth group from 6 to 9 p.m. "Donations are accepted but there's no cost," Pastor Shad Vork said.

The PLBC choir will present its Christmas program, "Christmas at Home," at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11. The presentation will include a drama based on a true story from the Civil War.

The children's choir will present its musical at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Midweek services will not be held Dec. 21 or Dec. 28.

A family-oriented Christmas Eve service will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24. The service will include a children's story by Pastor Ron Groschel and a gift for each child from him.

A candlelight Christmas Eve service will begin at 11 p.m. and will include the Lord's Supper. "[The service] really revolves around reflective music," Pastor Groschel said.

The Christmas Day worship service

will start at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25. There will be no Sunday school or evening service.

Greet the New Year together, starting with a New Year's Eve watchnight service at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31. Following the service, a light meal will be served, and then table games and fun in the gym will begin.

Skiing activity open to all

The youth group's Winter Blast skiing activity at Mount Kato on Thursday, Dec. 29 is open to everyone of junior high age and older.

The group will leave for Mount Kato at 2:30 p.m. and return the same day. Cost will likely be under \$20. Those who would like to attend should see Pastor Shad Vork.

Mark calendars for missions conference

PLBC will conduct its annual missions conference Jan. 21-25.

With the theme, "Around the Corner, Around the World," the conference will kick off with a banquet (no cost) and concert by soloist Sherry Trainer on Saturday, Jan. 21. Her husband, Brian Trainer, will preach in the Sunday morning service on Jan. 22.

Participating missionaries include Colin Landry, church planter to Boston; Tuakah Whianger, Liberian pastor; and Kevin Zakariasen, missionary to South Africa.

PLBC choir takes music to new level of expertise



The church choir at Prior Lake Baptist rehearses "Lord of All" before bringing the special music to the morning service on Oct. 9.

Have your ears tuned in to how vibrant the choir sounds lately?

Pastor Shad Vork, who directs the choir, attests that the choir's vocal quality has improved recently.

"We've just had a lot of quality voices that have joined, and that has added to the quality of the choir," Pastor Shad said. "It has improved as they've been willing to work hard on the songs. I think the choir members all see that the choir is an important ministry, not only in serving the Lord but also in directing people's hearts to the Lord."

With about 30 members, the choir par-

ticipates in Sunday services at least three times a month and has a Christmas program scheduled for Dec. 11. Since last year, each vocal section has been strong, making "the balance and the blend so much better," according to Pastor Shad.

"When I first came here, the men's section was dominant," Pastor Shad said. "It was really strong, almost overpowering."

The choir could use more men's voices. Anyone in ninth grade and older can participate. Those who are interested should see Pastor Shad about joining choir after the holidays.

CHURCH BUSINESS

The Prior Lake Baptist Church membership took the following action at the annual business meeting in September:

- * Elected Harold Davison, Tom Pawlowski, Steve Havlik, Perry Howell and Larry Gorham as deacons.

- * Elected June Fleming and Diane Howell as deaconesses.

- * Approved the church and school budgets for 2005-06.

- * Approved the deacons' recommendation to go forward with Pastor Shad Vork's ordination and an ordination serv-

ice, contingent on a favorable recommendation from the ordination council.

- * Approved the removal of more than 30 individuals from the membership based on "each person's request, relocation, and/or membership in another church."

- * Accepted changes to the Missions Manual, including giving missions committee members three-year appointments rather than two-year appointments.

- * Agreed to support Ken Rathbun as a full-time missionary rather than a short-term missionary.



John Little (right) of Baptist Church Planters enjoys conversation with Randy Quiring and Lawrence Schmitt (not shown) during the fellowship meal on Sept. 25. John Little brought his expertise on church planting to PLBC, which is planting a church in Jordan.

Church plant takes shape in Jordan

Prior Lake Baptist Church's daughter has a name: Sand Creek Baptist Church.

Partnering with Pastor Daniel and Deborah Lowe, PLBC has undertaken the task of planting a daughter church in Jordan. Church leaders announced the name at the annual business meeting in September.

"We wanted to choose a name that would connect with the community, and Sand Creek is the main creek that runs through Jordan," Deborah Lowe explained.

They have targeted Mother's Day, May 14, 2006, as the date for Sand Creek Baptist Church's first worship service.

"There's a lot to be done between now and then," Pastor Ron Groschel said.

NEWS IN THE PEWS

New members include Gabrielle Annonson, Matt and Lisa Nagel, Andy and Velma Vigar, Anita Wilson, and Andrea Sprecher.

Matt Nagel and Lisa Miller, daughter of Dave and Cheryl Miller, were married Aug. 19, 2005 at PLBC.

Megan Rylee was born to Chad and Shawn Van Curler on Sept. 27, 2005. She weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Anthony Wilson proposed to Jennifer Groschel on Sept. 24. Their wedding is set for May 20, 2006.

Allyson Marie was born July 30, 2005 to Tony and Mary Raike. Allyson weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces. A baby celebration for the family will be held Sunday, Nov. 6 after the evening service.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH DIANA NIMMER

Nimmers treat staff to yummy meals

Church staff members and their families had their taste buds tickled during their Staff Family Adventure in June.

"It's a time for the staff just to get away and have a pleasant time together," Pastor Ron Groschel said.

The 13 individuals stayed at Bob and Diana Nimmer's (Bethany Fischer's parents) home in Green Bay, Wis. for two nights and were particularly impressed with Diana Nimmer's culinary skills. They were so impressed, in fact, that they had to ask for the recipes.

"She was a wonderful cook," Marilyn Groschel commented.

Diana Nimmer found the recipe for Pecan-Stuffed French Toast at the Inn at Pinewood, a bed and breakfast resort. The recipe for Spinach Apple Bleus with Walnut Vinaigrette is from the Inn at Cedar Crossing.

DELICIOUS FLAX MUFFINS

Combine (#1):

1½ cups unbleached flour
¾ cup ground flax seed
¾ cup oat bran or ground oats
1 cup brown sugar
2 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon

In a separate bowl, combine (#2):

¾ cup milk
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. vanilla

In another separate bowl, combine (#3):

1½ cups shredded carrots
2 shredded apples
1 cup raisins
1 cup nuts

Combine mixtures #1 and #2, then add #3. Fill greased muffin tins three-quarters full. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 15 muffins.



Diana Nimmer

PECAN-STUFFED FRENCH TOAST

Blend:

4 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. vanilla
3 tbsp. chopped pecans
1 tbsp. sugar

Bread dip:

3 eggs
1 tbsp. sugar
¼ cup milk

Slice 1 loaf of French bread into 1-inch slices. Cut a pocket in the center of each slice. Carefully spread cheese mixture into each pocket. Soak in bread dip about 1 minute. Fry in butter until golden. Sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg and powdered sugar. Serve with maple syrup.

SPINACH APPLE BLEUS WITH WARM WALNUT VINAIGRETTE

Spinach salad

1 pound fresh spinach leaves, stems removed
¼ pound crumbled bleu cheese
2 cups toasted walnuts*
3 Granny Smith sliced apples

* Toast walnuts on a baking pan for 8 to 10 minutes at 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Place spinach leaves in a serving bowl. Top with bleu cheese and toasted walnuts. Place sliced apples around the edge. Drizzle with warm walnut vinaigrette and serve.

Walnut Vinaigrette

1½ cup chopped toasted walnuts
¼ cup cider vinegar
1 cup Door County apple cider
¾ cup honey
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
½ cup walnut oil

Mix extra virgin olive oil and walnut oil in a bowl. In another large mixing bowl, mix walnuts, cider, cider vinegar, honey and Dijon mustard. While mixing the cider mixture, slowly drizzle the oil mixture into the cider mixture to emulsify. Warm over low heat before serving. Do not boil.

Makes 1 quart.

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in a three-car garage for a while, and then we moved into a nice school," Kevin said. The school has now switched from ACE to conventional education.

The Zakariasens opted to work under Kopano Baptist Ministries after Bethesda canceled its original plan for them to start a church. With Kopano, their responsibilities include planting churches and strengthening existing churches in South Africa. To start, they're striving to build relationships with Baptist pastors and churches in the villages.

"We had them over to our home, and we listened," Kevin said. "We gained valuable insights from them. I think the relationship-building is going to help us for years to come."

They've been able to give converts Bibles in their own language, have distributed bicycles to eight pastors who usually walk to their church appointments, and have provided study books for pastors. A man in their hometown of Onderstepoort will help the Zakariasen family learn the local Tswana language, and they hope to pick up the Afrikaans language as well.

Short-term missionary teams from Prior Lake Baptist Church and Cornerstone Baptist Church in Pine Island, Minn., visited the Zakariasens over the summer. The Prior Lake group helped dig a toilet, mix cement for a street children's shelter that a church in Soutpan is building, and assisted in many other ways.

"There's a number of individuals and one team, at least, that are considering coming over next summer," Kevin said. "We're thrilled with that."

The Zakariasens' shift in ministry has brought them home to visit their 24 state-side supporting churches for what they call "mid-field ministry" until Jan. 28. "We don't call it furlough," Kevin explained. "What is furlough? We look at it as a time of ministry."

They're booked every Sunday and Wednesday evening in a different church. The service includes information about their ministry, a short DVD presentation, special music with the entire family, a duet by Kevin and Sarah, and a message by Kevin.

Kevin and Sarah Zakariasen have seven children: Benjamin, 15; Nathan, 13; Caleb, 10; Luke, 9; Cortney, 8; Jacob, 6;

Tim Havlik puts church library in order

The church library/resource center is under new management.

Tim Havlik has taken over its upkeep, checking in returned books and organizing the shelves.

"The library had been disorganized because no one had been in charge of it for awhile," Tim said. "Pastor [Ron Groschel] noticed it and wondered if I would be willing to help organize it."

That task has turned into a weekly commitment for Tim, who attests that there are many great resources in the library and wishes he had more time to peruse the books.

"There's quite a bunch of good titles in there," he said.

The library is organized by subjects and includes books on Bible study, Christian living, parenting, marriage, church history, history, theology, counseling, home-schooling, and family finances,



Tim Havlik has taken over maintenance of the church library/resource center.

as well as family videos and books geared toward children and teenagers.

"We just got in a fresh set of the Left Behind books," Tim said.

Bonnie Green, who supervises the church bookstore, has stocked the library with over \$800 in books in the last year, according to Pastor Groschel. "New books are continually being added," he said. "It really is a great resource."

"Bonnie Green makes sure that anything the church bookstore has is also available in the library," Tim said.

He asks parents to supervise their children in the library. "A lot of times they leave things out or leave a mess behind them," Tim said.

He suggests that library users return resources after two to three weeks. They can be checked out by placing the book's library card alphabetically according to title in the card box on the countertop in the resource center. Users can then check in the books themselves or leave them on the counter for Tim.

Youth group busy with Teen Focus, missions trip, new leader

By Pastor Shad, assistant pastor of Prior Lake Baptist Church



Pastor Shad Vork

In this article I would like to highlight three different areas of the youth ministry: The Teen Focus devotional program, next summer's youth mission trip, and one of the newest youth ministry leaders.

First, the youth kicked off the Teen Focus devotional program in October following the evangelistic meetings with Mike Duffy. The goal of the program is to help teens grow in their love for Jesus Christ through devotions, prayer, evangelism, sermon note-taking and Scripture memory, among other things. Many of the teens have expressed and demonstrated how they have benefited from the program over the past few years. Mike Stange, for example, said that having a partner to check on devotions made doing them much easier. Others said that, when summer came, they missed the help the program provided during the school year. Teen Focus has offered an avenue for a ministry of encouragement to individuals like Joe Graham who has used the partner checks to build up his accountability partners.

A second highlight of the current year

is the upcoming youth mission trip. This summer we are headed to Shepherd's Home in Union Grove, Wis. Shepherd's Home is a special-needs ministry for adults who live on campus full time. Our group will minister through chapel services, working alongside the residents, and providing special music. We will get a first-hand view of a ministry geared towards a wonderful group of men and women, created in God's image, who have special needs. Mike Stange is looking forward to this trip for two reasons. One is the Christian bonding that he has experienced with other teens on previous mission trips. Secondly, he says, "It is good to help those we might not normally talk to or do things with." While we may take as many as 15 team members, Shepherd's Home requires all members to be at least age 16. There are openings for some additional adults to go, so please let me know if you have any interest. The dates are Monday, June 26 through Saturday, July 1, 2006. The cost for the trip is \$180.

A third highlight is regarding one of our newest youth leaders, Dan Harrington. Dan is a senior at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, majoring in youth ministry. This year he is enrolled in a youth ministry practicum, a course that requires him to have a high level of involvement in the



Dan Harrington

youth ministry. Dan is helping on Wednesday nights with teaching, leading prayer times, and leading activities. He is also observing teen Sunday School classes and getting to know the teens informally. He became an associate member of PLBC this fall, but his regular membership is with Chisago Lakes Baptist Church, north of the Twin Cities. Dan is considering full-time ministry in the future.

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and Josiah, 3. While they're here, they're taking the opportunity to catch up with grandparents and continue their ACE education at Prior Lake Christian School (PLCS).

"The kids are doing a great job traveling," Kevin said, adding that, though it's hard to leave friends in new places, "they're adjusting really well." The children are particularly enjoying their time at PLCS. They've also enjoyed making friends in South Africa. Ben, 15, plays rugby, and the boys play soccer (known as football overseas).



Happy Birthday!

Lisa Dellinger congratulates Vicki Groschel on her big day. Prior Lake Baptist Church surprised Vicki with a cake reception for her 50th birthday in September.

Thanksgiving

by Larry Clark

What thankfulness now there is for that precious kernel of truth, Your sincere Word, that was scattered by a planter upon the seedbed of my heart's child.

What hope there is in being young enough to stumble not at belief.

An adult might call it gullibility.

What you have said is faith.

It is surely faith's foundation which makes the difference, whether of self ultimate hope and nothing more or of self sacrificial reliance in Your Word's implanted purpose.

I could have held on with a tenacious "no" that would have reinforced Your integrity and given me nothing but the exclusion of Your presence.

Instead, Your invitation led to an accepting trust which plowed my heart and made me ready for the germination of Your truth unblinded.

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