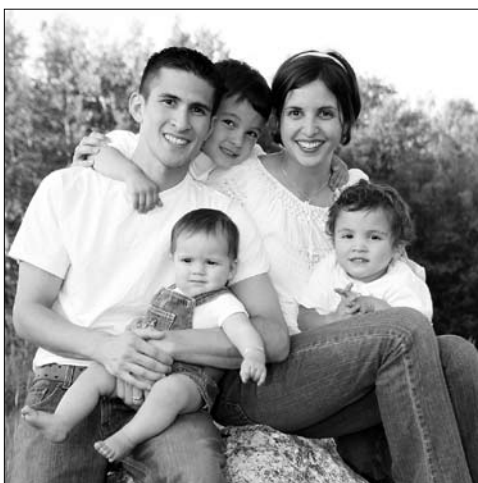


## New Assistant Pastor/Principal Announced

Prior Lake Baptist Church is excited to announce that Landon Miller is the new assistant Pastor and Principal at Prior Lake Christian School.

Landon and his wife Nicole have faithfully attended and served at PLBC for over seven years. Landon submitted his life to full time ministry at the age of 17. "I had planned on starting in the Pre-Med program at the U of M to work on the human body, but God had planned for me to attend Pillsbury Baptist Bible College to learn how to work on the human soul," says Landon.

"It is never easy to replace valued staff, says Pastor Groshel. 'I have prayed much about the best way and the right person(s) to occupy these important ministry positions and after much prayer and numerous contacts, I believe God has provided the answer in Landon.'"



The church welcomes the Miller family to full-time ministry. Pictured above Landon, his wife Nicole, and their children Conner, Jedison, and Saige.

Pastor Landon will be the principal of the school but, unlike Mr. Byrd, he will not have full-time teaching

responsibilities. He and Nicole will direct the youth ministry of the church. They are armed with fresh ideas and they are already working on ministry activities for the group. Landon will continue to lead music in the Sunday morning worship service and have various other pastoral responsibilities.

Landon graduated from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in May 2003. He is currently enrolled at Central Baptist Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Theology.

"Throughout many experiences working in the church and outside the church, God has shaped me into who I am today," says Landon. "I am learning how to serve my Lord every day, and praise the Lord for His constant care. I am excited to follow God and am blessed to serve and grow with Prior Lake Baptist Church." ♦

## Grandfatherhood: A Privilege and a Responsibility

by Pastor Ronald Groshel



Little Elijah Wilson in the arms of first time grandpa, our own Pastor Groshel.

Grandfather. . . Grand-Father. The designation sounds so grand. I know many who are grandfathers. Some seem quite contented and happy. Many have testified to me of the elevated joys of being a "grand" father. Yet I never envisioned myself as one. I vividly remember the twenty-fifth wedding

anniversary of my parents. I remember the event so well partly because my parents celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> with a special time of travel. In their absence, my two siblings and I painted – with colors we chose – the interior of my parent's home as a surprise anniversary gift. I must admit, when they returned home they were surprised - horrified might be a bit strong. Their reaction has remained fixed in my mind. The other reason I remember my parent's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is because, well . . ., because they seemed to me to have become so – dare I say it – old. Today, however, my perspective has changed. Married life seems to have barely began at the milestone of 25 years. Being a grandfather is much the same.

I always thought that grand-parenthood was for those advanced in years. But now my thinking has to change. I just seem too young to be at this stage of life. Admittedly, I am struggling with the change. I do, however, praise God for the birth of a precious little boy. Jennifer and Anthony named him Elijah. Elijah is a spiritual giant in the Old Testament (1 Kings 19). His name means, "my God is Jehovah." Being a grandfather is a privilege. It also will be a weighty responsibility if Elijah is to become a *grand*-son and bear the character and reputation of this great name. Since I am so young, there will be many years to help see this happen. Now there's a positive thought to help me adjust to this new season of life. ♦

## 2008 Summer Olympics

The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing are just around the corner and we are praying *our own Cassie Busse* will be attending and representing our women's volleyball team. Cassie is currently the Training Team co-captain and will know a few weeks before the Olympics start if she will be attending. Pray for Cassie as she trains and for her knee which occasionally gives her problems.

To receive a copy of the gospel tract written by Cassie, please contact Prior Lake Baptist Church. ♦



Image from the cover of tract.

### Excerpt from Cassie's tract...

*Born and raised on her parents' farm in Prior Lake, MN, Cassie Busse never even knew what a middle blocker was until her junior year of high school.*

*But at 6'2" this farm-girl-turned-professional volleyball player wowed fans at the University of Minnesota during her college volleyball career and is now in pursuit of gold with the USA Olympic team.*

*Cassie's "pursuit of gold" began with her "pursuit of Jesus Christ". You can read about her pursuit in the tract available from Prior Lake Baptist Church.*

## Prior Lake Christian School Year Comes to Close



The PLCS Awards Night was a blessing to all who attended, and God was glorified as the stage filled with students who received recognition for memorizing God's Word

### STUDENTS HONORED

On Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the young people of Prior Lake Christian School, along with parents and teachers, gathered to celebrate a year of academic, athletic, and spiritual achievements. Interspersed with recognitions of excellence in these areas, we were blessed with music from the high school small ensemble, a mixed trio, and a choir comprised of the upper and lower elementary students.

During the evening, Mr. Byrd was honored for his 22 years of dedicated service as principal and high school supervisor, with a plaque and a cake reception – which immediately followed the ceremony.

Among the young people from our church who received honors this year were: Tim Larson, CJ Roesch, Daniel

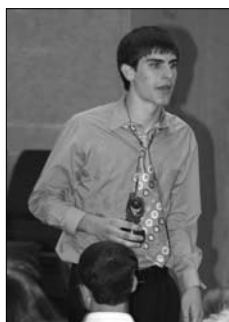
Stange, and Michelle Tlougan for athletics; Kate Swanson and Thaddeus Staton for 100 PACEs, with Thaddeus having the High School Most PACE award; Coltan Allen and Roxanna Swanson for Read Master; Simon Allen and Gabrielle Annonson with Merit awards; Kathleen Howell with the High School Supervisor Award; and Thaddeus

Staton with this year's Pastor's Award.

We praise God for all the young people and their hard work this last school year.

### PLCS ATTENDS ISC

Eighteen Prior Lake Christian School high school students and four chaperones left at 9 am Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, to join students from 17 states and 24 countries at the International Student Convention, held on the Central University of Missouri campus. With over 2000 students in attendance the PLCS young people competed in athletic events, photography, music, and with a one act play. Each evening the students were challenged with messages from God's Word, which could be watched by us at home via the internet. Thursday morning we could also watch as the event ended with an awards ceremony. Taking home ribbons from our school were Ben Zakariasen with 3<sup>rd</sup> place for soccer kick; Thaddeus Staton with 3<sup>rd</sup> place for computer enhanced photo; Mitch Horkey with 5<sup>th</sup> place for high jump; and Kathleen Howell, Reagan Peterson, and Thaddeus Staton with 5<sup>th</sup> place for their vocal trio. The trip also included some sightseeing and a day at Worlds of Fun.



TOP LEFT: Mr. Miller presenting Simon Allen with his Merit Award. TOP RIGHT: Miss Jessica Lundahl giving one of her students an award and a hug. BOTTOM LEFT: Dan Stange leaving the stage with a basketball award.

# PLBC Says Farewell to Our Friends in Christ



Our heart felt love goes out to the Vork family as they leave us to lead the ministry of Grace Baptist Church of Stillwater, MN. Pastor Shad, Elisabeth, Abigail, Caitlin, Justin and Aaron, picture above.

On Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Pastor Shad Vork announced to the church family that God had called him to candidate at Grace Baptist Church in Stillwater, MN. Although a sad time for Prior Lake Baptist, it was also an exciting time to see God leading Pastor Shad and his family into a Senior Pastor role. A few weeks later, Grace Baptist voted unanimously for Pastor Shad to become the Senior Pastor of their church. This church holds a special place in the heart of Pastor Shad and

his wife Elisabeth since Pastor Shad will be taking over the pulpit from Elisabeth's father, Pastor Lenard Huebscher who is retiring.

**"Pastor Shad has been an invaluable partner in ministry. As an assistant, he has been a model of faithfulness, godliness and loyalty. He and his family are dearly loved."**

**Pastor Groschel**

During his tenure with PLBC, Pastor Shad had many responsibilities including but not limited to youth ministry, overseeing the music and Christian education ministries, and all the other duties assigned by Pastor Groschel. "Pastor Groschel has been a great mentor to me. He has given me invaluable counsel over the years; he's shown me how to navigate through several ministry challenges. He's helped me develop as a leader and pastor, and

he's always demonstrated by example a passion for the Lord, people, prayer and God's Word."

A great highlight for Pastor Shad while at PLBC was being ordained by the church. It was a highlight to him as he completed another milestone in his life and ministry, but it was also special because it took place at Prior Lake Baptist Church.

There are some things Pastor Shad is looking forward to most as he begins his new work and they are:

- Consistent, in-depth study of God's Word as he prepares for weekly sermons
- Building relationships and shepherding the flock
- Discipling – the Lord has already laid a few individuals on my heart
- Seeing God work in His time and in His ways at growing both Pastor Shad and Grace Baptist Church

"I have been blessed to work with so many willing servants. Whether in choir, VBS, or deacons meetings, I've been surrounded by people who want to use their time and gifts for the Lord, thank you", says Pastor Shad. ♦

## Specific Prayer Requests

### Short-term Requests

1. A part-time job for Pastor Shad.
2. Their Prior Lake condo would sell quickly.
3. Elisabeth's parent's are be able to sell their land to fund their retirement.
4. Wisdom for Pastor Shad in his new leadership role.

### Long-term Requests

1. Financial and physical growth of the church to support the family for full-time ministry.
2. Direction in finding a home that they can afford and use for ministry.



Grace Baptist Church of Stillwater is the new home of the Vork family as Pastor Shadrack Vork will take over as Senior Pastor on July 6<sup>th</sup>, replacing his father-in-law, Pastor Lenard Huebscher, who is retiring.

## A Few Words of Testimony

You both have been a blessing and an example of what a "Christ" centered family is. Thank you!

Brett & Molly Baird

Thank you for all that you have done through the years at PLBC. You will be missed!

Lisa Dellinger

What a wonderful couple! You both have been a wonderful blessing along with your beautiful children. We will be praying for you.

June Fleming

It was a pleasure to work with you and also learn from you over the years.

Dave & Cheryl Miller

# BIG DADDY BURGER BASH & VORK FAMILY FAREWELL PARTY



Rich VanCurler built a special going away burger just for Pastor Shad.



Myron Will scurries about making sure there will be enough burgers for all.



Ethan Vigar leads a group of hungry young men waiting patiently in the background for the go ahead.



To spend father's day with dad means to don an apron and a pair of shades, Chad VanCurler stacks burgers on little brother, Ryan's platter. The VanCurler family are a key components to an enjoyable meal fellowships at PLBC.



Pastor Shad and Rich clowning around for the camera as Pastor Shad takes his initial bite of the mega-burger.



## A Word to Our Church Family

"I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful church family you have been. There have been so many times that you have encouraged both Elisabeth and me by your words, cards and gifts. You have been so supportive of my ministry over the years and our family has only been loved and edified within this body. It is hard to say goodbye, but it would be even more difficult if not for God's clear direction in our lives. From the depths of our hearts, we thank God for all of you."

*Pastor Shad, Elisabeth, Abigail, Caitlin, Justin and Aaron*



Left: Justin Vork anticipating the many meals the mega-burger could provide a young lad of his size.

Right: Pastor Shad and Elisabeth pose with the cake that would be shared during this bittersweet time of endings and beginnings.



**SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2****GRADUATION DAY**

For the first time ever the PLCS graduation service was held on a Saturday. Four of the graduates and their families, joined by other school and church families, came to celebrate this milestone on June 6th. The commencement address was a stirring challenge from Dr. Pat Casey, a professor from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College. The graduates for 2008 were, Mitch Horkey, Olga Lelyukh, Mike Stange, and Ben Zakariasen. Also graduating and not attending was Ashlee Graf. ♦

Dr. Pat Casey challenged the graduates from God's Word as they celebrated this momentous occasion with family and friends.



**TOP LEFT:** This was the thirtieth graduating class for PLCS and the twenty-second and last over which Mr. Roger Byrd will preside, as he retires. **TOP RIGHT:** Mike Stange receives a congratulatory hug from his mother, Diane. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Ben Zakariasen, the oldest son of our missionaries to South Africa, adjusts the tassel on his graduation cap as he stands in the receiving line.



## Coming Events

### Moms in the Park

Want a play date with your kids and a time of visiting other moms? Instead of meeting every week, we are switching to a couple planned activities for the months of July and August (swimming, lunches, etc). There will be announcements in the bulletin with more details. Contact Nicole Miller or call the church office for additional information.

### Pastors' Annual Hot Dog Cookout and All Church Picnic

Ready for a Chicago style hot dog? Pastor Groschel and Pastor Lowe will be serving up delicious dogs a different way this year. Instead of being held at the church on a Sunday evening, Sand Creek Baptist will be joining us on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at Lagoon Park in Jordan. This cookout/picnic will have many fun games for the family. There will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "where's the beef" rope pull, co-ed softball (PLBC vs. SCBC), and an open-air service at the Lagoon Park gazebo. Plan to attend and don't forget your Tums!

### Fishing for Men Trips

It's time to get out the fishing pole and lures. There will be two groups traveling to Rainy Lake for a 3-day fishing excursion. The first group will leave on August 17<sup>th</sup>, and the second group will be going August 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun time of fishing and spending time in God's Word with other men. For additional information, please contact Rusty Roesch or the church office.

### School Starts

Prior Lake Christian School and Little Lambs "Ewe" Preschool will start their first day of school on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## News in the Pews

### New members

"Suffer the little children to come unto me." What a blessing to see children follow the Lord in believer's baptism! In the month of May, sister and brother, Emily and Jonny Stange, and young adult Stephani Holm were baptized. New members joining by profession

of faith were Barb Shaw, Dr. Gil & Pat Seddon, Jane Hagen, Jason Anderson and Steve Mader.

### New Baby

Congratulations to Brett and Molly Baird on the birth of their son Carson Kevin Baird who was born May 9<sup>th</sup>. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. He is welcomed at home by big sister Bailey and big brother Calvin.

Matt and Lisa Nagel are happy to announce the birth of their second daughter, Riley Sara. Riley was born on June 12<sup>th</sup> and weighed 8 lb. 9 oz. and was 20" long. Big sister Aubrianna welcomed her as well as grandparents Dave and Cheryl Miller.

Pastor and Vicki Groschel are excited to announce the birth of their first grandchild; Elijah Ronald Dewayne Wilson was born to Anthony and Jennifer on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Elijah weighed 8 lb. 12 oz. and was 21" long.

# UNSUNG HERO: Gwen Lundahl



Gwen Lundahl, not resting of course, only pausing for a photo.

Sweep the floors – check, empty trash – check, clean the sinks – check, clean the toilets - I'd rather not! Well, this may sound like a check list from your things to do at home but this is just a

few of the duties that Gwen Lundahl accomplishes for the church on a weekly basis.

Gwen began attending Prior Lake Baptist Church as a single young adult and since attending, she married Tom Lundahl and had three children. Gwen began cleaning the church, along with Kim Smith when the first building project was completed. "This

is something the Lord laid on my heart to do and I can actually say I enjoy it, for the most part. There are days when the task of cleaning the windows seem to be a never ending task. I'll leave it at that," says Gwen.

On average during the school year, Gwen spends every day which entails at least ten hours a week cleaning but when special events are held at the church, she may put in double the hours.

"On a regular basis, people visiting the church and school will comment about the cleanliness of our building. Gwen's work glorifies God by maintaining the Lord's house at such a high standard of cleanliness," says Pastor Groschel.

Gwen not only is the janitor for the church, but is faithful working the infant nursery every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. She has done

this ministry for many years and the children she cared for when she first began are now in their 20's.

Prior Lake Baptist Church is blessed with some remarkably, faithful people. Gwen is one of those remarkable people. In all the years that Gwen has done the custodial work, she has never missed a day.

Thank you Gwen for the thankless hours you spend keeping the Lord's house clean on a weekly basis. ♦



Thaddeus Staton, Kathleen Howell, and Regan Peterson with their 5<sup>th</sup> place ribbons for their mixed trio at ISC. Story on page 2.

Contact Prior Lake Baptist Church at 952-447-2824 or visit our website at priorlakebaptist.org

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRIOR LAKE, MN  
PERMIT NO. 44

Prior Lake Baptist Church and Schools  
5690 Credit River Road  
Prior Lake, MN 55372