

The Childrens' Ministry Department enjoyed a hugely successful day on May 15, with the Kids' Praise Concert, Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Auction. Thanks to everyone who contributed to and supported this ministry!



*Congratulations*  
 2011  
 Bethesda Mothers of the Year

Lisa  
 Shonts

Cathy  
 Allen

Linda  
 Lawrence

## 2011 Mothers of the Year

### Cathy Allen



My sister and I would argue that our mother is the best mother anyone could ask for. She is an excellent example of how to live in every aspect of her life, demonstrating how to always put God first. There have been countless times where her help was needed and she put aside everything in her busy schedule to give her full attention. You can only understand how difficult that is if you know how busy her schedule is. Many times we say to her "you need to learn to just say no," but she never does because she cares too much about the people in her life. She is always dependable and is constantly taking on new responsibilities to help others. We can only hope that one day we will be able to follow her example.

Our mom has always, above everything else, been there for her family. My sister and I have been involved in a wide range of activities throughout the years, including various sports, music recitals, and other school and church events. Even when we went away to different colleges, she would drive for hours just to support us in our endeavors. On top of that, she always makes time for extended family and friends. What makes all of this even more impressive is the amount of work and travel she does at the same time. Her job requires her to travel countless weeks out of the year.

More important than coming to all of our events is the example that mom is to everyone she knows. She is a great woman of God. She has ingrained principles in my sister and me that will last our whole lives. You can almost always find her working in the nursery, being an usher in church, or helping in The Way. Almost anyone under 21 that has grown up in the church has probably been through her Sunday school class in the Climber Nursery.

Our mom is a great example to her family in every facet of her life. She is always there for us, even when we may not expect it. She is one of the hardest workers you will ever find. She is strong in her faith, and a dedicated member of the church. Above everything else, she has made sure we always feel loved.

Submitted by John & Lindsay Allen

### Linda Lawrence



I've been blessed with a mother of many virtues, so it's difficult to pick just a few to describe her. So what tops my short list? *Teacher*? She is always willing to drop everything to help her children understand a subject. *Counselor*? She is always there to listen and respond with honesty and, more often than not, discernment. A giver of *unconditional love*? She is always patient and kind, which is frankly more than her children deserve at times. *Wife*? She is always faithful to and supportive of my father. This is something easily taken for granted, but the example she set allowed her children to recognize the blessings that follow a Godly marriage.

Looking back, however, the virtue that stands out the most to me is *prayer warrior*. You see, it wasn't unusual for me growing up to come home from school, sports, or life in general, and hear my mother upstairs in her prayer closet calling out to God. For what you might ask? Take your pick - friends, family, the church, someone the Lord laid on her heart. Much of it, though, was for her children, and she left no facet of their lives uncovered. While we were still in diapers, Mom was praying for our future spouses and careers, our education, and the friends we would surround ourselves with. And though her children are now all adults and some have children of their own, she still hides herself away in her closet to pray for the new generation in our family, as well as her children and anyone else God brings to her mind. Speaking personally, it's comforting to know that every step you take has been bathed in prayer.

This is the best lesson our mother ever taught us: No matter what life brings, be it adversity or joy, go first to your knees. Because, as it says in bright blue letters over her dining room table, "DOMINUS PROVIDEBIT"... The Lord will provide.

For these reasons and more I would like to nominate my mother, Linda Lawrence, for "Mother of the Year".

Submitted by Christopher Lawrence

### Lisa Shonts



My mother is one of the most selfless women I have ever known. She has labored her whole life in service to others and does so with the highest integrity and Christ-like manner. She has worked to instill this work ethic in her two boys.

She worked hard as we were growing up to ensure that her boys had a good Christian education here at Bethesda. She wanted to give us the education that would teach the values and character in life as much as the academics. These core values she wanted us to learn she also exemplified daily. My mom told me once that, if discouraged while working, she imagines she is working at the house of Christ. She would spend time in prayer and in communion with God.

It is in those times of prayer that she would think of all those in her life who needed God's intervention. She has spent most of her life at this church. She has always had a passion to help those who need the healing touch of the Lord. She has served as a prayer counselor, has led numerous support groups for those who are hurting, led worship for the youth, sings in the choir and has ministered to those who are in jail. She spends hours praying for all those who need God's love and intervention.

It is tough for a son to be so far away from home, but it is comforting to know that my mother still kneels in front of her couch, deep in prayer every morning for my brother, me and my wife. While there is great physical distance between us, she is still a great listener and teacher who is always only a phone call away. I greatly value the time spent in conversation with my mother, as she has so much wisdom and many lessons still left to give.

It is this selfless, caring, nurturing spirit that leads my mother into the lives of so many people at this church and the community. This is why I ask that you honor my mother, Lisa Shonts, for her many years of service and dedication to all those in her family, this church and all of those who she has prayed with and ministered to that needed to hear of the love of Christ.

Submitted by James & Daniel Shonts

## May 22 Community Sunday

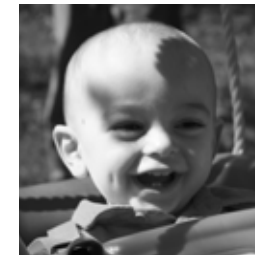
### CHILDREN DEDICATED:



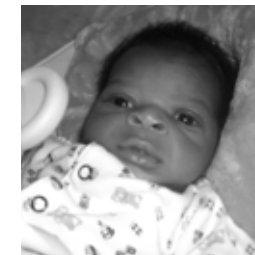
Ella Bradley



Kendall Cooper



Ryan Goike



Iremide Olagbaiye

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED:



Dr. Kenneth & Kim Dalen



Bonnie Peck

The following people were water baptized:

Corin Adams  
Davette Adams  
Trent Adams

## JUNE happenings



### FATHER'S DAY Sunday June 19

Nominate your dad or father-figure for Bethesda's Father of the Year 2011!



## OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND BY BLANCA SILAGI

In 1992 I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I was shocked and scared of the unknown. My diagnosis was not good. The doctor said within 10-15 years I could develop cirrhosis or cancer of the liver.

I cried out to God to help me, to heal me and to give me peace. To comfort me, he gave me Psalm 41:3,4:

*"The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against you."*

For treatment of my Hepatitis, the doctor recommended that I take interferon and riboferon for 6-12 months. I tried these treatments multiple times with no success. The drugs were very potent with many side effects. Over the years, I became more fatigued and slept a lot.

In June of 2011, I began to feel worse. I slept even more than usual, was even more fatigued and became extremely bloated. My doctor said that I had developed cirrhosis and would need to begin the process of getting on the liver transplant list. Over the next couple of months, I was evaluated by many different doctors. In September, I was approved to be put on the list.

While waiting for a transplant, I continued to build up fluid in my lungs and abdomen. Sometimes my husband and I would make weekly trips to the E.R. to have the fluid drained. On my last trip to the E.R., the doctors were unable to remove all the fluid and said I would have to stay in the hospital for a few days. A couple of days later, the doctors came to drain the fluid from my lungs when something terrible happened. They punctured my lung, causing it to collapse and sending me to the ICU.

After that, everything continued to go downhill. I was taken off the transplant list because the doctors feared I had developed pneumonia. I was put on antibiotics and breathing treatments. Meanwhile, my liver continued to shut down, causing more and more fluid to build up throughout my entire body. My kidneys were unable to handle this influx of fluid and also began to shut down. I was drifting in and out of consciousness and was in a coma at times. My health was deteriorating quickly. The

doctors told my family I had taken a turn for the worse, and if I survived long enough to get a liver transplant, I might also need a kidney transplant or dialysis.

Praise God that many people were praying for me. The church body, my family, friends, neighbors and many people I didn't even know. Miraculously, my condition began to improve overnight. The doctors checked the fluids in my body for infections and found none. My kidneys began to function again on their own. When my family asked the doctors to give a reason for the improvement, they said, "It's a miracle!" With no infections in my body, I was able to return to the transplant list and was told I would probably have a new liver by the weekend. Praise the Lord!

The doctors were right; a new liver was found before the weekend. While I was in surgery, the Lord showed me a vision. I was in a whirlwind one second. I did not like the feeling. The next moment, I was suddenly out of the whirlwind. I think God was letting me know that He was in control. Then, I saw myself lying on the



Blanca Silagi (right) with daughter Jessica Tims

operating table and beside me was my new liver. The doctor then transplanted the new liver inside of me and it was a perfect fit. Then God showed me a puzzle. He was fitting the pieces together,

in order of my life, one at a time. It gave me great peace, knowing that God was in control of my life and everything had perfect timing and purpose.

I received my new liver on November 14, birthday of both my sister and niece. I considered it my new birthday as well. The surgery was successful! When I came out of a medically-induced coma, all I could do was cry for joy. I was so grateful to God, the doctors and those who prayed for me.

One of my sisters who was praying for me gave me a card with a scripture on it. I felt it was from the Lord:

*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*  
Jeremiah 29:11

**I give God all the glory for what he has done for me!**

### Helpful Information for Potential Transplant Recipients

#### How do I get on the waiting list?

To get on the national waiting list, you should:

- Contact a transplant hospital. There are more than 200 to choose from. Learn as much as possible about the hospitals and choose one that best meets your needs.
- Make an appointment to visit the hospital. During your visit, the hospital's transplant team will evaluate you to determine if you would be a good candidate. You will have a chance to ask questions.
- If the hospital's transplant team decides you are a good candidate, they will add you to the United Network for Organ Sharing national waiting list.

#### How long will I have to wait?

There is no set amount of time, and there is no way to know how long a patient must wait to receive a donor organ. Factors that affect waiting times are patient medical status, the availability of donors in the local area and the level of match between the donor and recipient.

(Source: United Network for Organ Sharing)

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: Young Adult Ministry

BY REV. TIM HELLAND  
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

In this age of "instant" everything... fast food, text messaging, data phones, super computers, social networks... the process of moving from adolescence to maturity has been drastically accelerated. In response to this new social phenomenon, we here at BCC are striving to adapt and meet the needs of young adults in this culture.

We are pleased to announce a new and vibrant Young Adult Ministry designed for the ages of 18 years to 20-something. This ministry is called Campus to Career, or CIIC. The focus of CIIC will be on the transitions our young adults face

as they grow out of the family home, move through college and enter the world as independent professionals. We believe that a deep understanding of Biblical truths and a strong foundation of faith are critical in managing these transitions successfully.

We are launching this new ministry with a 12-week, in-depth study of the book of Ephesians. The focus of this study is to deepen our understanding of the core elements of our faith. Over the 12 weeks, we will be looking at relationships, grace, faith, peace, service and submission. Our



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and a trip to NYC. All these events are designed to deepen our young adults' connections with one other, as well as provide an opportunity for them to invite their unsaved friends to experience a fresh alternative to the entertainment this culture offers.

We anticipate a fantastic summer together as we grow closer to God, His church and each other. Please check us out and spread the word to anyone you feel would benefit from this ministry.

goal is to realize the amazing spiritual riches and blessings we inherited the moment we put our trust in Christ, and how, in turn, these spiritual gifts shape and direct our lives. We invite you to join this group of college students and young professionals in a community of learning, fellowship and service.

Our plans for this ministry reach beyond the intellectual/spiritual to the relational. With this in mind, we are investigating opportunities to supplement the Ephesians Bible Study. Plans are in the works for fellowship events such as barbecues, Detroit Tiger games, a day at the lake with a bonfire,



### Heartbeat of Bethesda

a monthly newsletter of

#### Bethesda Christian Church

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Please email all submissions to  
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egjordano@bethesdachristian.org

**-CHURCH MISSION-**  
ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE  
ENCOURAGING RELATIONSHIPS  
EMBRACING DESTINY

**SENIOR PASTOR**  
Rev. Analee Dunn

**ARTS**  
Terry Allen

**BIBLE INSTITUTE**  
Dr. Ruth Whittaker

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**  
Brian Swarts

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
James Dunn

**CARE & OUTREACH**  
Rev. Barry Allen

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**  
Rob Susan

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
Erica Giordano

**EDUCATION & MEN'S MINISTRIES**  
Rev. Patrick Visger

**FAMILY MINISTRIES**  
Rev. Timothy Helland

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
Maurice Graves

**MISSIONS**  
Joseph Cadariu

**PARKWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
Lila Place

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**  
Rev. Julie Visger





## Updates on our Home-Bound Friends

Communion is available to Bethesda members who are in the hospital, homebound, or in nursing care. You must contact Rev. Barry Allen at the church office at least 2 weeks before the first Sunday of the month to be on the schedule. The recipient must be available on the first Sunday afternoon of the month to be served, unless other arrangements are made with the church or Elder/Deacon assigned to this duty. You can reach Rev. Barry Allen at (586) 264-2300, Ext. 114 or email him at ballen@bethesdachristian.org.

**JERRY & DEBBIE PANTANO** visited **DOLORES BRAXTON & IRVIN DEAN**. She said she is "feeling fair" but her attitude is "God can do all things." Her grandson Christopher is staying with them temporarily. She has been praying that he would find another job. Mr. Dean takes care of the neighborhood cats, leaving out food and water and making shelter available in the cold weather... and now he has kittens! If anyone at the church is interested in a kitten, let him know. They sang songs of praise and Mrs. Braxton reminisced about her days as a song leader at Skip & Polly Wood's church. They took communion together and prayed for each other.



**ANN DIKIN** was waiting in the hall and smiled when **DON & GAIL TOTH** turned the corner to come visit her. She was her usual "chipper" self, always looking to share the gospel of Jesus with anyone willing to stop and have an open heart. She is doing well and has no complaints other than that "her feet just won't carry her!"

**JIM DUNKLEY** just wants to go home! Doctors say he must put on some weight and continue therapy so that he can gain strength and walk with a walker. He still has his feeding tube and they are encouraging him to eat food. Wife Ilein was hospitalized this week due to colitis and diverticulitis (she believes it's stress from Jim's illness.) She looks good and is feeling much better, but it is slow going. **DON & GAIL TOTH**

**DALE & ANGELA FLOWERS** visited **ISABEL FERIANC**. She struggles with pain in her shoulder and knees, however, she uses a walker to get around because she wants to keep moving. They anointed her with oil

and prayed for God's touch on her body. She recently reached the milestone of 90 and enjoyed two birthday parties with her family. Evidence (cards and flowers) of the celebrations was throughout her apartment.

**DAVE & LAURA DAHLSTROM** report that **BETTY GRASL** "looks great, despite dealing with rheumatoid arthritis, forgetfulness, balance issues, neck, back and shoulder pain." They talked a lot, encouraging her in the Lord. She was very glad to receive communion. They prayed for all of her issues, asking God to renew and refresh her, remembering that He bore stripes for our healing and that nothing is too hard for Him.

**BRIAN & LORIE SWARTS** served communion to **DOROTHY HOWTON**. She was in the middle of a bingo game upon their arrival and invited us to join her. She is very active in her facility and has made many friends over the years living there. She misses being at Bethesda and hopes that more visitors could come out to see her. They prayed for her health to remain intact so that she can continue to be a witness to all those around her.

**REV. BARRY & LINDA ALLEN** found **IRMA HUSH** waiting for their visit. Through her friend Lena Hobbs, Rev. Allen was informed that Irma was eagerly waiting for her communion visit this month. Irma was back in her own apartment this month and is so happy to be home after almost 3 months of rehab post hip replacement. She is moving around, but admits it is a slow process. She loves the Lord, loves the communion supper and the relationships from the church. They prayed together and enjoyed each other's company.

**DAN & DAWN GAUTHIER** served **WALTER & OLGA JACKOWSKI**, calling them the sweetest couple of BCC! Olga was holding Walter's hand as

they walked in. He amused them by talking about how he was still trying to catch up with Olga, even though she is a bit older than him. When they pulled out their Bible, Walter removed his hat, lifted up his hands and began to pray for the Holy Spirit to come to them. They shared the Lord's Supper and prayed for continued healing. As they prepared to leave, Walter said, "Romance is nice, but just sitting here holding her hand is the best."

**JUDY JAKUBIAK** was awake and looked at **JOHN & KAREN JONES**, but could not respond. They talked to her and ministered through prayer.

**KIT & KARLEEN WARREN** served **FRANK & LORRAINE KRAMER**. Lorraine seemed to be in pretty good spirits considering she is still struggling with a swollen leg that hampers her movement. They shared the scriptures and talked about the gift of perseverance that God has granted each one of us, citing the example of Jesus as he determined and purposed to bear the cross for us. They left with her word of the day, "Purpose to Will."

**JOHN & SHARRON RUTT** served **ROSALIE LOPICCOLO** her first home communion visit, for which she expressed sincere appreciation. Rosalie lives with her sister Catherine, and the two sisters have been coming to Bethesda for about 5 years. They prayed for their needs, their family and the Lord's healing touch. When leaving, the sisters said they would try very hard to get back to church because they missed being with everyone.

**HERMAN LIGGINS** writes "The home communion visit to **LEANDER MCKEE** is always a pleasant experience." They reminisced through an old Bethesda directory, commenting on how the congregation has changed. Their communion time together was uplifting. Continue

to pray for him and his family members. **MICHAEL & DEBORAH QUIRE** report **ELEANOR STEWART** is doing "pretty fair." She greatly misses her husband, Fred, and said he was a wonderful husband. (He died in '98) She tries to read and stay active in the nursing home but says her mind gets foggy at times. She seemed pretty sharp to the Quires - when they walked in the door, she recognized them immediately. That's pretty good since they haven't seen each other in a few years! She has pain in her hands from carpal tunnel but seemed to be in general good health. Eleanor appreciates our prayers, enjoys reading the Heartbeat and keeping up with what's happening at church.

**VERNON THOMPSON**, affectionately referred to as "Uncle Bill" by many in our congregation, was enjoying listening to the Tiger game when **MEL & TWYLA BAGGETT** arrived to serve him communion. Uncle Bill lives with his niece, Linda Cadariu. The entire Cadariu family are in temporary housing until they can move into the recently purchased family home, which will have all their living space on ground level - making life so much easier. Bill enjoys walking the hallways with his walker in their beautiful "temporary home". He asks for prayer for rheumatoid arthritis pain. They also anointed him with oil.

**HATTIE TURNER** moved into Windemere 2 months ago and is still getting settled. **RICHARD & JERI EIX** served Communion and prayed with her. She is 91 years of age, gets around very well and loves to talk. It was an enjoyable first visit for all three.

**BILL & ELAINE STODDARD** were so pleased to visit **BOB WADSWORTH**, who is being lovingly cared for in the home of his daughter, Debbie/Gary Schlicker. Although Bob is very weak in body due to a significantly weakened heart, his mind and his spirit are alive and well! His life is an epistle to be read of all, and he communes with the Lord in a beautiful and profound way. Bob misses being at BCC so very much, and prays that the Lord will strengthen him to be able to come back. They shared memories of former times together, including going to England with the church choir and orchestra in 1976. Bob shared portions of a few of the songs

that he has written, and still has the resonant voice of a true bass singer. Bob could not quite reach down to the lowest notes except when his good friend, David Mauer, sang them. Somehow his voice could then stretch to match Dave's low rumble! What a treasure to spend the afternoon with this man.

**GUS & JUDITH ALBRECHT** wrote the following after visiting **JIM & FAY WEBBER**: Jim is upbeat and feeling better after his visit to U of M hospital. His medicine is working and he is breathing more easily. He is unsteady on his feet, but gets around with the help of a walker. Fay had cancer 17 years ago and is now experiencing a recurrence. She schedules her radiation treatments in the early morning so that she can be home to care for Jim.

**TOM & DENISE KORTH** visited with **DELORES WROBEL** and her daughters Susan & Celeste; serving them communion and praying for healing. It is always a pleasure to visit with Delores... she is so positive and thankful to the Lord for His goodness and mercies. They sang some of the old songs and anointed Delores with oil for her continued strength and healing. Delores said she will try to attend Sunday service in the summer months and plans on sitting in Crystal Room C to watch and listen to the service on the monitor.



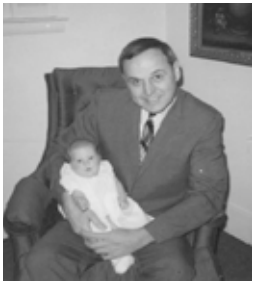
Please keep these loved ones of Bethesdans in your prayers as they serve in the Armed Forces:

*Anthony Adams, Marines*  
*James Beall, Marines*  
*John Dobson, Navy*  
*Matthew Frazee, Coast Guard*  
*Eric Gard, Navy*  
*Maurice Graves, Air Nat'l Guard*  
*Amanda Hirata, Navy*  
*Marcus Johnson, Navy*  
*Jason Kies, Navy*  
*Brandon Mangiapane, Army*  
*Marianne McKissick, MI ARNG*  
*Andrew Minikus, Navy*  
*Matthew Swarts, Marines*  
*Ben Visger, Navy*

## Gus Strumbos

August 14, 1926 - May 4, 2011

**G**us Strumbos was born August 14, 1926 to Peter and Garafalia Strumbos and was the youngest of five siblings. Gus served a tour in the Navy during the ending stages of World War II. He



took the service of his country and turned it into a service for the Lord. He graduated from Michigan State University but always rooted for Michigan. He went to work at Blue Cross where he worked until he retired. It was there he met his wife Joan and they were married for 47 years.

His daughter Sabrina writes these words in memory of her dad:

Dad's love for the Lord was so great that it showed in every aspect of his life. From taking care of his mother and siblings, to his wife and then to his daughter, he never failed to extend compassion. Whether it was helping someone financially, spiritually, or just being there. His heart of a servant showed through it all.

Now to those of us who were intimate in dad's life, we can't help but giggle at some of his quirks. His famous quirk was that decisions on small purchases were legendary. They could take him literally years to decide. I think we can now give up on the dream for a treadmill after 20+ years. Gus never failed to give his time to his family when needed. Even after long workdays, he gave his time to his wife and daughter. He played games constantly with his daughter in the evening. He treasured his wife and took great care of her. Nothing was beyond him.

One thing you may not know is that Gus was a fierce protector of his family. It was that love that drove him, and thankfully, a couple of us only saw that side of him maybe twice in our lifetime. He gave his life to the Lord with complete trust. He served Bethesda for many years as a Catechism Counselor with his wife by his side. He loved his God, his family, his country, and his church. Gus's life was service with a heart. People always saw the heart of Christ in him. It is this way that Gus takes his grand journey... with a smile and a wave to see us on the flip side.

-submitted by Sabrina Chuhran

### Condolences:

Joan Strumbos, 33229 Vistaway, Fraser, MI 48026