

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GREAT BANQUET COMMUNITY NEWS



February 2010
B/N Great Banquet Community
P.O. Box 707
Bloomington, IL 61702-0707



"...Come, for all is now ready."

Luke 14:17



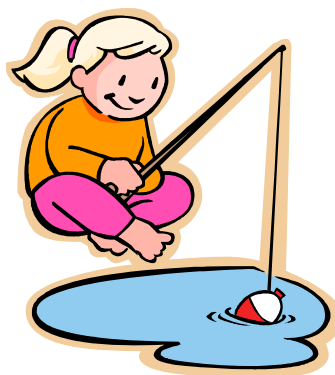
"SPRING TRAINING" GATHERING

Saturday, February 27—9:00 a.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church
1700 N. Towanda Ave, Normal (corner Towanda/Raab)

**Leave your bats and gloves at home, but come for
worship, fellowship and team training!**

- ◆ After 9:00 a.m. worship, there will be an orientation/overview of Great Banquet.
- ◆ 11:15a.m. — Break-out sessions for table leaders/speakers, Agape Chapel, Spiritual Directors, weekend musicians and leadership.
- ◆ Around 12:30 p.m. — Lunch will be provided by the Great Banquet Board. While the teams meet, stay for agape making. This event is open for all, whether you are on a current team or interested in future team service.

A MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR...*Shelly Hanover*



Do you have Fish Guts?

I have been thinking a lot about fishing lately ... our Sunday school class has been viewing the Andy Stanley video series *Go Fish!* And, it has given me a lot of food for thought.

Last Sunday the topic was *Fish Guts*. (I know it sounds pretty gross!)

However, it was about having the courage (guts) to talk to someone about Jesus. The idea is that someone was brave enough to talk to you about Jesus, so why can't you brave enough to talk to someone else.

I think this idea has lots of applications ... and of course, I thought of Great Banquet! How many of us let great "fish" slip by just because we don't have the courage to ask them to a weekend? For me personally I can think of at least five people from work and even church, that I would love to see attend a Banquet ... but do I have the "guts" to ask them ... no!

What am I afraid of? That they will say "no?" You bet! Last fall I had that exact experience. I had been praying for a while to invite someone and when I asked they replied, "I'm not interested." Boy did that take the wind out of my sails!

You see, the first time someone asked me to attend a weekend, I said "yes!" I couldn't wait to attend. Why would anyone not attend one of these weekends? How many times do we hear people at the closings wonder why they resisted attending a weekend for so long? We have something wonderful to share.

My challenge to all of us (me included) this spring is for us to have "guts." The kind of guts it takes to ask someone to attend a banquet weekend, no matter what we think the response will be. And, I can't wait to hear your fish stories ... hopefully about the ones you "caught" and not the ones that got away!

Stay Informed ...
B/N Great Banquet Website:
bngreatbanquet.org

MEN'S GREAT BANQUET #90
MARCH 4-7, 2010

Leadership

Lay Director Dave Bossert (*Staying Power*)
Assistant Lay Directors Homer Bozarth (*Discovering Priorities*)
 Mike Finley

Spiritual Director Larry Mason (*Sacramental Grace*)

Asst. Spiritual Directors Chuck Anthony (*Our Response to Grace*)
 Dan Jassman (*A Life of Grace*)
 Bret Heinrich (*God's Gift of Grace*)
 George Wells (*Obstacles to Grace*)

Musician Burton Gestner

Frontlines

Speakers Jim Swearingen (*The Body of Christ*)
 Jake Aupperle (*The Truth Through Study*)
 Ron Aupperle (*Establishing Priorities*)
 Jeff Able (*The Way of Relationship*)
 Ken Von Qualen (*Disciples*)
 Marty Thornton (*The Life of Christian Action*)
 Steve Jiles (*Ministry of All Believers*)
 Robin Shelton (*Changing Our Environment*)

Table Leaders Durand Dressel, Randall Farris, Brian Graves, Mark Olsen, Travis Swink

Support

Agape Chapel Head Joe Kokaly

Reminder: Updated team lists are

Chapel Assistants Bruce Tucker, Kevin Wills, Dan Scott, Jon Hankins

Board Advisor: Alan Bruehl

Anointing/Dedication Service
Men's Great Banquet #90
Sunday, February 28th—6:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church
Normal, IL

Our thoughts and prayers ... are with the following in our community who have lost loved ones—Lori Thacker, who lost her husband Chuck...June McClister, who lost her husband Walt...and to Jack, Jim and the Pitzer family on the loss of Jack and Jim's father, Dr. Errington Pitzer.

**WOMEN'S GREAT BANQUET #91
MARCH 18-21, 2010**

Leadership

Lay Director Kathleen Thornton (*Staying Power*)
Assistant Lay Directors Karen Reginelli (*Establishing Priorities*)
Lisa Anderson

Spiritual Director Mark Wallace (*Sacramental Grace*)
(*A Life of Grace*)

Asst. Spiritual Directors Steve Ward (*Our Response to Grace*)
Terry Pitzer (*God's Gift of Grace*)
Mary Kay Henson (*Obstacles to Grace*)

Musician Jennifer Merth

Frontlines

Speakers Vicki McCain (*Discovering Priorities*)
Jeanne Beal (*The Body of Christ*)
Barb Bills (*The Truth Through Study*)
Crystal Ward (*The Way of Relationship*)
Sue Miller (*Disciples*)
Gina Dew (*The Life of Christian Action*)
Ellen Wylie (*Ministry of All Believers*)
Carol Smithson (*Changing Our Environment*)

Table Leaders Julie Hatten, Denise Johnson, Dianne
Lehner, Janet McCarty, Lisa Swartz, Alicia
Wheeler, Kim Williamson

Support

Agape Chapel Head Lynn Fletcher

... available at bngreatbanquet.org ...

Chapel Assistants Angela Cook, Dorothy Graham, Lin Harmon,
Diane Hinthorne, Rhonda Worgess

Board Advisor: CeAnn Kreun

**Anointing/Dedication Service
Women's Great Banquet #91
Sunday, March 14th—6:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church
Normal, IL**

FOURTH DAY MEETING
Thursday, Mar. 25 — 7:00 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Bloomington

**MESSAGE
FROM
OUR
COMMUNITY
SPIRITUAL
DIRECTOR ...**



I remember the excitement I felt every year when the teacher would take down the January bulletin board and put up the bright red paper and heart border for February. I loved Valentine's Day, but not because of the candy or decorated shoe boxes, or even the cheap little cards we used to send to each other.

I loved Valentine's Day, because my birthday is the next day. I knew that when that red paper went up, it was only 2 weeks and when the doilies came out, I had only one day to wait. Birthdays were not huge celebrations at my house. We didn't have large family gatherings or extravagant gifts. I always got a cake with Valentine candy on it. I didn't realize at the time that my mom was probably just trying to get rid of those obnoxious, stale hearts by putting dozens of them on my cake.

As we look ahead to the spring weekends in prison and on the street, let's make sure that we bring our best- in sponsorship, in sacrificial agape, in praying, in team participation and support, in serving in any way we can. I'm going to try to be fully engaged in the weekends. I'm not on any teams, I'll be at home (like most of the community) praying, writing letters, doing some act of agape. And I'll be at weekend events supporting in any way I can. I don't want to give God and these weekends less than my best. So let's not give any leftover, stale hearts. Let's give these Banquets our very best.

In service with you,
Rev. Lori

Logan Great Banquet #45 April 23-25, 2010

Leadership

Lay Director: Rusty Bledsoe (*Staying Power*)

Assistant Lay Directors:
Mike Beal and Mark Overfelt

Spiritual Director:
Joe Culpepper (*Sacramental Grace*)

Assistant Spiritual Directors:
Steve Barrow (*Our Response to Grace*)
Herb Curtis (*A Life of Grace*)
open (*God's Gift of Grace*)
John Brown (*Obstacles to Grace*)

Musicians: Mike Casali and Glenn Dicken

Frontlines

Speakers: Jeff Williamson (*The Body of Christ*)
Don Ammerman (*The Truth Through Study*)
Scott Arnold (*Discovering Priorities*)
Willis Kern (*Establishing Priorities*)
Jim McNiff (*The Way of Relationship*)
Jim Smith (*Disciples*)
Keith Blankenship (*Life of Christian Action*)
Roberto Pagan (*Ministry of All Believers*)
Mark Aubry (*Changing Our Environment*)

Table Leaders: Jeff Hinthorne, Keith Taylor, Harry Jiles, Doug Grovesteen, Rick Lohnes, Paul Crownhart, Scott Hamilton, Pete Johns, Paul Popejoy, Bob Lebre

Support

Agape Chapel Head:
Joe Kreiter

Chapel Assistants:
Dale Layten, Durand Dressel, Tim Knecht,
Aaron Shane, Dean Buhrke, Alan DeCrane,
Dave McMorris

Board Advisor: Marty Thornton

Ways to Be Involved!

72 hour prayer Vigil The backbone of the weekend!
Contact Jill McNiff at 309-824-2759 to participate in this meaningful experience.

Conference Room Agape letters Writing a letter to be read and posted in the conference room is a great way to show the guests and team on weekend know that you care for them.

Meal Servers 6-8 volunteers are needed at each meal. Make this special by adding simple decorations to the tables or, bringing extra agape. Contact Lynn Fletcher at (309) 378-4602.

Personal Agape Letters Let someone know just how much you care! There is nothing better than receiving a personal handwritten letter.

Luggage Carrier Volunteers are especially appreciated on the women's weekends to help carry in luggage, bedding etc. Arrive at East Bay about 6:45p.m. Thursday evening.

Candlelight Worship Saturday evening, 8:30 p.m. Contact Alan Bruehl, (309) 662-1930 to help with setting up chairs, luminaries or passing out & collecting the flashlight candles.

Closing Sunday afternoon, 5:00p.m. Hear and see how God has changed lives in 72 hours!

Banners In the Great Banquet community, banners are a big deal! Our community is in need of new banners. This is a great projects for reunion groups or churches.

Weekend Snack Table Remember all those wonderful snacks on your weekend? Homemade snacks are especially welcome.

Pillow Agape & Table Agape
All those little gifts can make a big difference.

Sponsorship It is a true joy to share a weekend with someone else.

Participate in the Gutbucket Band Wear a funny hat, sing a silly song, make someone smile!

Our Community's Heritage... Five Years Ago...Spring 2005

Mar. 3-6: Men's Walk To Emmaus #70
Dave Sigler, Lay Director

Mar. 17-20 : Women's Walk To Emmaus #71
Shelly Hanover, Lay Director

Apr.22-24: Logan C. C. Walk #40
Scott Dunt, Lay Director

Mar. 11-13: Sonrise Chrysalis Flight #15
PJ Learn/Sue Custer, Lay Directors

SonRise Chrysalis

For more information on SonRise Chrysalis, visit their website at:
www.SonRiseChrysalis.org



“...Come, for all is now ready.”

Luke 14:17

SUPPORT OUR PRISON MINISTRY EFFORTS...Attend a Candlelight/Closing ceremony!
The prison system is under unbelievable stress right now brought on by budget matters and other issues. Please help by being Christ to those who need Him so badly...

Logan Clearance Request Due by 3/3/10

Unless you have permanent prison clearance with the Dept. of Corrections, you will need to request *Limited Clearance*, which allows you into ONE prison Candlelight and/or Closing per year (Logan-Spring, Lincoln-Fall). To pursue permanent clearance status, please call Marty Thornton (662-4600)

If you DO have active permanent clearance, you still need to be on the Gate Pass to get in with the rest of the community. Please send your full name, email address (if you have one), and phone (with area code) to Rusty Bledsoe at rusty@ctb123.net *-OR-* call him with it at 309-663-2672 *-OR-* mail it to him at 19 Hodgehaven Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704. Be sure he has your information by March 3, 2010.

If you DO NOT have active permanent clearance, you will need *Limited Clearance* when the Department of Corrections performs a routine background check allowing you to come into support the weekend *at Logan only* (there will be a similar process for Lincoln in the fall.) To get *Limited Clearance*, please fill out, clip and send the form below to our Logan Lay Director. Be sure he has your information by March 3, 2010.

Again, please remember to get your information to Rusty by March 3, 2010 and if you say you will support that weekend, please make it a priority to attend Candlelight & Closing at Logan to be the Light of Christ to His guests.

GREAT BANQUET - LOGAN #45 CLEARANCE FORM

Legal Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth: _____

Do you have permanent clearance at Logan or Lincoln? _____

Have you or do you plan to visit Lincoln C.C. during 2010? _____

Please provide clearance information to Rusty Bledsoe by **March 3, 2010**
By mail: 19 Hodgehaven Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704 or Phone: 309-663-2672

Your Great Banquet Board of Directors

Shelly Hanover (Community Lay Dir.)	724-8800
CeAnn Kreun (Gatherings/Secretary)	662-4197
Alan Bruehl (Weekend Set Up/Clean Up)	662-1930
Estelle Brown (Agape Correspondence)	—
Willis Kern (Newsletter)	828-4447
Marty Thornton (Logan Liason)	662-4600
Marrita Taylor (Lincoln Liason)	962-9783
Karla Lohnes (Community Musician)	830-7394
Rich Irwin (Community Data)	662-5896
Gina Dew (Weekend Events)	378-3407
Bruce Tompkins (Weekend Events)	663-8189
John Plattner (Treasurer)	828-1684
Kevin Daugherty (4th Day/Reunion Grps)	962-3529
Randy Harmon (Wknd Set Up/Clean Up)	452-1533
Nick O'Neall (Wknd Set Up/Clean Up)	724-8817
Ralph Smith (Team Selection)	829-2004
Jill McNiff (Prayer Vigil/Special Projects)	824-2759
Rob Wall (Registrar)	663-7630
Lori Bultmeier (Com. Spiritual Director)	830-3078
Mel Devall (Ass't Com. Spirit. Director)	453-1571

Important Calendar Dates...

2010 Dates

Men's Great Banquet #90: Mar. 4-7 — East Bay Camp
Team Dedication: Sunday, February 28 — 6:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church

Women's Great Banquet #91: Mar. 18-21 — East Bay
Team Dedication: Sunday, Mar. 14th — 6:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church

Fourth Day Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 25th — 7:00 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Logan Correctional Center GB #45: Apr. 23-25

Team Dedication: Sunday, Apr. 18 — 6:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church

Important Fall Dates

September 9-12 — Men's Banquet # 92

September 17-19 — National Gathering, Decatur, IL

September 23-26 — Women's Banquet # 93

October TBD — Women's Lincoln Banquet #11



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Luke 14:17

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P.O. BOX 707
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Inside ...

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- ◆ Logan Clearance form...
- ◆ Spring Weekend Information..
- ◆ *Fish Guts...*
- ◆ Loving the Great Banquet...
- ◆ Spring Training Gathering...