

The Belle

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful... -Hebrews 10:23

Volume 1, Issue 8

September 2001

Inside this issue:

Nursery Renovations	2
Sunday School Classes Session News	3
Youth Start Small Groups PRISM	4
Capital Campaign	5
Resource Center Relocates	6
Alternative Service	7
Calendar	9

Cornerstone Missionaries Reach Out to Thousands in Guatemala

by Charlie Fox

Guatemala is an unlikely place for a group of Cornerstone students from Bellefield to spend part of their summer. But as you begin to unravel the story of this summer's mission trip, you'll find that the experience was life changing - like discovering a world they never knew existed.

The group went with a mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to taste first hand what it means to "go and make disciples of all nations." Stephanie Mou-

las, of the University Ministry Staff at Bellefield, had the desire to give the mission-minded students a chance to "try something tangible." It was this desire, mixed with hours and hours of planning, praying, fund-raising, communicating, and more praying, that laid the groundwork for the trip. Above all, it was

God who opened the mission doors, and the hearts of those involved. It was He who prepared them for what was ahead.

Many of the Guatemalan missionaries attended the Urbana missions conference together last year. At Urbana, they learned

(Continued on page 8)



Mission Impossible Ministry Fair Ministry Teams Have a Mission for You

by Katrina Woodworth - Leadership Team

Imagine...you're sitting in worship on Sunday, September 16th. The service ends; you hear the theme song from the movie Mission Impossible. Feeling up for the challenge, you quickly descend the steps to the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. To your surprise, you find eight ministry team booths bursting with information on how you can become a team member and help

fulfill the mission of Bellefield Church. Interested, you slowly inspect the tables, looking for a ministry opportunity that fuels your passions and calls you to serve the King. Which ministry team will catch your attention? Christian Education, Deacons Ministry, University Ministry, Outreach Team, Worship Team, Member Care (alias - Napkins Are Us), Missions Team, Leadership Team. You de-

cide to talk with the team members, pick up a flyer from a team that interests you and pray about becoming a part of their mission... "This is your mission, should you choose to accept it."

As the Leadership Team, our main goal is to get all the members of Bellefield Church involved in making the Mission

(Continued on page 6)

Nursery Improvement Project Readies for Baby Boom

by Mitchell Hill

With many Bellefield families expecting or rearing children and visiting families on the rise, the Bellefield Nursery is no longer a support function but has become a bona fide ministry. Katherine Cosentino, Nursery Improvement Project Coordinator, has taken the time to inform the Belle on how the project is going to meet the needs of the growing church.

"The first thing we were able to do is get an additional room on the second floor in order to split the nursery children into separate rooms by age," said Cosentino. One room will be used for infants and one-year-olds, while the two- and three-year-old children will be down the hall. Cosentino expects at least a dozen children in each room each week. The rooms have received new padded carpeting and a fresh coat of paint.

The growing numbers of nursery children has demanded more nursery staff. In the new nursery, each room will be staffed with two paid caregivers and "hopefully a third volunteer caregiver each Sunday," said Cosentino. The volunteer positions are open to anyone of sixteen years of age or older, and could be a joyful way to serve the church. The church is currently looking for someone to serve as Nursery Caregiver Coordinator for one year.

In order to train parents and new staff members, the current staff is documenting nursery procedures on signing in, equipment usage, caregiver instructions on childcare, and guidelines for parents. During training workshops, caregivers will learn CPR and review the nursery procedures.

A welcome desk will be set up in ei-

ther room to gather important childcare and contact information from parents.

"We're making it a priority to welcome parents and visitors and make them feel comfortable," said Cosentino.

Making use of available technologies, the nursery will be providing vibrating beepers to visiting parents and parents of infants. After the beepers have been tested they will be used to notify parents during the service if their child must be fed or cannot be consoled.

The nursery toys have been given special attention to insure that what the children play with will be clean and safe.

"We have gone through the toys and equipment and purged all that

might be outdated or worn," said Cosentino. "All the remaining toys and equipment are getting a thorough cleaning and have been checked for product recalls." Some new toys have been purchased at a discounted price from Toys 'R Us as a part of the Nursery Improvement Project.

All parents and children are welcome to the Nursery Open House and Grand Opening scheduled for sometime in September. Cosentino hopes to "acquaint parents, children and volunteers with the new space and procedures, as well as to pre-register children."

For more information about the roles of Coordinator or volunteer, contact Marilyn Long from the Christian Education Team.



Young Bellefielders enjoy the new play schoolhouse bought as part of the Nursery renovations.

Adult Sunday School: 9:30-10:30 AM

Two New Classes to Kick Off the Fall!

Lessons from the Book of Job: September 9-October 28

Taught by Trevor Macpherson

In all the history of literature it seems unlikely that any character has wrestled so earnestly with the problem of pain and suffering as does Job. Why does God allow this, especially to a righteous man such as Job? Why is Satan given a voice in heaven? Why does Job's family suffer so that Job can learn a lesson? His "friends" think they know the answers, but in the end, they are silenced, Job is silenced, and God alone speaks. He calls Job to trust in His sovereignty; He alone is the Creator. This class will explore these and other issues raised by this challenging book. (Location to be announced.)

New Testament Bible Study: The Book of Titus

September 9th until whenever we finish!

Facilitated by David Steck

In this inductive bible study class, we will seek to study the bible text itself. References to outside material or other scripture may be made, but the focus will be on discovering what a passage says for itself through group interaction and specific questions. We will progress through Titus, section by section. The study will be led by different people, with everyone having an opportunity, but not a requirement, to lead. Upon completing the Book of Titus, the class members will choose another text to study. Please join us for a time of learning and growing in God's word! (Location to be an-

Session Considers Five Areas of Ministry for Bellefield and Other News

- Session has been continuing to focus on the five major objectives of our church, and in order to give sufficient time to each of these areas, we scheduled a second meeting in July. Each team leader was asked to lead Session in a discussion of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that their team is facing. We would ask each of you to consider which area of ministry God is calling you to serve in, and then contact the team leader and ask how you can help:
 - **Cultivate Professional and Lay Leaders** with team leader Greg Bruns
 - **Evangelize Unbelievers and Retain New Members** led by Gary Liberati
 - **Develop Disciples of Christ** led by Harry Kunze
 - **Pursue Excellence in Worship** led by Debbie Liddle
 - **Integrate Students and Members** led by Trevor McPherson
 - **Napkins-R-Us** led by Rick Budzowski
 - **Missions** led by Mark Meyers
- As Session has already made known, one of the sources we are using to do the renovations in the church is the money from the sale of a house Bellefield owned years ago. Through the work of Dwight Fox and the Finance Team, we have learned from Pittsburgh Presbytery that the original selling price of the property must be maintained to be used in the future for the purchase of a house for a pastor. The original selling price was \$220,000, and the account now has in excess of \$600,000. Session believes the most beneficial thing to do with the appreciated funds is to use them to fix the building in order to accommodate increasing membership and attract new members.
- Session has approved the job description for a full-time Director of Christian Education. This is a position that we have dreamt about for many years, so let's ask God to guide us as we seek to fill this position.
- Session approved spending up to \$5000 from the Memorial Fund for the purpose of purchasing musical equipment.
- Session approved a merit increase in salary of 2% for Kathy Emmons, to be retroactive to January 1, 2001.
- Session received Nicole Balliet as a member of our church.
- The Mission Team has increased by 5% our contributions to most of the missionaries that we are supporting in order to keep up with the cost of living. This team has also decided to end the funding for John Robinson, as he is no longer communicating with us. They have also decided to give \$1800 from the Women's Association Special Fund for the work that Pat Devines is doing in Togo with Wycliffe.

Youth Ministry to Start Small Groups

by Jeremy Sutter, Director of Youth Ministry

My summer ministry plan consisted of one thing - designing a program to make Bellefield's youth ministry more effective. This was far more work than I expected, but I'm excited for what the Lord can do this year.

After two brainstorming sessions with parents and students, we laid the groundwork for a season of effective youth ministry. Our plans focus around the areas of worship, discipleship, service, evangelism, and fellowship. One of the biggest changes will be a new emphasis on small groups. These will be small Bible studies of about four or five students (open to friends and newcomers), and a couple of leaders who will meet weekly. We will also plan a monthly fun social event. For example, September 15 we will be going Putt-Putt golfing (it's going to be parents vs. kids, so get out your putters and start swinging!) As always, Breakfast Club will be tasty, and Sunday school will be a good time of learning. We are planning to sign up for next summer's Pittsburgh Project as soon as sign up begins.

My greatest desire is that our programs will be relevant to the students we serve. I also hope that the programs will create growth - both from new people coming and hearing the gospel and our teens becoming mature disciples of Christ now and beyond Bellefield. As we move into this new season of youth ministry at Bellefield, there is a great need for continued prayer and feedback from the youth and their parents. Let us always keep our eyes fixed on our goal, which is to bring glory to

God. If you are willing to commit to regular prayer for the youth group, please contact me at jeremy@bellefield.org



On August 25, 2001

PRISM (Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries) held its annual Garage Give-away for new international students, scholars and their families. Thanks to all who helped with this day: for donations, transportation and crowd control. This is our kickoff program for the new school year. Although this program is over, there are other ways in which you can be involved in reaching the world for Christ right here in Oakland, through partnership with our Ministry. Would you prayerfully consider being involved in one of the following ways?

1. Pray for the staff: we would be glad to send you personal newsletters.
2. Friendship partner: Be matched with an international student, scholar or family. Make a once a month commitment to have contact/spend time with them.
3. Host an international for Thanksgiving Day.
4. Be an English conversation partner. We could match you with

an international for one-on-one English conversation or **THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH THE FRIDAY MORNING AMERICAN CULTURE AND CONVERSATION CLASS.**

5. Teach a group of international women how to bake an apple pie? There is always an interest in learning American cooking.
6. Reach out to an international who worships with us on Sunday morning--either a regular attendee or a visitor.

Please contact Jeanne Griffith at home at 412-422-7312 or by email at griffithwg@juno.com PRISM is so grateful for our 20+ years of partnership with Bellefield in sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth from Oakland. To God be the glory.

Jeanne Griffith
Associate Director
Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries

Finance Team Kicks Off Capital Campaign

Tax-Deductible Ways Cheerful Givers Can Help Pay for Church Renovations

by Susan Norman

The Finance Team is launching a capital campaign to help finance the renovations that are currently underway as part of the Building Task Force Plan. The renovations are extensive and exciting: Roughly \$500,000 will be spent on improvements and renovations to the church building. Complete or near completion: Main Office renovation, PRISM Office, Music Office. In progress and to be completed this fall: Nursery upgrade, toddler area, student lounge, Resource Center and Fellowship Hall renovations.

Bellefield's normal operating income is not sufficient to cover the costs of such a big project. Our church is very fortunate to have legacy funds that have been entrusted to us by past members and donors. The income and some principal from these funds are being used to finance more than 90% of the projected cost. However, the remainder is up to us.

When I consider the capital campaign, two conflicting questions come to mind. On the one hand, if we have so much money in endowment funds, why are we asking our current members and friends to donate? On the other hand, why aren't we asking our current members and friends to donate more than 10% of the cost? The following excerpt from a study guide on stewardship has helped me wrestle with these questions.

There is a little story within a story in the Luke 19 account of Jesus' triumphal entry that has been both helpful and surprising to me (Luke 19:28-40).

Among other things, according to this passage, Jesus' initiation of worldwide kingship required two things. One, he needed dedicated followers who dared to make bold requests: Give me your donkey! Why? Simply because "Our Lord needs it." Two, he needed a willing giver.

Obviously both the asker and giver were blessed, and Jesus' work moved forward, according to this story, only because someone dared. In fact, the Lord himself commanded that the person ask boldly for the material resources needed to further Jesus' worldwide redemptive work.

Lest we become too self-important, self-righteous, or manipulative in this task, Jesus assures us in verse 40 that if we as askers and givers falter or fail, he will take over. Since he does in fact own and control all the material resources we so glibly claim to own, even the stones themselves can be used to accomplish his world-renewing ministry. But then, as now, he chooses to use both bold askers and willing givers to accomplish his work in the world. (Firstfruits, Managing the Master's Money: Grissen, Lillian V. p.93.)

(Continued on page 7)

Ben Harper Knows the Power of the Gospel



Power of the Gospel

From *Fight for Your Mind*
by Ben Harper

Gospel on the water
Gospel on the land
The gospel in every woman
The gospel in every man
Gospel in the garden
Gospel in the trees
The gospel that's inside of you
The gospel inside of me

That's the power of the gospel

In the hour of richness
In the hour of need
For all of creation
Comes from the gospel seed
Now you may leave tomorrow
And you may leave today
But you've got to have the gospel
When you start out on your way

That's the power of the gospel

Resource Center Gets Orderly in New Location

by Rosey Stein and Missy Horner

The Resource Center, scheduled to be open in mid to late September, is going to be in a new location downstairs next to the kitchen, across from Fellowship Hall. Come and investigate the new Resource Center and discover all the strengthening materials Bellefield church has to offer.

In addition to a new location, the Resource Center will be organized in a way that will be easier to use. The books will be organized in the room according to the main categories of Adult, Children/Youth, and Reference; the audio-visual materials according to Adult and Children/Youth. Within those categories the books will be grouped according to subject, in alphabetical order by author. We are in the process of sorting and cataloging the books and entering them into a computer database

(Many thanks to all the helping hands). So to find a particular book, you can browse the shelves by subject, or use one of three separate book listings - author, title, or subject. For now these listings will be in binders, but eventually we would like to have a computer with which to access the database. To help us



The Resource Center is a part of the Christian Education Team, with our purpose being to "provide resources and tools to equip the congregation for ministry and spiritual growth in comfortable surroundings, with continuing communication about available materials."

be more purposeful in the kinds of books we will carry, we now have a "Collection Development Policy" that gives direction to our acquisition of new books.

We will need people very shortly to help with the labeling and shelving of the collection. Also, we are looking for a small group of people willing to be our "Resource Center Team," who will be in charge of policy setting and book acquisition. And we will always be looking for suggestions of "books we just must have." If you can help in any of these areas please contact Rosey Stein at 412-784-1654 or roseystein@aol.com. Stay tuned for our grand opening information, an upcoming book give-away, and ways you can help us expand our collection. And most importantly, please keep our work in your prayers, that it would be useful and glorifying to God.

Thank you for your support of our efforts.

Mission Impossible

(Continued from page 1)

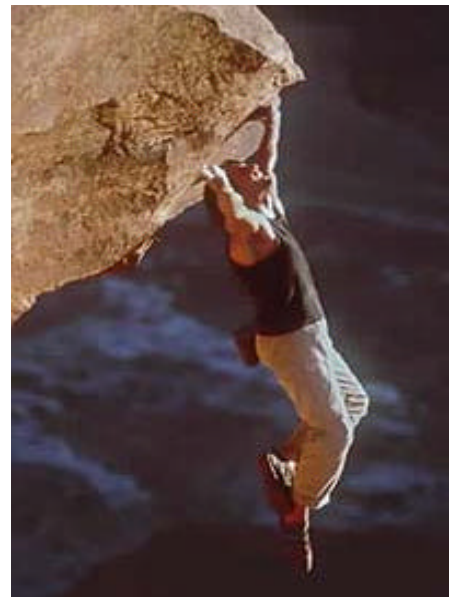
statement a reality - to be witnesses of Jesus Christ making committed disciples of all peoples, in the communities where we live and in the university community at our doorstep. So, we came up with a great idea - a ministry fair to get the word out and give everyone the opportunity to learn more about the eight different team ministries at Bellefield.

Mission Impossible Ministry Fair
Sunday, September 16th from
12:30-2pm
A light lunch will be served

Why are we calling it the Mission

Impossible Ministry Fair? Because we know that Bellefielders love adventure! Serving Christ and doing great works in His name is always an adventure. While you may think it is impossible to find the time in your schedule or that you don't have anything to offer a team, remember that all things are possible with God. In Matthew 17:14-21, Jesus told his disciples that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, they could move mountains. "Nothing will be impossible for you," he said. The Leadership Team wants to encourage you to have the faith of a mustard seed. Come to the Mission Impossible Ministry Fair and become a part of the exciting ministry opportunities here at Bellefield. Remember, this is your mission

and we are praying you will choose to accept it. This newsletter will disintegrate in ten seconds.



Finance Committee

(Continued from page 5)

Since it is important that the current giving to the operating budget is not affected by the capital campaign, we would like to offer several ways to contribute to the church in addition to your regular offering. You may also think of additional ways a gift could be made.

Uncle Sam has given us an opportunity this year in the form of the Tax Rebate checks that are being sent out this summer and fall. Why not designate a portion of that check toward the capital campaign? If you have been reading the news, you know that this Tax Rebate is not really "free money", but an advance on your expected 2001 income tax refund. So, if your rebate check is already spent or earmarked for urgent bills, why not pledge a portion of next year's refund.

Another source of additional giving is the donation of stock. Even in this year's rough market, you may own securities that have increased in value since you bought them. Donations of appreciated securities that you have owned for at least one year can be doubly advantageous.

First, you can deduct the full current market value of the asset from your taxable income for the year. Plus, you do not have to pay any capital gains tax on the appreciated value. This is also a great way to handle securities if you aren't sure what your cost basis is. For example, your cost basis may have been affected by stock dividends, splits or spin-offs. Rather than muddle through the paperwork at tax time, you can donate these securities and deduct the entire current market value without figuring cost basis. If you are able to make such a donation, please talk to Tom McIntire or Susan Norman so that we can smoothly guide the paperwork through our broker.

So, we on the Finance Team are making this BHAR (**B**ig, **H**airy, **A**udacious **R**quest) and are asking that you make a pledge to the capital campaign. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 by the end of 2002. Only give if you can do so willingly and without decreasing your current giving to the operating budget. Why do the dedicated followers dare to ask for bold requests from willing givers? Because our Lord needs it!

**WANTED:
Development Team to
Pray and Plan
Alternative
Service**

One of the goals of my three-month sabbatical was to study postmodernism and the church and to find out what other churches are doing to faithfully reach Generation Xers and Millennials. I am coming back to work thrilled about the possibility of starting an alternative worship service in September 2002 to reach this demographic. One of the realizations I had in the midst of my sabbatical is that teamwork is an essential part of ministry. I knew that the first thing I needed to do when I got back was put together a team of people to pray, research, plan, and dream.

So... I am looking for a group of people (10-12) who are interested in praying for the direction and vision of this possible endeavor. I am looking for people who are excited about molding and shaping the format of this future service. I am looking for people who are willing to use their gifts, talents and passions in service to Christ as we pray, study and research how God is leading us.

If you are interested in learning more about this team or you are so excited you just want to get on board, contact me before Sunday, September 16th.

BJ Woodworth
412.687.3224
bj@bellefield.org



Guatemala

(Continued from page 1)

of the urgent need for missions workers - people who were willing to serve God in helping the poor and the lost in the Third World and in our own culture. Those of you who saw the Bellefield students returning from Urbana last year are probably not surprised that the Guatemala mission trip became a reality: God lit a spark within their hearts that has grown into a desire to serve the poor and spread the gospel through missions.

The Seed goes out, Does not return void

Departing from Pittsburgh on July 19th, the group spent several days en route to a town called Quiche through Guatemala City. Quiche became their home base for much of the trip.

"Upon visiting the villages," remembers Heather Derby, a student at University of Pittsburgh, "the need for Christ was evident. Some villagers had never even heard of Christ."

Students showed the Guatemalan people the Jesus Film, provided by Gospel Recordings, and performed puppet ministries for children, demonstrating the love that God has for each of them. Attendance ranged from two to five hundred people each evening.

"They really began to understand that God loved them so much that he sacrificed his only Son to redeem them of their sins. Hundreds, perhaps thousands prayed the sinner's prayer and asked Jesus into their lives. The way the Spirit moved through the people was



amazing and like nothing I have ever seen before," wrote Heather.

The students learned the importance of prayer throughout their time in Guatemala. Both individually and corporately, they "learned to be more bold in prayer and to pray more often," according to Mike Mattes. And God heard the prayers of his people.

"He held back rain, allowed our generator to run without gas, provided housing, and gave us multiple blessings for future trips!" said Mike. Group leader Stephanie Moulas agreed, noting that the team "grew together in prayer."

The poverty in Guatemala reminded them "that there is a great need in Guatemala," particularly in leadership. As Christians, we desire to minister to their needs, and

help them form a solid foundation for their newfound faith in Christ. But a paradox becomes apparent, noted Mike, when you realize "that the faith of a child in Guatemala carried more confidence and more boldness than my own at times!"

A full account of the ways in which God worked in the lives of each of the students who participated in the Guatemala mission trip would extend beyond these pages. Heather will tell you that she was "excited to be used by God to serve his people." Other members will contribute their testimonies and wholeheartedly agree. If you want a personal account, find one of the group members, invite them over for lunch after church, and ask them to tell you about the trip. They each have great stories to tell of how God worked through them during their time in Guatemala.

GUATEMALA FACTS

Country: Republic of Guatemala
Capital: Guatemala
Population: 12,639,939 (July 2000 est.)
Languages: Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40%, (more than 20 Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)
Literacy: 55.6% total, 62.5% male, 48.6% female (1995 est.)
Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs
Life Expectancy: 63.53 male, 68.96 female (2000 est.)
Government Type: constitutional democratic republic
Currency: 1 quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos
GDP (per capita): \$3,900 (1999 est.)
Labor Force: agriculture 50%, industry 15%, services 35% (1999 est.)
Industry: sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism
Agriculture: sugarcane, corn, bananas, coffee, beans, cardomom; cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens
Arable Land: 12%
Exports: coffee, sugar, bananas, fruits and vegetables, meat, apparel, petroleum, electricity
Imports: fuels, machinery and transport equipment, construction materials, grain, fertilizers, electricity
Natural Resources: petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish,
Current Environmental Issues: deforestation; soil erosion; water pollution; Hurricane Mitch damage



- 5 Joe Schaad
- 5 Judy Schaad
- 5 Laurel Shaw
- 6 Sandra Oliva
- 17 Matt Durcik
- 19 Brennan McCloud
- 19 Craig T. McCloud
- 21 Karen Conner
- 22 David Dellinger
- 23 John Lafferty
- 24 Elisa Long
- 25 Julianne Liberati
- 29 Lauri Lafferty

Fall Calendar

September

- 2 Sunday Worship – Communion, 10:45 am
- 7 PRISM – Friday English classes resume, 10:00am
- 8, 22 Indonesian Christian Fellowship
- 9 Christian Education classes resume Sundays, 9:30am
- 11 Tuesday Women’s Bible Study Breakfast, 9:30am
- 14 off 5th – Coffee House, 6:00pm
- 15 Men’s Breakfast, 8:30-10:00am
- 16 “Mission Impossible” - Ministry Fair
- 18 Tuesday Women’s Bible Study – Romans, 9:30am
- 19 Session Meeting, 7:00pm
- 21 Belle Newsletter contribution deadline
- 21 Ladies’ Craft Night, 6:30pm
- 21-23 Cornerstone Fall Retreat
- 23 All-Church Picnic
- 26 Trustee Meeting
- 30 Great Race / Food Pantry

October

- 2 Leadership Meeting / Team Planning
- 6 Arabic Bible Fellowship resumes, 5:00pm
- 19 Ladies’ Craft Night

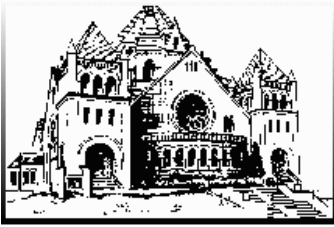
November

- 18 Annual Meeting

Treasurer Tom's Corner

	Giving	Budget	Difference
May 2001	\$14,507	\$19,725	\$-5,218
June 2001	\$17,430	\$19,725	\$-2,295
July 2001	\$27,231	\$19,725	\$+7,506
Year-to-Date	\$142,956	\$138,075	\$+4,881

BELLEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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WITNESSES OF CHRIST
MAKING COMMITTED
DISCIPLES OF ALL
PEOPLES...

Belle Mission Statement

*Honoring God through faithful writings and artwork, the illuminating Gospel of
Jesus Christ, and encouraging Biblical principles in both print and production*

Bellefield Newcomer's Orientation

Interested in learning more about Bellefield Presbyterian Church's vision and history? Meeting our church staff and other newcomers? Discovering what Presbyterians believe? Joining this church family?

Pastor Dave and BJ Woodworth will be leading our Fall Newcomer's Orientation beginning this October.

The four-week series will meet Sundays after worship (lunch included). It's discussion-oriented and a great way to grow in your relationship with Christ and His followers.

Stay tuned for details...