

The Belle

The Lone Ranger Rides Again

Men’s Ministry Makes Heroes of Cowboys
by Mitchell Hill

Men try to be the Lone Ranger. Take it from me, I’m a man. I’ll let you in on a not-so-well concealed secret: We men like to pick our own battles and be victorious in our own strength. Like the 1950’s TV cowboy, men want to be the hero in every episode.

However, even if you’re a cooperative team player and don’t feel a compulsive urge to be the best at everything you do, the **Bellefield Men’s Ministry** is an excellent way to strengthen you in your roll as a man.

Before you women tune out, I would like you to know that if it wasn’t for you our Men’s Min-

istry would not exist. As the Men’s Ministry coordinator Dwight Fox and I agreed, you women have again kept the upper hand by being the originating thrust for our gatherings. A few of the Bellefield women were the first to say, “God is going to raise up a men’s ministry,” and you got the ball rolling.

Enough bantering between genders—the Men’s Ministry is serious business, and it benefits both men and women. A few of the issues we’ve tackled together since our first monthly meeting in September are money, sexual sin, building intimate relationships with other men, strengthening our marriages (if married) and supporting other Godly marriages.

“The Christian life is a spiritual battle that men must fight together,” said Dwight. “We need to be united and strong, fighting together. Some men are not so good at that.”

A Cowboy on the Plains

I know all about the aloof, do-it-my-way male syndrome. I learned it years ago when I was a boy being raised by my mother and three older sisters (before my mother remarried). I had four

mothers, as I like to tell people. So I was trained to do my own thing. I liked Legos and burning ants in the sun with my magnifying glass, while my sisters played together with their dolls. When I grew older I liked adventure and solitude, in excess; once driving my 1962 Cadillac to the Rocky Mountains and the plains of Utah and back, becoming the beatnik version of the Lone Ranger.

The adventurous male spirit took me to the Rockies many more times, as well as hitchhiking Europe before I was done. Undoubtedly there are greater adventures ahead.

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The Lone Ranger, with his horse Silver, was the hero of every episode.

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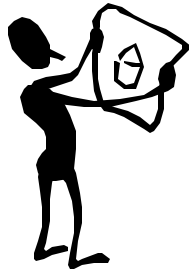
Presbytery Defeats Amendment A, Session Welcomes New Leaders, and Other News

- At its December 6 meeting, the **Presbytery** voted to defeat **Amendment A** by a 2-to-1 margin (this amendment would have removed the fidelity/chastity ordination standard from the Book of Order). While this is good news, let's keep the matter in our prayers as the other Presbyteries across our country vote on this.
- Session invited elders-elect **Ginger Crosbie** and **Rob Gagnon** to our meeting in December. Session is required to examine the elders and deacons that are elected, and as we think of these as well as the elected trustees, it is heart-warming to see the level of commitment to Christ that these individuals have. There is no doubt that God was leading the Nominating Committee and our congregation in bringing these individuals into positions of leadership. They will be installed on January 13th, and it is important that each of us be in prayer asking the Lord to guide them as they seek to lead us.
- Session and others have spent a lot of time this past year looking at the money that we have invested. We had two major concerns. The first was to honor the original intent when the money was received, and the second was to use the money to further the ministry that the Lord has called us to do. Session has decided to split what was formerly called "**Affiliated Funds**" (over \$700,000) into three accounts:
 1. 44 % will be called "Former Endowment" and Session will use 5% of the market value of these funds each year
 2. 29% into a new account called "Manse Reserve" and again Session will use 5% of the market value of these funds
 3. 28% into an account to be known as "Ministry Seed Account" with no restrictions on how the money will be used
- The average **worship attendance** for the month of November was 280 people in 1999; 260 people in 2000; and 304 in 2001. This means that there are a lot of visitors, and it's important that we each do our part to enable them to feel welcome. Look for people you don't know and greet them in the name of our Lord.
- Session is looking forward to January 12-17 when **Carolyn Weese**, the consultant we hired, will be working with us. It is our hope that she will be able to give guidance on staffing and organization decisions.
- Two members of Session, **Mark Meyer** and **Mahlon Raymund**, went on a mission trip to **Honduras** in November, and gave us a brief report on the work the Lord is doing there. The Missions Team has been doing a lot of planning on how best to reach out to these people. In particular they are seeking to establish the village of San Jose Del Negrto (1500 people) as our partner village.
- Session has called for a **special ecclesiastical congregational meeting** to be held on Sunday, February 3, 2002 following the worship service, for the purpose of electing officers, electing the Nominating Committee for 2002, distributing of reports, distributing the final budget, and voting on increasing the contributions of the senior pastor to medical dues by 0.5%. No other business will be transacted. We ask that you prayerfully consider who you would like to nominate to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2002. Approach the person prior to the meeting, and make sure that they are willing to serve if elected. While we are not anticipating a long meeting, you may want to bring a small lunch or a snack for yourself or your young children in case you get hungry. Baby-sitting will be provided.

Senior High Plans Monthly Fellowship and Evangelism

by Jeremy Sutter

Ok, so if you're a high schooler you should've seen it. If you are a parent of the aforementioned group, you should have it. What? The Spring 2002 Youth Event Schedule. If you haven't seen it, you can ask me (Jeremy) for it. Sure, there are great things on there that EVERYONE in the church should be ready for (especially Youth Sunday on February 10), but basically, I wanted to take a little of the Belle's space and explain what the "Senior High Night Out" stuff is about.



Senior High Night Out will be a monthly social event planned for our High Schoolers, by our High Schoolers (with a bit of direction from the adult volunteers and myself). Different small groups of students will take turns planning these. We are planning these so-

cial events to meet two goals — fellowship and evangelism. We want to make these events fun and inviting as an entry point to our student's friends. Our hope is that there will be an interest in who we are as a youth group and what our church is about. Then hopefully these students will take the opportunity to get a little more deeply involved

As an example of what this might look like, last month the girls decided to have a "Girls' Night", where they invited many of their friends for a sleepover here at Bellefield. Together with some of the college volunteers, like Jen Hipple and Bethani Cameron, they put together some fun plans and started inviting friends. They had a great turnout and lots of fun. As a result, the following Sunday morning's Breakfast Club was full of girls who were there, curious to see what we were about.

So if you see your high school student planning something fun, now you have an idea what they're doing.

Lone Ranger Joke

The Lone Ranger and Tonto are camping in the desert, set up their tent, and are asleep. Some hours later, The Lone Ranger wakes his faithful friend.

"Tonto, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Tonto replies, "Me see millions of stars."



"What does that tell you?" asked The Lone Ranger.

Tonto ponders for a minute. "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What it tell you, Kemo Sabi?"

The Lone Ranger is silent for a moment, then speaks. "Tonto, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent."

MUSIC



off Fifth coffee house

when: Friday, January 11th

where: Fellowship Hall

Doors open: 9 pm

Cost: \$2



COFFEE

Lone Ranger (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

The only problem with my lone adventure is that I believe the adage, "There are no Lone Rangers in the Christian walk." The Bible commands us to love and serve one another, submitting to each other and sharpening one another, as iron sharpens iron. Of course men need high adventure and mountains to climb, but we also need companionship, accountability, and support. Even our hero the Lone Ranger had his ever-present kemo sabe, Tonto. The Men's Ministry is beginning to bring the husbands, fathers, brothers and sons of Bellefield together. It has quickly provided me with accountability, wisdom, and support in issues regarding being a man today. And the Men's Ministry isn't merely talk.

"We're action oriented," said Dwight. "It's not only talk, but we make plans how to deal with the issues."

Of course men need high adventure and mountains to climb, but we also need companionship, accountability, and support.

Our open meetings are held at Bellefield Church at 8:30 a.m. one Saturday a month. After breakfast and coffee, we talk about a current issue, and before going home we are presented with an action-oriented challenge. We can accept and creatively fulfill the challenge as we see fit. A few of the past challenges have been: write an encouraging note to someone in ministry, do an act of service to your spouse (if married), begin a supportive relationship with a boy

BELLEFIELD GROWTH FACTOIDS
November worship attendance stats:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
1st Sunday	331	285	338
2nd Sunday	365	284	291
3rd Sunday	329	289	285
4th Sunday	189	182	204
Average	304	260	280

How people participate in discipleship activities in Christian Churches:

- Small groups: 69%
 - Sunday school classes: 20%
 - One-to-one mentoring relationships: 14%
 - Special faith-oriented classes: 11%
 - Online training and interaction: 3%
- from **Barna Research Online**

or a man (if single), give your spouse or friend permission to make a request of you (i.e. start lifting the toilet seat), spend an hour in prayer, do an act of love for someone outside of your family.

With between 15 and 20 men in attendance each month, our meetings usually close in a time of sharing and prayer in smaller groups.

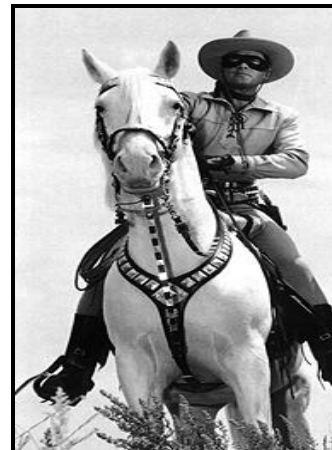
Get Off that Horse, Cowboy

If you're a Lone Ranger, but would like to start contributing to the Men's Ministry, you're just in time. On January 25-27th, the Men's Ministry is going on a retreat to the rugged Laurel Mountains. For information con-

tact Harry Kunze at Harry.Kunze@MSANET.COM

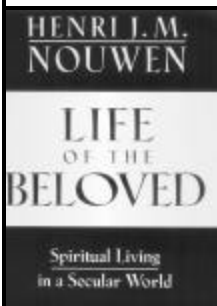
"The retreat will be a time of fellowship and fun together," said Dwight. "We hope it will be a time of light fun and laughter."

Hi-yo Silver! And away....



**JANUARY MESSAGE SERIES:
"HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT YOU"**

Pastor Dave says that a life-changing encounter with God was prompted by his reading of Life of the Beloved by Henri Nouwen. "I came across this gem at one of the lowest points of my journey with God—a time in my life when I felt beaten and unloved. And what a wonder to discover that, because of and along with Jesus, I'm also beloved by my Father!" Join us every Sunday morning in January as Pastor Dave teaches from God's Word: "How God Feels About You".



Jan. 6: "How God Feels About You #1: Chosen" and the Lord's Supper

Jan. 13: "How God Feels About You #2: Blessed"

Jan. 20: "How God Feels About You #3: Broken"

Jan. 27: "How God Feels About You #4: Given"

CHURCH CONSULTANT TO ASSIST SESSION

Our Session has hired Carolyn Weese, Director of Multi-Staff Ministries in Phoenix, AZ, to help us "to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and make committed disciples of all peoples, in the communities where we live and in the university community at our doorstep" (the Bellefield Vision). Carolyn, author of Eagles in Tall Steeples: What Pastors and Congregations Wish They Knew About Each Other, is one of the top church consultants in the country and has worked with some of the fastest growing Presbyterian churches in the country. The Session has asked her to assess and make recommendations about future staffing needs, enhanced organizational structure, effective leadership development, and program needs and opportunities. Carolyn will be visiting and studying Bellefield January 12-17. In addition to observing Bellefield's ministries and programs, she will be interviewing staff, officers and leaders. Her written report will be completed by February 1. Please pray that God uses this tool to help us be more effective for the Kingdom.

Forgiveness

Do you know the joy of being forgiven?

Through forgiveness the arms of Jesus lift you, His blood cleanses you, and His love changes you. It is His free gift to you.

Turn your heart toward Jesus. Pray to receive Him and His forgiveness by faith today...He will come into your heart and make all things new.



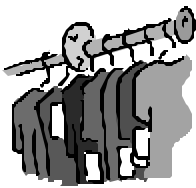
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

II CORINTHIANS 5:17 NIV

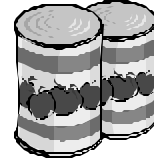
Deacons Gratefully Doing God's Work

by Cindy Gormley

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Deacon's Fund via the special offering envelopes on Communion Sundays. We continue to provide two bags of groceries, a bus pass for the trip home and a sweep through the clothes closet, to 20-25 people in the Oakland community the last Sunday of each month. Several of the food pantry clients continue to worship with us every Sunday.



Through the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and KDKA we also received 25 \$10 gift certificates to Giant Eagle for distribution to the food pantry clients. Over the past few months we have been able to provide financial assistance such as rent, medical bills and babysitting for members of the congregation, and some members of the Oakland community. Thanks to all of you who make this possible.



January Adult Sunday School Offerings

This class will stretch throughout the 7 Sundays of January!

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The sixth commandment reads: "Honor the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." What does that mean for us? Why did God create the Sabbath? What did Jesus and the New Testament writers have to say about the meaning of the Sabbath? These and other Sabbath-related issues will be examined during the month of January in a class led by Rick Zimmerman.

New Testament Class:

I John

(Continued from the fall through January 27th)

-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 I John, section by section. The study will be led by different people, with everyone having an opportunity, but not a requirement, to lead. Upon completing I John, the class members will choose another text to study. Please join us for a time of learning and growing in God's word!



Thank You

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thank you Bellefield: This year, we collected 33 gifts to send to children throughout the world. Many thanks to all of the families and members who participated. Several of you said what a fun and worthwhile Christmas activity this was. Also this year, some international families from PRISM's Women's Bible Study and English class participated.

Thanks again for sharing Christ's love with children throughout the world.

*January Birthdays***i**

1 Joy Laughlin
 1 Erica Norman
 4 Katie Van Dyke
 5 Elena Woodworth
 6 Janet Fox
 6 Alice Maunz
 6 Emily Vernon
 7 Lisa Edwards
 13 Deb Gephardt
 15 Rosie Wagoner
 19 Noah Lafferty
 19 Josh Van Dyke
 23 Bethany Koslow
 27 Karl Williams
 29 Becky Mazariegos
 31 David Liberati

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Treasurer Tom's Corner

S

	Giving	Budget	Difference
September 2001	18,077	19,725	-1,648
October 2001	21,042	22,500	-1,458
November 2001	22,499	22,500	-1
Totals	221,421	222,525	-1,104



February Events

Feb. 3rd—Annual Mtg. Part II, 12:15 p.m.

Feb. 5th-All Team Mtg. 7 p.m.

Feb. 10th-Youth Sunday!!! & 2nd Sunday

JANUARY 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion/ E piphany	7	8 	9	10 7 p.m.-Deacon's Meeting	11 9 p.m.-Off Fifth Coffee House	12
13 •2nd Sunday •Installation & Ordination of new Officers	14	15 Belle Deadline	16 7 p.m.-Session w/ Consultant	17 	18 6:30-Ladies Craft Night	19
20	21	22	23 7 p.m.-Trustees	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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, illuminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and encouraging Biblical principles in both print and production.

Greetings From Bellefield Staff

Thanks for everything!! It's a pleasure to serve the Lord as He works through each of us individually and as a church. Thanks for your support and encouragement in the past year and in the year to come.

Dave Van Dyke
Thomas B. McIntire, Jr.
Janet Fox
Robert Poole
Jeremy Sutter
Alycia Schaefer
Alexis Tretiak
Dave Wheeler
Catherine Wynn
Olga Yee
Allison Rosetti

BJ Woodworth
Susan Norman
Kathy Emmons
Mike Carlin
Melissa Hicks
Stephanie Moulas
Mike Mattes
Corie Sue Sunderhaus
Helen McAuliffe
Lynn Senior