CH-CH-CH CHANGES: TURN AND FACE THE STRANGE?

David Bowie’s 1971 hit song Changes presents the reality of anything that grows, changes. When something stops growing, it stagnates, declines, and eventually dies.

The two basic rules of life are these:
1. Change is inevitable.
2. Everybody resists change.

The only person who likes change is a wet baby.

I could not find the source but there is a certain ring of truth to this maxim. We are in a renewal and refocusing season at Bonhomme where we are seeking to be obedient to the Great Commission. As we grow into this, it will necessarily involve adjustment as to how we conceive and “do church.”

Does that mean that what the way we’ve been doing church in the past has been wrong and all of our ministry efforts were useless? Certainly not! However, with the shift in culture away from Christendom and changing demographics at Bonhomme, we have to retool to be viable in the years to come. A look at our last 10-year trends shows that if we do not address some key issues, Bonhomme will be in a perilous position in the next 10 years.

Initial Emotions, Helpful Responses

When we think of change, there are different emotions we experience and different responses we can choose to battle them.

We can get nostalgic. Nostalgia is the sweetening of memories over time. Nostalgia is a great gift, but also a powerful drug. Take too much of it [or take it too often] and you’ll be addicted to the past.

Comparison is a common byproduct of nostalgia. We compare how things were to how things are, the glorious past with the inferior present. We remember a time when our Sanctuary was full, and our membership rolls swelled.

Of course, with the syrup of nostalgia ladled all over our memories, the present never tastes nearly as good. Yet the wise man insists: Say not, “Why were the former days better than these? For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.” [Ecclesiastes 7:10]

Gratitude is a much wiser response to nostalgia. Instead of comparing the past with the present, we should thank God for the past and Bonhomme’s history in the community and expect the present to be filled with his faithfulness just the same. Ephesians 5:18–20 tells us to “be filled with the Spirit ... giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Gratitude for God’s blessings in the past helps us see his hand in the present, since he’s the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can bank on this at Bonhomme.

As things change, we can also experience uncertainty. We’re not sure what’s going on, and we don’t know exactly know where we’re headed. What will Bonhomme church look like in the future? Even when we hear the big picture, the inherent uncertainty can leave us struggling. Change often involves loss and this is difficult and may cause us to grieve. When everything else in the world is uncertain, fast-paced, and changing, we want our church to be an anchor. This is understandable.

Continued on page 2
Fear can be a common response to uncertainty. Of course, a certain kind of trepidation is expected in our renewed focus on making disciples—it’s a big commission! But often our fears inflate and expand, filling us with debilitating anxieties that are unrealistic and unhealthy. To the fearful among us, God might say what he said to Joshua, a new leader on his way toward massive change:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” [Joshua 1:9]

When you know God is leading you forward, a better way to respond to uncertainty is anticipation. Later in their history, God told his people, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” [Isaiah 43:19]. Even though they’d be exiled far from home, God pointed toward his coming redemption and urged them to keep their eyes open for what he would do.

One can walk down the educational hall and see a timeline of God’s faithfulness over the past 200 years to Bonhomme. We can be confident that God will continue to prove himself faithful for this next season.

Amid change, the uncertainty we experience can quickly turn to confusion. Maybe we don’t understand where our leaders are taking us, or we feel like we’ve gotten mixed messages, or we’ve fallen into speculations and assumptions, which always twist up our thinking.

In our confusion, it’s easy to give in to frustration. Frustration is understandable at times, but we don’t want to let it become the norm. I know at least for me, when irritation makes itself at home, I become the most grumpy version of myself, unable to experience much besides my aggravated feelings.

There’s a much better response to confusion: communication. Asking our questions, communicating our concerns, listening well, taking time to process—these are all wise ways to work through the frustration that can build when we feel confused about the changes we’re experiencing.

We are striving to keep the congregation informed through the process by sending updates several times a month and by receiving correspondence from Covenant Partners. Our teams have visited and had discussions with various church groups. I am sending a weekly communication to Human Resources Commission, Staff, Session, and Deacons on progress on large church goals and focus areas.

There’s an entire demographic, of course, that sees change as exciting. Whether it be wanderlust or a divine calling, there are plenty of times when the prospects of change generate more excitement than any other emotion. We’re excited for the new opportunity, the new job, the new relationship, the new vision or cause or responsibility.

But when you’re in a big group changing and you’re excited about what you’re seeing, it’s easy to stay a spectator. To stay in the shadows. New developments are interesting to watch, and the unpredictability can keep you glued to the screen without jumping in to serve.

Yet the excitement of new beginnings should turn you into a participant. We all have gifts and talents and resources to throw into the mix. I encourage all of us to join in sacrificing for the unfolding vision. You too can help shoulder the load, since, as Peter Drucker puts it, every exciting vision immediately translates into hard work.

The apostle Paul urges us, “Do not be slothful in zeal,” [Romans 12:11] And because of our coming resurrection, he invites us to be found “always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” [I Cor. 15:58]

A Dramatic Difference

Imagine you belong to a good church undergoing significant change. Now picture most people in your group responding to their nostalgia with comparison, their uncertainty with fear, their confusion with frustration, and their excitement with being mere spectators.

Now imagine, instead, everyone making the conscious decision to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the past, a sense of anticipation about the future, and a commitment to communicate when things are unclear or confusing, all while investing their talents and energy as eager participants in the new chapter God is writing into our lives together here on Conway Road.

The difference would be dramatic, even transformative. Because the most important change happens in the heart. May it be so with us at Bonhomme!

Yours,

Pastor Phil
**BONHOMME CHURCH CLOSES AMID COVID–19 VIRUS**

Dear Bonhomme Church Family,

As every retailer and organization inundates your inbox with COVID–19 updates as to how they plan to “do business” given our new [ab]normal, we are taking our civic leaders' direction and suspending all church activities for eight weeks. Our people’s wellbeing and health are the priority. Bonhomme will be closed to everyone except staff members and a cleaning crew until May 11. If our national situation warrants resuming earlier or staying closed for a longer period of time, we will make that determination.

There is the sense though that nothing can “close a church.” We are conditioned to think of a building, an address, when we think of church. Maybe it’s the nursery rhyme where we did gyrations with our hands and fingers and recited, *Here’s the church and there’s the steeple, open the door and see all the people!* that reinforces the idea that church is only when we gather at 14820 Conway Road.

However, the Church of Jesus Christ is one without walls and doors and it is not limited to a time of day or day of the week. It is wonderful to gather with our family on the Lord’s day; it is the highlight of my week! But we are the Church when we scatter and are good news [gospel] to our neighbors throughout the week and especially when we are faced with a unique cultural moment such as now. So how is Bonhomme going to handle this unique cultural moment?

We are focusing the flow of information to our newly designed website, bonpres.org. There you will find the latest information and the link to our online services at 8:30 am and 11 am on Sundays moving forward. We also want to take care of the more vulnerable members of our community during this time. If you have a need of any kind, please go to our website and scroll down on the homepage and click I Need Help. If you are willing to serve, you can click I’d Like to Help, and we will pair the needs with those willing to meet them. And finally, you can still give. Online giving at Bonhomme has been around for years and you can access our giving portal at bonpres.org/give. You can also mail your check if you give weekly via the offering during worship.

If you have bypassed the whole internet thing, don’t like it, or don’t have access to it, feel free to call me at 636.893.6771 with any need you may have.

In closing, I want to express my huge appreciation to our exceptional staff at Bonhomme as we have had to shift gears with the coronavirus reality. These women and men are the best as they have been flexible, engaged, and ready to do whatever is necessary for gospel ministry to take place. We are fortunate to have them.

Thank you for the joy of being your pastor. It is a privilege. I cannot wait until we’re together again; *I care for you, love you, and delight in sharing the gospel of God with you and life together because you are dear to me.* [I Thessalonians 2:8-9]

Together [though apart for a while] for the Gospel,

Pastor Phil

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**BONHOMME FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

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<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DON EVERTS:  
PASTORAL SABBATICAL | JUNE–AUGUST

Brothers and Sisters at Bonhomme,

I am writing to fill you in on the timing and details of a ministry sabbatical I will be taking this summer.

As you may know, it is customary for pastors and missionaries who are doing life-on-life ministry to take a strategic sabbatical from their ministry context from time to time for the sake of gaining perspective, rest, and/or new insights through focused study.

According to the Terms of Call written upon my ordination and installation [July 2015], I was to take my first sabbatical during the summer of 2020. Even though I am no longer working full-time at Bonhomme, it still feels like the right timing to take a strategic sabbatical this summer.

While I will still be working my day job [at Lutheran Hour Ministries] during these three months, I will spend the time I would normally be tending to pastoral duties at Bonhomme each week leaning into three sabbatical goals.

While this will be an unpaid sabbatical, Bonhomme’s session has graciously offered to help with sabbatical expenses based on these three strategic goals. To achieve the appropriate space and boundaries for the sabbatical I will not be engaging in any pastoral duties here at Bonhomme during these three months but will be returning to my duties as Teaching Pastor on September 1.

Based on the six-month sabbatical I took after 10 years of ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, I have great expectations for how God might use this pastoral sabbatical in my own life and, by God’s grace, in the life of this congregation. Towards that end, our session has asked me to hold an informational session upon my return this fall, to share the insights gained during the sabbatical. I look forward to this experience and telling you all about it when I get back!

Blessings,

[Signature]

Don Everts
Teaching Pastor

SABBATICAL GOALS

1. Visit and learn from 10 different churches [looking for fresh insights]

2. Do research and follow-up study [diving deeper into top new insights]

3. Go on a five-day retreat of silence [for prayer and reflection]
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ZACH LEEKER

How long have you attended Bonhomme?
I’ve attended Bonhomme since I was a baby! My parents started going to church here a year before I was born.

How have you served at Bonhomme?
At Bonhomme, I have served by being on the worship team on Sundays and for youth group on Wednesdays. I love going up there and helping guide the congregation in worship!

What is your favorite thing about Bonhomme?
My favorite thing about Bonhomme is the community. We’re all one big family at Bonhomme.

Family members: Parents Tom and Melody, siblings Kelsey (28), Lindsey (27), Thomas (21), and Emma (19).
COMMUNICATIONS CATCH-ALL

BONPRES.ORG RECEIVES A FACE LIFT

If you’ve surfed the internet recently and landed on the Bonhomme website, bonpres.org, you’ll notice it looks and functions differently than last month. Just like our Session is refreshing the focus of our church, we are refreshing the focus of our website.

The new bonpres.org features a parallax layout [did you just learn something new?] which means the website user will do a lot more scrolling, than clicking while perusing our site. The homepage now features a looping video that showcases life at Bonhomme, our most recent sermon series, an events section, a contact us form and, most importantly, many different ways for the user to plan a visit.

Our guest page now features a scrolling “What are You Looking For?” section. As you know, people are searching for a church for a variety of different reasons and we hope that they find one or more of those reasons at Bonhomme. There is also a detailed FAQ section as well as an online Connection Card to reach out to our church. We hope visitors to our website who are looking for a church feel the warmth and inviting nature of Bonhomme and come to worship with us on a Sunday to try us out.

So... what does that mean for Bonhomme members? Well, as always, we have an entire page dedicated to you. Same as before, bonpres.org/connect houses all the information that Bonhomme members need to know. At the top of the page are quick links for some of the most popular items you have searched for in the past: the Pioneer Press newsletter, recent sermons, registering for Wednesday Night Dinner, online giving, and classes. Upcoming events are listed as they were before. There is now a Ways to Serve section that lists opportunities to give, donate and serve.

We also have a couple of new features that can make navigating our website easier. On the homepage, there is a Search feature. Located in the top right corner of our navigation panel, you can enter what you are looking for and a list of pages will appear that includes your search item.

Also, at the bottom of every page of our website is a new footer that contains links to nearly everything you might need. If you can’t find your topic on the page on which you landed, I suggest you look down at the footer.

As with any website, bonpres.org is fluid. It will never “be done” and we want to constantly evolve it. Therefore, we do have some exciting features on the way that are going to enhance everyone’s experience: Bonhomme members and those who we hope will be future Bonhomme members.
GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION
By Rev. Robby Cella, Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Mission

It was at the moment when our country was moving quickly toward social distancing that I set out to write an article for this month’s Pioneer Press.

Rather than give you my words, I would like to bless you with a prayer. It is a “liturgy” from the book Every Moment Holy; you may recall Pastor Don preaching on it. It is a liturgy for Medical Providers, and at such a time as this it seems abundantly appropriate. It is prayed in the first person, but can easily be prayed for others in the third person, and I invite you to do so. Enjoy.

O Christ Our Healer

There is no end to malady, sickness, injury, and disease in this broken world, so there is no end to the line of hurting people who daily need my tending.

Therefore give me grace, O God, that I might be generous with my kindness, and that in this healing and care-taking vocation my hands might become an extension of your hands, and my service a conduit for your mercy.

For it is often not an easy place to be—so near to suffering, to injury, to pain, to emergency and fear and confusion, and sometimes even to dying and death and grief—but I believe it is exactly the sort of place you would be, O Lord, amongst those who hurt. So let my practice of medicine be centered in an understanding of your heart.

Let me practice medicine because you are a healing God who feels compassion and extends mercy. Let me practice medicine because you are near to those who are in need, to those who face grief and loss. Let me practice medicine as a willing servant of your redemption, pushing back—by means of my vocation—the effects of the fall.

Let my presence in this place lend a human face to your compassion.

Even when my schedule is crammed with appointments, rounds, or duties, let me never view my patients as mere tasks on a to-do list. Give me grace instead to be always—even in our brief encounters—attentive and responsive to the hearts of human beings made in your image.

Let me extend kindness and mercy even to those who are too angry, frightened, bitter, or in pain to respond with anything but venom. Let me especially love them, for they suffer—even more than from physical ailment—from a lack of understanding or experience of your overwhelming grace and mercy and love. Let their time with me be to them a taste that might awaken a hopeful hunger in their hearts.

I can do none of these things on my own. Apart from your grace, I have no grace to give. So give me your grace in greater measure, O Lord.

Let me find also, in the midst of such constant need, a rhythm of service and rest that will enable my own soul to be tended and nourished—that in the time I spend with patients I will have a deeper repository of patience and kindness to share with them. Teach me how better to balance my duties and my days, so that this work would not make me absent from the lives of my family and friends and church. Let me be well—woven into those communities and relationships, enjoying ample time with them, being available to them, and caring for their needs even as I allow them to care for mine. Let me never be so consumed by my vocation that those closest to me suffer negligence.

I would not just be a doctor or a nurse or a medical provider, O God. I would be a minister of your healing and compassion at work in your world. I would be a living witness of your love expressed in a practical care of people. I would be your disciple in this place, at this time, among these people.

So give grace, Lord Christ. Give me grace this day and all days, that I might serve you well by loving and serving others in this healing trade, ever laboring in view of that day when your kingdom will be fully realized, at the great mending of the world, at the great ending of all ills. Let me play a small part in that great work, today.

Amen.
ADULT MINISTRY
By Elizabeth Harris, Director of Adult Ministry

CHALLENGED BY CHANGE

Isn’t it interesting how quickly life can change? A little over a week ago I wrote an article for the April Pioneer Press about the upcoming Great Commission/Spiritual Conversation Class planned for April 19—May 17. This new Growth Hour class was a follow up to our month-long sermon series on Matthew 28, the calling Jesus makes on his disciples, The Great Commission. As it turns out, COVID–19 has managed to cancel the class. While this class may not happen on Sunday morning in April and May, COVID–19 does not eliminate the need or opportunity to have spiritual conversations and live out the Great Commission!

Today I watched a webinar on “Discipleship in a Time of Social Distancing” that talked about while there are many challenges in these times, there are also great opportunities for the church. One of those opportunities is to look at the Acts 2 church as a model for us in these times. While we can only literally break bread with those we live with, we can provide bread and give “to anyone as they had need.” [Acts 2:46.] Before us is an opportunity to do just that as the hands and feet of Christ! In our neighborhood, someone had the great idea to leave flyers in our mailboxes to update the street directory so we could be in touch and care for one another.

To be honest, I don’t know everyone in my neighborhood. God is surely telling me to get acquainted, check in on our elderly neighbor to see if she needs groceries or prescriptions picked up, send notes, text or phone other neighbors or invite a neighbor, friend, family to watch Bonhomme’s online worship, then give them a call to chat about the service. One woman said it was easier to invite her neighbor to watch her church’s online worship this week than invite her to come to church for worship! If you haven’t picked up Don Everts book the Reluctant Witness since last summer, pick it up again and be inspired to have spiritual conversations in a new way!

Dear friends, despite the stress and uncertainty of these times, God is allowing us to slow down, focus on him, our families and grow spiritually. My favorite comment from the webinar was, “Yes, we are challenged by change in our routines. But with challenge, comes opportunity, ... it is time for a new routine, do not be busy in the doing, be busy in the being.” Please join me and get busy in the being!

WORSHIP MINISTRY
By Rev. Lynn Packwood, Minister of Music/Community Care

WORSHIP FROM BONHOMME

During this time of viruses, quarantines, and staying in our homes as much as possible, we will continue to provide worship—not AT Bonhomme, but FROM Bonhomme!

An internet connection is necessary to participate. Beyond that, and all you need to do is go to the Bonhomme website, bonpres.org, and scroll down to the large worship section. There you will see a Facebook Live link. Clicking on this link will take you directly to the Facebook Live page, where you will be able to find the service you’re looking for.

Each service can be found there at the time it airs, and afterward among the videos. [Don’t look for it BEFORE it airs.] You can then watch, and even participate if you wish. Words of the hymns and songs will show on the screen so you can sing along.

Also, there is a link on the Bonhomme homepage [right beside the Facebook Live link] to see the order of worship—so traditional worshipers can even participate in the full liturgy.

It will not be the same as all of us being together in the same room. But it is a far cry from being all on your own, wanting to worship our Mighty God, without any help. And if you can imagine yourself in your chosen worship space, and participate as much as you can, it will almost seem like being there!

WE ARE HERE, and invite you to join us for these online, live services until we have the all-clear to resume in-person, live services AT Bonhomme!
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY
By Thomas Hernandez, Director of Children’s Ministry

NEW SEASON: CLEAN HEART

I recently had the privilege of offering the message to our wonderful youth group on a Wednesday evening. When their leader first asked me, I took some time to pray about what to teach them. I wasn’t a believer when I was their age, so I didn’t know what it was like to be a teen in a world with God. My struggles with sin were still struggles; only my concern was getting caught and not staying away from sin.

I finally settled with a well-worn story about a famous bullfighter from Spain, who in early 1900 was like a rock star. Before the fight was over, at the time a bullfighter would deliver the final blow, the bull had a surprise for the hero. As Jose lay there, mortally injured, the crowd stood stunned. The impossible happened before their very eyes.

I talked to them about our, sometimes—fatal decision to play with sin instead of cutting it completely out of our lives. I told them that the sin we keep alive in our lives might seem as innocent as a cute kitten, but in the end, it can be as dangerous as a bull. Often what happens is we think we have gained power over sin and therefore consider it conquered when it is waiting and growing. The Bible tells us that this is waiting by our door and we must master it.

Of course, the kids had no idea what a matador was, and the thought that a person would get into a ring to fight a bull was appalling. But the story gripped them, and I believe God showed them how he feels about the sin we keep alive in our lives, despite my poor attempt.

The spring we have been waiting for is almost upon us. Let us enter this new season with a clean heart by cutting the sin from the shelter we have made room for in our lives.

BONHOMME PRESCHOOL & KIDS DAY OUT [KDO]

ANNUAL TRIKE—A—THON

Bonhomme Preschool held its 14th annual Trike—a–Thon to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital on February 25, 2020. We believe there is no better way to celebrate 50 years than to give back to those in need! Steffen Hall was transformed into a “Trike Town” complete with gas stations, a bank, a grocery store, brightly colored houses, and a car wash! The children collected pledges from family members and friends, then rode trikes to fun tunes during their Physical Education class time. They were encouraged to use their healthy bodies to help children who are sick and unable to ride. We ended the day with a rally where each class shared their class cheer.

Bonhomme Preschool has raised more than $65,000 over the years to benefit St. Jude. As of March 10, we have raised $5,135! This is incredible for a school our size but our families are abundantly generous! Our families love supporting St. Jude because we can put ourselves in the place of a parent who finds their child has a life-threatening illness. No family has ever been turned away from St. Jude because of inability to pay.

We love and appreciate our Bonhomme families and their generous hearts!
You know those sunrises that you look at and are just awestruck by? It's God. And those moments that are super hard, that's God too. He wants to help you grow in both good and bad moments.

Dear Younger Generation:
This past summer I went to the best place ever: Great Escape. We learned how powerful God is. The camp was on a lake, so one morning a few friends and I woke up early to watch the sunrise. We sat on the dock while we watched God paint a beautiful picture.

Dear Younger Generation:
You know those sunrises that you look at and are just awestruck by? It's God. And those moments that are super hard, that's God too. He wants to help you grow in both good and bad moments.

20,694 Reasons To Say Thank You
The 2020 Music Trivia Bingo event ended on a high note. Thanks to your generous support, we raised $20,694. The historic night was led by Student Ministry Deacon extraordinaire, Melody Leeker. At the event, I presented a brief keynote. That keynote is provided below and edited for the Pioneer Press format. Please keep in mind that the view of the author that I quote, is NOT indicative of his entire generation.

Cam's Keynote
I recently read an article written by a baby boomer directed towards younger generations. It's a hateful article, in my opinion, one marred by self-righteousness. I'd like to share a portion of that article to you:

“I'm mad as hell at the younger generations. If you're part of this group, I want to tell you why you've screwed up a perfectly great world, and just what you need to do next. You spend your days staring into screens. By contrast, we make eye contact and therefore have empathy and real connection with other human beings. You have hooked up. We have relationships. You swipe right. We live right. We win awards for accomplishments. You expect participation ribbons just for showing up. You have Facebook friends. We have real friends. We have tolerance. You have to cancel culture.”

He goes on to say: “We earned everything we have, from our careers to our marriages to our houses to our 401[k]s. And if you can get over your own youthful arrogance and ask us, we might just tell you how we did it.” I genuinely wonder what God thinks about this article. After all, Psalm 145:4 says: “One generation shall commend [God's] works to another, and shall declare [his] mighty acts.”

These are the words that our generation of students have chosen to write to the generation under them. They sound a whole lot better to me than the other words I've read tonight. Two weeks ago today, we took sixteen high schoolers to a weekend retreat called Winter Extreme. As we went, our leaders were praying that God would use the weekend to spark a revival in our students' hearts. On the Saturday night of the retreat, we gathered for small-group time. In the midst of that moment, our students hit their knees to intercede for their unreached friends. It was a powerful moment—one marked by tearful and passionate prayers.

That moment in itself was powerful enough, but it also created a new moment. The Sunday after our retreat, several of our students led worship in Children’s Ministry here at the church. Thomas Hernandez, our Children’s Director, asked one of the students to lead the children in prayer. A freshman in high school volunteered. She was at Winter Extreme with us. “I’ll do it,” she said. Then she said something that sounds a lot like revival to me: “But before we pray,” she said, “let’s all get on our knees together.”

A freshman in high school leading children to pray on their knees. That's revival. That's what you're supporting tonight. When Jesus gave his Great Commission in Matthew 28, he said: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” We tend to forget that he was commissioning a group of young people not likely much older than the students in this room. To that end, we're launching a movement out of Bonhomme Student Ministry called Students for St. Louis or S4STL. Have you noticed how God loves concentric circles?
STUDENT MINISTRY [cont’d]

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, he said this to his disciples in Acts 1: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Moves of God work a lot like an earthquake, with his church and his people at the epicenter, moving outward to reach the people around them. What would it look like for our students to be the epicenter of a move of God?

There are three concentric circles in the S4STL movement. The first is that our current Bonhomme students would grow for God’s glory. God’s glory is one of the core values of our student ministry. That’s why we do Wednesday nights. That’s why we’re doing Alpha. And it’s why we do retreats and trips. One of our goals is to give every Bonhomme student going on our summer trips, an automatic 17 percent discount. That’s a lot of money when we’re talking about trips that cost about $630 per person.

We also hope to provide students with one or more siblings in our ministry another 15–20 percent discount on summer trips—that’s in addition to the automatic 17 percent. We could have Bonhomme students who receive upwards of 37 percent off of a $630 summer trip. We also desire that 10 percent of the money raised tonight will help scholarship our students for smaller weekend trips throughout the year. The S4STL movement has to start at home. It means taking care of our own and doing whatever we can to minimize trip costs for them.

The second concentric circle is reaching friends for God’s glory. You already know that our students have been on their knees praying for their unreached friends. One major goal of tonight is that we would be able to give a 25 percent summer trip discount for up to eight unreached friends. It’s up to our students to keep praying and eventually invite them. It’s up to you to provide the finances.

Finally, the third concentric circle is blessing our city for God’s glory. This is one of the most exciting parts of the S4STL movement. We’ve set up FOUR local service projects to bless our city this summer. Our goal is that 14 percent of tonight’s money will help with things like transportation, food, and supplies for our summer projects.

To summarize, this is what you’re supporting tonight:

1. Major trip scholarships for ALL Bonhomme students
2. Trip scholarships for unreached friends
3. Summer partnerships with local outreach organizations.

Growing for God’s Glory. Reaching for God’s Glory. Blessing for God’s Glory. The man who wrote the article is wrong. This generation is amazing because our God is amazing. My ask tonight is not simply that you’ll partner, support, or donate to the younger generation. My ask is that you would help light the match that will spark a revival in our church, our city, our country, and our world. Thank you very much.

[1] foxnews.com/opinion/ok-boomer-younger-generations-michael-levin

Dear Younger Generation:
A couple of summers ago I got to go camping. Not only did we get to play games and hang out all week, but I got to experience worship like never before. It was so beautiful to watch everyone praising God and not caring what anyone thought of them. God was really working on my heart.

Dear Younger Generation:
I hope you have an opportunity to go on Great Escape. Not only is it fun, but it will show you God, like you’ve never seen him before. It’s the most encouraging, real experience that I’ve ever had.
MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: FREEDOM SCHOOL

By Janice Wilson, Bonhomme Member

It’s a Friday morning, and I was tempted to sip my coffee and linger over a good book. But, that will have to wait for another day. Today I am off to be a Friday Reader! These mornings I am privileged to spend two hours with children ages pre-k through second grade. I read to them, they read to me, we talk, we laugh, we share love and hugs. And it all happens at a magical place called The Freedom School.

The Freedom School provides a safe, nurturing learning community where children of different beliefs, races, ethnicities, and economic circumstances are reconciled to God and to one another by experiencing forgiveness by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. They are equipped by the knowledgeable and caring staff to reach their unique potential as restored image-bearers and servant leaders of God who steward his children and proclaim him the kingdom of righteousness through practical deeds of justice and mercy to those in their school, their community, and the world.

The Freedom School ministers to the whole child: mind, body, and spirit. Children are served three meals a day. The school makes use of the resources of many friends to help with food, clothing, transportation and even housing to help stabilize families. All of the teachers are well trained and practiced in meeting the needs of children living with trauma.

The children learn that Jesus loves them enough that he died to save them. They learn God loves them enough to always pursue them. They learn that the Holy Spirit abides with them forever. Fifth graders help lead daily morning chapel services. Fourth graders lead everyone to be good stewards through recycling. All grades learn the value of what they eat by planting and harvesting a garden.

All of this rests upon a solid foundation of God’s word, and real, genuine community that doesn’t look away when life becomes difficult but dares to enter in.

So come join us and experience the magic that is The Freedom School.

MISSION MINISTRY

ISAIAH 58 MINISTRIES BAG OF BLESSINGS | APRIL MENU

Please remember to help those in need by donating to the Isaiah 58 Food Pantry. Beef stew, canned greens, coffee, deodorant, bar soap, all-purpose cleaners.

All fruit and vegetable contributions are to be canned and, if possible, low sodium and/or in their own juices.

With the closing of the Bonhomme campus, we want to continue to provide items to the Isaiah 58 Food Pantry at a time when food is really needed. You can still drop off your donations!

Please bring the item(s) to the Bonhomme Kilby Commons entrance during office hours [Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm] Push the red button to let Debbie Adams know that you have arrived and then leave the food in the plastic receptacle that is marked Isaiah 58 Food Pantry.

Thank you for continuing to support our mission partner.
CHURCH NOTES

EMAIL SCAM FROM THE PASTORS

Please know that Bonhomme pastors and staff members will never ask for your help or money to purchase gift cards via email or text. If you receive any correspondence regarding this, please delete.

ALPHA PRAYER COURSE

Although we can't meet in person, you can still access session, tools, and lessons online for the Alpha Prayer Course. Please visit prayercourse.org for details on how you can continue our journey.

A SNIPPET FROM SESSION

As my husband Kim and I are nesting, social distancing, loving on our 18–month old–labradoodle, we, as many of you are reading our Bibles, doing devotions, and praying. This morning, God lead us to Jesus Calling, by Sarah Young.

“The Light of My Presence is shining upon you, in benedictions of Peace. Let my Light shine in you; don’t dim it with worries or fears.” And then, right in the middle of the second paragraph, comes “Pause...give my Spirit space to act through you.” So now we pause. Isn’t that what we are learning in our sermons and in the Prayer Course right now?

P–R–A–Y. The first of these is P for Pause. I do not believe in coincidences. I believe that God has us focused on prayer for “such a time as this”. I believe that Pastor Phil was brought to Bonhomme at this moment to guide us into a posture of prayer. So today, I Pause...in the Presence of my Savior to let his light shine in the darkness.

Jeanne Luther, Elder

SESSION COMMUNICATIONS

If you'd like to communicate directly with the Bonhomme Session, please contact Steve Lucas, Clerk of Session, at clerkofsession@bonpres.org.
WAYS TO SERVE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each spring we look forward to the fresh, uplifting experience nature provides in flowers, spring-blooming trees, and even in evergreens shedding the dull coloration brought on by the taxing winter weather. Along with this awakening, comes the invitation from our Bonhomme planted areas to keep them clean and inviting. If you would like to care for an area by yourself, or with someone, regularly or fill in for someone on vacation, please call us.

Would you like to walk around the RecPlex upper and lower trees and shrubs looking for those that may have a problem, such as broken branches, insects, leaves with holes, discolored leaves, missing or discolored bark areas, oozing in bark areas, missing trunk guards, possible fresh animal damage, or anything appearing a bit strange and report that tree or shrub to us? You don’t need to be an expert! We will follow up. Our ability to catch these things early with proper treatment or correction can improve the longevity of the tree or shrub, even if it is only a break in a small branch.

Or would you be interested in getting a little exercise by walking among the upper and lower RecPlex trees just to pick up fallen branches and deposit them in our trash area? We have no one to do that and it is a big need! Perhaps, you would simply like to talk to us about where your gardening strengths can best be utilized. We are ready to listen. You can contact John Green, 314.808.5101 or Joan Kilby, 314.469.3164.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY AND FLORAL VISITOR MINISTRY

The question is often asked, “Just how does the Altar Flower and Floral Visitor Ministry work?” With that in mind, here is a brief explanation. Bonhomme members Lillian Holden, Leslie Hood, Helen Hume, Rita Peterson, Susan Stafford, Prill Wiese, and Mary Bruning currently serve on the Altar Flower Ministry. They each sign up to arrange the altar flowers on six or seven Sundays of their choice throughout the year.

Bonhomme members are invited to make a donation for the altar flowers on a Sunday of their choice in honor of or in memory of a loved one. There is a sign-up calendar for altar flowers in Kilby Commons every Sunday and you can sign up to contribute for the flowers on a Sunday that has special meaning to you. The suggested donation amount is $75 and your personal message will appear in the worship bulletin on that Sunday. The floral arranger for the Sunday you sign up for will contact you and ask if you have a flower or color preference. The arranger will purchase the flowers, arrange them at her convenience on Friday or Saturday and place them in the Sanctuary for the Sunday service. The arranger can purchase the flowers wherever she chooses and is reimbursed by the church for the cost of the flowers.

After the worship service, the flowers are used by the Floral Visitor Ministry to create smaller bouquets to deliver, along with a personal note, to members of our Bonhomme family in need of a lift, perhaps because they are homebound, healing or in need of love and encouragement. Judith Poe and Marge Carlson are on the Floral Visitor Ministry. Your donation for the altar flowers truly is the gift that keeps on giving!

Note: with the church closed for several weeks, altar flowers will resume mid–May.
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SERMON SCHEDULE

APRIL 5: Palm Sunday: The Tale of Two Entries
Rev. Phil Hargrove [Traditional and Contemporary]

APRIL 12: Easter Sunday: Death is Swallowed Up in Victory
Rev. Phil Hargrove [Traditional and Contemporary]

SERMON SERIES: OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES: HE GAVE US STORIES
April 19: The Holiness and Exuberance of Worshipping God
Rev. Phil Hargrove [Traditional and Contemporary]

APRIL 26: The Peripety of Life: God’s Presence When He Seems Absent
Rev. Phil Hargrove [Traditional and Contemporary]