

The Little Things

Well, according to the calendar, I've been pastor of Bellewood for five years. I know, your first thought is, 'Boy, he looks younger than when he got here.' But times like these also make us think of other things. I look back and wonder, 'What have we done together over the past five years?' (You may ask, 'What has he done for the past five years?') Now, we aren't running 1000 people on Sunday morning, we haven't built a 1500 seat sanctuary with a bookstore in the back, and we don't have a fleet of comfy busses for church field trips. Would it be nice to see some things like that? Sure. But because we don't, does it mean that God's not doing something great here at Bellewood. I would say, "No way!"

I look around Bellewood and I see so many new and different and amazing things. I would list them all, but I want you to go through in your own heart and mind and see what you can find. Are they big, huge things? Probably not. Are they small things? Most likely. Are they important things? Definitely!!! See, it's easy to look around sometimes and wish that huge, miraculous things were happening every day; hundreds of people joining the church each week; hundreds were giving their lives to Jesus each week. Those are great things - but those are not the only ways God works. Sometimes, God works through the small things. Back in the book of Zechariah (yes, it's in the Bible) there is a great verse that is easy to overlook. In a vision about lampstands and olive trees (maybe why it's easy to overlook) God is encouraging His people regarding the rebuilding of the temple. It has been a while since they had a temple and they were desperate to have a new one, but progress was sloooooooooooooow and there were only a few of them making it happen. It probably seemed like there would never be a completed temple. But in the midst of this God says to them, "*Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.*" What God was saying was that someday, what was begun will be finished. It may not look like a temple now. It may not have the glory of a temple, or gather people like a temple, or shine in the sun like a temple plated in gold. But someday, what God has started He will finish. And what God requires along the way are those who are faithful to God not just when things are exciting and everyone is on board, but when life seems like it's only filled with the small things. As we can remember, God has a way with using the 'small things'; like a baby born in a stable or a group of twelve guys who rarely got it right. See, we can't despise the small things because those belong to God too, and, with God, we know something great is going to happen. That's true in the life of Bellewood and in your life too. Let's rejoice in all God is doing, both big and small, glad that all of it is the work of His hand and the gift of His grace. -Matt

Who despises the day of small things? - Zechariah 4:10

October Highlights

-  International Day of Older Persons
Friday, October 1
-  Pastor Appreciation Dinner
Sunday, October 3 @ 5pm
-  Quarterly Business Meeting
Wednesday, October 13 @ 6pm
-  Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work Day
Thursday, October 14
-  Syracuse Women's Conference
Friday-Saturday, October 15-16
-  Youth Christian Concert
Saturday, October 16 - time and place to be determined
-  Halloween
Sunday, October 31

Syracuse Women's Conference 'Rescued'

Friday October 15th

Opening Celebration

7 pm to 9 pm

Saturday October 16th

Coffee at 9 am

10 am to 5 pm

(box lunch provided)

If you would like information on attending the conference or volunteering during the conference, please contact Fran Mineo at fmmineo@gmail.com.

Youth Concert

A concert featuring hip-hop artist Andy 'C-Lite' Mineo and the worship group, SoulCry, will be performing a FREE youth concert on **Saturday, October 16th**. The concert will be sponsored by Northside Baptist Church. Our Youth Group will be attending, so contact us at 458-5824 if you want to go. The location and time of the concert are pending, so stay tuned for more information.

BIRTHDAYS

Say **Happy Birthday** to:

Lynn Beverage – October 9

Donna Weaver – October 16

Sarah Beth Sallis – October 17

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulate:

Nancye & Glenn Igleheart – October 3

Linda & Ed Curtis – October 25

Christmas Musical

Yes, it's early to talk about Christmas, but practice for our Christmas Musical begins soon. If you want to sing, we'd love for you to be a part of this year's Christmas worship. Our first meeting will be on **October 17th** after worship.

Our Church Council

The Church Council is made up of individuals who hold a church office or are the chair of a church committee. They meet regularly to evaluate how we are doing, set a course for the future, and most of all to seek God's will and direction together. God doesn't speak to just one of us so we join together to make sure that Bellewood is the church that God is calling us to be. It's also a great place to share new ideas, so be sure to get your idea to a member of the council so we can share it at the next meeting. The council is:

Matt Hallenbeck – *Pastor*

Lynn Beverage – *Deacons*

Bob Taylor – *Treasurer*

Paul Dodd – *Moderator*

Steve Sallis – *SS Director/
Building and Grounds*

Judy Sonich – *Missions*

Paul Dudzick – *Personnel*

Linda Sallis – *Fellowship*

Glenn Igleheart – *Stewardship*

Sarah & Lance Bradstreet –
Music Leaders/Youth Ministry

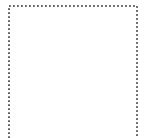
Did You Know?

Did you know that a small group meets each Thursday evening at the church? The **Project Linus Small Group** is a service small group at Bellewood. They sew beautiful quilts that are provided to children who are in crisis. The quilts give them at least one small bit of comfort that they can hold on to and call their own. Through using their God given abilities, the members of this group are able to give comfort to some of the weakest and most fragile of our little brothers and sisters. If you like to quilt or want to learn, you are welcome to join them on **Thursdays at 6pm.**

How has God blessed you? In what way can you bring the light of Christ into the lives of others? It may not be quilting, but there is something God has prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). Consider using your gifts and talents to serve others through Bellewood?



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