

Bahia Vista Mennonite Church
Overseers Update to the Congregation
May 26, 2013

1. The Overseers met on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.
2. Pastoral Report: Pastor Roger Shenk

A key hope in our mission and vision is to fill Bahia Vista with young families again. So, I have been evaluating how we can make it easy for new, young families to make Bahia Vista their home church for as long as they live in Sarasota. I want to make sure they feel as included, inspired and involved as our longtime established families do.

As I have talked with the young families about this, there is a common thread that, 1) people are too busy and tired to do things that do not add peace and joy to their lives, but 2) they do want to do things that do add peace and joy to their lives. Most of them want to belong to a church where the worship moves them, where they have friends they enjoy, where they have opportunity to help people in meaningful ways, and where participating in those things doesn't add to their stress and exhaustion. They are excited about belonging to such a church, and want to help Bahia Vista be that for them.

For young parents, this comes down to what we offer their children. When we love the children, we love the parents. The parents want their kids to be excited about coming to church, and to learn things about Jesus and the Bible in a safe and structured way. The mothers of young babies, especially, are tired and would love help on Sunday mornings so they can worship freely and be reenergized for the coming week. These young adults are also looking for older adults to mentor them, to answer their questions and to assure them that they are not alone.

Consequently, I am pouring much of my energy and enthusiasm into this young families group. What a gift that they want to be poured into! So please pray for me and the other pastoral staff to have wisdom in planning and evaluating our programming so that it connects with young adults and young families. It is a good work, and is vital to the health and future of Bahia Vista.
Thank you!

COMMUNITY

- The Sidewalk Prophets and Jason Castro concert—the first in what I hope to be a series of contemporary concerts—had all its expenses covered through ticket sales, with over four hundred tickets purchased in advance.
- Roger and Wendy are giving leadership to a Community Group for Career and Young Marrieds that meets on Wednesday nights. This allows children to participate in Kids Club classes.
- The Men of Purpose men's ministry team held a cook out on May 17th with over fifty men registered, ranging from young teens to nonagenarians.

WORSHIP

- Our worship services have mostly returned to their pre-winter numbers, with 60% of our people attending the Family Service and 40% attending Traditions. It is hard to see Traditions with so few people in it, and some are asking for a return to one service during the summer months. But I don't think we should attempt it this year unless there would be a groundswell desire to see it happen.
- We continue to hear that Traditions is too early for some, and are patiently looking for a better solution that takes everything into consideration.

SERVICE

- We are hosting Family Promise during the week of June 16-23. This will be the most people we have hosted, with one family of four and another of seven.

CHILDREN

- We are building a team of volunteers to support more age-appropriate programming on Sundays and Wednesday nights.
- There is a mandatory “Child Protection Training” meeting for children’s ministry workers. It will be held twice: May 19th and 26th.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for July 22nd-26th.

YOUTH

- The youth are again meeting in the modules at the back of the property where they hope to develop a tighter sense of community, and which allows them to share the Fellowship Hall with the Children’s Ministry on Wednesday nights. They are also setting up a meeting area in the modules where youth can hang out and play games at regular times, a few days a week.
- They had a pool party at Marlin and Nori Yoder’s house on May 15th.
- They will be attending the Consecrate Conference on June 13-15.

ADMINISTRATION

- Last week Lisa Britt accepted the second of two part-time Administrative Assistant positions in our front office. Wendy Shenk is in Monday through Wednesday, and Lisa is in Thursday and Friday.
 - Gene continues to meet with the newly formed Finance Committee to manage the resources entrusted to us.
 - Office space continues to be a problem for us. We are trying to be creative and are considering what rooms can be repurposed, and at what inconvenience to other activities.
3. Mike Christner, Co-chair of the Master Planning Committee shared an update. The committee asked Pastor Roger to revisit the BVMC vision statement and present it to the Overseers before proceeding with continued work on the master plan. The committee will meet again in September, 2013.
 4. The vision statement for BVMC presented by Pastor Roger was approved as a desirable future for the church.
 5. The Sunday morning offerings and the Generosity Offering are both under budget. Staff is trying to reduce and control expenditures accordingly.
 6. The current appointed BVMC representatives to various Mennonite organizations were reviewed.

Nancy I. Yoder, Chair
Nancy B. Yoder, Secretary