

# The Bethany Times

April—June 2009 • Volume 7, Issue 2

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8: For everything there is a fixed time, and a time for every business under the sun. A time for birth and a time for death...A time for weeping and a time for laughing...A time for sorrow and a time for dancing...A time for search and a time for loss...A time to keep and a time to give away... A time for keeping quiet and a time for talk...A time for love and a time for hate...A time for war and a time for peace.

## Welcome Home!

Lexi Deciluia	02/08/2009
Addison Guishu	03/04/2009
Jonah Thomas	03/05/2009
Carter John	03/06/2009
Willow Viviana	03/13/2009
Franklin	03/20/2009
Vinah	03/20/2009



### For Your Information!

This will be the LAST of the mailed newsletters. Volume 7, Issue 3 will be the first of our newsletters being sent via email.

If you would like to receive our e-newsletter, please make sure we have your current e-mail address.

Also available online at [www.bethany.org/plymouth](http://www.bethany.org/plymouth).

Please contact the editors if you have questions or concerns.

## From the Director...by Cindy Kruger

Dear Bethany Friends and Families,

What a week! The staff at Bethany is so looking forward to spring, even with the snow that's falling right now! Yet the return of chirping birds and geese flying overhead remind us that spring really is approaching, and the next season of life will soon be upon us.

2009 brings a new season of life to BCS of MN. There are new staff (whom you will be introduced to in this newsletter), new families and children to serve, new fund raising and family events, new challenges, and new blessings. We also have new officers on the BCS board of directors. They include Greg Chaffin, president; Scott Brill, vice-president and treasurer, and Mike Perry, secretary. Serving with them are Jay Anderson, Steve Ling, and Kristen Hochmuth. They are here to serve Bethany, which means they also serve you. If you would like to talk with a member of the board feel free to contact me and I will be happy to facilitate the connection.

Have you ever considered serving on the board at Bethany? We desire to find additional individuals who are passionate about serving more children while adhering to the Bethany mission. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you should you feel God leading you to serve in this capacity. Perhaps this is your season!!

Blessings,

Cindy Kruger

### Holidays!

- Palm Sunday—April 5th
- Good Friday—April 10th (BCS will be closed)
- Easter—April 12th
- Mother's Day—May 10th
- Memorial Day—May 25th (BCS will be closed)
- Father's Day—June 21st
- First day of Summer—June 21st



### Save the date!

This year, instead of our annual family picnic, we're going to a Minnesota Twins game! Bethany Christian Services of Minnesota is working with the Minnesota Twins on a "Celebrate Adoptive Families Day" on Sunday, July 12, 2009. The game starts at 1:10 pm. It is our hope that families from all across MN would join us for this special day at the Dome and we are working with other agencies to get the word out. We hope you'll join us, whether you adopted long ago or more recently, are in the pre-adoptive stage or are an adoptee. We'd love to have extended family and friends too! What a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families, as well as get the word out about adoption and the many waiting children right here in Minnesota and around the world. For more information, and to purchase tickets, please go to our website: [www.bethany.org/plymouth](http://www.bethany.org/plymouth) and print out the order form. Tickets are \$12 each (a \$22 value)—we have worked with the Twins' ticket staff to help make this affordable for families!



Also, we are planning a pre-game picnic for all Bethany families. More details will be forthcoming and we hope you'll join us for this fun event as well! If you can only make it for the picnic, that works too—we just hope to see you that day!

# Upcoming Trainings and Events

Please view the attached flier or visit our website to see details on upcoming trainings! [www.bethany.org/plymouth](http://www.bethany.org/plymouth) (Remember to RSVP in advance as space is limited.)

- **April 30th through May 3rd**—Festival of Nations; Celebrating cultural diversity with food, music, and dance. Located at the St. Paul RiverCenter, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Downtown St. Paul, MN. 90 different ethnic groups will share their foods, crafts, and traditions!
- **May 16th**—Adopt Walk, Sponsored by NACAC (North American Council for Adoptable Children). Join “Team Bethany” as we walk to heighten awareness for the need of permanent families for children. Bethany will receive 25% of the funds raised by our team! Please join us at Lake Nokomis, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis. Call Bethany at 763-533-0344 for more information!
- **July 12**—Twins Game/Bethany’s Annual Picnic!

Check our [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org) for more information on:

- April 7th—Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Young Children (Winona)
- April 20th—Understanding the Special Education Process (Alexandria)
- April 21st—Understanding the Individualized Education Program (IEP) (Rochester)
- April 18th—If You Were Mine conference (Burnsville)

## 11th Annual Bethany Christian Services Volleyball Tournament!

On January 31, 2009, Bethany Christian Services held its 11th Annual volleyball tournament in Prinsburg, MN. We were blessed to have 9 teams participate this year in the double-elimination tournament that raised funds for Bethany Christian Service’s work in West Central Minnesota. First place was awarded to Team Rambow, and second place was Central Lakes Co-Op. Everyone had a wonderful time, and we look forward to doing it again next year! Many thanks to the local businesses that contributed! Check out pictures at [www.bethany.org/plymouth!](http://www.bethany.org/plymouth!)

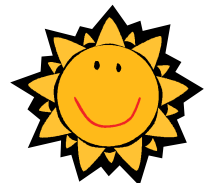
## The Daily Grind

Bethany Christian Services has made two new additions to the staff this quarter! We are excited to welcome our new **MN Waiting Adoption Social Worker, Allie Koble**, as well as our new **Domestic and State Intake Coordinator, Stacy Sielaff**. In addition to these changes, we will be saying goodbye (but not forever!) to our **Intercountry Adoptions Supervisor, Sara Smit**, as she and her husband welcome a new baby to their family! Sara will be home with her new bundle of joy for a few weeks before she returns to staff on a part-time basis. A huge thank you to Sara for all of her hard work, and we cannot wait to meet this special blessing!

Here are a few words from our **new staff!**

Hi! My name is Allie Koble. I am the new Adoption Social Worker for the MN Waiting program. I have been here a little over two months and am feeling more and more at home here at Bethany. I’m thankful to be given the opportunity to form relationships with my coworkers and adoptive families. I graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2008 with a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work and a minor in Corrections. Previously I worked for Scott County Human Services as a Child Protection Intern, then was hired on to be the Children’s Services Case Aide. That was a challenging position, but it shaped my desire to work in adoption. I consider Maple Grove, MN my hometown, but my family has lived in several suburb cities during my childhood. Currently I live in Eden Prairie, but plan to move to Plymouth at the end of April. I am striving to live in every suburb of Minneapolis. I have three children (some may say they are not my children, but I would argue that). I have one fat black cat, Kenzie, a very old Sheltie, Meeko, and a spoiled rotten Pomeranian, Bear. On my free time you will typically find me outdoors with my dogs and friends. I am truly blessed to be a part of the Bethany team and appreciate all of the support I have received here at the Minnesota office.

Hello! My name is Stacy Sielaff, and I just joined Bethany Christian Services in January as the Intake and Support Coordinator for the Domestic and MN Waiting programs. I have loved working at Bethany so far and enjoy meeting the wonderful families that we serve. Before joining the staff at Bethany, I completed a year of AmeriCorps service with a children’s literacy program in Minnesota, and discovered that I love working with youth and families. I graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology and a minor in Spanish from the University of Minnesota. I currently live in Minneapolis with my cat, Molly, but grew up near Milwaukee and frequently visit family there. In addition to loving road trips to Wisconsin, I enjoy traveling of any kind, backpacking, reading, and learning how to knit better. I appreciate the chance to introduce myself, and I look forward to meeting more of you at the picnic this summer!



### Prayer Corner

Please pray for comfort and discernment of our new employees and Sara as they transition into new roles.

Contact the Editors: Jade Lichtsinn at [jlichtsinn@bethany.org](mailto:jlichtsinn@bethany.org) • Stacy Sielaff at [ssielaff@bethany.org](mailto:ssielaff@bethany.org)

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**Called to Care. Committed to Children.**



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. – *John 3:16 (KJV)*



### Happy Easter!

- When it comes to eating chocolate bunnies, as many as 76% of people prefer to eat the ears first.
- In the catalogue of kids' favorite Easter food, red jellybeans occupy the top position.
- The world's largest jar of jellybeans weighed 6,050 pounds.
- Americans consume 16 billion jellybeans at Easter, many of them hidden in baskets. If all the Easter jellybeans were lined end to end, they would circle the globe nearly three times!

### Happy Mother's Day!

- In the United States, there are an estimated 82.5 million mothers.
- 5.6 million mothers are stay-at-home moms.
- Mother's Day is widely reported as the peak of the year for long distant phone calls.



### Happy Father's Day!

- In the United States, there are an estimated 64.3 million fathers.
- 159,000 fathers are stay-at-home dads.
- American's buy 100 million neckties for their fathers each year. (That's one tie for every male over 20 in the United States!)



Facts from [www.indobase.com/holidays](http://www.indobase.com/holidays)