



Leading people to
Experience God's love
Know Jesus Christ
Grow in His image

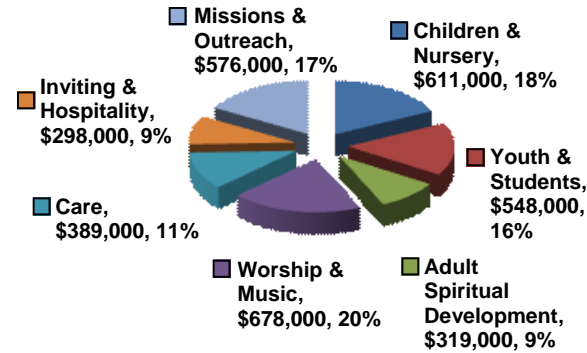


Start Here Start Now

At Bethany United Methodist Church, our purpose is to lead people to **experience God's love, know Jesus Christ, and grow in His image. To that end, we become His disciples.** As a community of Christ, we seek to express the love and grace of God through the work of our ministries.

This newsletter describes how we in the Bethany community work to fulfill this purpose. It illustrates the work of the church through seven ministry groups: **Inviting and Hospitality, Adult Spiritual Development,**

Where Our Money Goes



Operating Budget = \$2,802,000 + Designated Funds = \$617,000
Total Funds Spent in 2010 = \$3,419,000

Worship and Music, Children and Nursery, Youth and Students, Congregational Care, and Missions and Outreach.

Your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, support Bethany, enabling us to serve you and others in our Northwest Austin community and beyond to the region, the nation, and the world. We hope this brochure will inform and encourage you to consider prayerfully your part in supporting Bethany's vital ministries.

Inviting and Hospitality: \$298,000 9%

Inviting Ministries includes Membership, Food Service, Hospitality, and Evangelism, as well as efforts to make our church more inviting and welcoming.



Alpha Course

The **Alpha Course**, the first step on our Waypoints Discipleship Pathway at Bethany, is a 12-week course is for anyone who wants to get beyond religion and find a deeper relationship with God that is life changing. Alpha is our main evangelistic tool and reaches those within

Bethany as well as our community. **Breakfast with Santa** is a fundraiser for Alpha and is also a fun community outreach.

The Connection Point, in the lobby outside the Sanctuary, is staffed by volunteers trained to answer questions and help you get connected and involved at Bethany.



Connection Point

Greeting people on Sunday mornings, delivering **cookies to**

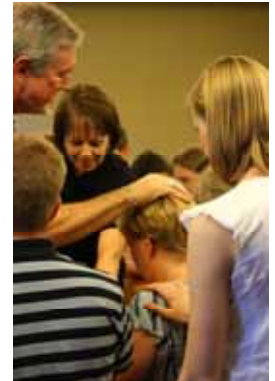
first-time visitors, offering an **Inquiry Class** for newcomers, and **Connection Celebration**, our membership process, are ways in which we strive to make visitors and new members feel at home.

The Food Service Ministry supports **Wednesday Night Meals**, served just before **Midweek Evening Worship** to provide a time of fellowship and hospitality.

At the **Bethany Café** on Sunday mornings you'll find breakfast tacos, doughnuts, and **UMCOR's Fair Trade Coffee**.



Breakfast in the Cafe



Connection Celebration

Breakfast in the Café is a fundraiser open to anyone trying to raise money for a Bethany ministry such as mission trips, retreats, or course costs.

Adult Spiritual Development: \$319,000 9%

Jesus calls us to be in study and fellowship with one another. Through a variety of programs, Bethany's **Adult Spiritual Development Ministry** encourages adults from all walks of life to experience God's love, know Jesus Christ, and grow in His image.



United Methodist Women's Circle

Sunday School classes, including both lecture or discussion-based, and the **Connections Ministry** volunteer recruitment activities show us how to experience the love of God. We offer 20 different classes including men's and women's classes, young adult classes, and a parents of teens class during Sunday School

hours with over 300 adults participating. We also have weekday study and fellowship groups for men and women.

Bethany offers a wide array of **In-Depth Bible Study** opportunities from the **Wednesday evening casual study**, to the **Sunday School Bible Study classes**, to the two semester **Disciple classes**, to the single semester **Bible Studies**. Each study encourages us to know Jesus Christ. This past year we offered 7 different weekday Bible study opportunities.



Wednesday Night Bible Study



SpiritWalk Course

The broad subject matter of the **SpiritWalk** program encompasses the study of Spiritual Formation, Bible, Ethics, Comparative Religions, Church History, Theology and Doctrine, and Family Nurture, all in

such a way that everyone is encouraged to grow in His image. Last year we offered 32 different classes ministering to both members and non-members.



Friendship Adult Sunday School Class

Finally, the **Waypoints Discipleship Pathway** is a comprehensive approach for each of us to grow and move ever closer toward Christian maturity. The pathway includes classes, volunteer opportunities, mission projects, books to read, and spiritual retreats.

Worship and Music: \$678,000 20%

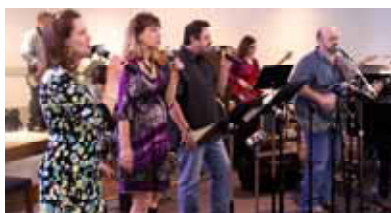
Worship and Music Ministries work together to provide dynamic, inter-generational worship opportunities including two traditional, two contemporary, and a contemplative **Taize** service on Sundays, a casual Saturday evening worship, and a Wednesday night midweek service. Monthly **Wholeness and Healing** services, **Lenten** and other special seasonal events are offered throughout the year, including **REVEAL**, a creative arts worship, sponsored by our **Phoenix Arts Ministry**.



Sunday Morning Worship Service

Weekly services are supported by teams of staff and volunteers (Worship Planning, Worship Support, and Sound/Media) who plan, help lead worship, and work behind the scenes in leading people to experience God's love, know Jesus Christ, and grow in His image.

Music Ministry helps lead worship for all of our services, providing ways to glorify God, and presenting God's Word as a "sermon in song". Nineteen various musical groups include children, youth and adult choirs, vocal ensembles, praise teams, bell and chime



Messengers of Grace at 9:30 Contemporary Service

choirs, instrumental groups, and an intergenerational orchestra. In addition, these musicians share their talents in concerts, cantatas, choir tours and community events. A special highlight is our annual **"Meet the Composer"** weekend. A new ministry for 2011 is the **Bethany Fine Arts Academy**.



The Chancel Choir with Guest Composer Pepper Choplin

Our youth play a vital role, not only in worship at Bethany, but all over the United States, as evidenced by our **PURE SOUND** choir. Comprised of middle and high school youth, this joyous group tours the nation each summer sharing God's love through music.



Worship with PURE SOUND

Children and Nursery: \$611,000 18%

The purpose of **Children and Nursery Ministries** is to provide opportunities for Christian Education for children ages birth through fifth grade through educational programs, missions, and fellowship opportunities that help them grow in their relationship with God and others.



Annual Live Nativity

An annual tradition for many Bethany families is **Live Nativity**, which brings the Christmas story to life for about 1600 Bethany members, friends and neighbors every year. With sheep, goats, and a donkey in their midst, over 350 adults, youth, and children take on the roles of the Holy family, angels, shepherds, and wise men. Others help behind the scenes.

Bethany nursery not only supports other ministries by allowing parents time to participate in worship and other volunteer programs but it also gives children a strong Biblical foundation. During Sunday morning worship care, even the youngest babies participate in **Early Christian Awareness (ECA)**, thanks to the recognized quality care and loving attitude of our trained and background-checked youth and adult staff.



Playing in the Nursery



Sunday School Activities

Our focus in **Children's Sunday School** is to teach from the Bible and nurture in children a lifelong love of God's word. Through Sunday school, we seek to help children learn to be Christ's disciples.

Bethany's popular **Vacation Bible School** gives children from the community, many with no church home, a chance to come to know Jesus in a fun and exciting way. This year, we expanded our VBS program, offering two weeks of VBS for the first time. More children and volunteers participated than ever before! Our children collected over \$1200 in monetary gifts benefiting **Texas Baptist Children's Home, Waco Methodist Children's Home, and VBS Brownsville**. Families have told us they joined Bethany because of what their children learned at **VBS**.



Dancing at VBS

Youth and Students: \$548,000 16%



AIDS Caregiver Kits in Sunday School

The Bethany Student Ministries exists to reach believing and non-believing Youth, and to connect them with each other and with Youth Workers, to help them grow in their faith, and discover and use their gifts, while honoring God with their lives. The overriding purpose of Student Ministries is to help guide "our kids" into an authentic relationship with God that will lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. Throughout the year, we offer

activities, programs, retreats, and mission trips — all opportunities for personal spiritual experience and growth. Weekly study opportunities include Sunday School at 9:30 and 11:00 AM as well as Wednesday night Bible Study classes. The Brotherhood and Sisterhood are discipleship groups of high school Juniors and Seniors. They meet weekly for study and to keep each other accountable.

In the summer of 2011, 238 youth and adults served on mission teams to Palacios (Mission By the Sea), Amarillo (UM ARMY), and Brownsville, TX (VBS-Brownsville) as well as the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee (Mt. TOP) and El Salvador. As these students



Cole Kirby, a Youth Ministries Intern, with a Homeless Man in Brownsville



Child from the Oasis in El Salvador

and adults served on these teams, they experienced the giving and receiving of God's love. This has the power to transform students into dedicated followers of Christ.

Meeting the ever-growing and changing needs of the students in our community is a very important goal in Bethany Student Ministries.

This year, for the first time, we offered "As a Fire is Meant for Burning," a workshop for older students to learn tools to discern Christ's invitation to Christian discipleship as well as hear the stories of Christian Leaders.

On Sunday nights during UMYF we have a time of worship. Our goal is to let students have a place where they can worship God passionately and unashamed, as well as get plugged into our small groups. We have been bursting at the seams this year trying to fit everyone in the Lighthouse to worship. It has been awesome to see so many students bring their friends into this community to worship and be transformed by the power of Christ.



Worship on the Ark

Care: \$389,000 11%



Special Needs Dance

Our 20 **Care Ministries** have touched countless individuals and families at Bethany and in the surrounding community, offering hope and healing for people facing life's challenges.

Many of you may have experienced God's love through ministries such as **Special Needs, House of Friends** (dementia respite care), **Alzheimer's Caregivers Support, Crisis Food Care, ReWyre** (divorce recovery), **Job Seekers, Hospital/Home Visitation and CPR/AED Training.**

One of our sisters-in-Christ writes: *It was a difficult time for all the family – and even more so for my mom, since she lives out of town and did not have her pastor present. Mom asked me to convey to you all how touched she was – and how important your visits and prayers were to her... Thanks to each of you – you make me proud to call Bethany my home church.*



House of Friends

The **Benevolence Assistance** team, through congregational donations, offers financial help to those with economic struggles. The **Servants on Standby (SOS)** lend a hand to Bethany members with immediate needs. In its second year, **Care Connections**, a collaboration of 8 area churches, links people to resources, offering solutions to short- and long-term challenges.



Healing Touch Baskets

We offer a **Healing Touch** to comfort those who lose a loved one to death. This year we launched our new **Grief Care: Life After Loss** class for those seeking support in their grieving process.

For difficult transitions in life, **Stephen Ministry** continues to offer one-to-one care giving. Through confidential listening, our Stephen Ministers provide God's unconditional love. Our partnerships with other churches have deepened and expanded the joy and blessings within this ministry.

The **Shepherding Ministry** keeps in touch with all our members through calls and cards, helping us to stay connected as part of God's family.

Older Adult Ministries nurture a vibrant fellowship, providing a variety of **Primitimers'** trips and activities, Bible studies and worship services, and an annual spiritual retreat.

Care Ministries offer volunteers the opportunity to participate with God in offering hope and new life to all our brothers and sisters.



Primitimers' Trip to Palo Duro Canyon

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:13)

Missions and Outreach: \$576,000 17%

Through Bethany's Mission outreach thousands of lives are touched with the love of Christ locally, regionally, nationally, and around the world. Jesus taught us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need, and our purpose statement reminds us to "lead people to experience God's love, know Jesus Christ, and grow in His image."



P.E.T. Austin in Action

Bethany members reached out last year with an estimated **60,000** volunteer hours for **local** organizations like **Hill Country Community Ministries, Hands on Housing, Bags of Grace, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Faith in Action**

Caregivers, Blood Drive, Mentoring, P.E.T., Foster/Adopt group, Habitat for Humanity, 30 Hour Famine, Hill Country Christmas Bureau, Samaritan Health Ministries, Micah 6 Ministries, Kairos, and ATOP.

Regionally and nationally we sent youth mission teams and their adult sponsors to **Mountain T.O.P. in TN, Brownsville, Amarillo, and Palacios TX**, with our adults providing guidance and role modeling for Christ's hands-on love.

Our financial support has gone to the **Methodist**



Bags of Grace

Children's Home in Waco, the Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, and the Samaritan Health Ministries in Austin, among others.



Step Into Africa

Our **international** support for missions includes the **Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya, Step Into Africa, Missionaries Roy and Janet May in Costa Rica, Clinica Betania in Reynosa, Mexico, Children of Africa, Libraries of Love in Uganda, Nothing But Nets, and Hogar Infantil**

Shalom, an orphanage in El Salvador.

Of course, we continue our support for the efforts of the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** both in the United States and around the world, including participation in **UMCOR's Fair Exchange Coffee Project, sponsored by our Church & Society Committee.**



Dedication of AIDS Orphan House in Maua