

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GREAT BANQUET COMMUNITY NEWS



Spring 2009
B/N Great Banquet Community
P.O. Box 3043
Bloomington, IL 61702



"...Come, for all is now ready."

Luke 14:17

The Purpose of the Great Banquet

The focus of the Great Banquet is to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to Make Him known. The objective of the Great Banquet is to continue the 3-day weekend by serving Christ in local churches, homes and work places. To live a life of grace and to respond to higher levels of Christian discipleship becomes the purpose of the Great Banquet.

Who Should Attend a Great Banquet Weekend?

This weekend experience is for anyone who:

1. wishes to strengthen his/her spiritual life;
2. wants to have a better understanding of prayer, the sacraments, study and Christian action;
3. strives to live a Christian life that bears fruit for God;
4. seeks to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to make Him known.

All are Invited!

Invite someone to join us this Spring!

Men's Weekend # 86—March 5-8
Women's Weekend # 87—March 19-22

From Our Community Spiritual Director:

Do you feel like you're about to burst? After all the holiday celebrations, I'm squeezing into my clothes. Why do I do this every year? I feel like nothing fits. And I know I'm not alone. The television and magazines are bursting with new diet ideas, meal plans and the latest fad to help us lose that unwanted weight. I wish us all good luck...

But you know, there is a kind of bursting out of our skin that is actually a sign of spiritual growth. Matthew 9:17, Jesus says, "Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

When you commit your life to Christ, we are made new. And some of the habits of our old life no longer fit. We can't be new and old at the same time. We can't call ourselves Christians and act like the world. It's a new year. Shall we commit together to let God renew us and help us to walk free of the things of the world that tempt and hold us?

I'll pray for you as you pray for me.

Humbled to be your new CSD,
Rev. Lori Bultemeier

Check out www.bngreatbanquet.org for updates before the weekends

Men's Great Banquet #86

March 5-8, 2009

Dedication, Sunday, March 1
6:00 PM at Calvary UMC

Lay Director

Greg Reichert (Staying Power)

Assistant Lay Directors

Paul Brown & Kevin Hoss

Spiritual Directors

Rev. Phil Rodrick (Sacramental Grace)
David Armstrong-Reiner (Our Response to Grace)
George Wells (A Life of Grace)
Bob Brouillette (God's Gift of Grace)
Rev. Mark Wallace (Obstacles to Grace)

Speakers

Dan Hinrichsen (Discovering Priorities)
John Knighton (Ministry of All Believers)
Willis Kern (The Way of Relationship)
Darren Plattner (The Truth Through Study)
Larry Avey (The Life of Christian Action)
Jeff Able (Disciples)
Jon Dahl (Changing Our Environment)
Paul Vogel (The Body of Christ)
Bill Neil (Establishing Priorities)

Table Leaders

Larry Harmon, Randy Harmon, Kraig Holub,
Damon Kelly & John Kennedy

Agape Chapel

Jim Swearingen, Tim Ballowe, Alan DeCrane
Bob Hartman & Marty Mogk

Musician Jerry Worden

Board Advisor Phil Reginelli

Women's Great Banquet #86

March 19-22, 2009

Dedication, Sunday, March 15
6:00 PM at Calvary UMC

Lay Director

Phyl Reichert (Staying Power)

Assistant Lay Directors

Viv Downing & Marsha Knighton

Spiritual Directors

Rev. Barbara Dahl (Sacramental Grace)
Rev. Jan Proeber (Our Response to Grace)
Rev. Joe Culpepper (A Life of Grace)
Sheila Wells (God's Gift of Grace)
Mary Kay Henson (Obstacles to Grace)

Speakers

TBA (Discovering Priorities)
Brenda Foland (Ministry of All Believers)
Gina Dew (The Way of Relationship)
Lin Harmon (The Truth Through Study)
Carolyn Jiles (The Life of Christian Action)
Donna Able (Disciples)
Debby Paullin (Changing Our Environment)
Katherine Daugherty (The Body of Christ)
Judy Vadala (Establishing Priorities)

Table Leaders

Janae Bledsoe, Buffy Ryan, Heather Schwiezer
Mary Taylor & Sandy Weede

Agape Chapel

Vicki Aupperle, Elizabeth Glidden, Melissa Ives,
Judy Kelly & Dawn Perring

Musician Linda Williams

Board Advisor Gudrun Dunt

Financial Support

It has always been the spirit of our Bloomington/Normal Great Banquet Community that **money never be an obstacle** for someone who wishes to attend as a guest or team member. The cost to host our Spring weekends at East Bay and Logan Correctional Center will be approximately \$20,000.

Weekend costs include everything from markers & poster board, weekend worship booklets, crosses to renting East Bay Camp. While this may seem like a lot of money (and it is!), can it even be compared to **the value of lives being changed for Jesus Christ?**

Please consider supporting these upcoming weekends by sending financial gifts to:

B/N Great Banquet
P.O. Box 3043
Bloomington, IL 61702-3043

Something's Missing!

Something has been missing from our weekends lately. **Agape.**

We've been receiving lots of goodies and letters from communities, but what's been missing is **personal, sacrificial agape.** We don't know whether people are doing sacrificial acts of agape for those on a weekend or not. But we do know, that we are not communicating those acts to the men and women on weekends. **Will you commit to praying about and doing some act of sacrifice for the upcoming weekends?** And, then sharing that in a letter written to be read aloud in the conference room. God works powerfully through these acts and prayers. May you be blessed as you give to others in Jesus' name.



Check out www.bngreatbanquet.org for updates before the weekends

Weekend Schedule

Thursday

7:00 pm Registration begins
8:00 pm Send Off/Sponsor Hour

Friday

8:00 am Breakfast
9:15 am Discovering Priorities
11:15 am God's Gift of Grace
12:30 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Ministry of All Believers
3:00 pm Our Response to Grace
5:30 pm Dinner
6:30 pm The Way of Relationship

Saturday

8:00 am Breakfast
8:45 am Truth Through Study
10:15 am Sacramental Grace
12:30 pm Lunch
3:00 pm Life of Christian Action
4:30 pm Obstacles to Grace
5:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Disciples
8:00 pm Gutbucket Band
8:30 pm Candlelight Worship
10:00 pm Candlelight Walk Through

Sunday

8:00 am Breakfast
8:50 am Changing Our Environment
10:00 am Life of Grace
11:00 am Body of Christ
12:00 pm Lunch
1:30 pm Staying Power
2:30 pm Establishing Priorities
5:00 pm Closing Service

Ways to Be Involved!

72 hour prayer Vigil The backbone of the weekend! Contact Iris Sonkin at 309-661-4630 to participate in this meaningful experience.

Conference Room Agape letters Writing a letter to be read and posted in the conference room is a great way to the guests and team on weekend know that you care for them.

Meal Servers 6-8 volunteers are needed at each meal. Make this special by adding simple decorations to the tables or, bringing extra agape. Contact Lynn Fletcher at 309-378-4602.

Personal Agape Letters Let someone know just how much you care! There is nothing better than receiving a personal handwritten letter.

Candlelight Worship 8:30 PM, Saturday night.

Contact Jim Pitzer 309-725-3363 to help with setting up chairs, luminaries or passing out & collecting the flashlight candles.

Closing 5:00 PM, Sunday afternoon.

Hear and see how God has changed lives in 72 hours!

Banners In the Great Banquet community, banners are a big deal!

Our community is in need of new banners. This is a great projects for reunion groups or churches.

Weekend Snack Table Remember all those wonderful snacks on your weekend? Homemade snacks are especially welcome.

Pillow Agape & Table Agape

All those little gifts can make a big difference.

Sponsorship It is a true joy to share a weekend with someone else.

Participate in the Gutbucket Band Wear a funny hat, sing a silly song, make some one smile!

Logan Great Banquet # 44

April 17-19, 2009

Dedication, Sun. April 5 6 pm at Calvary UMC

Lay Director

Scott Riddle (Staying Power)

Assistant Lay Directors

Rusty Bledsoe & Kevin Daugherty

Spiritual Directors

Rev. Mel Devall (Sacramental Grace)

Rev. Greg Summers (Our Response to Grace)

Rev. Phil McCoy (A Life of Grace)

Rev. Chuck Anthony (God's Gift of Grace)

TBA (Obstacles to Grace)

Musician

Glenn Dicken

Speakers

Rick Lohnes (Discovering Priorities)

Harry Jiles (Ministry of All Believers)

Alan Bruehl (The Way of Relationship)

Stephen Sigler (The Truth Through Study)

Doug Grovesteen (The Life of Christian Action)

TBA (Disciples)

Jeff Williamson (Changing Our Environment)

Joe Krieiter (The Body of Christ)

Mike Beal (Establishing Priorities)

Table Leaders

Darwin Richmond, Keith Taylor,

Scott Arnold, Paul Dew, Brian Burcham

Tom Payne, Ken Von Qualen & Kevin Cook

Agape Chapel

Durand Dressel, Mark Aubry, Dale Layten

Paul Popejoy, Al Noe & Joe Jenkins

Board Advisor

Marty Thornton

Ways to Support the Logan Weekend

**Get clearance and attend candlelight and closing!
Attend the Dedication Services, Sun. April 5**

Make Agape

Bring to dedication or give to Team Member by April 8th.

Plan for 100 guests and 40 team members

- ONLY PAPER AGAPE IS ALLOWED!!
- NO STICKERS, NO SEALED ENVELOPES
Paper items with encouraging quotes, sayings and Scripture are Cherished.

Write general conference room agape letters

- Letters should be address to friends in Christ and signed your letter a brother or sister in Christ.
- Letter's will be collected at the dedication.

Sponsor a Resident Guest by:

- Committing to PRAY for them throughout the weekend
- Attend the Candlelight and/or the Closing and be willing to meet and talk with the resident(s) at the closing.
- Write a Letter of Encouragement to: "Dear Brother in Christ" Do not sign your name, rather sign "Your Brother/Sister in Christ" Place the letter in a plain envelope, No names on the outside - only an "S" with a circle around it in the upper right corner, **DO NOT SEAL LETTERS!!!**

Letters will be collected at the dedication on April 5.

Questions? Call Marty Thornton 309-662-4600 or Cell 309-242-7299

Getting Clearance

1. Completely fill out the form below
2. Mail or Fax to Scott Riddle by March 13
3. You will receive confirmation by mail that you have been granted clearance to Logan, plus more up to date information on parking, dress code and check-in procedures.

Clearance Form • Clearance Form • Clearance Form • Clearance Form • Clearance Form

I am requesting clearance to attend the Candlelight and/or Closing for Logan CC Great Banquet #44, April 17-19, 2009. I understand that clearance is required to attend and that it may be denied.

My Full Legal Name: _____

My Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ My Full Date of Birth: _____ - _____ - _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Form must be received by
3/12/2009
no exceptions will be made

Mail form to B/N Great Banquet
PO Box 3043
Bloomington, IL 61702

Fax form to:
Scott Riddle
309-962-6112

Send Us Your Updates and Inquiries

Has your family dropped its landline phone and you wonder how to let our Community know your cell phone numbers? Will your address be changing soon? Would like to be considered for service on a prison team, an East Bay team, or both? Are you a musician who would like to serve on a team but you don't know how to let the board know? Well worry no more!

A new "Contact Us" page on our web site [www.bngreatbanquet.org] now allows you to email us requests, updates, inquiries, and suggestions along with a listing of our board members, their responsibilities, and contact information. It is simple to use and will allow you to connect with us from anywhere in the world via the internet. We can't wait to hear from you!

Team Members Needed

As plans have been underway for the spring weekends, we have begun to realize that our community is in need of Musicians to lead music, and Spanish speaking folks to help out at Logan Correctional Center, as table leaders and speakers.

If you can help out in either way, contact Ralph Smith at (309) 829-2004, so we can add you to our team selection list.

Thank You

Great Banquet Board Members

In December, the following people completed terms on the Great Banquet Board. Many thanks for all your time, hard work, and dedication. Well done faithful servants!

Barb Bills
Gudrun Dunt
Bob Garrelts
Chuck Hepner
Carol Smithson
Rev. Mark Wallace

Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the following families who lost loved ones recently:

Anna Birks
Dave & Marty O'Neill's father
Cathy Garrelt's mother
Paul Ball

Calendar of Events

March 2009

Sunday, March 1—6:00 PM

Men's Great Banquet #86 Dedication at Calvary UMC
Sign up sheets for meal servers & prayer vigil

Thurs. March 5— Sunday, March 8

Men's Great Banquet #86 At East Bay Camp

Friday, March 13

Deadline to obtain Clearance for Logan Correctional Center

Sunday, March 15—6:00 PM

Women's Great Banquet #87 Dedication at Calvary UMC

Thurs. March 19— Sunday, March 22

Women's Great Banquet #87 At East Bay Camp

Thurs. March 26—7:00 PM

Fourth Day Meeting at Resurrection Lutheran Church

April 2009

Sunday, April 5—6:00 PM

Logan Great Banquet #44 Dedication at Calvary UMC

Fri. April 17-Sun. April 19

Logan Great Banquet #44 At Logan Correctional Center

May 2009

Saturday, May 2

Gathering At Ellsworth UMC
Potluck, Family Fun & Worship—More details soon!

September 2009

Thurs. September 10— Sunday, September 13

Men's Great Banquet #88 At East Bay Camp

Thurs. September 24— Sunday, September 27

Women's Great Banquet #89 At East Bay Camp

SonRise Chrysalis Update

SonRise Chrysalis will be holding Flight # 23
Friday, March 27—Sunday, March 29.

This set of weekends will be held simultaneously with boys meeting at Woods Camp and girls meeting at Pilchard Hall. The 2 groups will come together for meals and closing.

Weekend schedules have been adjusted, most times for community support will remain the same, one exception:

The candlelight walk through will begin at 9:45 PM

Check out the Chrysalis website for more details
www.sonrisechrysalis.org

Your Great Banquet Board of Directors

CeAnn Kreun (Gatherings)	662-4197
Alan Bruehl (Weekend Set Up/Clean Up)	662-1930
Estelle Brown (Agape Correspondence)	
Willis Kern (Newsletter)	828-4447
Marty Thornton (Logan Prison)	662-4600
Shelly Hanover (Community Lay Dir.)	724-8800
Karla Lohnes (Community Musician)	962-2232
Cindy Hertel (Weekend Agape)	452-4080
Rich Irwin (Community Data)	662-5896
Jim Pitzer (Weekend Events)	725-3363
John Plattner (Treasurer)	828-1684
Phil Reginelli (4th Day/Reunion Groups)	663-3008
Scott Riddle (Weekend Set Up/Clean Up)	962-2447
Ralph Smith (Team Selection)	829-2004
Iris Sonkin (Prayer Vigil/Special Projects)	661-4630
Lori Bultemeier (Com. Spiritual Director)	830-3078
Rob Wall (Registrar)	663-7630

Meal Servers Needed

We need 6-8 volunteers to serve each meal on the weekends. Please arrive approximately 30 minutes before the meal time, and plan on staying until clean up has been completed. If you wish, plan some simple decorations or bring additional agape to place at each table.

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
8:00 AM – Breakfast (arrive at 7:30)	8:00 AM – Breakfast (arrive at 7:30)	8:00 AM – Breakfast (arrive at 7:30)
12:30 PM – Lunch (arrive at 12:00)	12:30 PM – Lunch (arrive at 12:00)	12:00 PM – Lunch (arrive at 11:30)
5:30 PM – Supper (arrive at 5:00)	5:30 PM – Supper (arrive at 5:00)	

Contact Lyn Fletcher 378-4602 to sign-up



“...Come, for all is now ready.”

Luke 14:17

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GREAT BANQUET COMMUNITY
P.O. BOX 3043
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702-3043

Who have you invited to the Banquet?

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON, IL
61701
PERMIT #415