



The monthly edition of the LGR News is located on our website as well as in the Bay Pointe lobby. We also send out important information via email, so be sure to sign up to receive e-blasts by going to [www.bponline.org](http://www.bponline.org) or sign up at The HUB in the Bay Pointe lobby.

## MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE ministry

We've received great feedback on our *Families with Attitude* series, and many have asked, "What's next?" In January we will have curriculum for small groups, as well as classes led at the church to provide support and education to parents at various stages of life: with young children, teenagers, and adult children. Watch for sign up at The HUB beginning December 11. If you missed any of the messages, consider going to our website to listen via podcast, so you know what the buzz is about.

**"Prepare to Last"** is our premarital class for seriously dating and engaged couples, and it will be offered again beginning the weekend of February 5/6. If you and your partner are interested in exploring marriage or have made a commitment to be engaged, please consider joining us for a great weekend focused on building a relationship that will grow and last. You can sign up at The HUB and get information on Getting Married at Bay Pointe on our website.

A **winter marriage retreat** is scheduled for March 9/10, when Ann and Dave Wilson are returning with their high energy *Rock Your Marriage* program. Set the date aside and watch for more information in January.

## STEPPING STONES

learning to follow Jesus

Kelly Ellis

Coordinator of Discipleship  
kellis@

### Special Class Offering

Interested in learning how to effectively share your faith in Jesus in a natural, winsome way? ENGAGE, featuring author and speaker Carl Medearis, shows you how. In this video series, along with his book, *Speaking of Jesus*, Medearis shares - and shows - the tools, stories, and foundation you need to bypass the misconceptions of "religion" and simply talk about what really matters - Jesus.

Pick up a copy of *Speaking of Jesus* at Ripples or the Stepping Stones corner (at The HUB) and join us on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30-8:30 pm in The Prayer Room, for 7 Sessions with facilitators Michael Cole and Nick Twomey.

### 2nd Sunday Book Club

In our December selection, *Same Kind of Different As Me*, you'll meet Denver Moore, a man who grew up so poor and enslaved by his surroundings that his eventual homelessness was actually a step up in living conditions. You'll also meet Ron Hall, a man who grew up moderately, but went on to earn millions as a successful art dealer.

Discover what happens when the paths of these men cross and read their riveting story, then join us on Sunday, December 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in The Prayer Room. Sign up today and get your copy at Ripples or the Stepping Stones corner (at The HUB). Come having read the book. Note: This title is also available as a Kindle Edition.

**Did you know...**if you are exploring what a relationship with Jesus means - or wondering if God is real, we have a gift for you? If you recently trusted your life to Jesus and are trying to figure out what that means in your everyday life, we also have a gift for you? If you spend just ten or fifteen minutes a day reading the Bible, you will complete it in its entirety in just one year? The One Year Bible is arranged into 365 daily readings for your convenience. Visit Stepping Stones at The HUB for your gift or a bible today? It will make a great Christmas gift!

**New Women's 6 week Bible Study**  
Ever wonder why the Israelites wandered around in the desert for forty years once they were free from Egyptian slavery? In the DVD-based study *Fire on the Mountain* we'll discover what God taught them during that time about who He is and the importance of living in community - and how we can begin to apply this to our everyday lives. - We will meet Thursdays beginning January 12 from 11:00-1:00 pm in The Prayer Room. You can purchase the participant's guide at Ripples or the Stepping Stones corner (at The HUB) for \$9.00. This class will be facilitated by Rose Twomey and Kelly Ellis.

# NEXT GENERATION

ministry (birth-young adult)

## Karen Green

Next Generation Director  
(birth - 8th grade)  
kgreen@bponline.org

## Tim Homa

Next Generation Pastor  
(9th grade - 29 years)  
thoma@bponline.org

## BIRTH - GRADE 5

### Volunteer Opportunities

Children's Ministry is in need of First Look volunteers for all of the Christmas Eve services (1, 3, 5, & 7 pm). Please sign up at the Next Generation table in the lobby or email [evandermolen@bponline.org](mailto:evandermolen@bponline.org).

Baby Dedication has been updated to a new and improved version! We are looking for a couple of volunteers who can help plan, organize and execute this amazing event. For more information about helping out contact Karen Green at [kgreen@bponline.org](mailto:kgreen@bponline.org).

We are looking for people to take photos and/or video during Sunday in the Children's Ministry rooms and Wednesday night at FUSE and Mosaic gatherings. We have the camera and the Flip and could use your help! Contact Karen Green for more information at [kgreen@bponline.org](mailto:kgreen@bponline.org).

### Summer Camp for Christmas?

Looking for an amazing gift for your children or grandchildren? Sign them up for a week of SpringHill Day Camp! The cost is \$159 and camp will be at Bay Pointe from June 11-16, 2012. Visit the Bay Pointe website and follow the link to get registered. PLUS...see Karen Green for a Camp for Christmas certificate that you can place under the tree!

### Worship Team Christmas Concert

Come December 2 from 6-7 pm in the auditorium. All are welcome to join the fun!

## GRADES 6-12



grades 6-8

## MOSAIC grades 9-12

Both groups meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

### • LOCATION CHANGE •

On December 7 and 14, both Fuse and Mosaic will be meeting off-site at Twin Lakes Camp. Twin Lakes is located at 6800 N. Long Lake Rd.

**December Series** - There are moments when we get a bigger glimpse of God, moments when we see a bigger picture of who He is. One of those moments is the Christmas story. The birth of Christ was the "tipping point" . . . the point when everything changed. Before that, God was distant. And there was a reason for it - He is holy. But with His birth, He came close and showed us what grace meant. When we remember the Christmas story, we get a glimpse of a God who is both full of holiness and grace. Not just one, but both. This December we'll be unfolding this in our series, "*Tipping Point*."

**Parents of teens** are encouraged to join us once a month on Wednesday nights to look at the challenges teens face and what we need to do to support and protect them. The next meeting will take place on January 25 from 7-8:30 pm in The Prayer Room.

### Winter Camp

We're headed to SpringHill Camp this winter!! Mosaic will be attending winter camp February 3-5, while Fuse will attend February 17-19. Cost is \$129 if registered before December 31, then \$139 starting January 1. Looking for a Christmas idea for your student? Sign them up for winter camp!! Registration packets are available at the Next Gen table in the lobby or online. Questions? Contact Rachel at [rmavis@bponline.org](mailto:rmavis@bponline.org).

## Mission Trip To Miami

This summer the high school students will be going on a mission trip to Miami from July 22-28. Students can reserve a spot with a \$199 deposit. Information packets are available at the Next Gen table in the lobby or online. Questions? Contact Rachel at [rmavis@bponline.org](mailto:rmavis@bponline.org).

## Mission Trip To Vermont

This summer our students will be going on a mission trip to the Green Mountains area in Vermont. The trip will be open to any students currently in middle school or high school. Spots can be reserved with a \$99 deposit. Information packets are available at the Next Gen table in the lobby or online. Questions? Contact Rachel at [rmavis@bponline.org](mailto:rmavis@bponline.org)

Visit the "Bay Pointe Students" page on Facebook for more details.

## 19 - 29 years

**themix** is a community of 19-29 year olds who view life uniquely. The Mix provides a place to connect from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Thursday nights in The Safe, with an occasional off-site meeting.

### December 1

#### Experience

Christmas Worship Service

### December 8 & 15

Volunteer at Safe Harbor

We are planning a get together at the end of December. Find more information at [facebook.com/themixtc](http://facebook.com/themixtc). Follow us on Twitter @TheMixTC.

## Did You Know?...

last month BP students took a trip to Haiti, India and the cold streets of Traverse City through a poverty simulation? Ask them about it?

# COMPASSION

ministry

## Julie Greene

Director of Compassion Ministry  
jgreene@bponline.org

## Safe Harbor

Please welcome our Safe Harbor guests! We will be hosting the Safe Harbor homeless shelter beginning December 3 and running through December 17. If you are signed up to serve, please extend a warm Bay Pointe welcome and be sure to personally invite our guests to Sunday services.

## Father Fred

### Adult Men's and Women's Coats in Plus Sizes and Insulated Gloves Needed!

The Father Fred Foundation clothing department is in need of adult men's and women's winter coats in plus sizes and insulated gloves in all sizes. Donations can be made Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and Wednesday 10:00 am - 7:30 pm at 826 Hastings Street. Inquiries should be directed to Sue Bauer at sbauer@fatherfred.org or 947-2055 ext 34.

## Bright Hope

Give gifts with a purpose this year through *Season of Hope* - This Christmas season, Bright Hope needs your help to unlock the doors to smiles and surprises for desperately needy families around the world. Through their annual *Season of Hope* gift giving catalog you can help deliver practical help to a family living in extreme poverty. Gift options include bibles, micro loans, livestock, gardens, etc. For each gift you sponsor, you will receive a card to give to the person in whose name you donated.

Give a gift that will provide hope to those who are hurting: hope for today, tomorrow, and eternity! To learn more, visit [brighthope.org](http://brighthope.org) and click on *Season of Hope*.

## Mission Trip to Haiti

**February 23 - March 3** Are you interested in participating in a short term mission trip to Pignon, Haiti? We will travel with our partner, Bright Hope, to complete construction work at the school we sponsor. Space is limited so pick up an application from The HUB today, and return it to the Bay Pointe office asap! Questions? Contact Jim Johnson at jimjouxair@gmail.com

## Musical instruments needed for Haiti!

Do you have an old trumpet, sax, flute, guitar or any other musical instrument collecting dust in your home? Our Haitian brothers and sisters would LOVE to put it to good use! Haitians are an incredibly musical people, and they love to worship God through singing and playing. If you have something to donate, bring it to the Compassion Ministry table and we will get it sent out asap! Questions? Contact Julie Greene jgreene@bponline.org

# PRAYER

ministry

Please take advantage of "The Prayer Room" on Sunday mornings. It's open from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm every Sunday. This area off the auditorium is a warm, welcoming place to go when you need someone to pray with you or if you would like to pray alone. If you are interested in becoming part of the BP Prayer Team, which serves in several areas, please sign up in the Prayer Room anytime.

## Did You Know?...

that the former "Living Room" is now being called "The Prayer Room."

# FIRST SUNDAY

at Bay Pointe

Join us each month on the *First Sunday* for a new guest reception. *First Sunday* is a great way for those who are new to our church family to connect with others and learn more about Bay Pointe. Nick is anxious to meet you and have an opportunity to answer your questions. Think of it as a casual conversation you may have on a neighbor's front porch. No RSVP required, and kids are welcome.

# FACILITIES

## Pam Hoyt

Facilities Manager  
phoyt@bponline.org

### Saturday and/or Monday volunteer facilities cleaning crew members are needed!

Come one Saturday or one Monday per month for approximately 2-3 hours for general cleaning (vacuuming, washing windows, emptying trash, etc.). Contact Pam Hoyt at phoyt@bponline.org.

## Did You Know?...

The volunteer facilities crew serves a total of 140 hours a week, saving the church almost \$2000/month to go toward other needs?

# CANCELLATIONS

Well, it's that time of year when there's a "slight" chance of inclement weather on occasion. For Sunday service cancellations, visit our website at [www.bponline.org](http://www.bponline.org) or listen to WLJN 89.9 FM or WTCM 580 AM. For weekly events, please call the Bay Pointe office at 922-9882 during our regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

# CONNECTIONS

ministry

**Mike Shelton**

Director of Connections  
mshelton@bponline.org

## SMALL GROUPS

### What is a Small Group?

It's a group of people who gather several times a month for the purpose of friendship, encouragement and spiritual growth. Whether you are simply exploring Christianity, have been a follower of Christ for years or anywhere in between, we have a Small Group for you! Check out the Small Groups table in the lobby or contact Mike or Linda Shelton at the Bay Pointe offices.

### Men's Ministry

#### Band of Brothers Men's Groups

New Band of Brothers men's groups are now forming! A Band of Brothers group processes life together on a weekly basis in a confidential setting, home, office or church. We share our struggles and receive biblical answers to restore our hearts. For details and sign up, see the Small Groups table in the BP lobby or contact Mike Shelton at mshelton@bponline.org.

#### Men's Breakfast Studies

Men meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 am in two locations: Flapjack Shack on Division St. and the Omelette Shop near the NMC campus. There is also a group that meets on Thursdays at 7:00 am at the Flapjack Shack. (On-going attendees and drop-ins are welcome.)

### Women's Ministry

#### Advent Presentation

On Wednesday, December 14, a Christmas Advent DVD presentation with Beth Moore will be shown in The Prayer Room at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited!

### Advent Brunch & Christmas Tea

The women of Bay Pointe are invited to an Advent Brunch & Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 3 at 10 am in the lobby at Bay Pointe. Pre-teen and teenage girls are welcome to attend with you. Gifts are being provided to children in Traverse City safe houses again this year. If you would like to contribute, please bring a book to read, a coloring book or a stuffed bear to place under the Christmas tree for the children. Sign up at the Small Groups table and reserve a seat today.

### Preschool Moms

Preschool moms and their children will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 10:00 - noon in the First Look Wing.

### Couples Small Groups

Couples small groups are now forming and plan to start up in January. Please sign up at the Small Group Table or contact Linda Shelton at lshelton@bponline.

### Zumba

A Zumba class is still being offered every Tuesday night at Bay Pointe in the TreeHouse at 7:00 pm. The class is free of charge, but donations for the instructor are welcome.

### First Impressions Teams

We have a WONDERFUL problem! We are in need of more usher, greeter, parking team and HUB volunteers to help serve our guests! This is a one-service-a-month serving opportunity and ALL of these positions provide you with a chance to say hi to people you just see once in awhile! Find more details and sign up at the HUB, or contact Linda Shelton at lshelton@bponline.org.

## SUPPORT

### AA, AL-ANON and AL-ATEEN

Did you know that there are AA, AL-ANON and AL-ATEEN meetings held at Bay Pointe on Sundays at 6:30 pm? For information, call 231-946-8823 for AA and 231-938-7399 for Al-Anon and Al-Ateen. *The meetings are not associated with Bay Pointe.*

### DivorceCare for the Holidays

Come Sunday, December 11, 2011, 1:15 to 3:15 pm at Bay Pointe. This one-session seminar is for those who are divorced or separated and offers practical advice for navigating the holidays. There is a \$5 cost for a participant's guide. Sign up at the Small Groups table in the lobby or call 231-922-9882, ext. 106.

### GriefShare

This group is designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy. The group meets on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:00 pm through December 6. Sign up at the Small Groups table.

### GriefShare:

#### Surviving the Holidays

Come Thursday, December 1 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm. A special GriefShare session will help equip those who are grieving the death of a loved one with the reassurance, comfort and healing tools needed to move through the holiday season. The cost is \$5 and includes a guide. Sign up at the Small Groups table.

**Did You Know?...that** the Women's Community Care Group has created over 100 items to deliver to women and children in Traverse City safe houses this holiday season.

DECEMBER 2011



*I* imagine you have a dinner party and someone showed up that nobody knew. But your guest turned out to be noble, famous and world-renowned, beyond what you could possibly have imagined.

Jesus was born on Christmas Day. He lived among us, loved us, hung out with us, and eventually died for us.

But who was he prior to his birth? Exactly who IS this man who showed up on Christmas Day?

December 4 *The Creator God*

December 11 *The Holy God*

December 18 *The Redeeming God*



**THERE'S GOOD NEWS TONIGHT**

S E R V I C E S

**1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00**

**W**hen is there EVER "good news of great joy for ALL people"? Invariably what is good news for you is either neutral news or bad news for someone else (winners and losers). Whether it is sports, a job offer (you get the job – good news, but someone else didn't – bad news), there is hardly ever news that is truly good for everyone.

But, at Christmas a startling announcement was made: there was good news in the world that night, and it was truly good news for every single person. God, the Holy One, had come to rescue and redeem humanity.