

WESTBROOK ELDERS

SUMMER 2010 UPDATE

Staffing

The Elders accepted the resignation of Paul Carter, long-time Director of Operations for Westbrook as Paul was excited to accept a new position in the community, taking on new challenges for Kohl's. Paul's expertise, energy and "What's Up" videos will be missed. As a result, several changes in realignment of responsibilities have taken place. Dan Schober will continue in a full-time position, as the Pastor of Discovery. The church is once again free, within its budget, to search for a Student Ministries Director and the Search Committee is once again actively soliciting applications and reviewing opportunities to fill this position.

Elders' Retreats

Last June, the Pastors and senior ministry staff came together with all of the Elders for the first part of a two-part retreat. The Pastors shared plans, challenges, and opportunities facing Westbrook Church. On August 12, the Elders met again, focusing on the Values of our mission to further engage the Westbrook family in the journey of Discovery, Development and Deployment.

Summer and Fall Plans

The Elders approved a change to a single service format for the summer commencing at 9:30 with full Sunday school facilities for children from kindergarten through entering sixth grade. It anticipated that this would spark a greater degree of community and cohesiveness among the congregation. Worship services will return to 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. in the fall.

There will be a fall kickoff with renewed emphasis on development of Life Groups. The Life Groups will be tied into a 12-week study based on curriculum developed by the church. This curriculum will take its life from the Acts of the Apostles and growing a church dedicated to Discovery, Development and Deployment.

Budget

The spring saw implementation by the Elders of several initiatives suggested by the Finance Committee. A portion of the capital loan was refinanced to reduce the interest rate while continuing the church commitment to use all of the funds donated through the Route 121 Stewardship Journey for the reduction of debt. Working with the Delafield City Assessor, the property which had been donated to the church on the north end of the campus was taken off of the tax rolls. The cash flow had come to a critical position in the spring and early summer, but upon communication from our Senior Pastor and others in the congregation, an incredibly generous series of contributions were made, essentially putting us back on target for our operations budget, with giving increasing significantly in the area of Faith Promise to support our missionaries throughout the world. Many generous Westbrookians continue to provide support to the Route 121 Stewardship Journey.

We are far from financially “secure,” but blessed incredibly at each stage where difficult times are upon us. THANK YOU GOD and our Westbrook family!

Other Activities

Opportunities to serve and engage, too numerous to mention in detail, included the following:

1. The church offered a great vacation Bible school (Adventure Camp) at Nagawaukee Park for hundreds of children and scores of volunteers;
2. Participation by several members of Westbrook in a multi-church missions journey to Mexico;
3. A middle school missions experience at “City on a Hill” in Milwaukee where the lives of those receiving services and those of the youth and adults participating from the church were changed;
4. Several Backyard Bible Clubs ministering to children and their families in some neighborhoods throughout Lake Country;
5. Volunteers assisting in cleanup following the tornadoes and flooding in the Eagle area; and
6. Acting as host to a memorial and celebration to our dear sister in the Lord, Eileen Mooers, attending by hundreds of brothers and sisters throughout the community, and indeed, around the country.

GRATITUDE AND CHALLENGE

It is with incredible gratitude and humility that the Elders serve the Living God and the congregation of Westbrook. We faced personnel challenges and changes, uncertain financial times with significant impact on our financial goals, and yet there is an amazing energy among the staff and volunteers, seeking out ways to serve with excellence and love. When we leaders have no solutions to a financial concern, to a staffing challenge such as the need for a Student

Ministries Director, the Elders have laid it before the throne in prayer and before the congregation with simple words, and each time God and the congregation have responded.

We encourage you to see the incredible ways God continues to work, continues to grow, and continues to support Westbrook, and for you to take that encouragement into the community. We are entirely convinced that God has had us preparing to do much greater things to assist those in Discovering a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, to Develop us as wholly devoted disciples, and to be Deployed in the service of our King.

Prayer Needs

- For the fall launch of our reinvigorated small groups, and the 12-week Acts series.
- That our Pastors, staff, and Life Groups leaders would cast, carry out and live the vision of Discovery, Development and Deployment.
- For our missionaries around our community and around our globe, to live in safety and protection, with adequate resources to meet the responsibilities they have undertaken.
- For our staff and volunteers, to serve with joy, confidence and wisdom.
- For our continued growth in our joyful giving.