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# EASTVIEW LINK

SPRING/SUMMER 2007 EDITION



*Operation Starfish  
one to one, one by one*

*p.5*

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 Eastview Community Church,  
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## New in the Library

Have you been in the library recently?

If not, you might not know about the hundreds of new books and resources available to you. Among those are books by the likes of Karen Kingsbury, Ted Dekker, Frank Peretti, Franklin Graham, John Eldredge, Max Lucado, Beth Moore, John Maxwell, and more.

Are you a parent of a preschooler? Then check out some of our new preschool selections, including two works by each of Troy Schmidt and Mary Beth Chapman.

And if you're looking for DVD resources, the Library is the place to be. Whether you're looking for VeggieTales adventures, Leadership Summit 2006 DVDs, or even Johnny Cash's "The Gospel Road," you'll find them all at the Eastview Library. ~Philip Wiebe

## Through the Heart of a Child



Once again, Eastview Community Church participated in another 24/7 Prayer Week, appropriately placed in the week leading up to Easter Sunday. As in past years, this was a time of quiet reflection, a time of praise, a time of pouring out of one's heart to God on behalf of those we love, on behalf of those we do not know and on behalf of our church and the upcoming decisions and direction that we are all faced with. It was a time for Lifegroups, families, children, friends and husbands and wives to unite their hearts in prayer.

For me personally, the greatest moment of the week didn't occur during a scheduled prayer time. It occurred quite unexpectedly, on the morning of Easter Sunday. I had been asked to teach both the Grade 4 and 5 girls' class during the second service. I was so thankful for my helper Andrea Kramer as the sheer size of the group seemed overwhelming. Near the end of our class, I felt compelled that we needed to pray for the people in the sanctuary who were going to be presented with the opportunity to make a life-changing decision. I explained this to the children and asked if there was anyone that would be willing to pray for the people in our congregation.

One child, Jenna, raised her hand and offered to pray. As we call it in our group, "the pinkie prayer," we joined our "pinkies" and our hearts as Jenna's voice went heaven bound, a moment in time that was sealed in eternity.

After class I was met by my husband who was excited beyond words. He had the incredible opportunity of escorting his mother over the bridge as she said "yes" to the offer of eternal life that was set before her, alongside a number of others. My heart swelled with the realization that God honored the prayers of this dear child. It reminded me of the Scripture in Luke 18:16-17 which says,

*"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

Prayer does not just end with the conclusion of this week. It is to be offered up every moment we have. This moment in time with these children reminded me that it is not our words that God is interested in, but our hearts. Jenna reminded me that God just simply asks us to come to Him with the heart of a child. Through His children He was revealed to me in a powerful and defining moment that will be forever with me.

~Greg and Laurie Payne

## Personal Link

# Andrea Toews

## Children's Ministry Director

**Please introduce yourself and your family.**

I grew up in the town of Niverville. Tim and I were childhood friends, and were reunited years later at the Portage Ave. MB Church College & Career group. We have been married for 20 years and have 3 children: Isaiah (12 yrs), Thomas (10 yrs), and Hannah (7 yrs).

**How did you get into childrens' ministry?**

When I look back on my life, I can see how God was preparing me through various people and ministry experiences for this time when I would be involved in leadership of children's ministry. But probably the most significant inspiration came from my transition into the role of parent, and the sense of responsibility for the spiritual development of our children. As I intentionally sought resources to assist me in the discovery of how to lead my children to Christ, God developed within me a passion to be involved in ministering to children and families. Through the encouragement, mentoring, and prayers of some key individuals in my life, and through personally seeking for direction, I began to receive clarity regarding God's purpose for me. After 5 years of working as a volunteer leader, Westwood Community Church invited me to join their staff as the Children's Ministry Pastor. I accepted, and enjoyed three years of working with the team there.

**Do you have a children's ministry philosophy?**

Ministry is an ongoing discovery, and I have found that my philosophy of children's ministry is evolving over time. I believe that ministry to children needs to happen in partnership with the parents, who are the most influential people in a young child's life. I also believe that this volunteer-intensive ministry needs to include a strategy that ministers to the ministers. That is, our goal for discipling people needs to include both the children as well as the adults and youth who serve them in ministry.

**Hobbies:** My family

**Board Game:** Settlers of Catan

**Reading:** Donald Miller's "Blue Like Jazz"

**Listening to:** U2, Diana Krall, Steve Bell, Newsboys, Marc Cohn, Fernando Ortega

**Verse:** John 14:21



## Away... and still remembered

Do you know Sheralyn Heinrichs, Corey Bell, Brendan Peters, Nicole Lester, Stacey Enns, Mark Enns or Ernesto Pinto?

Sound familiar? I hope so because these are members of our Eastview family who are doing missions away from home. Some have been gone a few months and others more than a year.

How about long-term missionaries Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters in Thailand or Rick and Liz Greer at Eagle Bay Camp here in Manitoba?

These people need more than our finances, they need our commitment to pray and maybe send the occasional encouragement card. It is a great feeling knowing your church family is praying for you.

It is our hope as a Missions team to keep you informed of all our "family" who are involved in missions so you can pray for them often. One way is for Lifegroups to commit to supporting individuals or projects. We then forward any communication we have received from the missionary to that Lifegroup. Over half our Lifegroups have chosen a person or project to support already. Thank you.

Another way to keep you updated is via the church bulletin and the Missions bulletin board. Drop by the board situated in the main hall to read letters from our missionaries.

Let's support those who are far away from home by sending them an e-mail or letter to let them know you are praying for them... that they are remembered.

If you want an address, please contact Lori Enns at 668-6735 or [ennslori@shaw.ca](mailto:ennslori@shaw.ca). ~Lori Enns

## Big June Wraps Up Young Adults' Year

The month of June will see the young adult community programming finish out the regular ministry season before switching to summer mode. Sunday evening, June 10, will feature the regular Openhouse - Indoor Soccer combo night. This is a great opportunity to connect with other young adults at Eastview over coffee or through a friendly game of indoor soccer. Join us at 7 p.m.

June 24 will be the last large-group Gathering of the ministry season. We hope to end the year on a spe-

cial note to go along with the usual elements of our Gatherings. Details forthcoming.

Keep an eye on the bulletin, as well as the website, for our summer schedule. We usually get together a few times for some outdoor-type, socially-oriented events. So if you find yourself in the post-high school crowd, we hope to see you at our June events as well as throughout the summer. See ya 'round!

~Jonathan Wiebe

## Leading Up to the Summit

Everyone is a leader. You might lead a family, a committee, a team, a group of employees, a Care Group, a job function, a group of preschoolers, or elementary kids, or junior highs, or senior highs, or college and careers, or seniors, a board, a council, a ministry, a group of volunteers, a church. And the list goes on. If you find yourself in this group or saying "Hey, he should have added what I lead!" then read on.

Leaders need to lead. And unless they grow in their leadership skills or abilities or enthusiasm for what they lead and why they lead it, they will become stale. There are many ways in which this growth can happen, but I have found that the Leadership Summit is a great solution for equipping leaders.

Over the last 10 years I have associated myself with the Willow Creek Leadership Summit, an annual event sponsored by the Willow Creek Association of Chicago, designed to encourage and motivate leaders to lead. I have participated both as an attendee of the Summit and as a worker at the Summit. I have attended "live" in Chicago and worked "via satellite" at Eastview. Through worship and drama and music and word I have been brought to my knees and lifted up in powerful ways. I have been humbled before my Creator. I have shed tears before my Redeemer. I have surrendered before my King. Under the leadership of my Coach, I have rallied together with the troops, outfitted and equipped to lead more diligently and to follow more closely.

This year is Eastview's fifth year as a satellite site for the live Leadership Summit. The theme of this year's Summit is Lead Where You Are, an appropriate theme for equipping leaders of all descriptions to lead



better than they ever have before in the place they find themselves right now. In addition to inviting church and business leaders to participate in the two and half day event (August 9-11), we invite you, the servants and leaders within Eastview to participate as well. There are two ways in which you can participate:

- (1) as a volunteer, helping to make our guests' experience a positive one, or
- (2) as an attendee of the Summit itself.

In either case, you will want to learn more about who the speakers are and what message they will bring. Check out the Eastview website ([www.eastview.org](http://www.eastview.org)) for links to complete Summit information. If you want to serve, more information will follow in the weeks ahead. If you would like to attend, Eastview adherents will get a special rate of \$99 (plus GST) if they register before July 23, 2007.

~Rick Hiebert

## Eastview Link Cover Story

# One to One, One by One

## Operation Starfish Eastview's New Relational Outreach Initiative

### The Star Thrower

Loren Easley, while writing his book *The Unexpected Universe*, was walking along the ocean in Costabel early one morning. It was shortly after a storm had subsided and as he continued walking, he noticed that thousands of starfish had been washed up on the beach. Ahead of him was a gigantic rainbow of incredible perfection shimmering into existence. At the base of the rainbow stooped a little boy, gazing fixedly at an object in the sand. Eventually, he flung the object beyond the breaking surf.

Easley went up to him and asked, "Son, what are you doing?" The little boy answered. "I'm throwing starfish back into the sea because if I don't, they're going to die." "But there are thousands of starfish. In the larger scheme of things, you're not going to make much of a difference to all these starfish." The little boy looked up at him, stooped down again to pick up another starfish and, gently but quickly, flung it back into the ocean. "It's going to make a big difference to that one!" he replied.

Easley was embarrassed, uncomfortable with the contrast of the little boy's youthful, innocent love for the living with his own hardened, mature indifference to death. He had nothing to say and left, continuing to walk down the beach but unable to get pictures of the little boy out of his mind. It was the moment of truth for Easley, of deep soul searching and self confrontation. In time, he returned to the star thrower, silently picked up a starfish and spun it far into the waves. "I understand," he said. "Call me another thrower." Together, still under the hues of the rainbow, they spent hours throwing starfish back into the ocean. It was

a task not assumed lightly, for it was man as well as starfish they sought to save, sensing intuitively that man cannot exist spiritually without life. You make a difference!

~as quoted from *nhny.org*



Six months ago, Greg Armstrong was meeting with a group of community liaisons when he was introduced to the dream of a Breakfast Club for Hampstead School. Being the enterprising Outreach Chaplain that he is, Greg began investigating the phenomenon of Breakfast Clubs and child nutrition in general. What he discovered surprised even him.

"It's not that these children are in danger of starving," says Greg. "Rather, providing a nutritious breakfast is about helping them learn better." Although many children arrive at school without having eaten, research has shown that children who have breakfast have significant advantages over those who don't.

As a result, Greg started planning a new breakfast club initiative, based on a number of models he observed in other school's similar programs, and now he's looking for two or three committed individuals who are willing to spend an hour, three days a week, spending time with a group of 10-15 kids and helping provide for their nutritional and relational needs.

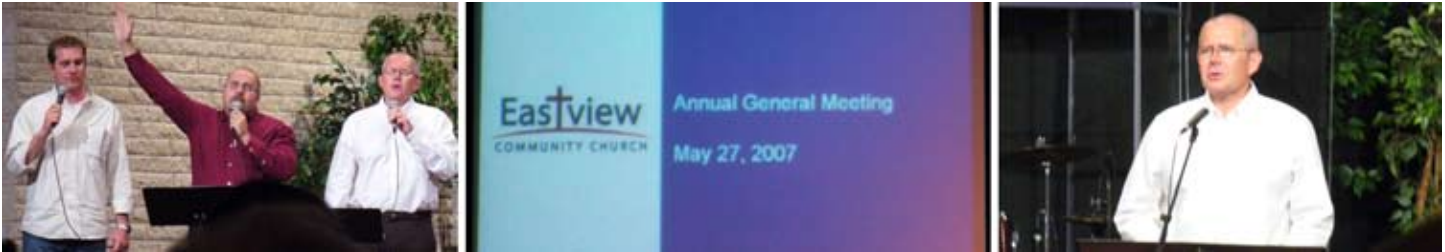
"The nutritional need may be more obvious, but I'd say that's only about 40% of the equation here – the rest is the relational need these kids have," says Greg, implying that these kids often require the caring relationships and mentorship as much, if not more so, than the physical food.

The breakfast club program falls under a new outreach initiative Greg has developed under the banner *Operation Starfish*. The breakfast club is the first program within this new initiative, and comes without a pre-programmed evangelical element – they won't be serving sermons or altar calls with the bagels and orange juice – but that's not to say God won't be at work within the program. The *Operation Starfish* name hints at the fundamental inspiration behind it all: derived from Loren Easley's story (reprinted at left), it shows how relationship ministry, while resource-intensive and superficially inefficient, is invaluable and profoundly worthwhile to those who matter most to God.

If you are interested in participating in this program starting this fall at Hampstead School, contact Greg Armstrong at [greg@eastview.org](mailto:greg@eastview.org) or phone him at the church at 334-4675 ext. 33.

~Philip Wiebe

# Moving Forward: The 2007 AGM



Not for many years had there been an Annual General Meeting this highly anticipated or attended. In fact, attendance at this, one of the most important events of the year, had fallen over the past few years, even to the point where even establishing the quorum required to ratify decisions became an issue. That all changed this year.

In all, some 243 people attended the Annual General Meeting on May 27, exceeding the quorum requirement by a wide margin, and suggesting a renewed interest in church matters. However, perhaps the most important outcome is that a good proportion of the Eastview membership heard about and had their say in regard to a number of issues on the agenda.

The evening began at 5:30pm with an enjoyable meal in the auditorium. Eastview's love of food and fellowship has been well documented and shows no sign of changing. Thanks to Maria Wilms and company for providing the delicious food.

The meeting itself started a few minutes late with a welcome from Weldon Neufeld, the acting moderator, followed by worship through singing as led by Weldon, Dave Fulawka and Steve Dick. Subsequent to that, Greg Armstrong, Eastview's Outreach Chaplain, introduced Gerry Hector, principal of Hampstead School, who brought a message of appreciation for Eastview's investment in Hampstead's community.

The next agenda item was the presentation of the nominees for church council. The nomination process was recapped and all of the seven council nominees – Norbert Barga, Steve Dick, Rick Hiebert, Walter Klassen, Greg Neufeld, Dave Olfert, John Schmidt – shared testimonies. Immediately thereafter, the ministry nominations were reviewed (nominees were asked to stand), and the membership was asked to submit their votes.

After all the votes had been collected, a photographic montage, celebrating staff highlights from the year, helped introduce the service recognition portion of the evening (thanks to Donna Koslowsky for prepar-

ing the montage). Two individuals who were specially recognized were Paul Lester (previous moderator) and Krista Buhler (outgoing treasurer).

Weldon then proceeded to share a note of praise for God's healing of his son, Mark (since baptized on June 3!), reading also from Philippians 4:4-7. Weldon then took the opportunity to deliver his address and challenge to the membership as acting moderator.

The missions update followed, presented by Beatrice Pauls, featuring stories from abroad filled with praise, prayer, and evidence of God's hand at work. Beatrice encouraged the membership to find out more about the missions Eastview supports while also informing the Mission Team about where they are involved.

Then it was on to the council update and discussion, a clearly one of the most highly anticipated items on the agenda. Council presented a proposal to create the position of Administrative Manager, designed to assist with administration, facility coordination, and provision of key support to ministries. The motion carried.

A second proposal was presented that seeks to provide for the interim worship needs by intentionally supporting a combination of staff and volunteers to lead the worship ministry. This motion carried as well.

The final issue presented by Council was that of the Leadership Model: the current solution and plan going forward were both reviewed. Council reported receiving much support for the proposed senior leader structure, while the discussion regarding job descriptions and areas of responsibility continue. In regard to the plan going forward, council expressed a desire and hope that many key issues would be resolved in the next 90 days in preparation for formal staff searches.

After another worship song and brief wait, the results of the vote were returned: all nominees had been affirmed with a vote of 75% or higher (as required). Weldon proceeded to read from Philippians 4:8-9 and closed the 2007 Annual General Meeting in prayer.

~Philip Wiebe, with notes from Trish Koslowsky



## A Handy Guide to Summer in Kids Cove

After a very busy season in children's ministry, our volunteers take a well-deserved break from their Sunday morning commitments. What does this mean for the children who come to church on summer Sundays? The Kids Cove program is modified and managed by staff and a few parent volunteers each week.

### June

The nursery will function as usual, the 3 and 4 yr. olds will meet in room 105 for the full hour, and the K-gr. 5 children will meet in the Kids Cove room. There will be a special class for the grade 6 students in the Fireside room during the 2nd service.

### July

A family-friendly simulcast service will be provided in the Kids Cove room during both services.

### August

A family-friendly simulcast service will again be provided in the Kids Cove room, but just during the 1st service. For the 2nd service a program will occur in the Kids Cove room for the K-gr. 5 children, and nursery/preschool care will be provided by volunteer parents for children up to age 4.

If you have any questions about the summer schedule or are a parent who would like to lend a helping hand on a summer Sunday, please contact Andrea Toews or Irene Funk by email at [kidscove@eastview.org](mailto:kidscove@eastview.org) or by phone at 334-4675.

Enjoy your summer! ~Andrea Toews

## Saddle Up for VBS!

Get ready for an exciting celebration of Jesus' love filled with amazing Bible adventures, unforgettable songs, memory-making crafts, and life-changing missions. Not too mention the mouth-watering snacks.

Sunday, Aug. 19 – Thursday, August 23  
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

For Kids entering Kindergarten to grade 6

Parent 'n Tot Program available for children ages 3-4

Mosey on over to the VBS Information Table in the Foyer to rustle up yore registration forms or to git yore name down as a Volunteer Rancher. Yee Haw!



## Graduation Celebration

May 27 was a day to remember as we celebrated God's faithfulness and blessings on Eastview, with a graduation in Kids Cove.

The very adorable and unpredictable 2 yr. olds marched up onto stage to the very fitting anthem, "The Ducks Go By". There they received their certificate, promoting them into the next stage of Children's Ministry: Junior Church! They were followed by the large group of Kindergarten children, who shared a poem, some cute smiles, and a few wide-eyed stares. We look forward to having this group join the big kids in the Kids Cove room.

Finally, the grade six students were welcomed into the Junior High Student Ministries by Pastor Terence Hoorman. In keeping with our mission of partnering with families in teaching who God is and guiding children into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, this group of children was presented with special Bibles to take with them. We have enjoyed watching these kids grow and learn, and we wish them joy and blessings as they transition into this next exciting phase of life.

We thank the parents who joined us for this celebration. And thank-you to all our families for giving us the opportunity to partner with you in this journey of learning together who God is and how much He loves us. ~Andrea Toews

# Youth Workday 2007



As a fundraising effort in preparation for their upcoming mission trip to Chicago, a number of high school-aged youth from the church took part in Youth Workday 2007. The youth provided a number of services to individuals in the hopes of receiving donations. While the amount of donations received isn't clear, what is obvious is that these youth worked hard and apparently had a fair bit of fun in the process.

Thanks to Ted and Val Monk for the photos.

~Philip Wiebe



## Picture This: Scenes from a Year in Drama

Trying to recap a year with the drama team in writing is hard. So why not bring to bear what we use every practice: our imagination.

First, picture a young man sitting at a computer, scanning words that in his mind already take a facial expression. Repeatedly clicking the mouse, he finally pauses, leans back, and smiles.

Next, picture a mother of three standing in front of a bathroom sink. As she blow-dries her hair, she glances at the lines taped to her mirror and proceeds to recite them over and over.

Meanwhile, elsewhere a father sits on his couch and recites his lines, only to be corrected by his teenaged daughter. Shaking his head, he tries again.

Now, picture a man sitting in a chair and practicing a monologue. Sometimes interrupted by others, at times interrupting himself, they all look back and forth across the stage. Up for debate are the merits of a white screen that allows hides all but a crisp shadow from the audience. The effect is breathtaking, although the final touches are still missing, convincing all that

the change is warranted.

Another picture presents itself, this one of two women. The younger one is leaning against a wall, somewhat pale, wringing her lines between her hands. The older one is pacing back and forth, closing her eyes for as long as she dares, picturing in her mind the highlighted lines on the page she was looking at all week. Both are moving their lips, and although most of the words are those memorized from a page, their deep breaths also correspond to a prayer: a prayer that the next moments would affect someone in the audience on a personal level.

Lastly, picture yourself in any one the above scenes. If it even looks just a little like you could belong, maybe we should get to know you. The easiest part is saying you are interested. The hard part will be in between the prayers before you go on stage. In the meantime, you'll get a chance to meet a great group of people that love to serve and have fun at the same time.

For more information, call Lyle Morris at 223-9509.

~Sonja Lepp