

IMPACT



"Making Disciples and Loving the Least of These"

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Radically Transformed!

By Corinne Scott, *IMPACT* editor

Joshua Picco became a believer in Jesus Christ just over two years ago. Since then, his lifestyle has radically changed, and God is now Picco's priority and his future.

At one of the men's breakfast meetings at Bayside, Joshua Picco, 21, said to a friend, "If you would have asked me to get up at 3 in the morning to drive to Superior (from the Twin Cities) to go to a men's group at church, I would have told you, 'You're insane. I'm sleeping in. Why would I want to go to church?'" Since becoming a Christian and when Picco is in the Twin Cities, he gladly gets up early and drives to Superior to attend that men's breakfast!

Picco, a senior at UWS (University of Wisconsin-Superior), has experienced a radical transformation since he came to believe in Jesus Christ just over two years ago. He faithfully attends Bayside Baptist Church and God's Garage Guys on Wednesday nights. He is very involved with Cru (Crusade for Christ) on the UWS campus. In April 2018, he is going on a mission trip to Israel and Jordan through Calvary Baptist Church in Roseville, Minn. And, he has felt God's call to go into a ministry of teaching -- a radical transformation!



Josh Picco used to hate to read, but when he became a believer in Jesus, his desire to read was radically transformed. He now loves to read the Scriptures and study complex subjects such as philosophy, theology and apologetics (defending the Christian faith). *Photo by: Dave Hudacek/Bayside In Focus*

Redeemed

Picco was born in the Chicago area and his family moved to the Twin Cities when he was 9. He said his family basically attended a Catholic church on holidays.

"I grew up knowing there was a God, but I didn't have any religious convictions," he added. "I would have said I was a Christian, but I wasn't. My parents were great, and we had a loving home, but my

life was pleasure-filled and self-seeking. I got into marijuana at 14 and alcohol at 15. The first 19 years of my life before I met Christ were very hedonistic (engaged in the pursuit of pleasure)."

In October 2015, Picco's high school girlfriend of three years broke up with him. Josh said that became a low point in his life as he was prone to depression and anxiety. He felt he had no place to turn.

"But something inside of me said to turn to God," he said. "I didn't know where else to go. I started calling my grandma because I knew she was religious. She told me to start reading my Bible -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and then Acts -- and to start praying. I spent the whole weekend talking with my grandma, reading the Bible and praying."

Picco's grandmother, Pat Picco, lives in Oglesby, Ill. His grandpa, Alan Picco, whom he calls "Papa," had Parkinson's and has passed away, but "Papa" was influential in Josh's life, too. His grandparents had been instrumental in founding several Baptist churches.

After talking with his grandmother for several days, she asked him, "Josh, have you ever accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior?" At that point, Picco prayed with his grandmother to receive Jesus into his life. (Accepting Jesus into your life means you believe He is the son of God and his death on the cross paid the price for your

sins, reconciling you to God through faith.)

“I first had a sense of peace come over me, something I had never felt before,” Picco said. “I was constantly worried, couldn’t sleep and wasn’t able to feel any happiness or comfort. It was a radical change in my life at that point.”

Transformed

Picco’s grandmother stayed in touch with him and taught him to pray. He said his first year was a lot of putting “my old self to death and realizing what it meant to live for Christ.” His grandmother helped him pick out a church to attend. Picco said he was showing her Bayside’s website, and she saw there was a men’s group. Her church always had a strong men’s group and that was instrumental in being a backbone for their church. She told him to try Bayside.

“Shortly after Thanksgiving (2016), I went out to the men’s group (God’s Garage Guys) and have been going ever since,” he added. “The openness about the way Matt (Bordes) teaches really drew me. It wasn’t intimidating at all. It’s about being real and how we as men can be more like Christ. Matt has created that kind of environment.”

Picco also reached out to Associate Pastor Mark Brookmole, started mentoring under him and going through Quest, an in depth way to study the Bible. On April 10, 2016, Picco was baptized at Bayside.

About the same time, Picco became involved with Cru (Crusade for Christ) on the UWS campus. He does a lot of teaching at the Cru meetings and studying topics, such as, “What it means to be made in the image of God” or “What is faith?” He shares a house in Superior with four friends from Cru.

Called to ministry

After just a year as a Christian, Picco felt God’s call to go into ministry. His grandmother told him to think about it, but Picco said, “I can’t not tell people about how life changing Christ is.” After graduating from UWS, Picco plans to attend seminary, getting a doctorate from Liberty University via online courses, studying theology, philosophy and apologetics.

Picco listens daily to sermons from many spiritual leaders, such as R. C. Sproul and Ravi Zacharias. Picco’s friend, Zach Parsons, suggested that Picco may connect with these men because they are great teachers.

“My gift is teaching, being able to understand complex things and communicate that to people,” Picco said.

“Whether a pastor, professor or speaker, teaching will be involved—anything where God wants to use me.”

Matt Bordes, leader of the Men’s Ministry at Bayside, said that Josh is a young man who has come to Jesus Christ and has come seriously!

“He has geared his life to serve the master,” Bordes added, “and with a heart like that, there is no telling what God can do to and through this young man! Keep praying for Josh as he grows in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am proud to call him my brother!”

Family changed

Picco said his parents really feel good about the changes in his life. His mom saw the change in him, and she changed as well. They talk about the Bible and what it means to know Christ.

“Mom is going to a church in Roseville, Minn. and has been baptized,” he said. “We have the best ever relationship. She and Dad are doing a Bible study. He is happy for me.”



Bayside MILESTONES

Swedish Immigrants Plant the Seeds for Bayside Baptist Church

By Cindy and Ray Saari

Despite that brutal winter of 1888 mentioned in January’s issue, the small but dedicated group of Scandinavian

immigrants met as often as they could. Thanks to the ministering efforts of missionary Erick Beckman throughout the summer, six members voted to form a church. On August 1, 1888, Bayside’s beginnings formally organized as the 1st Swedish Baptist Church of West Superior.

By September of that same year, the desire to have a dedicated church building brought purchase of land at 6th and Weeks Avenue for \$1200. The building consisted of only one room, but oh how they praised the Lord for his provision and faithfulness. After a few years, a larger building was put up in place of the old one-room church, and by 1896, Sunday school was being held in four different locations around Superior.



1st Swedish Baptist Church of West Superior (Submitted photo)



PT's Postings

By Senior Pastor Tom Bush

As you probably already know, we started 2018 with a new initiative of 21 days of prayer. Through this challenge to our congregation, we have been praying more as individuals and enjoying more corporate times of prayer on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. It has been wonderful to pray more together as a church.

I first want to encourage everyone to share how more prayer has impacted you so far this year. Take time to tell someone! I would love to have you send me an email or give me a call to share your testimony of prayer in 2018.

Next, I want to challenge everyone that the prayer emphasis doesn't have to end just because our 21-day challenge is over! The pastors and deacons at Bayside desire that our church continues to be a house of prayer and that our congregation would be a people of prayer. We will continue to provide prayer opportunities during our times of worship as well as prayer events throughout the year.

Finally, I encourage Bayside to pray for one another. It's biblical and it's good when we pray for each other! James 5:16 says, *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and **pray for one another**, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* There are many ways that we can pray for one another. You can ask others how you

could pray for them, you can pray for others as you meet and greet them at church or you can join our prayer chain. The prayer chain is a great way to pray more for our congregation. Each week we send out prayer requests from our congregation to dozens of people on the prayer chain. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

I hope that as we move along as a church in 2018, you will be encouraged and challenged to pray more. And especially to pray for each other. Be creative! Think outside the box! But most importantly, keep praying!

Stay the course. God is still at work!

Pastor Tom



Parish Nurse NOTES



By Ruth Juntune, Parish Nurse

What is YOUR Posture like?

When we see pictures of Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Kate Middleton or Sidney Poitier, we see grace, dignity, poise and confidence, which leads us to respect what we know of their character. Much of this comes from their posture and demeanor.

Bones seem very solid and strong, until they break. At that time, the break needs to be set so that the bone can knit together without deformity. This ability of the bones to knit together also means they have the ability to change shape. What determines that shape is our posture. If someone spends years bent over a desk, the shoulder changes shape to become solidly bent over so one cannot stand up straight. It is amazing that something that in a day, a month, or even a year may seem insignificant would have consequences that last over a lifetime.

Good posture enables you to move efficiently and safely; prevents injury, gives energy and confidence, helps your body adapt to stress, minimizes fear, increases your ability to breathe, think and concentrate, improves your image as well as many other benefits. Making the effort to improve your posture has lasting positive outcomes.

In November, I took the Gratitude Challenge from Nancy D. Wolgemuth from "Revive Our Hearts." She asked, "What is your posture like?" reminding us that "gratitude is the overflow of a humble heart, just as surely as an ungrateful, complaining spirit flows out of a proud heart." When our spiritual posture is one of pride and entitlement, everything that doesn't go our way leads us to be demanding and resentful. This includes when we are driving, shopping, dining out and living out our daily lives.

A clipping saved in my devotional book remind me of how to live like Christ and again, I need the reminders.

Be Like Christ:

In Attitude -- humility

In Character -- loving

In Compassion -- coming along side others

As we start this New Year's journey in faith, life and relationships, let us again turn to Philippians, especially Chapters 2 and 4, as Paul reminds us how God would have us live. Then, ask the Lord to reset our spiritual posture in order to be who God would have us be.

**IMPACT***For God and for Eternity*

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Impact is a publication of Bayside Baptist Church. The purpose of the publication is to raise awareness of ministries of the church and the impact of those ministries for God and for Eternity. We pray the impacts will glorify God and bring hope, encouragement, peace and the unconditional love of Jesus Christ to readers of "IMPACT."

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"The LORD your God among you is powerful—he will save and he will take joyful delight in you. In his love he will renew you with his love; he will celebrate with singing because of you."

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

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Youth Ministry

Polka Dot Girls Sponsor

"Fearless Giving"

Fundraiser to Aid the Homeless

By **Amida Gallito**, Leader of Girls Ministry

The Polka Dot Girls (Grade 4 through 12) were in the middle of the Set Apart Girl study, "Fearless Living," and wanted to do a project to help others, to organize it themselves and give to kids in the local homeless shelters. They named the project "Fearless Giving" to correlate with their study.

The Fearless Giving project ran from Nov. 26 to Dec. 17. A list of needed items was available at the church Welcome Center and a collection box was maintained in the church office. Many items on the list were collected and \$147 cash, which was used to buy additional needed items as well as toys that were wrapped to give to the kids. The group is very grateful for the overwhelming support from the Bayside family. The girls were very touched and encouraged by the great response.

At the Polka Dot Christmas Party on Dec. 17, gifts were wrapped and delivered that afternoon to:

- 1) **Harbor House Crisis Shelter** in Superior, Wis. (Amida Gallito, Madeline Walczynski, and Paige Jezierski). It was a special moment for Paige as she remembered the days when she stayed in that same shelter in the past.
- 2) **Loaves & Fishes** in Duluth, Minn. (Jodi Green and her two girls, Mili and Dani) Jodi said the girls were very excited to drop off the items. "I found it beautiful that two little girls that used to live in a shelter in Minneapolis are now



From left: Avalon Nelson, Dani Green, Storm Heffelfinger, Mili Green and Paige Jezierski hold some of the gifts they later wrapped for kids in the homeless shelters.

preparing gifts for one. God is such a redeemer in all things." When the girls were asked whether they were okay with sharing this part of their past, Mili said, "It's good for people to know that hard things can happen, but God makes them good again."

I, Amida, liked dropping off donations to the shelter, but I was more touched by the loving hearts and generous spirit of the girls whom the Lord gave me the privilege of serving in our youth ministry. They took the initiative, took care of the details, worked hard and were very excited about it. They are my joy. We serve an amazing God.

"It's good for people to know that hard things can happen, but God makes them good again."

- Mili



At the Polka Dot Girls' Christmas party on Dec. 17, Paige Jezierski, 14, helps wrap gifts for the kids in the homeless shelters.



By Paige Jezierski

Hi - I'm Paige Jezierski. I've attended Bayside

Baptist Church since 2015. I was super excited when I got the opportunity to do this project which involved collecting donations to give to some homeless shelters that may have not had enough this winter. Being in charge, or as Amida says "the leader," was super fun because I got to pick the shelters and make all the decisions. I wanted to give these items to these shelters because they are all Christian based and are the lesser-known shelters around here that don't get as much in donations as the others.

A few years ago, my mom, brother and sister were traveling around Minnesota, homeless and staying in these shelters. Fortunately, my grandma took me in while we were trying to get custody of my brother and sister. Not being able to help my family out and provide a home for them really hurt me. Now as my life goes, I want to help everyone and anyone I can. My dream is to open my own homeless shelter and help as many people as I can get back up on their feet.

I am so grateful for all the support I get from God, family, and friends. I want to thank Amida and everyone at Bayside who contributed to this project and for giving me this opportunity to help me follow my dreams. I also wanted to show the girls in the Polka Dot Girls Group that helping others can be fun and that sometimes we must think about others besides ourselves. I know it is unlikely that one day homeless shelters will no longer be needed. But I believe that if everyone helps each other just a little bit, life will be a better and a safer place to pursue our dreams and live a happy life.

God gave up his one and only son to save us, so why can't we give a little to save each other?



Highlighting Children's Ministry and Applauding Volunteers

By Hunter Tunell, Children's Ministry Director

Around the end of my first week as Children's Ministry director, I realized that I had known next to nothing about what Bayside had to offer for children. Even though I had attended all the programs in my early years, I never saw the whole of the ministry nor noticed the brilliance behind it all.

That being said, I recently recognized that two things needed to happen: those who have been involved in the Children's Ministry at Bayside definitely need to be given some gratitude and that I need to inform Baysiders on what is really going on with the Children's Ministry!

To start, I would like to thank everyone who has faithfully served, in any position, with the Children's Ministry in the past and the present. Children's Ministry is not easy, yet there have been so many believers who have risen to the task of training up the youngest members of our church. Two of those faithful servants from whom I have personally learned and who still give their time to Bayside are Nancy Herman and Tom Casper.

"Miss Nancy," as I used to call her (truthfully, I think I still might), was a wonderful teacher, and I learned many biblical truths under her instruction. I also learned to play the hand bells while I was in her class, although that skill might have been lost over the years.

After moving out of Miss Nancy's children's church classes, I transitioned into Tom Casper's Sunday school where I

learned the importance of memorizing Scripture, and I was taught countless stories from the Word of God. There have been many other influencers in my life at Bayside, and to all of you, I would like to give a "thank you" as well.

Over the next few months in IMPACT, I want to fill you in on each of our ministries that we provide for the children of Bayside.

CHILDRENS CHURCH CLASSES

Begin right after worship and run until the end of the service.

5 year-olds to 1st grade:

Go to the Green Room

2nd and 3rd graders:

Go to the Blue Room

Nursery

The nursery is one of our main programs and is provided on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. It is one of the areas that requires the most help.

On Sunday morning we typically have five helpers and 10 to 20 children to hang out with! Wednesday nights are a bit quieter, and we usually have one or two helpers and anywhere from one to five children. Because it demands the help of many people, the nursery needs to have the biggest volunteer base, and it does! God has provided Bayside with an excellent group of over 30 volunteers who help week in and week out. Those helpers do everything from running the desk and keeping the attendance to building block towers with the kids during the service.

I encourage you to try to find time this month to talk with a Children's Ministry worker to thank them for giving their time to this ministry.

If you are interested in helping with the nursery (or any of the other programs that we offer), please let me know! God bless!

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
John 15:13



Question & Answer

Valentine Jokes

Q: What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

A: Forget-me-nuts.

Q: What did the valentine card say to the stamp?

A: Stick with me and we'll go places!

Q: What did the light bulb say to the switch?

A: You turn me on.

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, but they had an apple.

Q: What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

A: Can I hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand?

Hearts Who Serve

Hearts Who Serve
 highlights people within
 the church who humbly
 serve in many
 different ways.

Dawn Vergamini volunteers weekly for “Pew Review”

By Corinne Scott, IMPACT Editor

Every Thursday Dawn Vergamini volunteers at the church doing “pew review.” With a smile, she said she doesn’t know who coined the phrase, “pew review,” but it means going through all the pews picking up garbage and snippets of paper left behind and replenishing envelopes, scratch paper, pens and Bibles. Pew review takes her about 45 minutes. She also waters plants.

She added that pew review is not a one-person job. Usually, after church on Sunday, Kathy Brookmole picks up papers that are laying on the seats.

“I just go behind her and detail it a little more,” Vergamini said. “When I go on vacation, LueAnn (Warcholak) fills in for me.”

Vergamini did say as a gentle warning, “If you leave behind an interesting note, it will be found and giggled at!”

Debbie Love and then LueAnn Warcholak had the pew review job before Vergamini, who doesn’t remember how long she has been doing it. She was watering plants and when asked to take over the pew review, she just slid over to doing that, too.

“It’s a job that needs to be done,” she said. “It’s an easy, simple way to serve. There are lots of little jobs around the church that need done. For example, after I pull out the sermon note sheets from bulletins that have been left behind, Gil (Langerman) cuts them into scratch paper that I put back in the pews. After being at Bayside for 35 years, I see stuff that needs



Photographer Amida Gallito/Bayside InFocus

Dawn Vergamini picks up snippets of paper, notes, and other left things behind in the pews and replenishes envelopes, scratch paper and Bibles each Thursday.

to be done, and I do it.”

In those 35 years at Bayside, Vergamini has been on “just about every committee.” She has served on the nursery committee and as a nursery worker. She has served on the flower, decorating, the Lord’s Table, and nominating committees as well as the Deaconess Board. Currently Vergamini is on the Visitation Committee, helps serve funeral lunches, helps with baptisms and is a photographer with Bayside In Focus.

Beyond Bayside, Vergamini is in a Bible study with friends, babysits her two grandchildren – 4 ½ years and 3 months-- and does things with her sister. She loves to travel extensively with husband, Greg, to whom she has been married for 41 years. She graduated from Concordia-Moorhead in 1974 with a major in Biology and a minor in Spanish. In 1976 she graduated from physical therapy school at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where, incidentally, she met Greg.

Do you have a testimony to share?

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Psalm 105:1 (ESV)

If the Lord has done great things in your life and you would like to share, IMPACT would consider publishing your testimony. Perhaps God healed your marriage? Perhaps God redeemed you? Perhaps God healed you? Perhaps God answered a prayer – for finances, for raising your kids, for direction etc.? If so, contact Editor Corinne Scott at corinne@livingstonesnews.com or call (218) 590-1607.



“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

Psalm 113:3 (ESV)

Frosty Morning

Photographer: Jon Severson

Happenings

- **Feb. 6**, and every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. **Every Man’s Battle**, at church.
- **Feb. 17**, Saturday, 5 p.m.- 8 p.m. **J.O.Y.’s Sadie Hawkins-themed Event** at church, \$7.
- **Feb. 18**, Sunday, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **Constitution Revision Committee’s (CRC) Church Town Hall Meeting**. Learn about the proposed changes to the church constitution and adopting an Elder –led leadership. All are welcome to attend.
- **Feb. 19**, Monday, 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. **Adoption Connection** Free childcare provided. Open to anyone interested in learning more about adoption or foster care for their family or want support on their journey.
- **Feb. 23-25, OR Mar. 2-4**, **Family Life Couple’s Retreat** in Minneapolis, go to FamilyLife.com/Weekend, for more information or to register. Use **4marriage** under group rate for a discount!
- **March 11**, Sunday, **Daylight Savings Time** Begins.
- **March 11**, Sunday, noon, **JOY Mystery Cafe**
- **March 23-25**, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, **Youth Group Retreat**, Storybook Lodge, 7th grade to 12th grade, before March 14-\$60; after March 14-\$70.

For a more details and a complete lists of church happenings, check out the “Calendar” at www.baysidesuperior.org.

