



## By-Laws: A Joy!

When asked what the most exciting thing about being a church member is, most people respond without a thought, "amending the By-Laws! Who's with me? Let's shout together, 'By-Laws...By-Laws...By-Laws!'" Ok, maybe you don't share my enthusiasm and maybe that is not what people are typically excited about. Typically, when By-Laws are mentioned we think of long, boring, seemingly pointless, meticulous, confusing or just plain painful meetings. But By-Laws are about how you, the members, will be pastored and shepherded. The By-Laws are about how ministry is structured. The By-Laws are really about the church being taken care of and ministering the gospel to each other and the world!

When I arrived at Milwood in February 2010 the church was in the midst of restructuring the By-Laws. This process was begun under Neal Oliver's pastorate. The process was placed on hold when he resigned. After I arrived, the decision was made to dissolve the team of volunteers who were overseeing the project and allow me, as the pastor, to lead the Deacons through this process. This year the Deacons and I took time to observe the Bible, several books on church polity, and other church's By-Laws as we considered changes in our own By-Laws.

We had hoped to present amended By-Laws to the church this summer. But that proved to be a little

too fast. However, we are now prepared to bring amended By-Laws to you for consideration and vote. I've said it before, I'm so thankful for the unity of this group of men (the Deacons). I have enjoyed going through this process with them!

The main amendments in the By-Laws that will be presented have to do with the leadership structure and ministry leaders/committees (which is why the process was begun). Below is the schedule that will begin January 13, 2013.

- **January 13, 20 and 27:** Preaching on Church Leadership
- **January 27:** Presentation of By-Laws by Leadership in Church Family Meeting
- **February 10:** Church-wide discussion, questions, and amendments in Church Family Meeting
- **February 17:** Final church vote to amend By-Laws in church service (date is subject to change)

What is happening here? You are being shepherded. The By-Laws are not about boring documents. They are about how the sheep of the flock are led and cared for. They are about how the local church, Milwood Baptist, is structured and governed.

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Verse of the Month:  
**ENCOURAGE ONE  
ANOTHER WITH THESE  
WORDS**

"14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:14-19

### Sharing God's Work

What has God done in your life? Share with us so that we may rejoice with you. If you'd like to encourage others through your testimony, you can email Danielle ([danielle@milwoodbaptist.com](mailto:danielle@milwoodbaptist.com)) We'll include your story in one of the upcoming Milwood Monthly issues.

## Awana Grand Prix

Just a couple of weeks ago we had 40 cars compete in our 20th Awana Grand Prix. I look forward to this event every year because it gives us a chance to grow our relationships with clubbers and their families but from a different angle.

The Awana Grand Prix is a family-oriented event that allows clubbers to express their ingenuity by creating and racing their own wooden Grand Prix cars while giving us an opportunity to share God's plan of salvation with clubbers' unsaved family members by attracting them to a fun event involving their child. Weeks before the race, clubbers and parents had the opportunity to attend Pit Parties where we were able to assist them in designing, cutting, and building their car.

Before the race we had a short devotional where we compared the Awana Grand Prix to our lives as Christians:

1. Salvation is registering for the race
2. Our study and actions through life build our car. By the time the cars race, it is too late to change them. The people who have put in more work before the actual race will win.
3. After we race, and are judged, we get our heavenly rewards.

All the clubbers and their families had a great time of fun, fellowship, and competition. I am so thankful for a loving and gifted church family that gives, unselfishly, their time and talents making the Awana Grand Prix and Pit Parties a great success every year!

In His Service,  
Tom Nelson

## Birth Announcement



Katelyn  
Rae Fielele  
was born  
October  
12, 2012 at  
6:23pm.  
She  
weighed  
5lbs 11oz  
and was 19  
inches  
long.

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They are about how we relate to each other.

1 Peter 5:1-4 says, "So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." Make no mistake Milwood, I am reaching for the unfading crown of glory! I have thought through our By-Laws, and encouraged our Deacons to think with me about them, knowing that one day Jesus will appear and

## Fall Fest

Our annual Fall Fest was a huge success! A big thank you to all those who helped make the night so great for our neighbors in Milwood. We had a great turn-out and lots of volunteers that worked hard to make the night awesome. Several of our neighbors expressed their thankfulness for this event and how glad they were that we really care about this community. It really was a great night. Each year we plan, bring candy, volunteer and work hard to make Fall Fest a success. What makes a successful Fall Fest? When we share the love of Christ with our actions and words to the neighbors that God has placed us near, that is success. We have had several families visit that attended Fall Fest. That is success. A special shout-out to Danny McReynolds for these great photos.



we will answer for how we have cared for HIS flock. That said, amending the By-Laws is simply an attempt to shepherd Jesus' church well. Perhaps you will not see the By-Laws too often after next Spring. But any changes made will affect this church (you) for the foreseeable future.

If you'd like to do some reading or are interested in what the Deacons have read, see excerpts:

**Polity** by Mark Dever

**9 Marks of a Healthy Church** by Mark Dever

**Retro Christianity** by Dr. Michael J Svigel

**Biblical Eldership** by Alexander Strauch

**Vintage Church** by Mark Driscoll

For His Glory,

Pastor Nathan Loudin





## UPG: The Battle Is Real

In January we launched the UPG Initiative. In November we voted to adopt the people of Haiti and the Emirati people (of the United Arab Emirates). Amazing! Our body voted unanimously to adopt the people of Haiti and UAE.

The Thursday before Thanksgiving Nathan Loudin, Lynnelle Evans, and Cory Ratzlaff traveled to Temple, TX to meet with our point man in UAE. He was stateside for an international medical conference. It was a joy to share with him in person that we have adopted the Emirati people and want to support his ministry in the UAE. So "Mission E" is a go!! There were several exciting things we learned from our meeting which we are excited to share with you in the future!

**Begin getting into the habit of praying for the**

## people of Haiti and the Emirati people!

Flex your prayer muscles! Have faith by praying for people that you have never even met.

Now, let me share something with you. I was reminded today (11/27/12) that we are in a spiritual battle for the people in the UAE. I just received this email regarding "M". Many of you remember "M", the middle-eastern man that I introduced to you when I came back from

the UAE. While there, our team was invited into his home on the last day of our trip. Remember him? His brother and uncle were hit by a shell in their home country (which is in civil war at this time). They had gone back to their home (from the countryside, I believe) to retrieve their winter clothing. Needless to say there is great turmoil in "M's" heart, his family, as well as his country. Those close to him believe this has happened to their family because of his faith in Jesus and for taking Christian baptism. They blame him and his God (our God). Church, Milwood, pray for our brother in Christ and his family!! He is under very real threat both physically and spiritually. Our friend on Mission E signed the email to me **"The battle is real. Please pray."**

-Pastor Nathan

## Operation Christmas Child

This year we surpassed our goal of 100 boxes by 20! We filled and shipped a total of 120 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Since 1993, over 77 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced the joy of receiving these simple treasures in shoeboxes. Best of all, these gifts continue to provide opportunities to introduce these young people to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Every shoebox represents an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a child. During shoebox distributions, boys and girls are offered Gospel booklets that explain God's plan of salvation in their own language. Then local churches and ministry partners invite children to attend a follow-up discipleship program using lesson materials supplied by Samaritan's Purse.

Thank you to those who helped out this year by donating items and shoeboxes, giving money to cover postage, and by giving your time to help fill the boxes. We have given 120 children the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ and what a great gift that is!

-Christy Bunce  
KidCity Director

