

MAIN STREET TALK

MAINSTREET COVENANT CHURCH

SUMMER 2023



Stained Glass & Stinky Feet

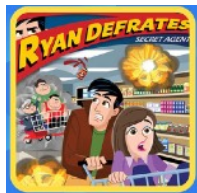
MainStreet Kids Update | Keri Berg

This Spring while the adults have been watching Season 3 of *The Chosen*, our kids have also been going through a series of their own on Right Now Media called "The Adventures of Ryan Defrates: Secret Agent", an animated action-adventure series about a young spy with a whole lot to learn. Ryan's arrogant and reckless and always insists on working alone. That is, until the day he's paired with a very unlikely partner... his mom! Each episode Ryan and his mom fight against the bad guys and save the day just in the nick of time. Each episode is followed with the Bible story the episode was (loosely) based off of, including lots of Biblical wisdom (and there's an undercurrent in each episode about honoring your parents!) Ask your kiddo to sing the Ryan Defrates song—it's pretty catchy!

I've also enjoyed the MainStreet practice of Act 2:46: "They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts." You hear that joy a lot as these

kids sneak up to Abby's room or out to the trampoline as soon as their food is done.

I've been listening to the online services at Church of the Open Door in Maple Grove over the last few weeks, and I want to share this Kids Blessing that they say each week. Those of you who know me will not be surprised a bit to know that every time I hear it, I start crying. It is the EXACT thing that we are teaching these tiny humans and I pray it's the thing they always experience at MainStreet:



Beloved kids, may you know that God is here, listen for His voice and experience His love. And may you know that your church family is here to love you and point you to Jesus. Amen, amen, amen!

Thanks, church, for letting these kids be kids while pointing them to Jesus.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Location: The Berg's Home

- 6.4 The Chosen Ep. 7
- 6.11 The Chosen Ep. 8
- 6.17 Keri's 40th Bday Bash
- 6.18 No Gathering (Father's Day)
- 6.24 Kevin Krotzer Funeral 11am
- 6.25 Sunday Gathering 5pm
- 6.27 Beer & Brats w St. Martins 6pm
- 6.30-7.3 Family Camp @ Cov Pines
- 7.2 No Gathering
- 7.9 Harrison Bay @ 10am
Sunday Gathering @ 5pm
- 7.16 Sunday Gathering @ 5pm
- 7.23 Sunday Gathering @ 5pm
- 7.30 Slip 'n Slide Potluck 5pm
- 8.6 Harrison Bay @ 10am
Sunday Gathering @ 5pm
- 8.13 Sunday Gathering @ 5pm
- 8.20 Sunday Gathering 5pm
- 8.27 Sunday Gathering @ 5pm

Summer Series



JESUS WALKS Immersive Discipleship



Jeremy is taking students beyond the classroom this summer and developing a series of Jesus Walks in strategic locations that let nature amplify Jesus' essential teachings. We discuss worry among the wildflowers, being God's masterpieces in a sculpture garden, God's grace among the grazing sheep, and navigating faith and doubt in a boat on Lake Minnetonka. Jeremy may share some of these lessons on Sunday nights this summer as well.

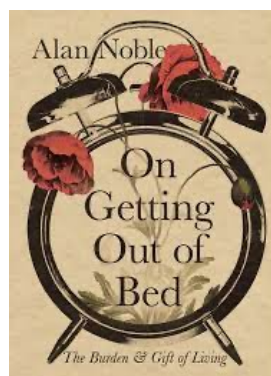
Learn more at KingdomHarbor.com.



I'M TURNING 40!
SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | 6PM
665 Applegarden Rd., Minnetrista
Come celebrate!

Let's celebrate one of the best, most generous and loving humans on the planet! We'll have a nacho bar and live music by our favorite hippies, Eben and Barb.

RECOMMENDED SUMMER BOOK



A short, timely book to discuss in Huddles or on Sunday nights.

"Alan Noble has given us another great gift in writing this short, honest, and deeply moving book on the powerful witness to the goodness of life and of God of simply getting out of bed each day, especially when we experience mental suffering or affliction. It contains many gems of wisdom and profound truth..."
—Siang-Yang Tan

Saying Goodbye

Bonnie Blair & Kevin Krotzer

MainStreet said farewell to two long time church members recently. I wrote tributes to both of them you can read on my blog at KingdomHarbor.com. Here are a couple excerpts:

Kevin Krotzer modeled a sweet and resilient childlike faith in Jesus. Kevin was not a sophisticated and well-read Christian, but he would run laps around most of us with the amount of deep peace and tranquility of spirit he exhibited in his final years battling cancer. He was dealing with a lot of physical setbacks and suffering toward the end, and yet he had a kind of calmness of spirit in the midst of it all. I had the special privilege of renewing Kevin's baptism at Surfside Beach in the waters of Lake Minnetonka.

Kevin had a humble, teachable spirit about him. He wanted to be led deeper in his faith. He welcomed guidance, he asked for advice, he admitted weaknesses and trusted the wisdom of pastors and mentors. He was soft and moldable clay in God's hands. Pastors wouldn't be quitting the ministry at such high rates if churches were full of Kevins. He was easy to love and a joy to pastor.



Bonnie Blair was one of those quiet, behind the scenes saints who did small things with a big heart and impact we'll only know in eternity. She started out serving on our coffee team as we were launching the church at the Gillespie Center. She spent years sending birthday cards to every member of the church, and every new visitor in the early days got a hand written card in the mail thanking them for visiting. She led a cookie decorating station at our Advent Festival and was

famous for her cakes she baked for every church family celebration. Bonnie's kind and compassionate heart went far beyond the walls of the church. She always had a spare bedroom in her house for people struggling along and needing a place to live. She went on mission trips to Romania before joining our church, and she loved to show us pictures and tell stories of her adventures over there. She volunteered at Sojourn Adult Program leading arts and crafts, and spent time each week reading stories at Lake Minnetonka Shores. As her kids put it, "Mom has helped so many throughout her life, we would need to write a book to do her justice."

The last time I served her communion in the hospital, we anointed her head with oil for healing. As her daughter Julia served her the bread and juice, Bonnie said, "Mmmm, that's sweet!" I thought to myself, "She has no idea how sweet its going to be when she's face to face with Jesus very soon." A few minutes later, she pointed to the bread and cup again and said, "Let's get to it." "Oh, you want seconds?" I asked. "I don't think the Lord would mind." So Bonnie was doubly blessed that day at the Lord's Table. And we've all been doubly, triply, manifoldly blessed for having had both Bonnie and Kevin in our lives.



KINGDOM HARBOR Outreach

MainStreet has given me their blessing to go out on mission between Sundays to minister to two demographics often missing in churches: college students and senior citizens. Here's some highlights:

SENIOR OUTREACH

Each month we do a worship service at Harrison Bay Senior Living. Abby has become my little helper, and the folks adore her! Abby passes out the songbooks, and even sings lead on a couple favorite songs. These folks look forward to this Sunday all month long, and we invite you to come join us sometime. The photos shows you this precious extension of our MainStreet community.

COLLEGE OUTREACH

These past nine months I taught 9 college courses at 4 different schools traveling over 12,000 miles to plant seeds of the Kingdom in the hearts and minds of some 250+ students. Alongside my academic lectures, I seek out students who may need a pastor more than a professor at the moment. Some student testimonies:



Harrison Bay congregation



Lois & Abby



Jeremy's Solid Rock students in Israel

"Jeremy was always very engaging and intentional with us students. He made it easy for us to pay attention and ask questions." -SOLID ROCK STUDENT

"I was nervous about coming to Northwestern since I didn't grow up in a Christian household, but I learned so much from your lectures and stories as a pastor that I just feel developed me as a believer." -UNW STUDENT

"I really like your teaching style, you are very captivating and you speak with purpose and experience which is something that is hard to find these days." -BETHEL STUDENT

"Dr. Berg was willing to dive deep into questions I had not really considered. I have begun to make my faith my own." -CROWN STUDENT

Some students are now attending MainStreet and participating in my "Jesus Walks" discipleship program this summer.



A random list of things I'm seeing and celebrating:

Cam Peterson's graduation and Sarah's steadfast parenting.

Abby & Brendan are having a Boy!

New MainStreet attenders!

Mike's weekly meetings with Kevin and others to encourage.

Tiffany's loving care for her mom.

Andrew the all-star stay-at-home dad and loving husband.

Mona's years of caring for Bonnie.

Keri, Karen, Melissa & others persevering through job stress.

Jessica on another school year of pouring her heart into students.

Suzi's work as ESL teacher/tutor.

Peter Berg hosted year-end party & didn't want anyone excluded.

Graham's perseverance through setbacks in his house project.

The return of Tina and her goodies!

Dave's handman skills & projects!

BIBLE, BEER & BRATS

Come meet St. Martin's folks as Jeremy shares the MainStreet story at this casual summer social.

JUNE 27 6PM @ St. Martin's



