

partnership



summer 2011

Teens find volunteer opportunities

When Megan Sigillo was hospitalized as a child, her mom gave her a boo-boo bear for comfort. Ten years later Megan is a 14-year-old freshman at Danbury High School, and still has that stuffed bear. And when her mom told her about uninsured children getting free medical care at Samaritan Health Center, she and her best friend, Katie Fellmeth, decided to give them some boo-boo bear comfort.

The teens, who had to create a service project on paper for a high school class, decided their project would be making care packages for the clinic's young patients. But "the more we learned about the center, the more we wanted to

(Continued on page 4)

Annual Block Party July 16

The annual block party for Jericho's partners, volunteers and their families will be Saturday, July 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch our Facebook page and Web site for this year's location.

The family event will be catered by Tom Devine from Ciao! Catering and Events and Two Steps Downtown Grille. Vans will shuttle from the city parking garage at 10 Library Place (parking is \$1 an hour). For more information, visit www.jerichopartnership.org, or our Facebook page, or e-mail us at info@jerichopartnership.org.



Ced Rice, Clara Perkins, Mark Lounsbury and Hubert Parris (L-R) played key roles in the merger of three Jericho-partner youth ministries. Ced, Clara and Mark are the directors of the ministries, and Hubert is the new board chairman for the newly-formed Pathways Danbury Youth Ministries. See story on page 6.

Girls' mentoring to begin

For the past 14 years, some 65 or so at-risk boys have taken part in Pathways Danbury, most beginning the one-on-one Christ-centered mentoring program in sixth grade and continuing through high school graduation. Now the leading edge of those young men are graduating from college or settling into careers.

Soon the program's success in transforming at-risk boys into young men of faith with a positive future will be reflected in a new Jericho Partnership mentoring program for at-risk girls, now in the final development stages.

"We believe there is a desperate need for young women in the community to be given specific and careful mentoring attention, similar to young men," said Hubert Parris, chairman of the newly-

formed Pathways Danbury Youth Ministries, a consolidation of three Jericho youth ministries under a single board (See page 6). The as-yet-unnamed girls' mentoring program will be part of Youth Ministries.

A passion to help

"There has been a cry in the community for some time for the same kind of mentoring effort for young women that we have for young men," Hubert said. "We want to start with about a dozen young women, but I'm sure the number will grow as word of the mentoring program gets out. The problem isn't finding mentees, but finding mentors."

Mentees in both the boys' and girls' programs "may come from

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From the Chairman



Bill Beattie

CUT, GROW AND ... GIVE!

A popular theme this political season seems to be, ‘Cut spending, grow the economy, and restore the American Dream of limited government, social and economic mobility and economic leadership, worldwide.’

Often ignored in this period of economic uncertainty and government budget dictates, however, is the traditional nongovernmental American concern for the needs of the poor and needy in our society, a compassionate concern foundational in our Judeo-Christian values.

As new economic models designed to finance only the most legitimate purposes of government emerge, we must provide for the needs of the less fortunate in our communities “the old-fashioned way” – by generously supporting our churches, faith-based outreaches and local charities.

Distinctive generosity lacking

Generous giving to the poor and needy appears in almost 2,000 verses throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. But since the Great Depression, per-capita giving by Christians in the U.S. has diminished by more than 20 percent to only 2.5 percent of household income.

Why? Why have we reduced our giving during the past 75 to 80 years when as a nation our family incomes have surged?

One answer may be that our materialistic culture has diminished our compassion for the poor. Or, possibly, like the pagan fourth-century Roman emperor Julian the Apostate, antitheists have promoted increasing state welfare so that Christian outreach to the poor would be unnecessary and Christianity dismembered. Or, possibly, our blending of Christian and secular values has robbed us of our distinctive Christian generosity and love for the poor and needy.

A huge difference

Whatever the reason, our diminished generosity is particularly significant in that the American church – the wealthiest community of Christians in the history of Christendom – now earns more than \$5 trillion a year, according to Richard Stearns in his book, “The Hole in Our Gospel.” By just returning to a 3.3 percent giving rate – the Depression-level giving of 80 years ago – annual faith-based giving in America would increase by 27 percent and provide a significant addition to funds available to meet the needs of this country’s poor and needy.

Stearns estimates that if the giving rate for the Christian community increased to the biblical standard of 10 percent, the extra money created for doing the compassionate work of the church would increase by \$168 billion.

That translates to about \$80

million annually right here in greater Danbury.

We can make a huge difference if we would only GIVE!

Getting started

How do we get started?

First, acknowledge that God owns it all, that generous giving to the poor and needy is God’s will, and that our hearts go where our treasure is.

Second, meet government cuts in social services with expanded Christ-centered word-and-deed ministry funded by the Christian community. Surely social and spiritual outreach freely and lovingly offered is the best way to serve the needs of those at risk in our community.

Jericho’s role is to tell the community about the needs of people in our city, allow God to stir hearts and move spirits, and provide opportunities for compassionate Christ-followers to respond to the Lord’s calling.

Transformed

We look forward to the time when the city of Danbury – and its suburbs – will be transformed by the love of Jesus as reflected by the work of Jericho Partnership’s ministry and church partners and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We serve an awesome God! •

Bill Beattie is founder and chairman of Jericho Partnership.

Partnership is published four times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, for the members and friends of Jericho Partnership, Inc. Reprinting is permitted if Jericho Partnership is credited. All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV), unless otherwise noted. Jericho Partnership is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, supported by tax-deductible private donations. Donations by check are electronically debited from the donor’s checking account in the amount specified, and funds may be withdrawn as early as the same day. Donors will not have checks returned by their financial institution. Checks are kept in our files for up to 60 days and then destroyed.

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Carrie L. Amos

GOD IS ON THE MOVE!

Can you feel it? Do you see it? Have you heard about it? God is on the move!

The momentum is building and God is clearly using Jericho Partnership as His hands and feet as He transforms our city life-by-life, family-by-family, street-by-street, and neighborhood-by-neighborhood. I'm humbled and excited to be part of this transformation as we express our faith through word-and-deed ministry.

As God moves us "from here to there," as Bill Hybels said at the Leadership Summit 2010, my call at Jericho is to figure out what God wants to accomplish in this city, discern what role Jericho is to have in His plan, and then to move the Partnership from here to there – while being mindful to celebrate where we are now.

Reason to celebrate

We have reason to celebrate where we are! In December, I reported:

- **1,200 volunteers.** Five months later I can tell you that we have 1,700 volunteers serving with us.
- **Twelve partner congregations.** Currently, eight more congregations have expressed interest in joining the Partnership and are at various stages of formalizing that step. This could bring our church partnership total to 20. Praise God!
- **Twelve partner ministry organizations.** We now have ten. No, none have left us; we have consolidated three of our youth ministry partners into one, creating a more cohesive, effective, sustainable model for serving at-

risk youth and one that will now include ministry to girls.

- **A 20 percent increase** in grants awarded to word-and-deed ministry partners over last fiscal year.

Constantly moving to "there"

As Christians, we are called to express our faith outwardly, in tangible ways. Most of us are familiar with the verse that says, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:20). Those who attended the Western Connecticut Prayer Breakfast in April heard the Rev. Ray Lightcap speak about having a faith that is public, ever-growing, and transforming.

For those who may not be aware, Ray's outward expression of his faith in Christ has benefitted me directly; I am one of three that he and his wife, Ruth, brought into their family. They have shown me the love of Christ in such tangible ways that it has had a transformational impact on my life, my family and ministry.

One of the things he taught me was to be defined by the future, not the past — "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). As a Partnership, we are striving to be transformed into the likeness of Christ as we serve our partners and the city.

Pressing on

The overall vision continues to be mobilization of ministry and transformation of lives, families, streets, neighborhoods and the city. Some of our vision objectives for the next four to six months include:

- **An expanded prayer ministry** to include regular prayer meeting groups and prayer walks;
- **A fully-developed mentoring and support ministry** to at-risk girls and adult women;
- **Daily outreach teams** launched on Spring Street;
- **Mobilizing 300** additional volunteers;
- **Meeting our stewardship goals**, including the match of \$250,000 and the 90-in-90 campaign so we can maintain and possibly increase funding to ministry in the city.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this Partnership! •

Carrie L. Amos is executive director of Jericho Partnership.



Teens find volunteer opportunities



Roosevelt Leon, 5, is delighted to find Play-Doh in his boo-boo bear get-well bag given him during a visit to the Samaritan Health Center. Two Danbury High School teens put together 25 of the comfort bags, and plan to make more this summer.

(Continued from page 1)

really do it,” Megan said.

They raised money by selling rubber bracelets at school basketball games, then from an annual basketball charity game at St. Joseph School in Danbury, which raised \$200. Coca-Cola, where Katie’s dad works, contributed 25 boo-boo bears, and the girls began assembling 25 care packages, each with a bear, toys, coloring supplies, even some Play-Doh.

But that’s not the end of it. “We’re looking to continue over the summer when we have more time to raise funds,” Megan said.

Something that continues

Megan and Katie are just two of a growing number of teens volunteering time and talent at various Jericho partner ministries.

Emily Kopcik, for example, was looking for an opportunity to put in some time for a 60-hour community service project for a Girl Scout Gold Award. The first part of the project, creating a community service that would continue, was starting an art club at Newtown High school, where the 17-

year-old is a junior. Then, after touring Jericho’s 13 Rose Street building, she decided on pairing the high school art club members with the sixth-grade Pathways Academy boys to decorate Academy walls.

“We made a mural with some of the boys at the school, using letters my dad cut out of wood that spelled ‘Men of Honor,’” Emily said.

Six art club members helped the boys complete the lettering. “The boys painted different designs on them,” she said, before the project was permanently mounted on an Academy wall.

\$1,000 to save a baby

When Martin and Andrew Badinelli’s mom returned from a Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center fundraising dinner in March, she told the teens the speaker had said it takes \$1,000 to save a baby from abortion.

It didn’t take long for the homeschooled Brookfield brothers to decide to raise at least that much for Hopeline, and another \$1,000 for Family and Children’s Aid in Danbury. Their fundraising effort was unique: ballroom dancing lessons.

Martin, 16, and Andrew, 15, are competitive ballroom dancers, and give lessons every month to other homeschooled students. So it was an easy step, they thought, to turn the monthly social into a fundraiser with a wider audience. “It is a lot of money,” Andrew said of their \$2,000 goal before

the May 21 event, “but I’m hoping we can get a nice crowd there.”

The brothers had hoped 50 to 70 people would attend, but they drew about 40. And instead of \$2,000, they raised \$400 for Hopeline, \$300 for Family and Children’s Aid. “We are a little disappointed but not discouraged,” Andrew said.

“We didn’t account for the fact there would be so many special events,” Martin said of a weekend filled with graduations and confirmations. Next time, he said, they’ll pick a better weekend and sharpen their advertising.

“I’m hoping we can do one towards the start of next school year,” Martin said, “raising \$1,000 for each.”


Stay tuned! •

A ‘nice thing to do’

For 13-year-old Bridget Duero and her twin brother, Joseph, putting together 50 waiting-room kits for Samaritan Health Center’s young patients began as their mom’s suggestion. “She thought it would be a nice thing to do,” Bridget said.

The ‘nice thing’ was collecting small toys and crayons and coloring books from classmates at their school, St. Rose of Lima School in Newtown, where both are seventh-graders. “My brother and I put them together into gallon-size zip lock bags,” she said.

It turned out Mom knows best about doing nice things. “People there said they really appreciated it,” Bridget said of the project. “It felt good to do it,” she said. “I think I might do it again.”



Bits & Pieces

Pathways Academy graduates first class

Pathways Academy will graduate its first class of eighth-graders June 30, with the 13 graduates becoming freshmen next year at one of the three high schools in the city.

“We anticipate some going to Henry Abbott Technical High School, some to Danbury High, and some are applying to Immaculate High School,” said Ced Rice, principal.

Of the 13, ten started with the Academy as sixth-graders in 2008 when the learning center opened. But graduation doesn’t mean they’ll be finished with Jericho programs.

“We’ll be meeting with them on a regular basis for tutoring and other types of ongoing support to make sure they will make it through high school,” Ced said. Nine of the 13 are in the Pathways Danbury one-to-one mentoring program.

The Academy graduation exercises will be June 20th at 6:30 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury. “We’re in the process of ordering blazers, pants, shirts and ties for their graduation,” Ced said.

“90-in-90” — \$1 per day for 90 days of summer



June 1 marks the start of our annual 90-in-90 campaign — 90 willing supporters who will set aside \$1 a day for the 90 days of summer.

Just \$90 can provide, among many other things, nutritious meals to a hungry family for a week or a counseling session for an adult in substance abuse recovery.

And, as an added blessing, all gifts will be doubled through our current match! Want to join in? Donate your \$90 online at www.jerichopartnership.org, or mail it to Jericho at 13 Rose Street, Danbury.



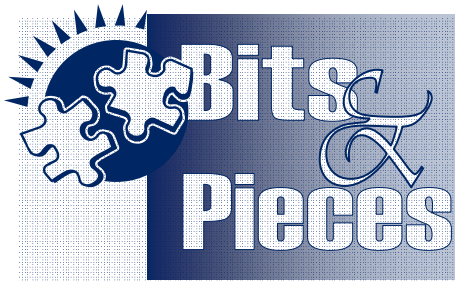
EASTER BLAST AT JERICHO SPRING STREET MINISTRIES

Two children share the joy of being part of Jericho Partnership’s Easter Celebration April 21. The photo was taken by one of four volunteer amateur photographers from the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield – Sheri Lussier, Laird Calia, Sue McKellop and Alison Hansen. Other volunteer photographers have used everything from smart phones to sophisticated digital cameras to record other Jericho happenings, which you can see on our Facebook page.



CITY TRANSFORMATION UNDER DISCUSSION

Bill Beattie, left, Jericho Partnership’s founder, chats with Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton at the May 14 launch of Jericho’s Spring Street Ministries at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Danbury. The mayor announced the city’s long-range plan to trim trees and shrubs obscuring street lights, build new sidewalks along the length of Spring Street, and install ‘gaslight’ street lights to help improve the neighborhood. Check out Jericho’s Facebook page for more photos of the evening.



Good Samaritans help kids get special medical care

Kids sometimes have specialized medical needs beyond the usual sneezes, coughs and checkups, and now Samaritan Health Center can do something to help.

Donations to the free pediatric clinic's sub-specialist fund from a partner congregation and other individual Good Samaritans make it possible for parents to face hard decisions if their child needs care by a specialist.

Before, "parents would either have to self-pay or their child didn't get appropriate treatment" from a specialist, said Eva Tan, Samaritan's executive director. "The children would have to just live with the condition."

The donated monies "have enabled us to make 17 referrals since January," Eva said. The referrals ranged from an orthopedic specialist removing embedded glass from a child's finger to a tonsillectomy to setting a broken arm in a cast, she said.

Four physicians at Danbury practices – Dr. Edward Feliciano at Connecticut Family Orthopedics; Dr. Richard J. Lipton at Advanced Specialty Care's Advanced Ear, Nose and Throat Care; Dr. Joseph Gordon, a pediatric surgeon; and Dr. Sohel Islam, a plastic and hand surgeon at Advanced Specialty Care – have agreed to provide pro-bono consultation, Eva said.

"We can offer financial help for treatment case-by-case, depending on the family's ability to pay," she said. "We will negotiate and advocate for the patient."

Girls' mentoring to begin

(Continued from page 1)

broken homes, some may have parents involved with illegal drugs, or they may be dealing with incarcerated parents," Hubert said. As a result, they "may not understand that there's a better way."

In addition, "society has created false values for women, depicting them as a commodity and creating a dislike in a woman to be who she really is, who she is called to be," he said.

But mentors can provide a new, Christian worldview. "We'll be looking for adult women who have a sincere love for Christ and a passion to help these young women understand who they are in Christ."

Authentic impact

The new program's most immediate need is qualified mentors, Hubert said. "When we begin hearing the testimonies and seeing the impact mentors are having on the girls, I think more women will step up to take part in this exciting journey."

"We have mission statements and projections and statistics, but the bottom line is changing the trajectory of these young people's lives, having a meaningful and authentic impact on their lives so they are transformed in a meaningful way," he said. •

Want to be part of the transformation? Send an e-mail to volunteer@jerichopartnership.org.

Youth ministries consolidate

Three Jericho ministries for boys – Pathways Academy, Pathways Danbury mentoring program and the S.A.Y. Yes! whole-life tutoring program – have been consolidated under a single board.

Before the April consolidation into the Pathways Danbury Youth Ministries, each program had its own budget and its own board. "There was a lot of overlap and duplication," said Hubert Parris, chairman of the new board. He was the Academy's treasurer before the consolidation.

"Merging them was just being prudent with our resources, unifying the three that have the same objective – helping children dealing with risk inherent in their lives to know the options available to them, and better equip them to have more choices in life," he said.

"Right now our focus is on having the foundation and infrastructure in place in order to make a smooth transition," Hubert said. "Each entity has to be on

the same page about the message we're bringing to the children about the love of Christ, about our expectation of a topnotch program that has excellence running through the fabric."

The consolidation will also allow for enhancing the S.A.Y. Yes! program's parental involvement through each of the programs, he said.

"My desire is to be able to impact the entire family, to get the parents or guardians involved in the future of their children. Everyone has to buy into the program."

The heads of the three boys' ministries – Ced Rice, principal of Pathways Academy; Mark Lounsbury, ministry director of Pathways Danbury; and Clara Perkins, director of the S.A.Y. Yes! tutoring program – will function as a management team reporting to Bill Beattie, acting as executive director. Bill is founder of the Pathways Danbury mentoring ministry and of the Jericho Partnership.

Eye contact and a firm handshake: cultivating good manners in maturing teens

How do you get 30 energetic middle-school boys to make eye contact, shake your hand firmly, and smile?

Call Miss Manners!

Or bring in Mary Ronan, a volunteer who is teaching Pathways Academy boys the basics of etiquette during weekly visits to the school. “Everyone needs lessons,” she said. “Colleges are even teaching etiquette; it’s a lost art.”

The art isn’t being lost on the Academy kids, though. “They have gotten so into this,” Mary said. “It’s something they can achieve quickly and easily with positive results. To shake someone’s hand firmly and look them in the eye and have them do the same back is very affirming. It connects you to that person.”

The lessons run the gamut from standing when an adult enters the room to politely greeting a clerk in a store to, for eighth-graders, age-appropriate dating manners to learn “how a gentleman treats a woman.”

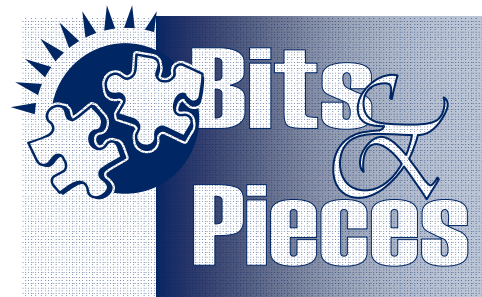
Geared for success

The boys also learn about table settings, how utensils are used and how to behave at a fancy event. “I’ve been to dinner with adults and we’ve talked about which is the bread plate and which is your water glass,” she said. “When you don’t know, you feel unsure of yourself. It may sound trivial, but when you know what to say or do, it builds your confidence.”

“I want these guys to succeed,” she said. “Everyone who loves

these boys wants them to succeed, and the Pathways experience is geared for that to happen. I believe you can succeed at a higher level if you know how to conduct yourself properly. They can still be their goofball selves with friends. I just want to give them the opportunity to present themselves well.”

“I think we can pray for this for the boys,” Mary said. “So often we pray for the deep and profound things for the people we care for. But we can pray the boys learn to present themselves well. Every one of us is representing the Lord, and we can help the boys do that by including them in our prayers.” •



Four Pathways Danbury mentees graduating from high school

All four seniors in the Pathways Danbury one-to-one mentoring program are graduating high school this year – a 100 percent graduation rate compared with a 50 percent rate for at-risk youth across the nation.

Jermain Barker, Barry McShaw and Malik Sanders will graduate Danbury High School June 24, and Omar Vines will graduate Henry Abbott Technical High School June 20.

Pathways Danbury will celebrate the graduates at the ministry’s annual graduation event on Tuesday, June 7.



PICNIC TABLES IN THE MAKING

Dylan Phillips drills a hole as Charlie Nostrand steadies the wood for one of two picnic tables built by boys from Pathways Academy with help from men from St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown. The men – Rick Scinto, Ron Kopicik, Charlie Nostrand and Charlie Hettenbach – guided the boys as they assembled, sanded and stained the pre-cut tables May 21 in Jericho’s 13 Rose St. parking lot. Six other students participated in the project: Ryan Rodriguez-Albanisi, LarMarcus Willis, Joseph White, Tykeem Council, Markel James and Destin Jackson. For more photographs of the event, visit Jericho’s Facebook page.



It's a Date!

Call 203.791.1180 for more information about any of these events.



MOBILIZING MINISTRY ...
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JUNE

- 8** 12:00 p.m. Prayer Furnace
13 Rose Street, Danbury
- 20** 6:30 p.m. Pathways Academy
Graduation
New Hope Baptist Church, Danbury
- 25** 10:00 a.m. Christmas in June
44 Spring Street, Danbury

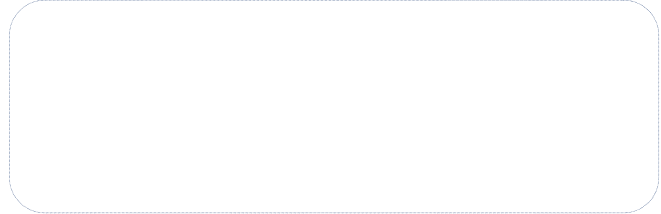
JULY

- 10** 3:00 p.m. Gospel on the Green
*Band shell on the green behind the
Main Street Post Office, Danbury*
- 13** 12:00 p.m. Prayer Furnace
13 Rose Street, Danbury
- 16** 11:30 a.m. Jericho Block Party
Watch for location
- 25** 5:30 p.m. Christmas in July
44 Spring Street, Danbury

AUGUST

- 10** 12:00 p.m. Prayer Furnace
13 Rose Street, Danbury
- 20** 9:00 a.m. Back-to-School
Backpack Event
44 Spring Street, Danbury
- 25** 5:30 p.m. Christmas in August
44 Spring Street, Danbury

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Generous supporters have offered Jericho Partnership a \$250,000 matching gift!

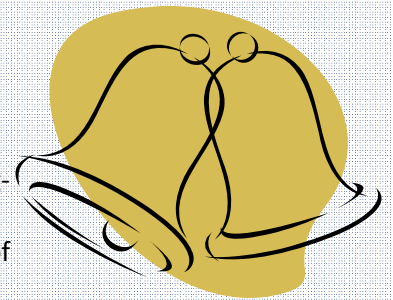
That means your donations through Aug. 31 will be matched dollar for dollar, multiplying your impact and support of Christ-centered ministry to Danbury's at-risk youth and adults.

Your doubled donations will also support the launch of a new mentoring program for at-risk girls and adult women not yet connected with a local congregation of believers – along with strengthening our existing programs.

Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might direct your financial participation with Jericho. Donations can be made through our Website (www.jerichopartnership.org) or by mail to 13 Rose Street, Danbury CT 06810. •

Bells for Life

The carillon bells at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Spring Street in Danbury have been ringing each Tuesday morning at 11:30 to announce the number of babies' lives saved at Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center the week before.



Since early April, when the bells first rang out, until the end of May, they've celebrated the lives of 31 babies saved and another for a mom who gave her life to Christ.

Linda Cochrane, Hopeline's executive director, said she had heard that many hospitals play a soft lullaby over the hospital intercom each time a baby is born. She asked St. Paul's pastor, Rev. Allen German, if he would be interested in ringing the bells to announce babies saved.

"I thought it was a wonderful idea, a way to celebrate life," Pastor German said. He plays a short hymn of thanksgiving on the church carillons followed by the tolling bells "for each decision made for life in the past week," he said.

Follow us on

