



**"God providentially weaves the threads of His call through our lives." ~Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest***

In this edition, the threads of His call are shown in the lives of three staffers who shared their stories in February. They reveal God's plan in bringing them to children's, student and family ministry positions at Beverly Heights. He has a plan in bringing you here as well.



## Lisa Wahl

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



As any parent who's experienced the birth of a child with medical problems can tell you, it's one of those life-altering, mind-numbing, soul-draining events which either breaks or remakes a person.

According to Lisa Wahl's testimony, when she and husband Andy brought their precious daughter Hannah home from the hospital nine years ago, they emerged from this cauldron remade and closer to God, for which they give thanks.

"We went home with a ventilator, a tracheostomy, a feeding tube and a team of nurses," Lisa recalled, choking back tears.

"All of a sudden it seemed like my life had completely flip flopped," she said. "I found myself with a nurse manager and nurses calling off. We had to stay up in the middle of the night because someone had to be awake with her and just juggling so many different roles. I never would have been able to do it in a million years without God's love and God's guidance."

"To see her struggle brought up many, many questions and far fewer answers during that period but God proved that He was good," Lisa said.

Observing Hannah today, one sees a child so active and bouncy she's hard to keep seated: "She's a continual reminder to me of God's grace."

Hannah also connected the Wahls to Beverly Heights. When she was 2, they were looking for a preschool with hands-on learning that would accommodate her needs. Running into high school friend Michelle Balfe at Giant Eagle one day, she was advised to consider the preschool's Parent 2 program. It turned out to be wise counsel.

"We came here and it didn't take very long for me to see there was something very special going on," Lisa said. "It wasn't just the preschool. It was what was happening in other ministries. One of the things that struck me was the children here knew who they belonged to. They were children of God and they knew it."

Lisa is now a walking and talking billboard for the programs she guides as director of children's ministry, a position she assumed in January after serving as Lisa Tyger's deputy for 18 months. Lisa Tyger is now director of family ministry.

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"All children need to know whatever they are facing that God is their savior. He will comfort and support them. He is there to fight their battles because we can't do it alone," she said. "We see that in our lives and that's what I want to bring to children's ministry."



## Bob Kelley

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

Bob Kelley's life was changed by an act most teenagers wouldn't consider consequential or life changing.

When he was in 11th grade, a friend he knew from the audio-visual department at Mt. Lebanon High School invited Bob to do tech work at the church he attended then.

The church "offered to pay me and I said, 'Okay, I'm there. I'll take 10 bucks to help come and install some computers,'" Bob recalls.

The church was Beverly Heights. And the invitation 19 years ago not only launched a closer relationship with the Lord for Bob. It also led him to the job he occupies today, as director of student ministry, extending invitations to other teens and, in the process, helping them to find their way.

Bob lost track of the friend, Jake Bryant, when he moved (he now lives in Milwaukee), but the significance that invitation had for him, and the unexpected path his life ultimately took because of it, is not lost on Bob now.

"Never would I have thought that [the invitation from Jake] would start a connection which has led to where I

am today," in student ministry here, Bob recalled in his talk. Though he had accepted Christ as a teenager, Bob's faith flagged in the youth group at the Methodist church he attended in Mt. Lebanon.

That invitation was the launchpad, with one step leading successively to another. After helping Joe Williams on a volunteer basis with student ministries, Bob was invited to attend a student retreat at the Laurelville church camp east of Pittsburgh.

While there, one leader asked if he'd ever considered a career in youth ministry?

"I laughed. No, is that a job?" Bob recalls replying. "But [the question] did start to plant some seeds."

In 2004, after getting a degree from Pittsburgh Technical Institute and working in a computer job he "absolutely hated," Bob was hired full-time at the church as a ministry associate for youth and technology, working with his mentor Joe. He succeeded him last September when Joe retired.

Bob's team includes long-time volunteers Beth Duncan, Micki Cantine, Patrick Hogg and Alex Williams. New helpers

are Sarah May, an associate assisting in the girls program, and Greg and Lauren Kail, who teach in the high school Sunday morning class. Anyone else who wants to get involved with student ministry is always welcome.

"I would love to have you join us and share some of your life with the kids," he said, inviting others as he was once invited.

## I laughed. No, is that a job?

Now entering his 16th year as a paid staffer at Beverly Heights, Bob finds the progression of events hard to fully fathom and surely evidence of God's hand.

"The entire situation dumbfounds me, that I ended up here. That I was able to ... start a career here is amazing. God was at work for sure."

*The full audio recordings of Lisa's, Bob's, and Lisa's "Meet the Staff" talks are available at [beverlyheights.org/audio-archives](http://beverlyheights.org/audio-archives).*



# Lisa Tyger

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

Hard work was no deterrent to Lisa Tyger.

Growing up on a 200-acre beef farm in central Pennsylvania, Lisa was the oldest of three daughters in the Replogle (pronounced rep-low-gle) family, of German descent.

As a 12-year-old girl, she broke ice in the feeding troughs in the wintertime so cows could drink water. She learned how to feed a length of hose down a calf's throat and pound on its side to release gas from a ballooning stomach so it wouldn't perish.

"I learned how to do that because if you didn't, the calf died," she recalled in her talk.

The contours of farming, family and faith shaped her early life and despite a detour during her college years at Penn State, God was faithful.

A plaque in her office with a quotation from Erma Bombeck serves as a reminder that "when I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope that I have not a single bit of talent left and that I can say I used every bit given to me" in service to Christ and His kingdom.

On Sunday, while Nate is in the pulpit, Lisa positions herself at the back of the sanctuary observing folks she knows, reflecting on their triumphs and praying for their trials. "That's a big part of what I tend to be doing in family ministry," she said.

And when she observes folks she doesn't

know, she walks over to say hello.

As was also evident in Lisa's talk, while God had a clear plan for her life, she didn't sit back waiting for things to happen. That's not how God made her, nor was it how her plan

of children's ministry director," she said. That message means "so much to me and continues to mean so much to me."

She assumed the new lead role as director of family ministry in January, with Lisa Wahl

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*That's what I think about.*

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evolved in the 21 years she and husband Scott have attended Beverly Heights. They raised two children here, Isaac and Hannah.

In 2004, when she talked to then preschool director Louise O'Boyle about becoming a lead teacher in that program, she offered to go back to school to get an associate's degree in child development to qualify for the job.

Seven years later, in 2011, her perseverance paid off when, after six months as the interim director of children's ministry, she was offered the permanent position.

"I still have the message that says, 'Hey Lisa, this is Rick Wolling calling and the Session decided last night to offer you the position

stepping into her former job. "Louise took a chance on me, Rick took a chance on me, now Nate's taking a chance on me," she said.

Lisa works collaboratively with other staffers, as well as those on her team – Bob Kelley guiding students while the other Lisa guides children – to ensure that the various fellowship and ministerial gears mesh with each other. Moving forward, two teams she'd like to develop further are the women's and welcome ministries.

"You're my family. I love you," she said. "I have a vested interest in you because I plan on spending many, many years, eternity in fact, with all of you. That's what I think about."



**"All the beauty to be found throughout the whole creation is but the reflection of the diffused beams of the Being who hath an infinite fullness of brightness and glory." Jonathan Edwards**

One public service that seems reasonably served in Scattered Seeds is its use as a forum to promote conversation about topics which surface occasionally in the church.

One such topic has come to my attention: Why do we need a new piano? And related to this: Isn't the white Baldwin in the sanctuary perfectly fine?

No, it isn't. Before getting to my rationale of why it isn't, I'd like to begin by identifying my own bias on this subject. While my musical ear isn't as developed as some in our congregation, I definitely appreciate music and how it enriches our worship experience.

My maternal grandmother was an accomplished concert pianist and I've been listening to classical and choral music since I was about as tall as her kneecap. But for the purposes of this discussion, I will try to separate how I "feel" about the subject of pianos and stick to the facts, as I see them and as they've been described to me.

**Fact No. 1:** The white Baldwin is nearing the end of its useful life. It was built nearly 30 years ago, according to Peter Stumpf, our respected piano technician. Twenty-five years is considered the typical lifespan. The Baldwin's "age and size conspire to keep it from being the instrument this church needs," Peter says. "Reconditioning this piano is an option but will still yield limited results."

**Fact No. 2:** By "size," Peter means the Baldwin is too small for a space as large as our sanctuary. We require a recital-grand piano – not as big as a concert

grand, but one large enough to fill the sanctuary with a pleasing sound.

**Fact No. 3:** Our organ, which has quit several times recently, is also in need of major repairs. Very soon, we could find ourselves solely reliant on the Baldwin.

**Fact No. 4:** We enjoy excellent music at Beverly Heights, which greatly enhances our worship experience. A piano of better quality would grow this mission rather than limit it.

**Fact No. 5:** Music magnifies the beauty of creation because it focuses our minds on the infinite "brightness and glory" of the creator. That's the contention of the 17th century theologian Jonathan Edwards in the quotation nearby.

Here's another illustration of this same principle: Since 2012, we have spent more than \$200,000 meticulously restoring our gorgeous stained-glass windows (money available thanks to the Next Step capital campaign and the Helen Burch bequest). From a purely utilitarian perspective, one might view this as unnecessary. It's only light which projects just as well through a cracked window as it does a restored one.

But such thinking ignores an important point. Aesthetics – the enjoyment of sound and light, the appreciation of beauty – is a sublime reminder of God's glory. In fact, we will very soon publish a booklet on our stained-glass windows, written by our own Katie Doyle, to commemorate completion of this historic project.

At its February meeting, Session approved spending up to \$66,000 to

# Why do we need a new piano?

*a message from  
Tom O'Boyle*

purchase a replacement piano for the Baldwin. The funds will come from three sources: the Skelly Memorial Fund, the Beverly Heights Memorial Fund (which exists for purposes such as a new piano) and sale of the manse.

A used Steinway Model B is the recital grand favored by our in-house team of experts who are currently evaluating various alternatives. A "used" Steinway is superior to other new options from lesser manufacturers. The pianos Steinway builds are made to last many generations.

Ninety years hence, when Beverly Heights celebrates the 180th year of its founding (in 2109!), perhaps future generations will listen to the Steinway we purchase today when much of what we know now has faded away. And when they listen, may the sounds they hear magnify creation in all its wonder and beauty.

*If you have an opinion on this subject, please email me at [tom@beverlyheights.org](mailto:tom@beverlyheights.org). I would love to hear from you.*

