Someone once said, “Mentors believe in someone until they believe in themselves, value someone until they value themselves, expect great things of someone until they expect great things of themselves, walk with Jesus alongside someone until they walk with Jesus by themselves.” At Bridge, much of what we do involves mentoring, whether formal or informal, young leaders, or old friends (who also mentor us in return!).

Mentoring is a beautiful relational process - an investment of time, energy and resources for the sake of someone else’s growth, development and success. The challenge is that relationships don’t lend themselves to instant, measurable results, which often is what our Western contemporary culture wants to see. However, that doesn’t mean there aren’t any. “Mentoring has been huge as I have journeyed through my first call. Listening to the stories of those who have served many years in ministry and knowing they are holding me in prayer has guided and sustained my ministry. Gary has taught me much about supporting one another... Receiving a phone call or encouraging email from him has really impacted my ministry. I believe he really cares about me and how I am serving God in the world,” says Rev. Joy Alsop, Belvidere Pastor and member of Bridge’s Missional Leaders Group.

This month, Bridge is also beginning to offer more formalized mentoring for young couples married five years or less. Several couples have already signed on and see this as an invaluable investment in their marriage relationship.

“Investing” is a scary word these days. But pouring ourselves into people is, in fact, the best investment we believe we can make with our time and resources. It’s what Bridge is banking on... We believe it’s how God wants to change the world, one person at a time.

If you would like more information about mentoring, call or email us at info@bridgeministries.com.
Snapshots of Hope & Change

“How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment before starting to change the world.” -Anne Frank

- As a part of Rockford Partners for Excellence, Bridge was present at West Middle School to help students get settled on the first day of class. We are looking forward to working with new principal, Maceo Rainey. Thanks to all who contributed to new school uniforms and school supplies for the children!
- After an amazing summer of prayer gatherings at Anderson Gardens, Bridge is moving Wednesday’s Weekly Prayer for the city back to the Log Lodge from 6:30-10 a.m. Come for any or all of the prayer time.
- The number and depth of the prayer requests submitted at both YMCA branches continues to grow. Bridge is meeting with new Executive Director, Mike Brown, to determine our continued role in the spiritual growth programs at the YMCA.
- The Missional Leaders Group is challenging one another to live as ‘sent out’ missionaries actively partnering to further God’s Kingdom in our city.
- The Racial Roundtable continues to bring together diverse clergy to address racism in our community. We are reading Black and White Styles in Conflict (Kochman) and Learning to Be White (Thandeka). Very insightful!
- Bridge is facilitating a Study Group using Rich Stearn’s The Hole In Our Gospel, which asks the provocative questions: What does God expect of us? It calls us to embrace the whole Gospel which was meant to be a world changing social revolution that begins with each one of us.
- “Innovate,” the Christian Community Development Association Conference is Oct. 12-16 in Indianapolis and will focus on restoring under-resourced communities. This conference addresses how we engage society, develop our neighborhoods, and confront educational reform. If you need more info about the conference, call or email us.

Upcoming Bridge Events

“FLESH AND BLOOD: THE INCARNATION” 24 HOUR ADVENT RETREAT OF SILENCE FOR WOMEN
December 1 @ 4 p.m.—December 2 @ 3 p.m. Bishop Lane Retreat House, Rockford
Facilitated by Tiffany Staman & Sibyl Towner, author of Listen To Your Life
Rates: $90 (Shared Room); $100 (New/Friend) $110 (On or before 10/15); $130 (After 10/15)
Spaces are limited and filling quickly, so register soon by emailing Tiffany at info@bridgeministries.com.

Thanks to Dave & Barb Kohl who gave a donation to Bridge Ministries in memory of Royalene Shields.

Why do you believe and invest in Bridge Ministries?

“Bridge Ministries’ sole purpose is to bring people and organizations together for strategic effectiveness and relational connection. Rockford is a stronger place because of their work. Our church and my life have greatly benefitted from Bridge, and I am honored to serve with this dynamic team.” -Dave Spooner

“The idea of cooperation, collaboration and unity within the body of Christ is one that truly stirs my heart! How can anything less be pleasing to God? Being involved even a small way in bringing that to reality is a real privilege!” -Kay Larrick

“I believe in the power of the unified body of Christ to transform the community. Bridge believes God can do just that… Bridge also courageously confronts the barriers that separate the body, hence delaying it from its transformational mission.” -Mark Hunter

“[I love] being a part of something that tries to follow John 17:20-21 (‘The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind…” The Message).” - Paul Lindvall

Bridge Builders Urgently Needed!

Bridge Ministries is a 501c3 non-profit organization, and we are solely supported by private donations from individuals, churches, and businesses. Like so many non-profits today, we are struggling to meet our operational budget. If you are willing to support Bridge with a one-time gift or on a regular basis, we invite you to fill out the enclosed form and send it back to us in the self addressed envelope. Your gifts are tax-deductible, and you will be promptly receipted. We are grateful for any size donation as well as your faithful prayer support. Your gift does make a difference as it enables us to continue to bring hope, healing and reconciliation to people in our community!