

# Worship's new voice at Bay Pointe Community Church

BY MICHELLE ARNTZ

Special to the Record-Eagle

*"I am so passionate about seeing worship be authentic and genuine, about seeing church be relevant."*

— Worship Pastor Joe Horness, Bay Pointe Community Church

Do you want to kick your faith up a notch? Bay Pointe Community Church is here for Christians looking for a contemporary, relevant worship service and "safe" place to get to know Jesus and the Bible.

With a humble beginning six years ago in Pastor Nick Twomey's living room, Bay Pointe will break pastoral ground this summer on 37.5 acres at Secor and East Long Lake Roads, outside of Traverse City. The campus will house a 750-seat worship center, offices and children's ministry classrooms.

As church membership grew, Twomey consulted with Joe Horness, former director of worship at the renowned Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago.

Horness, who once orchestrated mid-week services for up to 7,000 people, moved to the area with Becky, his wife of 17 years and their daughters, Abby and Torri.

"Our weekend services at Willow Creek, in which I often sang or led worship grew from



Worship Pastor Joe Horness of Bay Pointe Community Church in Traverse City.

several hundred to over 20,000 people in the time that I was there," said Horness, a graduate of Trinity Seminary in Deerfield, Ill.

Wanting to cut back on the frequent travel required of Willow Church leadership, Horness felt the call to settle

his family in Traverse City and work primarily with Bay Pointe Community Church. He will still do some consulting and teaching internationally for the Willow Creek Association.

Musically gifted, Horness has written numerous Christian

music songs, such as "Awesome, Amazing" and "Still I Worship You." While at Willow Creek, he collaborated with famous musicians and produced many Christian-music songs, concerts and CDs. Artists such as Tommy Walker, Chris Tomlin, Darlene Zschech and Linda McCrary have worked on projects with him.

Working now in Traverse City, Horness' team of local musicians will perform during Sunday worship services July 10, with one of his best friends, renowned bass guitarist Abraham Laboriel, along with other additional musical guests.

"My main role here at Bay Pointe is to create our 9 and 11 a.m. weekend services that are currently held at Central High School in Traverse City," Horness said.

These services are always alive with the sounds of music. Rocking the house with instruments such as guitars, drums, saxophones and organs, worshippers are treated to 25-40 minutes of Christian contemporary music.

Along with the music, worship services include dramas, video clips, dance and great teachings from Pastor Twomey, according to Horness. Sharing the same vision with Pastor Twomey, Horness wants everyone to feel welcome to attend the

multicultural, nondenominational services.

Still another way that Bay Pointe reaches out to everyone to communicate the word is through sign language. Horness' wife, Becky, a state-qualified interpreter for the deaf, signs during the 11 a.m. Sunday service.

All of Bay Pointe's services are designed with the "unchurched" in mind. Joe Horness knows first-hand what that feels like.

While in college, Horness was "pretty sure" that he believed in God but he was "deeply disillusioned" with his local church and the way that they communicated the word of God. He resolved at that time to do his best to know God but to never attend church again.

"A big part of my journey was trying to understand who God really was in light of the church experience I had growing up," Horness said. "Through my years of skepticism, through asking lots of hard questions and through really seeking real answers, my faith in God eventually grew stronger and became deeply real to me."

Considering a career in law, Horness added, "I prayed daily for guidance in choosing a career. I kept feeling that God was calling me into min-

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**LELAND COMMUNITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
106 N Fourth St, Leland, Michigan

## 2005 Summer Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
July 3 - August 28

*Casual dress encouraged, and welcomed*

### Traditional Services

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. all summer

Join us on June 26 at both services for a Choral Worship Service presented by our choir

Our church is located in beautiful Leland up the hill from the Post Office, turn right on Fourth Street

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9:00 TO NOON WEEKDAYS

Pastor Joseph M. Graybill

**256-9161**

Children's Sunday School classes are not held in the summertime.

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[www.torchlake.com/hopelutheran](http://www.torchlake.com/hopelutheran)



## Join us for worship!

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m.

Daily Matins: Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.

*Vacation Bible School Safari Adventure*

*August 1-5, 6:00-8:00 p.m.*

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