



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

January 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Hymn Sing

Special Music – Amanda Rhonemus

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: Enneking Family

Acolytes: Will and Tucker Neff

Sunday, January 8 - Communion

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Sam Neff

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolyte: Tayler Nowak-Valentine

Sunday, January 15

Praise Team

Bells Duet – Tonya Best and Lori Schmidt

Lay Reader: Jeremy Scoles

Greeters: Rhonemus Family

Acolytes: Skyler Scoles and Julianna Hotmire

Sunday, January 22

Choir

Lay Reader: Jeremy Scoles

Greeters: TBD

Acolytes: Samantha Scoles and Erin Hotmire

Sunday, January 29

Special Music – Don Brauen

Lay Reader: TBD

Greeters: Darlene Hey

Acolyte: Libby McVetta

Sunday, February 5

Acolyte: Molly McCracken

Sunday School – 9:00 AM

Please note there will be no Sunday School on January 1.

Mark Your Calendars!

- January 3 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Church Basement
- January 5 – Afternoon Small Groups – 1:30 PM – Maple Crest
- January 8 – Congregational Meeting – Immediately Following Worship Service
- January 8 – Session Members and Deacons – Yearend Reports Due
- January 10 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Church Basement
- January 11 – Deacons Meeting
- January 11 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- January 12 – Afternoon Small Groups – 1:30 PM – Maple Crest
- January 15 – Ordain/Install Elders/Deacons
- January 16 – Session Meeting
- January 17 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Church Basement
- January 19 – Afternoon Small Groups – 1:30 PM – Maple Crest
- January 24 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Church Basement
- January 26 – Afternoon Small Groups – 1:30 PM – Maple Crest
- January 31 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Church Basement
- February 2 – Afternoon Small Groups – 1:30 PM – Maple Crest
- February 5 – Annual Congregational Meeting



New Year's Message

F R O M T H E P A S T O R

In the book of Psalms, it is written: *"This is the day that the Lord has made: Let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118:24).

This is a simple little verse – and I'm sure that you've heard it before. It's an excellent little reminder for us to recite every morning as we get out of bed and face the coming day and all that we do. It can be helpful to have such a reminder at the beginning of the day so that we don't lose track of the joy that is in a life with God.

But perhaps this season we could broaden, and personalize this verse as we stand on the edge of a brand-new year and say instead: "This is the *year* that the Lord has made: I will rejoice and be glad in it!"

The year 2011 is just about behind us. As we all look back on the past twelve months, we remember ups and downs, joys and sorrows, and perhaps new loves / friendships and for some of us a loss of loved one / friend.

But it was a year that the Lord gave to us. It was a time that the Lord worked on us and one where we did the Lord's work. So, can we rejoice? Can we be "glad in it"?

As we now face 2012, we don't have a 100% guarantee on what it will hold. We don't know how many smiles or frowns this year will hold. There just isn't that certainty.

But if the Lord has given us this year, then it follows that we can rejoice and we can be glad. Some things *are* guaranteed, and that is the love of our heavenly Father and the opportunity to serve God and to glorify God in all that we do.

So when we wake up (whenever we wake up) on this Sunday, January 1, 2012, let us change our tune. Revise the verse, and say instead: "This is the day and this is the year that the Lord has made: We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Thinking of this year to come with Bluffton Presbyterian, I am very much in agreement with the Apostle Paul when he wrote: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 1:3-6)

*A Happy New Year to you all,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke*

God, as the hymn shares: great is your faithfulness! You have been a strong presence in my life. Thank you for the year 2011. Give me courage for the year 2012! In Christ' name. Amen.

Highlights of December's Session Meeting

- Replaced switch for light that shines on cross in the choir loft, First Aid kit was installed in the green room, water damaged dry wall was replaced in the church basement, ten feet of downspout tubing was added in the area by the handicap door and more will be added to take the water out to the alley, plan to add downspout tubing in the back of the church as well, and new thermostat was installed by M+R in the green room. The blower on the 60-year old furnace (serving nursery, restrooms, offices, and green room) is no longer reliable and parts are no longer available. Approved purchasing new furnace from M+R for \$3,720 (includes removal of old furnace, installation of new furnace, and ductwork) to be paid from the Duffield bequest.
- Approved these dates - January 8 Congregational Meeting to elect elders, deacons, and nominating committee - January 15 - Ordain/install elders/deacons - January 16 - session meeting date for January, and February 5 - Annual Congregational Meeting/Corporation Meeting.
- We will no longer be having Kid's Club due to small numbers in that age range. Could be reactivated if numbers increase. Care Shepherds program was created to be a support system, but is presently a gift giving program and therefore will end this calendar year. Christian Education will be initiating a Family Fun Night (church family, not just those with children) which would include food/activity - first one is being planned for March. We presently do not have a Children's Choir and the robes are outdated and taking space. Members are being given the opportunity to have a robe if you wish - remainder will be discarded.
- Members are asked to pay their Per Capita \$27.71 per member. Church's bill for 128 members is \$3,546.88.
- Present financial situation was reviewed. Approved leaving \$5000 in general fund at the end of the year with the balance to be used to pay down borrowed money from other funds. Approved purchasing \$50 gift cards to Community Market for non-clergy employees. Approved 2012 budget after discussion - does include 3% raises to staff who have not received pay raises for two years. Duffield bequest was discussed - with the exception of using money to purchase new furnace, no other action was taken.
- Approved granting Matthew time off January 24-30 to study for exams and then February 2-4 for taking them. Approved that the cost of the exams (possibly up to \$700) be taken from Professional Expense and that he turn in mileage for taking them in Indianapolis.
- Following people were elected at the Maumee Valley Presbytery meeting - Moderator - Pat Lawrence Shafer; Vice-Moderator - Don Loving; Stated Clerk - Dean McGormley; and Treasurer - Dave Bartley.
- Christmas gifts were purchased for all staff including Pastor Matthew.

New Improvements Fund

Do you want to contribute to the physical renewal of our facilities? Well, there is a new **Improvements Fund** for the church. If you want to contribute, just turn in your donation through normal means (offering, mail-in, etc.) with Improvements Fund in the memo line / included note.

November Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,185.89
Receipts	9,693.28
Expenses	(9,856.26)
Balance	\$ 9,022.91
Borrowed to be paid back	\$27,098.23



What is Epiphany?

Well, Epiphany is an ancient Christian holy day. It is a day of celebration which, along with the corresponding Epiphany season, commemorates important events from the life of Jesus Christ. And the holiday is old. The first mention of it dates back to 361. And yet, there are some records that hint that, in some places, it might have been celebrated even earlier than that!

Unfortunately, these days Epiphany is often overlooked in our culture in favor of the more grandiose celebrations of Christmas and New Years. Since ancient times, the day of the Epiphany has been celebrated on January 6. The season of Epiphany runs from the day of Epiphany (Jan. 6) until the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent). And in many parts of the world, it's still a very important holiday.

The word "epiphany" is the combination of two Greek words, the preposition *e*pi and the verb *phainen*. Together, the conjunction can mean, "to shine upon," "to reveal," or "to appear." So it is the holiday where we celebrate God's revealing of Christ's true identity as the Messiah, the Shepherd, and part of the triune God. As such, the day and the season often cite "revealing" events in Jesus' life, such as the Coming of the Magi, Jesus' Baptism by John, and the Transfiguration.

So, if we have a bit of time on January 6 (or really anytime in the New Year), let us remember Epiphany and what it celebrates: God revealing Christ to us. It is a time that shows us that, as I once heard one scholar put it: "God has come looking for us." Let us all be glad that God has come looking for us in the revelation of Christ and the Spirit.



Per Capita

You are invited, if you are able, to help cover the per capita cost of your membership by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your discipline of stewardship. The per capita amount is \$27.71 per member in 2012. Thank You!

Annual Reports

Session members need to have their year-end reports turned into the office by January 7.

Christian Education Walkers

We are in need of volunteers to walk the children for Weekday Christian Education. We have 7 slots to fill on Thursday, February 2 and 2 slots to fill on Tuesday, March 27.

There are sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary and on the bulletin board in the hall. Feel free to contact Tenna directly if you are available to help. Thank you!

Youth Group

Youth Group will meet on January 8 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Please join us for a meal and meeting!

Sunday School

There will be no children's Sunday school on January 1. Classes will begin again on January 8.

Confirmation Class

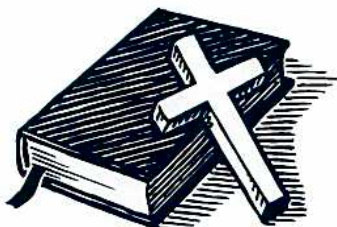
Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, January 8. We will meet in the nursery from 9:00- 10:00AM.

Important Information

Rev. Matthew's office hours will be Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM or by appointment.

Rev. Matthew's contact information:
Email address: revdrmz@gmail.com
Cell phone: 567-825-3973

Coffee Talk with Matthew (McDonalds) 8:00 to 9:30 AM on Mondays.



Kid's Club

Kid's Club will be meeting on Sunday, January 15 from 2:00- 3:30. Come join us as we learn more about "Sensing God"!

Deacon Report

The next Deacon's meeting will be held January 11.



Newsletter Distribution

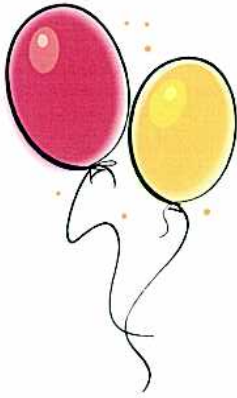
If you would like to have your copy of the Newsletter sent to you via email, please send your email address to Cathy at bpcebluff@wcoil.com or Cindy at cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, December 25.

Ideas, suggestions, photos, family news or special celebrations are always welcome

Editor: Cindy Gillen
Email: CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
Or GILLEN3072@roadrunner.com

Happy Birthday!!



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|----------|----|---------------------------------------|
| January | 3 | Chad Carroll
Dave Sycks |
| | 7 | Dwight Nichols
Barb Fett |
| | 10 | Sue Basinger
Addie McGarrity |
| | 12 | Melanie Mathewson |
| | 13 | Chris Gable
Matthew Zuehlke |
| | 21 | Colletta Mullenhour
Mattie Kimmell |
| | 25 | Shirley Kisor |
| | 29 | Richard McGarrity |
| | 30 | Tammie Hursh |
| February | 2 | Jodie Parker |
| | 5 | John Marshall |
| | 9 | Owen Ziessler |



 "Thank you for the gift cards to Olive Garden and the Community Market, what a surprise. I really appreciate it and will enjoy both!"
 Cathy

 Thank you to all those who donated to the Adopt-A-Family Project this year. The generosity of this congregation is truly amazing! We delivered almost three car loads of food and gifts for the three families that we adopted.

 Thanks to these retiring elders/deacons for their years of faithful service - Jodi Brauen, Darlene Hey, John Marshall, Betsey Angus, and Tom Edwards.

"What a happy surprise when I was visited on the third Sunday of Advent by the Trio (Don, Lori, Marilyn) who sang carols to me. It was very thoughtful of them and a great Joy to me."

Avis Marshall

 Thank you to all the children and youth who led worship on December 11. We are truly blessed to have so many gifted children in our congregation. We are doubly blessed that you are willing to share your gifts and your faith with us!

Thank you to the church family for the generous holiday gift certificates. It's a joy to provide music for Bluffton Presbyterian Church!

Love, Jayne

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for our members and friends serving overseas; Billy Marshall and Andrew Warner.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers of Healing for Tyler and Laura From, Mary Emma Triplett, Karen Long, Mike McAuly, Norma Best, Tim and Susan Hamilton, Martha Sycks, Judy Reichenbach, Louise Reichenbach, Alan Begg, Renee Smith, William Mills, Wendell Dunn, Janet Triplett, Gary Williams, Jean Triplett, Lena Badertscher, Bob Barnett, Kay Dirmeyer, and Emily Parker.

If you would like to send a card or word of encouragement.



Tyler and Laura From
 338 CR 26
 Bluffton, OH 45817
www.caringbridge.org/visit
 password: tylerfrom

Small Groups Christmas Celebration

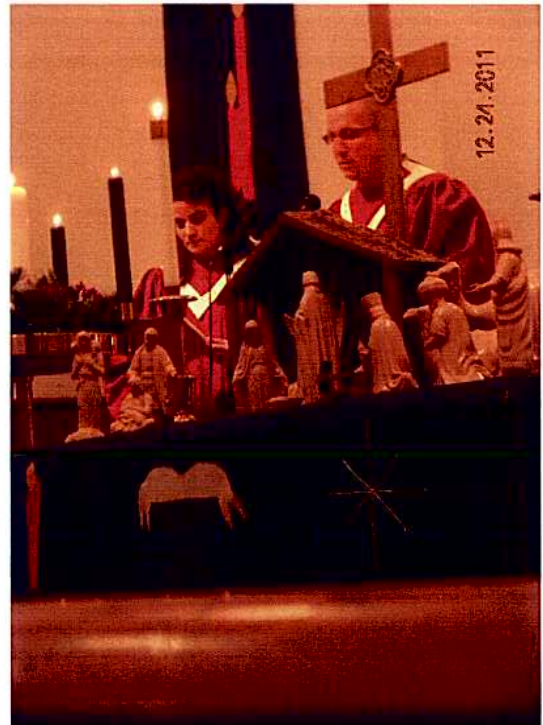


Tuesday evening small group met December 13 at the McGarrity home for a Christmas celebration. Standing (l-r) Jeanette Warren, Carole Enneking, Min Lindsey, Marilyn Edwards, Diane Winebar, and Beth Buist. Front (l-r) Jayne McGarrity, Claralice Wolf (emeritus member) and Marilyn Bullock (also emeritus). Missing from the photo are Rhonda Moor and Julia Szabo.

Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve Service



Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke
Email: revdrmz@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 567-825-3973
Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Fax: 419-358-1090
Website: blufftonpc.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 AM
Sunday School: 9:00 AM

2011 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Stephanie Scoles
Fellowship – Min Lindsey
Finance – Clair Winebar
Membership – John Marshall
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Beth Buist and Min Lindsey
Personnel – Jodi Brauen
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Darlene Hey

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Betsey Angus
Members: Barb Fett, Tom Edwards, Lynda
Best, Shirley Kisor, and Diane Winebar

