



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

October 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 6 – World Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Peacemaking Offering

Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards

Greeters: Beth Buist and Lori Schmidt

Acolytes: Morgan and Libby McVetta

Sunday, October 13

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Clair Winebar

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolytes: Will and Tucker Neff

Sunday, October 20

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolytes: Jacob Szabo and Patrick Rhonemus

Sunday, October 27

Choir

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolytes: Megan Sycks and Molly McCracken



**Remember to move clocks back one hour
before you go to bed Saturday night.**

Sunday, November 3

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Kevin McVetta

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Wyatt and James Marshall

Mark Your Calendars!

- October 3 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM – Church Parking Lot
- October 5 – Movies at Richland Manor – 1:00 PM
- October 6 – Church AD – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- October 6 – Youth Group – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- October 16 – Deacons Meeting – 7:30 PM
- October 20 – Youth Group – Suter's Corn Maze – 5:45 PM – Church Parking Lot
- October 27 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- October 28 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM
- October 31 – Trick or Treat – 6:00 to 7:30 PM – Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- November 2 – Movies at Richland Manor – 1:00 PM
- November 3 – All Saints/Remembrance Day
- November 3 – Church AD – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- November 3 – Youth Group – 5:00 – 7:00 PM



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month of September, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Worship Leader for the month.

October Worship Leader – Dave Sycks

Announcement: If you would like to volunteer to be a Christian Ed walker, please contact the office.

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Pastor's Letter

Your Special Day

"And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all his work." - Genesis 2:3

If I ask, "What has been the most special day in your life?" What pops to mind?

For me the answers ping-pong in my brain around a bunch of high-points: Michelle saying yes to marriage, Ariana being born, the day I was anointed and hooded with my doctorate, my first Sunday at my first church, or days of my childhood on family vacations. I'm sure that you have a similar list – times of family events, work accolades, personal achievements, and pivotal events. It's hard to choose. They are all important to me. It is hard – no *impossible* – to pick just *one* as the most *important*.

Our loving Creator understands that we need special days in our life. Not just one, but many scattered around and through our world. Our special days give us something to lean upon, embolden our reserve, and encourage us for the future. God understands this, so God established the idea early on of a reoccurring special day. God called this day "holy" which means that it was "set aside for a special purpose." The People called it Sabbath.

God wants us to have this special day regularly – not just waiting for our two weeks of vacation in the year. God wants us to have a regular blessed day that we can look forward to, relax on, and recharge in order to launch back out into the world. To have this as a regular day, not just a one-in-a-lifetime event, reminds us of God's perennial call back into a fuller life with Him and His will. Observing such days give us the chance to reconnect to life. Reconnect with God and with the important people in our lives. This is a time to do special things like: read to children and grandchildren, take a walk or drive in Creation, worship at Church or in small groups. It also gives us the time to disconnect from the busy, hurried, even frantic life we sometimes lead.

For some, this day of rest actually coincides with an observed day of worship (such as Sunday). But for many, it has to be a different day of the week. Sometimes it even needs to move to a different day each week because of the fluid nature of schedules! Whenever you and your family can observe it, remember what Christ taught: "*The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.*" (Mark 2:27). That doesn't mean that we can ignore our day of rest, only that God is not going to quiz us on what day we take it.

No matter the day(s), it is a time to for us to say "*God, please help me to do something different today. Help me find rest from my work. Restore my body, heart, mind, and soul. Please bless me this day in a way that will change all of my days.*"

Next Steps:

Please think about how often you and your family are able to observe a day of rest. Take an hour with the family and look at the calendar together. Plan when you can have a "holy day" that is, set aside for a special purpose day, each week. Put them on the calendar. Make a list of ideas that the family would like to do on these special days (e.g. family game nights, trips to the zoo, throwing water balloons at dad, whatever!).

Try to have at least four a month.

Understanding that emergencies come up – on these days, resist calls to go into the office, practices, and normal labor. And as part of your rest times, to receive support and fellowship, please try to make at least two times of worship with your sisters and brothers in Christ.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

New Directories!

It's that time again for new directories, and this year we are going to try to make our own photo directories. So please sign up for one of the photo slots at the church (or contact the office). There will be about five slots each Sunday for a couple of weeks. If you don't sign up, we'll come to your house and take whatever picture we can – you have been warned! (Just kidding.)

Highlights of September Session Meeting

- Update on Building Restoration Project – Stewardship met after our August Session Meeting and they suggested waiting for better financial data. Elders were contacted via email, phone, or in person and the majority wished to uphold Stewardship's suggestion and place project "on hold". As of early September, Global Builders is now booked for the remainder of 2013. They provided other possible names, but none were available to do any work this fall. Global Builders did suggest replacing thermostats to be able to control the humidity in the sanctuary and this will be done. When possible, the outside doors will be opened to provide air circulation. Session approved inquiring about capital campaign drive for this project with managers from General Assembly. Pastor Matthew will make initial contacts and hope to have more information, perhaps a representative, at October's Session Meeting.
- Approved making the temporary placement of Jeanette Warren as Worship and Rhonda Moor as "at large" Elder permanent for the rest of their terms. Rhonda's term will expire at the end of 2014 and Jeanette's term at the end of 2015. Since Jeanette was not elected by the congregation, she will need to be approved by the congregation at the fall meeting when Elders/Deacons are elected.
- Approval was given to the Lions to use alley area with water as a rest station for a bicycle race.
- Approved to allow installation of a plaque near the tree which was donated in Memory of Ropp Triplett by friends on Sunset Drive. Neighborhood is covering cost for the plaque.
- Annual review of membership rolls was conducted by Pastor Matthew, Cathy Carroll (Treasurer at the time), and Lori. Approved moving Jenna Niswander to "other" list – done with family's permission.

- Darlene Hey will go to the next Presbytery Meeting, but has asked that we find a new commissioner.
- Approved Baptism of Ivan Edwards-Leeper, son of Laura and Todd Edwards-Leeper, on Sunday, September 22. Approved Baptism of Brennan Leugers, son of Amanda and Darin Leugers, on Sunday, October 13. Pastor Matthew has met with both couples. Approved to grant Continuing Education time to Pastor Matthew for Monday, October 14 so that he could attend a seminar called "What About the Building, God?" in Columbus.

Worship Schedule

October 6

A Time of Jubilee: Healing: Letting God Restore Your Spirit
World Communion & Peacemaking Offering

October 13

A Time of Jubilee: Justice: Standing for What is Right
Baptism of Brennan Leugers

October 20

A Time of Jubilee: Proclamation: Standing for What You Believe

October 27

Why Reform?
Reformation Sunday Celebration

November 3

Honoring (and Learning from) the Saints
All Saints Day / Remembrance Day

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. If you wish to send Pastor Matthew a card, please send to the church:

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, Oh 45817



Finance Update

August Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$18,892.46
Receipts	9,852.36
Expenses	(10,322.45)
Balance	\$18,422.37

Peacemaking Offering

We will begin collecting the Peacemaking Offering on October 6, World Communion Sunday. The General Assembly's adoption of Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking, paved the way for this offering, which seeks to promote the Peace of Christ across the PC (USA). Individual congregations retain 25% of this offering and are encouraged to utilize this offering to sustain their local peacemaking ministries.

"More Than Enough" Our Season of Stewardship: Giving Freely and Joyfully

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

November is our Season of Stewardship. We start by giving thanks for those who have come before on All Saints Day and conclude with giving thanks to God for all our blessings on Thanksgiving Sunday. As we start to reflect on the call of Stewardship in our lives, let us focus for a while on the struggles of the early church.

Why do we give? In writing to the Corinthians, Paul is not above using competition in his appeal. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, he tells the Corinthians how generous the Macedonians have been, and in 2 Corinthians 9:2-4, he tells the Corinthians he has told the Macedonians how generous the Corinthians are. But he then tells them to give "not reluctantly or under compulsion."

Our age hates compulsion. We want freedom. We hate rules. We may have different rules today, but we do have rules we want to be free of. Paul was not fond of rules either. Many people think of him as one who burdened or complicated the simple faith of Jesus. But Paul worked to free believers from the rules he grew up with: circumcision and kosher dietary regulations.

Paul invites his Corinthian Christian friends to willingly, joyfully do the right thing, to be the kind of people God dreams that they are. We give joyfully to those we love and care about – our children, our parents, our close friends. Is God in this category for us?

Fred Craddock and Eugene Boring write that Paul was *"not interested in himself as a successful fund-raiser but in helping the Corinthians to be the kind of Christians who gave of their own free will"* (People's New Testament Commentary, Westminster John Knox, 2004, p. 566).

In the end, giving to the church is not about a budget, but about what kind of people we are.

Questions

What sort of things do we do under compulsion?

Do we like to do those things?

What do we do freely?

Does this include anything we do for others?

Do we like to do those things?

Prayer

O God who freely chose to love us and show that love to us in Jesus, free our hearts from burdens of compulsion that keep us from freely loving you, so that we may with all our hearts love and serve you, and freely give in ways that bring joy to your heart. Amen.

Community Market Receipts

Keep those Community Market receipts coming!! The total cash received from Community Market receipts for 2013 is \$514.51.

New Church AD

Church AD will be restarting evening services beginning at 5:00 PM on October 6. This will be in combination with the Youth Group. On the first Sunday of the month, Church AD will begin with worship and communion and then we will join together for a common theme meal. Starting at 6:15 PM, there will be a youth group meeting, as well as a devotion group for the adults. The theme for October is **simple foods**. For the meal, each family is asked to bring one dish that costs no more than \$2 total!

Next month, on November 3, the Church AD theme for our common meal will be an Adventure Potluck. Each person is asked to bring a healthy food she or he enjoys, but which may be new to others. Participants will have a chance to teach others to enjoy this food too!

Youth Group Monthly Meetings

Youth Group will begin our monthly meetings on October 6. We will meet on the first Sunday of each month and will coordinate our time with the Church AD program. Please come at 5:00 PM to participate in the worship time. We will then share a meal before breaking off for our meeting around 6:15 PM. This month each family is encouraged to bring a dish that costs no more than \$2.00 to prepare. I hope to see you all there!



Praise Team participates in worship one Sunday per month, with a short rehearsal the Wednesday before (7:30 to 8:00 PM) and another (9:50 to 10:05 PM) on that Sunday. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please see Jayne McGarrity.

Fall Schedule:

- October 20 (rehearse 16)
- November 17 (rehearse 13)
- December 15 (rehearse 11)

Suter's Corn Maze Trip

The Youth Group will be going to the Suter's Corn Maze on Sunday, October 20. We will meet at the church at 5:45 PM to leave by 6:00 PM. We will return to the church around 8:00 PM. The cost is \$4.50 for students and \$6.00 for adults. This year there are two new attractions: a giant tube slide and zip line. They may cost extra, so bring some additional money if those interest you. Please let Tenna know if you are planning to attend, so we can plan properly for transportation. If there are any adults who would like to attend and help drive, please let Tenna know as well. Thanks!

Nursery Care

The church has hired Lynsee Lawler and Kori Phipps to provide child care during Sunday School and Worship. This will create a more consistent environment for the toddlers and allow all families to participate in worship. We will no longer be asking for volunteers for the nursery.

Coffee Talk with Pastor Matthew

Coffee talk with Pastor Matthew at McDonalds on Monday at 8:00 AM.

Deacons

The deacons are asking for your help in making sure that the church office has everyone's birthdays and anniversary dates. Please fill out the form in this issue of *What's Happening*, and return it to the office or put it in the offering plate. Thank you for your help!

All Saints

On November 3, we will be observing All Saints Day with our annual Remembrance Day Celebration. This is a special time when we remember those friends and loved ones who have died, particularly in the past year. If there is someone from your life that you would like lifted in prayer and thanksgiving on that day, please let the office know by no later than October 27. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Matthew.



Trick-or-Treaters at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Once again Bluffton Presbyterian church will welcome children and enjoy the festivities of Trick or Treat night. If you would like to join in the fun and have time on Thursday, October 31 (6:00-7:30 PM), let Pastor Matthew or Cindy Gillen know as soon as possible.

Be prepared to bring a bag of candy to share with the children, dress up in a non-scary costume if you want, and expect to have a fun night of fellowship with each other and the community.



The Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! Saturday, November 30, at 8:00 AM will be the annual decorating of the church for Christmas. There will be a pancake breakfast provided by the Worship Committee. Plan to join in for work, fun, and fellowship.



Bob Barnett and family extend our appreciation to the Deacons and church family for Bob's 95th birthday celebration. Thank you so much!

Thank you for all of the prayers and cards you sent me.

Sheila Hurlburt

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who assisted with the September Community Meal through their donation of pies, money, or the generous donation of time. Over 80 people enjoyed an evening of fellowship and shared our meal. Thank you for helping to make this event a success!

Dear Reverend Matthew and the Presbyterian Church Members,

I would like to thank you for the great opportunity that you gave me by allowing me to speak at your church to share about my experience as Iraq citizen and a long-term refugee, and allow me to conclude that with fundraising to pay off my medical expenses. Your Church has been very generous with me and showed a great deal of compassion and sympathy. I appreciate what you did for me, and I can't exclaim enough how grateful I am for what you and your church have done to help me. Thank you so much and may God bless you and keep your support for good causes.

Tamara Al-Sammarraie

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your recent donation to our shelter. Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Samaritan House

Dear Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all for the gift, but most of all the support over my years at the church. I love seeing all of you guys in and outside of church. I love everyone's stories and now it is my turn to get stories to share with all of you! Thank you for your support.

Kory Enneking



Prayers of Celebration with Todd and Laura Edwards-Leeper on the Baptism of Ivan Cecil.

Prayers of Celebration with Jeanette Warren on the birth of a new great grandson, Liam Alexander Woodward and a new great granddaughter, Lynnsey Mae Freed.

Prayers of Safety with all student athletes.

Prayers with those affected by the flooding in Colorado.

Prayers for Peace in Syria.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Lucas Woodward, and Andrew Warner.

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Min Lindsey, Brenda Anderson, Rebecca Hursey, Harold Sponseller, Sheila Hurlburt, Donnas Stone, Toni Gossard, Michelle Goslin, Debra Lamb, Brandon, Erika and Evie Distel, Drew Begg, Keith and Kathy Buist, Judy Miracle, and Michael Lee Bucher.

Min Lindsey is in Room #21 at Richland Manor if anyone would like to visit.

Journeying through Grief

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one in the past year, a series of short books, *Journeying through Grief*, is now available. Each book describes the issues and feelings that people tend to encounter at various points during their grief and offers suggestions on how to handle them. The Deacons have a number of copies available, so please contact your Care Deacon or Pastor Matthew at any time if this series may be of help to you.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.com), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information.

If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Diane or another deacon.

Happy Birthday!!



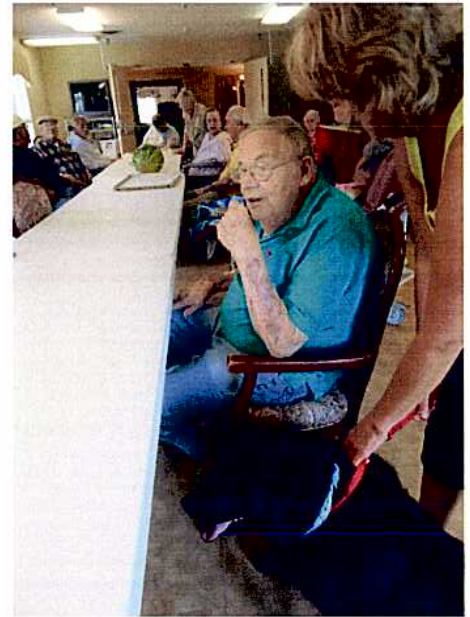
October	1	Owen Scoles
	2	Mary Emma Triplett
	4	Olivia Sneary
	5	Robbie McGarrity
	7	Anne McCracken
	8	Phil Weisenbarger
	10	Mariah Pneuman
	15	Terry Mullenhour
	18	Amanda Leugers
	20	Don Carroll
	23	Ingo Montgomery
	30	Tonya Best
		Tayler Nowak-Valentine
	31	Carolyn Dickey
November	2	Molly McCracken
		Julia Szabo
	7	Gayle Marshall
		Nathan Hursh
	8	Ray Niswander
		Morgan McVetta

BPC Members Go to the Dogs at Richland Manor

Below are photos of the several members of the church who gathered in their canine companions for a visit to Richland Manor on August 3. On the first Saturday of each month we have been visiting the residents of Richland Manor to try to bring some companionship and pleasure to what can often be lonely and empty days. In addition to pet visits, earlier in the summer a group of singers entertained residents with show tunes and favorite hymns. One resident who had sung in barber shop ensembles even joined our members in the serenade. On another occasion, the Tuesday evening small group brought the original Trivial Pursuit game and engaged residents in a spirited competition of trivial memory. Most recently, volunteers and members of the Mission Committee have brought movies complete with drinks and popcorn for residents' enjoyment.

Despite the best efforts of a caring staff, life in a facility such as Richland Manor suffers from a day-to-day sameness that can sap residents' spirits. The Mission Committee has challenged our members to participate in this caring ministry in response to the demands of our faith to show hospitality to the stranger, care for and visit the infirmed, and share God's love wherever we see a need. We plan to offer a diversion, a respite from the normal routine of life for Richland Manor residents at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 5 by showing the movie "Sister Act" accompanied by popcorn and drinks. We'll be doing it again on November 2 and December 7 and we invite so-inclined volunteers to help brighten the day for some deserving, special people.





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
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues & Wed 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

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

2013 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance – Clair Winebar
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Kay Ziessler and Tom Edwards
Personnel – Kay Ziessler
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Shirley Kisor
Members: Don Carroll, Laura From, Darlene Hey, Lin Rumer, and Diane Winebar.

