



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2014

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 7 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Men's Ensemble

Lay Reader: Lin Rumer

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Sunday, September 14

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: The Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Molly McCracken

Sunday, September 21

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, September 28

Choir

Lay Reader: Tenna Rhonemus

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, October 5 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Greeters: The Gillen Family



Mark Your Calendars!

- September 7 – Sunday School – 9:00 AM
- September 7 – Small Groups Ministry Meeting – Immediately Following Worship
- September 7 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- September 11 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- September 14 – New Foster Parent Information Event – Good Shepherd UMC – 6:00 to 8:00 PM
- September 17 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- September 17 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- September 21 – New Beginnings – "An Honest Assessment" – Immediately Following Worship
- September 28 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- October 2 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM Church Parking Lot



Announcement Procedure

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

September Worship Leader – Lori Schmidt

Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Beginnings team : Darlene Hey, Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Lin Rumer, Dave Sycks, Diane Winebar.

New Beginnings is at hand.

We begin our work with God's future this month.

Although we have been talking about New Beginnings since April, we are now at the point of rolling up our sleeves, putting our hands to the shovel and getting to work. Because there is work to do.

And before you say – Not *again*, there is always work to do. Let me say this: this isn't work *again*. It isn't *ordinary* work because we don't live in *ordinary* time. (Because) **The world has changed.** The era of "going to church" is gone. People get their religious/spiritual programs elsewhere. The local church isn't the center of community life.

If you would like to debate these conclusions, I would be glad to. But you should also address Bluffton Presbyterian's loss of 33% of its membership and 26% of its worship attendance across the last 10 years.

This is not an accident. This loss is "normal" – because our society has changed.

Now we have a choice. We can change to meet our world, or we can sit and do what we've done.

New Beginnings invites us to ask questions about God's future and our part in it. New Beginnings asks three questions:

1. What ministry can our congregation be best at given our context for ministry? (Who are our neighbors?)
2. What passion do we bring to our ministry?
3. What resources do we have to facilitate this ministry?

Frederick Buechner wrote that God calls us to the place "where your deep gladness meets the world's hunger."

We are called to ministry. It is ahead of us in God's future. Our way forward will include: **an honest assessment of who we are and where we are** (We will take up our Assessors report on September 21); **who are neighbors are** (We will "dig the demographics" on October 19); and **a bold imagining of God's future for us** (decisions on November 16).

The New Beginnings team has worked very hard to put together this program. Special effort has been made to get you *the information you need*, the *interaction so that we find an understanding together*, and the opportunity to make *decisions and commitments for the sake of the church*.

Here is the process:

The information you need...

An Honest Assessment – Sept 21 after church
Digging the demographics – Oct. 19 after church

The interaction so that we find an understanding together...

"House meetings" the weeks of Oct. 5 and Oct. 26
Dinner on November 2

Decisions and Commitments for the sake of the church...

November 16

New Beginnings will startle you with thoughts, inspire you with reflections, bring us together for mission in our community, and send us into the world.

**And that's not the end...
It's the beginning.**

Extra extra:

read all about it.

On September 21, we will be handing out copies of the **New Beginnings Assessment** of our church. We would love to have a copy for you. But we ask that you read it.

The Assessment is 61 pages of thorough work. It covers: Congregational History, the Current Congregation, the Community, Online Presence, Facilities Examination, and Financial review. It also includes 16 pages of demographic details about our community and descriptions of household types.

Our concern is that, at almost \$20 per copy, it would be poor stewardship to print copies which lie about unused, unread. So we ask that you sign up for your copy, as a commitment to put the information to good use.

The Assessment is a central part of our work in the **New Beginnings** process.

Sign up! Read it! Work it!

Rev. David Good

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen serving day will be October 2. Please contact Beth Buist at peppercatbeth@gmail.com or (419) 969-5279 with any questions. Volunteers meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM and typically return by 12:30 PM.

Youth Group Announcement

The youth group will start our monthly meetings on Sunday, September 7. We will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the church. The meeting will start with a meal and include a Bible study, games, and lots of fun. You are welcome to invite friends. If possible, please let Tenna know if you are bringing a guest so she can plan appropriately. Of course last minute participants are always welcome!



July Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 64,032.43
Receipts	6,955.02
Expenses	(11,929.89)
Balance	\$ 59,057.56

Restoration Fund Balance \$40,926.04

Knitting Donations

Min Lindsey is accepting donations of yarn so that she can knit winter hats for those in need.

Journey to Jerusalem

Bluffton University's religion professor, Rev. Randy Keeler, is leading a "Journey to Jerusalem" from December 26 and returning January 7. Cost is \$4,486 all-inclusive. Our group is 13 so far and there is room for more. You don't have to be a Bluffton alumnus to sign up! Contact Julia Szabo for more details.



Praise Team will be starting again in September. Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument is welcome. Praise Team usually sings the 3rd Sunday of the month with a rehearsal at 7:30 PM the Wednesday before. Please mark your calendars for a September 17 rehearsal and a September 21 service. See Jayne for details.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

Our next assigned day to provide the walkers to escort the students to Weekday Christian Education is Tuesday, September 30. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you are available to help.

How About You?

Well, it's back to the old grind again, isn't it? Work, family and/or spouse time, volunteer activities, helping friends and neighbors, and whatever else you do for others. But what do you do to refresh yourself? What time is there when you replenish your physical, mental, and spiritual resources? Have you smelled the roses lately? This fall there will be several new opportunities, as well as some familiar ones, to step aside with a group of church friends and create places of mutual support. Here are some possibilities.

On Sunday, September 7 following worship, you are invited to stay and help us decide on which particular emphases our small group ministry will focus.

Men's Group – The word is out that some of the men in the church are interested in an Action or Mission Group. Mission groups form best around one or two person's interests so one of the first group tasks will be to decide on their own particular mission. It is expected that a monthly gathering will be best; however, the group will determine the time and frequency of meeting.

Book Group – Already there is a nucleus of folks who are negotiating to begin a group to read and discuss books and /or DVDs. At present, it appears that the group will meet monthly, although no final decision has been reached. If you just can't wait until Sunday, September 7 to register your interest, contact Beth Buist or Mariah Pneuman.

Grief Group – In view of several recent deaths in the congregation, the need for a grief group in the community has become evident. However, others who have experienced grief in the past may benefit from such a group. This group would probably extend beyond the congregation and Maple Crest has been suggested as a meeting site. When we gather on September 7, please let us know if you or those you know who would appreciate a group of this sort.

Choir – We know of no one in the congregation that would doubt the obvious joy and Christian community that is our choir. They meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM to make a joyful noise. Normally the choir sings two Sundays per month, with more frequent occurrences at Christmas and Holy Week. If you can carry a tune and want to be part of a caring, fun-filled group, you are welcome.

Study and Sharing Group – This group will begin its fifth year this September. It has brought acceptance, openness, support, and growth to group members. Meeting times focus on study and sharing so that members, having experienced real Christian community, will carry that experience into their daily lives among, family, co-workers, and friends. The group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the church library. The first meeting this year is on Tuesday, September 16. New members are welcome until the group reaches capacity.

How about it? Will you set aside some small amount of time to feed your mind, body, and spirit? Join us after worship on September 7.

Highlights of August's Session Meeting

- Permission was granted to Tom/Marilyn Edwards to use tables/chairs. Approved Bluffton University's request to use church lawn on Sunday, August 24 for their Ice Cream Social for students. Approved request by Michelle Talavinia for her Girl Scout group to meet at the church on the 1st/3rd Monday of each month during the school year – meet from 6:00 to 7:15 PM.
- Approved Pastor Dave's request for vacation time August 13-19. Approved changing Stated Meeting to August 7 due to Pastor Dave's vacation. Approved Dave's request for vacation September 24-30. Approved Pastor Dave's current contract until the end of the year. Pastor's Terms of Call submitted to Committee on Ministry.

- Membership roll was reviewed – approved placing Katie Saylor and Maggie Saylor on the “Other” list. Approved Geraldine Sullivan-Clark’s request to send Letter of Transfer to Greenwood Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, IN.
- New concrete sidewalk has been installed. When the old sidewalk was being removed buried electric lines running to the middle of the yard (used for Blaze of Lights display) were disrupted. Jamie Mehaffie, Village Administrator, approved that the Village (Chamber of Commerce) would cover the expense of repairing this line and then running the line to our sign where an outdoor electrical box would be placed. Permission granted for this to be done while the proper equipment was on site. The concrete subcontractor will send a separate bill to the Village. Prior to the new sidewalk being poured, capped pipes were placed under the footer so if wires ever need to be buried in the future this could be done without breaking up the sidewalk. When the steps to the basement were being removed, part of the foundation also came out due to extensive water damage which had eroded the mortar, as well as wooden frame around the door. The existing drain was plugged with sand (from the mortar) so this drain was replaced and connected into existing tile. Contractor Ron Schnipke, Wellmann Brothers, and concrete subcontractor surveyed the damaged foundation and developed the solution. Concrete was used to secure the foundation and Wellmann Brothers will be finishing the exterior with limestone to match the existing foundation – areas with wood will be replaced with brick/stone. The threshold area by the office door will be completed once the new door is installed. Dale’s Concrete will return to work on the handicap ramp. Ron Schnipke has good clean fill dirt which will be used on the blacktop path as well as along the new sidewalk. Will be checking to see if we can get the dirt now so it can begin to settle. Handrails were part of the bid for the handicap ramp, but were not included for the step by the office. Will be checking with contractor for his advice since all feel this is needed. Permission was given to remove the tree by

the sidewalk because it was split, would hang over the wider sidewalk, and the concrete truck needed entrance. Wellmann plans to be on site after Labor Day. A wireless door bell was installed by the rear door in the Library.

- Approved hiring Shawna Anderson as the second nursery worker – start date in July.
- Auditor Clair Winebar examined the 2013 financial records and controls and found the reported balances to be correct, procedures reasonably proper, and records properly kept.
- In June/July Pastor Dave made visits to members in homes/care facilities, phone visits, weekly breakfasts, Relay for Life, Wheels Festival, Community VBS, neighborhood picnic, Lectio Divina, Bluffton News devotion, Community Worship service, church picnic on the lawn, BAMA, and conflict resolution with a church in MVP. Approved that the New Beginnings Team (Tenna Rhonemus, Diane Winebar, Lin Rumer, Darlene Hey, Jana McVetta, and Dave Sycks) be appointed as a “focus” group and will be listed on Session’s docket. They received official training in June and have met four times. They are enthusiastic and finalizing plans for a worship service, as well as group meetings. Our prime location in the center of town is a positive resource they are hoping to capitalize. Plans are being made for a “Concert on the Corner” on Saturday, September 20 in the morning when foot traffic is high for the farmer’s market. Approved costs for printing New Beginnings report (\$250) which will be given to those participating in group meetings.

Area Agency on Aging

The Agency on Aging is an excellent resource for older adults and their children to find services and information they may need to remain in their homes. We are also a resource for disabled. Anyone can call our Community Resource Center and ask questions or set up a free Long Term Care Consultation. A trained assessor will visit their home and assess their needs and share what services are in the community.



Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long; Dusty Klingler; Michael Lee Bucher; Curt Bell; Stella Tomlin; Sharon Essinger; Claralice Wolf; Michael Kucinich and the Kucinich family; Sheila Hurlburt; Hazel Rodabaugh; Brenda Anderson; Mary Barnett, Pearl Williamson; and Family of Mary Whitaker.



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 add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Diane or another deacon.

New Address:

Claralice Wolf
410 W. Elm St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Mary Barnett
700 W. Maple Crest Ct.
Bluffton, OH 45817



Happy Birthday!!

September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	16	Lindsey Sneary
	20	David Kisor
	23	Roy Pneuman
		Rhonda Moor
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	25	Devin Kisor
	26	Sue Mathewson
October		Amanda Rhonemus
		Dan Sneary
	29	Cindy Gillen
	30	Wyatt Marshall
	1	Owen Scoles
	2	Mary Emma Triplett
	4	Olivia Sneary
	5	Jennifer Hough
		Robbie McGarrity

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to Gene and Sue Mathewson, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary!

Deacons' Report

The deacons have revised their transportation policy. We will be available to provide rides for our seniors, including those living independently at Maple Crest, for routine doctor visits and checkups, but not for surgeries or other medical procedures.

HOPE FOR LOVE



Stuffing the Bags Project

with



What: New Foster Parent Information Event

Volunteer Opportunity to Help Make Welcome Bags for Children Entering Foster Care

When: Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, 6-8 PM

Where: Good Shepherd UMC
119 W Main St.
Benton Ridge, OH 45816

Who: Perspective Foster Parents and All who would like to help foster children

Join us to learn more about how to become a foster parent and help stuff welcome bags for foster kids! Great project for small groups, youth groups, and families! Bring the whole family to volunteer together!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO SCHEDULE YOUR GROUP TO ATTEND
CONTACT:**

**Kim Kintner
419-308-1464**

kimssliceoflife@gmail.com

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

Pastor: Rev. David Good
Phone: 765-993-7791
Email: mangendave@frontier.com
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

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

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

2014 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Dave Kisor and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Lori Schmidt
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Dave Kisor, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Diane Winebar
Members: Don Carroll, Tom Edwards, Laura From, Lin Rumer, and Kay Ziessler.