



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

February 2014

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday, February 2 – Communion

#### 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Jeremy Szabo – Oboe

Lay Reader: Clair Winebar

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks

### Sunday, February 9

#### Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Sue Mathewson

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolytes: Patrick Rhonemus and Jacob Szabo

### Sunday, February 16

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Paige McVetta and Avery Talavinia

### Sunday, February 23

Choir

Lay Reader: Dave Kisor

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolytes: Wyatt Marshall and James Freidenberg

### Sunday, March 2 – Communion

#### 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Acolytes: Libby and Morgan McVetta



## Mark Your Calendars!

- February 1 – Youth Group – 5:00-7:00 PM
- February 2 – Souper Bowl of Caring – Soup Luncheon – Following Worship
- February 6 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM – Church Parking Lot
- February 12 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- February 13 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- February 15-16 – Youth Group Retreat/Virtual Mission Trip – 5:00 PM at the Church
- February 19 – Maumee Valley Presbytery Information Session – Perrysburg – 7:00 PM
- February 23 – Newsletter Deadline – [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- February 26 – Deacon Meeting – 7:30 PM



## Announcement Procedure

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

February Worship Leader – Gerry Sullivan-Clark

## Coffee Talk

Monday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

## Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

## Choir Practice

Wednesday – Church Sanctuary – 6:30-7:30 PM

## Highlights of January Session Meeting

- Building Restoration Project – following people have agreed to serve on the committee – Don Brauen, Jeanette Warren, Tom Edwards, Owen Ziessler, and Tom Hursey. Session would like a general contractor to oversee all aspects of the project. If we have concerns during the project or warranty concerns afterwards then there is one point person. Presently checking into any local companies to serve as a general contractor. Update on financial aspect – 8 pledges received for \$23,900 pledged. Actual money donated so far is \$11,800.
- The pew Bibles and Glory to God Hymnals have been placed in the sanctuary. M + R has taken measurements for the stoves and new ones are on order – expected to arrive in two weeks. Clerk will be sending Thank You letter acknowledging these donations.
- Approved the Covenant (three months beginning February 1) between Rev. David Good and BPC as a Bridge Pastor. COM has already approved the Covenant. Approved the three-month rental agreement for the manse with Rev. Good. Approved allowing Rev. Good to move in the week prior to the February 1 rental agreement date – expected to move January 27 or 28.
- Approved receiving Richard and Judith Evans as members pending receipt of their Letters of Transfer from Market Street Presbyterian – Lima. Richard and Judith formerly lived in Lima, but have now moved into a home part of Maple Crest.
- Approved to meet on the second Thursdays at 7:00 PM for February/March with future meeting dates to be decided. Approved electing Lori Schmidt as Clerk. Approved electing Cindy Gillen and Dave Kisor as Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee. Approved the following composition of session statement – Session for 2014 consists of three males and six females which is representative of our congregation in terms of gender and age. Nominated the following to serve as officers of the corporation – President – Jay McCracken, Treasurer – Cindy Gillen, and Secretary – Donnas Stone.
- Approved to serve Communion on these dates: first Sunday of each month, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. Since many of the blue Presbyterian Hymnals were donated by members or given as memorials, approved letting these people keep these hymnals if they wish. Hymnals have been sorted and are available to be picked up from the Library area. Any remaining hymnals will be given to a mission project.
- All Elders/Deacons were ordained/installed on January 12. Necrology and Local church information forms are being submitted to MVP. We have received our 2014 Per Capita Statement from MVP – \$28.10 per member (130 members) for a total of \$3,653. Members are being asked to pay their per capita if possible. Approved the General Assembly statistical report (membership/financial data). Lori and Clair have had numerous communications (phone/email) with MVP /Rev Good over Bridge Pastor package. Clerk has sent letters to remaining Bridge Pastor candidates stating that the position has been filled. Clerk sent letter to First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck requesting reimbursement for half of January's Board of Pension dues since Pastor Matthew is starting there January 16. An introduction to the "New Beginning" process is being held on February 19 in Perrysburg. Lori Schmidt and Diane Winebar have volunteered to attend training. Still looking for another volunteer!
- Very large attendance at Christmas Eve main service and increase in Christmas Eve communion service. Picture Directory will be printed soon – hope to be distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Monday Breakfast group will continue to meet at McDonald's. Pastor Matthew feels things are going well and trusts that BPC will continue to take care of Gerry who is staying in Bluffton. Pastor Matthew shared that once a pastor leaves, he is responsible to his next church. Therefore while we all can remain friends, he will be unable to provide pastoral care, funerals, and weddings. Moving company in Bluffton on Monday – everything is packed up from manse/church.

## **Building Restoration Project Commitments**

We are making steady progress on commitments/pledges for the much needed Building Restoration Project.

- Estimated total project cost: \$110,000
- Amount to be paid from memorial and special funds: \$30,000
- Amount to be raised from member and friend commitments/pledges: \$80,000
- Commitments/pledges made through January 26: \$36,000 (nine units)
- Remaining commitment/pledge goal: \$44,000
- Payment period for commitments begins now and runs through December 2015

Please remember that it is important for the church office to hear from each member and friend household/family. All commitments are important regardless of size, even if your commitment cannot be financial and needs to consist of moral support! Please be sure to pick up a commitment card located at the sanctuary doorways or print one on your own (see below in newsletter) and drop in the offering or send to the church office.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this necessary and worthy project!

## **2014 Per Capita Dues**

2014 per capita dues are \$28.10 per member, or a total of \$3,653 for our 130 members. If you are able, please contribute by noting "per capita" with your payment for your family or for others that may not be able to contribute. Of the \$28.10 total dues, \$7.02 supports General Assembly, \$3.25 supports the Synod of the Covenant, and \$17.83 support Maumee Valley Presbytery.

## **December Financial Report**

Beginning Balance	\$20,144.79
Receipts	32,150.48
Expenses	(11,091.96)
Balance	\$41,203.31

## **Stewardship Campaign and 2014 Commitments**

The Stewardship Committee and Session thank you very much for your 2014 commitments/pledges which so far total 36 commitments for \$81,072. If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your commitment, we encourage you to still do so. As a reminder, commitments can be updated throughout the year to reflect changes in circumstances. Expressing your commitment helps Session budget for the best use of projected funds.

## **Elders/Deacons**

Thanks to the following elders/deacons for donating many years of faithful service to the church – Clair Winebar, Kay Ziessler, Owen Ziessler, Tom Edwards, Shirley Kisor, and Diane Winebar. We appreciate your leadership/direction.

Congratulations to our new elders/deacons – Elders Cindy Gillen, Tom Hursey, Dave Kisor, Lori Schmidt, and Jeanette Warren – Deacons Tom Edwards, Diane Winebar, and Kay Ziessler. We appreciate your willingness to serve and provide leadership during our time of transition.

## **Mission Information Form**

BPC will be required to complete a Mission Information Form prior to searching for our next pastor. Our Presbytery offers a workshop called "New Beginnings" which will train us in that process in April/May. On Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 PM, Maumee Valley Presbytery will have an informational session in Perrysburg. Presently, we have two volunteers and are looking for another person to attend the informational session. We will need to send a team of 5-7 leaders to be trained in April/May. If you are interested in attending the February meeting, please contact Lori Schmidt or Cathy Carroll.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our recent round of wintry weather may have prevented you from attending church on January 25 and our Annual Congregational Meeting. Copies of the Annual Report, along with Pastor Matthew's report, and a Financial report which merged information from the change in software packages used (receipts/expenses/2014 budget/Building Restoration Fund) are available at the church.

## Expressions of Appreciation – Annual Meeting

- Mission Committee members (George Stultz and Shirley Kisor) for their faithful service.
- Stewardship Committee members (Barb Fett, Jana Mathewson, George Stultz, Cathy Carroll) for their dedication.
- Tenna Rhonemus for continuing to work with our youth with energy, enthusiasm, and love.
- All involved with music – Linda Sycks – Choir Director, Jayne McGarrity – Organist, choir members, praise team members, and those who provide special music, for sharing their wonderful talents.
- Everyone in our church family for sharing their many gifts, time, and talents which allow us to work well together as a church family.
- To all who clean our sidewalks on wintry days!

## Christian Ed Walkers

Following are the dates our church has been assigned to provide the walkers to escort the students to Weekday Christian Education:

**Tuesday, March 25**

**Thursday, April 10**

**Friday, April 25**

**Friday, May 9**

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Any questions, please see any member of the Christian Education Committee.

## Deacons

- The deacons will arrange transportation to church for our elderly members during inclement weather. We want you to be safe in the ice and snow. Please call a deacon the night before or early the morning of to arrange transportation.
- If you would like to put someone on the prayer chain (it might even be yourself), please contact Diane Winebar. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. We know that God knows for whom we pray.
- The deacons provide two subscriptions to *Presbyterians Today*, our denomination's award-winning, general-interest magazine. The magazine explores practical issues of faith and life, tells stories of Presbyterians who are living their faith, and covers a wide range of church news and activities. You are welcome to borrow the magazines for a short time. They can be found in the Narthex.
- Coming Up: Make plans to gather together for a St. Patrick's Day potluck after worship on Sunday, March 16! Please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

## Youth Group

The youth group will have a retreat/virtual mission trip February 15-16. We will meet at 5:00 PM at the church and then "travel" to our surprise destination. I think you will enjoy the country I have chosen to "visit"! Since we will be sleeping on the floor of the basement, bring extra blankets to keep warm. You may invite a friend to this event, just let me know by February 9, so I can plan accordingly.

The youth decided to take a virtual mission trip in the church basement, so that we could make a larger donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund.

## Presbytery Commissioner

We are in need of a Presbytery Commissioner to represent our church at Maumee Valley Presbytery meetings. MVP meets about 4-5 times a year in various parts of our presbytery – northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Only requirement is that you must be an Elder (does not have to be currently serving). If you are interested, please contact Lori Schmidt, Cathy Carroll, or Pastor David Good.

## 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.

## Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen serving date will be **Thursday, February 6**. If interested in serving others, please contact Shirley Kisor (419-358-0085). We typically meet at the church parking lot around 9:40 AM and return around 12:30 PM.

## Bulletin Boards

If anyone would like to do the bulletin boards in the downstairs hallway, contact Jeanette Warren at 419-358-6263. They need to be changed for the different seasons and holidays, and church calendar or church events.

## Hymnals

Many of the old Presbyterian Hymnals were donated in memory, or in honor of, family members. If you wish to have the ones you donated, they are marked in the library. The remaining hymnals will be donated to a mission project.



## Bluffton Presbyterian Church 2013-15 Building Restoration Project

Recognizing the key role of our church building in the life of our congregation, I/we prayerfully commit as follows towards the critical maintenance project required to keep our building sound. Commitments may be made as an immediate lump sum or periodically between December 2013 and December 2015.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ total commitment to the project, pledged in the following manner:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ one-time payment or gift, \$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly, or \$\_\_\_\_\_ (monthly)(quarterly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature[s])

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name[s] printed)

This commitment may be updated due to changes in circumstances.



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Thank you to my church friends for your prayers and expressions of sympathy on the death of my sister. She was a good woman as in Proverbs 31 – vs. 10, 11, and 28.

Avis Marshall

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I'd be willing to bet that Pastor Matthew's new congregation does not know yet what a good chef they will be getting. That is certainly not a requirement for a pastor! The Christmas party that he had for the congregation showed off more of his kitchen adeptness.

Please tell him that I wish the very best for him and his family as they seek new roots in the far-away state of North Dakota.

Marilyn Bullock

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**Prayers** of celebration with our new Deacons and Session members.

**Prayers** of thanks with Deacons and Session members who have completed their service.

**Prayers** of Thanksgiving for the time we had with the Zuehlke family.

**Prayers** for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

**Prayers of Healing** for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Brenda Anderson, Judy Surgent, Curtis Champion, Jill Burkholder, Charles John, Michael Lee Bucher, George Stultz, Robin Cannon, Claralice Wolf, Walter Schmidt, Bill Warner, Dorma Crates and Harold Crouse.



### BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or [dwinebar711@gmail.com](mailto: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!!



- |          |    |                          |
|----------|----|--------------------------|
| February | 2  | Jodie Parker             |
|          | 5  | John Marshall            |
|          | 7  | Jessica Hough            |
|          |    | Devin Leugers            |
|          | 8  | Michelle Talavinia       |
|          | 9  | Owen Ziessler            |
|          |    | Lylah Aguire             |
|          | 11 | Katie McCracken          |
|          | 12 | Samantha Rhonemus        |
|          | 14 | Geraldine Sullivan Clark |
|          | 16 | Carl Wolf                |
|          | 18 | Jane Sycks               |
|          |    | Jeannette Warren         |
|          | 22 | Lin Rumer                |
|          | 23 | Toni Aguire              |
|          | 24 | Louis Best               |
|          |    | Clair Winebar            |
|          | 25 | Libby McVetta            |
|          | 28 | Jodi Brauen              |
| March    | 1  | Greg Culbertson          |
|          | 2  | Emily Sycks              |
|          |    | Jane Benroth             |
|          | 3  | Jacob Szabo              |
|          | 4  | Claralice Wolf           |

## Matthew's Poem by Jayne McGarrity

Matthew Zuehlke took a post at Bluffton Presbyterian.  
He energized the people there and set a high criterion.  
Whenever they read litanies that had an exclamation,  
The reverend stopped them in their tracks and said, "That's no oration!"

The children's chats that Matthew led were visual, engaging.  
The congregation learned to duck as he prepared the staging.  
With props a-plenty, funny hats, with tools and ropes and lids,  
He spoke the message loud and clear for adults as well as kids.

He liked the music and his messages to be related.  
All was fine with love and peace—well coordinated.  
But when it came to Star Wars themes and even Dr. Who,  
Musicians found it challenging to gamely follow through.

Ne'er before did Bluffton Presby have a pastor/cook.  
He made ethnic, vegan, healthy, spicey, all without a book.  
But right before the Passo'er meal, the people had to choke.  
They sang upstairs while downstairs Matthew was producing smoke!

His family, a true delight, was always by his side.  
Michelle accomplished many things—he looks at her with pride.  
Gerry joined the small group and then she joined the flock.  
Ariana likes to dress, and she can really talk!

We'll miss the Zuehlkes' kindness, their humor and their caring.  
We'll think of them and wonder often how they must be faring.  
But we'll not go along with them to help to fill their quota.  
We'd rather stay at BPC than go to North Dakota!

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

Pastor: Rev. David Good  
Email: [mangendave@frontier.com](mailto:mangendave@frontier.com)  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto: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**

## **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 – Tom Edwards, Rhonda Moor, Donnas Stone, and Dave Kisor

### *Board of Deacons*

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