



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

July 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 7 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Amanda Rhonemus

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: The Gillen Family

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Sunday, July 14

Food Pantry

Special Music: Don Brauen

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: Darlene Hey and Helen Hawks

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, July 21

Special Music: Tanya Best

Lay Reader: Darlene Hey

Greeters: Jeanie and Dwight Nichols

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, July 28 – Community Service

9:00 AM Presbyterian Church Lawn

Sunday, August 4 - Communion

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Dave and Shirley Kisor

Acolyte: Patrick Rhonemus and Jacob Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

- July 14-August 6 – Christmas in July
- July 16 – Youth Triennium Begins
- July 21-25 – Vacation Bible School – 6:00 to 8:00 PM – First Mennonite Church
- July 24 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- July 27 – Swimming/Picnic – 3:00 PM – Don and Jodi Brauen's Home
- July 28 – Community Worship Service – 9:00 AM – BPC Lawn
- July 28 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- July 29 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM
- August 3 – Richland Manor Pet Visit – 1:00 PM
- August 8 – Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM Church Parking Lot

Announcement Procedure

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

July Worship Leader – Jay McCracken

Church A.D.

Following a two-month trial period, Church A.D. (Alternative Devotions) is going to be discontinued for the months of July and August. Christian Education and Pastor Matthew would appreciate any feedback or thoughts from the trial period.

Pastor's Letter

A few years ago, I was in our nation's capital visiting some friends who live there. Over the week-long vacation, Michelle and I rode many a train and subway. Luckily this was before Ariana – I can only imagine doing subways with a stroller and diaper bag!

Still, during one of these train rides, I noticed a sign, something that I would see time and time again. In fact, it was on all of the trains. The sign read: WATCH THE GAP. (In London, they say MIND THE GAP!)

If it's been a while since you've been on a subway, you might be wondering what the warning was all about. The "gap" in question is the little space between the train itself and the platform in the station. It doesn't look like much, and most times we all step over it without a second thought. However, if one doesn't "watch the gap", you might catch a toe, heel, or wheel in that little crevice, causing you to trip, and likely, fall.

Certainly no one wants to trip. It hurts! And for many of us, the threat of a fall means possible other injuries. As if that wasn't bad enough, there is a greater concern. The problem with someone falling in a subway becomes an even greater hazard for those behind them. You see it's bad enough for us to fall, but in falling, we become an impediment to others.

I've thought for a while about that phrase, "WATCH THE GAP" and my mind went to the letter of the apostle James. It is here where we read: *"Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are*

hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing." (James 1:22-25).

James is writing about another sort of gap. The gap James is asking us to "watch" lest we trip and fall – and cause others to fall – is the gap between what we *know* and what we *do*. It's those times when our conscience pipes up: *"You know you really shouldn't have done that!"*

Sometimes that gap can be huge. So huge that it's easy to avoid and be safe. Yet often that gap can be very, very small. Like the gap between a train and the platform. As such, if we are not mindful of it, it can cause us to trip in our Christian lives.

Just like when we trip in the subway, when we trip in of lives of faith, we can become a hazard for others. Our mistake can make it easier for others to fall (sometimes over us!).

For example, think about a child watching an adult profess one thing and then go out and do another – what is that child going to learn? Where is that child likely to trip themselves?

I remember asking God on that subway so many years ago to help me be mindful of my gaps. I know they are there, but I need to be careful, for my own safety as well as that of others. May God give us all wisdom and sight of our gaps.

In the Peace of Christ

~Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke



May Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 14,481.99
Receipts	12,001.78
Expenses	(8,104.76)
Balance	18,379.01

Treasurer Needed

Cathy Carroll is resigning her treasurer job as of August 31, 2013. If you are interested in this position, please send your resume to the church office by Wednesday, July 10, 2013.



Prayers for safe travel with Danielle Rhonemus and Jerrod Champion.

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

Prayers for Peach in our lives and in our World.

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Min Lindsey, Brenda Anderson, Rebecca Hursey, Jon Plotman, Harold Sponseller, and Michael Lee Bucher.

Jane, Emily, and Megan Sycks along with Samantha, Patrick, and Tenna Rhonemus will be traveling to Purdue University for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium on July 16. They will be part of a group of about 50 from the Maumee Valley Presbytery and over 5,000 Presbyterians from around the world, all gathered to experience the "I Am" through worship, Bible study, and fun. Please keep all the youth and adults in your prayers as they travel and participate in this wonderful event.

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



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.



For Your Consideration

The Mission Committee would like to draw your attention to a need that may have left the headlines, but is nonetheless ongoing and will be for some time to come. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still requesting help for the victims of the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado. Please consider making a donation to help these folks, and let's give thanks that (so far) this year Bluffton has been spared. We haven't always been so lucky. If you'd like to help, please make your checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, and put "PDA - Moore, OK" on the memo line. Thank you!

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next opportunity to serve at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is Thursday, August 8. Volunteers interested in carpooling, meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM. Please contact Shirley Kisor (419) 358-0085, if you are able to participate.

Hot Enough for You?

Looking for A/C and lemonade and swimming pools? All time-tested methods of beating the heat, but this summer the Mission Committee would like you to consider one other cooling remedy: Christmas in July!

Once again we will be taking up a collection of food and sundries for Samaritan House, a women's and children's shelter, and Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, both located in Lima and both established ministries of Bluffton Presbyterian Church. Beginning on July 14, and continuing through August 6, we will be taking up the collection. A Christmas-themed easel board with detachable "ornaments" listing items needed will be set up in the rear of the sanctuary, along with collection boxes. Please take as many ornaments as you like! Return the items any time before August 6, at which point the Committee will sort and deliver the goods. This mission has been very successful for the past few years and we hope to continue the tradition for a long time to come. Merry Christmas!

Bring Your Pet for a Visit to Richland Manor

The Mission Committee is once again inviting church members to bring friendly pets, especially dogs, to visit residents of Richland Manor on August 3 at 1:00 PM.

On May 4, a group of singers entertained Richland Manor residents with a selection of show tunes and hymns. One resident, a former barbershop singer, even joined the church singers. On June 1, the Tuesday evening small group led residents in a rousing game of Trivial Pursuit.

On July 6, a group will take the church's video projector to the facility to entertain residents with a movie and popcorn – rumor is that "Arsenic and Old Lace" will be showing.

Our first pet visit in April was hampered by a miscommunication with Richland Manor staff, but was a success for the few residents that were

present. We are planning the repeat visit in August for the entertainment of the residents who love pets, but don't have access to them. All BPC members are encouraged to take part in this meaningful and satisfying mission opportunity. If you have questions, speak with Pastor Matthew, Beth Buist, Shirley Kisor, or George Stultz.

Food Pantry Meal Sunday

Reminder: Our church continues to support the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. With the reorganization of the food pantry, our congregation is encouraged to continue to emphasize the 3Cs: cereal, crackers, and cookies. There is also a current need for canned fruit. If you would like to continue to support this mission, please bring donations the second Sunday of each month.

Our church has also been placed on the program coordinator's list – so stay tuned for opportunities to help organize donations during local events promoting our local food pantry.

Church A.D.

Following a two-month trial period, Church A.D. (Alternative Devotions) is going to be discontinued for the months of July and August. Christian Education and Pastor Matthew would appreciate any feedback or thoughts from the trial period.

Address Changes

Sue Basinger
301 Arbor Lake Drive
Naples, FL 34110-8630

Clair and Diane Winebar
581 Birch Ct.,
Bluffton, OH 45817
Phone numbers and email addresses:
Diane – (419) 957-4046
(dwinebar711@gmail.com)
Clair – (419) 672-8627
(cswinebar@marathonpetroleum.com)

Happy Birthday!!



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|--------|----|--------------------|
| July | 1 | Brandie Carroll |
| | 3 | Alice Niswander |
| | 6 | Lisa Hursey |
| | 8 | Stephanie Scoles |
| | 11 | Kathleen Edelbrock |
| | 16 | Diane Winebar |
| | 18 | Joel Kimmel |
| | 23 | Bob Angus |
| | 24 | Betsey Angus |
| | 28 | Dave Engelhardt |
| | 30 | Mike Rhonemus |
| | | Teresa Rhodes |
| August | 1 | Dale Dickey |
| | 4 | Judy Miracle |



 Thank you to all who donated and helped with the annual Wheels dinner. We made \$729.20 for the general fund.

 Thanks to Jeannine and Emerson Basinger for giving a microwave to the church.

 Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the gift you gave me for my college graduation. The gift card will definitely help me get prepared for my upcoming year as a teacher! Thank you so much for your generosity and support over the years!

Amanda Rhonemus

Dear Friends,

I do not meet with you physically as a congregation, but the monthly Newsletter gives me the feeling that I actually sit in your midst. Cindy Gillen's computer and editorial skills, through the hands of Cathy Carroll, (and who else) transform you all into real people.

I am grateful for all the news. The people in the pictures often seem to move and familiar faces even smile at me.

You are an active congregation, led by a pastor who sets an active pace. The Deacons have made my personal life more livable with regular notes of cheer and by providing transportation for a doctor's appointment to help me keep my sight.

Thank you all and may God continue to bless the Presbyterian Church of Bluffton.

Carl JC. Wolf

Church Family,

Thank you so much for everything you have done for me. This church has helped me to mature into who I am today. I have made many friends and memories at church. Thank you for the Amazon gift card! It will be helpful as I buy books and supplies for college. See you Sunday!

Nathan Hursh

Hello. All of us here at Bluffton Child Development Center would like to say thank you so much for the \$250 donation to be put towards the remodeling of a bathroom. We are so blessed to have friends such as you.

Mary Painter, Staff, and Children

Thank you to my church family and friends for the birthday cards and the birthday poster. They make me feel special and remembered!

Avis Marshall



BPC Swimming/Potluck Picnic

Don and Jodi Brauen will have a summer party at their home, 7140 Tom Fett Road, on Saturday, July 27. Anyone can come out and swim at 3:00 PM and there will be a dinner at 5:00 PM. Bring a hot or cold dish to share, meat and drinks will be provided. Also bring your lawn chairs and a life jacket if you are going to swim.



BPC Youth Pool Party

There will be a BPC youth pool party on Sunday, August 11 from 2:30 to 6:30 PM at the home of Jeff and Cindy Gillen.

Sandwiches, beans, drinks, etc. will be provided. The kids are welcome to bring a bag of some sort of chips or cookies if they would like. Parents/families are welcome.



Volunteers Needed for Community Vacation Bible School

This year's Community Vacation Bible School for ages 4 years through 5th grade will be hosted by First Mennonite Church and will be held July 21 - 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. We are responsible for Preschool this year, along with St. John's United Church of Christ. St. John's is doing crafts and games and we are doing Bible story and snacks. The following volunteers are needed each night:

- Story Leader – present the Bible story (1 needed)
- Snack Leader – (2 needed)
- Group Leader – Lead the groups from room to room and help as needed (4 needed)

Sign-up sheet on table in the Narthex.

Bluffton Community Worship Service

The Bluffton Area Ministerial Association (BAMA) is planning an outdoor community worship service on **Sunday, July 28, at 9:00 AM.** This worship service comes at the end of a week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) hosted this year at the First Mennonite Church. The theme for the service is "Many Gifts, One Spirit", growing out of the VBS curriculum. Worship will include music by the children who attended VBS and several brief reflections about the new things that are happening in the community.

This community gathering will take place on the Presbyterian Church lawn. (In case of rain, the service will be held in the middle school cafetorium.) Everyone is asked to bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Again this year, there will be a general offering which will be given to the Bluffton Food Pantry.

Our hope is that this ecumenical gathering can be a meaningful time to worship our great God and to strengthen relationships with our neighbors in Bluffton.

~Pastor Louise Wideman for the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association

Highlights of June Session Meeting

- Approved to proceed with Audio/Video project with House of Hindenach, but without the LED lights for the sanctuary. Because the current estimate increased \$1,500 from the original estimate approved in March (\$3,500), this item was deleted. Approved that funding would come from Ropp Triplett Memorial with remaining amount to come from Marge Triplett Memorial.
- Updates were given on various options for making basement handicap accessible. Because of various implications and concerns of hidden unknown expenses, Session decided to give priority to water damage in sanctuary/vestibule area. Approved tabling discussion about exterior steps/basement handicap accessible, but to proceed with finishing the basement to include installing carpet. Planting of new landscaping had been placed "on hold" pending Session's decisions on steps/basement handicap accessibility. However, Englehardt's will now be asked to proceed with planting new landscaping.
- Approved that elders Rhonda Moor (at large) and Jeanette Warren (worship) continue these working arrangements for another three months – to be reviewed again in August.
- Reversible Communion table runners, pulpit scarf, and bookmark have been purchased. New tablecloth for the Communion table was donated. New items are added each week to the children's activity bags. Storage area for worship supplies has been cleaned out and organized – racks to hang banners are a great asset. Bulletin boards are being changed often.
- We have now received our 2012 Health Care Subsidy refund of \$856 – slightly smaller than expected because of acts of Congress.
- Following financial package for Pastor Matthew was approved for September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014:

Salary.....	\$29,000
Value of Manse.....	\$ 9,150
Pension/Medical Benefits	\$ 13,085
SSI Allowance	\$ 3,000
Health Reimbursement	
Arrangement.....	\$ 1,500
Housing Expense Account.....	\$ 1,000

Travel/Professional Expenses.....	\$ 3,500
Continuing Education.....	\$ 800
Pastor Total.....	\$61,035

Of which, cash (reviewed annually) \$51,885
Clerk will send this information to Committee of Ministry for their approval.

- Approved to accept Cathy Carroll's letter of resignation as Treasurer, effective August 31, 2013. She will continue her position as Secretary. Personnel will coordinate a fellowship following worship the last Sunday in August to acknowledge Cathy's many years of service as Treasurer. Personnel/Stewardship were charged with finding a replacement which would then require Session action for hiring. Approved to look internally first to find a replacement.
- Deacons served about 80 at the Community Meal on May 16 – very well received. Reception for graduates was held on June 2. Deacons are helping with child care for pastor during special classes/events, continuing to visit/contact members, and reviewing Deacon training materials.
- Permission granted to Enneking's to use roasters for graduation party. Clerk will be requesting to Committee of Ministry that Darlene Hey be certified to serve Communion – request made annually.
- Pastor Matthew attended Maumee Valley Presbytery at Tecumseh, Michigan, in May. Stated Clerk of PCUSA Rev. Gradye Parsons spoke. Our Mission kits were delivered. Guide One Insurance gave a rebate to MVP of \$14,000. Rev. Susan Meier was elected permanent Presbyter for Common Life. Pastor Matthew will be working with Susan to create a photo online directory for MVP of teaching elders. Approved that Pastor Matthew use remaining 10 days vacation time by taking one day a week off (probably Thursdays) during June/July. Members Andrew Van Horn and Jeremy Enneking have expressed interests in lay ministry and Pastor Matthew has met with each. Approved that Andrew Van Horn and Jeremy Enneking be allowed to assist Pastor Matthew with sacraments/worship. Approved that Youth be allowed to distribute Communion in September.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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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.