



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

January 2015

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 4 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Jayne McGarrity - Soprano
Lay Reader: Jay McCracken
Greeters: Ben and Judy Miracle
Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Sunday, January 11

Food Pantry

Choir
Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards
Greeters: Talavinia Family
Acolytes: Morgan and Paige McVetta

Sunday, January 18

Praise Team
Lay Reader: Carole Enneking
Greeters: Gillen Family
Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Sunday, January 25

Choir
Lay Reader: Kevin McVetta
Greeters: Talavinia Family
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, February 1 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity



Mark Your Calendars!

- January 4 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- January 11 – Ordination of Officers – During Worship
- January 14 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- January 15 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- January 21 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- January 25 – Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting – Following Worship
- January 25 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- January 28 – Stewardship Committee Meeting – 7:30 PM



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 Lay Reader.

Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Ordination/Installation of Officers will be Sunday, January 11. New officers include Elders - Bob Angus, Tenna Rhonemus, and Lori Schmidt. New Deacons include Barb Fett, Gayle Marshall, and Mike Rhonemus.

Blessed New Year to you.

Tonight is New Years' eve. And the world will mark the passing of time.

Now, we can pretend time doesn't pass (how many 29th birthdays can you have?), we can trivialize it (2014 selection of words to be removed from the lectionary), we can ignore it (what day is tomorrow?), we can pore over it (how many lists of major events in 2014, and celebrities who died this year do we need?) but time is passing. Usually quietly so. The morning sun melts the heavy frost of the night. The phases of the moon pass. The season's process. Birthdays come and go. Children are born, loved ones pass away. So happy New Year's Eve, it is already gone by the time you read this.

Now the future is not yet here. It is simultaneously an "idle dream" but it also arrives, whether we are ready or not. For myself, I do appreciate "the future" as an awareness (it is coming), and as the home of that which is new, and yet to be. It keeps me aware of change.

So as this year ends, and the New Year springs up, I do have a question for you. ***Where do you want to go and grow in faith this year?*** The old Irish proverb is "Your feet will bring you where your heart is". So where is your heart in this new year? Where is it calling you? What mission? What action? What silence? What contemplation? What questions? What life issues? Where is God calling?

If we share our questions, we will share their energy.

We have come through a lot this year. It was a time of transition. Pastoral transition. Pastor Matthew departed; I arrived. I arrived as an interim/temporary person. Relationships changed, we decided that I might actually be Pastor here. As a part of that transition, we looked at our neighbors and our neighborhood in New Beginnings. We have been through life changes as a cohort of our youngsters graduated from High School and are moving ahead with life. And we have marked the passing of a great generation through the death of Joel Kimmel, Louise

Reichenbach, Dick Reeder, Bob Barnett, Mary Emma Triplett, and Alice Niswander. These life changes are significant, yet time moves on as if mountains did not rise and fall.

It has been an active and challenging year. But 2014 is over, and God is not trapped in the past. God is with us here and now, and calls us into the future. So, I repeat: ***Where is God calling us in this year ahead?***

I will see you tomorrow, in the New Year.

Pastor Dave



Shared from the Mennonite Memorial Home Newsletter

New Year's Prayer

*A whole new year is mine today.
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!*

*I'd strengthen friendships, old and true,
And learn to cherish new ones, too.
To keep on learning and to grow
A little better as I go.*

*To cast aside each grudge and grief,
And hold fast to a firm belief
That life is joyous, gracious, good,
When lived in terms of brotherhood!*

*To welcome fun, and play a while,
To lighten work with happy smile!
To thank the Lord, and every day
Remember him, and kneel to pray
In gratitude for strength and health
And blessings which are all my wealth!*

*This year's a gift from God to me
To spend, or use, or set me free...*

*A whole new year is mine today...
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!*

By Lolita Pinney

Highlights of December Session Meeting

- Approved request by Brandie Carroll to be married in our church on May 30, 2015, with Richard Gibson (Alpine Bible Church – Lehi, Utah) officiating. Approved request to move Lindsey McCracken and Katie McCracken to “Other” list since they no longer live in our community.
- Wellmann Brothers will be completing chimney work (sealing chimney brick and copper cap) within the week and will return in 2015 to complete rest of project – hopefully as one of their first projects. Chimney work did not require as many bricks as listed in their bid. They had hoped to install a liner in the chimney, however it was discovered that there are two chambers, therefore a chimney liner was impossible. Wellmann Brothers will bill us in 2015 for the chimney work. Dale’s Concrete has returned to work on the handicap ramp (up to basement window) and base pad area. Some bushes and handrails were removed in the work area. The village approved we change the tile drain pipe so water is redirected to a catch basin away from the church. Dale’s Concrete and Schnipke evaluated the drain at the bottom of the outside basement steps – drain was replaced with one of appropriate size. The 40-inch handicap door and front doors have been installed by Schnipke. Someone is coming to evaluate rails for handicap ramp and base pad area. When the office door is replaced, a permanent plate will be placed at the door’s entrance on the concrete steps. Dale’s Concrete will be asked to evaluate the parts of the Cherry St. sidewalk which we are being asked to repair. Drew’s Landscaping was contacted because areas in the landscaping by the basement door need additional dirt.
- Approved proposed budget for 2015 which includes 2% raise for salaried employees. Presently, have received 36 pledges amounting to \$87,940 which compares to 37 pledges for \$83,000 last year).
- Approved giving each employee a Christmas gift on behalf of the church.
- All of the old Bibles, 20 Hymnals, and 20 Praise songbooks will be given to a Prison Ministry which Cindy Gillen’s brother leads. Approved to serve Communion on Sunday, January 4. Remaining dates for 2015 will be approved at January’s meeting. Laura From has volunteered to work on the hall bulletin boards.
- As a project associated with “New Beginnings”. Hot cocoa was served at Blaze of Lights – about \$110 was donated with money being designated for “Adopt-a-Family” project.
- Bluffton Presbyterian Church has received a gift of \$5,850. \$2,400 was designated for organ repair with the remaining amount designated for computer/technology needs as per the donor’s request.
- Approved the following financial package for 2015 for Pastor David Good:

Cash salary	\$20,603
Housing Allowance	\$20,999
Travel/Professional	\$ 2,840
Continuing Education	\$ 828
SS Reimbursement	\$ 1,416
Medical Flex Spending	\$ 1,634 (\$634 dental, \$1,000 general medical)
Pension/Medical	<u>\$15,968</u>
	\$64,288
Utilities	<u>\$ 2,400</u>
Total	\$66,688
Rental paid by Dave	<u>(\$7956)</u>
Net Total	\$58,732

- Approved maintaining the current rental agreement at \$663 per month for 2015.
- Approved continuing the current mowing arrangement at the manse with the bill being split between pastor/church for 2015.
- Approved that 1 week of 2014 study leave be allowed to roll over for 2015.
- Approved that 1 week of 2014 vacation be allowed to roll over for 2015.

- Ordination/Installation of Officers will be Sunday, January 11 during the worship service. Approved to change our regular January meeting to January 15. Approved holding the Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting on Sunday, January 25 following the morning worship service. Jay McCracken was thanked for his years of faithful service as a ruling elder.

Deacons' Report

- **Grace and Gratitude**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the December Community Meal. During a season filled with activity, many in our congregation gave of their time to shop, cook and bake, set up and decorate, serve, clean up, and visit with community members. Thank you, too, to those who gave monetary donations to help buy food. We served a delicious meal to approximately 80.

With the Youth Group, the deacons sponsored families during the Christmas Adopt-a-Family effort. The back of the sanctuary was overflowing with donated items! *Thank you* to all who contributed.

Don Carroll, Lin Rumer, and Kay Ziessler completed their term as deacons in December. Thank you all for your caring and service. We are grateful, we'll miss you on the board, and we look forward to serving with our three new deacons!

- **Don't forget**

During inclement winter weather, deacons can provide or arrange rides for our seniors to Sunday worship. Please call a deacon the day before, if possible. Otherwise, please call a deacon by 9 AM Sunday morning.

Help Wanted

We are in need of several individuals to help with the snow removal this year. Mike and Patrick Rhonemus have been doing a great job, but would like a little help due to work and school schedules. Please see Pastor Dave, Mike Rhonemus, or Tom Hursey if you are willing to help.

Christian Ed Walkers

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with Christian Education Walking, your willingness to give time to this outreach is greatly appreciated. If you have not volunteered in the past there is still time to participate! There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or speak to Carol Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus. This is a great way to get to meet some of our young neighbors!



Youth Group

The youth group will meet on January 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. We will have a meal together and finalize plans for the worship service on January 18.



Per Capita

You are invited 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 \$ 28.57 per member in 2015. Thank You!



November Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 42,847.32
Receipts	12,989.83
Expenses	(\$10,152.47)
Balance*	\$ 45,684.68



Prayers of Sympathy with Jeff, Cindy, and Sarah Gillen on the recent loss of Jeff's mother Grace Gillen.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long; Dusty Klingler; Michael Lee Bucher; Brenda Anderson; Sammie, Ava, and Lauren; The Fisher Family; Helen Kirscher; Terry Huber, Cindy Setty, Bianca Macias and baby Roman, and Leland Garmatter.

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.



Thank you to the following who have completed terms as Deacons: Don Carroll, Lin Rumer, Kay Ziessler. Thank you to the following who have completed terms as Elders: Jay McCracken and Lori Schmidt.

I would like to thank you for the delicious lunch you so lovingly prepared following the services for my Aunt Alice Niswander. When my parents, Ed and Ethelyn Rice, had their frock shop in Bluffton, we were members of the church. That was many years ago.

In Christian Love,
Carol Rice Cash

Thank you to all who donated to the Adopt-a-Family program this year. Despite the late notice and short return time we were able to help make Christmas (and beyond) a little better for three families. Thank you for opening your wallets, your pantries, and most of all your hearts to these neighbors in need.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. It is such a pleasure to be part of the wonderful Bluffton Presbyterian music team.

Jayne

Happy Birthday!!

January	3	Dave Sycks Chad Carroll	
	7	Dwight Nichols Barb Fett	
	10	Sue Basinger Addie McGarrity	
	13	Chris Gable Matthew Zuehlke	
	21	Colletta Mullenhour	
	25	Shirley Kisor	
	29	Richard McGarrity	
	30	Tammie Hursh	
	February	2	Jodie Parker
		5	John Marshall

Tuesday Night Small Group



Front Row (l-r) Carole Enneking, Diane Winebar, Jayne McGarrity, Jeanette Warren.
Standing (l-r) Beth Buist, Laura From, Sue Van Eman. Not pictured: Lori Schmidt

Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve Service Continued



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

2015 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Carole Enneking
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – TBD
Personnel – Bob Angus
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Dave Kisor, Lori Schmidt,
and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Diane Winebar
Members: Tom Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura
From, Gayle Marshall, and Mike Rhonemus.