



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 4 – Communion
3 Cents a Meal Offering

Choir

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolytes: Skyler and Samantha Scoles

Sunday, November 11 - Stewardship
Food Pantry

Praise Team

Linda Sycks – Oboe Solo

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Molly McCracken

Sunday, November 18

Choir

Greeters: Tom and Marilyn Edwards

Acolytes: Erin and Julianna Hotmire

Sunday, November 25

Youth Christmas Program

Greeters: Gene and Sue Mathewson

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Sunday, December 2 – 1st Day of Advent
Communion/3 Cents a Meal Offering

Choir

Greeters: Twylah Ludwig and Jeanette Warren

Acolytes: Vanessa Compton and Sarah Gillen



Mark Your Calendars!

- November 4 – Youth Group – Harvesting Brauen's Gourds – 9:00 AM
- November 4 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- November 11 – Stewardship Sunday – Potluck Lunch
- November 11 – Youth Christmas Program Practice – 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- November 14 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- November 15 – Community Meal and Community Thanksgiving Service – Senior Citizens Center – 6:00 PM
- November 17 – Youth Christmas Program Practice – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- November 18 – Fellowship Lunch – Lukes
- November 24 – Youth Christmas Program Practice – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- November 25 – Youth Christmas Program Preparation – 9:00 AM
- November 25 – Youth Christmas Program – Potluck Lunch
- November 25 – Newsletter Deadline - CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- December 6 – Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- December 8 – Youth Group Meeting – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

New Announcement Procedure

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

November Worship Leader – Rhonda Moor
December Worship Leader – Dick McGarrity

“God has two dwellings – one in heaven,
The other in meek and thankful hearts”

Izaak Walton

Indebtedness is often considered a bad word in our society. We like to try to go through any lengths to make sure that it doesn't happen. “I don't owe a soul a thing” is seen as the password of the proud and independent soul. We admire people who have those characteristics. Although we live in a world of credit cards, student loans and installment payments, we often feel that if we manage to pay our bills, we can claim to have independence from others.

Yet in this world, everyone is in debt. Everyone owes. Financially we might be able to balance the books and even mark our accounts “paid in full”, but what about people who have helped us morally, intellectually, spiritually? What about the one who gave us the kind word or the helping hand? What about those debts? It is especially good to review them at this time of the year because November is dedicated to giving thanks, and a thankful heart and giving thanks begins with realizing whom we owe.

J. Winston Pearce wrote a work called Everyone Is in Debt and I'd like to share part of it with you:

“Years ago I decided that one day in the year, Thanksgiving Day, was not enough for the full expression of thanks. So I set aside the full month of November for this project. I wrote at least one note of thanks each day during the enter month; if I skipped a day, the next day I wrote two notes.

I proved to my own satisfaction that a letter of thanks each day will keep the blues away! I remembered the persons who had been especially kind to me and my family during the past year; the individual who had given me a book, the couple who had sent a card on our anniversary, families who had invited us into their home for a meal, the men who had whisked me away on an overnight fishing trip. Of course, I had written notes of thanks immediately upon receiving these favors, but this was an extra thank you. Notes of thanks went to the postmen, the waitress at our favorite restaurant, the checkout girls at the supermarket, the barber, and the doctor.

One year I majored in sending letter of thanks to persons in the civic, political and legal life of our city, they had made my city a better place to live. I told them so. The major, the fire chief, police captain, judge of juvenile court, and people who had helped me at the bank were just a few whom I remembered.”

Certainly, if those of us in the Bluffton and surrounding community were to do such a thing, our lists might be different. But the idea itself would certainly transfer. Paul wrote in Romans – “Owe no one anything, but love one another” (Romans 13). I do not think Paul told us not to owe one another so that we could sit back and feel independent, autonomous, and superior to others. Rather, I think he saw the blessings that come from our giving back what we have received. That is why he paired it with a discussion about love not money management.

What do you think? Doesn't a little time “paying back” sound like a good way to celebrate Thanksgiving? I encourage each of you (parents, help children) think of a list and ways you can pay back all the nice ways we have been ministered to and cared for this year.

Remembering that while we were still lost, God chose to minister to us in the life and ministry of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Peace of Christ,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

Upcoming Worship Events

A Month of Thanksgiving!

- Nov 4 Thanksgiving for the Saints -All Saints / Remembrance Day
- Nov 11 Thanksgiving for Special Gifts Stewardship Sunday! Pot Luck / Pitch-In dinner after program.
- Nov 18 Thanksgiving Sunday
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving for Youth & Children – Children's Program Pot Luck / Pitch-In dinner after program.



Stewardship Committee News - 2013 Different Gifts Stewardship Campaign

Help celebrate the diversity of stewardship during the 2013 Stewardship Campaign! On November 11, please bring your 2013 pledge/commitment cards and an icon of a gift that you share with others. For example: if you teach others or help others with their homework; you could bring a pencil; if you help feed your family or others, you could bring a can of food; if you care for others, you could bring a pill bottle or pillow; if you pray for others, you could bring paper hands.

During the service, those who are willing and able will place our commitment cards and different gifts around the communion table. The service will be meaningful and it will be fun to see different gifts.

After the November 11 service, please stay for a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share and table service, drinks will be provided. If it's like past BPC lunches, we'll have a nice diversity of foods!

Sometimes stewardship is defined as our responsibility to financially support the church. Although the financial aspect of stewardship is important, stewardship encompasses all gifts and care that we share with others, whether at church, home, school, work, or out in the broader world.

We hope you enjoyed the Different Gifts minutes leading up to Stewardship Sunday. What would the world be without teaching and mentoring? Thank you, Dave Kisor. And we certainly appreciate the generous sharing of talents of the Worship Committee and support team. Thank you, Rhonda Moor. Please attend worship on November 4 for a Different Gifts minute from the Youth Group.

The Stewardship Committee and Session thank you for your support of our church during 2012. You have consistently provided financial resources, and employees and committees have been disciplined and faithful stewards. The general fund is healthy, thus far this year you have paid back over \$4,000 of funds borrowed in previous years from the memorial funds, you have supported special Presbyterian (U.S.A.) collections, and you have supported the successful and on-budget completion of the remodeling project. Thank you!

We ask that you prayerfully consider your planned financial commitment to our church for 2013. Your continued commitment allows BPC to continue and grow our important work - worship services, congregation care, Christian education, missions, and our many other worthy activities.

Commitment cards are available in this newsletter and at church. If you will not be able to attend on November 11, please feel free to turn in your commitment card beforehand. Please remember that pledges represent your planned support of the church. If conditions change, you are encouraged to re-calibrate as needed. As always, if you have any stewardship questions or suggestions, please talk to Pastor Matthew or a member of the Stewardship Committee (Barb Fett, Jana McVetta, George Stultz, Clair Winebar).



September Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 15,799.56
Receipts	11,056.26
Expenses	(10,343.90)
Balance	\$16,511.92

To be paid back \$ 16,589.51

Peacemaking offering: \$379.00

Thank you to all who gave.

Mission Committee

Keep the cans coming! One full “load” of cans provides a week’s worth of bus passes for a Samaritan House tenant to go to work!

The Mission Committee’s next serving date at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is scheduled for December 6. If interested in serving, please contact Shirley Kisor. Volunteers will meet at the church at 9:30 AM and will return by 1:00 PM.

Alternative Gifts – A Mission for Haiti

I hope that by now most of you have seen the recent display added to the Mission bulletin board in the back hallway. This Christmas season the privilege of sponsoring the Alternative Gifts program has been passed from the Deacons to the Mission Committee. As we were looking through the “Gifts Inspiring Change” catalog, we noticed that four of the suggested gifts involved one country: Haiti. We decided it would be a great idea to emphasize those programs as a collective mission for Haiti.

Haiti is a country in dire need. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. After the devastating earthquake two years ago thousands upon thousands of people were left homeless. They are still homeless, living in tent cities and ramshackle shelters at the mercy of passing storms such as Hurricane Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. Bluffton Presbyterian, along with the Presbyterian Church USA, collected funds for aid after the earthquake, and we wanted to continue that mission with the alternative gifts this year.

The four Haitian projects we are emphasizing are summarized below. Shirley has set up a great display on the bulletin board, with cut-out paper symbols of each of the projects (such as a goat for the “Pay it Forward with Goats” project or a house for the “Build Homes for Haitian Families” project). If you would like to buy an alternative gift this year, please take one of the symbols, write your name and the amount you are giving on it, and return it to one of the Mission Committee members (Beth Buist, Shirley Kisor, Dave Kisor) or to the church office. We will have cards for you to send to the gift’s recipient stating that an

Alternative Gift has been purchased in his/her name.

Remember that you do not have to give the dollar amount suggested – any amount is welcome. We will be collecting the funds throughout the month of November, ending on December 2, the first Sunday in Advent.

Alternative gifts are a great idea for office gift exchanges, “white elephant” parties, your mailman, your Avon lady, or for anyone on your list who “has everything” or for whom you never quite know what to get (your mother-in-law, maybe?). Best of all, each gift helps another of God’s children who is in real need.

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Luke 3:10-11

1. Pay it Forward” with Goats Project

In Haiti, 80% of rural families live on less than \$2 per day and experience chronic rates of malnutrition due to the lack of protein-rich foods. Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH) rebuilds lives and creates income sustainability through goat breeding. Families trained in the care and breeding of goats are able to triple their income in just one year.

Participating families “pay it forward” by giving a pregnant goat to another rural family. Recipients can generate twice the average per capita income of \$300 by owning a pregnant goat. This program has brought relief to communities; some have experienced a 75% decrease in malnutrition rates due to the addition of protein to their diet. You can help reduce hunger and poverty with the gift of a pregnant goat.

\$110 – Give the gift of a pregnant goat

\$28 – Train a family to raise goats

2. Scholarships for Students

Haiti, where education opportunities for children are limited due to dire poverty, has an illiteracy rate of 52%. Your gift of education brings great hope.

Haiti Education Foundation (HEF) educates approximately 10,000 children each year in kindergarten through high school in the remote mountains of southern Haiti. Every child who attends an HEF school receives a complete education. For just \$83, one child's educational costs for an entire school year can be funded, changing that child's life. Your gift continues to give as the child's life is improved with education. An educated child is empowered to change the lives of his or her extended family and eventually the whole country.

\$83 – Full scholarship for one student for one year.

\$35 – School supplies for one student (uniform, books).

3. Healthcare Clinic for Moms and Babies

Starvation is rampant in Haiti. Malnourishment during the first two years of life can cause permanent brain damage and one in five children will die before their fifth birthday due to malnutrition. Many pregnant and nursing women are not getting enough nutrients to maintain healthy pregnancies.

Haiti Healthcare Partners (HHP) provides primary healthcare for all Haitians through their clinic and pharmacy, treating 6,500 Haitian families each year. One third of the patients is between the ages of 6 months and 5 years and suffers from malnutrition. The health center uses a six-week course of a ready-to-use, peanut-based supplement called Medika Mamba for malnourished children. With your help, HHP is expanding the Medika Mamba feeding project to include women who are pregnant and nursing.

\$82 – Pharmacy supplies and antibiotics (malaria, gastro-intestinal illness, anemia, vaccinations).

\$20 – One week supply of Medika Mamba to nourish a child back to health.

4. Build Homes for Haitian Families

The need for housing in Haiti has been especially great since the 2010 earthquake. Following that devastation, temporary shelters were set up, but over two years later many of the extremely poor

are still living in what has come to be known as “tent cities” with little hope for the future.

The Housing Program created in 2000 by Partners in Development (PID) assists families by building permanent homes in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas. Participating families make monthly, no-interest mortgage payments which are based on the cost of renting in the poorest area of Port-au-Prince. Approximately \$1,000 will build a home for a family still living in a tent city.

\$110 – Door for a new home.

\$10 – 20 building blocks to construct a new home.

Pastor's New Sunday School Class

“Handling Stress and the Busy Life” starting November 18 until December 16.



Bluffton Presbyterian T-Shirts!

We have extra BPC t-shirts in the office if anyone would like to purchase one for \$11.00.

New Directories

New directories are now available and will be distributed this Sunday, November 4.



Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a volunteer to help our Pastor Matthew and Cathy in the office. This would be helping with mailings, sorting, and perhaps a little office work. If you have time on Monday or Thursday in the morning and would like to help, please contact Pastor Matthew.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

“The church is catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all.”

These are the words of John Donne, written upon listening to the knells that rang each day announcing the deaths of plague victims in 17th-century London.

On All Saints’ Day, as we remember those saints whose witness prompted our faith in Jesus Christ, let us also remember our brothers and sisters throughout the Caribbean and North America who are now faced with the challenges of long-term recovery in the wake of this historic storm.

Empowered by your gifts, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to the needs identified by mid councils in the affected areas. Trained National Response Team members are being deployed to provide a ministry of presence, to help with assessments, and to fulfill other identified needs. Cleanup buckets and Gift of the Heart kits are being considered to help in many aspects of the cleanup and recovery process. Your generosity will make a big difference in the effectiveness of this work.

Stand in the GAP for those affected by Sandy

GIVE. Even after the clouds have lifted, long-term challenges brought by Sandy will face millions; we ask that you prayerfully consider giving online. *You can give \$10 now by texting PDA to 20222.*



\$10

Texting PDA to 20222 would provide a hygiene kit



\$25

Would provide brooms and dustpans



\$50

Would provide a cleanup bucket to assist a family with flood clean up



\$125

Would provide protective clothing for five volunteers

ACT. Assemble Gift of the Heart kits used most often following flooding in the United States. Contact the PDA Call Center at 866-732-6121 for details on how to volunteer your team’s skills for efforts on the ground.

PRAY. Pray for individuals and communities affected by the storm. Pray that the hope of Christ will be evident in our response.

We know God is at work even in the aftermath of disasters. We invite those who have seen the hand of God at work around you during these trying days following the impact of Hurricane Sandy to share your story with PDA and others.



The Hanging of the Greens

It is the Worship Committee’s joy to share the schedule for the Hanging of the Greens this approaching Advent season, with some special surprises! This year, we plan to fill our church home on a “progressive” schedule throughout the Advent season, in order to ready our church home for the coming celebration remembering Christ’s birth, and we would love to have your help! On Saturday mornings in December, we will be laying the fresh and artificial greens, placing the ribbons and candles, and offering breakfast to those who wish to lend their hands to this task, beginning with a very special breakfast offering! The Laying of the Greens will follow this schedule:

Saturday, December 4 – 8:00 AM – Pancake breakfast prepared by Pastor Matthew!

Saturday, December 8 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast prepared by Worship Committee

Saturday, December 15 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast prepared by Worship Committee

Saturday, December 22 – 8:00 AM – Continental Breakfast

We hope you will plan to join us!

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Thursday – Maple Crest at 1:30 PM

Saturday – Maple Crest at 9:30 AM

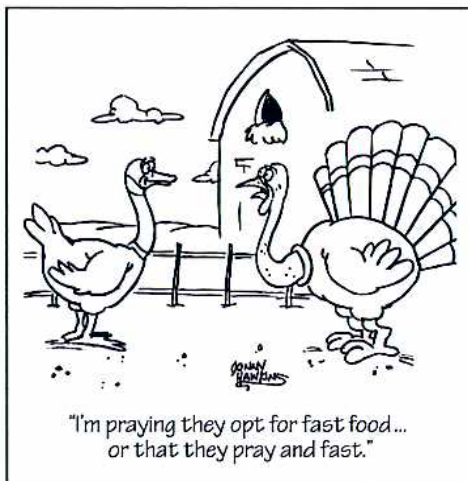
Contact Beth Buist, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, Jayne McGarrity or Roy Pneuman for more information.

Faith & Fellowship

Fellowship Lunch

The next fellowship lunch will be held on November 18 at Lukes. No reservations necessary. Join us in the back of the sanctuary following worship and we will walk down the street.

Can't make this one....don't worry, the Evangelism committee will be organizing a lunch the third Sunday of each month. We will explore the various restaurants of Bluffton together while enjoying each other's company.



Youth Group

The youth group will meet on November 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. The December meeting will be moved to Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We will have a special Christmas brunch and then sort and wrap gifts for our Adopted Families.

Deacon's News

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will host the next Community Meal at the Senior Citizens Center on November 15 at 6:00 PM. Join us for supper followed by the Community Thanksgiving Service.

Next Deacon's meeting November 14 at 7:30 PM.

Adopt a Family

Once again the Deacons and the Youth Group have each chosen to sponsor a family through Bluffton's Community Assistance Program and will be collecting items for Adopted Families for Christmas. If you would like to help a local family brighten their Christmas, please choose an item from the poster boards containing food and "wish list" items for each of the families in the back of the Sanctuary.

It is helpful if you attach the sticky note to the items when they are returned. If you are purchasing clothing items, please get a gift receipt in case the size is not correct. We are requesting that all items be brought to the church before December 8. The Youth Group will meet that day to sort and wrap any gifts.



Christmas Program

The children and youth will present a special Christmas Program during worship on November 25. Please join us as we move together from the feasting of Thanksgiving to the preparation and watchful anticipation of Advent. A potluck lunch hosted by the children and youth will follow worship.

Christmas Program Rehearsals

Listed below are the rehearsal dates and times for the Christmas Program. I anticipate that there will be conflicts due to Thanksgiving gatherings and travel, and that is fine. Please let me know if you will not be able to be at a rehearsal so I can plan accordingly. Also let me know if you have any questions or concerns. ~ Tenna

November 11 – 2:00 to 4:00 PM

November 17 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

November 24 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

November 25 – Final preparations 9:00 AM /
Worship 10:15 AM

Happy Birthday!!



- November 2 Molly McCracken
Julia Szabo
- 7 Gayle Marshall
Nathan Hursh
- 8 Ray Niswander
Morgan McVetta
- 13 Skyler Scoles
- 14 John Rhoads
- 15 Jeff Gillen
- 26 Madison Hursh
- 29 Olivia Parker
- December 4 Marilyn Edwards
Jim Enneking
- 5 Ariana Zuehlke



Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for letting us have Lisa's wedding here at our home church. Also, thank you for letting us include "The Lord's Supper".

The Hursey's

BPC Deacons,

Thank you for all the work you do for the community and for helping out with Communion at the wedding. You truly are an asset to our church family.

Love,
The Hursey's

Matthew and Church Family,

Thank you all for my gift cards to Community Markets, it helps me out a lot. May God bless all of you for my help.

God bless you all
Your Church Family Friend,
Sheila Hurlburt

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of the birthday cards, visits, well wishes, and goodies. After being 39 for the past 50 years the status of "Grand Old Lady" finally applies to me. Ropp approves of this message. Thanks again.

Love,
Mary Em Triplett.

A Big "Thank You" to Jeanette Warren, Marilyn Bullock, Min Lindsey, and of course our Pastor Matthew for all the help and work in doing so many hats and children's mittens, etc. for the winter coming up. We already know of many people who will be able to use the items coming up this winter. If you know of anyone who will be able to use any of these items, please let us know. Our Pastor will be in charge of handling the work.

Thank you.



Prayers for our members and friends serving overseas; Billy Marshall, Lucas Woodward, and Andrew Warner.

Prayers for our friends on the East Coast.

Prayers of Healing for Ropp & Mary Emma Triplett, Gary Williams, Karen Long, Mike Shafer, Alice Niswander, Dusty Klingler, Ken Klingler, Bob Angus, Tyler From, Bill Begg, Dave Engelhardt, Anita Bogart, Brianna Landon, Katrina Riepenhoff, and Jeff Carlson.



Highlights of October Session Meeting

- Presently getting quotes from various insurance companies to compare with our present company – Insurance Board. Rates appear to be going up 20% and there are some items which are covered which are not applicable to us. Making arrangements for the 2013 pledge drive with Stewardship Sunday being November 11 - theme of Different Gifts. Implemented controls recommended by audit of 2011 – Sunday deposits of collections and better tracking of expenses. Plan to use services of this Accounting Class from ONU for audit again next year. Are working to obtain a BPC sales tax exempt identification number – previous number was MVP. Have corresponded with the Board of Pensions regarding overpayment of pension dues for Matthew during his first contract year (approx. \$700). Approved allowing Worship Committee to use Marshall Bequest (maximum of \$843) for supplies for the remainder of the year since their line item has been exhausted. Should be noted that this line has been “overspent” for the last several years and will be increased in the next budget.
- Approved allowing Reams Display set up/tear down crew to use church facilities on these days – November 3 and 10, and January 5.
- Approved changing the structure of session with the following – eliminate membership/fellowship committees and having three elders be considered “members at large”.



Hello All!

The time has finally come! To stand as a culmination of all of my studies here at Capital, I will be giving a senior voice recital on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at 3:30 PM! The recital will take place in Huntington Recital Hall here at Capital. The recital is free and open to the public. I will be singing numerous songs that I have studied over my years here at Capital, including songs in German, Italian, French, Spanish, and a few musical theatre selections. If that doesn't entice you enough, there will also be a small reception immediately following! I would love for you all to be there, but again, I understand that schedules are crazy! I hope all is well and that everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather!
~Amanda



Community Bingo Benefit for Bluffton Relay for Life!

On November 9, 2012

6:00 to 9:00 PM

Doors open at 5:00 PM

Bluffton Middle School Cafeteria

Food concessions available

Please come help this Community Event help support the Bluffton Relay for Life and help fight the fight against cancer. All proceeds go to Bluffton's Relay. There will be Bingo, special games, and prizes. It will be a great time for all!! Sponsored by Village Cut & Curl and friends 419-358-7593 for any questions or Jeanie 419-358-7613.

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

2012 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Stephanie Scoles
Evangelism – Jay McCracken and Min Lindsey
Finance – Clair Winebar
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Beth Buist and Jay McCracken
Personnel – Kay Ziessler
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Rhonda Moor

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Shirley Kisor
Members: Lynda Best, Don Carroll, Barb Fett,
Lin Rumer, and Diane Winebar