



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

October 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 7 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Julia Szabo / Jayne McGarrity Duet

Lay Reader: Linda Sycks

Greeters: Rhonemus Family

Acolytes: Vanessa Compton and Sarah Gillen

Sunday, October 14

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Rhonda Moor

Greeters: Judy Bloom and Ben Miracle

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia and Sarah Gillen

Sunday, October 21

Praise Team and BPC Band

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: Hotmire Family

Acolytes: Jacob Szabo and Tucker Neff

Sunday, October 28

Choir

Lay Reader: Clair Winebar

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Tayler Nowak-Valentine

Sunday, November 4 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Choir

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolytes: Skyler and Samantha Scoles



**Remember to move clocks back one hour
before you go to bed Saturday night.**

Mark Your Calendars!

- October 7 – World Communion Sunday/
Peacemaking Offering
- October 7 – Crop Walk – 1:30 PM –
St. Mary's Catholic Church
- October 7 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM –
Church Basement
- October 9 – Clergy Appreciation Day
- October 12 – Jean Triplett's Lifetime Service
Award – 6:30 PM – Bluffton University's
Marbeck Center Commons
- October 17 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- October 17 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- October 21 – BPC Band Rehearsal – 8:30 AM
- October 21 – Fellowship Lunch – Tu Pueblo –
following worship
- October 25 – Trick or Treat – 6:00 to 7:30 PM
– Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- October 28 – Newsletter Deadline -
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com

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.

Upcoming Worship

The children and youth will present a special Christmas Service during worship on Sunday, November 25. Please let Tenna Rhonemus know if your child(ren) will be able to participate. For planning purposes, please get with her by October 21.

Stewardship Sunday: Different Gifts

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)

So often when we think of Stewardship, we tend to think of the offering plate. Yet, Presbyterian thought is that Stewardship is a much broader concept – one that deals with our whole life. Stewardship is living in a manner that demonstrates our commitment to be Christ-centered, rather than self-centered. The Book of Order encourages us that: *"the Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods."* (W2.5001) In other words, seeing that all God has done for us from Creation to Christ to the Church and beyond, we respond out of gratitude (and assurance of care).

This year, as part of our Stewardship Season, we are going to look at "giving the rest of us." In addition to the standard pledge cards and stewardship focus on Stewardship Sunday (November 11), we are asking that everyone brings some physical token or representation of a gift they have to bring forward to share in worship. At a time in the worship service, we will be bringing forward our pledge cards, as well as our tokens and laying them on and around the Communion Table, representing a portion of what we bring to God. Are you a musician? Bring an instrument. Are you an artist? Bring a paint brush. Are you a healer? Bring some bandages. Are you a golfer? Bring a club (and yes, we can build the kingdom of God through golf too!). Use your imagination! And don't worry, at the end of worship that morning everyone will be asked to take their tokens back (so you won't lose anything).

In a variety of ways, we as Disciples of Christ, share our time, talent, and treasures to build up the church and make our world a better place. The truth is that the church needs you. It needs us all. The need is for all people of faith to take an active part in the life and work of the church. We will look at the variety of ways we each can use our

talents; places we can put our faith into practice. Again, the Book of Order urges us to see our life as "offering one's self to God." Let us try to do just that – not just in our hearts, but also in our actions this year. ~ Pastor Matthew



Peacemaking Offering: "Blessed are the Peacemakers..." (Matthew 5:9)

Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we have the opportunity to remember other Christians around the world who are also receiving these gifts of God. But we make a special point of remembering our unity with others worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. It is a day for us to be mindful of Christ, who draws us all together despite our differences. As Presbyterians, we recognize that Christ taught us to be peacemakers and that being peacemakers is part of our discipleship. So on this special occasion, we bring our gifts of self, service, and money to be put to work for Christ's peace in the world.

The Peacemaking Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each church family is encouraged to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. This year, we are continuing our work and focus on school bullying. For that purpose, our church will retain 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering we receive. Another 25 percent will go to our presbytery and synod for regional activities and ministries. The remaining 50 percent will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (formerly the General Assembly Mission Council) for peacemaking involvement throughout the world.

I encourage you to join in this Sunday, October 7 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and commit to being instruments of peace. Please come ready to give to the Peacemaking Offering. Envelopes will be available in the pews.

Mind Our Gaps

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:22-25)

A couple of years ago, Michelle and I were in our nation's capital visiting some friends who live there. Over our week-long vacation, we road many a train and subway. During one of these train rides, I noticed a warning sign on all of the trains. The sign read: WATCH THE GAP. In London they have similar signs, but they read: MIND THE GAP!

Now, if it's been a while since you've ridden on a subway (we are in short supply of them here in Bluffton), the sign is a warning about the “gap” or the space between the train itself and the platform in the station. If one doesn't “watch the gap” one might catch a foot or the lip, then trip and fall. A fall alone, as many of you know, is scary and dangerous. But the problems don't end there. For subways also carry thousands of people an hour, so someone who has fallen and blocking the door can become an even greater hazard for those behind them.

So, I found myself thinking about that phrase, “Watch the gap!” and my mind went to the letter of the apostle James: *“Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves ... being not hearers who forget, but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing”* (James 1:22, 25).

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. And there is a gap between those two isn't there? Have you ever found yourself doing something, maybe when you were younger, and you knew that it was wrong, but you did it anyway? Sometimes that gap can be huge, but sometimes it can also be very, very small. Like the gap between a train and

the platform. But, in some ways, it's those little gaps that seem to trip us. The big gaps we can see and avoid, but the little ones are easier to overlook and then put a toe into them.

Recently, I found myself talking with some friends about some of the pranks I pulled when I was in college. Now pranks and gags aren't high on the moral “don't do” list (at least I hope they aren't) but they are an easy example of how little the gaps can be sometimes. I can still remember the underclassmen looking up to me, seeking my approval, as we re-wired the light switches in our dorm (very dangerous – please do not do!). So, just like on the subway, when I stumbled and fell, I led others to fall over too! Thinking back on that event I have to be honest that there might at times be a gap between what I know is right and what I actually practice. Even now, I work to keep my “gaps” as small as possible.

So, where are your 'gaps'? Is there anything that you do or that you have done that isn't in keeping with your beliefs? As children of God, how important is it for us to mind our gap? And let us remember, whenever we do fail to mind our gaps, we have a loving God who is always willing to listen to our prayers and confessions.

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



Bluffton Presbyterian T-Shirts!

It's wonderful to see our new t-shirts out and about. All together, over 70 shirts have been purchased and are starting to be worn about town. Most of the church wore theirs on Sunday September 16 (Bring-a-Friend). But they have also been seen out in the community at chili sales, special events, and even serving at Our Daily Bread in Lima! Keep on thinking about how we can use this new resource to share that we are out and active in our community.



Highlights of Sept. Session Meeting

Approved that the Office (Secretary/Pastor) would be responsible for issuing any Publicity/Press Releases. Idea that they would be released to pertinent news agencies (Bluffton News, Bluffton Icon, church website) approximately 2 weeks prior to event. The expense of upkeep on the church website has been donated. Acolytes received training from Pastor Matthew and Cindy Gillen. Approved to purchase 41 "Sing the Faith" Presbyterian Hymnals with \$598.35 being taken from the Memorial Fund.

Approved that our share of the Pentecost Offering (\$142.80) be designated for the Samaritan House to purchase bus passes for residents without transportation. Approved designating our Peacemaking Offering to Partnership for Violence Free Families/School Program. Miss Ohio Elissa McCracken will be making a special antibullying presentation during worship on September 23. In early summer, \$170 was collected for Health Fair for follow-up vision/dental care. Mission Sunday was held in June with Steve Jenkins, Executive Director of Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, as the speaker. "Christmas in July" collected items for Samaritan House and Our Daily Bread. In July, five members, along with Pastor Matthew, went to Fostoria Presbyterian Church to assist in preparing/serving lunch for schoolchildren who lack meals in the summer when school lunch programs are not operating – 300 meals served that day. In August, three members traveled to Our Daily Bread to help serve lunch and provide fellowship to clients. As an ongoing mission project, our church will be assisting with this on the first Thursday of each even numbered month from 9:30 AM to noon. Alternative Gifts program (previously coordinated by the Deacons) will emphasize four special Haitian projects. This program will run in the fall instead of the advent season. Knitting/crocheting group is making

hats/mittens for needy schoolchildren, baby blankets for Bluffton Hospital, and lap blankets for shut-ins and nursing home residents.

Pastor Matthew and Lin Rumer attended Bluffton University's session to welcome back students. Lollipops inviting students to "Pop on In" were distributed.

Approval given to Rebecca Hursey to use coffee cups/coffee pot for wedding shower. Committee on Ministry did approve our request for Darlene Hey to preside over Communion at BPC. This request was initially made last November prior to Pastor Matthew completing Presbyterian Ordination exams, however COM did not act on our request and therefore it was resubmitted for their approval.

The following items were discussed for our Manual of Operations:

- Approved that the Treasurer will be elected by Session annually and supervised by Session. A requirement for re-election is a favorable performance review, conducted prior to re-election. If the position should be vacant, Session will search for candidates and nominate the treasurer.
- Approved that the clerk will be elected by Session annually. Clerk may/may not be a currently serving ruling elder.



Fellowship Lunch

The next fellowship lunch will be held on October 21 at Tu Pueblo. 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.



Trick-or-Treaters at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

As most of you know (and Michelle and I learned last year) most of Bluffton's children come and Trick-or-Treat uptown (I'm learning Ropp). Wouldn't it be wonderful if, among the other merchants and organizations, we too were able to welcome children and enjoy the festivities of the night? Have your children grown past Halloween, but you'd still like to join in the fun? Would you like some excuse to snatch some candy of your own? If you answered yes to any of these questions and have time on Thursday, October 25 (6:00-7:30 PM), let me know as soon as possible. This year we are going to join in the fun. Be prepared to bring a bag of candy to share with the children, dress up in a non-scary costume if you want, and expect to have a fun night of fellowship with each other and the community.

Deacon's News

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be hosting a community meal at 6:00 PM on November 15 at the Bluffton Senior Center. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for anyone interested in assisting with set-up/serving or donating a pie for the meal. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship!

Next Deacon's meeting October 17 at 7:30 PM.



Clergy Appreciation Day

Clergy Appreciation Day on Tuesday, October 9. Let's all find a way to show Pastor Matthew how much we appreciate having him and his family in our church family.

Jean Triplett's "Lifetime Service Award" from Bluffton University

"You are invited to attend the Bluffton University Alumni Awards Banquet on Friday evening, October 12, at 6:30 PM at the University's Marbeck Center Commons where Jean Triplett will be posthumously awarded the Lifetime Service Award by the Bluffton University Alumni Association.

The Lifetime Service Award recognizes a Bluffton University alumnus who has dedicated his or her life to heartfelt service to people, community, or church. In addition to serving the Presbyterian Church, the Village of Bluffton, and the Bluffton University campus community, Jean Triplett was a humanitarian who helped many individuals in need of kindness. Jean's children will be in attendance to accept the award on her behalf.

The cost of the banquet is \$15 per person and reservations should be made by October 5 through Joyce Schumacher schumacherj@bluffton.edu.



BPC Band

Calling all instrumentalists – young/old, have instrument/need instrument, experienced/not so. Join the BPC Band Sunday morning, October 21, under the direction of Dave Sycks. There will be just one rehearsal on the morning of the 21st at 8:30 AM. See Dave for music and bring a stand if you have one.

New Directories

New directories are being constructed, expect to see yours soon!

Happy Birthday!!



We want to thank everyone for the cards and the food provided during Bob's hospital stay and recovery along with all the prayers! It has been a big comfort to have such good friends!

Thank you!
Bob and Betsey Angus

Thank you to all the youth and adults who helped with the Fall Festival food booth and to all those who supported us through purchases! The youth group was able to raise \$167.75. This money will be used for mission projects and to help with some of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium expenses.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your recent donation. We truly appreciate your kindness. The women will be absolutely ecstatic to receive bus passes. Many of them do not have transportation, so truly "Thank You".

Samaritan House

Thankyou
for the
bibel
Jacob Szabo

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|----------|----|------------------------|
| October | 1 | Owen Scoles |
| | 2 | Mary Emma Triplett |
| | 4 | Olivia Sneary |
| | 5 | Robbie McGarrity |
| | 7 | Anne McCracken |
| | 8 | Val Vander Naald |
| | | Phil Weisenbarger |
| | 10 | Mariah Pneuman |
| | 15 | Terry Mullenhour |
| | 20 | Don Carroll |
| | 30 | Tonya Best |
| | | Tayler Nowak-Valentine |
| | 31 | Carolyn Dickey |
| November | 2 | Molly McCracken |
| | | Julia Szabo |
| | 7 | Gail Marshall |
| | | Nathan Hursh |



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

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers of Healing for Ropp & Mary Emma Triplett, Gary Williams, Karen Long, Joel Kimmel, Mike Shafer, Alice Niswander, Dusty Klingler, Bob Angus, Michael Opsitnick, Tyler From, Bob Barnett, Bart Angus, Dave Engelhardt, and Jeff, Zach, and Eric Carlson.

Miss Ohio Visits Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Miss Ohio, Elissa McCracken, visited the Bluffton Presbyterian Church Bluffton on Sunday, September 23, and spoke on cyberbullying. She is a niece of Jay and Anne McCracken, and is a student at Ohio Northern University. She is taking the year off from ONU to tour Ohio and to prepare for the Miss America pageant. She will compete for the Miss America title in January 2013 in Las Vegas.



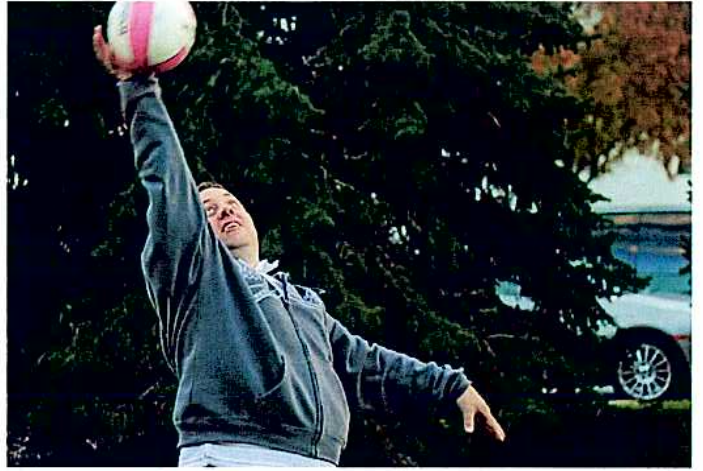
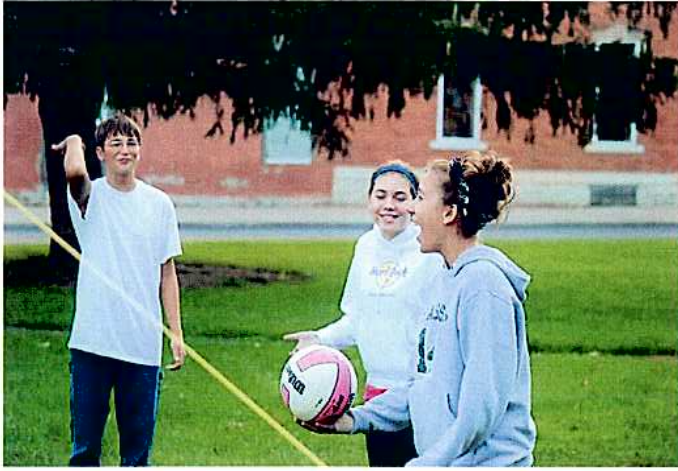
1 FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended the One Family Fun Night! Your presence made the event even more fun and special. Thank you to the CE committee for your work organizing the games, and leading the fellowship. A special thank you to Pastor Matthew for delivering an important and fun message, despite losing your train of thought because of some jokesters!

For those who could not attend, please consider coming to the next event. Remember these Fun Nights are for the entire "Family", not just those who have children. Our next One Family Fun Night will be near the New Year, so watch for more details!







Good Time

Youth Group is starting for the new year!
Join us on October 7th from 5:00- 7:00 PM.
We will learn more about Owl City and having a
"Good Time" as Christians.

We will start the meeting with a meal,
so come hungry!

Please bring your calendars, so we can make plans
for upcoming events, such
as the Suter's Corn Maze.

If you have any questions,
please let me know.

I hope to see everyone there!

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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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