



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 2 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Duet: Samantha Rhonemus and Emily Sycks
Lay Reader: Tanya Best
Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler
Acolyte: Patrick Rhonemus

Sunday, September 9

Food Pantry

Choir
Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards
Greeters: Dwight & Jeanie Nichols
Acolytes: Libby and Paige McVetta

Sunday, September 16

Choir
Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity
Greeters: Dick McGarrity and Min Lindsey
Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Sunday, September 23

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken
Greeters: McCracken Family
Acolytes: Libby and Paige McVetta

Sunday, September 30

Praise Team
Lay Reader: TBD
Greeters: Szabo Family
Acolyte: Tayler Nowak Valentine

Sunday, October 7 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Duet: Jane McGarrity and Julia Szabo
Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Mark Your Calendars!

- September 9 – Sunday Discussion Group – 9:00 AM – Church Office
- September 9 – Sunday School Classes Begin
- September 9 – Service of Rededication – during worship with lunch following
- September 9 – Acolyte Training – following lunch
- September 16 – “Back-to-Church” Sunday
- September 16 – Fellowship Lunch – KFC – following worship
- September 23 – One Family Fun Night – 5:00 PM at the church
- September 26 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM at the church
- October 7 – World Communion Sunday
- October 7 – Peacemaking Offering

Upcoming Worship

September 9 – Rededication of the Church – a special time of rededicating our building after all the work that went into the renovations in the education wing and hallway. We will be thanking God for the Divine call to worship, as well as those who gave of their time, talents, finances, and prayers to see the project to completion. Fellowship lunch to follow, supplied by Rhonda Moor and the Worship Committee!

September 16 – Bring-a-Friend / Back-to-Church Sunday – a special time to bring a friend or get back in the habit of coming to church.

September 23 – Special Guest, Elissa McCracken, the new Miss Ohio will be here and will share in part of the service. We will also be conducting and giving thanks for the baptism of Greg Culbertson.

Upcoming Sermon Series

September 23 to October 28, we will be focusing on the Six Great Ends of the Church. "What are those?" you might ask. Well, the Six Great Ends is a historical document of the Presbyterian Church (over 100 years old now, but still very relevant) but has become the basic mission statement of General Assembly, the highest governmental body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Come expecting to learn how we might be focused in our mission to worship God and serve others.



What is Labor Day?

If you have answered – “a three day vacation” or “the unofficial end of summer” you have the common answer. On Memorial Day, we have many reminders about the people who served this country by fighting in wars, but we often forget another group of people who served this country in another way. Labor Day was founded as a national tribute to the social and economic achievement of American workers. *"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country,"* said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor (actually founded in Ohio!). *"All other (national) holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day... is devoted to no [one], living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."*

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. It wasn't a national holiday yet, but was held in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. In 1884 the first Monday in September

was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingman's holiday" on that date. The idea spread and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Far from New York City, many people in our community and other nearby towns have historically earned their livelihood by working in American factories and industries. Certainly Labor Day can be seen as honoring all workers, it does pay special honors the contributions of workers – like our steel and auto workers – who have contributed so much to our country over the past century. They did not earn their laurels in wars or dramatic situations, but quietly, over many days and years, by their faithful, hard work.

Our work, whatever it is, can be seen as labor for God. Sometimes we think that 'laboring for God' must be pastoral or mission work, but it is certainly not limited to these pursuits. Any work that we perform is either a validation or a rejection of our faith. How we treat others at our work, the pride we take giving good value in our work, our ethics and integrity, all say a lot about our spiritual journey. This is true if you're working in a factory, you're a doctor, a teacher, a volunteer, or ditch-digger!

So, as we look forward to taking a bit of a break from our work, let us use part of this time to reflect: does my work reflect my faith?

Some ways that the Scripture speaks about our Labor for God?

Our labor for the Lord is:

- a labor of love (I Thes 1:3).
- a labor not in vain (I Cor 15:58).
- a labor known by Christ (Rev 2:2).
- a labor God does not forget (Heb 6:10).
- a labor which is to be done together (I Cor 3:9).
- a labor for eternal things (Col 1:28-9).

Ever think of our job that way?

In Peace, Rev Dr Matthew Zuehlke



Finance Update

July Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 13,718.45
Receipts	18,660.07
Expenses	(17,961.32)
Balance	\$14,417.20
To be paid back	\$ 18,410.05

Stewardship Committee News

Thank you for your support of the Church's work throughout the summer. Your gifts allow the good and necessary work being done by Bluffton Presbyterian Church to continue! As shown in the financial summary, the general fund balance was \$14,417 at July 31.

The congregation continues to make good progress on paying back amounts borrowed from the memorial and Bixel/Magee funds in past years, with \$2,188 being paid back so far in 2012. The remaining balance to be paid back at July 31 is \$18,410. The total cash balance of the general fund and all special and memorial funds at July 31 was \$137,703.

Congratulations to the remodeling and renovation team who carefully kept their outstanding project under budgeted costs. Total funds provided for the project were \$13,932 and expenses through July were \$13,037, leaving a balance of \$895. About \$400 of the remaining balance will be used for shelving.

Gifts to the special Pentecost offering were \$357, and the Mission Committee will recommend a use for the 40% (\$143) discretionary share.

Please remember that the Peacemaking Offering will be on October 7 in conjunction with World Communion Sunday. Our annual Stewardship Sunday will be on November 11.

Gifts of Securities Can Save on Taxes

The Session has adopted a new gift policy to guide the church's handling of various kinds of gifts and to protect both donors and the church from misunderstandings and disagreements. The new policy is or soon will be posted on the church's website.

One provision of the new policy may serve to offer donors the opportunity to save on income taxes beyond the normal deductibility of gifts to the church. If a donor gives appreciated securities to the church, neither the donor nor the church has to pay the capital gains tax that would otherwise be owed. A donor can deduct the full market value of gift securities regardless of the donor's cost basis. And, the church, as a not for profit organization, can sell the securities and incur no tax liability. The donor gets the deduction and credit for a contribution to the church in the amount of the market value, and the church gets the proceeds of the sale. If, on the other hand, a donor sells appreciated securities and donates the proceeds to the church, the donor will incur a capital gains tax liability for the amount the securities have appreciated.

The Session authorized the opening of a securities trading account at Chase Bank for the sole purpose of receiving gifts of securities. The most efficient and easiest method of transferring securities ownership to the church is to have your broker or financial advisor transfer the securities directly into the church's account. If you would like to avail yourself of this tax-saving opportunity, contact Clair Winebar, George Stultz, or Cathy Carroll in the church office.





New Prayer Chain Links Are Welcome!

What is a Prayer Chain? It is a group of people praying for the needs of others. They are linked, like a chain, to one another so that the needs for prayer can be passed on to all the members of the chain.

Bluffton Presbyterian has a prayer chain ministry, and when a prayer is asked of the prayer chain, it gets to work! The first name on each of the chains is given the name of the person who is to be prayed for and the reason for the prayer, such as surgery, tests, safe travel, etc. Sometimes the names of those being prayed for may be kept confidential, and that's all right. God knows for whom we pray. As each person on the chain receives the prayer request, he or she then calls the next person on the chain, until everyone on the chain has been contacted. The members of the prayer chain then individually pray regularly for the concerns passed on to them. This can be a true "labor of love."

Do you feel drawn to this ministry? The prayer chain will be reorganized in the coming weeks, so this is a great time to become a link in the chain. If you would like to be part of the chain, but would prefer only to receive calls, and not make them, that's fine. Every link is important!

To become part of the prayer chain, or for more information, please contact Jeanette Warren (419-358-6263 or jlwarren10@centurylink.net), or Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.com). You may also leave your name with the church office (419-358-5806), and we will contact you.

For those who are already part of the chain, thank you for your caring and your commitment. *Please let us know if you would like to continue to be part of the prayer chain. Thank you!*

Mission Committee News

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Christmas in July project. Two carloads of donations (food, paper products, and office supplies) were delivered to The Samaritan House and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen this July.

The Mission Committee has scheduled a timeslot for a Bluffton Presbyterian Church team to volunteer for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Team members will assist with serving lunch or spend time in the dining area in fellowship. Our timeslot will be from 9:30 AM until 12:00 noon, the first Thursday of even numbered months (ex. 10/4/12, 12/6/12, etc).

We thank the volunteers have already expressed an interest; but we continue to welcome more members who desire to join in this ministry. Please check your schedules and, if interested, contact a member of the Mission Committee (Beth Buist, David or Shirley Kisor).

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.



Highlights of August's Session Meeting

The renovation project has been completed. With donations and memorial gifts, the project came in under budget. During June's windstorm, the manse received some damage (fascia which has been replaced) and tree damage at both the manse and church. An out of state clean-up crew with a bucket lift helped with the trees at the church at no cost. There are three dying trees at the church which will be dealt with in the spring. Pastor Matthew has spread mulch at the manse, replaced lights in the garage, repaired and repainted the garage door, and installed a floor jack under the laundry area. There are areas in the sanctuary which continue to receive water damage – choir loft, under Cherry Street window, and vestibules. They are looking at tuck pointing bricks, resealing bricks, and roofing issues. The front exterior doors are rusting and will need replaced.

Pastor Matthew's contract for 2012-2013 has been approved by session, Pastor Matthew, and COM as the following:

Salary	\$29,000
Value of Manse	9,000
Real Estate Taxes	1,800
Utilities	4,200
Pension/Medical Benefits	12,578
SSI Allowance	3,000
Medical Insurance Deductible	1,000
Travel/Professional	3,100
Continuing Education	<u>800</u>
Total	\$64,478
Cash Portion	(\$55,478)

Approved request by Marilyn Edwards to use tables/chairs. Approved purchasing new dishwasher/refrigerator for the manse from M+R with money to come from the Building Fund. Approved Greg Culbertson's request to be baptized. Approval given for Lisa Hursey and

Greg Culbertson for their wedding on October 6 and to have Communion served at their wedding.

Some items were approved and will be added to our Manual of Operations:

- Quorum for congregational meetings shall consist of moderator, clerk, and 25 eligible members or 1/10 of the membership, whichever is greater.
- Adequate public notice for congregational meetings shall be two Sundays which could include the Sunday on which the congregational meeting was held.
- Board of Deacons consists of six deacons elected by the congregation into three classes of two deacons each. Deacons shall serve no more than two consecutive terms of three years each.
- Deacons shall be ineligible for a new term of active service until at least one year has elapsed since their last term of active service.
- Elders shall be elected by the congregation and divided into three classes of three elders each. Elders may serve on the Session for two consecutive full terms of three years each.
- Elders shall be ineligible for a new term of active service until at least one year has elapsed since their last term of active service.

New Gift Policy was adopted.



Relay for Life - Recipes

The Bluffton Relay for Life is looking for recipes to be included in a second cookbook. Please drop them off at the Village Cut & Curl, 212 Cherry St. or give them to Lynda Best.

1 FAMILY FUN NIGHT

One Family Fun Night

When did you last Bob- for- Apples, or eat a donut hanging on a string? Have you heard stories of the Styrofoam peanut game? Do you miss the pulled pork meals we shared as One Family? Then join us on Sunday, September 23 for our next One Family Fun Night!

We will meet at 5:00 PM at the church for an evening of Fall Fun. Pulled pork sandwiches and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share, if you are able.

Remember **OUR FAMILY** is made up of old and young, married and single, adults and children, and this is a **FAMILY** event. **EVERYONE** is invited! A sign-up sheet will be placed in the back of the sanctuary, so we can plan appropriately. See a member of the CE Committee if you have any questions.

Join a
Small
Group



Small Groups

Enough interest has been expressed in Small Groups that a third small group is forming. We had been concerned that the meeting times for our existing two small groups excluded some interested people from participating. So, this third group will meet on Saturday mornings. We currently have six persons interested in the Saturday group and have plenty of room for more. We will meet at 9:30 AM at Maple Crest. So, if your Monday – Friday schedule just won't stretch any further, and if you have felt the need for support, fellowship, and bible study, join us. Contact Beth Buist, George Stultz, Claralice Wolf or Roy Pneuman for more information.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

The return of fall brings the start of school and the need for volunteers for Weekday Christian Education Walkers. We have been assigned eight days this year for which to secure volunteers. If you have volunteered before, thank you and I hope you will consider signing up again. If you have not volunteered or it has been a while since you have, please consider signing up this year. This is an important mission outreach for our entire community and a great opportunity to see firsthand God working in the lives of our children. If you can only volunteer for an hour or so that is great, if you can do more that is great too!

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary or you can contact me directly. Please don't hesitate to ask, if you have any questions.

The dates we have been assigned are as follows:

Friday, October 19
Thursday, December 6
Tuesday, January 8
Thursday, January 31
Tuesday, March 26
Thursday, April 11
Friday, April 26
Thursday, May 2

Thank you in advance for your help!~Tenna

Faith & Fellowship

Fellowship Lunch

The next fellowship lunch will be held on September 16 at Kentucky Fried Chicken. 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 3rd Sunday of each month. We will explore the various restaurants of Bluffton together while enjoying each other's company.

Sunday School Classes

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Location</u>
Young Children	"Holy Moly"	New Nursery
Kids / Tweens	"Connect"	Downstairs
Youth	"re:form"	Grey Room
Common Grounds	Old Testament	Downstairs
Adult Class (continued from Spring)		
Alternative Adult	"Love Languages"	Church Office

Adult Sunday School Class Common Grounds Group

The Adult class that has been meeting at Common Grounds on Sunday mornings will resume meeting on Sunday, September 9. Because the Common Grounds back room is no longer available to us, we will be meeting across downstairs at the church. To give our members time to pick up coffee before class, we will plan to begin promptly at 9:10 AM.

Youth Sunday School

Sunday School will begin on September 9, with classes meeting from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Below are the class divisions and their meeting places:
Preschool – 2nd Grade will meet in the Nursery.
3rd – 5th Grade will meet in the Basement.
Youth will meet in the "Gray Room" (formerly the Green Room).

Thank you to all who have volunteered to teach these classes for the Fall quarter! We will be looking for volunteers for the Winter and Spring quarters too, so you still have an opportunity to be a part of this special ministry.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will have their first monthly meeting of the year on Sunday, October 7. Join us from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for faith, fun, and of course food! See Tenna if you have any questions.

Acolyte Training

Acolyte training will be held on September 9, for those who would like to become an acolyte and as a refresher for those who are currently acolytes. We will meet in the sanctuary after the luncheon.

Joys and Concerns

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, Dick & Sally Reeder, Irene Cox, Karen Long, Mike Shafer, Alice Niswander, Dusty Klingler, Rebecca Hursey, Mary Kay Niswander, Owen Ziessler, Bob Angus, and Jeff, Zach, and Eric Carlson.

Do you have a want to serve?

It's that time of year again when Nomination Committee is seeking people to join Session and the Board of Deacons. This year we'd like to try something a little different: we want to know who of you would be interested in being a ruling elder (on Session) or a Deacon. Session members work with Pastor Matthew to provide the oversight of church business and direction. Deacons provide for the care of our members and assist Pastor Matthew in visitation / home communion. If you feel that God is calling you to serve the church, or if you just have questions on what it means to be a part of either group, please contact Pastor Matthew or Beth Buist / Jay McCracken (current elders of Nominations). It is very important that we have enough volunteers to keep the business of our church flowing and keep the momentum that we've build up. Look forward to hearing from you!

New Directories

It's scary how fast it happens – a change in phones, a change in computers, a change in life! But it does happen: the directory needs to be updated again. There will be a list of current addresses in the back of the church for the weeks of September. Please go by the sheet and check to see if your contact information is correct. Pay close attention to email addresses! If everything is correct, please mark it (OK) so we know you've seen it. Also, don't forget to send in / write down college student addresses while they are away at school!

Happy Birthday!!



Jane Sycks
Capital University
1 College and Main St.
Columbus, Ohio
43209-2394



- September 4 Jeremy Szabo
- 5 Jay McCracken
- 13 Julianna Hotmire
- 16 Lindsey Sneary
- 20 David Kisor
- 23 Roy Pneuman
- Rhonda Moor
- 24 Jayne McGarrity
- 25 Ropp Triplett
- Devin Kisor
- 26 Sue Mathewson
- Amanda Rhonemus
- Dan Sneary
- 29 Cindy Gillen
- 30 Andrea Zechman
- Wyatt Gossard
- October 1 Owen Scoles
- 2 Mary Emma Triplett
- 4 Olivia Sneary
- 5 Robbie McGarrity
- 7 Anne McCracken
- 8 Val Vander Naald
- Phil Weisenbarger

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation to our shelter. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Samaritan House

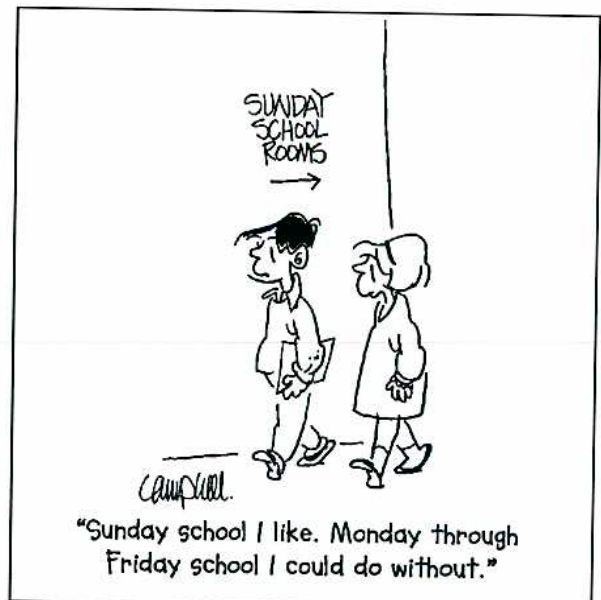
Thank you to Nathan Hursh for his work on the church website. You might want to check it out at <http://www.blufftonpc.org/> and while you are at it check out the church Facebook page!!

Newsletter Distribution

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, September 30.

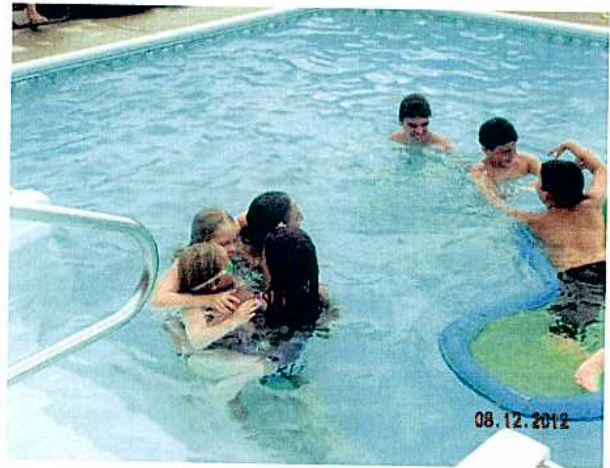
Ideas, suggestions, photos, family news or special celebrations are always welcome

Editor: Cindy Gillen
Email: CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
Or GILLEN3072@roadrunner.com



Youth Pool Party







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