

LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 5

April 2011

Reverend Gary Brose

Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

- **Worship Time** 10:45 a.m.
- **Church Phone:** 583-9676
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www.thebmpc.org

Dear Friends,

It has been a beautiful day, though just a bit cool, as I sat down to write this letter. The sun is warm; the sky is clear blue. Crocuses and daffodils are in full bloom. My neighbor's forsythias are setting out yellow blooms and I have seen a few magnolia trees in full bloom as I drive through my territory. The mid 20's forecasted for tonight might claim some of those blossoms and snow is called for Wednesday night, yet it is clear that spring, if not here, is just around the corner.

Spring is a powerful image of faith. After the death of winter, when trees have lost their leaves and wild animals have to rummage for food to avoid starvation, all of nature begins the ritual of rebirth. The early flowers pushing their way up through the snow. The fields taking on a greenish tint. Song birds proclaiming the joy of another spring season. Easter celebrates the newness and rebirth of life, of hope for the future. Having experience the barrenness of a life ruled by sin, being confronted with our complicity in the death of Jesus, the victory of the cross over sin and death breaks through to new life on Easter morning. The resurrection proves once and for all that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The power of the

resurrection fills our spirits as we accept Christ into our daily lives and commit ourselves to walk the footsteps of Jesus.

Your church family invites you to join in this celebration of life in several important ways. First, our Wednesday evening Lenten services continue, alternating between Bethel Murdoch and Pleasant Plain. Rumor has it that a special visitor will appear one of these evenings to share his experience with the Lord. On Palm Sunday, the Confirmation Class students will join the church, taking for themselves the vows made for them at baptism. Special services will be held Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, a sunrise service will greet the Happy Morning, followed by breakfast with the community, and then our joyous Easter Sunday worship service lead by our choir.

Of course the most important way to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord is to spend some time this month reading the passion narrative, those chapters in the gospels that tell the story of the Lord's death and resurrection, and reflecting upon how much it cost God to purchase our salvation, how much it cost Jesus that we might have new life. Have a joyous Easter celebration.

Temporarily your,
Gary

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Holy Week Schedule

Following is the schedule for Holy Week at BMPC. *Thursday April 21st*--Maundy Thursday Service: This informal service begins with a simple meal together in the fellowship hall at 6:15pm followed by a worship service. *Friday April 22nd*--Good Friday Service 7:00pm *Sunday, April 4th*—Easter Sunrise Service--7:30am

Easter Breakfast---in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the sunrise service (around 8:15-8:30am) Remember--you can attend the breakfast whether you come to the 1st service or not.

Easter Service---Worship Service 10:00 am which will include special music from our choir.

Big Thanks Women's Bible Study

To the teachers and participants who finished the course, thank you for all you gave and all we learned. Everyone seemed hungry to learn the 12 Life-Changing Truths found in the 23rd Psalm. We will never look at that psalm the same way again. We all pretty much learned it as children and could rattle it off if asked to recite it from memory, but who knew all that it contained for our lives. Just wanted to leave you with a short story at the end of the book.

A preacher was talking to his congregation and asked how many were visitors. Several raised their hand and he had them stand. The first was a young man who said he was an actor. The pastor asked if he knew the 23rd Psalm and the man said he did. "Since you are an actor, would you please give us your rendition of this passage?" The man spoke elo-

quently and gave a splendid offering of the psalm. The congregation applauded and the pastor said, "It is clear you know the psalm well."

The next visitor was a very, old shaky senior citizen who said he was a retired minister. So the pastor asked if the man would also present his account of the psalm. The old pastor began in a frail, shaky voice and broke down several times as he recited the beloved psalm. When he finished, the congregation did not applaud; there wasn't a dry eye in the house. The pastor of the church said to the retired minister, "It is very clear, that you know the Shepherd well."

And so we in the Bible study now realize more than ever that we must follow and trust the Shepherd through every day, and all the way.

Still Room! Help Us Shake Up VBS

Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29 are the dates that have been chosen for VBS this year. The closing program with the children and teachers participating will be held during worship on Sunday, July 31st. Three classes will be offered: Preschool ages 3-5; Elementary ages 6-8 and Youth ages 9-12. We always have room for you if you haven't signed up yet...and even if you show up when it starts, we'll welcome any additional help we can get. The theme,

if you haven't heard is Shake It Up Cafe, where kids carry out God's recipes for life. It is even rumored that a cardboard Elvis will make an appearance at the cafe, which sort of resembles Mel's Diner. And remember, Elvis learned to sing in church. (God has used stranger people to carry our His word.) We have a crafty craft person in place, and game coordinators, but we still need YOU!.... and we need lots and lots of kids. Questions? See Anne Fritz

Sunday School Resumes!

Beginning on Sunday, April 3rd we will be offering Nursery and Sunday School for children. Nursery will be offered before worship begins. The class for ages 3 to 10 will leave worship after participating in the children's sermon, and go back for their Bible lesson at this time. The first Sunday (April 3rd) the lesson will be about Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. April 10 lesson will be Jesus' arrest and trial and His trip to the Hill of Golgotha. On April 17th the lesson will center on the empty tomb. There will be no classes offered on Easter Sunday. Classes will resume May 1st through

May 29th and will begin again in September, as we normally do not have classes during the summer months because of sports and travel.

The lessons for May have yet to be determined.

We encourage all parents, grandparents or caregivers to help us succeed in this venture. Your prayers are needed as well as you seeing that the children get to come and join in learning valuable lessons that will serve them for their lifetime. Your thoughts and input are welcomed and anytime you'd like to help let us know.

Thanks, Anne

Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 23rd at 2 p.m. the Christian Education Department will hold its annual Easter egg hunt behind and beside the Fellowship building. Very soon the plastic eggs will be available for anyone wishing to fill as many as you like with wrapped candy and coins. We will again divide the group into two sections. The little ones, 1 yr -to age 6 will hunt in one area (with assistance by a parent or guardian); while the age 7-12 year olds will hunt in a different area. Last year, with much help from lots and lots of people we were able to hide over 500 filled plastic eggs, and the children had a great time. Prizes will also be awarded; categories yet to be determined. Your help is always needed to either fill eggs, help to hide the eggs, and various other tasks. Come and join in the fun. See Kristie Howell or Debbie Johnston for information.

Relay for Life

Mark your Calendar's
for May 14-15th!



**2011 Warren
County Relay for
Life**

BMPC will once again sponsor a team for the Warren County Relay for Life on May 14-15, 2011 at the Warren County Fairground in Lebanon.

This year's theme will be called "Round-Up a Cure for Cancer".

We encourage you to take part in this event by donation, walking, purchase of a Luminary or just spending the day at the event to cheer on our team.

Any questions can be directed to this year's Team Co-Captains, Kristie Howell, Lauren Kairn and Kathy Flynn.

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Psalm 18:2

What's Cookin' at BMPC? Phyllis Biggs

7 UP Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
 1 box regular size (small) instant vanilla pudding
 3/4 cup cooking oil
 4 eggs
 1 bottle (10 oz.) 7 UP

Mix: Cake mix, pudding, oil, and eggs until well blended. Slowly add 10 oz. of 7 UP. Beat for 2 more minutes. Pour into 2 -- 9 in. cake pans or a 9 X 13 in pan that has been greased and floured. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. **DO NOT USE 2 -- 8 INCH CAKE PANS**

Topping

2 eggs
 1 stick margarine or but-

1 cup sugar
 1 can (8 1/4 oz.) crushed pineapple including juice
 1 tablespoon flour
 1 cup coconut

Cook eggs, sugar, flour, margarine and pineapple over medium heat until it thickens. Remove from heat.

Add coconut and pour over warm cake.

A Special Thanks

Letter for our previous donation:

To Our Friends at Bethel Murdoch,
 Your donation of food items to the Little Miami Food Pantry was greatly appreciated. For your records, 170 1/2 lbs of food was in this donation. Amazing Grace!

*Sincerely,
 The Staff at Little Miami Food Service*

Food Pantry Update

We delivered 153 pounds of food to the Morrow Food Pantry on Friday, March 25th. This brings our total to 923 pounds since beginning the program in November 2010. We ask you to please continue to bring items on the 1st Sunday of each month for our "Canned Good Sunday".

We are in awe at the amount of support each of you have given to this service project. We have collected more items than we ever thought possible. Your giving has made it possible for God's blessings to flow thru you to others. Thank you!!

Two Local Events Offered

#1 Coming soon to the Krohn Conservatory is the 14th Annual Cincinnati Butterfly Show, featuring the butterflies from Brazil this year. The Krohn Conservatory is located at 1501 Eden Park Drive, just off Victory Parkway, and right past Eden Park. The dates for the show this year begin on April 16 and run through June 26th. (Mothers get in free on Mother's Day.) Hours are 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is: \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors, and \$4.00 for children under 17. Children under 4 are free and family packages are available for \$20.00 for 2 adults and 6 children. Go to Google and put in Cincinnati Butterfly Show 2011 to print out coupons. Most times the butterflies will land on you. It's great fun.

#2 The Cincinnati Mineral Society and the Dry Dredgers present the 46th Annual GeoFair 2011 at the Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Avenue. (Parking is free) The dates for this show are Saturday, May 7th (10 am to 6 pm) and Sunday, May 8th (11am to 5 pm). The show includes gems, minerals, fossils, and a jewelry show, free

fossil, meteorite, gemstone and rock identification and a swap area, where for swap dollars many bargains are found. Lots of fun for kids and adults who love rocks. Admission is: \$7.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. (2 day pass is available for \$10.00). Scouts in uniform get in free but scout leaders pay adult price. The show theme this year is Bizarre & Beautiful Minerals and Fossils. Check it out on Google. Just put in Geofair 2011.

Confirmation Class Service Project

The Confirmation Class will be collecting bars of soap, diapers, tooth brushes and tooth paste for the victims of the March 11th earthquake/tsunami in northern Japan. They will continue to do this until Sunday, May 29th and deliver it to Mathew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash. There will be boxes in the back hallway to place your items in. Thank you for your support.

Continue to Pray

Please continue to pray for the BMPC Choir. If you haven't started, please begin and if you currently are, don't stop. We need all the prayers we can get and extra prayers can't hurt either. We are diligently working on presenting special music for Easter Sunday. While we don't yet sound like a band of angels, we don't sound like Barney Fife in the Mayberry choir either. We always appreciate when you tell us that we sounded good. You can tell us - gently - when we aren't so good, but it is not for lack of trying. And Bronstrup walks on water. Thanks, *Anne*

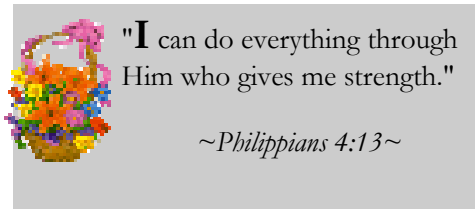
YAH Luncheon



Approximately 20 people attended the YAH Luncheon last week. The food was wonderful and the fellowship was fun! Our appreciation to all who helped with this event and a special thanks to Sue Fields for providing the delicious food.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

The members of Bethel Murdoch Church would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy Birthday or a Happy Anniversary on your special day!



- 2 Ethan Carl Rolke
- 3 Paul Fritz
- 4 David Biggs
- 7 Ron Bivens
- 10 Lauren Howell
- 12 Joey Hassert
- 16 Brian & Tara Szekely

- 17 Lesa & Jeremy Banks
- 17 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Rolke
- 21 Howard & Sandy Hale
- 23 Aiden Julian Arbogast
- 27 Gary Biggs
- 28 Skip & Pat Keiser

A Story of Courage & Determination



Marine Corporal Joshua Sweeney, is a survivor of an IED blast that left him with both legs amputated on October 28, 2009. His injuries also included his arms and hands, which

required extensive treatment as well as skin grafting.

Below is a letter we recently received from Josh's stepfather.

Date: March 20, 2011

The San Antonio Rampage Sled Hockey Team has won the Chicago Invitational Tournament by defeating the Colorado Avalanche Sled Hockey Team 1 to 0. The team reached the finals on a deciding goal against the Chicago Blackhawks scored by Arizona native Joshua Sweeney.

Josh was placed in a defensive role for the game against the Avalanche and through the team efforts and with his particular focus on their star player, the Rampage became the first team all year to hold the Avalanche scoreless for an entire game. The game winning goal came in the third period scored by player coach and National Team



member Lonnie Hannah who praised the play of Sgt. Joshua Sweeney with whom he had traded positions in order to add speed to the defensive role. Sweeney has been invited to try out for the National Sled Hockey team which holds the reigning Gold Medal from the Para-Olympics and most recently was in Japan playing when the earthquake struck in a tournament there.

Josh and the Rampage were supported by family members from 5 states as well as friends who lived in the Chicago area and traveled an hour each way to see games on multiple days. The "Squad Sweeney" cheered the team and numbered 22 throughout the tournament, growing to a maximum of 17 present outnumbering the contingent from even the local team. We are proud of our warriors who play with honor, enthusiasm, and passion; not to mention a tendency to upend the other players.

I hope all of you have a chance to learn more about Sled Hockey and follow Josh Sweeney on Facebook.

Easter Lilies

A sign up sheet has been placed in the Sanctuary if you would like to purchase an Easter Lily, "in honor of or in memory of," a loved one for our Easter Service. The cost has not yet been determined but were \$6.00 last year. Thank you!

Church Usage Checklist

If you use the church or fellowship hall please make sure all doors are securely locked when leaving. Turn off all lights (including both bathrooms), remove any trash that you brought with you, return tables and chairs to original places, and try to leave the premises as found. Please see John Howell or Ron Rolke if you have any questions. Thank you in advance!

Angel Food

We will no longer be distributing food for the Angel Food Ministries at Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church. If you are still interested in continuing to purchase these items, please go to the Angel Food Ministries website at: www.angelfoodministries.com to find a local site near you.

Those We Care About And Miss

Ann Zabriskie (Barb Rolke's Mom)
8 Boathouse Rd
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Jim Chain
4485 Old Kyles Station Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011

Ruth Dunlap
12050 Montgomery Rd
Apt. 321
Cincinnati, OH 45249
PH# 583-3147

April 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	4 <i>Trustees 7:00pm</i>	5	6 <i>Lenten Service 7:00pm Pleasant Plain</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	11	12	13 <i>Lenten Service 7:00pm BMPC</i>	14 <i>Session 7:00pm</i>	15	16
17 Palm Sunday <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service 6:15pm</i>	22 <i>Good Friday Service 7:00pm</i>	23 <i>Egg Hunt 2:00pm</i>
24 Easter Sunrise 7:30am <i>Breakfast 8:30am</i> <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	25	26	27	28	29 <i>YAH Luncheon 12:00pm</i>	30

Please check the bulletin inserts and office calendar for additional information on committee meeting etc. this month.

Visit us at:
www.thebmpc.org

Our Mission Statement:

Bring People to Jesus,
Educate them in God's truth.
Teach them to love God and each other,
Heal the brokenhearted
Enjoy God and each other, and
Live worshipful lives

Trivia Quiz: Easter Facts

How much do you know about the history and traditions behind the original religious observance? Test yourself with these seven questions.

Question 1: What is burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday?

- A: Palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday
- B: Cedar wood
- C: Slips of paper on which prayers have been written
- D: Scraps of fabric

Question 2: According to the Bible, who helped Jesus carry the cross?

- A: Simon of Cyrene
- B: Simon the Zealot
- C: Joseph of Arimathea
- D: Saul of Tarsus

Question 3: What does Palm Sunday celebrate?

- A: The arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem
- B: The link between the Eastern and Western Easter celebrations

C: The commemoration of the Last Supper

D: The council of Nice dictating that Easter must fall on a Sunday

Question 4: As Jesus rode into Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday), what did He say would cry out if His disciples didn't?

- A: The stones
- B: The angels
- C: The earth
- D: The animals

Question 5: What color was the cloak Jesus wore on the way to the cross?

- A: Green
- B: Black
- C: White
- D: Purple

Question 6: Who rolled away the stone from the front of Jesus' grave?

- A: Joseph of Arimathea
- B: A gardener

C: An angel
D: A soldier

Question 6: What is celebrated forty days after Easter Sunday?

- A: The Ascension
- B: Pentecost
- C: All Souls' Day
- D: The Assumption

Question 7: Where was Jesus crucified?

- A: The Mount of Olives
- B: Golgotha
- C: Jerusalem
- D: The Hinnom Valley

