



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH



Volume 5, Issue 3

February 2011

Reverend Gary Brose
Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

- **Worship Time** 10:00a.m.
- **Church Phone:** 583-9676
- **Church Email:**
thebmpc@gmail.com
- **Church Website**
www.thebmpc.org

Dear friends,

Have you ever had one of those “ah ha” moments when you are responding to, or maybe reacting to one of your children (who may be full grown adults now), usually in a stress provoking situation, and you suddenly think, “Where did that come from? I sound just like my parents!”

That may be good or bad. For many of us, our parents taught us good values and parenting skills; and we have learned well from them. But even for the best of us, there are probably some things we have wanted to change. We intentionally try to not repeat the mistakes our parents made with us. Understanding our personal family history can give us insight into who we are in the present.

This is true when it comes to communities, organizations, groups of people, such as a church. Much of the Hebrew Scriptures recorded the sacred history of God’s involvement with his people. This was and is rehearsed in many of the Jewish customs and ceremonies. (Case in point for us, the Lord’s Supper.) This sacred history informed and defined their identity as a people. It told them who they were as a community. It helped them to discover for themselves God’s presence in their midst. And this history helped to shape their vision for the future.

A congregation’s history can have the same meaning: it can give us insights about our present and inspiration for our future. Many congregations take some time to reflect upon their history during an interim period. This process can often bring understanding and healing. The process can help to build up a congregation’s identity. Congregations can find meaning and

purpose and a renewed sense of vision. During the coming month or two, I would like to plan a congregational event to reflect on and to celebrate the history of Bethel Murdoch. I am not sure yet what this event will look like. You will have to stay tuned for future details. But everyone can start planning for it. Start thinking about your memories of this church.

- If you are a long time member, try to recall stories you have heard about the church from your family members.
- If you are a recent member, what attracted you to Bethel Murdoch?
- When was a time you were ministered to in a special way either by a member/minister or by a special program?
- When was a time you felt particularly connected to the members or to God through the ministries of the church?
- What was one event/activity that was especially meaningful to you?
- When was a time you felt particularly close to God through the ministries of the church?
- When did the church support you or your family in a special, meaningful way?

As you can see from these questions, it isn’t just times/dates/places that are important, but the history of God’s presence with his people. So put your remembering cap on, start thinking, and prepare to share.

Temporarily
Yours, Gary

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Tribute to Les Oeder	2
Women’s Bible Study	2
Food Pantry Update	3
Congregational Meeting	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Church Calendar	5
Love & Marriage Bible Trivia	6

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”
Deuteronomy 7:9

A Tribute To Les Oeder



How do you begin to capture the years of a man's life—all 99 of them, in a couple of paragraphs?

How do you capture a man of such character in words alone—words on paper—without the firm handshake unfailingly accompanied by an honest open grin?

Those are but a few of the questions I asked myself when attempting to do just that for this newsletter article. I am comforted by the fact that hardly a person in all of Warren County would have only these words as a testament to the man Les Oeder was and the life that he led. If you had to count up the number of lives touched, it would number in the tens of thousands.

I thank God there were no coincidences in Les's life and I know it is no coincidence that I was blessed to have called him friend. It was no coincidence that he was born into a humble, hard working Kentucky farm family that was headed by parents adventuresome enough to pick up a large, young family and head to Warren County back in 1920. It was no coincidence that those same

parents instilled in their children an honest work ethic and that Les was blessed with one of the flat-out most amazingly creative and ingenious minds of his day.

And it was certainly no coincidence that he met up with, married and built a wonderful life—and a variety of successful businesses, with the center of his universe—Mary Davis Oeder. I sometimes smile and think they may well have inspired the term “power couple”! A couple that truly helped to build Warren County as few others did post WWII. But it was not the successful businesses that impressed me most—but boy were they impressive—and varied: concrete block, excavation, bus driving, car dealership, movie theater.... It is a rare being that is blessed with the intellect, motivation, work ethic and just-plain-people-smarts combined with a genuine love of people that God so graciously bestowed on Les. It may seem like a lot of blessing for one person but God already knew Les would do exactly as he did—multiply those blessings exponentially into the lives of all he touched—in business, in the community and in his personal dealings. It is not a coincidence, and most certainly a blessing that I—and countless Warren County residents will not soon forget.

Thanks Les, be careful honey....and let's get together sometime....

Melody Volkman

Sunday School

Here is another plea for ideas, prayers and solutions concerning our Children's Sunday school class. The CE teachers are disheartened and discouraged when they prepare lessons for several weeks and have no students. When the teachers take a week or two off, then we have students (and parents) show up and are upset because the classrooms are dark and no lessons are to be learned. The Sunday school has reached a very low point (and we can't blame it all on the cold and the snow). Any ideas how we can jump start the Sunday school and get it back on track? Meanwhile we are still working on plans to reinstate the Adult Sunday school class. Suggestions are needed from you regarding subjects you would like to know more about or discussions you would like to take part in. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. You can make a difference.

Ruth Dunlap Honored



Ruth Dunlap was honored Veterans Day November 18, 2010 at the Countryside YMCA.

She was the oldest attending veteran.

Ruth Dunlap, who served with the U.S. Navy WAVES is honored during the Veterans Day celebration.

Women's Bible Study

"Powerful Promises for Every Woman" Twelve Life-Changing Truths from Psalm 23. This book was written by Elizabeth George, who is a best selling author, teacher, and speaker whose ministry is dedicated to teaching the Bible to women in a way that changes their lives. Her books have sold more than 6.5 million copies.

"Powerful Promises for Every Woman," encourages women to walk ever more closely with God and to be assured that God is there

to help them in every season of life.

As readers we will discover how David, a man of faith and failure, overcame his challenges and built his trust in God, and hopefully we will take joy in our own journeys as we embrace the promises of:

- * provision
- * healing
- * comfort
- * protection
- * and more

Anyone interested in being a part of this discussion is invited to attend. We

will meet on Monday evenings at 7 pm at the church for six weeks, beginning on Monday, January 31. Our hope is to cover two chapters per week in order to finish by March 7th as Lent begins that week. Come and learn of God's promises for you. The first session will be lead by Carol Dick and Anne Fritz. If you would like to volunteer to lead one or two of the chapters let us know. If you do not wish to volunteer please don't let this stop you from coming. Hope to see you there. Books will be provided.

Food Pantry Update

A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed to the Little Miami Food Pantry these past couple of months. The Little Miami Food Pantry provides literally tons of free, healthy groceries to about 1,000 hungry families each month. We are pleased to announce that our little church alone has provided 684 items and 583 lbs of food since November!

As the unemployment rates have increased, more and more families are finding that they are in need of assistance. Hunger isn't a new issue, but it has now taken on a new face. Please continue to help with this endeavor as often as you can. The first Sunday of each month will continue to be "Canned Good Sunday". Some items needed for the pantry are: Spaghetti Sauce, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Applesauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Boxed Instant Potatoes,

Soup, Rice, personal hygiene items, dish soap & laundry detergent.

The Bible tells us to share generously with those in need. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 it tells us that each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Thank you everyone for being such cheerful givers!

Rely for Life

Dates for 2011 Relay For Life. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th at the Warren County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Ohio. Our committee chairs will be Kristie Howell and Kathy Flynn. Keep these dates open and join the BMPC team.

Flag Display Case

Here is your monthly quiz. Where is it (the flag display case), and why do we have one? We have a display case because we have been the honored recipients of US flags flown especially for our congregation over US military bases in Afghanistan and Iraq. What do you know about these flags? The first flag, presented by Colonel David N. Volkman, was given in 2005. The second, presented by Lieutenant Frank T. Rupnik III in 2008 and the third was presented by Major Douglas E. Wimer, also in 2008. To learn more, check out our flag display case, which was handcrafted by Daniel C. Fritz. May these flags be a reminder to thank God everyday for our freedom, thank our military everyday because we are free to do so many things others are denied, pray for their safety and for world peace. That is what these flags mean to us.

Congregational Meeting, January 23rd



The annual congregational meeting of the BMPC was held on Sunday, January 23rd. At that time the slate of candidates for the open positions on the church boards was presented by the Nominating Committee. The slate was

unanimously adopted by vote of the congregation. New officers approved are:

Session: Weldon Adams, Class of 2013

Deacons: Lauren Kairn, Class of 2011, Phyllis Biggs Class of 2013

Trustees: Mike Hoban, Class of 2011 and Ron Rolke, Class of 2013.

Shakin' Up VBS



Material has been received for 2011 VBS and it looks exciting! Its title is "Shake It

Up Cafe", published by Cokesbury Press, and the theme is 'where kids carry out God's recipes for life'. No dates for VBS have yet been selected, but just wanted to give you a chance to get your thinking processes going and see where you might fit in with these great Bible lessons we will be learning.

Remember, we always need lots of kids, teachers, cooks, (especially cooks this year), craft persons, music leaders, game coordinators, decorators, and donations. I'm sure I forgot to mention some other jobs, but we'll find a place for you to be part of the fun. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for sometime in February. Watch for this date and come join in. You won't want to be left out!

Those We Care About And Miss

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

Tom & Margie VanOsdol
10219 Morrow - Cozaddale Rd
Morrow, OH 45152

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

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

We pray that you
Will know God's love
At this time you feel unwell
And we pray that God
Would touch you now
Restoring you to good health.

February Birthday's & 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 Margie Walker
- 5 Jan Scheponick
- 8 Christian Brinkman
- 11 Floyd Denney
- 12 Ron & Marty Bivens
- 14 Shawn Arbogast
- 14 Karl & Libbey Walker
- 15 Kyle David Mangan
- 17 Bobbie Ferrell

“Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.” *Psalm 31:3*

- 17 Stephanie Rolke
- 17 David & Stacie Biggs
- 18 Amy Myers
- 19 Graeson Michael Rose
- 21 Terry & Pat Stouder
- 23 Ken Stiers
- 23 Charles Eikelberger
- 25 Alex Schebor
- 25 Emma Arbogast

A Note of Thanks

We want to express many thanks to our BMPC Family for all your prayers for our daughter Rebecca. She has not improved much as yet, but we are very blessed that she is still with us. Her next scheduled surgery is the end of March or the first part of April. Just what the doctors' plan is to slow her racing heart, is a question at this time. But, we are praying that God will guide them and all will go well. Your prayers and concern are truly appreciated. We feel truly blessed to be apart of this very special church family.

*Love and prayers,
Mary and Jim Rowland*

Ice Cream Social

The first meeting for the 2011 Ice Cream Social season was held on Jan. 9 after church. We discussed changing the time for all socials to be from 3 to 7. We, also, discussed the themes of the 3 socials. We are looking into having a different musical group and possibly an arts/craft show. We will definitely be having the Car Show in July. We are going to be putting out a sign-up sheet for a few items early so that members can take advantage of things when they are on sale. We so appreciate all the donations that everyone provides us for the social. Our next meeting will be held on Feb. 6, right after church. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Ice Cream Social Committee

YAH Luncheon

To all you Young At Hearters, please be patient just a little while longer because we will be starting up again on the last Friday of March, March 25. Lunch will still be the same time and place, but just a different day. The reason is Phyllis B. and Sue F. will be having some help at times. Melody is going to be making some of her delicious meals again when she can. So, mark your calendars for March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 30, and Oct. 28. Nov. 18, and Dec. 16 will be the 3rd Friday because of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hopefully, this will work for you. We would love to see some new faces.

Phyllis B. and Sue F.

In Loving Memory



On Friday, January 21, 2011, at the age of 93, Viola Van Osdol went home to be with the Lord. Due to aging and other

complications, Viola was unable to attend church services the last several years. She sorely missed the companionship of her BMPC family and friends. Viola had been a member of the choir and she loved being involved in church activities. Be at peace now, Viola. You have earned your reward.

Anne Fritz

Where Has the Choir Been?



Good question...I wish I had a good answer. Thanks to the help we received from the

CTC Glee Club, Brocca, Peter and our own master organist Jim Bronstrup we presented a lovely Christmas cantata. It was very well received and we got lots of complements. All our hard work was well worth it. But after Christmas, due to a combination of bad weather and the

'lazies' that many people get during January, choir practice and participation on Sunday mornings must have gone South. This has been a concern for Jim because he realizes we only have twelve weeks to practice before Easter. That may seem like a long time to you, but believe me, it's not too soon to begin. Besides preparing for each Sunday service, practicing for Easter, and possibly working up some special numbers for our joint Lenten services with Pleasant Plain we need to get cracking

and pick up the pace. Calling all current choir members and anyone who has thought about joining in the past. NOW is the time to put forth some extra effort to make it to practice (Sundays after worship for about half an hour). So even if you can't carry a tune in a bucket and you sound like Barney Fife, come join us. The Lord is in the business of miracles. (And if you're not singin' you'd better be praying for the rest of us.) Thanks. Anne

February 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
6 <i>Worship 10:00am Bring Canned Goods! Ice Cream So- cial Comm.</i>	7 <i>Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bi- ble Study 7:00pm</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	11 <i>Angel Food orders 5-7pm at church</i>	<i>12</i>
13 <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	14 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	15 <i>Angel Food Order Dead- line</i>	16	17 <i>Session 6:30</i>	18	19 <i>Angel Food Pick-up</i>
20 <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	21 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
27 <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	28 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>					

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



Bethel Murdoch

Presbyterian Church
9602 Murdoch Goshen Road
Loveland, OH 45140



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

Love and Marriage Bible Trivia

- 1: What was the name of Abraham's wife?
A. Rachel
B. Sarah
C. Rebekah
D. Leah
- 2: How was Isaac's wife chosen?
A. His father chose a local girl for him to marry
B. Isaac fell in love with his friend's daughter
C. His father sent a servant back to Mesopotamia to choose a wife from his own family
D. Isaac fell in love with his servant girl
- 3: What happened to Shechem, the prince who fell in love with Dinah, daughter of Jacob?
A. He married Dinah
B. He, his father, and the men of his city were slain by Dinah's brothers
C. He invited Dinah's family to live in his city
D. He eloped with Dinah, who never saw her family again
- 4: Where did Moses meet his future wife?
A. At a well in the land of Midian
B. In Pharaoh's palace in the land of Egypt
C. In the wilderness on the journey to the promised land
D. At the house of one of the Israelites elites
- 5: Samson loved Delilah so much that she persuaded him to tell her what?
A. The secret of his strength
B. Where the Ark of God was
C. How to defeat the Israelites
D. How many Philistines he had killed
- 6: In the love poetry in Song of Solomon how is the lady's hair described?
A. As a rushing waterfall
B. As a stream of silver
C. As a bed of lilies
D. As a flock of goats
- 7: Who does Jesus say are the two most important people to love?
A. Your spouse and your parents
B. God and your neighbor
C. God and your spouse
D. Your spouse and your children
- 8: What does Paul say is the greatest?
A. Faith
B. Hope
C. Love
D. All three
- 9: How does Paul describe marriage in Hebrews?
A. Loving
B. Perfect
C. A gift
D. Honorable
- 10: Of what is the husband's love for the wife a symbol?
A. God's love for us
B. Christ's love for the church
C. Man's love for woman
D. Adam's love for Eve