



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2011

Reverend Gary Brose
Pastor

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www.thebmpc.org

Pastoral Perspective

Dear friends in Christ,

We have been traveling this “interim” journey together for the past 6 months. It has been about a year since your last installed pastor left. The interim period by nature is a time of discovery and discernment. During the past several months the session has been closely watching financial patterns in the church. The good news is that we are on budget with weekly offerings. We actually show a net loss, but a number of annual expenses were paid in January. So the good news is that our giving is keeping up with the expenses of operating a church.

The not so good news is that this year’s budget is based on a half time pastor. The budget and respective giving of our congregation would have to be increased by about 25-35% to sustain a fulltime pastor. Session has considered a number of related considerations to our situation and has decided that the most responsible path forward is to seek a half time stated supply. A “Stated Supply” is considered a “temporary” pastor who is not “installed,” but serves a church on an annual contract basis. A “Stated Supply” is a fully trained and ordained clergy who can do everything that an “Installed Pastor” can do. Actually, Bethel Murdoch is very familiar with this designation since many of your ministers in the pasted have been stated supplies.

The next step forward is for session to approve a job description, post it on the Presbytery’s website and begin receiving resumes from interested ministers. It is impossible to guess how long this may take. I will continue to serve as your interim pastor during this search. Some may ask if I would be able to become your stated supply pastor. Technically the answer is yes, but I am committed to my full-time calling as a hospice chaplain. As I stated above, the interim period is a time of discovery. My discovery is how difficult working two jobs has been given the current needs of my family! I am enjoying serving among you and will continue to enjoy being your interim pastor as you move forward in your search.

Please keep your session in your prayers. The work they are entering is very important to the future direction of Bethel Murdoch. Please respect the confidential nature of searching for a pastor. Offer support, but don’t ask too many direct questions. Employment issues are often sensitive, especially for ministers. May the blessings of Christ rest on you and your session as you prepare for the next chapter of your ministry to this community.

Temporarily yours,
Gary

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Two Months of Sunday School Was Good

Though we will be taking a break for the summer and will not be offering classes for the youngsters until September, I’d like to thank everyone who replied to our survey and made an effort to bring us your children during worship in April and May. First we focused on Jesus and the Last Supper, why He had to die, and how he arose in victory over death and is watching over us every

day. In May our lessons centered around ways children can take part in serving as Christ would have us serve. We learned how to help those in need of food, and shelter. We discussed bringing flowers to the sick and lonely, and how we could welcome newcomers at church with a handshake and a big smile. When we went outside for a short playtime we searched for

(continued pg. 2)

When God Created Father's

**The Cincinnati Post
Friday, June 18, 1976**

Columnist Erma Bombeck wrote:

When the Good Lord was creating fathers He started with a tall frame. And a female angel nearby said, "What kind of father is that? If You're going to make children so close to the ground, why have You put father's up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping."

And God smile and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size who would children have to look up to?"

And when God made a father's hands, they were large and sinewy. And the angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do you know what You're doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on ponytails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats."

And God smiled and said, "I know, but they are large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at the end of a day....yet small enough to cup a child's face in his hands."

And then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders. And the angel nearly had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right," she clucked. "Do you realize that You just made a father

without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?"

And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus."

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had ever seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do You honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?"

And God smiled and said, " They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a small child who wants to 'ride a horse to Banbury Cross', or scare off mice at the

summer cabin, of display shoes that will be a challenge to fill."

God worked throughout the night giving the father few words but a firm, authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant. Finally, almost as an afterthought, He added ---- tears. Then He turned to the angel and said, "Now are you satisfied that he can love as much as a mother?"

And the angel shuteth up.

Sunday School (cont. pg 1)

something that God *didn't* make, but we couldn't find anything. We admired God's gifts to us in nature and all that He has given us. Thanks to all the children and those who taught and volunteered in the nursery. God has blessed us all. Remember VBS is just around the corner...the end of July.

Scout News



Scouts from Troop 53 BSA mulched and planted flowers at Bethel Murdoch this Spring. The Scouts provided 20 hours of "Scout" power hours and \$400 of materials as an annual Troop Service project to the church.

Let's give a big thanks to Troop 53 for the awesome job they did beautifying the church's landscape.

Spring Transition Your Lawn

From the book *Tough Plants for Northern Gardens* by Felder Rushing (pg 94). author unknown

"*Spring Transition Your Lawn*," the sign outside the garden store commanded. I feed it, now, rake, and water it, and watch

a lot of it die anyway. Now I'm supposed to *transition* it? Imagine the conversation The Creator might have about this.

"St. Francis, what happened to the dandelions, violets, clover and other stuff I started? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan, with plants that grow in any type soil, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. Their flowers and seed fed butterflies, bees, and songbirds. Instead of waves of color, now all I see are green rectangles."

"It's the tribes that settled down there, Lord, the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great extent to kill them and replace them with grass."

"Grass? But it's very temperamental, and attracts only grubs. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"

"Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains each spring to poison any other plant that crops up. They feed the grass, and as soon as it grows, they cut it, sometimes twice a week."

"They *cut* it? Do they bale it like hay?" "No, sir. They pay to throw it away. And in the summer when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay even more money for water so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

"What nonsense! At least they kept some of my trees, which grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and summer shade. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil, and protect roots. As they rot, they compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life."

"Better sit down, Lord, the Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and have them hauled away. Then they go out and buy something they call mulch, haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves."

"And where do they get this mulch?" "They cut down trees and grind them up."

"Enough! I don't want to think about this any more. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for tonight?" "*Dumb and Dumber*, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about...." "Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story."

Value What Is Yours

In the wake of the devastation that has hit this planet since the first of this year, it gives us pause to thank God for our blessings every day. Look around you right now. In your home, on your way to your job, or if you are just sitting outside in your yard. Can you imagine losing your loved ones in an instant, having no place to lay your head or being unable to get your child or elderly parent even a sip of water? Can you picture searching through what yesterday was your warm and cozy shelter, just to try to find a coat or blanket to wrap around you?

This e-mail I received from Sue Fields made me stop and thank God for the divine gifts I had been given and appreciate how truly rich I am. Search the Internet for the video entitled **THE SONG OF THE BIRDS**, or ask Sue to send you the website. Below are the words that accompany the pictures and music. It is truly beautiful and inspiring.

The owner of a small business is a friend of poet Olavo Bilac. One day the farm owner met Bilac in the street and asked him, "Mr. Bilac, I need to sell my small farm, the one you know so well. Could you please write an announcement for me to put in the paper?" Bilac wrote: "For sale, a beautiful property where birds sing at dawn in an extensive woodland, bi-sected by the brilliant and sparkling waters of a large stream. The house is bathed by the rising sun, and offers tranquil shade in the evenings on the veranda."

Sometime later the poet met his friend and asked whether he had sold the property, to which the friend replied, "I've changed my mind. When I read what you had written, I realized the treasure

that was mine."

Sometimes we underestimate the good things we have, chasing after the mirages of false treasures. We often see people letting go of their children, their families, their spouses, their friends, their profession, their knowledge that has been accumulated over many years, their good health; the good things in their life. They throw out the window what God has given them so freely, the things which were nourished with so much care and effort.

Look around, appreciate what you have: your home, your loved ones, friends whom you can really count on, the knowledge you have gained, your good health, and all the beautiful things in life that are truly your most precious treasure. We can no longer shower kindness on those we love, after they have died. It is useless to want to re-do the work that we may have done negligently. It's best to appreciate and do things well now. Ask of God at every moment that our problems and concerns never degenerate into feelings of sadness and anxiety. Be in union with God, who will provide the courage needed to be certain of victory in the struggle, because God will give with abundance what we need. We are all imperfect. Always praise and value your family. Do all you can to make it even better. Always praise and value your work companions, and see what you can do to improve your environment. Instead of isolating yourself because of weakness or failure, seek to invest in true and constructive friendship in your life. Faith in God is necessary to strengthen self-esteem in dealing with daily problems. My wish for you: Be with God, and may God be with you. *Love, Ann*



Relay For Life

The 2011 Relay for Life was a success this year once again with BMPC raising \$1700.00 to date for the American Cancer Society.

To each of you who contributed your time and talents we "Thank You"! It's wonderful to know that you can ask and you shall receive! The donations of BBQ pork and beef, buns, and cookies were

enjoyed by all! The embroidery on the bandana's we sold were beautiful and the Church Family who came to walk and show their support was the BEST! Your monetary contributions were much appreciated for this cause that has touched us all!

Thanks Again for all you do!

Kathy, Kristie & Lauren

Confirmation Class 2011



On April 17th Rebecca Waits, Shannon Brose and Chase Brinkman were welcomed into the congregation. Our congratulations to each teen confirmed and to their families.

YAH Luncheon

Approximately 14 people gathered at Bethel Mudoch on May 27th for the monthly YAH Luncheon event. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by our wonderful cooks.

Please watch for the June sign-up sheet that will be out soon and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor.



A faithful friend is the medicine of life. ~Bible, Ecclesiasticus 6:16

June 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!	13	Connie Schebor
2 Anita McHugh	13	Patty Kuyper
5 Carl & Bobbie Ferrell	14	Velvet & Gene Faber
5 Paige Szekely	18	Debra Johnston
6 Alvin & Margie Walker	19	Morgan Elizabeth Hill
7 Steven & Kate Rose	20	Gabrielle Howell
7 Todd Howell	21	David & Melody Volkman
7 Connie Adams	22	Ethan Lewis Ross
7 Marty Bivens	24	Barry & Susan Fields
7 Heidi Farnsley	28	Tara Alyse Szekely
9 Adam & Sue Waits	28	Steven Rose
10 Charles & Florence Eikelberger	29	Steve & Kathy Popp
10 Abbey Goodrich	30	Owen Waits
	30	(Winkie) Avery Foster
	30	Ken Dick
	30	Claire Elizabeth Rudkin

Special Thanks

A special thank you to the "helping hands" who volunteered their time on Saturday, May 21st for the church's clean up day.

We Need Your Help!

June is finally upon us, and our first ice cream social of the season will be taking place on June 11th from 3 to 7PM. This year we will have the Little Miami choir singing in the sanctuary. What a treat it will be to hear these young people perform! So, please show your support by coming out and eating some of our locally famous ice cream.

Coming Soon!

"A Second Helping", The Church Basement Ladies Sequel at La Comedia, September 1 through October 30, 2011. If you are interested, please tell Sue Fields or email her at sfields1950@yahoo.com. Open to everyone.

Food Pantry Update



One Hundred twenty-eight pounds of food was delivered to the Morrow Food Pantry on Friday, May 20th. This brings our total donations to approximately 1,220 lbs of food since November 2010.

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In these hard economic times, families continue to struggle just to make ends meet. Thank you again for helping your neighbors and for helping us to take a stand against hunger. We appreciate your continued generosity and support! Please continue to bring your canned good items on the first Sunday of each month.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor



Jeff Kneip completed his Eagle Scout Award and was recognized at the Spring Court of Honor on May 31, 2011 at Bethel Murdoch. His Eagle Scout Project involved the updating and painting of the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church Nursery.

Jeff lives in Morrow and has been active in Troop 53 BSA since 2006. He is a Senior at Little Miami High School will be continuing his education at the University of Cincinnati.

See You In September



The choir would like to leave you for our summer break with this song "See You In September". Just kidding, but we would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of you who blessed us with your thoughts and prayers, and told us when we sounded good, and refrained from telling us when we didn't. We did our best and we really appreciate all the support we get from the congregation. And, 'let's hear it for the MAN' our fearless, tireless and patient leader, Jim Bronstrup! And thanks to all the members who hung in there and gave it their all. P.S. We 'may' have openings in the fall...come, check it out.

"I am the vine; you are the branches . . . Apart from me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

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

June 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	6 <i>Trustees 7:00pm</i>	7	8	9 <i>Make Ice Cream!</i>	10	11 <i>Ice Cream Social 3-7pm</i>
12 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Session 7:00pm</i>	17	18
19 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i> <i>Father's Day!</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <i>YAH Luncheon 12:00pm</i>	25
26 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	27	28	29	30		

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

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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

The Prayer of Saint Francis is a Christian prayer and is attributed to the 13th century saint Francis of Assisi. The prayer in its present form cannot be traced back further than 1912, when it was printed in France in a spiritual magazine called *La Clochette* (The Little Bell) as an anonymous prayer. The prayer has been known in the United States since 1936 and Cardinal Francis Spellman distributed millions of copies of the prayer during and just after World War II. The English version of the prayer is:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there us despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and

It is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta made the words part of the morning prayers of the Roman Catholic religious order she established, the Missionaries of Charity. She attributed importance to it when receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1979. Margaret Thatcher, in 1979 paraphrased the prayer on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street when she became Prime Minister of England. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, declared it was an integral part of his devotions. In October, 1995 Bill Clinton quoted it in his welcoming speech to Pope John Paul II on his arrival to New York to address the United Nations.

The popular hymn version, sang by the BMPC choir on Sunday, May 22

is:

Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,

Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, And where there's doubt true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace, Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,

Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand, To be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive, And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Taken from the article on the Prayer of St. Francis in Wikipedia