



# LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 4

March 2011

Reverend Gary Brose  
Pastor

## Pastoral Perspective

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Dear friends,

We know that spring is getting near when we start planning for Lent. The word “lent” comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for spring. But it is also related to the word “lengthen.” The days are lengthening, little by little, and spring is coming!! The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Originally Lent was the time of preparation for new converts who would be baptized at the Easter vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter morning. Thus, it was a time of prayer and study. But since it was into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to prayerful preparation.

Lent today is a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. The season lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays. The 40 days corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his public ministry by wrestling with temptations that could have lead him to abandon his ministry and mission. The church has traditionally called followers to practice penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as disciplines to focus attention on the need for God’s grace and our response to Christ’s sacrifice. Giving up something for Lent, such as alcohol, sweets, or meat on a particular day of the week, has been a popular practice in some traditions. And

there is merit to giving up something for Lent if it encourages us to reflect on God’s grace and to support the needy in our world. But the focus should be on introspection, self examination, and repentance of anything that inhibits our relationship with God. It is the tradition at Bethel Murdoch to have joint Wednesday evening Lenten services with Pleasant Plain. We will join Pleasant Plain on Ash Wednesday (March 9 starting at 5:30 PM) for a Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday service. The next week we will host the program starting at 7:00 PM. Kevin Waters and I will alternate presenting the program. We haven’t decided on all the topics for this year, but I have asked Kevin to share about his recent trip to the Holy Lands. I would like to share about my hospice experience. One of the original disciples might show up and share his perspective on the death of Christ.

You can prepare for Lent by taking some time to read your Bible. Read the passion narratives in all four gospels. Reread the events of Christ’s last week and consider the sacrifice he made you for. Reread the Easter accounts and celebrate God’s victory over sin and death and what that means for your life.

Temporarily yours,

*Gary*

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## Women’s Bible Study

**Powerful Promises for Every Woman** offers Twelve Life-Changing Truths from Psalm 23. This little book was written by author Elizabeth George who guides us in discovering God’s plan for our lives and how He walks with us step by step every day, and in every way. The only catch is we must stay by His side and follow His

word. You think this is easy? We began by following Abraham as he takes his only beloved son up to the mountain to be used as a sacrifice. We all pretty much decided that if God tested our faith to that point, we couldn’t pass. Abraham never wavered. We would whine, cry, beg and just plain ignore God.  
*(cont. p.2)*

## Women's Bible Study (cont. pg. 1)

"You want me to do *what?*"

We've found that reading and hearing God's word is great, but we've got a big problem with *trust*. God says, 'don't worry about Duke Energy, I'll keep the lights on.' But God, the checkbook is empty. God says "trust me". God says rest in green pastures, by a quiet stream. But God, the children need clean clothes, this house looks like a pigsty, and I need to go to Bible study this evening. How am I to get all this done? God says "trust me".

We are beginning to see why David likened God's people to sheep. We act just like the sheep. Swift water (or situations we can't control) scare us; sheep that are afraid will not lie down or eat; if there is conflict in their lives (like busyness, noise, fighting, or tension in our lives) the sheep become upset and will not rest. And we, like the sheep, wander away from the Shepherd, we become lost, and like sheep that get 'cast-

down' (which is an old Bible term for turned over on their backs,) we and the sheep lose our center of gravity and cannot right ourselves. Sheep have no sense of direction and can't see very well either. We are more like sheep than we ever knew. They can't fix the mess they are in, and most times, *n e i t h e r c a n w e .*

But one other thing we have in common with the sheep. They listen for the Shepherd's voice. They know He will lead them to safety, food and shelter. And we, like the sheep are learning to listen for the Shepherd's voice. It's not too late. Come join us on Monday evenings at 7pm. We have a very enthusiastic group and we all share and learn. We are learning that Just come, and learn of the Good Shepherd who cares for all His sheep. and follow Him: "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." *John 10:4* "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." *John 10:27*

## Rely for Life



### 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.

**Relay For Life** event has spread to 21 countries worldwide. Relay events are held in local communities, campus universities, military bases, and in cyberspace. Although the main objective of Relay is to raise money for cancer research and cancer patients, the event is held to spread cancer awareness, celebrate the lives of survivors, & remember those who lost their lives to cancer.

## YAH Luncheon Schedule

The YAH Luncheon's will resume on Friday, March 25th. Below is a schedule for 2011. The luncheons will continue to meet at 12:00pm.

### 2011 Schedule:

March 25th, April 29th, May 27th, June 24th, July 29th, August 26th, September 30th, Oct. 28th, November 18th, and December 16th.

Please mark your calendars and come join us for a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship. We would like to encourage each of you to invite a friend or neighbor. Please watch for a sign-up sheet so we will have an idea of how many people will be attending. Hope to see you there!

## Time for Ice Cream

Well almost!!! The Ice Cream Social Committee has already started making plans for this years upcoming socials. They are also in need of each of us to give of our time and support to this event. A sign-up sheet has already been placed in the back hallway for those of you who are willing to donate items. They thought by placing the list early we could all take advantage of upcoming sales in our local groceries. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please mark it for the Ice Cream Social and give to either Marty Bivens or Pat Stouder. The following dates will be when the socials will be held: June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. Please consider helping out with one or all. More detailed information concerning the events will be available in the next few weeks.

## Lenten Service Schedule

All Wednesday night worship services during Lent are at 7:00pm

*March 9: Pleasant Plain at 5:30 PM for a Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday service.*

*\*March 16: Bethel Murdoch*

*March 23: Pleasant Plain*

*\*March 30: Bethel Murdoch*

*April 6: Pleasant Plain*

*\*April 13: Bethel Murdoch*

Lenten Services will be held at BMPC on March 16, March 30, & April 13th. Refreshments will be offered in the fellowship hall following our service. Please bring a finger food or snack to share. A sign up sheet will be available.

## Prayers Needed

Do you think there is nothing for you to do at Bethel Murdoch? Do you just want to come to church, sit in the pew and let God love you? God does that part just fine, but He also tends to nudge us a little, or sometimes He nudges us a lot. Do you hear His voice saying, "I need YOU! I have a small (or large) task and I know you have the ability and the creativity to accomplish t h i s j o b f o r M e .

Let me tell you a short story first, then we'll get to the tasks that are waiting for your talents. The story comes from a small book called *BLESS YOUR SOCKS OFF*, *Renewing the Heart and Unleashing the Power of Encouragement* written in 1998 by Sandra P. Aldrich. Chapter 9 is entitled *Grab Encouragement's Power*. This story was told by Dr. Virgil Gulker at the 1995 International Congress on the Family. (Ok, enough already, get to the story).

The head nurse of a San Diego hospital had a ward filled with war veterans who had lost arms and legs in combat. She'd tried everything she knew to get them interested in life again, but to no avail. Finally, she realized that their injuries had robbed them of any meaningful sense of contact with another h u m a n b e i n g .

In the same hospital was a ward of terminally ill infants, many of whom had been abandoned. The nurse appealed to the men for help: "These babies are dying. But they have no one to love them. They need YOU."

Those little ones then began a miracle

in the lives of the veterans. A baby was strapped to each man's chest, and the gentle pressure (of the little bodies) was a constant reminder to the men that they were needed. They looked into the tiny eyes of a baby gazing back at them, or watched in wonder as the child slept, or listened to the cries of a baby in distress. Within only a few days, all the soldiers had emerged from depression as they orchestrated the care of the babies -- talking to them, singing, ensuring that they were fed and changed. These men were needed by someone else.

And so it is, that you, too, are needed. So, you're saying, "Are you sure God can use me? What if I don't want a job. I just want to rest." But God knows the path He has for you. Check out this list of 'unlikely' people that God chose for His tasks on earth: Noah was a drunk, Abraham was really old, Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Leah was ugly, Joseph was abused, Moses was a stutterer, Gideon was afraid, Sampson was a womanizer, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah and Timothy were very young, David was a murderer, Elijah was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked, Jonah ran from God, Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, John the Baptist ate bugs, Peter denied Christ, The Disciples fell asleep while praying, Martha worried about everything, the Samaritan woman was a divorcee (more than once), Zaccheus was too small, Timothy had an ulcer, and

Lazarus was dead. Now, do you still believe God can't use you?

God desperately needs **PRAYERS**, people who pray for God's will. Prayers, are needed for our ailing Sunday school program, for a successful VBS, for the many sick we lift up every Sunday, for more members to be added to our church family, for the Ice Cream committee, for our upcoming Heritage Day celebration, for the Women's Bible study group, for the elected officers of our church, for our confirmation class, for our pastor, for our choir, for our upcoming pastor search, for your neighbors, your children's school and their teachers, for our military men and women, especially Colonel Volkman and his soldiers, and for our country, for the people of Egypt, and all nations. Have I missed anybody? If you know of a need, please pray for that person or situation.

God desperately needs **HELPING HANDS**, your hands reaching out to a child, to the elderly, to a family member, to a need in your community. He needs hands in our nursery, in our pulpit, greeters, cleaners of the church grounds, gathering items to send to our neighbors in Campton, Kentucky and the people of the Good Shepherd Church who struggle to provide for those in need, for the Little Miami food pantry. Where can God use your hands?

God desperately needs **THINKERS and PLANNERS**. Is this were your talent lies? Has God given you the ability to help us plan for our upcoming 2014 two hundred-year anniversary of our church charter? (See Adam Waits if you would like to help with this project.) God needs event planners and people to carry o u t t h o s e i d e a s .

God needs all of us to do His work in this world. Remember: "If God didn't have a purpose for you, you wouldn't be here." God bless us all as we do the Lord's work in this place.

## 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.

## March 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!

1	Adam Waits	13	Sara Waits (Van Woerkom)
2	Weldon & Connie Adams	13	Patti Stiers
2	Josette Little	15	Christopher Hassert
4	Mike Schepers	22	Andrew Waits
6	Susan Fields	24	Roger McHugh
6	Stacie Biggs	30	Sam Walker
11	Melody Volkman		

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 106:1

## Notes of Thanks

The family of Viola Van Osdol acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. *Dear Bethel Murdoch Church Family,* Thank you so much for all your support and prayers.

*Tom, Margie Van Osdol & family*

*To Pastor Gary Brose and Members of Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church,*

My prayer is that God will provide me with the words to adequately thank you all for your response to my recent accident.

For Pastor Gary Brose for his comforting visits, and to the church members for their cards, visits, calls and gifts. Most of all, thank you for your prayers.

Hopefully, I will soon be back in church.

*My love to each of you,  
Ruth Dunlap*

## Easter Lilies



Please watch for a sign up sheet within the next few weeks to purchase an Easter Lily for our Sanctuary for our Easter Sunday services. Please designate on the sheet how many you would like to purchase and if you are purchasing this “in honor of or in memory of” a loved one. The purchase price has not been determined at this time. Easter Lilies also make a great gift for a shut in or can be planted in your own garden for many years of beautiful blooms. Thank you for helping to add beauty to our sanctuary for our Easter services.

## Ink or Toner Cartridges

If you do not currently recycle your empty ink or toner cartridges, please consider donating them to the church. You may place these in the church office at any time. Staples has a recycling program which allows us to return up to 10 cartridges per calendar month per customer, and receive \$2 back in Staples Rewards per cartridge. We use this money to purchase items such as paper, labels, toner or any other items needed for the office or event. Our thanks to Judy Bernhard for donating approximately fifty cartridges to this program last month!

### A Note received regarding our Angel Food Program.

*Dear Friends of the Angel Food Ministries,* Thank you so much for providing me my Christmas Meal. Your kindness was so unexpected, and I give thanks to the Lord for what you did. This injury has been very challenging but my faith grows ever stronger.

*Thank you again,  
Leah Brinkerhoff*

## What's Cookin' At BMPC? Submitted by Mary Rowland

### Cranberry White Chocolate Chip Macadamia Nut Cookies

- 2/3 Cup “finely” snipped dried sweetened Cranberries
- 2 T. water\*\*\*
- 3/4 Cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup Butter
- 1 Lg. Egg
- 2 1/4 Cups Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1/2 tsp. Salt

- 1 Cup chopped nuts (macadamia nuts are good)
- 2 Cups (12 oz. Pkg.) White Chocolate Chips

Heat oven to 375 degrees.

Snip cranberries into a microwaveable bowl. \*\*\*Sprinkle with water and stir. Cover loosely with plastic wrap. Microwave on half power for 30 seconds, or just long enough to warm. Stir again, and set aside to cool. \*\*\*\*If you get organic ones that are moist just snip

them a bit to chop them up and you can skip this step. (I do this in one bowl) Cream sugars and butter, add egg. Then add flour, baking soda, salt, nuts, chips and cooled cranberries. Add macadamia nuts, depending on how “nutty” you like your cookies. Drop by spoonfuls on parchment lined cookie sheets, or on a cooking stone without the parchment. Bake 8-10 minutes until light brown at edges. Do not over bake.

# March 2011

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>VBS Meeting 7:00pm</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Worship 10:00am ICS Meeting following worship</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Trustees Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bi- ble Study 7:00pm</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Ash Wed. Pancake Din- ner 5:30pm &amp; Lenten Ser- vice 7:00pm Pleasant Plain</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Women's Bi- ble Study 7:00pm</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Angel Food Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Lenten Ser- vice 7:00pm Bethel Mur- doch</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Session Meet- ing 7:00pm</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Angel Food Pick up</i>
<b>20</b> <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Lenten Ser- vice 7:00pm Pleasant Plain</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>YAH Lunch- eon 12:00pm</i>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Worship 10:00am</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Lenten Ser- vice 7:00pm Bethel Mur- doch</i>	<b>31</b>		

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

Visit us at:  
[www.thebmpc.org](http://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*

## 2011 VBS “Shakin' It Up, God's Recipes for Our Lives”



Thursday,  
March 3rd  
will be our  
organiza-  
tional and  
kick-off

meeting to look at VBS 2011. Plan to attend and find a place that fits what you have to give. We will have lots of fun as we learn about God's recipes for living His way.

A brief overview of the 5 day (actually evening) lessons begins with (Day 1) the Israelites Celebrating Passover, and being ready to follow God's word. They did not know where God would lead them, but they did know they would no longer be slaves. They must only eat certain foods and be ready to leave on a moments notice. (Day 2) finds us studying the many festivals and holy days celebrated by God's people. They gave happily to the Lord with many sacrifices and kind

deeds to others, sharing what they had. (Day 3) takes us with Jesus as He celebrates Sukkot or the Festival of the Booths. This celebration honors God's gift of a good harvest and is still celebrated today in the Jewish community.

(Day 4) we go with Jesus to a Passover feast. Remember it has been many years since the angel of Death first passed over the homes of the Israelites when they were slaves, but they have never forgotten God's goodness. Our last day of lessons (Day 5), teaches us about celebrating the Festival of Weeks and Pentecost. (The Jewish word is Shavu'ot and also means the Festival of Ingathering (the harvest). It's celebration began after the Israelites were settled in the Promise Land, celebrating God's love forever.

We need helpers of all kinds. So please prayerfully consider helping out. It's a wonderful way to help our children celebrate the Bible and to learn God's word. Sign up sheets will be out soon so start thinking of ways you

Would like to be involved. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00pm and hope you will come and help us make this another memorable VBS program for our children.