



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

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Reverend Gary Brose

Pastor

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Pastoral Perspective

Dear Friends,

While going through some old files I ran across a clipping I had saved many years ago from a church leadership newspaper. The article is entitled “How to Help Our Children in Worship.” Much to my delight, we have been having a number of younger children in worship lately. In May, we will have the privilege of baptizing a new child into the church family. Our baptism liturgy includes a vow that we take as a congregation “to tell this child the good news of the gospel, to help him know all that Christ commands, and, by your fellowship, to strengthen his/her family ties with the household of God.” In May, we also celebrate Mothers’ Day. So when I found this article, I thought it appropriate to reprint it here in this newsletter:

One of our main interests in this life is to help our children and young people become responsible, maturing Christians. We want them to experience the joy of knowing Christ as their personal Savior and the abundant life which He offers. We want our children to understand why and how we worship God, and how to make that worship most effective. Our Sunday School, Church Training, and Children’s Choirs help our children to learn these things, but parents, grandparents and friends can be the most important influences. Here are some ideas for helping our children to develop as good worshippers.

1. Prepare the child: Before Sunday, talk to your child about how to act and react in worship. Share with the child why we sing, pray, give and preach.
2. Involve the child: When we sing, help him/her locate the hymn in the hymnal. Then with your finger point out the words as you sing. When we read the Bible, help your child locate the passage and follow the reading. This impresses upon the child the importance of paying attention.

3. Avoid disturbances: Be sure that your child has time for the restroom and for water before the service begins.

4. Sit up close: A natural tendency is to sit in the back so that the child will not disturb others. However, think positive; sit close to the front so that your child can see and hear what is happening.

5. Follow through: Discuss with your child the various aspects of the service while they are still fresh on his/her mind. This reinforces what is being taught and helps him/her to understand even more.

6. Love: Let your child know every day that you love him/her and that you want only the best for him/her.

7. Be patient: our children will not act like adults, but with constant love and help, they will become responsible, maturing Christians.

I love having children in worship. I love having them participate in the worship of the congregation. I’d rather hear their occasional cries and laughter than to listen to the silence of a church with no children coming to worship. And being a parent, I appreciated having a staffed, well maintained nursery where we could take our children when they became too disruptive. It happens!

I believe it is part of the vows we as a congregation take in baptism services to welcome, provide hospitality and offer support to our young families and youngest members. I believe in the ministry of encouragement to our young parents. I also know that we need help staffing our nursery. If 8 to 9 people would offer to staff the nursery, that would be once every other month. Not too big of a commitment; in fact, it may even be fun. Please sign up for a turn in the nursery. The signup sheet is in the hallway. You may find it to be a wonderful blessing!

Temporarily yours,
Gary

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Holy Week, What a Celebration!</i>	2
<i>Relay for Life</i>	3
<i>Confirmation Class Service Project</i>	3
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	4
<i>Sunday School Update</i>	4
<i>Church Calendar</i>	5
<i>Can You Find 16 Books of the Bible?</i>	6

Holy Week, What a Celebration!

Holy week has come and gone but the painful and sad days of Christ's last days on this earth are past and the beautiful memories of His triumph over sin and death linger with us. A big THANK YOU goes to Pastor Gary and all who helped make Holy Week special. Beginning with Palm Sunday we not only celebrated Jesus' entry into the Holy City, we welcomed three new members. Chase Brinkman, Shannon Brose, and Rebecca Waits faithfully attended the confirmation classes and professed their faith before the congregation. We now need to encourage these young people in their faith and help them become part of our church team. We also met *Peter*, Jesus' disciple, who denied knowing Him three times. Peter seemed crushed as he failed to stand up for his faith with his friend. But Peter was forgiven and went on to preach the word for many more years.

Maundy Thursday found us gathered, as Jesus and his disciples gathered, for a time of togetherness and a simple meal. The Bible talks about the Last Supper and how again, Jesus tried to explain to His disciples what was going to happen and how their faith would be shaken. Mostly they did not understand and were dismayed when He was taken to the cross.

On Good Friday we were again with Jesus through the darkest hours of pain and suffering. Pastor Gary and Pastor Kevin Waters led us in the sad service of *Tenebrae*, which is Latin for darkness or shadows. The purpose of *Tenebrae* is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. It is not a happy service, because the events portrayed are not happy. Again, the purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and the agony of the events leading to Christ's death on the cross. The service is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. The service begins with 13 lighted candles. As the scripture is read the candles are extinguished as we hear Judas in the garden pointing Jesus out to the soldiers. We relive the flight of the disciples as they realize their leader is being arrested, and more candles are blown out and we feel the hate of Jesus' enemies, the beatings, the crown of thorns placed on His head, and dragging the

heavy cross up the hill to Golgotha. The last candle, the Christ candle, is removed, leaving the church in darkness, as Christ is taken to the tomb. There is no benediction and the people leave the church in darkness. Some services end with a loud noise, symbolizing the earthquake God sent as Jesus took His last breath. It is a very moving and somber service.

Easter Day morning dawned gray and cloudy, but that did not stop our elation as we found the tomb empty and learned that Christ had risen! Our joy was portrayed as we decorated the cross with beautiful roses (thank you Mike Schepers) and we sang praises to God for His wonderful love. The service was followed by breakfast (thanks to all the hands who prepared the meal) and fellowship. The gathering of the church family is a great tribute as we share the love of the Lord.

Regular worship at 10 am was filled with more praises with special music by the choir (and thanks to Brocca Evans and Peter Keets and Jim Bronstrup) as we *Lifted High the Cross* and *Made a Joyful Noise* to honor our risen Savior. The sermon was "What We Believe" which helped us become more aware of our part in spreading the Word throughout the world. Two more anthems by the choir, *Christ Rising Again* and *Christ Is Alive* added to the Resurrection celebration, and we all left hopefully filled with the spirit and ready to share with all we meet. Hallelujah! Amen!

Egg Hunt

Just wanted to say THANKS again to all who filled eggs, donated prizes, hid the eggs, made cookies, and helped in other ways to give our kids a treat for Easter. Although this may be a secular part of Easter it's a big thrill just watching the faces of the little ones as they discover the joy of finding and opening the eggs. Getting prizes is always fun and sometimes kids these days just grow up too fast and miss some of the happier moments in their young lives. Thanks for giving of your blessings to give a blessing to others.

Can You Help?

Right now, in the beginning of May, the end of July looks far away. But, when it comes to putting together a great and inspiring VBS it takes lots of planning and willing hands, and much preparation. Have you volunteered your help to the Decorating Committee (see Carol Dick or Kathy Flynn) or asked what you can do to assist the Food Committee (see Marty Bivens or Sue Fields), or inquired what aids our teachers might need help with to make the classrooms come alive and reinforce the lessons (see Lauren Kairn, Kristie Howell or Mike Schepers), or volunteered to help the Game/Recreation person with set up each day (see Rebecca Howell) or seen what our crafty craft person (Susan Brose) may need in the way of donations or assembling pieces of the crafts we plan to use? Why haven't we heard from YOU? Or just come and see me, Anne Fritz, the director or Pastor Gary about taking part in making the lessons come alive each day. You know we will find a place where you can use your talents to glorify the Lord.

Thanks,
Anne

Relay for Life

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



**2011 Warren
County Relay for
Life**

Please remember to mark your calendars 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.

Planting Seeds! What Kind of Seeds Are You Planting?



I do not know who wrote this but I found it inspiring and thought

provoking. Hope you do too.

Planting a Seed: A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his Directors or one of his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now others were talking about their plants. But Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by--still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and fertilizing the soil. He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for

inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach. This was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room.

When Jim arrived he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed. A few felt sorry for him. When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "my, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring Jim to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I am a failure. Maybe he will have me fired!" When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed. Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down, except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold, this is your new Chief Executive Officer!" His name is Jim. Jim couldn't believe it. He hadn't even been able to grow his seed. "How could he be the new CEO?" the others asked.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead -- it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees, plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you, Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new CEO!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust. If you plant goodness, you will reap friends. If you plant humility, you will

reap greatness. If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment. If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective. If you plant hard work, you will reap success. If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation. So, be careful what you plant now, it will determine what you will reap later. AF

Food Pantry Update



Thank you once again for your generous donations to the food pantry. To date Bethel Murdoch Church has provided 1,092 lbs of food. to

the Morrow Food Pantry. We appreciate your continued support for this project.

Confirmation Class Service Project

The Confirmation Class will continue to collect bars of soap, diapers, tooth brushes and tooth paste for the victims of the March 11th earthquake/tsunami in northern Japan until Sunday, May 29th and deliver it to Mathew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash. Boxes are in the fellowship hall for you to place your items in. Thank you for your support.

YAH Luncheon



The YAH Luncheon group will be getting together once again on Friday, May 27th at 12:00pm. Watch for the May sign-up sheet and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor. Hope to see you there!

May 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!



"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"
Philippians 4:4

2	Sherry Riley	26	Mary Walker
7	Karl Walker	27	Zach Popp
11	Barry Fields	27	Michelle Trauger
14	Christian Kairn	28	Glenda Mulberry
14	Nancy McKeehan	28	Phyllis Reagan
17	Carl Ferrell	28	Mike & Anne Marie Rudkin
17	Kevin Howell	30	Gary Brose
18	David Schlemmer	31	Chuck Schebor, III
20	Chaz Schebor		

Are You Too Busy to Pray?

Several women have expressed an interest in another Women's Bible Study group. If you think you might like to learn how not to be 'too busy to pray', come to the Fellowship Hall at 7pm on Monday evenings and get involved with us as we examine our busy lives and where God is on our list of priorities. We had a preliminary meeting this past Monday to look over the lessons.

The material we will be using is Bill Hybels *Too Busy Not to Pray*. We are planning for the lessons to end in early June, to give us strength and guidance for the summer months. Check out Bill Hybels on the Internet, or just come and see what the lessons are all about. Hope to see you there on Monday evenings. *Anne*

Sunday School in May

Sunday school classes will again be offered for ages 3 to 10 the next 5 Sundays. Children will go to class with the teacher after the children's sermon in the sanctuary. The lesson for May 1st will be The Great Commission which is where Jesus instructs the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. They must tell the good news of Christ's victory over sin and death to all. They must teach the lessons of sharing their faith with others.

The lesson for Sunday, May 8 will be about the First Christians and life in the early church. We will learn how Christians care for one another and what we can do, even as children to show our love. This day also celebrates our mothers. Sunday, May 15th will center on sharing God's love at church and ways even children

can be involved. On May 22 we learn about caring for God's gift of trees, animals, flowers and all of nature. The last lesson before summer break will be about sharing God's love with Christians everywhere, and praying for the world's people on Sunday May 29. This is also Memorial Day weekend. Please plan to have your child participate in the lessons. Thank you for helping give the little ones a chance to make their faith grow.

On the Lighter Side: The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

Special Thanks

A special thank you to everyone that supplied food for the Lenten services and Sunrise Breakfast.

The Fellowship Committee

We Need Your Help!

Please consider helping with the Ice Cream Social in June, July, and August. All ages are welcome. Watch for a bulletin insert for ways you can help. The Fellowship Committee is asking that these be filled out and returned to a box that will be set up in the back hallway. Thanks!

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.

Easter Lilies

Thanks to everyone who purchased an Easter Lily to help beautify our Sanctuary. The cost was \$6.00 again this year. You may pay either Marty Bivens or Pat Stouder.

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

May 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <i>Worship Service 10:00am Canned Good Sunday!</i>	2 <i>Trustees 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	3	4	5 <i>National Day of Prayer!</i>	6	7
8 <i>Worship Service 10:00am Mother's Day!</i>	9 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	16 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	17	18	19 <i>Session 7:00pm</i>	20	21
22 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	23 <i>Women's Bible Study 7:00pm</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>YAH Luncheon 12:00pm</i>	28
29 <i>Worship Service 10:00am</i>	30 <i>Memorial Day!</i>	31				

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



Bethel Murdoch

Presbyterian Church
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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

Can You Find 16 Books of the Bible?

Do you like Word Searches? Try your hand at this one. It's a Bible Brain Teaser!

(Circle 16 books of the Bible as they appear in the paragraph. Watch out, this could be tricky!)

Submitted by: Pastor Gary

I ONCE MADE A REMARK ABOUT THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. IT WAS A LULU. KEPT PEOPLE LOOKING SO HARD FOR FACTS AND FOR OTHERS IT WAS A REVELATION. SOME WERE IN A JAM. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NAMES OF THE BOOKS WERE NOT CAPITALIZED. BUT THE TRUTH FINALLY STRUCK HOME TO NUMBERS OF READERS. TO OTHERS, IT WAS A REAL JOB. WE WANT IT TO BE A MOST FASCINATING FEW MOMENTS FOR YOU. YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. OTHERS MAY REQUIRE JUDGES TO HELP THEM. I WILL QUICKLY ADMIT IT USUALLY TAKES A MINISTER TO FIND ONE OF THEM AND THERE WILL BE LOUD LAMENTATIONS WHEN IT IS FOUND. A LITTLE LADY SAYS SHE BREWS A CUP OF TEA, SO SHE CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER. SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN COMPETE. RELAX NOW FOR THERE REALLY ARE SIXTEEN NAMES OF THE BOOKS IN THE BIBLE IN THIS STORY.