



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 10

November 2011

Reverend Deborah Uchtman
Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

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Greetings in the Name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

It is a joy and honor to be returning to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church as Pastor Deb! I am grateful to the Session for giving me the opportunity to walk with you once more.

With this opportunity comes many challenges for all of us. There is need for healing and reconciliation, the choir needs more members, the pews need to be fuller with friends and family, there is hope that more folks will join the fold, and people want to feel the Spirit growing within the congregation so that God's name will be glorified and Jesus Christ will be praised! There is a vision for this church to return to a vibrant and vital place, but I can not do this on my own. The only way to get there will be for us to work together.

So let us begin working together to bring God's kingdom into this world with a celebration! On Sunday, November 13th at 4

o'clock in the afternoon, BMPC and the Reverend Deborah Uchtman will have a **Covenant Celebration**. We will have many friends and supporters from the Presbytery of Cincinnati and Mid-Kentucky Presbytery leading us in worship. We will be blessed with the music of Jim Bronstrup, the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church and the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church combined choirs and the Men of Montgomery. And, as good Presbyterians, there will be food and refreshments following the service. Please plan on attending so that we can celebrate the beginning of this journey together!

In the mean time, we need to be praying for God's will to be done here at BMPC and then we must be ready to take action when we see the direction the Holy Spirit is guiding us. We must continue to strive to be faithful and obedient servants of Jesus Christ. Together, I believe we can bring more people to Christ!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Deb Uchtman

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Joint Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 20th

Please join the members of Bethel Murdoch, Pleasant Plain and Grace Presbyterian Churches as we worship and give "Thanks" for our many blessings! The service will be held at Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 20th. A light meal of soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided by the Fellowship Committee and served at 5:30pm, the worship service will

follow at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to fellowship together with our sister churches and a time to reflect and be thankful for all that God has given us, not just at Thanksgiving but for everyday.

We hope you will mark your calendars and plan on attending this special service. "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

Slow Me Down Lord by Wilfred A. Peterson

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me, amidst confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Help me to know the magic restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations....of slowing down to look at

a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise that I may know that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Let me look into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well. Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny. Amen.

A Flaming Torch

(author unknown, published IDEALS Sept., 1983)

Veterans Day, the eleventh of November, is observed as a legal holiday in the United States and Canada to honor all war veterans. From 1919 until 1954, the holiday was called Armistice Day in commemoration of the end of hostilities in 1918 and again in 1945, but the name Veterans Day was officially adopted in 1954.

On Veterans Day, Americans everywhere pause to remember the many patriots throughout the years who served our country to preserve peace, especially those who gave their lives. Religious services, ceremonies, and parades are typical Veterans Day observances in the cities and small villages across the country. Multitudes of flags are flown at half-mast that day, from sunrise to sunset.

Closely associated with Veterans Day is the image of the Unknown Soldier. In 1921 an unidentified American soldier,

who symbolized all the unknown war dead, was interred with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D. C. The white marble tomb was designated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It bears the inscription:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED
GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT
TO GOD

On Veterans Day in 1960, a torch with an eternal flame was placed beside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The flame had been lighted in a ceremony in Belgium and then brought to the United States. Its eternal light will forever keep alive the hope of Americans for a time when permanent peace will become a reality. Let us NEVER forget their sacrifices for the freedom we enjoy. God Bless America!

Choir Update Could You Help Us?

The choir is beginning practice the first Wednesday in November for the songs we will learn for the upcoming Christmas season. We're still on the lookout for more enthusiastic voices. Could you please lend us yours for a few weeks? We are working on having a positive attitude that God

will help us sound nearly as marvelous as the heavenly chorus in Bethlehem. But we sure could use a little help from everyone. There are no auditions or tests to pass, just join us at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, and we'll see what our awesome God can do.

A Great Time Had by All



Just a word of thanks to Kristie Howell and her 'staff' of about 15 people who put together a fantastic Halloween party for everyone. Fifty-one people were in attendance, and at least half were children. We had an abundance of cakes for the cake walk, tasty snacks, fun games, prizes for the most creative costumes, a pinata, a 'haunted house' and a bang-up balloon stomp at the end of the evening. There was scary music and lots of laughs. Wish you had been there.

Recycle

Thanks to everyone who continues to bring in empty ink cartridges for recycling. We appreciate your help!

Adult Education Update

A four week study of *Great Themes of the Bible*, began on Sunday, October 30th and we invite you to join us as we explore together the four overarching themes of the Bible as a whole. We look forward to seeing you at 9:45am on Sunday morning as we study God's Word together.

Spaghetti Dinner & Bake Sale



A very special thanks to everyone who helped or contributed items for the October 16th Spaghetti Dinner & Bake Sale. We made approximately \$600.00 from the combined sales of the dinner and baked goods. Great Job Everyone!!!

An Authentic Thanksgiving

by Pamela Kennedy (*IDEALS*, September, 2004)



Not long ago I thought it would be a fine idea to have a really authentic Thanksgiving. It would be just like that first Thanksgiving, with all the wonderful things we have come to love and cherish as traditional. My husband was not really up for my foray into the past, but suggested that the tradition of Thanksgiving-day football probably had its roots in the original holiday and should, therefore, be perpetuated at our annual event as well. I was pretty sure the Pilgrims and Indians didn't toss around the pigskin, but I told him I'd check. So I set out on my quest to recreate that first feast celebrated by our stalwart ancestors nearly four centuries ago.

My initial discovery was that the first Thanksgiving really wasn't. It was a Harvest Feast and when the conservative Protestant Pilgrims spoke of thanksgiving they meant a religious time of fasting and prayer. The big feast they had in 1621 was more of a celebration that they had survived the first year and an acknowledgement that they had God to thank for it. And the idea that the Pilgrims fixed dinner for a few visiting Indians was not quite right either. The real story is that there were almost twice as many Indians as Pilgrims and the Wampanoags brought most of the food. According to the accounts written by Governor Bradford, several Pilgrim men provided wild ducks and geese, but it was the Indian hunters who brought five deer to feed the crowd. Also, there were no mashed potatoes and gravy. Potatoes had only recently been discovered by the English and most still considered the tubers poisonous. They did have pumpkins, but didn't make them into pies. Their flour had run out and there was no milk as there were no cows in Plymouth. They had an abundance of fish, eels, lobster and clams. I cannot imagine my family sitting down to a feast of savory eels. Cranberries were in short supply, and the fresh veggies were

watercress, boiled squash and beans. Also absent were the fluffy Parkerhouse rolls, just some fried bread made from ground corn. My research turned up an interesting discovery; in 1621, at the time of this feast there were only four adult women left in the colony. That meant that at this feast for 50 English settlers and 90 Indians the menfolk must have helped with the cooking.

Another fact came to light as I found that the feast wasn't just a Thursday afternoon event. The festivities continued for three days. What do you do with 150 guests who won't leave? Well, it seems my husband was right. They played sports. Not football, of course, but sharp-shooting contests with arrows and muskets, some ball games and a footrace or two. With each new discovery I became more disenchanted. Pilgrims didn't dress all in black and there were no starched collars. No damask cloths on the long wooden tables. And it wasn't even in November. The harvest celebration wasn't an idea unique to the Pilgrims. The Indians had long celebrated the gathering of the crops with a feast. The tradition was neither tied to recipes or specific activities, but to the common spirit of humanity that longs to express gratitude to the One who provides and protects.

That's when I realized that my Thanksgiving could be authentic after all. So I roasted the turkey, mashed the potatoes, simmered my gravy, smothered the sweet potatoes in brown sugar. I jelled my cranberries and baked the pumpkin pies. And when we sat down to dinner, just as our ancestors have done for hundreds of years, we joined hands and thanked our Creator for the blessings of provision and protection. And when the meal ended, while the women cleaned up the kitchen and packed away the tasty leftovers, our male Pilgrims and braves gathered around the glow of the television to celebrate the traditional conclusion of any authentic Thanksgiving... a sporting contest between two worthy opponents.

(edited by Anne Fritz)

Food Pantry



One Hundred Fifty

Two pounds of food was delivered to the Morrow Food Pantry on Monday, October 25th, 2011. The total amount delivered to date is **1, 889 lbs.!** We continue the challenge to see if we can make it 1 TON of food donated by the end of November. We're only **111 lbs** from our goal!

As we plan our own holiday meals, please consider purchasing an extra item or two to add to our barrel. Any contribution is appreciated, no matter how small.

Items needed for the upcoming holidays, might include, boxed stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, boxed mashed potatoes, canned gravy, canned pumpkin, canned sweet potatoes and corn bread mix. Thank you again for your support! You've done an awesome job and together we CAN make a difference.

A special thanks also to Sue Fields who faithfully takes our donated food items to the pantry each month. If you would be willing to help with this task please let Sue know.

Women's Advent



Our Women's Advent Service will be held on Wednesday, December 7th, with food and fellowship beginning at 7:00pm and the worship service to follow at 7:45 pm. Our program this year is "Do You Have Room for A Savior". This will be the retelling of Christ's birth from six women's perspectives and how the birth of the Christ Child affected their lives. If you are interested in helping with other aspects of the program, it's not too late! Please let someone on the Women's Advent Committee know.

Invite a friend or neighbor so they too can mark their calendar's now. We hope each of you will come and experience the wonder of Christ's birth with us this year! We have a wonderful program planned.

November 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!

1	Dana Burkhammer	21	Kenneth Edward Ross
1	John Howell	22	Tim Compson
5	Sarah Volkman	23	Kathy Flynn
8	Carol Dick	24	JT Tullis
9	Kristin Compson	25	Russ Hall
11	Tom & Margie VanOsdol	27	Nick Pace
13	Terry Stouder	28	Skip Keiser
14	Libbey Walker	29	Dave Kuyper
15	Jessica Uchtman	30	Mike Rudkin
21	Adam Goodrich		

Special Thanks

To the Congregation,

Thank you for making me feel so welcome on my visit to your church.

I was able to visit on September 11th and everyone was so nice. I truly felt welcome. When I am in the area I will visit your church again.

Thanks again and may God Bless and keep you all in his care.

Sincerely,
Beverly Ferrell

A Farmer's Song of Thankfulness

written by Hazel Rugg

Thank you, Lord, for all the beauty
That we've seen throughout this fall...
Ripened corn for winter's feeding
Standing strong and firm and tall;
Goldenrod of wondrous beauty
Bending o'er d dusty road;
Apple trees and peach trees bending
Neath a vast, delicious load;
Trees all lovely, gold and crimson,
Filled with friendly wild birdsong;
Wild geese flying through the heavens
In a moving vee-shaped throng;
Golden pumpkins, most all sizes,
Dotting farmland here and there,
While the magic scent of autumn
Fills the warm, uplifting air.
O'er each field and hill and valley
Of this earth where farmers trod,
There's a hallowed sheen of glory
And a nearness of our God.

Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 26th to help decorate our tree and Sanctuary for the holiday season.

What's Cookin' at BMPC?

Cranberry Pecan Stuffing

* 13 Servings

* Prep: 30 min. Bake: 40 min.

Ingredients

- * 1 cup orange juice
- * 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- * 1/2 pound bulk pork sausage
- * 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- * 3 celery ribs, chopped
- * 1 large onion, chopped
- * 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- * 6 cups seasoned stuffing cubes
- * 1 medium tart apple, peeled and finely chopped
- * 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- * 1/4 teaspoon salt
- * 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- * 3/4 to 1 cup chicken broth

Directions:

In a small saucepan, bring orange juice and cranberries to a boil. Remove

from the heat; let stand for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, cook sausage until no longer pink; drain. Transfer to a large bowl.

* In the same skillet, melt butter. Add celery and onion; saute until tender. Stir in poultry seasoning.

* Add to sausage mixture. Stir in the stuffing cubes, orange juice mixture, apple, pecans, salt, pepper and enough broth to reach desired moistness.

* Transfer to a greased 13-in.x 9-in. baking dish. Cover and bake at 325° for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10-15 minutes longer or until lightly browned. Yield: 13 servings (3/4 cup each).

Editor's Note: This recipe makes enough stuffing to stuff a 14-pound turkey. Bake until a meat thermometer reads 180° for turkey and 165° for stuffing.

<http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/Cranberry-Pecan-Stuffing>

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

November 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 <i>Scouts</i>	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 10:45am Canned Good Sunday!</i>	7 <i>Women's Advent Meeting 7:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:30pm</i>	8 <i>Election Day! Presbytery Meeting Office Closed!</i>	9 <i>Choir 7:00pm Office Hours 9:00am-</i>	10 <i>Session Meeting 7:00pm Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm</i>	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12
13 <i>Worship Service 10:45am Covenant Service 4:00pm</i>	14 <i>Women's Advent Meeting 7:00pm</i>	15 <i>Scouts</i>	16 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>Worship Service 10:45am Thanksgiving Service/Dinner 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm</i>	21 <i>Women's Advent Meeting 7:00pm</i>	22 <i>Scouts</i>	23 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	24 <i>Thanksgiving Day! Wilson Family Thanksgiving</i>	25	26 <i>Hanging of the Greens! 10:00am</i>
27 <i>Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 10:45am 1st Sunday of Advent</i>	28 <i>Women's Advent Meeting 7:00pm</i>	29 <i>Scouts</i>	30 <i>Choir 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

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

Hymn History, "Count Your Blessings"

"Count your Blessings" has always been a best-loved thanksgiving song. It was written by Johnson Oatman, Jr., and composed by Edwin Excell who created the tune for the hymn. American Hymn-writer Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Rev. Johnson Oatman, Jr., born on 21st April 1856, near Medford, New Jersey, was one of the important and prolific gospel song writers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As a child Oatman Junior became acquainted with the hymns of the church through the singing talents of his father.

Aged 19, Oatman joined the Methodist Church and years later, granted a license to preach in local Methodist congregations. His mainstream career was in a mercantile business and later as administrator for a large insurance company in New Jersey. At the same time, he wrote over 5,000 hymn texts.

"Count your Blessings" is generally considered to be Oatman's finest hymn. It

first appeared in Songs for Young People, compiled and published by Edwin O. Excell in 1897. It has been sung all over the world. One writer has stated, "Like a beam of sunlight it has brightened up the dark places of the earth."

"Count Your Blessings" was received most overwhelmingly in Great Britain. The London Daily, in giving an account of a meeting presided over by Gypsy Smith, reported, "Mr. Smith announced the hymn 'Count Your Blessings.' He said, "In South London the men sing it, the boys whistle it, and the women rock their babies to sleep on this hymn." During the revival in Wales it was one of the hymns sung at every service.

To quote the Roman orator and writer Cicero:
"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues."

<http://telasiado.suite101.com/count-your-blessings-hymn-a34399>

"Count Your Blessings" Lyrics
Second Stanza

"Are you ever burdened with a load of care?

Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Count your many blessings every doubt will fly,

And you will be singing as the days go by.

Chorus:

Count your blessings

Name them one by one;

Count your many blessings

See what God hath done."

