



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 4, Issue 6

October 2009

Reverend Frank Rupnik
Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

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To the Bethel Murdoch Family,
I hope you all enjoyed last month's Reignition Sunday and our 195th Anniversary Celebration. I know I did. As part of our big kick-off and planning for next year and with the goal of growing in our faith, we decided that instead of doing more, we are going to do less. Our mission is to relax and fall in love with God, either for the first time or all over again. We'll continue to have a lot of programs, as usual, but we will be scaling back in some areas. Don't worry, there will still be plenty of opportunities to be involved and stay busy, but the hope is that by being intentional in cutting back, it will give our members a chance to breathe and grow deeper in their faith.

There are several opportunities to grow. I have started up a new Adult Sunday School class from 9:45-10:30. We are working through the book, When Skeptics Ask. It answers some great questions we often get from

friends and coworkers about our faith. You don't not have to read the book and each week it's a different chapter, so you won't be lost if you miss a couple. Steve Helterbride is also leading a study on the Spiritual Gifts on Monday nights after the Prayer Group. You can come for both or one or the other. This month, we also have our Hike for Hospice on the 3rd, a Men's Retreat on the 10th, and Family Fun Night on the 17th. All offer great opportunities for fellowship.

It's a wonderful time to start coming to church (or coming back again). Please take a moment to invite a friend or someone you haven't seen in the pew for a while. Our membership numbers are reaching an all-time high, with 10 people joining last month, along with 8 Baptisms over the summer. It's a great time to be a part of this church.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank

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Q&A – Inquiring Minds Want to Know:

Q: I really liked worshipping at 10:00 am over the summer, is there anyway we could make it that time year round?

A: Yes and No. The earlier time works during the summer months, because we don't have Sunday school or Choir beforehand. With Sunday school being at 9:45, we really need the worship time to be later. We could move Sunday school to 8:30, but that's too early for a lot of people. Please let Pastor Frank or the Chair of the Worship Committee Mike Schepers know your opinion one way or the other.

Q: I noticed that the children now stay in the Sanctuary during church, but I thought they had Sunday school, did the time change? Why?

A: Children's Sunday School is now before church at the same time as Adult Sunday

School. This allows Adults and their children to both learn at a level appropriate for them, but also to be in worship together as a family. It also enables Sunday school teachers to not only teach, but also experience worship as well. In the past, they missed the second half of the service. Now they get both.

Q: The Nursery looks great, when is it open, who watches the children, and how old do they have to be before they can go back there?

A: The Nursery is open during worship and it is staffed by rotating volunteers. Children ages 3 and under may be dropped off beforehand or during the service. We ask that children older than 3 stay with you, as the Nursery has limited space and due to the vast differences in physical size and developmental abilities. We also ask

Q & A Continued

that you pick your children back up again in a timely manner, so the nursery volunteer can be released. If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Anne Fritz.

Hike for Hospice

The BMPC Team will meet at the Church at 9:00am - 9:15am on Saturday to car pool to the Hospice of Cincinnati location for the Hike for Hospice. The Team has been pre-registered but we can always use extra walkers. If you'd like to walk or make a donation to this cause, please let me know! Blessings, Kathy Flynn

Choir News

The BMPC Choir is alive and practicing on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p. m. Jim is in the process of choosing the material for our Christmas cantata and practice for that will soon begin, but there are still holes that need to be filled and many more voices are needed. If you feel that you cannot participate as a regular choir member, then please become a person who consistently prays for the choir members, for others who may feel called to become a member and for God to strengthen our voices as we praise Him in song. Thanks, Anne

Men's Brunch/ Retreat



Attention All Men!

BMPC is planning its first Men's Brunch/Retreat on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00am.

They will be meeting at Bob Evans Restaurant in Kings Mills. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the men at BMPC to take a few hours of their Saturday morning and enjoy great fellowship together. Hope to see you there!

Visitors from Afar

I would like to share with you three events that happened recently to let you know that Bethel Murdoch is known far and wide. The end of July Joel Robinson, son of former pastor Rev. Bruce Robinson, asked to visit the church. Joel and his family now live in Boise, Idaho and they were in Ohio for his wife's family reunion in upper Ohio. The Robinson's lived in the manse when Rev. Bruce pastored both churches when we were yoked with the Pleasant Plain church. Joel graduated from LMHS. He was very happy to see the changes and growth in the church and even got to see his old room in the manse. His message to BMPC was "keep up the good work!"

The first part of September we received another visitor from near the Salt Lake City, Utah area. Lynn Bernhard and his wife were in the area, and had never been to BMPC but knew that his 2nd great-grandfather had been a pastor at this church.. It turns out that his 2nd great-grandfather was Rev. Isaac Jackson Cushman who was pastor at Bethel Murdoch during the Civil War (1860-1881). That means he was also the pastor when the current sanctuary was built with financial help from Shakespearian

actor James Murdoch. Lynn was very happy to see the church and took lots of pictures and gathered some information. We then went to visit Murdoch cemetery and found Isaac, his wife and a child buried in the old part not far from the grave of Samuel B. Walker who gave the ground for the current site of the church.

The third visit from afar happened this past weekend when Mrs. Bonnie Walker Vineyard from Luray, Missouri was in town for the Walker Family Reunion. Bonnie is the oldest sister of Alvin Walker, Shelby Gulliford (of South Carolina), Martha Bivens and Susan Fields. Bonnie still plays the organ at her home church as she did when she lived here in Ohio and attended Bethel Murdoch more than 40 years ago. The Walker children grew up in the house to the right of the church. Their father, Clifford Walker, can be seen as a young boy in the 1914 picture of the 100th anniversary of the church on the wall of the fellowship hall. Also in that picture is Karl Walker's father and Terry Stouder's mother. Bonnie says "one of the best parts of her visit to Ohio was getting to play the organ in Murdoch church one more time". Anne

CE Progress Report

Just a note to let you know that after three weeks the Sunday School classes are prospering and growing. Thanks for your support regarding the time change as we now offer Christian Education for ages 3-5 and ages 6-10 as well as adult classes at 9:45 am every Sunday morning. Classes are approximately 45 minutes and end around 10:30 am. If you haven't been able to attend as yet, you're always welcome. We still have room. The biggest surprise is that the Adult Class, taught by Pastor Frank has the largest attendance! The CE Committee felt the time change was necessary because many of our teachers who volunteered every Sunday for years felt they needed to be in the worship services and were missing out on messages for their spiritual growth. We now have enough

teachers and nursery helpers for the time being, but never fear, you can still be part of special events and undertakings. No one's talents will be turned away. Currently CE is working on a mini-Christmas program, a Valentine's party and possibly writing our own curriculum for VBS. Let us hear from you. And many thanks to all current helpers for spreading the words of Jesus to all. Anne Fritz

Delicious Devotions

Another Delicious Devotions is being planned for sometime in October. Please watch for more information in your bulletin insert or see Melody Volkman or Carol Helterbride. Thanks!

Handy Little Chart

God has a positive answer:

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

Leaving for Campton



Once again we will be helping to fill a trailer headed for Campton, Kentucky. All donations of gently used clothing, household items, and small things such as toys and gift items must be received no later than Saturday, October 17th by 9 a.m. We will also be sending along some canned goods for their small food pantry. You have been so generous and giving in our efforts to serve our brothers and sisters in this part of Appalachia this past year and all your endeavors

have been much appreciated. I also believe that Stephanie Rupnik has forms such as the Goodwill store gives out so that your donations may be counted when you file your taxes. We are very blessed. Let us be a blessing and share what we can with others. Thank you for your wonderful support. Anne Fritz

Congratulations



Congratulations to Doug & Debbie Wimer on the birth of their son, Shawn David Wimer. Shawn was born on Sept. 2, 2009 and is the grandson of Sherry Riley.

Those We Care About And Miss

William Anthony (Tony) Robinson
Largo Health and Rehab Center
Room 123
9035 Brian Dairy Road
Largo, Florida 33777

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

Sherry Riley
7190 Shiloh Road
Goshen, OH 45122

Viola VanOsdol
10065 Morrow Cozaddale Rd
Morrow, Oh 45152

Floyd Denney
Meadow Brook Care Ctr.
8211 Weller Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45242

2LTMichelle Trauger
P O Box 12332
Ft. Huachuca, AZ 85670-2332

Letter from Michelle

Dear Friends and Family of BMPC,
Just wanted to check in and give everyone an update on my new life in the Army . Arizona is so much different than life in Ohio. It is very hard to adjust to being 3 hours behind and it also makes it hard to stay in contact with family and friends at home. I haven't been able to find a church out here that is as loving and welcoming as Bethel Murdoch but for now I am going to services on post. I will be in Arizona for longer than I had originally thought and I am just trying to make this place as much like home as I can. I was especially sad that I missed all the ice cream socials and fun moments of summer spent with my church family. Hopefully soon I will be able to find that kind of comfort and friendship here. I hope all is well with all of you back home. I am looking forward to coming to church next time I am home.

2LTMichelle E. Trauger

Welcome New Members

BMPC welcomed ten new members to it's church family in September. The following people have been received into the membership of Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church:

Ron Baker
Tim & Kristin Compson
Vickie & Mackenzie Dobbs
Mike & Linda Hoban
Mike & Debbie Johnston
Jo Little

We welcome each of you and pray you will be blessed with many new friendships. We also hope your faith will continue to grow .with us and we celebrate your decision to become a part of our church family.

October 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!

- 3 **Jim & Susan Bronstrup**
- 5 **Gayle & Glenda Mulberry**
- 5 **Viola VanOsdol**
- 5 **Sandy Hale**
- 7 **Stephanie Hassert**
- 7 **Bob Walker**
- 11 **Margie VanOsdol**
- 11 **Dale Farnsley**

“Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.”
Psalm 143: 8

- 12 **Chris & Stephanie Rolke**
- 13 **Gretchen Hoskins**
- 13 **Marcie Goodrich**
- 14 **Velvet Faber**
- 17 **Phoebe Eikelberger**
- 23 **Marianne O'Brien**
- 28 **Nick Volkman**
- 30 **Dale & Heidi Farnsley**
- 31 **Pat Keiser**

Remembering a Gentle Man, Al Haller

Quietly present but brimming with knowledge and ideas, Al Haller kept right on sharing his talents with his family, friends and church. Steeped in experience as a ham radio professional, Al was honored by his colleagues and friends as memories were shared on September 18, 2009 at his Celebration of Life Service here at Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church. Those present expressed appreciation for this United States Navy Veteran, loving husband, proud father, ham radio enthusiast, loyal employee and businessman, and servant of Christ in persistently studying the Bible and faithfully attending our Adult Bible studies. All of us can think of his reliable steadfastness in being in our Sunday services and waiting at the door to greet his special friends with a handshake, sweet words and hugs.

We knew Ruth and Al when we all attended Armstrong Chapel and I lived near them in Indian Hill on Miami Avenue years ago. After finding their beautiful 19th century farm house on Schlottman Road in 1959, Ruth started attending our church. She was doing bookkeeping and secretarial work for the church after years of volunteer work, horseback riding and 4-H leadership. After a while, being the busy, in-

involved person she was, Ruth got Al involved in the church also. He served in many capacities and offices and was deeply committed to the building of the addition to the church. He was still serving on Committees in 2008 and offered suggestions and background to the Outreach Committee.

Devoted to his wife, her loss was a stunning blow. I had the privilege to be with him on occasion and to pray with them in the last hour of Ruth's life. I wrote of the fact that he was a controlled man except when he spoke of his love of his wife. Always the tears would come to his eyes and my first thought, when I learned of his death, was the joy that must have occurred in heaven when the two of them were together again.

The family chose the song, "In The Garden" as a selection for the service. The beautiful words were so special as we could think of these two devoted, giving Christians. Now they have eternity together and know the joy expressed in that beautiful old hymn of walking, talking and knowing that they are together His own forever.

In the midst of our loss we give thanks to God for the blessings we gained from having Ruth and Al Haller as a part of our church's legacy.

Carol Cobb Sept. 28, 2009

Family Fun Night

Mark your Calendar for October 17
The Fellowship Committee is planning Family Fun Night for Saturday, October 17th. It will begin at 5 PM. If the weather cooperates, we are planning on a campfire to roast hot dogs. If you are planning to attend, please bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

Halloween Party



A Halloween party is scheduled for the youngsters for Saturday, October 31st from 2 - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and there will be fun games for all ages. Cakes will be needed for the cake walk. If you would like to donate, help with the games or just come and have fun contact Kris Howell or Stephanie Rupnik.

Angel Food Ministry



As part of our Angel Food ministry, we receive \$1 back from the Angel Food organization for every unit that we sell to be used for a mission of our choice. Bethel

Murdoch would like to take the money we have earned so far to give some needy families a full Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. We will be giving away five Thanksgiving meals from Angel Food that consist of: 7 lb Perdue Roaster, 2.5 lb Boneless Ham, 2 lb. Frozen Diced Sweet Potatoes, 3.5 lb Frozen Corn Cobbett's, 2 lb. Frozen Green Beans, 1 lb. Frozen Cranberries, 17 oz. Ready to Cook Corn Bread Dressing, 8 ct. Heat and Serve Large Dinner Rolls, 4.5 oz. Brown Gravy Mix, 1 Dessert Item (Pie or Cake), 1 Recipe Sheet with Scripture. Please talk to Stephanie if you know of a family within our church or a family or friend that could really use some food this holiday season.

October 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 <i>YAH Luncheon 12:00pm</i>	2	3 <i>Hike for Hospice 9:00am</i>
4 <i>Worship Service 10:45am</i>	5 <i>Prayer Group 7:00pm Bowling 7:00pm</i>	6	7 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	8	9	10 <i>Men's Brunch 10:00am</i> <i>Young Families Event 5:00pm</i> <i>Angel Food Order Deadline</i>
11 <i>Worship Service 10:45am</i>	12 <i>Prayer Group 7:00pm Bowling 7:00pm</i>	13	14 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	15 <i>Session 6:30pm</i>	16	17 <i>Family Fun Night 5:00pm Angel Food Pick-up</i>
18 <i>Worship Service 10:45am</i>	19 <i>Prayer Group 7:00pm Bowling 7:00pm</i>	20	21 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	22	23	24 <i>Leadership Retreat 9am-12pm</i>
25 <i>Worship Service 10:45am</i>	26 <i>Prayer Group 7:00pm Bowling 7:00pm</i>	27	28 <i>Choir 7:00pm</i>	29	30	31 <i>Halloween Party 2-4pm</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 “In the Garden”

C. Austin Miles writes his own story on how the words were written to "In the Garden." "One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the darkroom where I kept my photographic equipment and organ. I drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20 . . . That meeting of Jesus and Mary had lost none of its power to charm. As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life, when she knelt before her Lord, and cried "Rabboni!" . . . Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music."
(From Forty Gospel Hymn Stories, by Sanville)

This hymn was sung in the movie Places in the Heart, which won two Academy Awards in 1984.

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

(refrain)
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

