



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 9

October 2011

Reverend Gary Brose
Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

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Dear Friends,

October 16th will be a significant Sunday in the life of this congregation. The Fellowship committee will be initiating a monthly fellowship dinner. And for this first dinner, Little Miami's Select Women's Chorus will be performing here at Bethel Murdoch. Some of you heard this group at the June Ice Cream Social. They are a phenomenal blend of voices and in the rich acoustics of this sanctuary, I guarantee they will melt your heart! Sarah Baker is their director. Sarah was organist at Grace Presbyterian and currently serves Heritage in this capacity. But over the past couple of years I have been impressed with her skill as a voice coach in her job as Choir Director at Little Miami. With their development and success over the past year, the chorus has been invited to participate in the World Choir Games to be held in Cincinnati next summer. A great honor indeed. As you may realize, the music program has no budget. A freewill offering will be received to help furnish music and other needs of the program. I hope you will come out and support the choral program of Little Miami.

October 16th, if the way continues to be clear (a presbytery term!), will also be my last Sunday as your Interim Pastor. The past Sunday, the congregation received a report from Session/Council that they have extended an invitation to Rev. Deb Uchtman to serve as State Supply of Bethel Murdoch.

Pastor Deb, of course, is no stranger, having served this congregation when Pastor Frank was deployed. And I should leave it to her to introduce herself to you.

During the past year, it has been my privilege to walk with you during this transitional journey. I appreciate how you welcomed me and my family into your fellowship. I think we made some progress in the so called interim tasks. But there is still work to do. Being a vibrant fellowship of believers always involves some work. I am optimistic about the future of Bethel Murdoch. You are a friendly group of people who care deeply for each other. As Deb begins her ministry here, I encourage you to be open to the vision of the church that she will bring. Look for new ways to be the church of Christ in this community. Stretch yourselves to find the mission to which God is calling you. I am sure we won't be complete strangers, but for this next stretch of your pilgrimage as a congregation you will be in Deb's capable hands. I will be cheering for you from the sidelines.

I pray God's richest blessings upon you and trust that God is able to complete the good work that God is doing in your midst. I pray God's peace upon you as you seek to walk the paths that God sets before you.

Temporarily yours,

Gary

Spaghetti Dinner On Sunday, Oct. 16th

The Fellowship Committee will host a **spaghetti dinner** on Sunday, Oct. 16th, all are invited to listen to the Little Miami Women's Select Chorus at 4PM in the Sanctuary before the dinner begins. Food will be served from 5 until 6:30PM. Our menu will consist

of spaghetti, salad, a bread stick, drink, and dessert for \$5.00. Children under 12 are \$3.00. So, please plan to attend and help us welcome back the LM Women's choir. A freewill offering will be received for the choir. Hope to see you there!!!

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Sunday School Off To A Good Start

On the morning of September 11 we began to offer classes for adults and children at 9:45 am. Pastor Gary is teaching the adult class with a video series entitled **24 Hours that Changed the World**, based on the last 24 hours of the life of Christ on earth. The average attendance in this class has been about 8 each week, with time for questions and comments after the short video clip. There is still room for more

students in this class. Meanwhile the classes for children are getting off to a slower start. The first week the lesson began with the creation story and we talked about all the wonderful things God made for us to enjoy. We certainly would welcome more children to participate in the lessons each week. Do you know a child who would like to learn about Jesus? Bring them on Sunday mornings; the door is open.

On The Lighter Side

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

World Wide Communion Sunday ~Living Our Faith~

Celebrated on the first Sunday in October since 1936, the day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice, and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day we are called to serve in a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

Originated in 1936 by the Presbyterian Church (USA), this special Sunday was celebrated for the first time in the US and in Presbyterian churches overseas. From the beginning it was planned so other denominations could make use of it, and after a few years the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. Now called World Communion Sunday, the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) first became associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940.

How can we "live our faith"? In an article in the publication *These Days* (July-Sept, 2011) a daily devotional aid. (available in our church on the shelves at the entrance to our Fellowship Hall), Betty Meadows, who is in her 14th year as the general presbyter of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, writes about a spirituality that meets today's challenges. "Christianity is not about gaining human power or political power or money. It is a way of life that reflects Jesus Christ. There is a powerful message in Romans 8:29 that says Chris-

tians are "predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ." We are predestined to be like Christ in and for the world."

"No, we are not God. But our actions are to reflect the very actions of Jesus Christ. We are to live so that others have life and have it abundantly, as in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and setting prisoners free." Betty reflects on the life of a friend, who was a Methodist, who in his retirement visited a nursing home almost every day. He held hands, read Scripture and loved those who could no longer walk or hold a conversation. Even after he developed leukemia, on his good days, he still went to the nursing home. Two weeks before he died, he was visiting with those who were strapped into wheelchairs. At his funeral he was remembered as a man who made the kingdom tangible in his very being. His life became a symbol for Betty of one person's response to the love and grace of Jesus Christ." His Christian journey had transformed him. The very power of the Holy Spirit is a transformative power that not only helps shape us into the people we were created to be but also helps us transform the lives of others.

As a congregation here at Bethel Murdock we have been collectively feeding the hungry and clothing those in need, and reaching out to the community around us. But is there more we could or should be doing? Have we stopped or ignored the outstretched hand in the nursing home? Could we have given a

smile or a hug, but we didn't? Where could we have helped, or ministered but let the opportunity pass by? Dear God, help us to live our faith and be your hands, feet and heart on our journey here on earth. Amen.

*On World Communion Sunday
we give thanks that the table is open to all.*

Recycle 4 \$\$\$\$



Please remember we are continuing to collect your empty ink or toner cartridges to recycle if you are not currently taking advantage of this savings. They can be dropped off in the church office at any time. All brands of inkjet and toner cartridges will be accepted. We have been able to return these to Office Max and receive \$3.00 per cartridge and this money has been used to purchase paper, labels, etc. and also help defray the cost of printing of our monthly newsletter. We have been able to cut our costs significantly for these materials using this project.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with this fundraiser in the past. We appreciate your efforts and continued support.

Just P. U. S. H. !!!

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might...

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might! Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man's weary mind. (He will do it every time!) "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved." Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort, and that will be good enough." That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through

opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock.."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves the mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong.....
Just P.U.S.H.

When the job gets you down.....Just P. U.S.H.

When people don't do as you think they should.....Just P.U.S.H.

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due.....Just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you.....Just P.U.S.H.

P = Pray

U = Until

S = Something

H = Happens

Though no one can go back and make a **brand new start**, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."
May God Bless You.

YAH'S October Luncheon



November. The December date has been scheduled for Friday, December 2nd. Please plan on attending and watch for the sign-up sheets so Sue & Phyllis will know how many to plan for. Thanks!

Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 28th for the next YAH Luncheon at 12:00pm. The group will not be meeting during the month of

Food Pantry



The number of people who rely on the pantry to help them through tough times continues to grow especially without the assistance of Angel Food Ministries, who were not able to provide their services for the month of September. This will in effect make relying on the local food pantries even more of a necessity for some families.

We were able to donate one hundred twenty four lbs. of food to the Morrow Food Panty in September. Thanks to everyone who continues to help with this effort. Our total amount given since November 2010 has been **1, 737 lbs.!** We would like to challenge you to see if we can make it **1 TON of food donated by our November** anniversary date. We're only 263 lbs from our goal! Please start watching for items on sale that could be donated for the upcoming holiday season as it approaches. These items 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!

Women's Advent



After the first organizational meeting to plan this years program we have in place a date, which will be Wednesday, December 7th, we have chosen a theme which is "Do You Have Room for A Savior", and some of the characters have been given a script to study. But there is much more to do and many hands are needed to insure a successful evening of fellowship and worship in preparation for the Advent Season. Inquire how you can put your talents to use, and see how God uses all of us to bring His message of the coming of the Christ Child to not just Bethel Murdoch, but the community and beyond. And prayers are always welcome too. Watch for meeting times and make room in your schedule for the Savior.

October 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!

- 3 Jim & Susan Bronstrup
- 5 Gayle & Glenda Mulberry
- 11 Dale Farnsley
- 12 Chris & Stephanie Rolke
- 13 Marcie Goodrich
- 17 Florence (Phoebe) Eikelberger
- 18 Jo & John Ford
- 28 Nick Volkman
- 31 Pat Keiser

God knew us
 Before we were formed
 Before there was life
 Before we were born
 He has a purpose
 For each one of us
 If we place in Him
 Our hope and trust
 So focus on Him
 Especially today
 And know that you are
 Blessed in every way.

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Special Thanks

Dear friends,

I want to thank everyone who sent cards, emails, expressed personal words of sympathy, and offered prayers on behalf of myself and my family during our recent time of grief. The loss of a loved one is always difficult, even for those of us who work with death and dying on a daily basis. And although I know where my mother is and am happy for her that her pain and suffering is over, I still miss her very much. But God has brought comfort into my heart through your support. Thank you so much.

Gary and Susan, Bethany and Shannon

One Day at a Time

The most useless thing to do
 The greatest joy
 The greatest loss
 The most satisfying work
 The ugliest personality trait
 The most endangered species
 The greatest 'shot in the arm'
 The greatest problem to overcome
 The most effective sleeping pill
 The most crippling failure disease
 The most powerful force in life
 The most dangerous pariah
 The world's most incredible computer
 The worst thing to be without
 The deadliest weapon
 The two most powerful words
 The greatest asset
 The most worthless emotion
 The most prized possession
 The most beautiful attire
 The most powerful channel of communication
 The most contagious spirit
 The most important thing in my life
 Have a Great Day!

Worry
 Giving
 Loss of Self-Respect
 Helping Others
 Selfishness
 Dedicated Leaders
 Encouragement
 Fear
 Peace of Mind
 Excuses
 Love
 A Gossiper
 The Brain
 Hope
 The Tongue
 I Can
 Faith
 Self-Pity
 Integrity
 A Smile
 Prayer
 Enthusiasm
 God

♪ Sing, Sing A Song ♪

The choir continues to look for more voices to help with our Sunday morning worship services and this years upcoming Christmas Cantata. You don't need to be a trained vocalist, but if you simply love to sing, please consider joining them. They will be more than willing to find a place for you and all you need is to be willing to invest the time and effort by attending rehearsals each week.

It's been said when you sing in church you are actually praying twice. So, if you don't feel that you want to join them up front, please feel free to help them by singing along each Sunday from the pews. Remember each of us are to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord" Serve the Lord with Gladness! Come into His presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1,2

....Your BMPC family would like to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to our music program. Sometimes we forget Thank-you!

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

October 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 <i>Sunday</i> School 9:45 Worship Service 10:45m Canned Good Sunday!	3 <i>Trustee's Meeting</i> 7:00pm <i>Women's Advent Meeting</i> 7:00pm	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Sunday</i> School 9:45 Worship Service 10:45m	10 <i>Women's Advent Meeting</i> 7:00pm	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Sunday</i> School 9:45 Worship Service 10:45m Dinner 5:00pm	17 <i>Women's Advent Meeting</i> 7:00pm	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Sunday</i> School 9:45 Worship Service 10:45m	24 <i>Women's Advent Meeting</i> 7:00pm	25	26	27	28 YAH Luncheon 12:00pm	29
30 <i>Sunday</i> School 9:45 Worship Service 10:45m	31 <i>Women's Advent Meeting</i> 7:00pm					

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

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 “Here I Am Lord”

Dan Schutte was not quite ready for the assignment that he was given.

He was a Catholic priest in training at seminary in Berkeley, CA. He had been struggling with the flu, he was tired, and now this.

A friend had come to the door to ask a favor – you know one of those small things that the friend thinks will take just a few minutes, but in reality will take several hours.

It seemed that Dan Schutte's friend had the responsibility of arranging for the ordination service. He needed a new piece of music reminiscent of Isaiah 6 ready for the service in three days.

Of course, there was another side to this – one of Dan's favorite scripture passages was Isaiah 6's description of Isaiah's call to be God's servant and messenger to the people of Israel.

Isaiah had a certain amount of uncertainty when responding to God's call – so did Dan Schutte as he responded to his friend's.

Dan sat in front of blank sheet of music and asked God for the strength to write the new music. His thoughts turned, not

only to Isaiah 6, but also to the call of Samuel found in I Samuel 3.

What his friend hoped would be an easy task, Dan worked for two days to complete the work. Dan says, “I was making last minute changes as I walked the piece over to my friend who lived several blocks away.” And he still wondered if the piece was what his friend wanted.

Today, as he looks back to the time he first wrote “Here I Am, Lord”, Dan Schutte says that the story is about God “giving a power to our stumbling words, the simple works of our hands, and making them into something that can be a grace for people, with a power far beyond what we could have imagined or planned.

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.*

*I who made the stars and night
I will make the darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them
Whom shall I send?*

*Chorus: Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord
If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone
Fill their hearts with love alone
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?*

*Chorus: Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord
If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart*

Read more: <http://artists.letsingit.com/daniel-odonnell-lyrics-here-i-am-lord-13xtzlf#ixzz1ZGmO6sJT>
LetsSingIt - Your favorite Music Community