



LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH

Volume 5, Issue 8

September 2011

Reverend Gary Brose
Pastor

Pastoral Perspective

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Dear Christian Family,

Your session (council—new name) is making progress in its search for new pastoral leadership. I want to share with you that progress and part of the process. As background, in the Presbyterian Church there are two categories of Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors): permanent and temporary.

A permanent pastor is a fulltime, called position. This is the typical model in our denomination. A permanent pastor is with a congregation until he or she feels lead to seek a new call. When a church is in need of a new pastor the congregation elects a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC writes a Church Information Form (CIF) which is an 8 to 12 page document describing the church, community, and the characteristics the church is looking for in a pastor. The CIF is then on the denomination's website where pastors who are looking for positions can review them. Pastors submit Pastor Information Forms (PIF) for the PNC's consideration. The PNC reviews PIF's and decides who to interview. Once the PNC decides on a candidate, that person is then invited to "candidate" before the congregation by preaching a sermon and answering questions from the floor. The congregation then votes yes or no on the candidate. If the congregation votes no, the PNC goes back to the drawing board. If yes, the candidate is then installed by the Presbytery. This process in the average church takes one to two years.

There are three types of temporary pastors. A temporary supply pastor fills in the pulpit from time to time, like Pastor Kimberly did before I began to serve you. You are familiar with the interim pastor whose job is to help a congregation work through the interim period. A third type is called

a stated supply pastor. Stated supply pastors are considered temporary in that they are hired by the session (not called or voted on by the congregation). Their contract is for a one year period. Stated supply pastors may not become permanent installed pastors, but their contracts can be renewed each year as long as session and Presbytery are satisfied with their service. There is currently no limit to the number of years stated supply pastors can serve a congregation. Stated supply pastors usually work on a part-time basis, but they can be increased to fulltime status if a church's financial situation improves. (I served 6 months at halftime status, then two years at fulltime status, then 6 months at ¾ time status at Christ Presbyterian in Milford.) Stated supply pastors are not installed by Presbytery, but their service is subject to annual review by Presbytery. Stated supply pastors can do everything that permanent, installed pastors can do. They are full-fledged, ordained ministers.

When it became obvious last spring that Bethel Murdoch was not in a position to call a fulltime permanent pastor, session decided to search for a halftime stated supply pastor. Besides the reality of our situation, a second benefit is that the process is a lot quicker. Since session is the one hiring the pastor, session can do the interviewing. A third benefit is the flexibility. If the congregation rebounds and begins to grow again, session can increase the stated supply's hours and salary without going to fulltime status. If growth is not sustained, the contract can be adjusted. Actually, Bethel Murdoch has used the stated supply model for many years. Pastor Frank was your first fulltime installed pastor in a long time.

When this decision was made, session wrote a job description and posted it on the Presbytery website. To date, we have

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received three PIF's (think of these as applications). An invitation was extended to each applicant to preach to session and to be interviewed by session. By the time that you read this letter, all three interviews will be completed. At its September meeting, session will decide whether to extend an offer to one of these three applicants or to keep searching.

The Presbyterian system is sort of a representative form of government. In some churches an official in the denomination, such as a bishop, appoints pastors. In other churches, the whole congregation interviews and votes on the pastor. In still other churches, the

pastor is in total control and even owns the church (or at least acts like it). In our system, we trust that God is leading us by the Spirit to select elders who will seek the voice of the Spirit in discerning the will of God.

Session asks for your continued prayer support as we seek the will of God for this congregation. Your encouragement is welcomed and appreciated; however, please don't ask for too much specific information. We are interviewing professionals who may be serving and/or interviewing with other churches. Session is bound to confidentiality in these matters. Thank you for your support

Temporarily Yours, Gary

Food Pantry



Little Miami Food Pantry is in dire need of donations. Please continue to bring your canned goods on the

1st Sunday of each month. If you know of other resources that can help, please spread the word.

We were able to donate one hundred seventeen lbs. of food to the Morrow Food Pantry in August. Thanks to everyone who continues to help with this effort. Please start watching for items on sale that could be donated for the upcoming holiday season as it approaches. Their needs will be even greater at that time.

*****Five Star Sunday Coming Soon*****

As you might have read in last month's newsletter we've got a big day coming up on Sunday, September 11th.

First we all will pause and remember ten years ago when the Twin Towers fell and America's faith was shaken to the core. But we have risen from the rubble, stronger than ever and determined to never forget those who were taken and those left behind. Some say, "So, where was God on 9/11?" God was there and He was very busy. He was discouraging some people from taking those four flights. Together they could carry 1,000 passengers, yet there were only 266 aboard. He was busy creating obstacles to prevent people who worked in the WTC from getting to work. As the work day began, there would have been more than 50,000 in the two towers, yet that day only 20,000 were at their desks.

God held up each of those mighty towers for half an hour so that the people on the lower floors could get out. When He finally let go, He caused the towers to fall inward rather than topple over, which would have killed many more people. And when the WTC and Pentagon building went down our God picked up almost 3,500 of His precious children and

carried them home in His arms. He sat down and cried for the 19 children who had so much hate in their hearts that they caused so much destruction, and whose souls are now lost forever.

He sent people trained in dealing with earthly disasters to save the injured. He brought people across the world together in a way that moved thousands to tears, and millions to prayer to the one true living God. Still, every day He comforts those who lost loved ones. And He encourages us to carry out the tasks He has given us, to keep America strong. He is always by our side.

Second, we will celebrate the 197th anniversary of the charter of the Bethel Church, as it was first called. We are one of the oldest congregations in Warren County, Ohio and we have a long history to be proud of. God still calls us to be His hands and feet and voice in the community and the world. Come let us rejoice in our heritage and strive to take His words to all who will listen.

Third, remember, on this special Sunday we will be returning to the 10:45 am worship time. And fourth, we will begin adult and children's Sunday school classes at 9:45 am. God is calling us to come and participate in hearing His lessons for us, that we may learn of Him. Hope to see you there. Tell a buddy, and bring a friend.

And the fifth reason to celebrate on this Sunday is to honor all grandparents. There will be a special treat for those who are there. And don't forget the potluck dinner after the worship service. Come and let us fellowship together in the house of the Lord. Bethel Murdoch is the place to be.

Women's Advent



The Women's Advent planning committee will be meeting on Monday, September 12th at 7 pm in the Fellowship hall. We need lots of ladies

with ideas for the program plus help with many other aspects of the service. These jobs will range from help with the refreshments and decorating, to women who are willing to take part in the actual program...come one and all. Let's work together to make the 2011 production outstanding! We need YOU! This event has certainly grown and is known throughout the surrounding communities. Be thinking of who you could bring to this year's service, but better yet, be part of it. Prayers are always needed. See you there.

August Ice Cream Social Ends With Craft Show!



The last Ice Cream Social of the season ended with our 1st Annual Craft Show. We would like to thank all those who participated and a special thanks to Susan Brose who helped coordinate this event for us. This year's show was small but hopefully it will continue to grow in the coming years ahead. Our Ice Cream Social Committee did an awesome job with all three socials this year and we extend a big shout of thanks to Mike & Linda Hoban whose hard work and efforts made making the Ice Cream go like clockwork each Wednesday before the socials. Last but not least, thanks to all of you who donated items or volunteered your time and a special thanks to everyone who stopped by!



No Words!

Written by Marsha Arons for the America Responds section of the Chicken Soup for the Soul of America book which was compiled after 9/11. These are Stories to Heal the Heart of Our Nation. (I have condensed some of this story. AF)

In the days that followed the bombings of the World Trade Center, New York stayed at a standstill. Those who managed to get to work did so with a sense of purpose but also with fear. Some thought that by going back to work, they were making a statement, "We're Americans. We aren't cowed, beaten." But fear lurked everywhere -- in the horrific images on TV, among survivors and their friends, in the faces of passersby on the streets.

Rowland Henley, who works for Philip Morris, needed to go back to work on Thursday. "Everything seemed surreal. I thought if I went back to work, I could shake that terrible feeling of loss. I couldn't." When Philip Morris received a bomb scare on Thursday their building was

evacuated and Rowland and others ended up in a bar near the Brooklyn Bridge. The common link for these evacuees was their need to comfort and be comforted.

Rowland, like thousands of others, felt the only way to mitigate the sadness growing inside him was to help in some way. His company offered opportunities for any employee to volunteer with the Red Cross, and Rowland took it. His job was to provide support to the workers at Ground Zero. "We were told to make an effort to cheer these people up, make small talk. But in our eyes these workers were giants. I stopped trying to take their minds off things and just threw myself into the manual labor."

Rowland and others were put to work carrying boxes of supplies, setting out food, cleaning tables, emptying trash, filling things, hauling things, doing whatever was needed to support those doing the terrible work of clearing Ground Zero. "They kept thanking us!" Rowland said incredulously. "They were thanking us

when they were the ones who should be thanked. I wanted to say something, anything that would convey to those unselfish, caring human beings what I felt." "I thought if I could just find the words...." But there were no words.

Even when a body was recovered, when everyone stopped and placed a hand over his heart as a procession slowly brought its precious cargo to the staging area to be taken to the makeshift morgue, even when tears fell, they fell silently. There were no words.

For some, like Rowland, that silence was the worst. One young woman whose husband, or lover, or friend was one of those whose body had been found stood alone inside the Salvation Army tent after the memorial. She stood there a long time just staring into space. After a time, she noticed on a table in a corner, a small stuffed animal. It was a teddy bear with a red ribbon. "I had stopped near the opening of that tent," said Rowland, "and had seen the woman (cont. on back pg)

September 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!

May God's many blessings
 Be poured upon you
 As you celebrate today
 And the years that follow too
 May you have a real sense
 Of God's hand upon your life
 Leading you and guiding you
 As you walk with Jesus Christ.

1	Kelvin & Nancy McKeehan	15	Kate Rose
3	Ron Rolke	17	Barb Rolke
6	Ron Baker	19	Evelyn Flynn
10	Ed & Carole Warfel	20	Ken & Carol Dick
11	Alvin Walker	20	Lesla Banks
12	Todd & Meshell Howell	25	Ellen Biggs
13	Ruth Dunlap	28	Kelvin McKeehan

A Time to Remember

Leader: Over 200 years ago pioneers from Western Pennsylvania settled in what is now Hamilton Township, bringing with them their ardent faith and Presbyterian traditions. Meeting in homes and outdoors they worshipped, prayed, and studied the Christian faith. Close to 200 years ago, twelve of these pioneers came together to organize the Bethel Presbyterian Church which grew in its ministry to this community. Numerous pastors have served this congregation through its history. Today we pause to remember and honor the history of the church manse that served as a residence for many of these pastors.

Leader: For life, for breathe, for freedom to worship your name,

People: We thank You and praise Your name, O God.

Leader: For servants who study your Word and faithfully proclaim your message of salvation,

People: We thank You and praise Your name, O God.

Leader: For pastors who have joined us on your journey and have walked by our side; for relationships that have nurtured, sustained and challenged us in our faith,

People: We thank You and praise Your name, O God.

Leader: For pastors' spouses and their children who also became part of our community; for the joys and challenges of life they have shared with us; for the friendships that blossomed,

People: We thank You and praise Your name, O God.

Leader: The church manse is but a building, yet it is a structure that provided shelter for many of our pastors and their families and other families in our community. We honor the many precious memories, both joyous and painful, contained in its walls.

People: We thank You and praise Your name, O God.

Leader: With thanksgiving for these memories and the service this structure has provided, we acknowledge that there is a time and purpose for everything under heaven, a time to build and a time to tear down. We thus decommission this structure, trusting that its resources may be reused through recycling and that the memories it witnessed will continue to bless the lives so touched.

People: Holding lightly to the things of this world, we rededicate ourselves to the ministry and service of Your church, to the glory of God, our Father and Creator, to the glory of Jesus Christ the Son, our Lord and Savior, to the glory of the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and Guide. Amen

Special Thanks

"A Time to Remember," was a special Litany read on Sunday, August 28th during our worship service in honor of the manse that has stood by our little church for many years. Special thanks to Pastor Gary for taking the time to remember that part of our heritage. It served us well and while it is painful to let it go, it is time for us to make way for the progress that must come if our church is to survive and continue to serve in this place. Thanks be to God that is was there to shelter pastors and parishioners alike. It will remain in our memories as we go forward to seek God's will for Bethel church.

Will the Lord Hear Your Voice?

Do you sing in the shower? Or with the oldies on the radio on the expressway? Are you hiding your God-given talent when it comes to singing in the choir? Maybe you are ignoring that still small voice that says "Come and praise me in song on Sunday mornings." Whatever the reason, Jim Bronstrup and the rest of us who do our best to bring you heavenly music, would be really pleased if we had more voices with which to 'make a joyful noise to the Lord'. Practice starts **very** soon for our annual Christmas program. Come on down and join in the fun and let's raise our voices to praise the Lord in song. Thanks.

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
 PH# 583-3147

September 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 10:00am Canned Good Sunday!	5 Labor Day!	6	7	8 Session/ Council Meeting	9	10
11 Worship Service 10:45am Sunday school 9:45am Anniversary Sunday!	12 Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Women's Advent Meeting 7:00pm	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship Service 10:45am Sunday school 9:45am	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 10:45am Sunday school 9:45am	26	27	28	29	30 YAH Luncheon 12:00pm	

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

No Words (cont. pg. 3)

standing there. I don't know what made me stop then and watch her. But I did. And then I was glad.

The woman picked up the teddy bear, clutched it tightly to her and began to cry---big deep gulps of sobs. It was as if she needed something to release what was pent up inside her. That something had to be a normal thing, a soft, lovely child's toy sent by someone whose only intention was to offer comfort, kindness and appreciation. And, there amidst all that devastation, the bear wasn't the slightest bit out of place. Because all of us were there for the same reason, to support each other.

Someone had sent this bear in the hope that it would provide some comfort to someone, anyone, who needed it. Its softness, its bright red ribbon against the gray, sad surroundings shone like a beacon of what it was meant to show--- compassion and hope. Sometimes words aren't enough. And sometimes, they aren't even necessary.

Through the Grandkid's Eyes

by Jill Grubb-Travoss (from the book Chicken Soup for the Grandparent's Soul.

If you think the things that matter is the stuff that money buys,
Then spend a day with children, see the world through grandkid's eyes.
They find the greatest joy in the smallest little things
Like running through the sprinkler, and the way the 'old folks' sings.

You buy them toys at Christmas' they'd much prefer the box.
They like to wade through puddles and search for pretty rocks.
They'll climb a tree and skip a rope and never miss a beat.
They're filled with awe and wonder, and the world is at their feet.

To them there is no difference between dandelions and flowers.
They'll touch and smell and feel them and gaze at them for hours.

To have those kind of values we had when we were small,
Looking back in time it seems we really had it all.

We need to watch the children and look into their eyes,
To understand what matters most is not what money buys.
Reach back into the past this day, remember what you knew,
And you will find your inner peace in the child that lives in you.

Submitted by Anne Fritz