

The
Bexley
Church

LIGHT



"You are the light of the world..." Matthew 5:14

January 2010

REST IN GOD

Dear Friends of Bexley Church:

Do you ever procrastinate or put off doing something that you know you should do and want to do?

I often procrastinate on cleaning up my home office. I have books and files stacked everywhere that I intend to read sometime or file in their appropriate places. I have articles clipped out of newspapers or magazines that contain good sermon material that should be filed, but right now they are just in stacks.

My wife, Beth, describes my office as my cave where stacks of paper grow larger regularly. I intend to clean it up and organize it, but I just never get around to it.

Several months ago my doctor told me that I should exercise more and lose a few pounds to be at the optimum weight for my age and body type. But I haven't done it.

I suspect that all of us sometimes put off doing what we know we should do in some area of our lives.

During February and March 2010, we are focusing on the theme "Rest in God." We are encouraging everyone to look at "Sabbath" in their lives the God space that is so crucial to effective living.

My sermon series for February focuses on us creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant God space which energizes and integrates our way of living.

Preaching Series: Rest in God

Feb 7: One Thing before You Stop — *"God space" is the antidote to the daily grind.*

Feb 14: Find What's Missing — *It's no secret that we no longer live in the Garden of Eden. How can we find what is truly the best of what God provides? How can life become a "Holy Lost and Found?"*

Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

Feb 21: Removing the Taskmaster — *Sin makes the earth prickly. It entangles its beauty in brambles. Now, even the best the world has to offer--friendship, love, laughter, and feather down pillows--is affected in some way. How can God cause a realignment within us, so that our internal God Space thrives?*

Feb 28: The Rest of Time — *Typically people respond to burden and want to flee it...evacuation as the cure for trouble. Yet, God's solution is surprising. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." How does our God space give rest in the midst of our threats and our burdens?*

March 7: Unstopped Ears — *When God's voice is in it: How can you know what God has called you to do?*

March 14: Feast and Taste of the Kingdom — *How can we awaken to the truth that Jesus walks with us to the places where we do our everyday work and delights in what we do daily for him?*

March 21: Anticipate... to Glimpse Forever — *In our world, we already have heaven and many of its blessings. God's nearness sanctifies time—with Him we develop a sanctuary in time ... How can God truly be our rock, our refuge and our strength?*

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you...rest." God gives us just one day at a time. When we take steps toward our God space, for ourselves and our community, God can use us to do His will and to transform the world. Rest in God...live in your God space and your will find your sanctuary in time!

See you in church, Frank Luchsinger

THOUGHTS ON WORSHIP — Thea Maloney

At three wonderfully crowded worship services on Christmas Eve we watched as we lighted candles one by one, passing the symbolic light of Christ to each other. We experienced that growing of light in our midst and that sense of the importance of each member being part of the Body of Christ worshipping together, gathering strength to take the light of God's love out into a hurting world.

We have that exciting opportunity every Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., to worship together as members of the Body of Christ at Bexley UMC. These are all blessed opportunities for us to gather in corporate worship to praise and thank God for creating the entire universe including this amazing world into which we have all been born....to express our gratitude for time, talent and treasure...for life, for love. As the gathered

congregation we have an avenue for a sense of belonging to the Universal Church....which is the Body of Christ....where each member is a part of that Body here at BUMC. Here we can express our innermost thoughts, our doubts, our regret for sin and need for forgiveness and our willingness to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Here we can receive forgiveness for our misdoings, healing and wholeness for our minds, bodies and spirits.

It is important for ALL our members to be gathered together for these exciting and inspirational worship experiences, for when even ONE member is absent, this part of the Body of Christ is "dis-membered".

Come, let us be together every Sunday in joy-filled, grace-filled sacred hours of Christian inspiration!

COMPASSIONATE CONGREGATIONAL CARE — Thea Maloney

The Order of Shalom - Usually meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on February 4.

The Prayer Chain - We are very grateful to all the members of the Prayer Chain and to June Lesher who leads this ministry. Please call June at 861-2046 or the church office at 231- 2781 with requests for prayer.

The Yellow Rose Ministry - Call the church office at 231-2781 to alert us when someone is in the hospital over a weekend. Many thanks to Julia and Dale Heiser, chairpersons for this ministry.

The Healing Hands Quilt Ministry - Thanks to Kathy Myers and her committee who make lap quilts for members who are very ill or in special need of a beautiful symbol of caring love.

The Attendance Ministry - Please sign the attendance pad at worship each Sunday morning with name and address and phone number. Then please pass it along the row and back, noticing the names of those with whom we are worshipping. We try to contact members

who have not attended worship for a few weeks to make sure they are well and, if not, to offer help. Debbie Niemi heads this area.

Saturday Night Alive! - Dinner and program for all adult members of the Church, usually held the fourth Saturday night of the month, October through April. Our next gathering will be January 23 when Betsy Salt tells us of her adventures last year in East Africa. For information call Jerry Maloney at 252-7666.

The Calling/Caring Steering Committee - Usually meets in Gray Chapel at 11:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. We receive reports and discuss the ministry areas described above. Ruth Engelberg is our chairperson.

There are many opportunities for service. If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, please call Ruth Engelberg at 231-0665, Chairperson of the Steering Committee; Beth Middlemus at 598-1544, Chairperson of The Order of Shalom, or Pastor Thea Maloney at 252-7666.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday Night Alive!

On Saturday evening, January 23rd, "Saturday Night Alive!" will once again bring you our own Betsy Salt, with a fascinating talk on her trip last year to "The Seychelles Islands and East Africa." Plan now to be there. Reservations are needed for the 6:30 p.m. dinner (cost is \$6) by Thursday, January 21st. Call the Church Office or Jerry Maloney (252-7666) with reservations.

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS — Gerald Maloney

The Endowment Fund has two “societies”, the Heritage Society* and the Remembrance Society**. In both cases, the objective is to honor and recognize those who make current or deferred gifts to the Bexley United Methodist Church Endowment Fund. The “current” gifts are easy to track because they are gifts, generally cash or securities, received by the Church directly from an individual donor.

“Deferred” gifts, which are generally provisions remembering the Church in wills, trust agreements, charitable gift annuities, etc., are not known to the Committee unless the donors have informed us of the intended gifts. In order to recognize and honor these individuals, we ask donors to give us a simple “Statement of Intent” form, available in the Church office, providing the relevant information. That enables us to list all the members of the Heritage and Remembrance Societies, whether current or deferred gifts are involved, on the two plaques hanging in the

stair well next to the Church office and to report the status periodically to the congregation, as we do each year in May on Heritage Sunday. There are now more than 80 individual names on these two lists.

We hope that your estate planning will include the possibility of a gift to the Endowment Fund, either now or in the future through provisions in wills or by other means, and that you will join the other Members of the Heritage and Remembrance Societies.

* Gifts of at least \$1,000 (can be in “installments” over 2 years).

** Gifts of at least \$25,000 or 10% of one’s estate, whichever is less.

The Endowment Committee: Hugo Anderson, Carolyn Chabot, Ken Curle, Don Dill, Barbara Giller, Bob Henshaw, Mike Herrel, Ellen Julian, Jerry Maloney, John McDonald and Alba Whiteside

EASTVIEW FOOD PANTRY

What a cold winter we are experiencing right now! More and more people are coming to food pantries throughout the United States. These people are looking for assistance because:

1. They do not receive food stamps.
2. They have run out of food stamps.
3. Suddenly one or more people within a family have lost jobs.
4. Any kind of life-changing experiences have cropped up: alcohol-related problems, illness, more children added to a family, a breadwinner has left the family situation, losing a home (bankruptcy) or any combination of these or other problems.

You can help by donating one or several cans of food weekly or monthly to the pantry. Put your donations in the baskets by fellowship hall or near the nursery on the first floor. The bulletin has a list of the foods we are collecting each month. However, if you find a good price on an item, pick up several. You are not limited to whatever is asked for in the bulletin.

In December we had the opportunity to tour the facilities of the Eastview United Methodist Church Food Pantry that we help. It was wonderful to hear that our church makes a big contribution in the life of their organization. They so appreciate the money sent by the Men's Prayer Breakfast and our donations. Thank you! Give yourself a pat on the back!

Last but not least, thank you very much for filling the fellowship hall Christmas tree with food for the pantry! 40 pounds of food were taken to them along with two grocery bags of cups for next year's Christmas presents. Your help is very much appreciated!



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Take a look outside and see all through beautiful snowflakes that are adorning our landscape and they may remind you of all the beautiful children that attend Bexley United Methodist Church. Each one of them different, unique and full of joy, just like the snowflakes.

For those of you fortunate enough to have been at the Christmas Eve Barnyard service, you know what we’re talking about – there were about 80 children who recreated the nativity this year at that 5:00 p.m. service! It was a sight to behold! Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus surrounded by angels, stars, barnyard animals, doves, shepherds and even the three wise men brought gifts this year.



A BIG THANK YOU to the parents of all the children and especially

Michelle Schroeder for leading our children through the program.

We also hosted about 30 families on December 20th for the Nativity Craft and family pizza night. What a great time we had as the children added to their nativity or started a new nativity – it was just a lot of fun!

Now we begin to prepare for the Winter and Spring quarters of Sunday School. We would love to have new volunteers help us with the Sunday School program – it is easy, fun and so rewarding to guide our children to the love of Jesus Christ. We play but a small role in the spiritual growth of our children, but it’s an important role that begins to build a foundation for the love of Christ.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at the church or by emailing us at childrendirectors@bexleyumc.org.

Soon there will be more information on Winter Family Pizza Nights and Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School will be August 1st - 5th this year – so save the date and mark your calendar now.

Blessings in Christ, *Alice & Lynn*

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Dare 2 Share **BLAZE TOUR**

Dare 2 Share BLAZE TOUR is coming to the Columbus Convention Center on February 5 (5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.) and February 6 (8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.). The cost is \$60.00 per person. Last year we had 45 youth participate in Dare 2 Share! Come back this year and bring a friend. **Your money is due by Sunday, January 31.** This year’s tour is called BLAZE and will feature bands, speakers, movie clips, drama, and an awesome outreach that you will never forget. This a very interactive experience with youth from all over the country. The Columbus United Methodist Conference alone had over 5,000 teens attend last year.

Sunday Mornings for Youth from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Youth Confirmation Class - Scout Room • **Adult Confirmation Class** - Parlor • **7th & 8th Grade Teen Discussion** in Room 5 • **High School Breakfast Club** with Sandi Hoover in the Youth Lounge

Youth are invited to hang out in the Youth Lounge after class.

Contact Paul at 915-2592 or woodruff@bexleyumc.org.

BEXLEY UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

for the 2010—2011 School Year

Current Families — Begin Registration on December 7th

Members of BUMC — Begin Registration on January 11

Alumni of BUMP — Begin Registration on January 11

Open to the General Public — February 1st at 8:30 a.m.

Tours are being scheduled during the moth of January. Please call the school at 614-231-2783 to schedule a tour. You can also visit us on the web at www.bexleyumc.org.

SHOP AT KROGER & SUPPORT BEXLEY UNITED METHODIST YOUTH



For 10 years, the BUMC congregation has helped fund our Youth Group by simply shopping at Kroger. I am please to announce that nearly **\$30,000** has been raised and donated to the BUMC Youth Ministry. Simply **go online** (see step 1 below) and **register your Kroger Rewards Card/Key fob that you currently use when checking out**. After registering your number and tying it to the BUMC account number (80254), **our youth will receive 5% of your total purchase**. Our goal is to receive \$6,000/year. **Please take a few minutes and register your card number on line or take it to Customer Service at any local Kroger store along with the printed UPC code below**. Thank you for your continued support.

Follow these easy steps to participate in Kroger's Community Rewards Program:

Step 1: Have your Kroger Plus Card handy. (If you don't have a Kroger Plus Card, you can get one at the Customer Service Desk at any Kroger store.) **Step 2:** Begin registration at www.krogercommunityrewards.com **Step 3:** Click on Welcome! Sign in/Register and follow instructions. **Step 4:** Check your email account for an email titled: Your Kroger.com Account Has Been Activated and click on the link. Click here to login to your account. **Step 5:** Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards Information and input your Kroger Plus Card number. Click save changes. **Step 6:** Enter Your organization number (80254) in the box and click Search then select the Organization's name and click Confirm. **YOU'RE DONE !**

If you don't have access to a computer, you can still donate! Simply take this page to Kroger the next time you shop. Hand it to the cashier and have them scan the bar code shown here along with your Kroger Plus Card and you're signed up.

NOTE: If you do not have your correct information updated in the Kroger Plus Card Database, donations can not be made. If you think your information may not be complete or correct, check at the customer service desk and they can update it for you OR you can call 1-877-576-7587 to update your information.



BUMC Women's Retreat Registration: Fri., April 16, 4:30 p.m. to Sat., April 17, 3:00 p.m. at Deer Creek Resort • Speakers: Carol Betts & Johna Curle

"Strong Women of the Bible" — We will be exploring the lives of some of the "Strong Women of the Bible" and the ways their faith impacted their lives and relationships.

Costs: (Includes one night's accommodation, ALL meals and snacks, Speakers, Full use of the Resort Facilities.)

Double Room: 2 People Sharing - \$123.00. **Triple Room:** 3 People Sharing - \$104.00. Every woman can attend!

Scholarships are available. Please contact Johna (443-6223) or the church office for more information.

To reserve your spot return this form along with a \$50.00 deposit to the church office (2657 E. Broad St., Bexley, OH 43209) or place in the offering plate by March 1. Make checks payable to Bexley UMC and write "Women's Retreat" in the memo line

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Roommate Request _____

SPECIAL NEEDS/REQUEST _____

While attending the Bexley United Methodist Church Women's Retreat, in the event of an accident, illness, fire, theft, natural disaster, or any bodily harm or loss of property, I will not hold Bexley United Methodist Church liable in any way.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Spiritual Growth Academy 2010

“Open to God”

Four Sunday Nights beginning February 14th

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Presented by Bexley United Methodist Church



What is the Spiritual Growth Academy?

The Academy provides a unique opportunity to invest in your own spiritual growth. Our theme is “Open to God.” We may feel that God is far away but in reality He is always with us. This year’s Academy topics are designed to help you connect with the powerful presence of God in every area of your life and.

From the Manger to the Cross, the Major Events in the Life of Christ —4 Weeks

Rev. Johna Curle, facilitator

Explore the major events in the life of Christ from his birth to his resurrection. We know many of these events but now it’s time to investigate behind the scenes...the politics, the climate, the culture, the history that that created the environment of Jesus the man and the Messiah.

The Gospel of Matthew a study by Max Lucado—4 Weeks

Dr. Frank Luchsinger, facilitator

Do you remember meeting someone who changed your life? Perhaps their smile brightened your day or their encouraging words were just what you needed. A simple encounter could change your day or even change your life. Matthew’s life was changed when he met Jesus and this tax collector spent the rest of his life convincing other that Jesus was more than a carpenter. He is our King. The book of Matthew will come alive!

The Barbarian Way by Erwin McManus, lead pastor of Mosaic in Los Angeles—4 weeks

Carol Betts, M.S., facilitator

Two thousand years later the call to follow Christ has been repackaged to be smooth and trouble-free, filled with opportunity and promise but lacking risk, passion, and sacrifice . Is this really what Jesus died for? If He chose the way of the cross, where would He hesitate leading us? Is it possible that to follow Jesus is to choose the barbarian way? Jesus never made a pristine call to a proper or safe religion but beckons His followers to a path that is far from the easy road. It is path fitted with adventure, uncertainty, and unlimited possibilities—the only path that can fulfill the deepest longings and desires of your heart.

In the Fullness of Time

Are you rich in years or do you love someone who is? We are pleased to have four facilitators who will use Bible characters to explore the fullness of our lives that come with the fullness of time.

Topics Include:

- Jonah — The Place No One Chooses to Go
- Abraham and Sarah — Never Too Old for Something New
- Simeon — Dreams Fulfilled
- Moses and Joshua — Faithfulness...Glimpses of the Promise

Guest Facilitators:

Rev. Bob Kimes, Chaplin at Wesley Ridge Retirement Center

David Clubb, Bexley UMC member and Owner / Administrator Patience Home Health Care

Rev. Elaine Sturtz, author of *The Final Dance of Life* , Chaplin with Odyssey Health Care/Hospice and former minister at Bexley UMC

Spiritual Growth Academy Registration Form

SIGN ME UP! Please, fill-out this form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office:
2657 E. Broad St, Bexley, OH 43209

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Check the seminars) you will attend:

- The Gospel of Matthew — 4 weeks with Dr. Frank Luchsinger
- From the Cradle to the Cross, the Major Events in the Life of Christ — 4 weeks with Rev. Johna Curle
- In the Fullness of Time: Jonah and the Place No One chooses to Go — 1 week
- In the Fullness of Time: Abraham and Sarah — Never Too Old for Something New — 1 week
- In the Fullness of Time: Simeon—Dreams Fulfilled — February 21 with David Clubb — 1 week
- In the Fullness of Time: Moses and Joshua — Faithfulness...Glimpses of the Promise — 1 week
- The Barbarian Way — 4 weeks with Carol Betts

Childcare provided (List names and ages of children you will bring): _____

— LETTERS OF THANKS —

We really appreciate all your generosity and help for people in need. Always glad to see the fireman with his great variety of food.

*Love and Prayers,
Penny Weller, Eastview Food Pantry*

I want to thank my wonderful church family and our dedicated ministers for all the support, cards and prayers during my father's illness and death. Your caring and kind words meant so much to me during that very difficult time. I am blessed to have all of you in my life.

Linnea Blanchard

I have felt so blessed to be part of such a caring church family! Your acts of kindness since I broke my right arm have been too many to count...meals brought to my home, cards, prayers, encouragement and the gifts of love that helped me through the financial loss of missed work. Seldom have I felt more loved and cared for. Thank you!

Carol Betts

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your tremendous outpouring of support for the annual Angel Tree project. With your help, we were able to make the Christmas wishes of 86 children (living at Mann's Trailer Park on Stelzer Road) come true. In addition, the many gifts of cash and Kroger Gift Cards allowed us to provide much needed groceries for these children and their parents.

For more than a decade, "Angel Tree" has been an important mission project of our church. What a blessing you "angels" have been, and continue to be, to those in need. To all you who have provided and/or delivered gifts, we say "God bless you."

*With gratitude,
Angel Tree Coordinators
Kay and Tim Boone
Lori and Andy Palmer*

MY MINISTRY PASSION

Many members of our church family reach out to those in need in various ways and inspire us all. I have asked Julie Watson to tell us about her Ministry Passion –

Johna asked me to write about what motivates my ministry passion for serving families at the homeless shelter. In response to her request I referred to my journal where I write down spiritual and theological thoughts that make sense to me. A pastor wrote in a church newsletter: "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, and speak kindly. Be sure to seek until you find the gift God has planted in others and yourself. Then give your gift away and encourage others to do likewise." I feel like I am blessed most when I am giving...another quote from a book called How Can I Help... "We work on ourselves, in order to help others. And we help others as a vehicle for working on ourselves." Mother Teresa once said, "May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you." The kind of life that I strive for is not wasting my life trying to get rich because I already am. Therefore, since I am richly blessed with love, food, etc from God, I feel called to pass it along whenever possible. Serving families at the homeless shelter is a way that I can do this. Julie Watson

A recent fortune cookie gave this bit of wisdom: "The greatest of all mistakes is to do nothing because you think you can do only a little." Like to know more about ministry opportunities? Contact Johna at 443-6223.

**The
deadline for
submitting
articles
for the
next
issue of
"LIGHT" is
Tuesday,
March 16,
2010.**

**TIME VALUED
MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
IMMEDIATELY**

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