

The
Bexley
Church

LIGHT



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

FLOWERS, FIELD, AND FISH

August 2008

Dear Friends of Bexley Church:

I sometimes like to call Jesus the "Outdoor Son of God." He did most of his preaching and teaching in God's outdoor cathedral. Many of his teachings about God come from observations he made while he was outdoors.

For example:

HE LOOKED AT THE BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWERS growing on the hillside...pointing to them he said: "Look at the flowers of the field; they don't worry about anything and yet God takes care of them...you also should trust God to take care of you..."

HE POINTED TO THE BIRDS flying in the air and said that not one of them falls to the ground without God knowing...then he reminded us that we are as valuable to God as the birds.

HE POINTED TO A FARMER sowing seeds in his field and compared it to his work of sowing the seeds of faith in the hearts of people...trusting that they will grow and produce the fruits of compassion, generosity, and love.

During this summer season, I hope you will have some time outdoors...whether it is gardening, fishing, boating or simply enjoying a sunset. And while you savor God's great outdoors, I hope you will learn from the birds, the flowers, the fish, and the sunset...something about God's desire for your life.

During this summer, I am encouraging everyone to focus on caring for God's creation by avoiding pollution of land, water, and air. If we drive our cars less, recycle more...if we turn up the air conditioning one degree and turn off lights we are not using...we, along with God, care for the flowers of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea...and we care also for each other.

When I was in the Holy Land years ago, we went out in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and walked along its shores; we saw the wildflowers growing on the hillside where the Sermon on the Mount was given...we saw beautiful sunsets and sunrises...we felt close to Jesus because we looked at the scenes he saw and wanted to see them the way he saw them: as signs of God's loving presence in our lives.

I hope you feel God's presence this summer as you celebrate God's creation...and always give thanks for the birds of the air, the flowers of the field, the fish of the sea...and may you see signs of God's love...the way Jesus did.

See you in church,

Frank Luchsinger

AUGUST MESSAGE SERIES: "RIVER OF LIFE"

August 3—Got a River?

August 10—The One Legged Gospel

August 17—Goliath? That was the Easy Part!

August 24—The Road We All Travel, Thea Maloney Preaching

August 31—"Til Hell Freezes Over"

September 7—Life is a Fountain

THOUGHTS ON WORSHIP — Thea Maloney

Why worship? Worshiping with the gathered community for times of corporate worship means being with spiritual companions who are soul friends supporting our journey with God, offering us their grace-filled presence, and holding us accountable for who and whose we are. At the same time we are given opportunity to offer these blessings to them.

Worship is a time of God-given renewal with others.

Why worship? Through reading and hearing the Word of God from the Scriptures as well as the proclaimed Word through music, witness and prayer we learn to live lives of compassion in which we are intentionally seeking the restoration of ourselves and the well-being of others...those close to us, those far away, those different from ourselves, those who need to learn of the salvation and of the joy of Christ in their lives.

Why worship? In worship we can know respite and refreshment as we ponder our busy and often-cluttered lives. We are able in these God-centered moments to discover a hopeful account of the value of who we are and the real worth of our daily activities....as well as our plans for the future.

May God bless you in this beautiful summer season and always. It is my hope that together we may give and receive the rich blessings of faithful and regular attendance at either or both of the worship opportunities offered at Bexley United Methodist Church at 9:00, and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Why worship? In worship we can come together to acknowledge that "All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above. Then thank the Lord. O, thank the Lord for all God's love!"

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 August 5, 2008.

The Prayer Chain - We are very grateful to all the members of the Prayer Chain and to June Leshner 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, new 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.

Saturday Night Alive! - Dinner and program for all adult members of the Church, usually held the 4th Saturday night of the month, October through April. The next gathering will be October 25th when Jim and Betsy Buke will tell us about their recent trip to New Zealand. For information call Jerry Maloney at 252-7666. (Child care available with prior notice of need.)

The Calling/Caring Steering Committee - Usually meets in Gray Chapel at 10:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. We receive reports and discuss the ministry areas described above. Ruth Engelberg is our new 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 759-1544, Chairperson of The Order of Shalom, or Pastor Thea Maloney at 252-7666.

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS — Gerald Maloney

On Heritage Sunday, May 18, 2008, we celebrated nine years of steady progress in the growth and congregational support of the BUMC Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund has received gifts of cash and securities and bequests amounting to more than \$500,000; and, even at this stage in its history, the Endowment Fund has been able to provide more than \$50,000, paid out of its earnings, to help our Church support new initiatives and programs in recent years. Even after these payments, the current market value of the Endowment Fund is still well above the amount of the original donor gifts, even after the difficult stock market conditions we have experienced in the first half of this year. The Fund's market value declined about 3.5% during that period, helped by large positions in US bond and money market funds, while the S&P 500 Stock Index fell almost 13%.

We are grateful to the generous and dedicated members whose gifts, and promises of future gifts, support the growth of the Endowment Fund. Their

names are shown on the two plaques hanging in the stair well near the Church office. The Heritage Society* now has 55 family members and there are 34 members of the Remembrance Society**. Taken together, these names now represent about 90 individual members of our Church, including 3 who joined this year.

We hope that each Church member's 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 all our Church members will become Members of the Heritage and Remembrance Societies.

** Gifts of at least \$1,000. ** Gifts of at least \$25,000 or 10% of one's estate, whichever is less.*

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

SUPPORT FOR ANNIE

Bexley United Methodist Church's very own Annie Kiser (daughter of Doug and Marty) is serving with The United States Peace Corp's Mission in Niger. To support Annie and her work we are donating money to the organization in Niger called Doctor's Without Borders. 60 Minutes and CNN highlighted a revolutionary product called Plumpy Nut which is being used in 3rd world countries to combat hunger and malnutrition in children. This product is full of protein, vitamins and minerals, is inexpensive to produce *and* tastes good! On behalf of the children and Annie, we as a congregation are sending money to buy more Plumpy Nut for this region. If you would like to give toward this cause for Annie, put your gift in an envelope marked Annie Kiser and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail you gift to Bexley United Methodist Church, 2657 E. Broad St., Bexley, OH 43209 (Make checks payable to Bexley UMC and write Annie Kiser in the memo line).

Our Youth group will also be phoning Annie in Niger, periodically, to support her and share news from home! Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she continues to serve another 2 years working with the poorest of the poor.

EASTVIEW FOOD PANTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Many thanks to those of you who have donated to the food pantry this summer. If you have not had the opportunity, please help us by donating the items mentioned in the bulletin or on the posters you see in the halls. Or if you find an item or items at a good price, buy several. This will not only save you money, but the people who use the pantry will benefit from your generosity. The pantry gives out 10 bags each day. Every little bit helps!

Thank you in advance to the children attending Vacation Bible School. During the week their mission project will be Cans for Kids, where those attending will bring nonperishable food for the poor and homeless people in the Whitehall area. I hope we can fill the shelves at the Eastview Food Pantry!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

From the Leadership and Financial Resources Team of Bexley United Methodist Church

“So far, so good”:

For the first five months of this year, our Church’s expense control continues to be good, in line with budget and less than our actual experience in 2007. Contributions from Church members and others who attend were about \$8,700 higher than in 2007. As we have mentioned before, the 2008 BUMC Budget was based on the indicated increases on the “Estimate of Giving” cards for 2008 that we reported to you earlier this year; that means expected contributions for the full year should be about \$35,000 higher than they were in 2007, so we are making progress toward that goal, but we have a ways to go.

As we also mentioned previously, contributions to the Church decline over the summer each year as people vacation. Expenses continue at about the same level,

however. It is a real help if we can “pay ahead” before we go away for some time, or “catch up” when we return. There is usually a cumulative cash flow shortfall by the end of September of \$40,000 or more because of this summer pattern. We normally “catch up” as a Church, and break even, we hope, at the very end of the year, but there is always some concern even when past experience virtually assures us that this will happen.

Thank you for all that you are doing, as faithful followers of Christ, to make this an even greater Church.

Jim Burke	Jerry Maloney	Craig Peterson
Barb Giller	John McDonald	Mark Storer
Gary Giller	Tom Moenter	Beth Weeden
Marty Kiser	Al Myers	

B.U.M.C. CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES

	JUNE 2008	YEAR TO DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
Total Income	\$40,073.39	\$330,543.10	\$711,000.00
Expenses			
Education & Youth	(5,534.52)	1,489.17	15,000.00
Worship	1,039.00	3,848.66	7,000.00
Music Ministries	578.00	1,502.25	6,100.00
Discipleship Ministries	325.73	3,256.75	6,500.00
Witness Ministries	0.00	51.07	100.00
Mission/Apportionments	9,466.18	52,396.94	103,350.00
Trustee	8,245.32	31,195.42	63,700.00
Utilities	2,111.84	21,414.54	40,700.00
Administration	2,434.22	12,618.07	30,000.00
Staff-Parish	33,539.71	223,656.68	438550.00
Total Expenses	52,205.48	351,429.55	711,000.00
Net (Deficit)	(\$12,132.09)	(\$20,886.45)	

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Lots of great things have been happening with the Children's Ministry. We introduced the **Fruits of the Spirit** for the Summer Sunday school curriculum. The children have been learning *Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* It is a wonderful verse to incorporate into our daily lives. Who knew if we all ate more bananas we would have a little bit more patience! Thank you to the countless volunteers that have helped this summer.

Michael Dion volunteered her time to make wonderful banners for all the children to take home to remind them of the different lessons, and the children are filling the banners with the different "fruits" that correspond with the spirit. We would like to thank all the volunteers that signed up to teach for the summer- without your support the lesson would not be as "fruitful" to the children!

We are also getting ready for an adventurous Friendship Trek with our friend Jesus Sunday, August 3rd - 7th. The time will be from **5:45- 8:30 p.m.**

We have a GREAT group of volunteers that are getting

the Trek already. **Thank you** for your time and energy and for making this a successful Vacation Bible School!

The Mission Project for VBS will be "Cans for Kids," a great idea brought to us

by Carolyn Beach. We will be asking children to bring canned goods daily to VBS to donate to a local food pantry. What a great way for us to teach our children to help others who are less fortunate. If you would like to volunteer, register your child for VBS, or have decorations that would help turn the church into a "forest" please email childrensdirectors@bexleyumc.org

We will also be starting to recruit volunteers for the Fall 2008 – Winter 2009 Sunday School program. The lessons and supplies are provided; we just need the volunteers to help share God's word with the children. Please email childrensdirectors@bexleyumc.org if you can help out on a couple of Sundays.



BUMC FLOAT EARNS PARADE AWARD



Our Church float earned the "Best Religious Entry" Award in this years Bexley 4th of July Parade. The theme for our float was "Friendship Trek," which is the theme of the upcoming Vacation Bible School. Our float featured a group of children and adults dressed in hiking/outdoor attire, camping tents, and trees. The adults handed out thousands of flyers with registration information about VBS. This is the first entry we have had in the parade in many years. Thanks to all of those who helped make this possible.

YOUTH EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday, August 24th — Sundae Night Movies—6:00p.m. to 8:45 p.m.: Ice Cream provided. Bring your favorite ice cream topping.

Wednesday, September 3rd — Bible Study at Cup “O” Joe: Junior High 7-8 p.m. Senior High 8-9 p.m.

Sunday, September 7th — Sunday School begins: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 10th — Bible Study at Cup “O” Joe: Junior High 7-8 p.m. Senior High 8-9 p.m.

Friday - Saturday, September 12-13th — Revolve Tour (Girls Only)

Sunday, October 19th — Cedar Point: Arrive at church at 7:30 a.m. for devotions. Leave at 8:00 a.m.

Contact Paul Woodruff for more information...231-2781 ext. 103 or woodruff@bexleyumc.org

MISSIONS: VOICES OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Holly Harrah, from our Traditional Service, shares her experience volunteering at New Life Ministries Sunday breakfast ministry to the homeless:

“My experiences with New Life Breakfast ministry have been wonderful. The first time I arrived to help I was quickly commissioned by Miss Vicki to help in the clothing room because they were short volunteers that morning. I was given a warm welcome by everyone and instructed on how I could assist with bagging clothes and aiding the needy. I must say that I’ve yet to work in the kitchen because every time I’m able to volunteer I go straight to the clothing room. There was one occasion that we were not going to be able to open the personal items window because we were so short of help but at the last minute, we had enough volunteers show up and we were able to serve everyone.

I love helping with The New Life Breakfast Ministry. It gives me such a wonderful feeling to be able to give back and help my community. I serve whenever I can, not just on the first Sunday of each month. I have a very busy life and an even crazier work schedule as an auditor and finding the right place and time to be able to help was difficult at best, but Sunday morning works for me and I really enjoy everyone at New Life. I’m a believer that if it moves me and I feel it I do it! I would encourage anyone to come and help and give whatever time you may have. Volunteering fills me up and lifts me spiritually. Smile you are loved!” — Holly

Another of our volunteers is 7-year-old **Ava Gyurcsik** who attends our Sunburst Contemporary Service. Ava has been volunteering in our Interfaith Hospitality

Ministry, for the past 2 years, which is a ministry to homeless families. Ava was recently interviewed and here are some of her thoughts on this ministry experience:

Why is helping at the homeless shelter important to you? *“It is important because these people don’t have a home or much money and I feel bad for them. Here is something really cool – the last time I went to the shelter I was about ½ hour late and Nate Tipple and Miss Julie (Julie Watson) helped me get confidence to help serve the dinner.”*

How does helping at the shelter make a difference? *“It changes my life because I feel like I am helping and it makes me feel good.”*

What do you do at the shelter? *“I help pass out silverware, napkins and plates. Then I help pass out macaroni and cheese, and carrots. Then I get to serve the brownies. When I come home I feel good and wish these people had a home.”*

Do you think it’s important to Jesus for us to help others? *“God and Jesus want us to help other people no matter what. Working at the shelter makes me feel good and helps me learn how to help people. I like to volunteer at the shelter because it is caring and nice to do it.”*

Favorite thing to do at the shelter: *“serve brownies”*

Least Favorite: *“Nothing, I like everything about helping people.”*

If you would like to join either Holly or Ava or the other volunteers who give at these ministries and other outreach ministries, please contact Johna (443-6223) for more information...you will be blessed!

The *Alpha* course

What is the point of life? What happens when we die? Is forgiveness possible? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today?

What is *Alpha*?

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

It's relaxed, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun.

There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other.

Listen, learn, discuss and discover. And ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

And it's supported by all the main Christian denominations.

What's involved?

The Alpha course consists of a series of talks looking at topics such as 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and how do I pray?' After each talk we divide into small groups for a time of discussion.

Who is *Alpha* for?

Alpha is for everyone, especially:

- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- New Christians
- Newcomers to the church
- Those who want to brush up on the basics

What will it cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course, although you may be asked to make a contribution towards food.

Location: Bexley United Methodist Church

Dates: Kick-Off Dinner - Monday, Sept. 22, 6 to 8 p.m.
Class Dates - 10 Mondays
beginning Sept. 29 - Dec. 1, 6 to 9 p.m.
(includes a light meal)

For more information contact:
Scott Hoover - 239-7691
Dale Heiser - 237-8026
Pastor Johna - 443-6223



Past Participants are needed as course volunteers. Please contact Scott Hoover, *Alpha*



Registration Form

Complete and return this form by mail with Sunday Offering or register on-line at www.bexleyumc.org

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

How did you hear about Alpha? _____

We look forward to seeing you!

— LETTERS OF THANKS —

Dear Church Family,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many people who made significant contributions of their time and talents towards the recent entry of a BUMC float in the Bexley 4th of July Parade. Thanks go to Alice and Josh Bailey for all their hard work, to Matt Fortney for securing, delivering and returning the trailer we used for the float, and to Bruce Forney for providing his truck to pull the float. And finally, thanks to those who came to the church at 7:15 a.m. on July 4th to construct the float or walk along the parade route handing our Vacation Bible School flyers. Yes, it was nice to win the category of "Best Religious Entry," but much more rewarding was the opportunity for our church to share God's love with our neighbors and to invite so many children to join us for Vacation Bible School.

Andy Palmer

Dear fellow members of Bexley United Methodist Church,

We are deeply appreciative of your prayers, notes and expressions of sympathy that supported us through the illness and loss of our husband and father.

*In God's love,
The Hess Family*

You're terrific! Thanks for food, money, and prayers. We really need it and you people help us year round.

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

**The
deadline for
submitting
articles
for the
next
issue of
"LIGHT" is
Tuesday,
Sept. 2nd.**

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