

# Bainbridge Beam

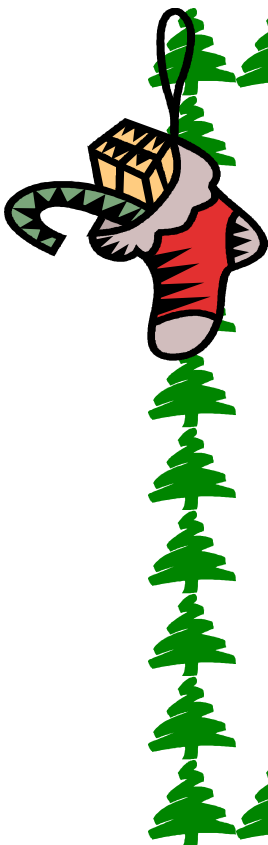
Bainbridge Community  
United Church of Christ  
17751 Chillicothe Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023



**Forwarding Correction Requested**

**We Are Thankful For**

**Dated Material  
Do Not Delay**



**Serving You At  
Bainbridge Community Church**

Shaun Drefahl, Pastor  
Julie Hoffman, Organist  
Barbara Hincke, Secretary

**Central Planning Board**  
Brenda Barenwald, Moderator  
Ellen Klaiber, Vice Moderator  
Ethelann Duncan, Secretary  
Virginia Johnson, Treasurer

**Church Website:**  
[www.bainbridgecommunityucc.org](http://www.bainbridgecommunityucc.org)

**Church E-mail:**  
[bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com)



# Bainbridge Beam

The Newsletter of the Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ

December 2011

## ***From your Pastor***

Hello Everyone at Bainbridge Community UCC,

I pray this message finds you well. It was a tremendous blessing to meet and worship with all of you at the end of October. I felt so incredibly comfortable and welcomed. I am very excited to complete my move, get settled, and become a part of your community.

I want to extend a public thanks to the members of the search committee: Sarah Popovic, Jeff Clawson, Nancy<sup>2</sup> (Hammel & Lee), Ellen Klaiber, Shirley Takacs, and the chair of the committee, Reed Walters. It was a pleasure meeting and working with each of them. They truly represented your church well. The more I got to know them the more I wanted the chance to get to know everyone else. I also want to extend a tremendous thanks to Pastor Susi who is going above and beyond to ensure this transition goes as smoothly as possible.

I think this is a fascinating time to begin this new chapter in my life and in the life of BCUCC. Just as each of us completed a prolonged period of search (and when it feels like time to celebrate the end of that process) we are immediately called back into a spirit of waiting. Advent is when we come together, reflect on stories of people waiting for Christ to come and our own stories of waiting for Christ to come again. I think this will be a fascinating time to reflect on Advent scriptures.

As I begin my ministry with all of you I hope you will find a level of consistency. The first thing on my list of things to do is getting to know you, getting to know each of you as individuals in addition to learning about the community. The best way for me to do that is to see how you do what you do. So I requested we stick with what you have been doing for Advent in previous years and I have similar feelings about future seasons and celebrations as we work our way through this first Christian year together. I'm incredibly interested in discovering who you are and where you've been in preparation for listening for what God is calling us to do next.

But I also hope you find some things that are exciting. With someone new leading worship even the familiar should have a new spin. I will also be working with the various committees to see where there are opportunities for new classes or special services. In addition, July 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> I will be at Purdue University attending the UCC National Youth Event and leading a workshop. I hope we will have a group of BCUCC youth (age 13-18) interested in going as well. Adults, be on the lookout for opportunities to support our youth and help them attend this time of fun and fellowship combined with real discussions of God and faith.

I look forward to meeting each of you. I will begin scheduling visits with everyone in the new year. I want to learn more about your story, your connection to BCUCC, and what it is about BCUCC that makes it your spiritual home. I'm also happy to answer questions so you can get to know more about me.

The Peace and Love of Christ be with you,



Pastor Shaun



"Please join us as we celebrate Christ's Birth on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 P.M. Our celebration will continue on Sunday, Christmas Day morning at the regular worship time of 10:30 A.M."

**Dear Friends at Bainbridge Community UCC,**

I first of all want to thank you for your many kind notes and cards, and your very, very generous gift certificates. I am planning for a special day for my daughter and myself at Mario's when she is home over winter break. We are really looking forward to that! Also – the Barnes and Noble gift certificate is greatly appreciated as I do have some books on my list that I am anxious to get.

Thank you also for making my last Sunday with you so very special. I so appreciate all your sentiments, your blessings, affirmations, prayers and good wishes. The choral benediction was beautiful. And it is not only this last Sunday that I so appreciate. I have felt so blessed and grateful to have been your pastor for the last two years. It has truly been a wonderful, positive, growing experience for me, and I will never forget it, or any of you. All this makes it so much more difficult to say Good-bye. But I know that Goodbye is a contraction of "God be with ye." As we say it, let us remember that even when we're apart, God is with us all.

I have grown to know you, care for you and love you. None of this will change. Although I will not be in this church again for quite a while – I really want to respect Reverend Shaun in his call as your pastor – I will be carrying you in my heart. So know that even though I will not be seeing you, I will continue to care for you and pray for you.

Peace and courage and love to all of you – until we meet again.

Love,

  
Pastor Susi

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**Thanks from your Search Committee**

As I write this, the fall season is transitioning to winter, and the church year is also coming to an end as we celebrate the last Sunday of the Pentecost season (the reign of Christ) followed immediately by the greening of the church for Advent. So Happy New Year to all!

This is an appropriate time to recognize both an end and a beginning in our pastoral relationships as well, as we bid a fond farewell and *shalom* to Pastor Susi and joyfully anticipate the ministry of Pastor Shaun. We thank God for the Holy Spirit's leading in bringing these two gifted people who have dedicated themselves to God's service among us.

As you may be aware, Pastor Shaun's ordination was on November 20. Our congregation's gift for his ordination was a stole with the UCC emblem on it, from Brenda Grauer's liturgical arts shop. Shaun's official start date is December 1. He will be renting an apartment in Chagrin Falls village.

I wish to thank the congregation for your support, your prayers, your patience, your questions. We have tried to share our journey with you, both the "ups" and the "downs", with some of the challenging and thought-provoking discussions we had along the way. All of us on the committee are honored by your trust in us. My personal thanks to the committee members for their dedication, effort, and time commitment – it has been a true pleasure to work with each of them and a joy to see how the Holy Spirit helped us work together to fulfill God's purpose:

Jeff Clawson  
Nancy Hammel  
Ellen Klaiber  
Nancy Lee  
Sarah Krejci Popovic  
Shirley Takacs

Blessings to you all as our journey of faith continues,  
Reed Walters

### **Welcome Pastor Shaun**

We as a Church family sincerely welcome Pastor Shaun Drefahl to our fold. The Advent season of excitement is a wonderful time to welcome a new minister. Rev. Shaun, may you feel our warmth and excitement as you begin your ministry with us.

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### **New Members**

On November 20, 2011, we welcomed two new members:

**Jim Kuyon** grew up in Aurora, but now lives in Shalersville. After working in the automobile industry for 34 years, he is now retired and enjoying the company of his son and daughter and four grandchildren (a fifth is due in December). He has a long history of community musical theater participation and has been sharing his musical talents as a member of our choir. He enjoys golf, singing and live theater. Jim comes to us from the Disciples of Christ church.

**Mary Wideman** has always lived in Northeast Ohio and now lives in Aurora with her daughter Emma. She has a Master's Degree in Special Education from Kent State and is now the principal of the Outreach Academy, a K-12 charter school for children with profound disabilities. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, kayaking and spending time with Emma. She is already active in the life of our church, helping with fundraising and youth, plus is a member of a Friendship Dinner Group. Mary is a longtime UCC'er, growing up in Emmanuel UCC in Akron.

Welcome Jim & Mary to our family of faith here at Bainbridge Community UCC.

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### **From Your Finance Committee**

#### **Qualified Charitable Distributions**

The qualified charitable distribution is an opportunity to withdraw an amount up to \$100,000.00 without paying any income tax on the distribution. If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, and receive a minimum required distribution, the QCD may be a part of that required distribution which otherwise would be taxed as ordinary income. The distribution must be paid from your IRA **DIRECTLY** to a charitable organization.

Check with the IRS for a proper request form or use our own request form (available in the office or from me) to request the distribution from your bank or other holder of your IRA. To file your 2011 tax return, in line 15a (Form 1040) : 1: Write the total amount withdrawn from your IRA for the year. 2: above line 15a put in parenthesis "(-) amount of QCD and the initials QCD. 3: Subtract QCD from amount on line 15a. 4: Enter the taxable amount on line 15b. An example of the form 1040 is available as well.

Chester E. Ramey, Finance Committee

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### **BCUCC Youth Group Notes**

Caleb Ramey, Jenna Ruzga, Kayla Rumford, Brittney Allard, Bre Kramer & Kendall Duncan met on November 6<sup>th</sup> with Lisa Ruzga, Lynn Kramer, Tim & Sandy Allard to discuss upcoming events for the youth as they packaged into shoeboxes the wonderful items donated to Operation Christmas Child.

Robert Duncan is going to be following up with Youth organizers from Solon and Twinsburg to see how we can incorporate some of our activities with them. Some of the fun events they are looking to do include a 'Lock In,' Sledding, a campout, and a goal toward attending the UCC Youth Synod at Purdue University in July 2012. We were excited to learn that Pastor Shaun was also planning to be there and will be speaking too!

In order to support some of their fun activities planned for next year, they are considering a 'Sweetheart Dinner' in February and a 'Subs & Music(?)' event in the Spring; and possibly a sports streaming event in the Fellowship Hall---please, "stay tuned..."

You will also find our Youth assisting Lisa Ruzga at the Cookie Walk on December 17<sup>th</sup> to support our Church. Please come out and fill your boxes with wonderful cookies for the Holidays!!

Our next meeting is planned for December 4<sup>th</sup> following our worship service.

Transcribed by Brittney Allard (Summary by Sandra Allard, her Mom)

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### **Mission Moments**

#### GIVING TREE-CHRISTMAS TREE

During this coming holiday season, you will see the decorated Christmas tree with paper tags. Everyone is asked to take one, or several and purchase the item on it for our Christmas Family. Please gift wrap the item and place the paper tag on it so we know which item goes with each person. Your purchased gift or gift card will go around the tree. When you see this tree and tags, in your minds eye picture the family this represents. The family lives in Bainbridge. One adult member is laid off of work. They have 3 children, ages 8, 12, and 16 and all are going through some very hard times. Let's do what we can to make their day a little brighter and show them what the "Christ" in Christmas means.



#### HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

 When the paper tags come off the giving tree, they will be replaced with ornaments bearing our family names. Be on the lookout at craft shows and the specialty catalogues to order yours. And if you are really creative, make one. You can bring your ornaments in anytime and place them in the basket that has a sign, "Family Ornaments." They will be stored at the church for next year's holiday.



#### OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

We received a certificate from the UCC that we have been deemed a **5 for 5 church**. The certificate that everyone should be so proud of shows that Bainbridge Community Church gave \$2,351.00 for the year of 2010 for the Church's Wider Mission. A good part of this donation stems from the stewardship cards, where you indicate that part of the contribution goes to the Wider Missions. Great job everyone!

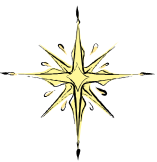
Kathy Meier, Mission Chair

### **Prayer Shawls**

Prayer shawls bring comfort, God's Love and Peace to those who are suffering. We now are in need of more of them. If you knit or crochet, and would be willing to supply any to our Church, it would be greatly appreciated. Patty Willson has patterns and can answer any questions.



Please call her at [440 543 9792](tel:440-543-9792). Thank you so much for your time and talents, and the love which these talents will bring.



### **Christmas Documentary "The Star of Bethlehem"**

Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, following worship, we will view the Christmas documentary which sheds light on the Bethlehem star. Greg Schaefer will lead us in discussion.

The movie unravels a celestial puzzle that includes correctly determining the date of Herod's death, the science of astronomy, and 9 points of biblical criteria from the book of Matthew. This film presents a tremendous continuity backed by scientific research and may help us understand the story of Christmas on both a spiritual and scientific level as well.

### **A Special Invitation**

" Come hear the combined adult and youth choirs of Bainbridge, Solon and Twinsburg UCC churches at Twinsburg Congregational Church, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm, and our adult and youth choir celebrating Christ's birth at our Church on Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm.

We thank all of the people who have given of their time and talents to make the season come alive with song".





Bainbridge Community Church  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk!**

Grab a free fresh cup of coffee or hot chocolate and saunter down the aisles of homemade holiday sweets! Individually boxed for you by our attentive staff.

Our cookies will make gift-giving simple. We will offer traditional favorites, fresh out-of-the-oven nut rolls, irresistible reindeer crunch, as well as treats for your four-legged friends!



Cookies \$8.00/lb.,  
larger items individually priced.

Free  
Admission

Please bring a friend and enjoy the crafts and holiday music on **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*9 am - 1 pm.*

*Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ  
17751 Chillicothe Road  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023*

*For further information please email [eruzga@gmail.com](mailto:eruzga@gmail.com)  
Special requests considered!*



**Prayer Concerns**

Please remember to keep our members in your prayers: Chrissy Schaefer and her family, and the Fudella family.



**Worship Leader:** Vince Meier

**Ushers:** Virginia Johnson, Greg Marous, Tim & Sandy Allard, Ann Sekerak, Kathy Meier, Chet Ramey

**Greeters:** Ethelann Duncan & Lynne Charney

**Coffee Hosts:** Ellen & Phil Klaiber, Ladies Auxiliary, Brenda Barenwald & the CPB, Annette & David Schell

**Flowers:** Ann Sekerak, Anneleise Long, Chet E Ramey

**Nursery:** Hillary Duncan, Virginia Johnson, Ethelann Duncan, Sue Johnson

**Communion Ushers:** Greg Marous & Virginia Johnson

**Teachers:** Lisa Ruzga, Lynn Kramer, Sandy Allard

**1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle Lighting:** Tim, Sandra & Brittney Allard

**Thank You Youth**

It was a pleasure to deliver 5 large and packed shoe boxes to the Operation Christmas Child drop-off center on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. I am sure that these small, but loving gifts, will give children in many corners of the world, cause to smile this Christmas Season. Thank you to all of our Church School youth who donated to the boxes. Karen Dunasky

**Thank You Carol Malz**

Thank you Carol for the beautiful cake you made and decorated for Pastor Susi's farewell. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Thank You All**

Thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful farewell given to Pastor Susi.

**Thank You Rev Margaret Mills**

Thank you Rev Mills for leading us in worship on the beginning of Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>

**German Dinner Thanks**

I would like to send a big Thank You to all who helped with the German Dinner! Thank you to all who came and supported the fundraiser. Thanks to the dining crew who set up. Mr. Oomp & Mr. Pah Pah; Gary Johnson and Ken Moss; to their better halves, Sue and Pat. Thanks to the cooks, Tim Allard and his wonderful red cabbage (we had requests for more on Sunday) to Mr. Spaetzel, Vince Meier. To our dedicated help: Kayla Rumford, Josh Johnson, Brenda Barenwald, Greg Willson, and Jason Johnson. Thanks to our best new dancer Jason Marous, and our Fraulein of Ceremonies, Sandy Allard. To Patty Willson who worked so feverishly to find a band. Thank you! (Please keep Jacob Kouwe of the Chardon Polka Band in your prayers.) And to the best couple on the dance floor, Gary Johnson and Mitch Fakadej. You were wonderful! Last but not least, to the anonymous donor of the band. You helped to make the evening so special. Everyone left with smiles on their faces. The evening was a wonderful event enjoyed by all. I hope you were there to experience it. Thank you all!!!!!!

The Frank Moravcik Polka Band, pictured right, entertained people following The German Dinner. What talent!! We as a Church sincerely thank them for coming on a moment's notice to fill in for another scheduled band.



## Happy Birthday December

6	Ellen Klaiber
8	Dorothy Hurd Daniel Giebner
11	Barb Hincke
14	Robert Duncan
16	David Schell Terri Schaefer
20	Karen Brastoff
21	Breanna Kramer

### Address Correction

**Payne, Tyler**  
True House / rm 210  
132 S Green Dr  
Athens, OH 45701-3140

## Happy Anniversary December

22	Judith Campbell & David Edmondson
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**January BEAM  
Deadline**

**Thursday**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**



Pictured above is the Kenston Marching Band's drum line performing their percussion feature. It was created by the drum line for performance during the Senior show, which is the last show of the season. There were a number of "visual effects" incorporated throughout and one of them was the quad players ( Hillary Duncan and Eric Poe) flipping upside down to play a quad solo. They spent several weeks putting it together and we were thrilled that it went off without a hitch every time they performed it. Hillary said it was really cool to watch the audience and their reaction while upside down! This was a great exit for Hillary as a graduating senior!



1. Which of these companies was the first to use Santa Clause in an advertisement?

- Pepsi
- Coca-Cola
- 7-Up
- Fanta

2. Which president was the first to decorate the White House Christmas tree?

- Franklin Pierce
- Benjamin Franklin
- George Washington
- Abraham Lincoln

3. Which country did the gingerbread house come from?

- Austria
- Switzerland
- Germany
- United States

4. What kind of Christmas does Elvis Presley sing about?

- White
- Red
- Blue
- Snowy

5. In what year was "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens, published?

- 1765
- 1843
- 1860
- 1906

6. What is the name of the Grinch's dog in the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?

- Pete
- Sam
- Ruth
- Max

7. Where was "A Christmas Carol" written?

- Australia
- United States
- Germany
- United Kingdom

8. Which reindeer helps Rudolph fly at the reindeer games?

- Donner
- Clarice
- Dancer
- Blitzen

9. Which reindeer is Rudolph's dad?

- Dancer
- Dixon
- Donner
- Blitzen

10. Which Christmas movie has been played more than any other?

- A Christmas Story
- Home Alone
- Frosty the Snowman
- It's a Wonderful Life

### NO PEEKING

Question 1: The correct answer is the Coca-Cola.  
Question 2: The correct answer is Franklin Pierce.  
Question 3: The correct answer is Germany.  
Question 4: The correct answer is Blue.  
Question 5: The correct answer is 1843.  
Question 6: The correct answer is Max.  
Question 7: The correct answer is United King-  
dom.  
Question 8: The correct answer is Clarice.  
Question 9: The correct answer is Donner.  
Question 10: The correct answer is It's a Wonder-  
ful Life.