

Bainbridge Beam

The Newsletter of the Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ May 2011

From Your Acting Pastor

Dear friends and church family at BCUCC,

This year, the month of May finds us between the celebration of Easter and that of Pentecost. We spend this time in the liturgical season of Easter, after Jesus risen, but has not yet ascended into heaven. It is a time when the disciples are still experiencing the presence of the risen Christ in a tangible way, but they have not yet been given the gift of the comforter, the Holy Spirit. So it is a kind of in-between time, with Jesus' followers still relying on his presence, his appearances, to continue to teach them, and knowing that it will not be long before things change, and they will have to rely on the Spirit.

In my own life right now, I relate to this in a way. My youngest daughter is graduating from High School this year, and will be embarking on a new journey, unlike any she has ever known. Like those disciples, she will soon be on her own, experiencing an independence which, I expect, will be daunting, but also empowering. It is in this time, before she leaves, that I feel an urgency in striving to teach her everything I want her to know, before she is far from my physical presence. Perhaps this is how Jesus felt, knowing he would soon be ascending, and leaving the disciples not truly alone, but without his physical presence any longer.

We all go through these kinds of transition times, whether we are the ones leaving, or the ones being left. This month of May gives us an opportunity to reflect on what that means for us. Two days we celebrate that relate to this theme are Mother's Day and Memorial Day. On Memorial Day we remember those who, although no longer with us in body, nevertheless are with us in spirit. Our memories of their teachings, their presence, their love for us sustain us, and we carry this with us always.

Mother's Day provides a chance to honor those whose vocation it is to, like Jesus, nurture and teach, and then let go. On May 8th, Mother's Day, we have an opportunity to honor mothers through the purchase of blankets. These are Church World Services blankets, which are used to aid and comfort victims of disasters, the poor and needy here in this country and throughout the world. What better way could there be to honor those who have comforted us, than by providing comfort for others?

Speaking of mothers, the moms of the church will begin meeting again for Mindful MOM-Days – our next meeting will be Monday, May 2nd in the lounge. Although we are in different places with the ages of our children, and with our experiences, the common thread of loving our children binds us together. We gather to offer one another support in this vocation.

Just as a "heads-up" - there are quite a few members, and members' children who will be graduating this year. We will be honoring them on Sunday June 5th during the worship service, and then after church with coffee hour. Please let me know of graduates who will be at the service, and who might be willing to take part in the service on that Sunday.

As we go through transitions in life, as we go through leaving or being left, may we be ever mindful that we are never left alone. Those we love are always with us, whether in body or in spirit. And we praise God that Jesus, the risen one, is with us every step of the way – guiding, sustaining and loving us through all our days. May this Easter season bring you a sense of his abiding presence on your journey.

Yours in the risen Christ,



Pastor Susi

From your Search Committee:

Those of you who have done interviewing in the business world know that part of the goal of interviewing is determining each candidate's strengths and weaknesses. We use various euphemisms for these – "gifts" and "growing edges", perhaps. And in business, everyone is Superwoman or Superman – the only weakness a candidate may willingly acknowledge is an allergy to kryptonite. (We ran across a funny article in another church newsletter about the attributes of the perfect pastor which we may pass along in a future Beam.)

One of the lectionary readings for the Epiphany season is St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In chapter 12 of this letter, Paul makes the point that not everyone is good at everything and this is by God's design. "Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?" (1 Cor. 12:29) We had some interesting discussion during some recent interviews about this topic – not just how a pastor can help a congregation to grow, but how a congregation can support their pastor and help the pastor to grow. There may well be gifts that the pastor does not have that people within the congregation must supply, just as the gifts of the people in the congregation complement each other. Not everyone makes heavenly music; not everyone makes heavenly soup. That's the main reason Paul speaks about the church as the body of Christ and not the amoebae of Christ – his point is that we are not single self-sufficient cells but a complex organism with many parts that need each other and must work together for the health of all. (The other reason is that the microscope had not been invented yet.)

So are we looking for a perfect pastor? No – we know that no one is perfect. But also yes, in a sense – perfect for us in that the gifts this person will bring to our mutual ministry will complement and strengthen the gifts this congregation already possesses by the grace of God, and perfect for the pastor as we strive to complement, strengthen and support that person's gifts in whatever ways that person needs. For we all need each other to do God's work in the world.

We ask your prayers and support for the pastor God will lead us to find, as you also pray for and support the pastor we now have.

In Christ,
Reed

REMINDER

Sunday, May 22nd 2011 – immediately following Worship

Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting to include the election of our Central Planning Board officers will be held May 22nd. Agendas will be distributed shortly. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.

Thank you,

Patty Willson
Moderator, Central Planning Board



‘MINDFUL MOM’ – DAYS

Next meeting
Monday, May 2, 2011

Open to all Moms with kids

After a brief hiatus due to the Lenten Soup Suppers, Our ‘Mindful MOM’-days gathering will begin again this month. The women in this group continue to be a source of fellowship and sharing for each other. Our gatherings provide an opportunity for moms to come together, build community, get to know each other and support each other in a confidential and non-threatening atmosphere. By meeting in the church and ordering from Café Michael, located across the street, we support the Mindful Mondays program, raising money for food pantries at no additional cost to us. We will meet on Monday, May 2nd at 7:00 PM, and you can order food, or bring your own dinner if you prefer.

Moms are welcome to join us – whether you’ve come in the past or not. Also, feel free to bring a friend if you’d like. I hope to see you on May 2nd at 7:00 in the lounge at the church. Please call or email me (Pastor Susi) 440 543-5117 (Church) or 543-1301 (Home) or pastorusibcucc@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS



We will honor all graduates – from High School, College, Advanced degrees, etc. at our Worship Service on Sunday, June 5th, and with a Coffee Hour following.

Please let Pastor Susi know if you will be attending, and if you would be willing to participate in the service that day – through music, through speaking, or in any other way. We would love you to share your future plans, and anything else you would like.

We congratulate all our graduates, and look forward to honoring you!

Christian Education Corner

We would like to thank the Youth Group and all of the adult helpers who sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt and party for the children on Palm Sunday. Hopefully all who participated had a joyous time. Thanks to those who gave a free will offering at the party for the Campership Fund. Your giving is most appreciated.



Those who attended the Lenten Soup Supper and Service at our Church on April 13th, were treated to approximately eleven different soups, two of which were made by the Confirmation class. Our thanks to the Confirmands and Pastor Susi for all of their efforts.

Hopefully our congregation enjoyed the art work on the cover of the Palm Sunday bulletin. The youth of our Church School worked hard on their drawings depicting scenes from Palm Sunday and the following days leading to Easter. We have many talented children in our midst.



We are beginning to discuss plans for Family Bible School this summer. If you have any ideas, please let Sandy or Karen know.

Spring Blessings to all-



Sandy Allard and Karen Dunasky
Co-chairpersons of Christian Education

Mission Moment

Once again the committee would like to 'Thank' each and everyone, for all your donations, to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are so Blessed with many kind and generous people.

May 1st Trisha Ford and her Field of Dream Team will host a Bake Sale, in our Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. It will be open to all area Churches to stop in and shop, for bakery and/or Luminaries for the Relay for Life. Please help this hard working Team with this very important and meaningful Mission project.

Blanket Sunday will be held on Mother's Day, May 8th. Blankets may be donated in honor and/or memory of those Special Ladies in our lives, starting Palm Sunday.

A big "Thanks" to Doug Giebner and his friend for doing our shift, at the CVCC Clothing Drive on April 9th.

Blessings to you all!
Your Mission Committee



From the Worship Committee

Thanks to all who were a part of our Lenten Soup Supper Program. The soups were wonderful and we enjoyed being in fellowship and thought with one another. We hope to see you during the month of May:

May 1st
May 8th
May 15th
May 29th

Communion Service
Mothers' Day
Good Shepherd Sunday
Memorial Day Sunday

The Worship Committee invites you to take part in our time together Sunday mornings. If you are interested in being an usher or worship leader, please speak with Sarah Popovic.

Interested in signing up to share altar flower arrangements in our services? Please see the flower chart on the bulletin board at church to reserve a Sunday.

Ladies Auxiliary

Monday, May 23, 2011
7:30 pm "SHARP" in the Lounge

Angel Intuitive
Candie Michelle - SHE SEES ANGELS



Candie will give a short talk about what she does, sees, and feels. Then Candie does a "Gallery" reading to tell everyone some information from which Angels are around them.

Limit 15 people. If more than 15 have an interest, we will set an additional day.

Cost \$11.00 per person.

Call Jeanette Fakadej to make a reservation, 440. 543.4085 – leave message, I'll get back to you.

Son-Shine

Congratulations



Congratulations to the "Parents to be"
Sarah and Michael Popovic!!!

Many blessings for a joyful anticipation
and a healthy pregnancy

Happy Birthday



May 4th	Lynn Kramer
May 6th	Amy Packard Roy Keiper
May 7th	Libby Kramer
May 8th	Jonathan Boyer Nancy Lee
May 13th	Patty Willson
May 14th	Darlene Gall
May 15th	Chrissy Schaefer
May 16th	Annette Schell
May 18th	Ethelann Duncan Lynn Charney
May 19th	Al Martell
May 23th	Douglas Giebner
May 24th	Bonnie Sofranko
May 26th	Chet P. Ramey Jeremy Johnson Erik Barenwald Michelle Newton
May 29th	Paul Gamble
May 30th	Dick Newton



Happy Anniversary

May 18th	Lori & Jonathan Boyer
May 21st	Reed Walters & Mary Echle
May 22nd	Greg & Terri Schaefer

Many Thanks to our April Helpers

Worship Leader: Judith Campbell

Ushers: Andy Gall, Sue Johnson, Kayla Rumford, Hillary Duncan, Virginia Johnson, Greg Marous Brittney Allard, Sandy Allard, Ethelann Duncan, Nancy Hammel, Ellen Klaiber,

Greeters: Lynn Charney, Dorothy Polaniec

Communion Ushers: Sue Johnson, Andy Gall, Eileen Dickerson, Henry Dunasky

Coffee Hosts: Vivian DeRolf and Kayla Rumford, Dorothy Polaniec, Annette Schell

Sunday School Teachers: Sandy Allard, Karen Dunasky

Easter Carnival: Youth Group and Adult Assistants: Robert Duncan, Sandy Allard, Kayla Rumford, Jenna Ramey, Caleb Ramey, Brittney Allard, Jimmy Kramer, Bre Kramer, Kendall Duncan, Hilary D. Additional volunteers: Karen Dunasky, Mary Wideman, Lisa Ruzga, Tim Allard, Jim Kramer, Brenda Barenwald

Nursery: Ellen Klaiber, Brittney Allard, Sue Johnson

Music: Hearts Afire, Soup Supper, April 13th

Thanks to Greg Marous, Bill Takacs, Jeff Clawson, Gary Johnson, and Ken Moss for moving a donated piano, table and sewing machine to the church for our upcoming sale.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOSTS ARE NEEDED

If you are interested in hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour after worship, please see Vivian DeRolf or sign up on the sheet on the counter in the foyer.

Thank you
The Diaconate Committee

Congratulations to Brittney Allard!!!

Brittney will be cheering on the Kenston Bombers a member of the Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad!

Go Big Blue!!!!





BOOK CLUB

When was the last time you saw a religious book featured on the cover of Time Magazine? Our current Book Club selection – “Love Wins” by Rob Bell – is on this week’s cover. Although this is a theological book, it is humorous, imaginative and easy to read. Also, it isn’t very long. Local libraries have copies, but you may want to get your own – and read it more than once. It will provide fascinating discussion material – sometime in May.

Watch for the date.



SORT OUT YOUR TREASURES!

**Saturday, June 18th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Rent tables inside or out
Rain or Shine
Food and Bake Sale

Market to include a Tupperware® Sale
- all from the of the proceeds from the sale
Tupperware® go to the church. The church will have a table if you have items to donate.
Rental information below. Please contact Chairperson, Patty Willson – pwillsonrn@aol.com or 440.543.9792 for more information.

**Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ
Trash & Treasure Market Contract - June 18, 2011**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Our tables are 30" x 96".

Outside space \$10 _____ Outside space and table \$15 _____ Inside table \$20 _____

Please make checks payable to:
Bainbridge Community Church, 17751 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Tables may be set up after 7:00am on Saturday, June 18th.

I absolve the Bainbridge Community Church of any loss, damage, theft, personal injury, death, or liability arising from the show. Please sign your contract and return it with payment before June 1, 2011. Table choice on first register, first paid basis. Thank you

Vendor _____ Date _____