

Greetings from the PASTOR'S DESK...

"Be prepared." This is the Boy Scout Motto. March is the month many churches recognize Boy Scouts. Interestingly enough, at our recent worship meeting we remembered this fact and when we looked at our calendars to see which Sunday is designated for Boy Scouts, we found nothing – "nada." No March date for Boy Scouts.

In the meantime, borrowing from the Boy Scouts, "Be prepared," - what a great motto for all of us. Athletes are prepared for the game. Musicians are prepared for their performance. Jesus was prepared for his ministry.

For 30 years before he began his official ministry Jesus was preparing. He spent time studying the scriptures, learning the law, and worshipping God. After Jesus' baptism he went into the wilderness for the big push. I am tempted to call this time the dress rehearsal. I say that because in the desert Jesus faced temptations. There were no short cuts for Jesus just as there are no short cuts for us in life as well.

We are told that in the desert Jesus was in constant prayer and meditation. It was his prayer life that sustained him day after day both when things went smoothly and when times were tough. If this was true for Jesus then it is certainly true for us.

Each and everyday we need to be communicating with the God who has given us life and love. Often, when we pray our prayers are filled with the "give-me's" of life. While it is good to be clear about our needs and wants with God imagine your prayer life experience when you open your hearts and minds to listen to God's still small voice. Remember that God's love for us is beyond our wildest dreams. We cannot comprehend this kind of love. Yet God's love is always there reaching out to us to sustain, forgive and uplift.

As Jesus lived his life he prepared and was prepared. We, too, are called to do the same. In the Lenten season, let each of us prepare and get prepared to give our lives to God and others and to be open to receiving the Easter gift of Jesus' resurrection.

Blessings, Pastor Judy

RED BIRD MISSION CHAPTER 7

Once again, we received overwhelming support for the Red Bird Mission trip with the February soup sale. We made just shy of \$200, which will be used to defray some of the cost of the trip. All of us, who have signed on already, send our thanks.

I heard through the grapevine that we have possibly two more Bellevue Heights' members seriously thinking about joining the mission team. That's great!!! If you would like to learn more about the mission trip, think about attending our next event or talking to one of the Bellevue Heights team members.

Our next event is a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner to be held Sunday, March 13th, after church. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at 475-0011 or contacting Carol Karins at 422-7466. Reservations must be in by March 10th. Cost of the dinner is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12. The Red Bird Mission team will

have a guest speaker who has made the trip and can share their experiences and insight.

Friends in Faith & Fellowship out on the Town Jan 28th

After enjoying a nice meal at the Steak and Sundae Restaurant, the Friday evening group attended a talk by Anne Beiler, founder of Auntie Anne's pretzels, hosted by CNY Crossroads. Anne Beiler was born to Amish-Mennonite parents in Lancaster County, Pa. The talk centered on how she and her family started and ran the company in a Christian manner. The company has more than 10,000 employees at 300 franchises, in 20 countries. She is the author of "Twist of Faith, The Story of Anne Beiler.

NOTE FROM BILL MARTIN

Dear Friends at Bellevue,

Wishes for my recovery are heart-felt, your concerns have been expressed in many ways. The phone calls, cards, delicious food and visits have really helped during this period.

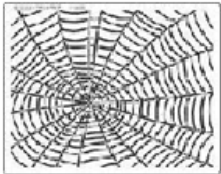
Late this fall the physicians identified a rare form of cancer in my abdomen that had probably been developing for over three years. The surgery last month in Buffalo reduced much of the current cancer, but could not eliminate all the growth process.

We are hoping that there are good years ahead.

God Bless You.

Bill Martin

Website News



<http://www.bellevueheights.org>

Just recently we have added

a page to our website for Forms and Downloads. Currently, there are forms for the Perkins Scholarship, UMW Love Gift, and an application for Building Usage on the web page. Select either the MS Word or PDF format of the form you are interested in, fill it out, and drop it off at the church office. The Word format may be filled out on your computer and emailed to the church. The Church's email address is: bellevueheights@cnyemail.com.

If anyone has a form they would like to add to this page, please let Ray Brunner know and he will "Git-R-Done". If you have any questions, please call Ray Brunner at 492-3393 or send an email to Ray at rabrune@aol.com.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Our creative and energetic teachers provided children with many fun filled February themes such as the red, pink and white hearts of Valentines Day. Our families once again enjoyed the special talents of Tom Knight, puppeteer and musician. He entertained students and families with his songs, dance and the magic of his puppets. A great night for all!

Students are ready for their own version of "March Madness" with the arrival of dinosaurs, dinosaurs and more dinosaurs! Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus and the all time favorite Tyrannosaurs Rex. The classroom is filled with many opportunities to explore and pretend to be part of the prehistoric age.

March also brings with it the "wearing of the green" on St. Patrick's Day and the hope of an early Spring! Children will enjoy the transition of the seasons from Winter to Spring with the welcome sight of the first robin, the sound of honking geese upon return to Syracuse and the touch of the first warm breeze upon their cheeks.

The Board is currently interviewing qualified candidates for the position of Program Director, to replace the irreplaceable Michelle Ulm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nancy Lowery
BHNS Board Member

Christians in Action **Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry located at Brown Memorial UMC may not be able to meet all the special wants but they do provide the staples for individuals and families. As we do our grocery shopping, think about buying the ingredients for a hot lunch; i.e. soup with crackers or canned beef stew or maybe the ingredients to make tuna-noodle casserole. During this cold winter, hot cocoa would be a welcome treat. Use your imagination, and the possibilities are endless. Thank you to Dorothy McIntyre for taking these donations to the pantry.

Clothes Closet

Think warm!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Esther Crossman and her crew at the Clothes Closet are continually stocking the shelves and racks with clothing for the whole family. Please, only donate clothes that are clean and in good condition. One of the on-going issues for any agency that accepts used clothing is that donations have included torn or ripped clothes or clothes that are stained or dirty. The Clothes Closet also accepts gently used small kitchen gadgets, dishes, pots and pans, and utensils. If you yourself have a large

donation, please feel free to take it directly to Brown Memorial. Thank you to Bev and Bill Martin for taking our donations to the closet.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY CHOIR

The Africa University Choir will be giving performances throughout the Upper New York Conference June 3rd through June 18th. They will be at Christ Community UMC on Friday, June 17th, and in Syracuse City churches on Saturday, June 18th. They will also perform at Annual Conference in Rochester on Thursday, June 9th and Friday, June 10th. More information will appear in *The Advocate*.

Syracuse Westside Urban Mission Day

On Sunday, March 27th, the churches of the Crossroads District are invited to celebrate Syracuse Westside Urban Mission Day. Your special offering on March 27th will support the entire program of SWUM, including the ministry of Church and Community Worker, Andrew Gladstone-Highland. Ministries of SWUM include: tutoring for children & youth, a clothes closet, sending kids to summer camp, a summer program for children and youth, St. Paul's Food Pantry, life skills classes for adults and youth. If you would like Andrew to speak at worship or to a certain group or if you would like to volunteer for any of the programs, contact Andrew at swumission@gmail.org.

LENTEN SERVICES

March 9th is **Ash Wednesday**. There will be an Agape meal at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall and the worship service will follow at **7:30 pm** in the sanctuary.

There will be food (either a meal or refreshments and coffee – TBD) and a worship service each succeeding Wednesday evening during Lent.

The **Maundy Thursday** (April 21st) service will be held at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Easter Morning Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 am at Woodland Reservoir with a breakfast following in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday service is at our usual worship hour – 11:00 am.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Please notify the church (bellevueheights@cnyemail.com or 315-475-0011) of any changes.

Happy Birthdays!

01	Gregory Wood Mildred Habberfield	15	Laurel Hatt Luke Gongloff
03	Paula Dennis		Margaret Martin
05	John James Scott Barbara Sullivan	16	Deborah Rosecrans Sarah Kirst
06	Brett Wood Eric Drake Sharon Wilburn Raymond Brunner	17	Sirje Kuhl
		18	Lisa Mawson Lisa Schaeffler Mary Graham
07	Alice Kittlaus Jeanne Merrithew Scott Young	20	Michelle Manfredi Lynn Umbach
09	Norah Brown Sean Kroft	21	David Watson
		22	Heidi Foster Ian Wilson
10	Robert Townley Genna Leigh Bird Christine Kelly		Sue Ann Cowin
		23	Cheryl Jackym Gretchen Kinnell
11	Sharon Krause Alan Hale Dorothy Montgomery Karen Leonard	24	Alexandra Smith
		26	Betsy Cherundolo Sylvia Black Tammy Leonard
12	Andrew Lasda Erica Gongloff Kong Phommaniraj	27	Andrew O'Leary Norman Wallace Winona Hartman
14	David Hall Kevin Morgan	28	Nathan Heilmann
		30	Richard Lewis
		31	Alexandra Baule

Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church Youth Group 2011

Save the following dates for some exciting activities in January and February for youth in Grades 6-12:

March 6th Skaneateles Rec Center.

March 11th – West Genesee Play @ Camillus Middle School at 7 pm

March 13th Bake Sale after church

March 20th Murder Mystery Dinner

March 27th Van Duyn Ministry

If you have any questions, please call:

Diane Dermody at # 423-4334

Laura Mattice at # 487-6414

Please save & post



T-SHIRTS

Come one and all to purchase your Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church T-shirt. Sizes S to XL are available for purchase at a cost of \$10.00 per shirt. Thanks to Ben Nichols for designing the picture on the gray T-shirts. These T-shirts were worn on the Heifer Trip and could be worn for other church activities (i.e., Roast Beef Dinners, VBS, etc.) Shirts can be purchased from Diane Dermody or Jim Morgan.

THANK YOU NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our successful Spaghetti Dinner and Silent & Live Auction that was held on Saturday, February 12th. We served approximately 70 people for dinner and the proceeds from the Auction exceeded \$1,700.00. It was a great evening and a good time was had by all.

A special thanks to Ann Barnes for all her enjoyable music and to the Auctioneers, Steve Mattice and Michael Veley.

The "Love Gifts" will be presented in June. See you next year. (Date is already set for Sat., Feb. 11, 2012.)

Gloria Brunner and the Circle of Concern

NOTE FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

Our calendar for 2011 is filling up for altar flowers for our Sunday worship services. If you desire to remember or honor someone by donating flower arrangement costs, please call Jane Nogash at 487-9415 or leave the information in her church envelope. Thank you.

RED BIRD MISSION LABEL PROGRAM

Red Bird Mission participates in the following programs for support of their School. You can collect the relevant labels listed below and send them to the Red Bird Mission. The labels will be redeemed for items or cash for their School.

CAMPBELL'S Food Labels:

Clip and save the UPC labels and lids from participating products. A list of these products can be found in the narthex near the Red Bird label containers. Clip around both the UPC code and "Labels for Education" symbol. They must be attached together, NOT glued, NOT taped, or NOT stapled. Be sure to cut them off the label together.

GENERAL MILLS Box Tops for Education:

Box tops are found on most General Mills and Kimberly Clark products. (Sometimes the box top is on the bottom of the box.) Watch for the box tops on the following products: Betty Crocker, Gold Medal, Cereal, Green Giant, Old El Paso, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Nature Valley, Cottonelle, Huggies, Avery, Ziploc, Kleenex, Depends, Scott, and Hefty. A full list of these products can be found in the narthex near the Red Bird label containers.

BHUMC Members Bowl for Habitat

Fifteen members of BHUMC and the Youth Fellowship bowled in the SWEAT for Habitat Bowl-a-thon, after church Sunday Feb 13th. BHUMC was one of eleven groups participating and raised over \$640 as the 3rd highest fundraiser. The Bowl-a-thon raised over \$5000. S.W.E.A.T is short for South West Ecumenical Action Team. In order to keep Habitat homes affordable, they no longer have basements. SWEAT builds a tool shed for each home, and some of the money raised in the Bowl-a-thon will be used to purchase materials to build the sheds

PLANNED GIVING - J W Morey

For those who have achieved the age noted - here is an idea that could benefit you - the church and not for profits too - as always we suggest you confer with your financial advisor. jwm

IRA direct rollover

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can have money from your IRA sent directly to a charitable organization. Traditional IRA and Roth account holders can do this, but it's probably more beneficial to traditional IRA account holders, because much of the money in these accounts is eventually taxable. Now, however, the cash that goes straight to the charity is not counted as taxable income to the IRA owner. The one drawback is that such direct gifts are not deductible by the donor. That, however, might not be that much of a disincentive.

LECTIONARY READINGS for March

March 6th Last Sunday after Epiphany

Ex. 24:12-18, Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt. 17:1-9

March 9th Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10, Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13th 1st Sunday in Lent

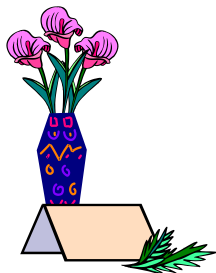
Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matt. 4:1-11

March 20th 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

March 27th 3rd Sunday in Lent

Ex. 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Cathy and Franklin Waelde 3/14/1981

Sandra and Richard Schmidt 3/24/1973

Please notify the church office, either by e-mail or phone of any necessary changes.

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RUSTEES – New Guy in Charge

At the January Trustees' meeting, a new guy was elected chairperson – Bill Gessler. Bill comes well-qualified for this task. He is a former business owner and is currently self-employed. He has a strong background in construction and property maintenance, as well as business management. He brings an excellent combination of multiple experiences and practical knowledge to the office. Please welcome him in the capacity of his new job.

New to the Trustees this year are Michelle Ulm and Kim Kromer Murphy. They, too, bring many valuable skills to the board. Perhaps Michelle knows us better than we know her. For the last 10 years, she has been the managing director of

the Bellevue Heights Nursery School. As such she has been involved with getting telephone and internet service to the Nursery School. She also has prompted us, as appropriate, in maintaining floors and other parts of the building. Kim is a life-long Methodist who has been active here for the past 5 years. She has a Masters Degree in Special Education and taught and consulted for 13 years in Alaska where she also served on other boards. Remaining on the board are Carol Karins, Gordon Hershberger, and Ben Nichols.

Also, the information explaining the George M. Perkins and Alice M. Perkins Scholarship Prize and applications for same are posted on the stair landing bulletin board. Completed applications should be given to Carol Karins or Gordon Hershberger by Saturday, April 30, 2011.