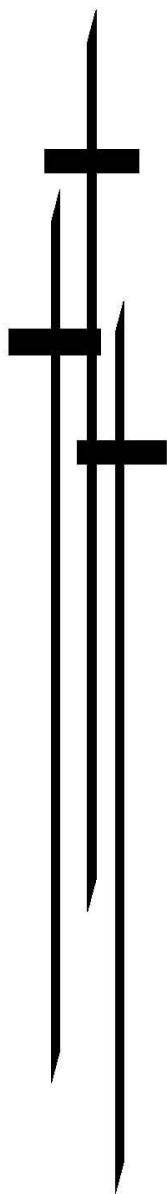


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

April 2014



*Loving, Serving, and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

*...Our Continuing
Mission...*

... To explore strange
new worlds...to seek out
new life and new
civilizations...to boldly
go where no one has
gone before.... Oops,
sorry! While pondering
our Church's Mission

Statement, and I apparently channeled the Mission Statement of the Starship Enterprise. Actually, parts of that statement aren't that far from what we strive to do here at BUCC. We explore new ways to welcome the stranger, and open ourselves to different world-views. We seek out the New Life that Jesus Christ proclaims and embodies. And we boldly try to take our faith and our living to a higher level - one that is beyond where we've gone before.

From time to time, it's important to think about our mission in this world, and to be able to clearly articulate it. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem for the last time, he sums-up his life's mission by declaring that he came "Not to *be* served, but to *serve*; and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28) I believe that his concise understanding of that mission was extremely helpful in allowing him to faithfully follow through and fulfill it. As you and I approach Good Friday and Easter, it's a good time to consider *our* mission, as individuals and as a Family of Faith.

Our Brecksville United Church of Christ Mission Statement is both brief and bold: *To Love, to Serve, and to Accept All People with God's Life-Changing Power.* For me, this mission is also personal, as I try to find ways to do that in my day-to-day living. Being part of a caring community like BUCC certainly helps. And being part of a *faith* community definitely provides additional inspiration and energy. The proclamation of Easter is much more than simply announcing that Jesus was raised from death to life. It is also recognition of how the Divine Power of Love and Life continues to overcome the forces of fear, hatred, and death. It's about honoring Christ's call that we recognize and treat all people as our brothers and sisters, and that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And Easter is God's definitive declaration that there is no pain or problem in Life that can ever separate us from the reality of Divine Compassion and Grace.

On the first Easter morning, in spite of the confusion, fear, and doubt which surrounded them, those first witnesses hurried from the tomb to share the Good News with their friends, their enemies, and eventually, the entire world: **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!** This is the Good News that inspires our Mission. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Dave

If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Pastor Dave at the church office (440-526-4364) or at home (440-546-1193). He will be glad to meet with you.

Here are some of the upcoming opportunities we have to share the Good News of our Faith:

April 13th - Palm Sunday Procession, leading us into the story of Christ's Passion and Death

April 17th - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper at 6:30, Celebration of Christ's Last Supper at 7:00, and Service of Tenebrae (Shadows) at 7:30

April 20th - Easter Sunrise Communion Service at 6:00 in Highland Cemetery, and our Easter Festival Service at 10:00



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

NEWS FROM OCWM



The last Family Promise night was March 4th. About 17 people were sheltered and fed by BUCC members and friends. Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church graciously provided the site. The evening meal was well appreciated, especially the dessert. Thanks go to all who participated. The date for the next Family Promise night has yet to be determined.

The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, May 18th (note change of date). We are partnering with Episcopal Church Of The Advent, as we have done in the past (they are very easy to work with). The site will be the Pearl Road United Methodist Church. The menu is to be decided. BUCC is providing the salad and dressing, bread and spread, and the dessert (the other church will provide the entree). The sign-up board will be in the narthex at BUCC at a later date.

The aluminum can barrel in the lower commons continues to fill up as if by magic. Last month, another 37 pounds of cans and other metals were redeemed, returning \$20.00 to the BUCC SARA account. To date, 3461 pounds (whew!) have been redeemed, yielding just over \$2450.00 (double whew!). Way to go, BUCC members.

FACILITIES



As many of you may know, the church owns the two family home located at the entrance off of Arlington Street. We've been fortunate to have long term tenants, through which the church has consistently received additional monthly

Revenue.

A recent inspection by the Facilities Committee had uncovered some potential concerns that needed immediate attention. The following list details some of the improvements that have been made over the last 30 days:

1. Electrical upgrades - New panels, additional circuits, GFI outlets where required, external lights at both entrances
2. Repair of damaged vinyl siding
3. Installed new Co detectors, and new 10-year, lithium-powered smoke detectors
4. Corrected ventilation issues
5. Added structural supports in the basement
6. Added insulation, caulking and weather proofing

The city of Brecksville had been contacted after repairs were

made, approved all the corrections and has issued a new certificate of occupancy.

Within the next few months, you will see some additional improvements to the exterior of the residence. Some of these will include cleaning and repairing all gutters and downspouts, structural repairs to the front porch, and general cleaning of the grounds. Renewed landscaping is being planned, to provide continuity with the rest of the church's property.

Thank you for your continued support,
Doug Fawcett/Facilities Committee

TASK FORCE MEMBERS REQUESTED!

Most of you are aware that BUCC owns the house at the south side of our property, at the Arlington Rd. parking lot entrance.



Our dedicated Facilities Ministry is always trying to anticipate and budget for future expenses to both the church building and the rental house. Currently, the Ministry is focused on gathering information for a long-range feasibility plan for that property. They would

like to know what ideas members might have for the use of the property in the long-range event that the house is no longer viable. What would you like to see there? Anything? Nothing? Green space? Gardens? Parking? And perhaps even more importantly, what will the city of Brecksville sanction for that lot? If these questions intrigue you, please contact Betsey Wilson. This should be a relatively simple, short-term commitment for interested members, and you will have the full aide and support of the Facilities Ministry. Thanks in advance!

Notes and Asides

Musical Notes – Dave Debick

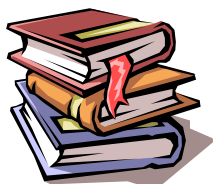


On Sunday May 4 at 4:00 p.m., Brecksville UCC will host violinist Jinjoo Cho, an outstanding recent performance graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Montreal, Quebec, Winnipeg and Victoria Symphony Orchestras, Seoul Philharmonic, Kalamazoo Symphony, Louisville Orchestra and CityMusic Cleveland. Pianist Hyunsoo Kim will accompany Ms. Cho. He recently received his Artist Diploma at CIM, and has performed as soloist with the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the Newark Symphony Orchestra and numerous community orchestras in the Delaware region. Ms. Cho will be submitting her repertoire for this concert in April; composers on the program will be listed in May's Pillar. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for an awesome musical experience on May 4.

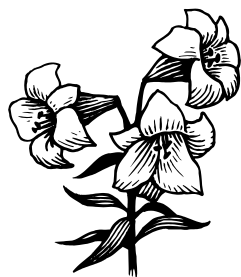


A donation has been received from Janet Roth, in memory of Donald E. Hornung, to be put toward the restoration of the sanctuary's stained glass windows.

THE BUCC LIBRARY calls your attention to the books for Lent and Easter on the red book cart. Lenten and Easter books for children are included among the children's books on the lowest shelf. The middle shelf contains recently cataloged books for adults. The top shelf contains Lenten and Easter books for adults.



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**I Enclose \$10.00 _____ or other _____ for
Easter Plants**

**In Memory _____ or
Honor _____ or _____**

Of _____

Your Name

**I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after
Easter _____**



Happy, Happy April Birthdays to the following BUCC Members! Please share in their joy and wish them a Happy Birthday!

April 6:	G Wardlaw
April 9:	Arthur Cook
April 10:	Jan Wardlaw
April 12:	Sandra Rooney
April 14:	Max Roha
April 17:	Lynne Struck
April 21:	Vickie Szabo
April 22:	Nate Hunt
	Evan Smith
April 27:	Rob Grow
April 28:	Stu Bailey
	Debbie Koch
April 29:	Sherrill Witt
April 30:	Jeannette Kroeger

If you have an April Birthday and are not included above, please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC Birthday List!



FOOD PANTRY

April

Rice and Tuna



IRISH SODA BREAD
From Miriam Rosewicz

- 5 – Cups Flour**
- 1 – Cup Sugar**
- 4 – Tsp Baking Powder**
- 1 – Tsp Baking Soda**
- 1 – Cup Dark Raisins**
- 1 – Cup Yellow Raisins**
- 2 – Cups Milk (warm)**
- 2 - Tbsp. Butter (melt in milk)**
- 1 – Egg (beaten)**
- 2 – Tbsp. Caraway seeds**

**Mix Dry Ingredients, warm milk, add butter to melt, (cool).
Mix in 1 beaten egg slowly then add to dry ingredients.
Grease 9" round cake pan. Brush the top with (1) beaten egg
white. Sprinkle with course sugar.**

**Bake at 350 for 45 min to 1 hour, until toothpick comes out
clean. Enjoy!**

Did you know that our church organ is the result of many years of the giving of time and materials by the Ellenberger family? Ernest Ellenberger was a successful business man and longtime member of our church with a strong interest in organ, choral and classical music. He helped establish an organ building business with his son, Bill. They have gradually added new components and Bill still helps keep the organ in repair and operation. The core of our organ was recovered, mostly undamaged, from the ruins of the church after the 1965 fire. It has been extensively upgraded and expanded since then



Did you know that BUCC served community fish fries for fund raising in the mid 1900's? A caterer would provide the fish and fry them on the spot with his special equipment, while our women would provide the other components of the meal and the men would serve and clean up.

Do you have any interesting stories about the History of BUCC? We would love to include them in the monthly Pillar from time to time. Please email to the office at buccoh@sbcglobal.net





ENCORE

Do Talk to Strangers!
(Text - John 4:5-30, 39-42)

Pastor Dave Shackle
March 23, 2014

Even though the Gospel accounts routinely tell of Jesus teaching and reaching out to *multitudes* of people, they also tell stories of him interacting with specific individuals. A fascinating example of this is found in today's New Testament reading, where Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. This morning, I'd like us to look this encounter, focusing on three specific things that Jesus does to help bring about a remarkable change in that woman's life. My hope is that you and I will also find these three things helpful and inspiring for our own lives, and for the way in which you and I engage with others.

It's noon when Jesus arrives at Jacob's well. By that time of day, the respectable people from town have already gotten their water during the cooler morning hours. So this is the ideal time for the "socially unacceptable" to take their turn. If you live in a hot climate, and want to avoid other people, high noon would be the perfect time to get your water, and avoid judgmental scrutiny. Yet on this particular day, this woman comes to the well only to find another person already sitting there. Fortunately, he's a stranger - some traveler she doesn't know, and who hopefully doesn't know about her; so maybe she can simply get her water in peace. But apparently this man's mother *wasn't* infallible - she didn't teach him *not* talk to strangers! And he initiates a conversation, by asking her for

a drink of water. It's a reasonable request, since he has no water container; and it's a request that common courtesy cannot refuse. So it looks like the woman is stuck.

From the man's accent and appearance, she realizes that he's Jewish, perhaps even a rabbi; which probably makes her even more nervous to be there. But there she is, and there he is, so why not just move it along. After all, he should be as uncomfortable as she - eager to get his water, and get away from this unsavory, Samaritan. Yet strangely enough, it seems that he is quite at ease with her, and in no hurry to leave.

The first thing we should note is that Jesus gives this woman his *attention*; and that this focused attention catches her by surprise. She asks him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (For the Jews have no dealings with Samaritans, as the Gospel writer editorially explains.) Yet, apparently, Jesus isn't at all put-off by the fact that she's a Samaritan, or that she has come to the well by herself at midday. Instead, he focuses his attention on the person in front of him - a child of God, who he has the privilege of meeting. He then engages her in a deep conversation about water, and *living* water; the history of Jacob's well; and the deep inner thirsting that so many people experience.

Realizing that this man is actually willing to engage with her, the woman then asks *him* for a drink - from that "fountain of living water". However, he invites her to open-up even further, saying, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman admits, "I have no husband," which Jesus apparently already knows. Perhaps her reputation has preceded her. Jesus says, "You have had *five* husbands, and the one whom you have now is not your husband!"

Well that's certainly awkward! So the woman abruptly changes the subject with an insight of her own, that sounds both formal, *and* a bit funny: "Sir, I see that you are a prophet!" And then she plunges into this theological discourse about the proper place and the correct way to worship God - a rather obvious ploy to shift the conversation. Yet Jesus is right there with her! He continues to give her his complete *attention*; and by doing this, demonstrates a genuine *acceptance* of who she is and where she is in her life. No judgment; no words of condemnation; no pious withdrawing from this flawed, yet fascinating child of God.

This is the second notable thing that Jesus does in this encounter: He *accepts* this woman as she is. He respectfully listens to her understanding of faith, and her sincere questions concerning the true nature of worship. *Acceptance* may be one of the most important things that you and I can offer to other people; and it's also one of the more difficult things to give. This is especially true when people are doing things with which we disagree, or things that we *know* aren't good for them. Our natural response is to want to counsel, or criticize, or judge. Unfortunately, we Christians have a pretty good (or pretty *bad*) reputation for doing this! Yet Jesus Christ teaches that we should *not* judge others; and more significantly, Jesus himself does not judge. He is *truthful* with this woman; yet he doesn't even begin to criticize her, or to shame her. Instead, he affirms her as a genuine child of God - one who is worthy to receive that Living Water!

Imagine how radically different this encounter with Jesus must have been for that Samaritan woman. She is so used to being put-down and shunned by her own community, that she probably can only see herself through their eyes. But then, she meets this truly Holy and Gracious individual, who pays attention to her, and who accepts her right where she is! And

rather than adding to her problems and negative self-perceptions, he lifts-up the marvelous possibilities that he sees within her.

By giving her his complete attention and acceptance, Jesus shares with her a third Life-changing gift: the gift of *appreciation* - the gift of *Love*. By seeing her as a completely loved child of God, Jesus helps her to see herself in that exact same light - as one no longer trapped or defined by her heritage or past history - but as a valued and appreciated member of God's Inclusive Family. And so a remarkable transformation begins, as this woman realizes that she truly *is* a child of God - one who can worship God "in spirit and in truth" - and one who can't wait to tell others about this extraordinary, Life-changing encounter.

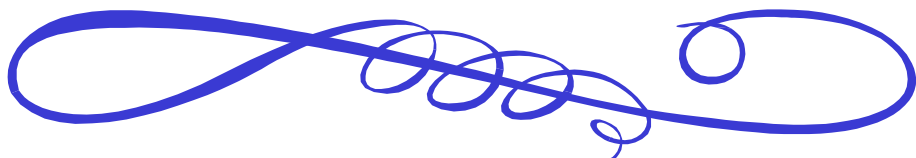
So she leaves her water jar and hurries back to the city, to boldly and joyfully invite others to "come and see this person who told me *everything* I have ever done." ("Really, *everything*? Well, that's certainly worth going to see!") So they follow her out of the city, and come to meet Jesus. "And many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of this woman's testimony." How about that! Because of her amazing encounter with Jesus Christ, this woman's life is completely changed: from being the city's disreputable outcast, to becoming an important part of that community - a community which itself is transformed, as those people also meet Jesus and welcome him to stay with them.

So...what does all this have to do with *our* community today? It reminds us that within this community of faith, you and I have the awesome opportunity to help change people's lives - to "open up the faucet" (so to speak) and allow that fountain of Living Water to spring forth with new life and new

possibilities. The way we do this, is by following the example of Jesus Christ:

By paying *attention* to the people we encounter. By really seeing them for who they are, and listening to what they have to say.

By *affirming* them where they are - not judging their past, but welcoming their *presence*, and raising-up their potential.



BUCC CALENDAR APRIL 2014

Tuesday, April 1

10-11:30 CWRU
7 pm Membership
7:15-8:30 pm
Adult Bible
Study PH

Wednesday, April 2

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulc.

Thursday, April 3

1pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, April 4

Saturday, April 5

9 am Facilities

Sunday, April 6

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Leadership/Dev.
5:30 pm Youth Perc.
6 pm Youth Ministry

EASTER FLOWER DEADLINE

Monday, April 7

Tuesday, April 8

10-11:30 am CWRU

Wednesday, April 9

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulcimer
Ensemble
7 pm Council

Thursday, April 10

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, April 11

Saturday, April 12

Sunday, April 13

***PALM SUNDY
PROCESSION***
10 am Worship/Church
School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, April 14

Tuesday, April 15 PILLAR DEADLINE

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, April 16

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

Thursday, April 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY
1 pm Bible Study
6pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Holy Communion

Friday, April 18

GOOD FRIDAY

Saturday, April 19

10 am Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 20

EASTER SUNDAY

6 am Sunrise Service
Highland
Cemetery
10am Worship/Church
11am Coffee Hour

*

Monday, April 21

Tuesday, April 22

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, April 23

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, April 24

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, April 25

Saturday, April 26

Sunday, April 27

10 am Worship/Church
School
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, April 28

Tuesday, April 29

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, April 30

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulc

Participants in Worship

APRIL 6, 2014

Lay Reader: Evie Novak
 Head Usher: Anne Melfo, Caroline
 Chandler
 Ushers: Kate Klonowski, Matt
 Wolbert, Carole & George
 Snider
 Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
 Peace Cndl: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
 Sound: Mike Westerberg
 Commons: Kathy Pastor
 Narthex: Joanne Cook
 Flowers: Lenore Harris
 Nursery: Marla Corrado
 Counters: Bruce McCain,
 Anna Mary Fisher
 Servers: Celia, Emily, Darlene Kelly
 Clean Up: Kathy Smith, Jon
 Thompson
 Snacks: Susan Snyder & Sue Maier
 Snow Herder: Wes Novak

APRIL 13, 2014

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
 Head Usher: Jon Thompson
 Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
 Betsey Wilson, Drew
 Wilson
 Acolyte: Lindsey Maier
 Peace Cndl: Carli Began
 Sound: Dave Bernard
 Commons: Bob Chandler
 Narthex: Marge Culver
 Flowers: PALMS
 Nursery: Kara Rees
 Counters: David Pastor & Donn
 Whyte
 Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
 Clean Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
 Snacks: Mary Ann Hoppel & Pat
 Bailey
 Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

APRIL 20, 2014 EASTER SUNDAY

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
 Head Usher: Max Roha
 Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard, Jim
 Duffy & Val Duffy
 Acolyte: Ben Davis
 Peace Cndl: Lily Hunt
 Sound: Doug Fawcett
 Commons: Chad Sproul
 Narthex: Dottie Farwell
 Flowers: EASTER FLOWERS
 Nursery: Kate Klonowski
 Counters: Jan Renovetz, Nancy
 Stella
 Servers: Caroline Chandler, Robin
 Coyer-Westerberg
 Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
 Snacks: Max Roha & Jane Cribbs
 Snow Herder: Bob Chandler

APRIL 27, 2014

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
 Head Usher: Diane Gressley
 Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor
 Beth Rehling, Dorie Gabor
 Acolyte: Ian Stewart
 Peace Cndl: Ryan Stewart
 Sound: Kevin Smith
 Commons: George Snider
 Narthex: Ann Kelly
 Flowers: Ruthie Thorpe
 Nursery: Shauna Bigelow
 Counters: Mac Hoppel, Dassie
 Matsouka
 Servers: Sue Stenzel & Joanne Cook
 Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Jill Zedan
 Snacks: Marge Culver & Bridget
 Sproul

Some Reflections on *Easter*



Easter is the Divine Demonstration that Life, at its core, is spiritual and timeless. Easter is not a time for groping through dusty, musty tomes or tombs to disprove spontaneous generation or even to prove eternal life. It is a day to fan the ashes of dead hope, a day to banish doubts and seek the light of the rising sun. It is a time to rejoice in an event which transports us out of our old, dead patterns and into an exciting and inviting future.

The great gift of Easter is hope - hope which makes us have confidence in God, in God's ultimate triumph, and in a Divine goodness and love which nothing can ever overcome.

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.

The Resurrection gives our live meaning and direction, and the opportunity to start over no matter what our circumstances.

Earth's saddest day and gladdest day were just three days apart!

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville United Church of Christ

23 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Moderator: Betsey Wilson
Betseywilson10@gmail.com

Phone: 440-526-4364

E-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net

Web: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Pastor: Rev. Dave Shackle

440-546-1193

buccpastor@sbcglobal.net

Director of Music:

Dave Debick

buccmusic@sbcglobal.net

Financial Secretary: Joy Garapic

buccfinance@sbcglobal.net

Pillar Editor: Jeannette Kroeger

buccoh@sbcglobal.net

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

