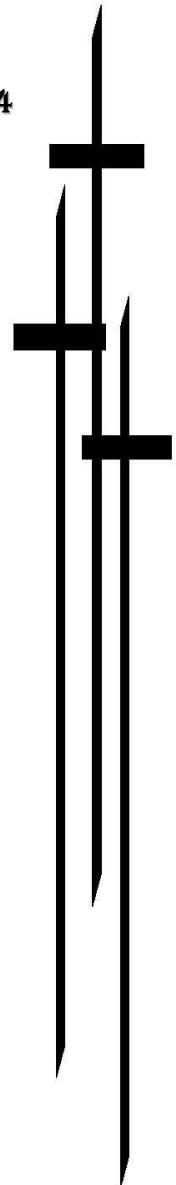


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

September 2014



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



...on *"The Freshman Syndrome"*...

It was the first day of the new school year, but Victoria noticed that her son had not gotten out of bed.

"John, it's time to get up and go to school."

"But mom, I hate school! The kids all make fun of me and none of my teachers like me. Half the time I have no ideas what's going on in classes,

and it's really frustrating!"

"Come on, son, you know you have to get up and go."

"But WHY?"

"Because you're thirty-five years old, and you *are* the principal!"

Social scientists describe that strange combination of negative anxiety and positive excitement that people often feel when starting something afresh, as "The Freshman Syndrome". There is something about new beginnings that can seem both thrilling, yet threatening; delightful, yet disconcerting. This isn't only experienced by children returning to school, it can also affect any of us, at of any age or stage of our lives.

I imagine we've all had days when we could hardly wait to get-up and get going. We have a hearty appetite for Life - a hunger to learn and discover new things. The whole world unfolds before us like a blossoming flower, and every person we encounter - even the most difficult - seems to teach us some new insight. We experience Life as absolutely wonderful, because we ourselves are absolutely full of wonder! Our eyes are wide-open to the magnificent beauty and balance found throughout this Amazing, Divine Creation.

Then there are those *other* days....those times when our motivation to get going is sorely lacking, and Life itself can feel like a real drag. You wake up to the soothing sound of trickling water, only to find that your waterbed has sprung a leak. Your own twin sibling forgets your birthday. Not only does it seem like the thrill is gone, it's as if there never was any thrill to begin with. The Good News is, that even in those tough times - perhaps particularly in those times - you and I have the promise of a Divine Help upon which we can depend.

Jesus says "Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29) Through this proclamation, Jesus encourages us to trust, and rest, in the compassionate care of our Creative Source - particularly in our times of spiritual dryness or distress. And through our drawing closer to God for strength and help, we also will spontaneously draw closer to one another! As the Family of God, we will find renewed strength and inspiration to continue to learn and grow together.

Autumn is a great time of new learning and growth for people of all ages. It's a time at BUCC when we "kick-off" our new season of Choirs, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, and other activities. I hope you will check-out the various events that are described throughout this month's *Pillar*, and take the opportunity to learn and grow with us!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Pastor Dave
..*Meet & Greet...*

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing this, some have entertained angels without even being aware!" (Hebrews 12:2)

I think it's important for us as Church members to periodically consider how we meet, greet, and treat the "strangers" who come

among us for worship. It's also important that we consider how someone who is visiting us for the first time might feel about some of the worship practices that are familiar and comfortable to us. For example, imagine the potential reaction of two newcomers to one of our First Sunday Communion Services:

"So, what did you think about that worship service?"

"I thought it was pretty good. I really liked that 'Passing of the Peace' and how friendly everyone was during it."

"Really? It made me feel kind of weird. I thought they'd never settle down! But I did find the Communion Service itself quite moving."

"Really? I thought it was a bit strange, having the bread and juice passed-out in the pews. I'm used to going up to the altar to receive it."

"What about holding hands in that big circle at the end for the benediction?"

"Well, at first I wasn't sure *what* was happening; but it was actually kind of nice to be able to look around and see everyone we worshiped with."

"So, do you think you want to come back next Sunday....?"

It's impossible to predict how visitors will respond to their initial worship experience with us. Those with Church backgrounds similar to ours, probably feel fairly comfortable. Those who have been personally invited by one of us - who have someone to sit with them and explain what's happening - are more likely to feel welcome and at ease. Of course, we do have those visitors who may find us on our website or in a local publication, and bravely decide to check us out on their own. These people are the ones who could really benefit from one of our member's personal attention and helpful hospitality.

Generally, we do a good job of spotting and welcoming our guests, but we can always strive to do better. Some of the key times to be aware of those who visit us are when they first arrive (just walking through the door can be a big step for some); pre-worship and announcement time (a chance to fill them in on what's happening and about to happen); during the Passing of the Peace and Communion (briefly explain what's going on); and when the worship service is

over (help them move into our “Circle,” personally invite them to Coffee Hour, walk with them down to Pilgrim Hall, and introduce them to others).

One way to be sensitive to those who are visiting with us, is to think back to a time when we ourselves were in a new place or situation seeking welcome. Think about how you felt; who helped you feel included; what they did; and how good that made you feel. We do have a friendly congregation here at BUCC, but it’s important that each of us intentionally keep a

watchful eye for those visitors who come among us. We can help them feel that they are more than just visitors: they are truly our welcomed guests!

With you in Christ’s Service,
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.

YOUTH MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION CLASS KICK-OFF

Sunday September 14th, all BUCC Youth ages 12 and up are invited to gather in Pilgrim Hall from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for our first Fall meeting. We will spend some time getting to know each other, play some fun and challenging games, share some snacks and some ideas about our plans for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend and feel free to bring a friend!

Sunday September 21st, this year’s first Confirmation Class will be held in the Parlor from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for our 7th grade students.

Sunday September 28th - Youth participation in our area CROP Walk to raise money to fight hunger locally and throughout the world.

LOOKING AHEAD...

...OUR ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT will be held on Saturday, October 11th at Hinckley Reservation from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm..Our theme is "Believe It or Not: Creating Our Own Creed." This is an excellent time get away in a beautiful setting to relax, refresh and get to know ourselves and one another better. Due to inside space considerations, this year's Retreat will not include activities for young children. (Next year, we will book a venue with more room!) Anyone interested in helping coordinate the food, games, music or other activities for this event - or would like to know more about it - please talk with Pastor Dave.

AFTER-WORSHIP BRUNCH-BUNCH

Just about every Sunday after Coffee Hour, there's an informal, always-changing group of BUCC members and friends who go out to eat. It's quite nice for those of us who want to extend our after-church conversations, or don't feel like cooking, or who otherwise might be eating alone. The number who go, and where we go generally varies (*close, convenient, and relatively cheap* are the main criteria). Any Sunday you'd like to come along, talk with Marge Culver or Kathy Smith. Or ask Pastor Dave or Music Dave, who will probably going themselves - or can find out the details for you.

**FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC****NEWS FROM OCWM**

Last month, another few pounds of aluminum cans and other



metals were redeemed, bringing the total weight redeemed to almost 3600 pounds and yielding almost \$1600 dollars for SARA.

Also last month, another shipment of food, dental supplies, toiletries, and other items were delivered to the hunger center at Brookside. The effort by BUCC members and friends to bring one item to church each time they are here is resulting in an increased donation of food items, etc. This is fortunate, because conversations with hunger center staff has indicated that the need is becoming more and more acute with the passage of time.

On August 3rd, a hunger meal was served at Bethany UCC to a larger than usual group of people. Usually 30 or 40 people are served, but for the last two months at Bethany, about 50 or 60 persons have shown up for the meal. Fortunately, plans for 50 or so meals were made, so it is believed that no one went away unfed. This seems to be a symptom of the increasing need for hunger meals, which

also is shown by the increased need noticed at the food banks. There seems to be more families with children in need with the passage of time. Thanks go to those who helped set up, prepare the meal, serve and clean up. A special "thank you" to the BUCC members who baked cookies. The next hunger meal is scheduled for December 21st at Pearl Road UMC.

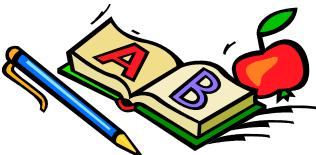
next hunger meal will be served at Bethany UCC on Sunday, August 3rd. We plan to serve about 40 meals, although the menu is undecided at the time of this writing. Probably the meal will be a cold one, because the stove and the ovens heat the church kitchen to a high heat. The sign - up board is in the narthex, and BUCC members and friends are invited to participate.

At our last delivery to a hunger center, the workers there mentioned that the need for food for families is increasing. A BUCC member suggested that perhaps we all could pick up one item on our way out the door to Sunday worship and place it in the basket by the door to the church office. This is a small thing, but a big thing.

CHRISTIAN ED

****Changes To Classes ****

It's time to get ready for another great year of Christian Ed! There are a couple of changes in the works – last year we expanded to five classes, but this year we will be shrinking back to four, with a change to the Junior High class.



These classes will take place every Sunday after 'Time with Young Worshipers':

- Nursery (0 – 3 years old)
- Elementary (4 years old through Grade 1)
- Secondary (Grades 2 through 5)

Middle School (Grades 6 through 8) will NOT be having Sunday School during service: There is a small group in Middle School, all of whom will be going through Confirmation Classes instead on Sunday evenings (See Pastor Dave's update for details)

High School (Grades 9 through 12) – will occur based on Betsey Wilson's availability to teach. Updates will be posted regularly in the bulletin and pillar.

Class Registration

Forms are available on the C.E. bulletin board in the long hallway, and also in the office. Please complete a form for each child and turn them in at the office – this helps us plan for activities and also to ensure appropriate snack food and the like. Forms are kept in the classrooms and destroyed at the end of each school year.

Questions? Don't hesitate to give me a ping! Sue Maier, 440-915-4988 or Eyerienne@aol.com

FACILITIES

The Garden Angels have a few more volunteers: A big THANK YOU to all who have adopted a section of our landscaping into their care. Please see Kathy Pastor if you would like to join this effort.



The Facilities Ministry has had a busy summer attending to several ongoing problems:

- ~Gutter leakage around the South Entry was finally solved when a downspout blockage was corrected.
- ~Mulch on the bank at the back of the rental house was replaced.
Thank you to Jim, Drew and Garrett Demko.~
- ~Asphalt was patched in the north driveway.~
- ~The sanctuary exterior door was planed and filed to relieve the sticking problem.~
- ~The narthex and sanctuary carpet was cleaned.~

Because the rear outdoor water has been found turned on in the morning, the faucet is now turned off inside the boiler room. Please inquire in the office if you need to use that spigot.

MEMBERSHIP

Please join us for the Rally Day Pot Luck in Pilgrim Hall on Sunday, September 7 following the worship service. The theme for the meal is Harvest Time. Please sign up with the Membership Ministry to let us know how many will attend and what you will bring to share. We need main dishes, side dishes, and desserts.



STEWARSHIP

The Stewardship of Learning

By Kate Klonowski

When we think of stewardship, mostly the images that come to mind are tithing, working at soup kitchens, planting a tree, or looking for various ways to reach out to our fellow humans in need. These are all admirable and important elements of stewardship, but we don't often consider what it means in terms of our own knowledge and learning. What does learning mean to each of us when it comes to being a good steward?

At BUCC, we are so fortunate to have a wildly diverse skill-set when it comes to knowledgeable people. Spend a few minutes talking to Susan Snyder, our church librarian, about really anything at all and I guarantee you will learn something you didn't know before! I've learned so much from coffee hours with Max Roha, who is one of



the most fascinating people I've ever had the pleasure of talking to. Kirk Sanderson will tell you amazing stories about his life and work. We are surrounded by brilliant teachers, authors, techies, students, musicians, artists, and historians—just to list a few. How did we

become so fortunate? I can tell you the answer very simply: we listen and learn from each other. These conversations are a form of welcome. Through this exchange, we foster so much more than a full stomach or a fatter wallet—we learn invaluable things about each other that can never be quantified.

As the former chair of Christian Education, I feel that my most valuable experience in terms of learning stewardship has come from working with our younger members. Don't be fooled by their boisterousness during coffee hour! These folks have some of the most engaging and engaged minds of all of us here. They may be shy at first when you ask them what is going on in their lives, but I guarantee you, if you're patient, that you'll learn more from them than you will in any graduate school.

Learning is so much more than textbooks and schooling. It's being open to hearing the stories we have to share with each other. Can you imagine how much more beautiful our world would be if we took the advice of Atticus Finch and "walked around in his shoes" for a while? And the effort is the easiest one we can make. It costs us nothing to grab a cup of coffee and a cookie and sit down next to someone we haven't talked to in a while—but the rewards are so very rich!

NOTES AND ASIDES

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

SEPTEMBER ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY will be Sunday, the 14th. If you haven't registered yet, please do so with Jane Cribbs at Fellowship Hour before that day. There will be one more opportunity in October as well. Hope to see some new faces!



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

September 1:	Phyllis Hassler
	Dan Renovetz
September 3:	Joanne Cook
September 6:	Erika Kolar
	Kirk Sanderson
	Janet Nicholas
September 7:	Betty Kaul
September 10:	Ryan Smith
September 11:	Kathy Smith
September 12:	Jill Zedan

September 14:	Rebecca Anderson
	Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer
September 15:	Jane Cribbs
September 17:	Natalie Corrado
	Valerie Tyler
September 18:	Andrew Barchet
September 22:	Nancy Stella
September 23:	Doug Allenson
	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
	Matt Wolbert
September 26:	David Debick
	Annie Demko
September 27:	Robert Pohm
September 28:	Jayden Kolar
September 29:	Nichole Smith

If you have a September Birthday and are not included above, please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCU Birthday List!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Discussers will meet September 8th @ 1:00 in the parlor.

Use the parlor door entrance. This month's book is THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS by M. L. Stedman and contains many challenging moral choices.



and it's fun.

The next month's choice is THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS. It's not too late to join,



FOOD PANTRY

September - Cereal

LETTERS OF THANKS

A big thank you to everyone who donated treasures to Miss Mindy's class. Everything will be put to good use in the coming year!

Miss Mindy



Another note of thanks to Miss Marla for being a huge help with our project garden.

We are seeing our beautiful vegetables growing every week a little bigger. We couldn't have done it without her help!

~Miss Mindy's class~

We send our warm and sincere thanks to Dorie Gabor for her time and creativity in making the special beautiful floral arrangement for the church altar in celebration of our 66th Wedding Anniversary.

Thanks, Dorie.

Bill & Ann Toneff

MUSIC

MUSIC MINISTRY: Summertime has flown by, and the arrival of September signals Rally Day! And the start of our 2014-2015 music



program at Brecksville UCC. First, many thanks to our summer music volunteers for sharing their gifts with us over the summer months. Your contributions were very much appreciated by everyone who heard them. Here is a list and brief description of our music ensembles:

*Joyful Noise Choir (~K-5th grade): Meets every Thurs. from 5:30-6:15, first practice is Sept. 4. This group learns fun songs about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. We also do activities, play games, and sometimes play simple percussion instruments while we sing. CDs are provided to help the children learn the music.

*Adult Choir (high school students welcome): Meets Thursdays from 7:30-9:00, first rehearsal is Sept. 4. The Adult Choir leads the hymn-singing during Sunday services, and presents a weekly anthem. If you enjoy singing in a choral setting, where the emphasis is not only musical quality but affirmation, teamwork, a wide variety of styles, attention to the spiritual dimension of music, and good humor, please consider sitting in on a rehearsal or two. All are welcome.

*Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble (all ages welcome): Meets Wednesdays from 4:30-5:00, first practice Sept. 10. This group plays instrumental music for special Sunday services (World Communion, Thanksgiving, etc.) Listening CDs are provided, as well as written music with all note letters spelled out. The church has an extra dulcimer and a couple soprano recorders available; anyone interested in learning to play one of these instruments is encouraged to contact Dave Debick. If you play some other instrument and would like to add your special voice to this group, you are most welcome to join us!

*Youth Percussion Group (junior high and up): Meets *every other* Sunday from 5:30-6:00 before Youth Ministry, starting Sept. 14. This group learns simple rhythm patterns on a broad variety of instruments, and provides accompaniment for preludes, anthems, offertories, etc. as needed. Lots of fun, and a great outlet for youthful energy!



Instrumentalists are always welcomed and encouraged to share their musical gifts at Sunday services. You can supply your own music, or Dave is glad to help you find a piece you like and

rehearse as much or little as you'd like. All styles welcome. Note: Dave may not be aware that some of you play an instrument. Please let him know so he can help you shine your light for all to see (hear)!

Private piano lessons will resume on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting Sept. 10 and 11. All ages welcome. Contact Dave D. if you're interested.

Finally, please know that we strive to provide an enjoyable, affirming, accessible atmosphere with regard to our music ministry at BUCC. Feel free at any time to sit in on a practice or two so you can experience the fellowship and Spirit our music program has to offer. You'll be glad you did! ~Dave Debick

READY TO GO TO IDAHO

Dear BUCC Friends,

Our last month in Cleveland comes to a close on September 21 when we will move to Boise, Idaho. It will take us to a new home near our daughter, son-in-law, and our twin grandsons. Living near them is a powerful draw, and though we have never been to Idaho, we're reminded that even a turtle doesn't get anywhere until he sticks his neck out.



Leaving our Ohio home of forty-three years is hard, and leaving the BUCC is one of the things that make it hard. We visited many churches during our winters in Arizona before finding one that suited us. That experience taught us that the BUCC is special in its warmth, intimacy, and the many ways that it teaches us to be God's agents. We will miss you, but we expect to make occasional trips to Ohio in the future and may drop in for a Sunday morning service.

Best wishes to you all.
Paul and Janet Nicholas

WOMEN UNITED

TRUNK SALE

On 9/13/2014 Women United is sponsoring a "Trunk Sale".



Fill your auto trunk with items no longer useful to you but may be a treasure for someone. Price each piece, display in the spot allotted to you in the BUCC parking lot, be prepared to sell by 10:00 and be responsible for taking home any items not sold. Register early for a spot in the parking lot as space is limited. A \$10.00 fee is required in advance. Bring your own table and chair. There will also be a bake sale in the entrance lobby.

Profits from registration and bake sale will be used to purchase solar cooking stoves for Africa and Third World Countries. Any additional donation of part of your sales will be appreciated.

To register for SALE call Betty Kaul 440-526-1244 or Lenore Harris 440-526-5469

To register to donate bakery call Tina Ortiz 304-268-4866

Sale Hours 10:00 to 3:00 (*NOTE-Time Change*)
Set up at 9:00

In case of rain sale will be held in Pilgrim Hall.



ENCORE

Is Someone Having a Bad Day? (Text - Matthew 15:21-28)

August 17, 2014

A Lutheran minister was having a particularly hectic and bad day, when a stranger called, asking him if he would consider conducting a funeral service....for her dog. "Really?" he thought. He told her, that since he'd never before done such a service, she might want to try one of the other churches in the area. The woman replied, "O.K., but would you mind giving me some advice?" "Certainly," the pastor said. "Do you think \$1,000 is a large enough appropriate honorarium for this kind of funeral?" There was a long pause, after which the pastor said, "You should have *told* me that your dog was Lutheran! Of course I'll do it!"

Maybe Jesus was just having a bad day, but his response to the Canaanite woman's desperate plea for help, seems particularly harsh. Even though many of the people of Israel called the Canaanites "unclean, foreign *dogs*," Jesus certainly knew better. And even though women in the 1st Century were treated as being vastly inferior to men, Jesus also knew that this was wrong. Throughout his ministry, Jesus shows tremendous respect for women; and he also shows a deep understanding of how Divine Love and Grace is extended to *all* people, including those customarily considered as outsiders or outcasts.

So, why does he give this Canaanite woman such a hard time? Her request is humble and sincere. She isn't even asking for herself, but is seeking healing and release for her young daughter. It's the kind of request we would expect Jesus to respond to with immediate compassion and action; but instead, he gives her the

cold shoulder. The question is, "Why?" Many biblical scholars cleverly suggest that he responds in this manner in order to "teach a lesson" to his disciples, or to the woman herself. By ignoring her request, Jesus might get his disciples to stick-up for her, which isn't something they would normally do. Often, they tried to jealously guard Jesus' time and power for themselves; or they'd get upset when he would pay attention to women or children or "outsiders." But this time, they at least acknowledge this Canaanite woman and encourage Jesus to respond.

His response, however, is extremely jarring. He tells them, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Now that's pretty blunt!) So then the woman herself kneels before Jesus and once again pleads her case: "Lord, help me!" But he answers, "It's not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." (Now that's just plain brutal!) This image of Jesus ignoring a woman seeking help for her troubled, tormented child, and then implying that she is some kind of mangy *mongrel* - is definitely disturbing! Which is why biblical scholars attempt to clean it up, by claiming that he *really* intends to help her - but first he calculatingly plays with her emotions so that he can teach his disciples a lesson in inclusiveness; or teach her a lesson in persistence. Personally, I find that explanation far more disturbing than the possibility that Jesus was simply having a bad day - a bad day which was transformed into a remarkably good day, because of this woman's faithful persistence, and because of Jesus' own willingness to learn and adapt and grow.

If we take this encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman at face value - without trying to explain-away his initial response - we are presented not one, but two exceptional models for faithful and courageous living. First, there's Jesus, who is willing to be challenged and changed. One who is secure enough in his own self and in his own relationship with God, that he can immediately change direction when he sees a better way to go. One who shows us that faithfulness includes the ability to adapt and progress, trusting that our Divine Source is neither stoic nor stagnant. Then there's the Canaanite woman, who shows us that faithfulness also

includes the willingness to challenge others. It's as if she believes that Jesus is capable of more than even he himself thinks he is; and that she has more faith in the abundance of Divine Compassion, than Jesus does at that particular moment.

Now, as people whose own lives may include a few blunders or bad days, you and I can certainly be encouraged by Jesus' example: to acknowledge our mistakes, learn from them, and take the appropriate corrective action. A rigid, crystalized Christ can't help us with this; but a learning, adaptable Christ can help *us* learn to let go of our mistakes and prejudices, and to move forward as God's compassionate and caring children. He can inspire us to reevaluate the way we think about those "other people" who we sometimes simply lump together and summarily dismiss as being "insignificant".

And this remarkable woman, who takes that insult Jesus throws at her, and turn it into a justification to be heard, is also truly inspirational. "You can call me a dog if you like, Jesus, I'm not going to argue. But even dogs get what they need from their master's table!" (Bow...WOW that's impressive!) This woman's ability to not be put off, but to stay focused on the needs of her suffering child, allows her to calmly, yet boldly, challenge Jesus' apparent indifference and intolerance. And that is definitely an important model of faithful, courageous living for us today.

There are still quite a few people today who seem to think that there's a serious shortage of Divine Love and Grace. Therefore, they make it their business to judge who is fit - or unfit - to receive it. It's as if they hope to hoard those precious little crumbs of grace that fall from the table. They *do* this in the name of their "faith," but what they're really demonstrating is a tremendous lack of faith, and a sorely inadequate understanding of the Eternal, Creative Giver of Life. Genuine *faith*, means that we trust completely in the abundance of Divine Compassion and Grace - not just for ourselves, but for each and every child of God!

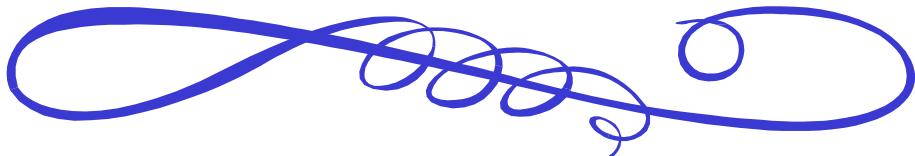
Now, here is where all this can inspire and energize you and me today: Just as the Canaanite woman's mission to help her daughter, ends up helping Jesus remember *his* true mission, so *our* mission of "Loving, Serving and Accepting All People with God's Life-Changing Power" can also help the larger Church to remember its true mission:

To extend Divine Love and Grace to *all* people - regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or social standing;

To speak-up and act-out on behalf of those who are put-down and pushed-aside by religion or society;

To proclaim the tremendous depth of Christ's love for us all - a love that is willing to learn and grow and expand - making sure that there is ample room at the Table for all!

This morning, you and I celebrate the *abundant welcome* that flows from this Table of Grace, through this Community of Faith, and throughout the entire world! It's a truly *Divine Abundance!* One which assures us that no one has to sit up and beg for it, like a dog!



BUCC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2014

Monday, September 1 *LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED*	Saturday, Sept 13 9 am Set-up Trunk Sale 10-3 Women United Trunk Sale.	Thursday, Sept 25 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 Joyful Noise 7:30 Choir
Tuesday, September 2		Friday, September 26
Wednesday, Sept 3 6 am Early Birds	Sunday, September 14 10 am Worship and Church School 11 am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Youth Percus. 6 pm Youth Ministry Kick-Off	Saturday, Sept 27 6 am Early Birds
Thursday, September 4 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 Joyful Noise 7:30 Choir		Sunday, September 28 10 am Worship and Church School 11 am Coffee Hour 1:30 pm Crop Walk
Friday, September 5	Monday, September 15 <u>PILLAR DEADLINE</u>	Monday, September 29
Saturday, September 6	Tues, Sept 16	Tuesday, September 30
Sunday, September 7 10 am Worship and Church School 11 am Coffee Hour/* POTLUCK*	Wed, September 17 6 am Early Birds 11:30 am Women United 4:30 Recorder/Dul.	
Monday, September 8 1 pm Book Club Parlor 7:30 Facilities	Thursday, Sept 18 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 Joyful Noise 7:30 Choir	
Tuesday, September 9	Friday, September 19	
Wednesday, Sept 10 6 am Early Birds 4:30 Recorder/Dul. *Piano Lessons Start* 7pm Council	Saturday, Sept 20	
Thursday, Sept 11 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 Joyful Noise 7:30 Choir	Sunday, September 21 10 am Worship and Church School 11 am Coffee Hour 6 pm Confirmation	
Friday, September 12	Monday, September 22	
	Tuesday, September 23	
	Wednesday, Sept 24 6 am Early Birds 4:30 Recorder/Dul.	

Participants in Worship

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Lay Reader: Jane Cribbs
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor,
Dot & Stu Bailey
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Cndl: Carli Began
Sound: Dave Bernard
Commons Grtr: Joanne Cook
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Kara Reese
Counters: Nancy Stella, Donn Whyte
Server: Dorie Gabor/Membership
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Pot-Luck-Membership

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

Lay Reader: Dot Bailey
Head Usher: Max Roha
Ushers: Jim Duffy, Ed Lusk
Tina Ortiz, Jill Zedan
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Cndl: Evan Merritt
Sound: Kevin Smith
Commons Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Sue Stenzel, Anna Mary
Fisher
Servers: Caroline & Bob Chandler
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Dot Bailey & Susan
Snyder

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Cndl: Drew Demko
Sound: Val Duffy
Commons Grtr: Wes Novak
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
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Counters: Jim Kaul & Stu Bailey
Servers: Sue Stenzel & Joanne
Cook
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Marge Culver & Diane
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SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

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A Finger Can Block Out the Sun

Lillian Daniel

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

- [John 1:5](#)

The 19th century Hasidic rabbi Levi of Berditchev once pointed out that a finger held up to the eye could block the sun. Think about that image.

Obviously one small finger cannot block out the light of the sun for the whole world. But if you hold your own finger up at just the right angle, you can block out the sun from your field of vision.

And presumably, you could do that to someone else. It would be much harder, but if you held up your finger in just the right spot in front of another person, you could block the sun from your neighbor's vision too.

In both cases, the mighty and massive sun will look as though a tiny human finger has overpowered it. Even though we know better, we might be fooled for a minute by the illusion.

God must get weary watching us do this sort of thing. We'll claim we can't see the divine light, but it's our finger that's in the way, some tiny thing that we have decided is huge. Or we'll block another person's vision with our finger, and they will lose hope. God must get tired of seeing us lose perspective like this.

It may be why this verse is so important. The next time it seems to get so dark that you can't feel the light, consider this. The light is massive and everywhere. You just need to get that tiny finger out of the way.

Prayer

Dear God, make me a person who shares your light, not a person who blocks it. Keep my sun-blocking hands to myself. Amen.

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