

GoodNewsletter

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Jigsaw Puzzles & Faith Sharing

I grew up doing jigsaw puzzles as a winter activity and these past few months I've been able to spend time with my parents on my days off doing jigsaw puzzles. We have a fun time with the challenge on the table before as well as discussing the challenges of life as we share the puzzle. I've been so enjoying these puzzles that I've brought home a few to do on my own. The one I most recently completed was a picture of four big colorful birds with a jungle background.

Being a fairly organized person, I prefer to get the boundary established first—not only because it is easiest to find those pieces, but because it sets the parameters of the color variations. Next come the pieces with like colors since they are easiest to gather together. As you can imagine the birds, the branch and the large leaves were the first things to be completed; and rightly so given that they are focus of the picture. But then, I found myself with so many variations of green for the background that I struggled for days trying to fit all the pieces in, even declaring to myself at one point that there must be pieces missing because it didn't seem like there were enough pieces to fill the background up. Or, pointing out to Jeff that there was something wrong with the picture because the branch was so far to the right that there wasn't enough room for all the big leaves, only to notice hours later that I had incorrectly connected two pieces. (yes i make mys-takes)

So why am I sharing all of this with you? Well, as I was working the very last of the puzzle in the maze of what seemed like hundreds of shades of green, I got to thinking about how much this particular puzzle connected to my thinking about our church and what we do well... and the areas that need a bit of work. Things we do so very well are worship and mission and caring for each other; and these are certainly the bright colors and focus of a life of discipleship. They stand out and are what we point to as markers of who we are here at BPC and whose we are—God's; called together to worship and minister to those in need both within our faith family and outside these walls of BPC.

Yet as I struggled with putting together the varying shades of green, I began to sense a connection of my difficulty with the puzzle and the difficulty we so often have in articulating our faith. We know the words (just like we know that this piece is gray-green and not orange-green); but we struggle with putting the right pieces (aka 'words') together when it comes to sharing our faith and experiences of faith with others.

The life and foundation of our faith begins with the Word and the words we find in scripture that are brought to life through the power of the Holy Spirit. So, why is it so hard for us put these pieces together in a way that we can articulate what our faith is and what it means in our lives? And it dawned on me that we haven't really learned how to talk about our faith with others who don't know

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*Make
God's glory
resound;
echo his
praises
from
coast to
coast.*

Isaiah 42:12
THE MESSAGE

Jesus. Many of us grew up in the Christian era—almost everyone we knew was Christian and while maybe not a member of our church was a member of another church. So talking about our faith was easy because we were talking with other people who knew the bible stories and could relate to the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. And since we all knew the stories, it was like putting together the puzzle pieces of the colorful birds—fun and exciting and fairly easy. However, we don't live in that era any more. In the post-Christian era that we live in, we are faced with a challenge not all that different from first century Christianity—telling non-Christians about the good news of Jesus Christ.

This puzzle required time and patience. There was no quick fix, no special formula that would get this puzzle done in a hurry. It was time consuming; and yet all the while it was fun and relaxing as I faced the challenge of experimenting with the various pieces until I found the right combination. Learning how to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to those who don't know about or understand Him requires time and patience... and begins with recognizing that the boundaries have been moved. It's as if once finishing a puzzle you all of a sudden realize that the puzzle you've finished is now only a small portion of an even bigger puzzle!

Living in these new boundaries now requires us to once again group together like colors—stories and experiences that highlight our love for worship and mission. We follow that up with learning to articulate how Jesus gives our life this wide array of shades of green—life and freedom and joy and excitement and forgiveness and grace! And yes, it all requires some experimentation to get all the various pieces together, as well as paying attention to how the Holy Spirit wants us to assemble these stories and experiences in a variety of contexts in today's world.

There is no quick fix, no special formula, no silver bullet. There is, however, the opportunity of meeting the challenge and experiencing the joy and, yes, even relaxing because we know God's presence is a constant guide (and teacher) as we venture into finding the right combination of pieces (aka 'words) that will make the picture of Jesus come alive in someone's heart. 2012 will be a year of learning and challenges and stretching our creative energies.

The puzzle pieces are on the table. Won't you join me?

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Julie

ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 29, 11:00 AM

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION/CORPORATION**

WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**PLEASE ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING IN
THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH AND JOIN THE
CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR FUTURE.**



BPC'S DEFIBRILLATOR



On Sunday, February 5th,
following our worship service, we will offer an
opportunity to see how the new defibrillator
works. We've anticipated getting it and are
pleased to have it installed.

All ushers are encouraged to attend and all
interested folks are welcome.

ANNUAL RETREAT SUMMARY

On Saturday January 7, 2012, a group of 21 leaders of Brookfield Presbyterian met at Avalon Square for the annual retreat. This year, in addition to Pastor Julie Peterson and all current and incoming officers (Treasurer, Ruling Elders, Deacons), we also invited non-session member committee chairs and members of the Mutual Ministry team.

The primary focus of the retreat was a critical and timely topic in the life of our congregation, and accordingly the majority of time was devoted to a "reality check" of our membership and financial situation. We went through yearend numbers and discussed at length what these realities mean for the future.

Discussion included in depth review of income, expense and reserves used, plus membership and involvement realities. We also took time to celebrate 2011 accomplishments and identify the resources we have to build upon as we talk about the future.

With the retreat helping to set priorities for the coming year, the Session decided to make our future... what God is calling us to do... the Session focus for 2012. The Session will continue discussion of what this means in their January meeting and include this important topic in the annual meeting agenda on January 29th.

Keith Pierce, Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL INFORMATION - 12/31/2011

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
Year-to-date-income	160,016	186,092	26,076
Year-to-date-expense	<u>197,288</u>	<u>205,215</u>	<u>(7,927)</u>
Deficit	(37,272)	(19,123)	18,149

Although expenses in 2011 were above the budgeted amount, income exceeded budget by a greater amount resulting in a smaller than anticipated deficit for the year. This resulted from our investment income, which had not been budgeted, and from our members who generously increased their giving and made this possible. In our two recent town hall meetings we reviewed the amount of funds available on an unrestricted basis to meet the 2011 deficit, the deficit in the 2012 budget, and future deficits which may be incurred. As discussed at those meetings, funds available on an unrestricted basis are estimated to provide coverage for continuing deficits for a one to three year period.



Presbytery of Milwaukee

DISCOVERY DAY 2012

Stirring the Waters

Joshua 1:9
John 5:2-9



Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Carroll University
Campus Center
100 North East Avenue
Waukesha, WI

Schedule

8:30 - 9 am	Registration, Socializing, Continental Breakfast
9 am - 9:15	Welcome and Announcements
9:15 - 10 am	Keynote Speaker, Landon Whitsitt Part 1
10 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11	Keynote Speaker, Part 2
11 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - noon	Worship, Ann Gibbs and Bill Peterson (churches will bring their Mission Offerings)
noon - 1 pm	Boxed Lunch, Virtual Bookstore
1 pm - 2:30	Workshops
2:30 - 2:45	Gather in the Main Meeting Room
2:45 - 3 pm	Book drawing, closing Benediction with music workshop selection

Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board at church
or online at www.pbymilwaukee.org

Discovery Day Camp

(for children of participants only)

Water! It's everywhere, right? The human body is 50-65% water. The earth is 71% water and 97% of that is salt water. Day Camp, designed for the younger participants in Discovery Day, will help us learn what the Bible says about water, how to be better stewards of water and have fun while doing it. There will be times for learning, fun activities and games and a craft time. Make a splash and join us!

Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 Check-in
- 9:00-11:00 Morning Activities
- 11:15-12:00 Worship with family
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch with family
- 1:00-2:45 Workshop with *Deb Bergeson-Graham, Teaching Elder (Franklin, Faith)*
- 2:45-3:00 Dismissal

Saturday, February 25, 2012

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages 5-11

\$10 includes lunch and a T-shirt
Limit 15 children

Carroll University Campus Center
Garden Terrace Level

Morning Keynote:
Landon Whitsitt

Keynote address #1:
What is "Open Source"?

The open source worldview is not a hope (or a fear). It is a reality that is here and will increasingly define the way that Christianity is organized and practiced. No matter one's context, the values of openness and inclusion are coming to define who we understand ourselves to be as the people of God.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. and YOU are invited. Yes, YOU... no matter who you are! The group is excited about following a similar path that the Sunday Adult Study Group has been following for a while. We are studying the each Sunday's scripture lessons. All you need to bring is your bible (and if you don't have one, we can provide one)!



These are the texts for our upcoming lessons:

February 1 – Mark 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (text for 2/5)

February 8 – **no class**, Pastor Julie on vacation

February 15 –Mark 9:2-9; 2 Kings 2:1-12 (text for 2/19)

February 22 – Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17 (Ash Wednesday texts)

February 29 – Mark 8:31-38; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (text for 3/4)

LENTEN STUDY BEGINNING MARCH 1ST!!!

Every Thursday evening for 5 weeks, a Lenten Study will be held in the Lounge, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The theme for our study is **God's Abundant Table**, a study on the sacrament of the Lord's Supper written by Cynthia M. Campbell. The subjects of the weekly lessons are as follows:

3/1 – Bread Everywhere

3/8 – Hospitality

3/15 – Just Eating

3/22 – Food for the Spirit

3/29 – Giving Thanks



Materials will be provided at each gathering, so just come and join in our conversation on the abundance of God's feast!

LENTEN SEASON



Our journey through Lent will begin with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd. Please join us at 7:00 P.M. For those who wish, we will offer Imposition of Ashes.



OUR VALENTINE'S WISH FOR YOU

- That the single most significant dimensions of your life is your relationship with our God who never ceases to sing love songs to your soul.
- That you find meaning, purpose and vitality in what you do every day.
- That you treasure your loved ones and let them know how dear they are to you.
- That you look in the mirror at least once a day and smile in happy amazement.
- That you remember relationships are what counts above all else, more than work or money, or all the material things we spend time tending to.
- That you live in an uncluttered manner, enjoying the freedom to be content.
- That you keep your sense of humor when things don't go the way you want.
- That you find adventure in each new day, and marvel at the wonders of creation which may present themselves to you.
- That you never give up on yourself when others turn away or do not understand.
- That you are attentive to the health of your body, mind and spirit.
- That you draw on your inner strength and resiliency when you are in need.
- That you carry peace within yourself, allowing it to slip into the hearts of others, so that our planet becomes a place where violence, division and war are no more.

MISSION: POSSIBLE!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (ST. GALL'S) MEAL PROGRAM

BPC will serve the evening meal at the St. Vincent de Paul Meal site on Tuesday, February 7th. We will again provide a hot chicken casserole, green bean dish, tossed salad and dessert breads to hungry adults and children. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex to help with this mission outreach.

YOU are needed to prepare one or more of the menu items, to help in the BPC kitchen readying the meal, and to deliver and serve to meal site guests. Recipes and salad suggestions are available on the poster. For more information, please contact Mary Dalton or Jenni Parnon.

GIVE HOPE - GIVE HELP!

Hope Center provides assistance on many levels to those in need in Waukesha County. They are currently running very low on items for men, women, and children. BPC's Mission Committee is taking on this **Give Hope-Give Help** campaign through the month of February. Listed below are some of these most needed items. Gently used items are accepted. However, underwear items must be new. Please place your donations on the table in the sanctuary.

Men's winter coats (all sizes), Men's boots (all sizes), Men's shoes (all sizes, gently used or new), Men's t-shirts (all sizes), Men's underwear (small, large and extra large), Ladies underwear (sizes 6,7,8 bikini style), Boys underwear (size 2), Girls underwear (size 2, 14, 16), Men's socks (ankle), Ladies socks (ankle & crew), Girls socks (toddler sizes) Shampoo (large bottles), \$5 gift cards (Target or Wal-Mart)

If you have questions about this mission outreach, see Mission Chair, Michael Brady.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- 2/1 Bob Paris
- 2/5 Bert Fine
- 2/6 Lora Stangler
- 2/11 Jim Olson
- 2/13 Ray Petersen
- 2/16 Bill Howard, Pete Kirchhoff
- 2/20 Bill Taibl
- 2/25 Nicole Wuerzberger

OUR SYMPATHY IS WITH:

Ken DeBoer & Family at the loss of his father, Mark DeBoer, January 1.

The Isla Cramer Family, at the loss of our friend, Isla, on January 15.

Bill & Pat Perkins, at the loss of Bill's brother, Don, on December 24 and Pat's cousin, Cliff Woodcock in January.

The friends and family of Jean Davis, a former member of BPC who passed away on January 21.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

The Lavoe Family on the birth of their daughter, Ziva Akosua Lavoe, born December 18.



CARE & CONCERN OF THE CONGREGATION IS WITH:

- Judy Bauer's husband, Bill
- Michael Brady's mother, Irene
- Isla Cramer' family
- Ken DeBoer and family
- Connie Hutchings
- Dorothy Kowalicki
- Char Mattson
- Kris Parker
- Bill Perkins and family
- Jeff Peterson's brother, Kent
- Julie Peterson's nephew's unborn child
- Dottie Russon
- Marcia Sinner's uncle, Rev. Timothy Butler
- Don & Peggy Waterman's daughter-in-law, Paige, serving in Afghanistan
- ...for those serving in the military
- ...for all experiencing life challenges

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please contact the church office for new addresses for these members::

Aaron & Lisa Larson

Jim & Paula Moore



*Join us for **B L A S T***

***B**elieve in our Children **L**ove them **A**ttract them **S**upport them **T**each them*

Volunteers are needed to help teach, help in assisting activities, as well as provide meals. Sign up on the poster on the hall bulletin board to be part of the faith journey of our children.

The Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network (BEGIN) Presents:

Interfaith Forums: "Why Are We Here?"

Faith Perspectives on the Meaning of Life."

Two Thursdays – January 26 and February 2, 2012 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Christians, Muslims, Mormons, Jews, Unitarian Universalists, Baha'is and people of many other faiths will gather on January 26 and February 2 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to pursue the question of "the meaning of life" from different faith perspectives at the Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network (BEGIN) Interfaith Forums.

Four representatives from different faith traditions will speak each evening followed by a time for attendees to ask questions.

The Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network (BEGIN) seeks to promote a culture of respect and dialogue in the Brookfield-Elm Grove area. The group began meeting in 2001, and offers an annual interfaith gathering at Thanksgiving as well as regular meetings where interfaith representatives or leaders can connect and learn from one another. According to Interim BEGIN Convener, Mary Janowak, "BEGIN's work has to do with sharing, learning, and where possible, working toward common purposes. We seek to connect across lines of difference, and build mutual understanding and respect -- and to model that kind of relationship-building and working-together for our wider Brookfield-Elm Grove community."

The Interfaith Forums are free and open to the public.

Contact: BEGIN Interim Convener, Mary Janowak, Director of Human Concerns, St. John Vianney Catholic Church.



SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TO SHARE MUSICAL

Young people from Southminster Church will be with us in worship on February 26th. Their 2012 musical, "Are We there Yet?", is based on the music of Sonicflood's song of the same title, and includes music by a host of other Christian rock artists. The message, shared through a number of different sketches, is one of telling the world about Jesus Christ and calling us out to spread the gospel message to the ends of the earth. The music is uplifting, energizing, and engaging, and will leave you singing the praises of this wonderful journey of faith that each of us are traveling together, and with Christ. A freewill offering will be taken to support Southminster's youth mission projects. Invite friends and family and join us for this special presentation.

WEATHER CLOSINGS!!

Should we need to cancel worship services due to weather, check these TV stations for updates: NBC (4); Fox (6); ABC (12)



February, 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:30AM Wednesday Bible Study	2 Pastor Julie Sermon Writing Day 3PM Confirmation	3 7AM Morning Prayers	4
5 9AM Adult Study 10AM Worship & Communion 11AM Coffee Hour AED Training	6 Office Closed 7AM Men's Study Group 7PM Property Committee Mtg. Pastor Julie Sabbath Day	7 5:30PM Worship Committee Mtg. 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	8 NO Wednesday Bible Study 6PM BLAST Class Pastor Julie	9 Pastor Julie Sermon Writing Day NO Confirmation → on Vacation	10 7AM Morning Prayers	11 →
12 9AM Adult Study 10AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour →	13 Office Closed 7AM Men's Study Group Pastor Julie Sabbath Day →	14 12:30Pm Martha Circle at J. Davis' →	15 9:30 AM Wednesday Bible Study Pastor Julie back in office	16 Pastor Julie Sermon Writing Day 3PM Confirmation 7PM Finance Committee Mtg.	17 7AM Morning Prayers	18
19 9AM Adult Study 10AM Worship 11AM Coffee Hour Newsletter deadline 11:15AM Mission Committee Mtg.	20 Office Closed 7AM Men's Study Group Pastor Julie Sabbath Day	21 6:30 PM Session	22 9:30AM Wednesday Bible Study 6PM BLAST Class 7PM Ash Wed. Service Choir	23 Pastor Julie Sermon Writing Day 3PM Confirmation	24 7AM Morning Prayers	25 8:30AM-2:30PM Discovery Day At Carroll University
26 9AM Adult Study 10AM Worship Southminster Youth Musical - Special Offering 11AM Coffee Hour	27 Office Closed 7AM Men's Study Group Pastor Julie Sabbath Day	28 4PM Presbytery Meeting at Clinton	29 6:30 PM Gift & Memorials Mtg.	March 1 6:30PM Lenten Study in Lounge		

SERVING ON SUNDAY

Date	Liturgist	Greeter	Coffee Hour Hosts	Counters	Ushers
2/5 Communion Servers: M. Sinner, P. Waterman D. Waterman,	N. Molstad	K. Bertram	K. Mathews G. Maurer	J. Freuck J. Junek	K. Bertram B. James K. Joung K. Pierce
2/12	J. Fresch	J. Camp	K. DeBoer D. Heppe	K. Bertram M. Crowe K. Mathews	K. Bertram B. James K. Joung K. Pierce
2/19	D. Brankle	J. Camp	K. & M. Joung	M. Brady D. Olson	J. Camp N. Molstad E. Pierce D. Waterman
2/26	N. Brown	W. Dannenbrink	B. James T. Maddy	J. & J. Camp J. Parnon	J. Camp N. Molstad E. Pierce D. Waterman

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYERS



Friday morning prayers start at 7:00 A.M. and lasts about 30 minutes. We celebrate God and life as we engage in prayer for our church and our world. If you have specific prayer requests, please call Pastor Julie.

BROOKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Website: brookfieldpresbyterian.com

Office Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Tuesday & Wednesday

8:00 AM - 12 PM Thursday

