



Boulevard Presbyterian Church's

# Good News

Reaching out to make disciples.

July 2011

Volume 14, Issue 7

www.BlvdChurch.org



**Get Ready for Vacation Bible School at Boulevard!**

**Dates: July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Dinner served daily)**

Join us this summer at the *'Shake it Up Café'* where we will explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word. We'll study various biblical festivals that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God.



**Be ready for God  
Give happily to God  
Believe fully in Jesus  
Remember Jesus often  
Celebrate God forever**

**Contact Becky Elliott  
(481-9173, [beckyelliott74@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyelliott74@yahoo.com))  
if you'd like to volunteer.**



**In June, watch for sign-up sheets in the Lounge.**

**Registration is available on-line at  
<http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/BlvdShakeitUp>**



**June 5th through September 4th**

**9:00 a.m. ~ Worship in the Chapel**

**9:50 a.m. ~ Coffee Connector**

**Fellowship in the Lounge**

**10:30 a.m. ~ Worship in the Sanctuary**



### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I was a pastor in Raleigh, NC, I had a friend who served a church where the neighborhood had changed dramatically over the years. The suburban homes around the church still looked much as they always had, but the occupants were nearly all African American, while the congregation was nearly all white. My friend told me that there were no longer any members who lived in the neighborhoods near the church. They all drove in on Sunday for worship, and then scattered out to their distant abodes.

Now I don't mean to suggest that the members of this church were necessarily racist, or even that they were unfriendly or unwelcoming to their African American neighbors. I suspect that some of these neighbors visited worship and were uncomfortable with the very "white" style of worship or with being the only minority there.

But regardless of how benign the reasons, the fact of a congregation composed entirely of people from outside the neighborhood does raise the question of why the congregation exists.

A century ago our denomination approved something known as "The Great Ends of the Church." These six core purposes begin with "the proclamation of the gospel" and end with "the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world." I think these "Ends" are very well written, but I'm not sure that such statements shape congregational life very much. More often, congregations have learned ways of being church that served them well over the years. Unfortunately these patterns tend to persist long after they stop working so well.

Half a century ago, most Americans were Christian, and there was a general expectation that they be connected to some congregation. In this climate, congregations with well done worship and good programming for children and youth were likely find a steady supply of members. "Evangelism" was not about sharing the faith with non-Christians but about inviting friends and neighbors to try our church. After all, they were going to go to church somewhere.

But that is no longer true. More and more Americans feel no need to "go to church," and churches can experience decline that has nothing to do with "bad" worship or poor programming. Too often, Mainline Protestant congregations become enclaves of 1950s Christianity in 21st Century America. These congregations can find themselves as out of touch and disconnected from their physical neighbors as my friend's church in Raleigh found itself after the demographics of its neighborhood changed.

When the racial demographics of a neighborhood change and a congregation no longer reflects its neighborhood, at least the situation is obvious. For such congregations to be what God calls them to be, they must change and adapt to serve those around them, to share the good news with different neighbors and draw them into the work of the Kingdom.

But when changes in the surrounding neighborhood are cultural, when homeowners and families still look much the same yet no longer feel any necessity to *attend* church, congregations may not notice this need to change and adapt. And even when they do notice they often keep doing what they've always done because it worked in the past. It is all too easy to become an enclave and relic of a past time and neighborhood, just as my friend's church in Raleigh did.

But the very different neighborhood that we now find around Boulevard is not something to fear. Indeed it is a wonderful opportunity. In a way, the *mission field* has come to our doorstep. Opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission are right next door. But mission fields demand different methods. When missionaries go to distant lands, they do not build a church, post the worship times, and hope someone shows up. Rather they go into the community and seek to meet the needs of the people there.

Our own VBS might be thought of this way. It provides the community a time of safe, fun activities for its children while also sharing God's love with those who are not our members. But VBS comes only once a year. And so this Fall we plan to launch a once-a-week afterschool program that will have fun, crafts, activities, mission projects, and a meal. This will be for the community's children, regardless of whether they are members. And I hope that you will want to help with this new venture as we learn new ways of being church in the changing world and neighborhood God is calling us to serve.

Peace in Christ,

**A great big THANK YOU to all our wonderful Teachers and Leaders for 2010-2011**

**Toddlerland**

Debbie Henry

**Cherub Choir**

Carol Agler

**We Worship**

Martha Hills  
Grace Parks  
Amy Smith

**4th-6th Grade**

Stefanie Osborne

**Elementary Rotation**

Kathie Bailey  
Nancy Bolen  
Marlin Cheyney  
Jane Conner  
Dave Culbertson  
Becky Elliott  
Wiley Elliott  
Allyson Engdahl  
Sandy Ferguson  
Paula Frank

Martha Hills  
Amy Johnson  
Marty Kuhn  
Alex McCormick  
Carol McFadden  
Jan Plas  
Kyme Rennick  
Greg Smith  
Jon Stephens  
Analisa Trares

**Adult Education**

Ginny Achtermann  
Kathie Bailey  
Merri Bame  
Nancy Bolen  
Steve Hills  
Jeremy Roberts  
James Sledge  
Brett Swanson

Please forgive us if we've forgotten anyone.

This is one of many things Brett did for the past few years and we're scrambling!



**2011 Ice Cream Socials**

Summer is here and the Deacons are planning our annual ice cream socials. Ice cream will be served after the second service on:

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**August 28<sup>th</sup>**

We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**Women's Monthly Potluck Brunch**

**Saturday, July 23rd**

**11:00 a.m.**

Our next brunch will be held **Saturday, July 23rd at 11:00 a.m. in Room 111.** We will gather for a potluck brunch, fellowship and ongoing discussion, as individuals and as a group, about our faith journeys, our spiritual growth and / or service opportunities as we feel led by God.

Please sign the sheet in the Lounge to let us know that you're planning to attend and bring your favorite potluck item! Feel free to invite a friend!



**Local Mission Opportunities**

**IHN Family Center  
Dinner Hosting  
Sunday, July 17th at  
5:00 p.m.**



We will be preparing and serving dinner at the IHN Family Center on **Sunday, July 17th at 5:00 p.m.**

There are many ways to help! You may help by providing food, preparing food, or helping to serve at the IHN Center. Sign-up sheets will be in the Lounge. Please plan to join us and let us know how you will be able to help!

**NNEMAP Food Pantry**

The next Food Mission Sunday is **July 24th** (the fourth Sunday of each month), and our needs this month are:

- ♦ Canned Chicken
- ♦ Powdered Milk
- ♦ Bars of Hand Soap (Not Liquid)

Brown grocery bags are always needed.

**Don't throw them away!**

The shampoo, soap, lotion and coffee packets that hotels provide for guests are ideal for NNEMAP clients, particularly the homeless. Bring these items with your monthly food donations and they will be distributed at the pantry!

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**Open Shelter Lunch Assembly  
Thursday, July 28th  
6:00 p.m. and /or 6:30 p.m.**



On Thursday, July 28th, we will be preparing 200 brown bag lunches for the Open Shelter. We will have sign-up times for people to arrive at 6:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. If possible, please sign up ahead of time on the list in the lounge, but last minute volunteers are always welcome! Ideally we would like to have 10-15 people signed up to participate.

For more information, please contact Amy Creighton at 867-5098 or acreight@columbus.rr.com. Thanks you for your help.

**25 Buckets and More!**



The Christmas in June special project was a tremendous success. We had hoped to fill 25 buckets with cleaning products to deliver to NNEMAP families, but your generosity exceeded that number. The final count was 52 buckets filled and ready to go!

About 41 families received their cleaning products on Sunday, June 5th, and with a few more referrals from NNEMAP, the remaining buckets will be delivered throughout June.

A special thanks to our church community for your support of the Christmas in June special project, the abundance of product donations, and a willingness to deliver the buckets to the NNEMAP families. Thanks be to God for this new opportunity to show Christ's love to neighbors in need.

Of note: Our appreciation to Goodale Hardware for their tremendous discount on the purchase of the buckets. It enabled us to buy even more of them! If you visit this local hardware store, be sure to let them know of Boulevard's thanks.

## Boulevard Kickball is back...

### Total Depravity (Boulevard's Kickball Team) is taking sign-ups NOW.

Ever want to relive your childhood afternoons of fresh cut grass, a brand new rubber ball as big as your face, and some ice cream afterwards? Well, get excited because Kickball is back at Boulevard! This year, Total Depravity looks to reclaim its winning ways after making it into the playoffs last year.

You can be part of the continued legacy! We have 20 Roster spots available & room for many alternates. Games are Sunday evenings during late July - Early September.

**\*\*Sign Up in the Lounge\*\***

### Dresses from Pillowcases

When a pillowcase is made into a dress, it can make a young girl smile. Various organizations throughout the country and around the world are turning simple pillowcases into pretty dresses for girls in Haiti, Uganda, Honduras and many other countries. A woman coordinating the distribution of the dresses wrote that, "There are no words to share the emotions of handing a child a brand new dress sewn with so much love. The looks on the mothers' faces as they picked up their children from school were priceless." The handmade dresses are the only new pieces of clothing the children will ever receive.

The pattern is simple. If you have sewing skills and would like more information and / or directions, give Ginny Achtermann a call at 775-0658.

Contributions and Expenses May 2011		
	Actual	Budget
Contributions	28,349.18	32,749.99
Expenses	<u>27,993.42</u>	<u>33,264.47</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>355.76</u>	<u>(514.48)</u>
Year-to-Date		
Contributions	151,567.79	163,749.95
Expenses	<u>159,041.19</u>	<u>166,322.35</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>(7,473.40)</u>	<u>(2,572.40)</u>



### New Pictorial Directory

Trying to match a name to a face?

Know you've seen that person before, but can't remember their name.

Well, you'll be glad to know plans are being made for a new pictorial directory this fall.

Watch for details and additional information in the July Good News!



### Boulevard Prayer Chain

If you would like to make a prayer request, please contact Jan Plas at 486-7510 or the Church Office at 486-0267.

### Recent Prayer Concerns

Mary Ann Byers, Arlington Court  
Louise Conner, recuperating at home  
Cathie Cope, recuperating at home  
Harriett Curtis, at home  
Fred Ferris, at home  
Jeanne Fletcher, First Community Rehab  
Barbara Frautschi, at home  
Mary Harris, at home  
Gus Hoehl, at home  
Kay Jones, at home  
Brita Knapp, recovering from Chemotherapy  
Johnny Murday, Becky Metzler's brother  
Peggy Pasko, recuperating at home  
Dorothy Pinney, at home  
Gerry Price, The James at OSU  
Eric Rieve, Columbus Alzheimer Care Center  
Mary Thomas, at home  
Margaret Ward, Westminster Thurber HCC  
Sandy Zigler, recuperating home

### Christian Sympathies To . . .

**Celeste and Bob Thomas and Jerry Ross and their families** on the death of Celeste and Jerry's mother, **Nancy Ross**, on June 15, 2011.

### Celebrating July Birthdays



Thomas Hayes	3	Amy Smith	19
Norma Kibbey	3	Lisa Faulkner	20
Stephen Blake	4	Sandy Ferguson	20
Barbara Daniel	5	Donald Kizer	21
Jim Parks	6	Matthew Johnson	22
Grant Stephens	7	Richard Williams	23
Paula Frank	8	Jane Perry	24
Carol Williams	11	Elise Hooley	24
Larry Schmitz	14	Grant Culbertson	26
Kim Welter	14	Michael Schmidt	26
Traci Lobao	15	Sandy Zigler	28
Jody Huggins	16	Sarah McFadden	29
Janice Towns	16	Judy Cameruca	29
Marty Kuhn	16	Norman Knapp	31
Gwen Jackson	17	Al Stockum	31
Dennis Marshall	18		

# Boulevard Staff

**Pastor**  
**The Rev. James Sledge**  
Ext. 26  
Home: 485-1737

**Music Director**  
**Jeremy Roberts**  
Ext. 16

**Organist and  
Keyboard**  
**Mary Ann Stephens**  
Ext. 16

**Building Manager**  
**Mark Key**  
Ext. 22

**Office Manager**  
**Linda Johnson**  
Ext. 12

### Session

**Class of 2011**  
Steve Hills  
Terry McFadden  
Ken Pierce  
Jan Plas

**Class of 2012**  
Mary Clifton  
Amy Creighton  
Ian Rennick  
Melissa Schmidt

**Class of 2013**  
Ginny Achtermann  
Jim Bailey  
Phyllis Miller  
Kay Rieve

### Deacons

**Class of 2011**  
Louise Conner  
Martha Hills  
Marty Kuhn  
Abbi Menke  
Kyme Rennick

**Class of 2012**  
George Ells  
Allyson Engdahl  
Paul McCalla  
Stefanie Osborne

**Class of 2013**  
Amy Johnson  
Carol McFadden  
Michael Schmidt

### Cents-Ability Update

**Nickels for Hunger  
2-Cents-A-Meal  
Penny Power!**

As of this newsletter **\$457.56** has been donated for Cents-Ability. Our goal for this program year is \$1,000.00.

Please remember to put your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters in your Cents-Ability bank each day, then bring your banks to church and add your loose change to the Cents-Ability jar!

**Deadline for August Good News  
Monday, July 18th**