



Youth Fellowship ~ "1925 Youth Group"

Is for 6th through 12th graders and friends
1925 Youth Group Meets **ONLY** on Dates Listed Below

March 2011 Calendar

Wednesday March 9th	<u>Deacon's Spaghetti Dinner & Ash Wednesday Service</u> Plan on attending the Deacon's famous Spaghetti Dinner and fill up on tasty Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert and more! After the dinner is over, join the rest of the church for a worship service for Ash Wednesday. Worship begins at 7 PM.	Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM Worship Begins at 7:00 PM
March 13th	<u>Youth Group "Field Trip" to Stauf's Coffee</u> We are going to take a "field trip" and walk down to Stauf's Coffee, grab a table, and talk a little about "other people." The coffee/hot cocoa/etc. is FREE so bring a friend!	4:30 PM To 6:00 PM
March 20th	<u>Serving Dinner at IHN</u> Winter is still here and there are plenty of homeless families that need a hot meal. Help serve dinner at IHN and make a difference in the lives of some of Columbus' needy families. ***Permission Slips are REQUIRED***	4:30 PM To 8:00 PM

Questions? Contact Brett Swanson
rev.brett@blvdchurch.org or find the **Est. 1925 Group** page on Facebook!



I am a big guy. I am over six feet tall and 300 pounds. I have long arms, thick legs, and thanks to football, bad knees. I am the poster child for being uncomfortable on commercial flights. The cramped quarters and little leg room mean that I spill out into the aisle (where I like to sit) with my right leg and its bad knee creating obstacles for flight attendants and antsy passengers alike. I am not the guy you like to see boarding the plane; I am not the guy you want sitting next to you. I am an experienced passenger, and know the tricks; I no longer pray for safe flights. My prayer is usually, "Dear Lord, please let this empty seat next to me stay empty." AMEN

Being uncomfortable is part of flying; a necessary trial that allows for incredible experiences. Standing on the Great Wall of China more than makes up for the prolonged torture I experienced on Korean Air. Fourteen hours from Seattle to London was instantly forgotten when I heard Big Ben chime. I look back on terribly uncomfortable experiences of travel and compare them to the incredible adventures they afforded, and I can't justify limiting any potential adventure just because I might be cramped for 5 hours. Yet many people would decide otherwise.

Fear of being uncomfortable arrests so much progress, so many adventures, so many new and exciting paths to explore before the first step is ever taken. And I am not just talking about airline seats either. Comfort is prized so highly - the desire never to be stressed, to be forced into making new decisions, taking unknown leaps, trusting and discovering on the fly - that many will never abandon it no matter what they stand to gain. Many never jump because they don't know where they will land; we are afraid of being uncomfortable and it is killing us.

Personally and together as a church, can you/can we remember a time when being unsure of how it would all turn out stopped a really good idea or the possibility of a great adventure? Can we/can you think of something we/you have always wanted to do but was afraid to try? I know I can. I think of what it will cost me (money, security, professionally, etc.), what it will require (trying and learning new things, trusting without proof), and what others will think, **and rarely weigh what I could gain.** I wonder what would have happened if I went into the Peace Corps instead of teaching for two years. Fear of being uncomfortable arrested my adventure, and I wonder at times what God would have done in my life if I would have named my fears and gone ahead into the great unknown. I do not regret (even in the least) the life I lead, and the path I have taken; it continues to be an amazing ride. I do regret not weighing what I could gain against what I could have lost.

As church and congregation, being uncomfortable is part of being faithful. We are challenged by the Holy Spirit to look past the stone walls of Boulevard Presbyterian and claim flexibility. We are challenged to place our trust in a sovereign God who asks us to humbly walk rather than hunker down and ride out the generations. Fads in culture and ministry will pass, and with them opportunities for new ways of thinking and attracting new members. We can't possibly participate in each and every one but when something special comes along (perhaps it is a community garden?), we must be willing to claim the discomfort that comes with new adventures, and without all the answers walk in the direction the Spirit leads us.

Peace, *Brett*



Boulevard Presbyterian Church's

Good News

Reaching out to make disciples.

March 2011

Volume 14, Issue 3

www.BlvdChurch.org

2011 Lenten Dinners, Worship and Study...



Begins Wednesday, March 16th

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Dinner Begins at 5:30 pm

Invite a neighbor or friend and join us for our annual Lenten dinners, worship and study that begin **Wednesday, March 16th** and run each Wednesday in Lent through **Wednesday, April 13th**.

Worship in the Chapel

New this year will be a Taize style time of meditation and worship in the Chapel immediately following dinner. This service will be led by Jeremy and Mary Ann.

What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most

Pastor James Sledge will lead our Lenten Class for 2011 entitled *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most*. Based on the newly released book by Martin Thielen, join us as we create a list of ten things Christians need to believe and ten things they don't to qualify as Christians. This lively and engaging class will be a help to seekers as well as a comfort to believers who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with. Copies of *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most* will be available for \$10 for those who would like to read along.

Deacons' Annual Spaghetti Dinner

**Ash Wednesday ~ March 9th
5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**



Be sure to save the date and join us for a time of fellowship and visiting with your church friends ~ plus enjoy a great home cooked meal! As we get closer to the date, watch for the sign-up sheets in the Lounge. We always appreciate you signing up in advance so we can prepare enough food. There will not be a charge for this dinner; however, donations will be accepted.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What's the least I can believe and still be a Christian? That rather odd question is the title of a book that we will be using for a Lenten study. The book isn't a guide to minimalist faith. Rather the book explores the true essence of the faith, or as the sub-title to the book reads: *A Guide to What Matters Most*.

I think discussions of the sort this book encourages are desperately needed in many traditional congregations. Many of us grew up in a world where Christianity and church membership were expected and taken for granted. It was so much a part of the culture that people were presumed to acquire faith almost by osmosis. And so while many of us assume that we "know" what it means to be Church, when someone asks us what it means we give answers such as, "Well you know, you just be the Church."

In addition, because faith and culture were so intertwined until recently in our country, it was not always clear which was which. As a result, many people presume that American cultural axioms are biblical ones. I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone claim that "God helps those who help themselves" is biblical wisdom. In truth it is found nowhere in the Bible and is generally attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

Perhaps of more concern, many Christians of Baby Boomer and earlier generations tend to think that good citizenship and church attendance equal being Christian. "Believing in Jesus" is presumed as a part of this formula, but exactly what "believing in Jesus" means or entails is not always clear. And I've often heard from people in this and other congregations who confess that they don't know how to talk to people about faith or invite them to church if they're not already church people. If people don't already "know" what it means to be Church, we don't know what to tell them.

And that brings me back to our Lenten study and our call to be followers of Jesus. We no longer live in a world (if in fact we ever did) where the culture will do our work for us, where it will shape people as worshippers, disciples, and servants of God's coming reign. The culture has no interest in telling people they should "go to church." And I think does us a tremendous favor. It has forced us to remember what it means to be followers of Jesus. It has forced us to rediscover what it means to be disciples, those who learn at the feet of the Master how we are to live and love as agents of God's coming rule.

I think that this book and the study we will do from it can be a good way for each of us to figure out just where we are in the journey of discipleship Jesus call us to undertake. It may also be a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to explore with us what it means to be Christian and to be the Church. Even if you aren't comfortable sharing your faith or explaining it to others, you can invite them to share a Lenten dinner as well as a discussion about just what it means to be a Christian.

You don't have to have read the book to be a part of this Lenten study and discussion, although I suspect you will get more out of it if you have read it. So let me encourage you to order the book, but even more, let me encourage you to attend and take part in the discussions that I hope will emerge. As I said at the beginning of this note, I think such discussions are critical if we are to be faithful to Jesus, if we are to be his living body in the world.

We live in a world that no longer connects good citizenship, happiness, or a fulfilling life to Christian faith. But far from being a death knell for the Church, this is a wonderful opportunity to rediscover the distinctive elements of the faith, to hear afresh the call to find new life "in Christ." It is a chance for us and the Church to be reborn and made new as the Spirit helps us more and more fully embody Christ to the world.

Peace in Christ,

Special Quarterly Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, March 26th
8:00 a.m. in Room 111**

Plan on joining us for breakfast, fellowship and the opportunity to pray together as the men of the church. A hot breakfast, coffee and juice will be provided. Questions? Please see Brett Swanson or Greg Smith.

RSVPs are appreciated! Look for sign-up sheets in the Lounge.



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
Cathie Cope, recuperating at home
Fred Ferris, at home
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
Dorothy Pinney, Arlington Court
Peggy Pasko, recuperating at home
Eric Rieve, Arlington Court
Nancy Ross, Forum
Mary Thomas, at home
Margaret Ward, Westminster Thurber HCC

We've Moved ~

Please Note our New Addresses

Merle Ivers
4789 Yantis Drive
New Albany, OH 43054

Clive and Norma Moorehead
9938 East Valley Hills Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Happy Birthday!



March Birthdays

Connor McCormick	1	Sean McCormick	14
Philip Kegg	3	Harriette Curtis	16
Hollie Briggs	5	Phoebe McConnell	17
Susan Fisher	5	Carolyn Williams	18
Charlotte Ferris	5	Charlotte McCalla	19
Emina Osborne	6	Brian Zigler	19
Carol McFadden	7	Patrick Rieve	20
Richard Mount	7	Tim Rennick	21
Elizabeth Davis	7	Joyce Hobar	24
Drake Trares	9	Andrew Feast	27
Steve Hills	10	Evelyn Clark	30
Grant Hamilton	13	David Grimm	30



**Deadline for
April Good News
Thursday, March 18th**

Boulevard Staff

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

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Brett Swanson
Ext. 17

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 \$276.53 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!



Presbyterian Women's Gathering
Saturday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m.
Focus ~ Human Trafficking

The next Gathering for Boulevard Presbyterian Women will be on **Saturday, March 5th at 11:30 a.m.** Please note this gathering is on **Saturday** so more women will have an opportunity to come to this very important program. **Ms. Marlene Carson** is founder of **Rahab's Hideaway** ~ a comprehensive program addressing the needs of girls and young adult women who have been victims of human trafficking. Boulevard PW gave Rahab's Hideaway \$500.00 last year to help furnish a house that was given to them for the girls' residence. Human trafficking is a very, very profitable industry. Tens of thousands of girls and adult women are exploited daily. If you have not been to a PW Gathering you may want to come to this program, lunch and fellowship to learn more about human trafficking in Central Ohio.

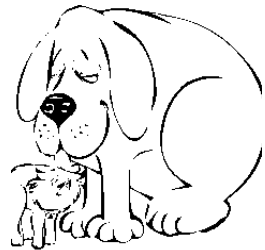
Lunch will be provided by Naomi Circle. Cost is \$5.00

Reservations for lunch are appreciated. Please call Ginny Achtermann (775-0658) by **March 3rd** or sign up on the list that will be on the table in the Lounge.

Volunteer Opportunities...

Pets Without Parents

**A No-Kill Columbus Animal Shelter
 Sign-Up in the Lounge**



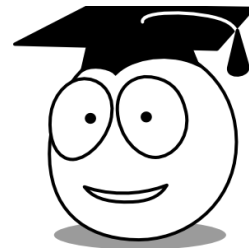
Youth with Parents, and Adults are invited to sign-up to participate in a Volunteer Orientation for Pets Without Parents, a no-kill animal shelter here in Columbus.

Applications to volunteer are in the lounge and are required for all ages to participate. If you have any questions, would like to be emailed a Volunteer Application, or be placed on the sign-up list please contact Brett.

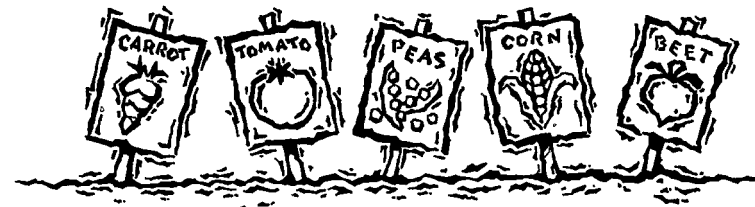
**Calling All High School & College
 Graduates of the Class of 2011!**

Will you or a member of your family be graduating from High School or College as a member of the Class of 2011?

We would like to include them in our graduate recognition to be held in early Summer. Please contact the office with your graduate information. Make sure to include full name, school of graduation, and post-graduation plans (college, graduate school, job, travel, military, etc.).



Boulevard Community Garden



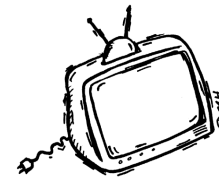
A local group, **Friends of 43212**, has received a grant to partner with us in developing a community garden on our property. Presumably we would grow produce for food pantries, but this is a work in progress. Bill Dawson, the community garden coordinator with the Franklin Park

Conservatory, will be meeting with us on **Tuesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m.** to talk with us about how best to begin. If you would like to help, or simply learn more, please join us.

<i>Boulevard Presbyterian Church Rotation Sunday School The Book of Esther</i>		
DATES	K-1	Grades 2-3
February 27	Special Combined Class: Holy Wood ~ Room 301	
March 6	Creation Station Room 113	Antioch Arcade Room 302
March 13	Mission Kitchen Room 103	Creation Station Room 113
March 20	Antioch Arcade Room 302	Mission Kitchen Room 103
<i>Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. Esther 4:13 (In part)</i>		

**March Adult Education
 Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

The Final Month...



**The NOOMA Class
 Sundays in March**

Join Mary Clifton and others as we finish out the very popular Nooma Video Series. Each class features a short video and discussion, and is perfect for those wanting to drop in when they can. This class meets in Room 111 unless otherwise noted and everyone is welcome! Questions? Talk to Mary Clifton.

Class Meets in Room 111

A Women's Bible Study...

**The Book of Esther
 Sundays in March**



Join Nancy Bolen and Ginny Achtermann for a 4-week look into the *Book of Esther*. This Bible Study is geared for women who are interested in exploring together the story of Queen Esther, a Jew living in the palace of a kingdom that plotted to wipe out Esther's people in battle.

Esther's story shows us that God has a plan for each of us, and we may indeed find ourselves in tough places "for just such a time as this."

Class Meets in the Chapel



**April Adult / Youth
 Education
 Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**Hallelujah Chorus –
 Can You "Handel" It?**

**An Adult/Youth
 Christian Education Opportunity**

**Sundays at 10:00 am
 April 3rd, 10th, and 17th**

An exciting chance to delve deeper into some of the church's greatest music awaits you during the Christian education hour on the three Sunday's prior to Easter! **On April, 3rd, 10th, and 17th**, join Jeremy Roberts for a look at the history and spirituality of George Fredrick Handel's great masterpiece, the Messiah.

As a part of the class, we will learn, along with members of the chancel choir, to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus." Don't worry, you needn't sing like Pavarotti or Judy Garland to take part in this class. All you need to do is be willing to make a joyful noise!

Participating class members will be invited to sing the Hallelujah Chorus along with the Chancel Choir at either Sunday morning service on Easter Sunday. No matter if you have been a singer for years, haven't sung in years, or are just curious, come and join this opportunity to encounter our risen savior in a deeper way!

**Going in the Hospital?
Going into a Rehab Facility?
Know Someone Who Is?
Hospitals and Rehab Facilities
Don't Tell the Church**

An all too common occurrence at BPC is learning of members' hospitalization or stay in a rehab facility after they have already returned home. Hospitals and rehab facilities no longer inform us of members being admitted, even if patients check the box asking them to do so.

Please let us know if you are in the hospital or other facility. And if you hear about someone there, call the church office. Don't assume we know. We would rather hear about it 5 or 6 times than not find out at all. Thanks!

**Endowment Fund Committee
Seeking Applications**

Applications for funds will be accepted during the month of March, and will be ruled on the second week of April.

Brochures and application forms are available on the table in the narthex, the table in the lounge, and the glass case by the office door.

**The application deadline is
March 31, 2010.**



**Women's Monthly
Potluck Brunch**

**Saturday, March 26th
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Our next brunch will be held
**Saturday, March 26th from
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in**

Fellowship Hall. 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!



**Easter Lily Orders
March 27th through
April 17th**

We are planning our display of Easter Lilies for our worship areas. The lilies will serve as memorials or in honor of loved ones whose names will appear in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you would like to donate in honor or in memory of someone, **we will take orders beginning Sunday, March 27th through Sunday, April 17th.** The cost of the lilies will be \$9.00 for each plant.



Make a Note To . . .

Turn Your Clocks Ahead
Before you go to Bed ~
On March 12th

**Daylight Saving
Time Begins
Sunday, March 13th**

Local Mission Opportunities



**IHN Family Center
Dinner Hosting
Sunday, March 20th
at 5:00 pm**

We will be preparing and serving dinner at the IHN Family Center on **Sunday, March 20th at 5:00 pm.**

There are many ways to help! You may help by providing food, preparing food, or helping to serve at the IHN Center. Sing-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 **March 27th** (the fourth Sunday of each month), and our needs this month are:

- ♦ Canned Chicken
- ♦ Chunky Soup
- ♦ Bars of Hand Soap (Not Liquid)

Brown grocery bags are always needed.

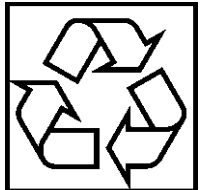
Don't throw them away!

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!

SAVE THE DATE...

**Boulevard Presbyterian's 2nd Annual
Community Recycling Day
Saturday, May 7th - 10 AM to 6 PM
Boulevard Parking Lot (W. 2nd Ave.)**



In 2010, members of the Serve God, Save the Planet book study decided to collect old computers and monitors for responsible recycling. Not knowing how many people would show up, we were all blown away on how much Grandview and beyond embraced this opportunity, and together we filled an entire moving truck with old and out-dated computers and monitors. This year we will expand our collection and team up with Grandview Heights Park and Recreation's Community Yard Sale so that items usually destined for the trash will be recycled. Items that will be accepted include computer and electronic equipment, major appliances and metal, and art and educational supplies.

A big thank you to Ken Odiorne who has worked hard to create our partnership with the City of Grandview and the other vendors who will responsibly recycle our collected items.

For More Information and A Complete List of Acceptable Items visit:

www.blvdchurch.org/mission/recycle

A BIG THANK YOU!

**The Souper Bowl of Caring
Raised \$702 for NNEMAP**



A big thank you to all who helped our youth raise \$702 (a new Souper Bowl Record for Boulevard) to help fight hunger here in our own neighborhood. NNEMAP received 100% of our donations.

NNEMAP Volunteers

Thank you to the following individuals for their volunteer time on a weekly / monthly or "as needed" basis at the **NNEMAP Food Pantry** in 2010:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Becky Elliott | Connie Freeman |
| Allyson Engdahl | Pat Nicholson |
| Susannah Engdahl | Ruth Smith |

The ongoing commitment and support of these volunteers to NNEMAP's mission is making a difference in the lives of the people served. Thanks be to God.

Contributions and Expenses January 2011		
	Actual	Budget
Contributions	34,930.11	32,749.99
Expenses	<u>34,155.71</u>	<u>33,347.83</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>774.40</u>	<u>(597.84)</u>
Year-to-Date		
Contributions	34,930.11	32,749.99
Expenses	<u>34,155.71</u>	<u>33,347.83</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>774.40</u>	<u>(597.84)</u>