

March 10, 2015

Dear Christian Friends,

Greetings from Beaver Island Christian Church. It is good to greet each of you in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior.

It is time again for our annual newsletter. The articles in this letter are compiled by many in the church who are representatives of various committees and church organizations that will share the ministries of the church from their perspective.

Our winter here on the Island had less snow this year but very cold temps, and very windy. One comment that was on TV 9 & 10 this winter was “ The wind was so very strong that it blew Beaver Island over to Charlevoix and it was sitting, waiting for the bridge to go up and to settle into Round Lake...more on 9 & 10 news at 5:00.” The snow birds that leave the Island to winter in warmer climates just don't know what they are missing!!

Be sure to check the church website at [bichristianchurch.com](http://bichristianchurch.com). A big thank you to Alan and Bev Vicstein for setting up the website and keeping it updated.

As we approach the most Blessed and Holy season of the year, the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we wish for all of you a most Blessed and Happy Easter.

Together in God's service,

Mary Ellen Dawson

Corresponding Secretary

## CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES:

Easter Sunday service led by Pastor Kruse, was very inspiring. Our church was about half full and afterward everyone went to Gregg Fellowship Center for an Easter brunch hosted by our church. A very delicious meal was served to about 84 people from our church and the community. Ham, scrambled eggs, baked French toast, pancakes and many kinds of coffee cakes, rolls and fruit rounded out the meal. Despite the chilly and rainy day a wonderful time was had by all.

## PASTOR LIST: 2015

March: 8<sup>th</sup>-Howard Davis; 15<sup>th</sup>-Pat Nugent; 22<sup>nd</sup>-Steve Finch; 29<sup>th</sup>-Palm Sunday, Bob Whitlock.

April: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Good Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>-Easter Sunday, Bob Whitlock; 12<sup>th</sup> Howard Davis; 19<sup>th</sup> Steve Finch; 26<sup>th</sup>-open.

May: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Gerry Heyboer; 10<sup>th</sup>- Steve Finch (Baccalaureate Lighthouse students); 17<sup>th</sup>-Pat Nugent (Baccalaureate BI Community School); 24<sup>th</sup>-Howard Davis; 31<sup>st</sup>-John Coney.

June: 7<sup>th</sup>-Howard Davis; 14<sup>th</sup>-open; 21<sup>st</sup>-Mark Milkamp; 28<sup>th</sup>-Randy Weener.

July: 5<sup>th</sup>-Karl Hinkle; 12<sup>th</sup>-Joe Fox; 19<sup>th</sup>-Bob Whitlock; 26<sup>th</sup>-Bob Whitlock.

August: 2<sup>nd</sup>-Todd Sutton; 9<sup>th</sup>-Todd Sutton; 16<sup>th</sup>-Dean Byrom; 23<sup>rd</sup> Ed Ross; 30<sup>th</sup>-Ed Ross.

September: 6<sup>th</sup>-open; 13<sup>th</sup>-Howard Davis; 20<sup>th</sup>-open; 27<sup>th</sup>-Gerry Heyboer.

## GRADUATIONS:

May 4<sup>th</sup> was the Baccalaureate for the Lighthouse School graduates. Eleven students were honored and given Bibles with their names imprinted on them. Congratulations and best wishes to the graduates.

May 18<sup>th</sup> was the Baccalaureate for the students of Beaver Island Community School. Four students were honored and presented Bibles with their names imprinted on them. Congratulations to Olivia Cary, Erin Boyle, Jewell Gillespie-Cushman and Ron Marsh.

December 7<sup>th</sup> was the Lighthouse School Baccalaureate for the winter graduation ceremony. Six students were honored and presented with Bibles with their names imprinted on them. Congratulations and best wishes to the graduates.

### **CAPITAL FUND DRIVE:**

Ed Troutman and Rick Speck announced a Capital Fund Drive to raise money for a new roof for the church. The present roof was over 30 years old and needed to be replaced. Volunteers came forward and gave \$10,000.00 and would match dollar for dollar up to that amount. Pledge forms were available for members to fill out. The deadline for funds and pledges collected was September 15, 2014. The lighthouse students and staff hosted a spaghetti dinner at Gregg Fellowship Hall to start off the fundraiser. Good attendance by the community was appreciated.

### **UPDATE ON CAPITAL FUND DRIVE:**

On behalf of the board and the Beaver island Christian Church family, a very heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the Capital Fund drive. Your generosity is overwhelming. The roof is complete; the walkway to Gregg Fellowship Center is finished and the double entry doors to the church installed. The improvements are a great asset and testimony of those that take great pride and devotion to our church. Those returning to the Island this next summer will be impressed with the new improvements of the church.

### **CHURCH SUMMER HOURS:**

June 15 to August 31<sup>st</sup> church services were held at 9:30 a.m. instead of 10:00.

### **BIBLE STUDY:**

Many members of the church worked their way through the Books of Acts, Romans, and Ephesians this year. The present visiting pastor hosted each session

each Tuesday evening. If there was not a pastor present the group participated in a discussion on the verses being studied. Good attendance and lively discussion made each week a very informative experience.

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:**

The annual business meeting was held on August 24; moderator was Judi Meister. One of the items on the agenda was the election of two board members to replace two board members whose terms were expiring. Those that were nominated: Judi Meister, Jean Wierenga, Jon Fogg, and Jeff Conner. Other items of business were discussed followed by voting. Those that were elected to the board for the next 3 year terms were: Judi Meister and Jon Fogg.

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS:**

Each spring volunteers gather at the church to clean out the flower gardens and rake the grounds. This last spring the cleanup was sorely needed. Many branches were down as well and bushels of leaves to rake up. We welcome anyone that would like to help with this. An announcement will be in the bulletin ahead of time. The old saying: "many hands make the work go faster." That is so true in this case with many of the volunteer efforts to keep our church and grounds looking nice. The goal of a Christian is to "serve God and others". We thank those who faithfully come and help out whenever the need arises.

### **CHURCH CAR:** Jon Fogg and Mary Ellen Dawson

The church car that is used by visiting pastors while on the Island was totaled by a runaway car this last fall. The church car was parked at the community center and was hit and demolished by a car out of control. Thankfully no one was hurt in the accident. As a result we are now in need of a new vehicle for the church. We are asking for donations to purchase a Mini Van 2010 or newer that will last for many years. To purchase an older car that will need constant repair does not make sense. Our church members have been so very generous in the past and we are confident many will come forward to help our need again. Any donations large or small will be greatly appreciated.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Judi Meister and Deb Robert, co-chairs 2014

After a year's hiatus, community Vacation Bible School returned in June 2014, sponsored by the local churches and hosted once again by our church. It was a fantastic 3 days centered around the theme "Everything is Possible with God". Bible stories were taught by Joseph Fox, representing Beaver Island Christian Church, Bob Hoogendoorn, representing Lighthouse Fellowship, and Patrick Nugent, representing Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Every day started and ended with spirited singing—lots of motions and movement—led by Kim VandenHeuvel (Judi's daughter). Each day the children learned through songs and stories that they can TRUST GOD!!—"no matter how you feel" (the story of Lazarus), "no matter what people do" (Jesus arrested and put on trial), "no matter what happens" (Jesus dies and comes back to life).

Other parts of the morning included Imagination Station (simple science explanations and experiments to emphasize the point of the day) led by Brad VandenHeuvel; snack time under the capable supervision of Alice Crown, Judy Jones and Sue Ryan. And then craft time with lots of neat craft projects organized by Deb Robert.

There was a total of 65 children attending VBS and more than 25 volunteers—group leaders and helpers, craft leaders and helpers, Imagination stations, snack time, helpers for the family picnic on Thursday. How great it was to see our facilities bounding with such activity!!

Plans are already being made for this summer's VBS (mark the dates: June 30, July 1 & 2) using "Weird Animals" to emphasize the point that Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind. The first day, children will learn that "even though you're different—Jesus Loves You!!". Day 2 will show that "even when you don't understand—Jesus Loves You!!" and the Bible point for the last day is "even though you do wrong—Jesus Loves You!!"

Please pray for the planning and preparation for VBS 2015; please prayerfully consider how you can help during the week of VBS—as group leaders or helpers

with different age groups, as craft leaders or helpers, with daily snacks or the family picnic after Thursday's VBS activities. God can use you!!

### **SUMMER CHURCH PICNICS:**

Members of the church and their families gathered at Gregg Fellowship Center on Tuesday evenings for a picnic. A picnic theme decorated the tables and a pot luck dinner was served. Everyone enjoyed the time together and would like to extend an invitation to more of the church members to join in the festivities this next summer. More info will be in future bulletins.

### **LADIES CIRCLE NEWS:** Jean Carpenter

In the Spring the bedrooms in the parsonage were given a new makeover with a coat of paint, wallpaper and new carpeting. New queen size springs and mattresses were also purchased. On June 18<sup>th</sup> the Women's Circle held a community luncheon and Parsonage "Shower." The shower was to benefit the parsonage with new sheets, blankets, mattress covers and pillows. Money donations were also given to purchase other items needed. It was well attended by ladies from the church and the community. The lunch was delicious and a good time was enjoyed by all. A tour of the parsonage was given for those that had never been there and those that wanted to see the new improvements.

August 9<sup>th</sup> bake sale at Gregg Fellowship hall was a feast for the eyes and the palate with all the very delicious items to choose from. Cakes and pies of all varieties, cookies, nut breads, coffee cakes, cupcakes, brownies, candy, fudge and numerous other delicacies were donated and bought by those in the church and community. This bake sale was in conjunction with the Island's Homecoming Festivities. Proceeds from the sale were \$573.25.

Bite of Beaver was held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Hall. The Ladies Circle table known as "Heavenly Desserts" was laden with mouth watering delicacies. A variety of cakes, pies, brownies were invitations for a toothache but no one seemed to care about that. Alice Crown hosted the table along with Judy Jones and Donna Spanhak. This year containers were available to those wishing to take

dessert home for later, which people seemed to enjoy. Proceeds for the day was \$392.00

Trunk or Treat was held on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 until 6:30 pm. It was a rainy evening but for all the ghost and goblins that showed up, the rain did not dampen their fun one bit. The hall was decorated with many large inflatable creatures courtesy of Liz and Paul Niehaus which were enjoyed by the children and adults as well. Hot dogs, chips, and cider were enjoyed for a donation.

The Gregg Fellowship Center on November 16 was a buzz of activity with all the talented vendors from the Island on site to sell their products. A table was set aside for donations from each vendor to raffle off as door prizes. It would be nearly impossible to not find a gift or whatever your heart desires. Some of the items were jewelry, candles, candy, soaps, pictures, artwork of all kinds, school birthday calendars, mittens, aprons, purses, baby items, pillow cases, household goods, woodworking, knitted and crochet items, gifts from the Museum and other gift shops, etc. There was something for everyone. Good food and beverages were available for a donation to the Food Pantry. Table rent went to the Building Fund and proceeds from the raffle went to the BI Food Pantry.

### **FUNKY FASHION SHOW:**

The Funky Fashion Show sponsored by the Beaver Island Fire Dept Auxiliary, was a real hoot this year with all the models and fashions. Elaine West was the emcee for the fashion show. To lead off, Jeff Powers really showed his humorous side when he donned many hats to show off Island life, from a marijuana leafed camouflaged creation to what to wear hats for any Island occasion. Many of the Island's residents and visitors strutted down the runway with the latest fashions from the Island Treasure Resale shop. Pat Rowley and Susie Fisher were a couple of the models. There were bathing suit models and casual and dress up fashions to make any shopper drool. Many were purchased right off the models. Two tables laden with delicious pot luck dishes were enjoyed along with several deserts. Beverages were provided by the BI Christian Church. Proceeds of the benefit are split between the BI Food Pantry and The Fire Dept. Everyone left the hall with laughter in their hearts after spending a fun afternoon together.

### COOKIE CARNIVAL:

December 11<sup>th</sup> was our famous “Cookie Carnival.” The week leading up to the sale was a very busy one indeed. Starting Monday was making the dough for Nutmeg Logs and Party Cookies and two kinds of Brownies. The next two days were spent forming, baking and frosting cookies and also packaging the pre-sold cookies ahead of time. We had some of the regular standbys helping out and also some new helpers. The day of the sale, many people brought in their favorite cookies, brownies, candy and caramel corn to donate to the sale. The sale ran from Noon until 4:00 p.m. Total proceeds for the day were \$1031.25.

### THANKSGIVING DINNER:

Thursday November 27, we held our annual Thanksgiving Day dinner. Dinner was served to 64 people who attended. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy were furnished and everyone brought a dish to pass. Many delicious desserts and salads added to the selection. Davi Stein did a great job with candy favors that were set at each place setting. Everyone went home full of good food and broad smiles. We are looking forward to dinner again next year.

### CANTATA: Kathy Speck

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cantata was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A variety of performers were there to put on a beautiful program. Some of the highlights included the strings ensemble and a group of youngsters who performed “The Little Drummer Boy” with Mike Scripps and our “drummer” Layla Hall. The audience loved them! The 27 member Cantata Choir presented “I heard the Bells on Christmas Day” with some beautiful music and a message of “peace” to get everyone in the Christmas Spirit. Joe Moore live-streamed the program both days for those who are not on the Island to enjoy the performance. We dedicate our performance in memory of our courageous friend, Bill Cashman, who along with his wife JoAnn and son Jeff, have been huge supporters of our Cantata each year. The Cantata is one of the highlights of the year in the life of the Beaver Island Christian Church.

## PARSONAGE NEWS:

This winter the living/dining room was given a new makeover. The walls were washed by Judi Meister and Sandy Howell in preparation for painting. And..even the fireplace was washed down. Dave Howell and Bob Bass repaired walls and insulated air leaks to help keep the building warmer. Mary Ellen Dawson and Cindy Cushman painted walls, ceiling and woodwork. Carpets and furniture were cleaned by Larry Dawson. So much gratitude goes out to everyone for all the hard work it took to make this room look so bright, clean and cheerful. When all the snowbirds come back to the Island, we will host an open house for viewing.

## BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY: Judi Meister

The Beaver Island Food Pantry is in its sixth year of service to the Beaver Island community. It has been housed at Beaver Island Christian church since its beginning—starting in what is now the flower room.

The original committee consisted of Jayne Bailey, Miranda Rooy, John Fiegen and Judi Meister. Not too much later Chris VanLooy joined the committee. Current members of the Food Pantry Committee are Beth Croswhite, Patrick Nugent and Judi Meister.

The food Pantry has had a very busy winter, not too surprising since the number of jobs available drops drastically in the winter. At the most recent distribution on February 9, we were able to serve 13 families/individuals .

In addition to the monthly distributions, we delivered boxes with all the necessary menu items for Thanksgiving dinner: turkey, gravy, potatoes, canned sweet potatoes and vegetables, bagged lettuce, rolls and butter, and a frozen cake. At Christmas, thanks to the games, toys, books, mittens, etc. donated at the Holiday Bazaar, we were able to distribute a Christmas dinner and wrapped gifts to a number of Island families with young children.

Many of you faithfully support the Food Pantry and we very much appreciate your financial gifts as well as the donations of food. Without your support, we could not exist.

The Food Pantry is funded completely by donations of cash and/or food. Fund raisers include the Soup Luncheon at the annual Holiday Bazaar, the Trivia Contest at Stoney Acre organized by Linda Wearn and Carol Gillespie, and an upcoming Pancake Supper put on by the Men's Saturday Breakfast Bible Study.

Let me close this report by thanking you again for your support. We can accept any non-perishable item that is not outdated or opened (we have freezer space and limited refrigerator space), cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, or financial gifts that allow us to purchase food items to re-stock our shelves.

#### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:**

"On behalf of this year's red Cross Blood drive Team: Kathy Blalock and Connie Boyle and myself, I am writing to thank you for once again donating the use of your beautiful hall for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive. We are happy to report that 57 usable units were collected. Since each unit collected can save up to 3 lives, potentially 171 patients benefitted because of the generosity of your congregation. We hope you will consider letting us use the Gregg Hall again next year on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Sincerely, Connie Wojan."

#### **BINGO NEWS:** Kathy Speck

Bingo at the Gregg Fellowship Center continues to be a popular activity and will start up again April 22<sup>nd</sup> and continue through the fall. As always, we would encourage volunteers to sign up to help on a bingo night, as usually a minimum of three people are needed to help run the games and concessions. If you aren't signed up as a volunteer on Wednesday night when you are on the Island, make sure to come out and play, it's really fun!

#### **BIRTHDAYS WORTH A MENTION:**

We have a few celebrities in our church with notable birthdays. Thelma Johnson turned 104, Lillian Gregg turned 90, Harold Kruse turned 91 and Naomi Kruse turned the young age of 90. We are inspired by these beautiful people and wish them Gods' blessings and many more years with us.

