Fall is a lively time at Brecksville United Methodist Church!

This issue of *The Good Word* takes a look at what’s ahead this fall, beginning with Adult Sunday School options on this page, upcoming events inside, and a handy pull out page with important information for kids and youth!

**The Hole In Our Gospel**

*Facilitated by Dave Podolny*

Richard Sterns, the President of World Vision, an international aid organization, asks, “What does God expect of us? Is our faith just about going to church, studying the Bible and avoiding the most serious sins—or does God expect more? Have we embraced the whole Gospel or a Gospel with a hole in it?”

This former CEO of Lenox China talks about his own spiritual struggle with questions such as: “What is my responsibility to the poor? How should I use my money? How do I deal with self-centeredness? What does God expect of me if I claim to follow Him? Can I call Him ‘Lord,’ even when I don’t always do what he says?”

We will explore what God says about compassion for the least and the lost, missions as evangelism, the relevance of the church in the twenty-first century, the origins of persistent poverty, and what we might be willing to do about it.

**Making Sense of the Christian Faith**

*Facilitated by George and Jenny Gee*

Making Sense of the Christian Faith is an exciting and inviting exploration of the major theological doctrines of our Christian faith. Topics include Theology, Creation, Sin, Covenant, Law, Community, Incarnation, Atonement, Church and Holy Spirit, and Eschatology. There will be a few pages for participants to read at home each week and great discussion to follow.

**A Visit to Mayberry, RFD**

*Facilitated by Pastor Clark Stein*

First televised by CBS between October 3, 1960, and April 1, 1968, and rebroadcast for years since, *The Andy Griffith Show* is familiar to folks of all ages. Come join in the fun with an inspirational study based on the show. Reacquaint yourself with Sheriff Andy Taylor, Opie, Aunt Bea, Barney and the rest of the gang. Discuss the moral principles presented in these wonderful stories with others in the family. We’ll keep the light on for you!

Register for these classes at church or on our website: www.brecksvilleumc.com
There was an officer in the Navy who had always dreamed of commanding a battleship. He finally achieved that dream and was given commission of the newest and proudest ship in the fleet. One stormy night, as the ship plowed through the seas, the captain was on duty on the bridge when off to the port he spotted a strange light rapidly closing in on his own vessel. Immediately, he ordered the signalman to flash the message to the unidentified craft, “Alter your course ten degrees to the south.”

Only a moment had passed before the reply came, “Alter your course ten degrees to the north.” Determined that his ship would take a back seat to no other, the captain snapped out the order to be sent, “Alter your course ten degrees- I am the CAPTAIN!” The response beamed back, “Alter your course ten degrees- I am Seaman Third Class Jones.” Now infuriated, the captain grabbed the signal light with his own hands and fired off: “Alter course, I am a battleship.” The reply came back, “Alter your course. I am a lighthouse.”

We move back into the business of our everyday schedules after a season apart. Hopefully, we have been rejuvenated over the summer. Hopefully, we have reconnected with friends and family in a way that will sustain us up to the holiday period. At church, we come back together ready to burst at the seams with all the activities that the Spirit has inspired. Many big and little decisions stand before us. I pray that all of us will keep our eyes fixed on the lighthouse. For though the seas may change, we sail together and sink or swim by keeping our eyes ever on Jesus.

I am excited about what the future holds for our lives of faith. I pray we come together ready, willing, and able to introduce as many folks as we can to Jesus. For no matter how big or important any of us think that we are, God’s Word shines as an unchanging beacon.

Rejoicing in the day, Pastor Clark

Third Grade Bible Sunday

One of the many wonderful traditions in our church is the presentation of Bibles to our third graders. This year, Third Grade Bible Sunday will be held on September 11, during the 8:45 worship service. Plan to join the children in Fellowship Hall for a cake and punch reception following the 8:45 service. All the students in Rotation Sunday School (1st through 5th grade) will begin a Bible study unit beginning that Sunday and continuing for 8 weeks. Their unit will culminate with the children leading worship on October 30. This is an exciting time in our children’s faith journey. Please plan to attend and be a part of this special day. If you have a third grader but did not receive a letter in the mail, call Jenny as soon as possible.
Calling all History Buffs

We have a rich collection of historical documents and pictures stored away in the church. Let’s take some time to start going through them, organizing and taking them properly for safe keeping. We have so many photos of past events. I don’t know who most of the people are in the pictures but I would sure like to find out! Let’s enjoy the photos together and take them labeled and put into albums. The History Club will meet in the Parlor each third Thursday of the month at 10 am. If you have unused photo albums you would like to contribute or archival quality plastic sheets we would welcome the donations. Call Jenny if you have any questions or suggestions. Hope to see you for our first meeting on September 15 at 10 am in the Parlor. - Jenny Gee

“WORD!”
Youth Happenings

With school back in session, youth are getting into a new routine. This fall will fly by, but we will provide our youth with ample opportunity to take a break from their academics and take time for fellowship, building their community of faith and spending some time in the Word.

Our fall kick-off is just around the corner. Add the dates to your calendar! Epic will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month throughout the fall. Kick-off for Epic will be Sunday, September 11, and Jr. High on Sunday, September 18—both at 6pm. We will have pizza, games, hang time, and build your own Sundaes. Our after school QUEST programs will start Thursday, September 15. Please note that both Jr. & Sr. High QUEST groups will meet on Thursday only.

We will also be joining in with some district and conference events this fall. Sunday, October 9 there will be a Project 1:8 Pump Up and Lazer Xtreme event from 2pm-6:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other youth in our district, have fun and prepare for the Celebrate 1:8 event in November (Nov 11-12) at Fort Rapids Indoor Water Park in Columbus. For more information about Project 1:8 please check out this website: http://eocproject1eight.wordpress.com/

This year the focus of our activities and discussions will be the desires of the youth. If you have any thoughts or ideas about how to make this year exciting, engaging and meaningful, please contact me. I will be in my office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and I’m always available by e-mail. God Bless, Cristy

UMW Meeting, Thursday, September 1
9:30 Continental Breakfast and Fellowship
10:00 Program on Domestic Violence featuring Linda Johanek, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Center of Greater Cleveland

Do you shop at GFS Marketplace stores?
BUMC is now enrolled in GFS’s Fun Funds program. All you need to do is shop at a GFS and mention BUMC at the checkout. We can earn up to a 10% rebate based on the quarterly purchases of our whole congregation. The percent earned increases depending on how much is spent that quarter. Rebates are calculated quarterly, and a check is sent directly to our church. If you shop at GFS be sure to mention BUMC at the checkout! The stores nearest to us are at 10820 Brookpark Road in Brooklyn and at 8789 Pearl Rd. in Strongsville.
Congratulations to Stephanie Warth and Ian Jacobs, who walked down the aisle and became “Mr. and Mrs.” on August 6. Pastor Clark officiated the ceremony.

Prayers of Joy that the Clark’s grandson, Liam, is home and thriving and that Hannah is healthy! A couple of corrections from last month’s issue: Liam’s last name is McLoughlin and he was born on June 28.

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Liz Frederick presents Adalyn, Lisa and Tony Kropinak with a blanket from the congregation.

Dear Brecksville Parishioners:

I am thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers for my grand daughter, Allison (after her recent surgery)...Allison is well and feels normal now. God is good! And God Bless You All!

With Love, Prayers and Blessings,
Adel Johnston

Dear BUMC, Your blood drive collected 24 pints of blood for needed patient care. On behalf of the patients whose lives you have touched, as well as their loved ones, we offer heartfelt gratitude.

Sincerely, Gretchen Kresge
Donor Recruitment Representative
American Red Cross

As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we have recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others:

Alan Scheufler and his work with YSP. Megan Culley for the gift of music.
Jeff Fessler, whose talents with a paintbrush are amazing and appreciated.
Craig Kotnik, whose help on Sunday mornings is invaluable.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
Ephesians 3:17b-18
Summer is coming to an end, Fall is around the corner, and that means Winter will follow. We know how to prepare for the change in seasons, but do we know how to prepare our hearts and minds to spend time with God?

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 24:13-35, relates the story of two disciples of Jesus who were going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As these two friends were walking together, they were joined by an unknown person who explained the scriptures as they walked. Toward the end of the day’s travel, they urged the stranger to eat with them. As the stranger took bread, blessed, broke, and shared it with them, their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ.

Since many men and women have different issues that can only be freely discussed in same-sex environments, men and women attend different weekends. During a Walk to Emmaus, you will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, sharing communion, reflecting, praying, and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present themes of God’s grace and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community. You will experience God’s grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community.

The upcoming Men’s Walk will be held October 6-9, 2011 and the Women’s Walk will be held October 20-23, 2011. Registrations are being accepted now. For more information, you may view a short video presentation about the Walk to Emmaus at [www.UpperRoom.org/Emmaus](http://www.UpperRoom.org/Emmaus), or contact Les and Cathy Buttolph, Chuck and Becky Gezze, or Craig Czarnota for more information or to obtain a registration form.

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**Music Bits**

**Bicentennial Church Choral Festival:** Mark your calendar for an exciting event to take place on Saturday evening, October 22. The City of Brecksville, in conjunction with area churches, is proud to announce a Church Choral Festival, featuring the beautiful *Requiem*, by composer John Rutter. The festival concert will take place at 7:30pm on October 22, likely at St. Basil the Great in Brecksville. Stay tuned for additional details as the date approaches.

If you are interested in singing in the festival choir, please contact Joy Fenton for additional details at 440.526.8938 or [music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com). You need not be a regular member of Chancel Choir to participate, and any singer in 9th grade or older is welcome.

- **Chancel Choir** – Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 8, from 7:30 to 9:00pm. Contact Joy for more information.
- **Handbell Choir** – Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 8, from 6:15 to 7:30pm. Contact Chris at [tothchristopher@att.net](mailto:tothchristopher@att.net) for more information.

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**TAILGATE PARTY**

**OCT. 8**

Mark your calendar for an awesome tailgate party at our church. The Music Department is hosting a church-wide tailgate event for the OSU at Nebraska game on Saturday, October 8, at 8:00pm. Plan to come and enjoy grill fare, popcorn, cotton candy, sno-cones and more at this family-friendly event! Games, activities and prizes will be available for children and youth. Admission is free, and food/beverages will be available for purchase as we watch the game on the big screen! All proceeds will benefit the BUMC Concert Series, which provides free outreach concerts to the greater community.
As Pastor Stein preached on Aug 7th, “We need to get out of the boat”. This year, we will again be offering opportunities to serve others.

We will be serving dinner to low income, families and elderly adults. The first date is Sunday September 25. We will meet at our church and carpool to Pearl Road United Methodist Church (near the Zoo). We also need cookies donated for dessert on this date. The other two dates we will be serving are December 18 & March 18.

We are also continuing the opportunity to help at the Cleveland Food Bank, we are scheduled to take a group every other month. Our first trip will be on Saturday, September 24. We meet at our church at 7:30 am and return about Noon. The other dates we are scheduled are Nov 19, Jan 28, March 24 & May 26, 2012.

Cornerstone of Hope is dedicated to providing support, education, and hope for the grieving. We are looking for volunteers to serve dinner (all you need to bring is a dessert) on Monday evenings, September 26 - October 31. We need one or two people to arrive at 5:15 pm at their Independence location at 5905 Brecksville Road. You will set up buffet line, serve beverages, and clean up with an experienced Cornerstone volunteer. Another opportunity at Cornerstone would be to work at the Reception desk on Friday morning or afternoon. A orientation will be on Thursday September 8, 1-4 pm. Look for sign up sheets in the Parlor after service or call the church office.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities, we will have sign-ups in the Parlor after service or call the church office.

- The Missions Committee

While so many have been on vacation, the work of the church continued to go on. It must. God and the Church do not go on a hiatus. We must carry on our stewardship of service: lining up teachers for Sunday school, finding volunteers for the nursery, ushers for worship services, choir members, workers for the garage sale, etc. The bottom line is this:

- Helpers are always needed.
- Helpers are always wanted.
- Helpers are always Living in Christ and Serving in Love.
- Helpers are always special and greatly appreciated.

Will you please be a helper? Contact the church office 440.526.8938 to sign up. Ushers are in great demand!

Recently, we began noting each week’s attendance and offering in our bulletin announcements. Have you seen it? Below is a chart with information from the past six weeks.

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<td>August 21</td>
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<td>122</td>
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A big “Thank you!” to our counters for their service each Sunday!

First Sunday: Jack Drescher, Nancy Lundholm, Cliff Thielman
Second Sunday: Gretchen Mates, Phyllis Phillips, Janet Patterson
Third Sunday: Elizabeth Jaszcza, Carol Wilson, Sylvia Fowler
Fourth Sunday: Bob Lundholm, Dick Hayes, Carl Rossborough
Fifth Sunday: Jeff Hastings, Cliff Thielman, Ann Rittman
Are you looking for ways to increase your physical, spiritual and emotional health? Join us on an "imaginary" trip to Bethlehem! Beginning Labor Day weekend, our team will log activities each week with the goal of accumulating enough “miles” to reach Bethlehem by Christmas. There is a lot to learn along the way about new cultures, new food, and missionary work while incorporating exercise and spirituality into one's lifestyle.

Exercise 30 Minutes Per Day: Although the program is called “Walk to Bethlehem” all forms of physical activities count: swimming, biking, walking, running, yoga, aerobic exercise. The goal is to exercise 30 minutes per day.

The Healthy Eating Challenge: Can you eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day? Can you make half of the grains you eat whole grains? Can you change your portions so that at each meal half of your plate is fruit or vegetables, a quarter is protein, and a quarter is grains?

Spiritual Life: Make time for Bible study, worship, journaling, daily devotions or other spiritual pursuits and you will earn miles on your walk!

Mission Outreach: Serving in love earns miles for our walk. Any kind of volunteer activity, such as serving dinner to low income families, working at the Cleveland Food bank, or volunteering at Cornerstone of Hope counts!

Bonus Points: Earn bonus points for things like getting a health screening, obtaining a flu shot, quitting smoking, or losing 5 pounds. Bonus points will be announced as the walk progresses.

Our Walk Begins the week of Sunday, September 4th! 

Join The Walk to Bethlehem!

Pick up your Tally Card in The Parlor or download a copy from the church website.

Return your completed card each week.

(There will be a box in the parlor.)

Or sign up by e-mail: office@brecksvilleumc.com

Saturday, Sept. 17

9 am—3 pm

Don’t throw it away! If it’s in working condition and clean, we need it! Garden tools, household “stuff”, toys, sporting equipment, books and furniture. No clothing, old telephones or computers, please. Proceeds will go to the Trustee budget. So empty those closets, clean out that garage, and bring the things you no longer need or want to the September sale! We’ll have space available on the stage after September 6.

THANK YOU!

This year, we’re weighing our paper before it goes to recycling. So far we’ve recycled 912 pounds of paper here at the church.

Recycling paper saves more than just trees. Did you know that recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity?

Recycling 912 lbs of paper is like saving about 8 trees
**September**

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<td><strong>September 4: Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20. Sermon “Bind, loose, gather”</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Church Office Closed. No Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study Today</strong></td>
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**For the most current information, click the “general calendar” link on our website at www.brecksvilleumc.com**
WHAT’S GOIN’ ON IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Sign up for “Sunday School Friday” a weekly e-mail highlighting the themes for Sunday School that week! Each week will include great discussion starters. E-mail Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com to sign up!

RALLY DAYS

Rally Days are August 28 and September 4. Look for us at the table in the lobby and update your child’s contact information. We have made it so easy. Even if your information has not changed please stop by the table and let us know. Remember Sunday School for all ages begins on September 11! Bring your young person to the table with you so they can take part in a special activity.

What’s available for kids on Sundays?

**Crib & Toddler**
*Ages birth to three years*
Nursery care is available during both worship services and during Sunday School Classes in the crib and toddler room and nursery located in room 206.

**Godly Play**
*For Children ages 3, 4, and 5*
Godly Play is a method of Christian Education and spiritual direction. Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language - sacred story, parable, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more aware of God’s presence in their lives each day.

**Rotation**
*First through fifth grades*
Bible stories and concepts taught through kid-friendly multimedia workshops. The same Bible story will be taught in each of the workshops during the 5-7 week period. This approach will teach a different aspect of the story each week providing the children a chance to delve deeper and explore God’s word.

**Young Disciples**
*Sixth through eighth grades*
A traditional style Sunday School class that focuses on spiritual formation and a deeper understanding of our faith. Sixth and seventh graders follow work to toward applying God’s Word to their everyday life. Our 8th graders continue on their faith journey as they ready themselves for Confirmation in May.

**High School**
*Ninth through twelfth grades*
Biblical truth is not just information. James told us to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). Our high school curriculum helps our students see that God’s Word is relevant to their lives today. And we have a lot of fun!

Attention: ALL FIRST GRADERS and your parents,

On Sunday, September 11, you will begin your exciting journey into Rotation Sunday School. Rotation is lots of fun but it is also very different from what you have been doing in Godly Play. I want to invite you and your parents to join me for a special ten minute introduction time to Rotation Sunday school. Please meet me and your shepherd at 10:00 a.m in room 402. You will learn all about what Rotation is and meet your shepherds! If you have any questions you can ask them at that time. We are so excited to have you “graduate” into Rotation Sunday School and we know you are going to love it!!
YOUTH MUSIC START DATES

- **High School Ensemble** – Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 15, from 6:15 to 7:00pm (following Soul Quest). Contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com for more information.

- **Christian Musical Arts Program** – The CMAP program will resume on Wednesday, September 14. Please check the updated schedule below to determine meeting time for your age group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>K – 1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd – 3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th – 5th Grade</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:15 – 4:00</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Bells (Sanctuary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:00</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>WA (until 4:30)</td>
<td>Choir (304)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:00</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Bells (Sanctuary)</td>
<td>Choir (304)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 – 5:00</td>
<td>Choir (302)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 – 5:45</td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Soul Quest** meets Thursdays 5-6:15pm: Soul Quest is a mid-week, high school event that will give you a chance to weekly catch up and dig deeper into your faith. We will include supper. Our music director will be offering a High School Choir from 6:15-7pm following Soul Quest Thursday!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT?

CMAP, our **Christian Musical Arts Program**, is a graded program that offers children a choral experience and the opportunity to ring handbells in combination with a time of discovering more about the many ways we worship God through the arts. CMAP meets on Wednesday afternoons from September to May.

**High School Ensemble** meets weekly in preparation to share an anthem and/or leads worship on a monthly basis.

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**FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**Epic** a bimonthly meeting of our Sr. High youth and friends meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 6:00-7:30. Relax, have a good time, plan future events and share thoughts about life, faith and the Bible. Some Epic meetings may be shifted for special events and outings.

**Watch for information about a junior high program coming soon!**

**Quest** is a mid-week, middle school event where youth play games, eat a snack and share in a Bible Lesson. Quest meets Thursdays 3:15-4:30pm.

**Soul Quest** meets Thursdays 5-6:15pm: Soul Quest is a mid-week, high school event that will give you a chance to weekly catch up and dig deeper into your faith. We will include supper. Our music director will be offering a High School Choir from 6:15-7pm following Soul Quest Thursday!
"What am I doing here?"

If you could ask God one question what would you ask?

Join our next class!
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville

Sunday Evenings
September 11 through November 20
5 - 7:30 pm. Includes dinner
Child care provided.

Where ever you are on your spiritual journey, Alpha is for you!

For More Information
Call: 440-526-8938
E-mail: office@brecksvilleumc.com
www.brecksvilleumc.com

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