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# THE BELLRINGER



Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2017

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## *Grace and Peace*

I really wasn't even looking for it. Grace, that is. God's Grace. These days and weeks as my father was ill, as my father then died, as I've sought to get turned right side up again. I wasn't really looking for the grace of God.

But grace kept on showing up, not just in little dribbles, but abundantly. In Julie, the care assistant who took care of my father in the hospital three days a week with energy and compassion that didn't seem to tire. In Psalm 145. ***I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.*** In a rehab center lunch tray with among other things Brussel sprouts and small dish of sweet vanilla wafers. (I like Brussel sprouts. Dad liked vanilla wafers but would never eat a Brussel sprout.). In hands held and prayers prayed. In the joy of a cup of juice. In the last chips of ice. In remembering. In family, in friends, in faith community. In 2 Corinthians 12:9. ***My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.***

I really wasn't looking for it. Grace, that is. But it kept showing itself over and over and over again. Grace for the past, grace for the present, grace for the future. Grace for those moments and times that seem too difficult to walk but that have to be walked through anyway. ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you,*** Jesus says (John 14:27).

We pass this way in this life just once. In all of its beauty and in all of its challenge. Some of our days are easy. Some of our days are hard. And I suppose as we continue to walk our days will continue to be just that - - some easy, some hard. But in all of them, if we keep our spirits open, the amazing grace of God is there, in each moment, hour, day, and year. Even when we are not looking for it. Thanks be to God, it is there!

Theologian and preacher Frederick Buechner captures it best. *Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.*

For the grace that you have been and are and continue to be, thank you. And as you are grace and seek to be grace for others, may you see and receive grace too. I pray that you would see the grace of God, not just in dribbles but abundantly, this day and all days. I pray that it would surprise you and overwhelm you and fill you with the deep and wide and high and never ending peace of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to you this day! Diane



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Dear Congregation of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your kindness, support, prayer, cards, and words of comfort these last weeks through my father's hospitalization, death and the time that follows. I cannot express to you how both overwhelmed and thankful I feel by your outpouring of care. Thank you also to those who attended the Memorial Service, and for the beautiful flowers that I received from the congregation.

In the midst of the sadness and the loss, I have sought to keep my eye open for the hand and grace of God, and I saw that many times over the last few weeks. Your prayerful and kind presence was one of the ways in which I saw and received this Amazing Grace, and I am grateful.

In gratitude and thanks,

Diane 



## **Boy Scout Troop 75**

Boy Scout troop 75 has been very busy as a new year begins. The troop of 10 scouts is working hard to earn merit badges and will be attending the merit badge trail drive during the month of February.

**Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> is Boy Scout Sunday at BPC. Please join us in recognizing and showing our appreciation to the scouts of Bellbrook Presbyterian Church.**

**On my honor...** Dig out your sash and dust off your handbook, Scout Sunday is just around the corner! The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop #75 and they will be joining us on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for Scout Sunday. The Boy Scouts will be our greeters, ushers, and acolytes for this service and the Troop #75 Senior Patrol Leader will give us a quick run-down of the troop's activities and Scout's achievements over the past year. 

## Bellbrook Presbyterian Church Book Club



**Title:** House We Grew Up In  
**by** Lisa Jewell

**Date:** February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:00am

**Place:** Saxby's

Meet the Bird family. They live in a honey-colored house in a picture-perfect Cotswolds village, with rambling, unkempt gardens stretching beyond. Pragmatic Meg, dreamy Beth, and tow-headed twins Rory and Rhys all attend the village school and eat home-cooked meals together every night. Their father is a sweet gangly man named Colin, who still looks like a teenager with floppy hair and owlish, round-framed glasses. Their mother is a beautiful hippy named Lorelei, who exists entirely in the moment. And she makes every moment sparkle in her children's lives.

Then one Easter weekend, tragedy comes to call. The event is so devastating that, almost imperceptibly, it begins to tear the family apart. Years pass as the children become adults, find new relationships, and develop their own separate lives. Soon it seems as though they've never been a family at all. But then something happens that calls them back to the house they grew up in -- and to what really happened that Easter weekend so many years ago.

Told in gorgeous, insightful prose that delves deeply into the hearts and minds of its characters, *The House We Grew Up In* is the captivating story of one family's desire to restore long-forgotten peace and to unearth the many secrets hidden within the nooks and crannies of home. 

# February Happenings

## Beginning February 1- Bible Study

A Wednesday evening Bible Study will begin February 1 at 6:00. During the month of February we will be studying at the Book of Hebrews. If you plan to attend, please read Hebrews chapters 1, 2 and 3 in preparation.

**February 12- Boy Scout Sunday-** All current and former Scouts are encouraged to wear or bring their Scout paraphernalia (uniform, hat, pins, handbook, sash, or vest) to show our congregation's support for Scouting.

**February 5, February 12, February 19 and February 26-** At 11:30am after fellowship hour. **The Sermon Roundtable** is an opportunity to gather to review the sermon of the week, discuss any personal insights or applications, and share relevant faith stories. Please meet in Pastor's Office. It will last about 30-45 minutes.

**February 19th – Movies That Matter, 2:00**  
Our movie for the month is On The Waterfront featuring Marlon Brando as an ex-prize fighter turned longshoreman who struggles to stand up to his corrupt union bosses. Join us for the movie, fabulous conversation and some delicious snacks!

**February 7<sup>th</sup>- Cause and Effect at Chipotle.** Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Bellbrook/Sugarcreek Resource Center. Go to Chipotle on Wilmington Pike between 5-8pm and mention you are supporting this cause and 50% of the proceeds will go towards the BFRC. Flyers available on the mission board.

**Friday February 10<sup>th</sup>,** The Sugarcreek Ministerial Association will be hosting a **Valentine Banquet** at Christ's Church located at 3370 Upper Bellbrook Rd. Tickets are \$25 /person. This banquet is in support of the Open Arms Clinic which is a free clinic that serves the uninsured and underinsured of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek area. For reservations call 427-3436.

# Announcements



**-Per capita for the year 2017 is \$30.00 per member** and is due by the end of January. Please prayerfully consider paying this. It is money that the Presbytery pays to the Synod and General Assembly and allows the Presbytery to continue paying staff, providing education and other programs.



The 2017 directory and pledge envelopes are ready for pick up.



*Card Showers*

**Brittany (Blair) Branch a long time member of BPC was married here in June to Byron Branch.** Byron is the Dayton police officer who was seriously injured December 16<sup>th</sup> while on duty helping someone who had been in a crash on I75. Byron lost his leg and was in the hospital over the holidays. He is now home with Brittany and their daughter Cloe as he begins rehabilitation. We have decided to throw them a card shower. Please take a moment to purchase or make a card to let them know that we are here to support them. Drop your card in the church office between now February 10<sup>th</sup>. Financial donations are also welcome. You may put your donations in a pew envelope and mark it **"BYRON BRANCH"**.

**Come to the Battle of the Badges Benefit Hockey Game in honor of Dayton Police Officer Byron Branch.** It will be the Fort Wayne Freeze versus the Dayton Fore Hockey. The date is Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. It will be held at the Kettering Recreation Complex, 2900 Glengarry Dr., Kettering. There is no admission, but 100% of the donations will be given to officer Branch and his family.

# FEBRUARY



			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00 Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>			
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<p><b>Communion</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable</p>	<p><b>Deacons</b> 10am</p>	<p><b>Winter's Library</b> Meditation 6-8</p>	<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00 Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p><b>Ministerial Association Meeting 12:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Worship Meeting 7:00</b> <b>Trustees Meeting 7:00</b></p>		
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<p><b>Birthdays</b> <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable</p>	<p><b>Historical Society</b> 6:30pm</p>		<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p><b>Session 7:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Book Club 9:00am at Saxbys</b></p>		
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<p><b>Anniversaries</b> 8:45 am Keystone 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour <b>2:00 Movies that Matter- On The Waterfront</b></p>		<p><b>Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC)</b></p>  <p><b>Winter's Library 6-8</b></p>	<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>			
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>				
<p><b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable</p>						



Family of Eric Flynn  
Angela Jones  
Mike Canter  
Margie Ridgeway  
Leslie Clements  
Tom Kohnle  
Laurel's friend  
Kattie Garrison Zinnecker  
George Simmons  
Glenn Oppie-hip  
Andrew Berryhill-testing  
Kathy Beleny  
Pastor Diane and Family upon the  
death of her father  
Juanita Jamison  
Susie Kircher  
Katie Henry  
Bill McCarther  
Family of Martha Pruitt  
Steve Savoy  
Mike Mohler  
Larry and Doris Dumford  
Roger and Alecia Kitzman  
Mark Hoying  
Frank Luhn  
Dorothy Evans  
Byron Branch and Family  
Unspoken Prayers  
Geneva Edgington  
Bud Rogers  
Darlene Wilson  
Betty Cornette  
Jane Betz  
Traveling Prayers  
Alzheimer Patients + caregivers  
Cancer patients + caregivers



Terry Allen- 620-4811  
Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219  
Valerie Fairchild-Timmons 768-9971  
Kim Hensley 848-4756  
Allen Circle-Rader 848-8218  
Donna Ruschau 429-2107  
Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or  
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality, love  
and prayer

**Updates:**

**-Geneva** has been moved to Quaker Heights.  
**-Bud** is in Quaker Heights and would like  
some company.



Susi Kircher  
Geneva  
Virginia  
Darlene  
Betty  
Bud

To visit or send cards please check with  
office for addresses.



- 4 – Brad Garrison
- 5 – Bob Green;
- 7 – Donna Ruschau
- 8 – Leslie Clements
- 9 – Laura Norton
- 17- Cheryl Farenholz
- 21 – Diane Green
- 22 –Maria Stevens
- 24 – Lisa Graham
- 28 – Wendy Reigelsperger



- 7 – Richard & Melanie Davoust
- 14- Roger & Jean Smart

### **Special dates**

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 5, 2017*
- Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2017*
- Presidents Day, *February 20, 2017*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 26, 2017*



# From the Session:

In December the Session with great joy, unanimously voted to extend an offer to Diane to serve The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church as full time Stated Supply Pastor. Diane graciously accepted our offer and began her new full time role as of January 1, 2017. Her contract is for one year and is renewable in December 2017.

The Session had received many solicited and unsolicited positive comments, from you, the congregation, regarding Diane and her ministry during the previous seven months.

As pastor, Diane has many duties, as described in her position description, such as teaching, counseling, leading, supervising, and many others. Perhaps her most important role is to serve as shepherd of the BPC “flock” and to teach all of us to be “fishers or men”.

This is what Jesus would have us do and Diane can lead and guide us on this spiritual journey so that we are not merely sitting in the pews but reaching out to each other and our surrounding community.

Please take a leap of faith, stand up and be willing to make a difference in your life and that of BPC.

God Bless You.



When you are getting ready to take your disbursements remember they may be tax deductible if you donate them to Bellbrook Presbyterian Church. Please check with your financial advisor to find out more.



## Church Renovations

**What a difference!** Members of the congregation have been busy with the paintbrushes and elbow grease working to clean and renovate the classrooms as they are repurposed for their new use. The Session approved this makeover so we can make the best use of the church facility's rooms for our current and upcoming needs. Many of the facility's rooms were underutilized while others were cramped or outdated for current use. The new paint brightens the rooms and we'll be adding new furniture to make their use even better.

**The old nursery** is now the new Boardroom. The boardroom table and chairs from the Library relocated here so we can enjoy the comfy chairs and beautiful table as we hold adult Bible Study, book club meetings, church meetings, etc. This is also the new choir room. The larger space accommodates the music cabinets and allows additional storage for the chimes items (cushions, music, stands, etc.) with room to store reference materials for the adult study groups. We will buy an electronic keyboard that is smaller than the upright piano to use for choir practice prior to Sunday services, to support functions in the Fellowship Hall and to offer another option for special music during the summer.

**The center two classrooms** are the primary Sunday School classrooms. These two rooms allow space for the Sunday School to accommodate a large group or children or two age groups by closing the accordion wall. We are using tables from the Fellowship Hall but plan to get new tables and chairs suitable for the children to use as they grow. The old televisions will be replaced with a new flat screen and laptop so teachers can teach from slides, use internet videos, or play DVDs to support the lessons but still have room for the children to move around for activities.

The classroom closest to the restrooms is the new Nursery. There is plenty of room to accommodate the occasional baby or toddler and keeps them close to the restroom for quick clean-ups or to support potty training. We removed the unsafe crib and received a 'Pack-n-Play' that can be stored compactly when not needed and easily popped open when it is, keeping it clean and out of the way when not in use. We plan to add a fold-down changing table (like you see in public restrooms) so it is available but out of the way when not needed to minimize the clutter in the room. The small birch tables and chairs along with some toys and young children's books allow the room to double as a toddler/pre-Kindergarten Sunday School room. We may add another flat screen connected to a DVD player to show the Veggie Tales or other small children's videos supporting their Sunday School lessons. As needed, the accordion wall can be opened to provide additional space for the other 2 classrooms.

**Finally, the Library** behind the sanctuary stays as the Library but will be updated with some small but comfortable seating to encourage members and others to sit and enjoy the books, use it for a relaxed discussion, small Bible Study, book club meeting, or use it as a possible Youth Group meeting area. The full-length mirror returns to the room and we'll put up a short closet bar and add a small desk or table that can double as a make-up table for the Bride and her bridesmaids to use as a changing room for weddings.

**It's been a lot of work, and we still have a bit more to do, but the rooms are looking great! It's exciting to see these changes and updates as we prepare our church facilities to support our growing congregation and to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church. Thanks to all for your prayers and words of encouragement.** 🔔



**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
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Bellbrook, OH 45305-1903

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