



The Lifeline

First Presbyterian Church of Blissfield
304 Franklin St. Blissfield, MI 49228
www.blissfieldpresbyterian.com



May/June
2009



I like May! It means good weather, and golf and the coming of summer. This year it also means a new book study option. I will be offering a five week class, based on Adam Hamilton's book, "Enough." It looks at the Christian life from a Biblical stand point in these difficult times, and helps us assess what is enough, what are our values, and how do we live as children of God. It is information that I think everyone can use, and it gives us a great opportunity to look at and discuss what is really important in life, and where we set our priorities. As I did with several of the previous studies, I will offer one evening session and one day time session. One will be in Palmyra, and the other will be here. I've ordered several of the books, which can be purchased from me for \$8.00 each, and I would like to know when the best time is to offer the evening class, figuring that it will be easier to establish the

day time schedule. My thought is Sunday evening, but if there is a better option, let me know.

As I type this letter, there is another possibility that I am waiting to find out about, that could strongly effect my May. I am leaving in the morning (April 28th) to go to Washington State, and try and convince my son, Joshua, to move out here with me. It would be so nice to have my son living with me, and since he is currently out of work, I am hoping it will be of help and interest to him also. He is scheduled to go with us on the mission trip to Costa Rica in June, and this would allow him to get to know the rest of the team and become part of the community. Even though I will be back before you get this, say a prayer that things work out well for both of us.

Another great thing that is happening is that the session has voted to receive Jeff Unsinger into membership. Jeff has been attending with his wife, Amber, and their

children, and we are certainly glad to have him joining us. Jeff has also been attending and participating in our adult Bible Study.

Finally, what I think is sad news. Our denomination voted against removing the statement in our Book of Order, that precludes gays and lesbians from serving as officers in the church. I realize that there is still considerable debate over the issue, but that one group and one activity is singled out in our book bothers me. The Session has taken a stance that it will consider all individuals, based on their individual merit, looking at the whole person, and not just their sexual orientation. Hopefully someday the whole church will come to this place. Until then, I remain thankful for the faithful people of this congregation.

Bob

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Special Dates

- *5/10 Mother's Day
- *5/17 Recognition Sunday
- *5/25 Memorial Day
- *5/31 Pentecost
- *6/21 Father's Day

Come back. When on vacation, be with us in spirit. The rest of the summer, be with us in person.





Recognition Sunday - May 17th

When asked how they would change the world if they could, which Sunday School student said that creating world peace would be their goal? How many of our kids have the same kinds of hobbies and interests as you do? Find out these answers and many more things about our kids on Sunday, May 17th when we will be showing a video of our youth letting us know more about themselves. Yes, it is time to honor and recognize the Sunday School students in our church family who have been faithfully attending. They have desired to learn more about God and how He directs our lives.

Members of our Elementary School kids are: Haley Unsinger, Sadie Strouse, Noah Nieman, and Logan Nieman. Amber Unsinger is their teacher.

The Middle School students are: Austin Unsinger, Grayson Strouse, Andrew Porter, Hunter Martin, and Thomas Jackson. Denny Thompson is the teacher of these young men.

Our High School class is taught by Sue Porter and Jana Martin. The class consists of: Matthew Porter, David Porter, Alex Martin, Haley Neri, Tue Larsen, and Brad Heineman.

We will also be recognizing our graduates: David Porter and Alex Mitchell from Blissfield High School, Casey Graf from Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, Kyle Saxton from Central Michigan University, and Jake Graf from Washtenaw Community College.

Help Fill the Easter Basket

Although the Easter Bunny has come and gone, he did leave a basket that needs to be filled. The Costa Rica Mission group is collecting school supplies for the elementary school in Tres Equis, Costa Rica, the town where the group will be working. A few suggestions are: colored pencils, pens, note pads, crayons, markers, children's books in Spanish, coloring books, and anything else that might be fun for the children to have. Help fill the basket.



A Word for Our Graduates

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension. Remember this - "Graduation is a ceremony that marks the end of study and the beginning of education." -Evan Esar -

- Casey Graf graduated May 8 from Mercy College of Northwest Ohio with an Associate of Science in Nursing. She is currently looking for a registered nurse's position in a hospital in the surrounding area.
- Jacob Graf will graduate May 16 from Washtenaw Community College with an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management. He hopes to continue his education at MSU and get his BS degree in Hospitality/Business Management.
- Kyle Saxton graduated from Central Michigan University on May 9. He has a BS degree in Business Administration and is also looking for a job.
- Jason and Stacy Brown, son and daughter-in-law of Pastor Bob, also graduated from Central Michigan University on the 9th of May.
- David Porter and Alex Mitchell are graduating from Blissfield High School. David has several options, including Michigan Tech. Alex hopes to pursue a degree in journalism at MSU.



Guess what? The sanctuary is getting a makeover!

If everything goes according to plan we will have new carpeting in the narthex and sanctuary. A great big thanks goes to the carpet committee consisting of Cathie Case, Carol Seeburger, Peggy Nieman, and Linda Thompson. After reviewing many samples from various vendors and comparing quotes from different businesses we have decided to go with LOWE'S in Adrian. We will have a work detail to paint, sand, and remove the old carpet and padding. I think Dick Saxton has some plans for the sound system also. A fair warning to all, the church will be in a state of a mess for about 3 weeks. A couple of the pews are going to be moved so the piano can be put on the hard wood floor. This will let the carpet be installed and then the piano can be put back in place. There will be a dumpster in front for the old carpet. There will be new curtains up front and missing buttons replaced on the pew cushions. After the session meeting on May 13, the times and dates for the work to begin will be announced. Everyone keep their ears tuned Sunday, May 17th for these important dates. We are going to need all the help we can get.

On a little different note, Mike DeNudt has repaired the handrail going into the Fellowship center. He did a great job of welding new supports to the existing rail. The handrail to the main entrance to the church will also be repaired, maybe by the time this is published. There are a couple of other projects that are going to happen but I will keep those for another issue of the lifeline.

Jerry Saxton

"Let Me Tell You About My Kids" is a new feature to the LIFELINE. We view our children as a vital and important part of our church family and we want to know what is happening in their lives. We want to know about their accomplishments, their interests, their school activities, etc. Please submit to this editor "just the facts." I will take that info and put it into article form. If you'd like to submit a picture, that would be a great addition. Stories about grandchildren would also be welcome. Information can be submitted to me personally or via email at elelibrarylady@hotmail.com. Who would like to feature their child/children in the next LIFELINE?

Connie Graf

★ "Let me tell you about my kids" is the title of a new feature in the Lifelines.
★ This month we are featuring Paula Saxton's family.
★ I have 4 children in my house. 2 dogs and 2 cats. I am Pack Leader!
★ **SADIE:** the oldest and smartest. Sadie is 9 years old. She is a black lab - cocker- sheltie mix. I adopted her from the Lenawee County Humane Society when she was 3 months old. Sadie loves people and her whole body wags when she greets you. Sadie loves our cottage and spends every outdoor moment in the water.
★ **GYPSY:** the sweet one. Gypsy is 6 years old and is a yellow lab - collie mix. I found her online through Pet-Finders and adopted her from the Henry County Humane Society in Napoleon, Ohio when she was 5 months old. Gypsy has a very sweet and shy personality.
★ **Gypsy and Sadie** both love to go for walks and both crash when we get home.
★ **CHILI PEPPER:** the evil one. Chili is 4 years old. She is a tortoise shell calico. I adopted her from a litter owned by a coworker. She may be a little feral (wild). Chili has caught one mouse in the garage. She brought it in to show me (hanging out of her mouth by its tail) and when I praised her, she dropped it and it scurried off into the house.
★ **BING:** the baby. Bing is almost 2 years old. She is an American shorthair tiger. I adopted her from a litter of kittens at Matt Nieman's. Bing always has a worried look on her face.



May 17, 2009

*Linda & Denny Thompson
 Mary Case
 Cathie & Doug Case

September 20, 2009

*Sue & Brian Porter
 Jana & Grant Martin
 Amber & Jeff Unsinger

October 18, 2009

*Wetonia & Greg Jackson
 Rosemary Luce
 Shirley Benz

*Chairperson

If scheduling conflicts occur on your designated Sunday, please feel free to trade or contact Jana Martin at 486-5914 or Linda Thompson at 486-3113.



May

- 8 Andy Somes
- 10 Stephanie Hoagland
- Kyle Saxton
- 14 John Harmes
- Wetonia Jackson
- 16 Susan Harmes
- 26 Leni Green
- 28 Debbie Royal ≈ Jae Guetschow

June

- 1 Jim Robertson
- 2 June Somes
- 4 Linda ≈ Denny Thompson
- 9 Doug Case
- 12 Helen Peshke
- 13 Joy Mitchell-Wonderly
- 14 Andrew Porter
- 15 Jan ≈ Dave Wood
- 16 Barbara Jackson
- 19 Carolyn ≈ Kirk Bettis
- 23 Dick Saxton
- Joy ≈ Rod Wonderly
- 25 Frank Seely

Just a Reminder - Keep collecting used ink cartridges, cell phones, laptop computers, iPods, and digital cameras. There is a container in the narthex in which to place these used items. Proceeds will go to the Costa Rica mission trip in June.

Palmyra Presbyterian serves a delicious homemade dinner from 5:00 - 6:30 every third Monday. The cost of dinner is very reasonable. Support our friends in Palmyra. Mark your calendars now.



Per Capita Envelopes



The blue envelop in the front of your offering envelop box is for your per capita fee for 2009. We are asking each member to consider paying their Per Capita fee of \$27 to help with this expense from our general fund. This cost equals out to just over 50 cents per week. Thank you.



May 10



May 25



May 31



June 21

Joys and Concerns

Pray for . . . Molly Nieman; Craig Bettis; Brandi MacFarlane; healing for Dick Werth; Alice Petee; Ann Mills, Wetona Jackson's mother; Debbie Royal's father; Lori Spotts as she battles cancer; Jim Hueter; Gary Ostrander, son-in-law of June and Andy Somes; Terry Dvorsky; Sue Thompson's mother, Helen; our graduates; our church; our Session; the state of Michigan; the USA; military personnel serving all over the world; our president and elected officials; world leaders; peace, tolerance, understanding and compassion for our world.

Sympathy for . . .

- The family of Alex Garza.
- The family of Fred Jackson.
- The family of Dr. Ron Isley.

Remember . . .

Those who can't worship with us on a regular basis. Keep them in your prayers. Send them a note. June and Andy Somes, 458 Redmond Dr., Blissfield; Sally Hagenbuch, Blissfield Place, 301 N. Quick St. Blissfield; Esther Billington, Whispering Pines, 1050 Laberdee Rd., Adrian, 49221; Marjorie Wotring, Tecumseh Place, 1311 Southwestern Dr., Tecumseh, 49286; Alice Petee.

Joys . . .

- Dale and Monica Wotring will soon have a new daughter-in-law. Justin is getting married!
- Spring has finally sprung; flowers, green grass, sunshine, blue

skies, baseball and softball games, walks, etc. Enjoy!!!

- Elizabeth Jackson is playing on the Girls' Varsity Softball team and they doing very well. Go out and watch a game on one of these beautiful spring days.
- Denny Thompson was named Teacher of the Week by the Lenawee Intermediate School District. Congratulations Denny.
- Kirk and Carolyn Bettis have a new niece, making them great, great aunt and uncle.
- David Porter recently participated in a Skills USA competition for collision repair through Vo-Tech. He took 3rd place. Way to go David!!!!
- Steven Porter is home from college, as will many of our college students. Keep them in your prayers as they try to find their place in Blissfield again.
- Alice Petee is out of the hospital and recuperating at the Arbors in Sylvania.
- Good news for Dick Werth. His cancer is "stable."
- Matthew Porter was recently inducted into the National Honor Society.
- David Porter received his Eagle Scout award on March 8.
- Alex Mitchell was chosen Junior Rotarian for May. Alex is the son of Roger and Stacy Mitchell.

5 Simple Rules to Be Happy Submitted by Dick Saxton

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

"I love it," he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged .. it's how I arrange my mind... I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!"

Remember the five simple rules to be happy.

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.