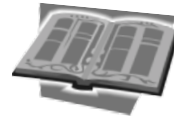


The Bluff Hall News

May 2024



Pastor's Thoughts

Last month I used the illustration of an olympic rowing team to reveal what it should look like for the church to all be on the same mission for Jesus. In this article the focus remains on the team mission but adds to it a personal element. If you did not know the Major League Baseball season is off and running. Don't worry Cardinal fans it is still early. Baseball is clearly a team sport. Can you imagine the pitcher trying to field a deep fly ball? It takes 9 players to field all the positions, and this does not even take into account relief pitchers and pinch-hitters or runners. In baseball every player must learn to play their position and do it consistently all while supporting the mission of the team. The apostle Paul had a lot to say about individuals being personally on mission for the church. One such passage is found in his letter to the Romans.

[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. [6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3-8 ESV)

Take note of the context in which Paul grounds his teaching, in verses 3-5 we are "members" of "one body". The apostle wants the church to understand the importance of their "oneness". This unity is held together by two actions: the apostle calls church members to judge themselves soberly and have humility toward one another. It is also important to see that Paul acknowledges that it is God who "has assigned" to each member what they need to serve Him. It is hard to be dominerring over others or think better of one's self if we recognize that we are not at all responsible for that which the Lord God has bestowed upon us. However, as we move into verses 6-8, Paul does clearly communicate that the members of the church are responsible for using their "gifts".

God has gifted every believer to serve His church, His kingdom, and fulfill His plan. We recently held a spiritual gifts class to help members learn more about what the Bible teaches about gifting, and to get an idea of personal giftedness. Gathering all this information about gifts is great but if it never gets employed for God's Kingdom purpose then it is useless. While we are all a part of the church body, we all have a different position to play (connecting back to the baseball illustration). We are not all called to be teachers, prayer warriors, worship leaders, pastors, or ushers and that is okay. However, God has gifted you to serve in His church in a specific way, and at Bluff Hall as we serve we seek to "Share His Love". If you have the gift of hospitality, how can you share the love of Jesus with every person that comes through the doors of Bluff Hall, whether it is Sunday worship or a mid-week Bible Study? If you have the gift of service, how are you sharing the love of Jesus through your service? No matter what your giftedness, these are the kinds of questions you, as a committed follower of Christ, must seek to answer. The good news is that you do not have to do it alone! The church exists to help you use your gifts to make an impact for the glory of God. As you grow in Christ, look for ways you can "Share His Love" by serving God within the four walls of the church and in your community.

To God be the Glory

Contact	Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church	Church Office 217.656.4370	Pastor Richard Moore 217.656.3144 (H)
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Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am Sunday School: 10:30



Prayer Needs



New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Ross Loos – Health issues
- Alley Buck – Healing from terminal cancer diagnosis
- Millie Humphrey – Health issues
- Marty Riggs – Heart health
- Kevin Dodd – Heart health issues
- Carolyn Kaiser – Continued recovery
- Brian Johnson – Ongoing treatment for cancer
- Danny Thomure – Starting cancer treatment
- Jim Woods – Healing and comfort
- Chris Blackmore – Cancer battle
- Darla Powers – Full recovery from transplant surgery
- Mel Loos – Continued recovery of strength
- Dee Cole – Recovery of strength and healing
- Patty Freberg – Cancer treatment
- Chad Glosemeyer – Needs kidney and liver transplant
- Upcoming Elections in our country
- Peace in Ukraine and Israel

Ongoing Requests:

- Ross & Sandy Loos
- Betty Speckhart
- Bob Cutforth – cataract surgery
- BJ Cutforth – Needs miraculous healing
- Ralph Venvertloh – Health
- Tim Davis – Continued health
- Janice Walbring – Health
- Myanmar Mission and Seminary
- Those in our community battling cancer.
- Those in our community grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Those who gave us our freedom.
- Our local, state and federal leadership

Praises:

- Praise Henry Dodd returned safely from deployment.
- Dee Cole received a good report at last check-up.

Military:

Seth Miles, Henry Dodd, Ryan Mena, Dustin Speckhart,
Blaine Brown, Gary Velasquez, Lucas Velasquez, Kason Spratt

If you have any prayers concerns, please let the prayer chain know by contacting Pastor Richard.

Date	May 5 th	May 12 th	May 19 th	May 26 th	Jun 2 nd
Children's Message	Katie	Mary	Penni	Shannon	Katie
Announcements & Prayer	Tim	Geoff	Tim	Bill	Geoff

Deacons for the month: Clayton and Paul

Flowers: Sandy, Penni, Peggy, Susan



Bluff Hall Outreach Mission

If you would like support Bluff Hall Missions, please use the envelopes in the pew-backs and place in the offering plate at the back of church.

Please be in prayer for Ahdi and family during this time of upheaval in Myanmar.

Also if you have a neighbor or know someone that the church might be able to serve in our community, please let the Missions Team know. – Thank you!

Looking for a way to serve the Lord on Sunday?

We are always looking for people who can help lead the announcement/prayer times during Sunday service once a month or so. See Pastor Richard for more information.

Service Live Stream

For those who wish to remain at home or who are unable to join us check out our live stream. You can find our youtube channel by searching bluffhallefc at youtube.com or a link can be found on our website at bluffhallefc.org/sermons. 2



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Bible Study 6:45pm	8	9	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day	13	14 Bible Study 6:45pm	15 Deacon Meeting 7pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday School Recognition	20	21 Bible Study 6:45pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Bible Study 6:45pm	29	30	31 Ice Cream Making 4pm	

Happy Anniversary

May 10 Ralph & Mary Fairchild

Women's Fellowship News

Stay tuned for information about the May outing.

Mid-week Bible Study News

Tuesday, April 30 begins our next Mid-week Bible Study at 6:64. The series entitled "News of the Hour" a study of the gospel of Mark. You are welcome to join whether or not you were able to sign-up in advance.

BLUFF HALL NOW HAS THE ABILITY TO ACCEPT ONLINE GIFTS

If you would like to give online go to bluffhallelc.org/donate and click the link to fill out the giving form.



- May 1 Kenny Speckhart
- May 8 Nancy Speckhart
- May 9 Kase Thomure
- May 15 Ross Loos
- May 16 Cathy Willer
- May 28 Gabby McGee
- May 30 Barb Cutforth



Church Chuckles

Next week's preacher will be pinned to the notice board.

"Please bring your bowels to the Ice Cream social this evening."

Announcements

- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, May 7 at 6:45pm.
- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, May 14 at 6:45pm.
- Deacon Meeting Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm.
- Sunday School Recognition Sunday, May 19.
- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, May 21 at 6:45pm.
- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, May 28 at 6:45pm.
- Making of Ice Cream Friday, May 31 at 4pm.

Please check website for any updates.



June 2 – Ice Cream Social
June 17-21 – VBS
June 19 – Church Council
June 26 – Women’s Fellowship

Sermons Online

Miss a Sunday? Want to listen to a message again? You’re in luck!
Sermons can be found online through our website: bluffhallefc.org/sermons
Sunday’s messages typically post on the following Tuesday.

Please pass along any information you have for the newsletter. It may be emailed or called-in to Pastor Richard. Thanks!



Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church
951 North 400th Ave
Payson, IL 62360

Highlights of April 10, 2024 Quarterly Meeting

Good attendance with 18 members present.

Treasurer Report: Checkbook balance is \$19,591.16, Memorial Fund balance \$13,780.70, Savings Account balance \$15,342.59, and \$75,000 in church fund CD and \$10,000 CD designated for Building Fund. 1st Quarter Income: \$27,024.00 (35% budget) and 1st Quarter Expenses were \$24,294.63 (28% of budget).

Deacons Report: Working on restarting Project Rejuvenation that was discussed several years ago, which evaluates current ministry with a vision plan for 5-10 years out. Working on a self-evaluation questionnaire for the Pastor.

Trustees Report: Recent meeting held to elect officers and divide into building & grounds and finance subgroups. Voted to put \$10,000 of building fund into CD seeing no immediate need for funds. Plaster in kitchen that was previously torn down is being repaired. Other needed improvements discussed. Outlet behind copier was requested to be replaced.

Women's Fellowship: Recently sponsored Family Fun Day and the Annual Cleaning Day. A Spring outing is being planned. The group has donated to Loaves and Fishes food pantry, purchased Easter lilies for shut-ins/elderly members, and purchased Starbuck gift cards to send to our college students for finals week. A new mixer and stainless-steel pot have been purchased for the kitchen.

Men's Fellowship: Recently met to elect officers. Ice Cream Social set for June 2 and committee formed.

Christian Ed & Sunday School: Children's and adult Sunday school continue. Easter egg hunt went well.

Cemetery Committee: Spring-cleaning of cemetery has been done. Thanks to those who helped.

Missions Committee: 5th Sunday donations collected. Dessert auction fundraiser went well. Recently sent \$600 semi-annual donation to Young Life and \$300 quarterly donation to Ahdee. New Start Rescue Mission recently requested \$500 and this was sent and \$500 was provided to Around the World EFC missions. Checkbook balance: \$4670. Members noted that Young Life is not as present in community as it once was; it was suggested Mary Fairchild check into how active they are.

Retreat House: No report other than \$300 annual fee has been sent.

Pastor's Report: A 6-week Mid-Week Bible study on 'Six Steps to Reading Your Bible' recently concluded and was well attended with positive comments from attendees. Spiritual Gifts class is scheduled for April 16 and A Study of Mark Mid-Week Bible Study will start April 30. Bibles for Baccalaureate have been ordered for approximately 30-32 Payson graduates. Pastor recently attended EFCA Pastor's meeting in Morton Illinois.

Old Business

Committee on Use of Church Facilities will meet soon.

New Business

Vacation Bible School is being planned with the Methodist Church. Bluff Hall is trying to have input. Only our budget amount will be contributed.

Livestream/Internet for church was discussed at length. Airwaves is not an option. Other options presented were HughesNet, Starlink, and Verizon Hotspot. Information about contract, taxes and additional fees, ongoing monthly cost, upfront equipment cost, and installation costs of each option was presented and discussed. A motion was made by Susan Humphrey to purchase Starlink satellite and mounting equipment needed for \$700 and pay the \$140.00 monthly fee for the rest of the calendar year using money from the Memorial Fund. Paul Miller seconded it. Motion carried. Pastor Richard, Barb Speckhart, and John Felten from trustees are to do a consultation call with Starlink.

Pastor Richard stated there are plans in the works to utilize Bluff Hall's one free use day at the Retreat House this year.

July Quarterly meeting was set for Wednesday, July 10 at 7 p.m.