

# Bristoletter

Newsletter of the United Church of Bristol  
A member congregation of the United Church of Christ

April-May, 2014

**“God is still speaking,”**

Jerry LaRue Fletcher  
Treasurer

Catherine Joseph  
Moderator

Catherine Joseph  
Chair of Deacons



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Worship -- 10:00 am Fellowship Hour -- 11:00 am

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### Liturgist, Greeters & Fellowship Hour –April & May 2014

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Apr. 6	Rena Faulkner	Sheila Hudson & Ann Ward	>> Lance & Diane Bassage <<
Apr. 13	Dianne Marcellus	Richard & Norma Lyons	**Sally Ess & Pat Pestle**
Apr. 20	LaRue Fletcher	Lance & Diane Bassage	Bob & Stephanie Drayn
Apr. 27	Karla Babcock	Sally Ess & Pat Pestle	John & Rena Faulkner
May 4	Lance Bassage	Sheila Hudson & Gloria Miles	>> Priscilla Cratsley & Deb Footer <<
May 11	Ellie Babcock	Helen Fox & Ann Ward	Elaine Burd & Edie Thomas
May 18	Diane Bassage	John & Rena Faulkner	** Bob & Dianne Marcellus**
May 25	Bob Marcellus	Bob & Ginny Ford	VanStralen family
June 1	Cathy Joseph	Cc Bodnar & Cathy Joseph	Jon & Emily Angell

**“Greeters”:** Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fareweller” at the end of the service by the door to wish those people well who may not be staying with us for fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties still are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have guests sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone.

-Those who are assigned to “fellowship hour”, please provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake, if it is **\*\*cake Sunday\*\***, Pat and Sally order it.

>>These are “pot-luck Sundays”. A huge spread for fellowship hour isn’t really necessary on these Sundays. Please, all are welcome to join in for a pot-luck luncheon after a light fellowship snack.

**\*\***These represent “birthday cake Sundays”. If you should be on fellowship hour for this Sunday and are new to this, please see Pat or Sally.

+Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task. THANKS!

+If you would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.

### Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Paula, Helen, Bill and Joan, Doris, Jim, Barb, Pete, Jack, Joshua, Rena, Wendy, Lucinda, Don and Pat, Marie, Si, Jack, Patti, Elton, Kali and Logan, Arlene, Diane, Mike, Alina, Aunt Betty, Shirley, Ryan, Jeff, and Elaine. Family prayers for the Metherel, Beach, Nettle, Parmalee, Burnett, and Simmons families. Prayers for Margaret, Gloria and Al, Mary and Jim, and for Pat, Jan and family, for the people of Syria, the people of Russia and the Ukraine, the lost souls of the Malaysian Airline disaster, and all victims of natural or human disasters.

### Deacons Report

The Deacon's welcome Karla and Shaina Babcock to our committee. Our goal for the coming year is to increase attendance and membership. Any ideas will be greatly appreciated. Work on a new church sign is ongoing. We feel it's an important addition to our community outreach but know there is a need for funding so are looking for ways to raise the money needed. The Pet Drive will run from April 6 thru April 27. Happy Tails is overjoyed that our church is holding this drive. Their request is for laundry soap, bleach and dish soap. They have plenty of blankets but toys or treats are fine, too. The Deacons are also looking into a possible clothing drive in the near future for a local Battered Women's shelter. Watch for more info in the coming weeks. Hope for spring!

### Altar Flower Committee Report

The time has come to think about the flower order for Easter Sunday!! This year you will have two choices: **Daffodils @ \$7.25 and Easter Lilies @ \$8.75.** Look for signup sheets in Fellowship Hall, orders must be in by April 10th!!

**Diane Bassage** [657-6609] is coordinating flowers for April and **Gloria Miles** [229-2322] will be taking care of the month of May. If anyone wishes to do a memorial or special occasion flowers; please contact either one of these ladies. Spring is on the way and we will soon be having beautiful summer flower gardens. This year we are encouraging all gardeners to share a bouquet or arrangement with the congregation. So during the months of June, July and August; fresh flowers will be welcome!! We like to have one on the altar and one in the narthex each Sunday. When your gardens are

having a "good week" and you would like to share, please call me [Diane Bassage - 657-6609]. For planning purposes please let me know the Friday before!

We wish you all a beautiful growing season and thank you in advance for your Easter order; our church is always beautiful at holiday time and the thanks go to our generous congregation!!  
Peace;  
Diane, Fran & Gloria

### 2014 Lenten Soup Supper Speaker Series

On Thursday, April 10th, **Pic Schade** will present an update on educational and nutritional efforts with school children in Lesotho, Southern Africa, having just returned from a 2 week visit there. First-hand anecdotes and new photos will abound!  
All Soup Suppers are free and open to the public, and will begin at 6 p.m., with presentations starting at approximately 6:30pm. The evening will wrap up by 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Christian Education

Christian Ed will be participating in the supply drive for Happy Tails Animal Shelter. Our youth are encouraged to bring in bleach, cleaning supplies toys and/or treats on Sundays during the month of April.

### Calendar of Events:

~Sunday, April 13	Resurrection Rolls, Easter Egg Hunt, Palm Preparation
~ Sunday, April 20	Dress Up Sunday
~ Sunday, May 11	Mother's Day Craft
~ Sunday, May 25	Memorial Day Observance
~ Sunday, June 15	Sunday School Wrap-up – Ice cream sundaes during Fellowship!

### Joy Jar & Outreach Update

**NOTE:** Please continue to bring in mittens and gloves, the folks at Social Services have been delighted to receive our last two bundles!!!

## **Pastor's Letter**

I spent some time on a frozen lake not long ago. As a rule, I find ice to be exquisitely beautiful, but not entirely trustworthy. Ice is all too temporary – an expanse of hardness that will, at some point, revert to its liquid and less secure form. Woody Allen once remarked: “I don’t mind the idea of dying. I just don’t want to be there when it happens.” I just don’t want to be there when ice decides to “revert”, especially when just beneath the ice lies hundreds of feet of water – cold water.

But for a time, I was able to overcome my trust issues and venture forth onto the ice. Aside from Jesus and Peter, few folks have had the pleasure of standing in the middle of a lake to take in the view. It’s quite a thing. What’s most immediately striking to me is the flatness of the scene: thousands of acres of absolutely level surface, without obstructions, without exception. Given humanity’s penchant for cluttering up space with buildings and billboards, such an expanse is rare. Thankfully, no one has yet devised a means of setting a mid-lake billboard. God help the boaters if they did.

Ice is notoriously lacking in friction – a boon to ice-boaters and a bane to walkers. Even the most agile will find ice-walking to be treacherous. Nothing can be taken for granted. It is quite literally “one step at a time”, placed carefully and thoughtfully. The irony is that one misstep can require even more ice...upon returning home. So caution rules the day.

I’ve rarely found this stretch of lake ice to be heavily populated. Generally speaking, issues of footing...and freezing...tend to suppress the crowds. This is a place of solitude...and quiet. Motorists are few and far between...so that noise is kept to a minimum – at most, the sound of the wind, sweeping across unhindered.

Warning: Embedded in this ice is a metaphor! I find that ice speaks to me of the spiritual journey on several levels: First of all, the journey is a solitary one. Though friends certainly make the trip more pleasant and encourage us along the way, no one else can take our journey for us. It is up to us to place our foot, to take the next step.

Secondly, this journey calls for trust, that we will be sustained, held. Here’s where community is invaluable. We are emboldened as we watch others risk...and reap. In the case of the frozen lake, if somebody parks their Pontiac on the ice, it’s a good bet that it’s thick enough to hold me. The community can instill trust through its collective

experience. (Frankly, I’ll take a good augur over a Pontiac as a “tool of discernment”, but that’s just my preference!)

Third, the journey affords tremendous visibility. The “path less taken” offers a vista both far and wide...and sometimes deep – albeit, as Paul the Apostle put it, sometimes “through a glass darkly.”

Clearly, the journey onto an icy lake isn’t for everyone, but even those who choose not to step forth are able to access the experience through the accounts of others who do. There are similar “chroniclers” for the spiritual journey. Names like Henri Nouwen, Teresa of Avila, Joan Chittester, and Gerald May come to mind, among others. I recommend their accounts of their journeys, perhaps enjoyed from the comfort of a nice, warm easy chair – far removed from any ice! We can learn much vicariously!

You and I might prefer to restrict our experience of ice to small cubes in a tall glass of tea. But the journey of the Spirit is available to all. This Lenten season, I recommend taking a step or two out onto that vast plain of fresh, clear open expanse...to see just where the Spirit may lead us.

Deep Presence to you all!

Tim

## **Happy Birthday in April to:**

Kim Chappell – 4/1

Jonathan Angell – 4/2

Sally Ess – 4/3

Helen Fox – 4/4

Mary Ann Strasser – 4/5

Pauline Pestle – 4/6

Stephanie Drayn – 4/7

Jan Schrader – 4/9

Devin Schoenwetten – 4/13

Sheila Hudson – 4/14

Logan Sylvia – 4/16

Brandi Mastin – 4/19

Jack Wallace – 4/19

Lauren Schrader – 4/23

Al Miles – 4/25

Laura Damaske – 4/25

Doris Lochte – 4/25

Lynn Damaske – 4/27

Jane Strickland – 4/27

Margaret Hayward – 4/28

Mary Dunne – 4/28

**Happy Birthday in May to:**

Mark Stanley – 5/1

Ava Schrader – 5/2

John Babcock – 5/3

Moriah Kunes – 5/6

Kailee Faulkner – 5/8

Tim Hamlin – 5/8

Therese Van Stralen – 5/12

Matt Schrader – 5/13

Zachary Schrader – 5/15

Jenny Babcock – 5/15

Steve Schrader – 5/16

Sandra White – 5/21

Frederick “Digger” Odell – 5/22

Neale Van Stralen – 5/30

## **United Church of Bristol Calendar for April/May 2014**

- April 6** Pet Drive – collection of supplies for **Happy Tails Animal Shelter**
- April 10** Lenten Soup Supper Speaker Series – 6pm - Pic Schade “Orphans of Lesotho”
- April 12** ‘Hands of Hope Kitchen’ Open House at Bloomfield Fire Hall — 2-4pm
- April 13** Palm Sunday - Resurrection Rolls, Easter Egg Hunt, Deacons meeting @ 9am and Adult Bible Study, Pet Drive – collection of supplies for **Happy Tails Animal Shelter**
- April 17** Maundy Thursday - Soup Supper @ 6pm with Service of Tenebrae to follow
- April 20** Easter Sunday Sunrise Service @ 7am with brunch to follow @ 7:30am  
Dress Up Sunday – wear your Easter bonnet!  
Pet Drive – collection of supplies for **Happy Tails Animal Shelter**
- April 21** Cabinet Meeting @ 6:30pm
- April 26** GVA Spring Assembly at Durand UCC – 9am-3pm
- April 27** Outreach Committee Meeting @ 9:15am  
Communion
- April 27** Quarterly Meeting of the United Church of Bristol following service  
Pet Drive – collection of supplies for **Happy Tails Animal Shelter**
- April 30** ‘Hands of Hope Kitchen’ Free Community Lunch noon @ Bloomfield Fire Hall
- May 11** Mother’s Day – special Sunday School craft, Deacons meeting @ 9am and Adult Bible Study
- May 19** Cabinet Meeting @ 6:30pm [tentative]
- May 25** Memorial Day Observation and Adult Bible Study
- May 31** Pulled Pork Dinner!
- SAVE THE DATE – June 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Wrap up with Ice Cream Sundaes!**