

February 2017



# Blaine Christian Church

# VISITOR

## WRITING BLAINE'S LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

This Lenten Season, our theme will be:



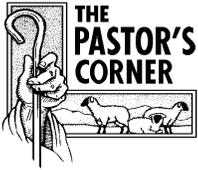
Each week will have a different focus with Scripture passages provided.

- † Take up the Cross: *Follow Jesus*
- † Moving in Faith: *Believe in Jesus*
- † Moving in Love: *God is Love*
- † Moving in Peace: *Live in Jesus' Peace*
- † Moving in Suffering: *Christ Suffered for Us*
- † Moving through Death: *From Death to Life*
- † Moving to Victory: *He Has Risen*

We will once again be writing our own devotional and are looking for volunteers who might be interested in sharing their thoughts about one or two of the Scripture passages. If you would like to do this, please pick up a sticky note on the poster in fellowship hall. Pray and reflect on the passage, write your thoughts (250 words or less if possible), include a short prayer and email it to [faberfam88@yahoo.com](mailto:faberfam88@yahoo.com) by Sunday, February 12. We would love everyone from teens on up to consider being a part of this.

### Important Upcoming Events:

- **Sundays - Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 am**  
Sunday School, 9:45 am  
Choir, 6 pm
- **Mondays - Lois Ministries, 1:30 pm**  
Boy Scout Troop 10, 7 pm  
Men's Bible Study, 7 pm
- **Tuesdays - Women's Bible Study,**  
9:30 am or 6:50 pm  
Men's Bible Study, 7 pm
  
- **Feb 2 - Elders, 5:30 pm**
- **Feb 5 - Cupboard of Love Collection**
- **Feb 5 - Boy Scout Sunday, Special Fellowship**
- **Feb 5 - Fudge due at church**
- **Feb 6 - Christian Education, 7 pm**
- **Feb 7 - Dine Out for BACN**
- **Feb 9 - Lunch with Friends, Noon**
- **Feb 12 - Youth Breakfast, 9:40 am**
- **Feb 12 - Lent Devotions Due**
- **Feb 12 & 19 - Week of Compassion Special Offering**
- **Feb 13 - Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 am**
- **Feb 15 - Safe Harbor Meal**
- **Feb 17 - Stone Soup, 6 pm**
- **Feb 23 - Pizza with the Pastor**
- **Feb 25 - Date Night, 5:30 pm**
- **Feb 28 - Women's Bible Study Potluck**
  
- **Mar 1 - Ash Wednesday**  
Soup Supper, 6:30 pm  
Service, 7:15 pm
- **Mar 2-4 - BACN's Winter Food Drive**



## FROM WHERE I SIT FEBRUARY 2017

As I'm writing this, we are just coming out of the holidays, with all the busyness they often bring. We are also on the cusp of Lent, a time for preparing ourselves for Resurrection Day. Jesus has come into our world, arrived in a manger, was announced to both shepherds and kings alike. We saw Him baptized, and begin His ministry. We've heard Him call others to follow, and to help with the work that needs to be done. And in just a couple of weeks we will see Him Transfigured right before our eyes. We know, clearly, who Jesus is!

We also know who we are. Or at least we should. If not, Lent is a great time for self-reflection, an opportunity to reassess where we are right now, and where it is we hope to go. There is a time for everything, Solomon says in Ecclesiastes—a time to be born, a time to live, even a time to die! We live in the "in-between"!

So what do we do with all this? "Who is Jesus?" "Who am I?" "What should the relationship between us be?" These are the great existential questions of life! We've got some time right now to ponder these questions. Or more accurately, as a church we are taking some time right now. We are encouraged to stop and consider—to pause and contemplate—to honestly reflect. And maybe that's because without the personal reflection, the Glory of Easter doesn't mean a thing!

Our Lenten walk is one of "Moving towards the Cross", seeing it in the distance and choosing to move towards it. Lent is difficult for me! It is for many of us! And maybe, just maybe, that's the point! May God Bless you as you journey!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob



Need a phone number to volunteer, join, or help a working committee? Please call the appropriate person listed below:

### STAFF:

**Office Manager**, Dede Nugent 352-9148

**Congregational Fellowship, Missions, Property** Bonnie Putney 352-4940

**Christian Education, Membership & Evangelism** Carolyn Waterson 882-9802

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Christian Education:**  
Shannon Gillison 231-383-0007

**Congregational Fellowship:**  
Dodie Putney 882-4067

**Membership & Evangelism:**  
Kate & Ralph Jenkins 231-709-3525

**Missions:** Jan Heverly 231-649-4884

**Property:** Kim Lathwell 882-1398

**Worship:** Lynda Faber 231-299-5862

### MONTHLY FINANCE UPDATE

2017 General Fund Budget: \$209,430.00  
Monthly General Fund Need: 17,452.50

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over / Short</u>
January	16,460.00	- 992.50

4 of 5 weeks reported at time of printing

## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service

**Worship Leader** - Sarah Esper  
**Greeter** - Maggie Baker, Steve VanDePerre  
**Usher** - Deb Brief

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

**Elders** - Deb Larimer, Sarah Esper  
**Worship Reader** - Sonja Reitan  
**Diaconate Servers** - Deb Kessler, Julie Zych,  
Howard & Judy Ingleston  
**Greeter** - Bob Yeager  
**Usher** - Jack Larimer  
**Diaconate Preparer** - Linda Yeager

## March Blaine Visitor

**Deadline: February 24, 2017**

Information can be e-mailed or  
dropped off at the church office.

## SERMON SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2017

- Feb 5:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 5:13-20  
Title: "Salt & Light"  
Boy Scout Sunday
- Feb 12:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,  
16-23  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 5:38-48  
Title: "Foundational"
- Feb 19:** Guest Pastor, Terry VanHeyningen
- Feb 26:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 17:1-9  
Title: "On the Mountaintop"  
Transfiguration Sunday

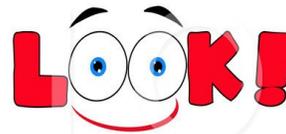
## FEBRUARY

### Birthdays

- 
- 2 Jo Ellen Lathwell
  - 3 Dave Puccio
  - 4 Elizabeth Putney
  - 5 Donna Brown, Jenny Larimer,  
Bob Bodell
  - 6 Britta Cicansky
  - 7 Lorraine LaGuire, Dayne Gillison
  - 9 Kim Shadwick
  - 11 Lorraine Nordbeck
  - 12 Rick Kemperman, Henry Jager
  - 17 Barb Putney, Lyle Cook
  - 18 Rhonda Nye
  - 20 Piper Putney
  - 22 Mike Zych
  - 23 Bonnie Putney, Michael Waterson,  
Rachael Waterson
  - 24 Kari MacDonald, Mary Clarice  
Smeltzer
  - 26 Katelyn Nordbeck, Carolyn Waterson
  - 27 Deb Brief, Ken Herron
  - 28 Uledene Merrill, Pat Detman
  - 29 Charley Trense

### Anniversaries

- 
- 3 Jared and Kari MacDonald  
18 Gentry and Cassidy Mobley



Please take a moment  
and look at home. I am  
missing a couple of  
books from my library  
and the others are lonely. If you have the  
following wayward children, please send them  
home: *The NIV Application Commentary on  
Exodus, The NIV Commentary on Deuteronomy,*  
and *The Feasts of the Lord.*

Thank you,  
Pastor Bob



## FEBRUARY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

9:30 AM

Noon

2/5	Mission Committee (both services)	
2/12	Bonnie & Frank Putney	Hazel Evans
2/19	Available	Zych Family
2/26	Available	Available

You have the opportunity to host coffee fellowship after each worship service. Check the bulletin board for available dates and sign up. Ask someone to help host with you!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

### Thank you for a Great Pie Day!

We made 900 Apple Pies, our profit was \$7,456.00. Thanks for all the generous donations; the Cherry Hut for a good deal on pie pans, tins and tops; and Smeltzer Orchard Company for the apples.

Women's Ministries has donated \$1,800.00 to each: BACN, Disciples Mission Fund, and Week of Compassion; \$600.00 was donated to Love INC. To everyone, thank you for sharing the fun and fellowship and the mission giving!



You should have received your new friend. If you did not receive a letter and the name of your new friend, please ask Dede she is the keeper of Secret Friends. February is a special month – dark chocolate! Send Valentine card, or leave it on the worship table. Try to tuck a small something inside the card. Say a prayer for your friend as you receive or give your card.

Secret Friend Challenge: We always suggest a card a month. This year we are going to ask that 8 months (you choose the months) no gift be given unless it fits into the card you are giving. Bookmarks, recipes, key changes, a tea bag, a poem, a special note, a packet of seeds, chocolate - be creative. Have fun and keep your secret!



# DATE NIGHT

February 25, 2017  
5:30 pm

Back by popular demand, dinner and program for married folks in fellowship hall. This event will be hosted by the Christian Education committee. There will be a fun meet and greet time, dinner for two and a program with marriage comedian and pastor, Mark Gungor (by DVD). Mark your calendar and watch the bulletin and your email for more information closer to the date.



## WITH THE PASTOR

Thursday, February 23, 2017

The membership/evangelism committee will be hosting a "Pizza with the Pastor" for newer folks to the church. This will be a chance for these folks to get to know Pastor Bob and Deb better in an informal setting. More information will be coming on this event.

**Fellowship Groups:** Groups that meet regularly and include the following: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Lunch with Friends, Stone Soup and Potluckers. Each group is different in nature, but involves a devotion/prayer, fellowship and more. Important information for you is that you are invited to any group or groups you would like to attend. Just call the leader for more information.



## GROUP FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY



### **Lois Ministries - Mondays, 1:30 pm, Small Sanctuary**

Lois Ministries is a prayer ministry for mothers and grandmothers. They meet in the small sanctuary, and pray for their Blaine Church Family, children and grandchildren. Please call Shirley Felt 231-864-4420 for more information.

We need to love with God's kind of love....unconditional love. We need to be peaceful when we are showing that love. We need to pray for our "enemies", to turn the other cheek, to love by displaying loving actions and as the verse in John 15 says to "bear much fruit." As Lois Ministries Grandma's we need to keep doing the same in our families as well as praying and not giving up on our loved ones.

### **Lunch with Friends - Thursday, February 9, Noon**

Mary Lou and Skip Noble are the hosts for this "Lunch" at 1044 Watervale Rd. Men and women are welcomed. Drinks and your table setting are provided. Please come for fellowship, lunch, and card ministry. We send cards to our special friends; those shut in, hospitalized, far away, or need a special thinking of you card.

### **Men's Prayer & Breakfast - Second Monday, February 13, 8:30 am**

Meet at the Lighthouse Café in Elberta for prayer, breakfast and fellowship. For more information, please call Skip Noble 352-7035.

### **Stone Soup - Friday, February 17, 6:00 pm**

Stone Soup is meeting at the church at 6:00 pm for our family and children's potluck. Bring a dish to pass. Beverages and place settings are provided. Come for a relaxed evening of devotion and fellowship. For more information please call Bonnie Putney 352-4940. Stone Soup will not meet in March as the church will be celebrating St. Pat's day and Week of Compassion.

### **Potluckers - Ash Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 pm**

In place of the February meeting, the potluckers will host the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at the church prior to the Ash Wednesday worship service.

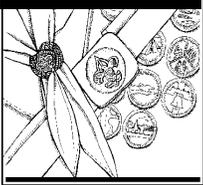


**Win-Some Women**  
*Sharing Christ's love with women since 1972.*

**Retreat on Mackinac Island May 2017**

Cathy Bodell is organizing a group of women to attend a Winsome Women retreat on Mackinac Island this May. Flyers are available on the table in fellowship hall or you may visit the website [wswretreats.org/retreat-info](http://wswretreats.org/retreat-info). On-line registration begins mid-March. Contact Cathy if you are interested in attending.

## TROOP 10



**Do you know the Scouts and Leaders of Troop 10?  
Do you know about Philmont Scout Ranch?**

**BLAINE'S  
MISSION COMMITTEE  
Will Host Both  
Coffee Fellowship Times on  
BOY SCOUT SUNDAY,  
February 5, 2017**

**Everyone is invited to this  
Special Fellowship time, enjoy  
breakfast, meet our Scout Troop,  
and find out about their upcoming trip.**

The Mission Committee is helping our Boy Scout Troop raise money for their high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this June. The Troop has raised \$16,297 so far. An additional \$10,303 is needed.

All Scouts and Leaders are working together to earn the needed money, regardless if they are going to Philmont or not. The Troop plans and organizes together, trains together, and fundraises together. We learn to rely on each other as one in order to achieve our goals.

You may choose to give a Free Will Offering during fellowship time or place it in the morning offering tray. Be sure to designate on your check or envelope that it is for BS Troop 10. Checks may be made out to Blaine or BS Troop 10.

Troop 10 is thankful that Blaine Christian Church sponsors our Troop and all the opportunities that are allowed through Scouting because of it.



## YOUTH NEWS

The middle school and high school youth continue to enjoy a monthly breakfast together prior to the Sunday School time. The February breakfast will be on Sunday, February 12th at 9:40am. Remember that friends are welcomed and encouraged any Sunday. It is a great way to help someone connect with others in the Christian faith.

## FUDGE FOR COLLEGE KIDS



Once again, this Valentine's Day the church would like to send a "thinking of you" box of fudge to each of our away college kids. It would be great to have some volunteers to make the fudge and have it to the church on Sunday, February 5th. If you are willing to make a pan of fudge, please call Carolyn Waterson and let her know this. Our college kids are always so appreciative of receiving this special treat from their church family each February.

**For parents of college kids:** the church needs their addresses to be able to send the fudge. Please email the church or call the church office. Thanks for helping with this fun project!



Our Kids Hope mentors (13 meet with a child each week) continues to make a difference in the lives of children at Betsie Valley school.

Recently the principal again shared how thankful she is for the mentors that come every week to spend time with the students and show them love and caring and help them grow academically and socially. Just another example of caring like Jesus cared for those around us.

The church family is encouraged to pray for this program and the ministry it is in the community each day. If you are interested in information about becoming a mentor, talk with Carolyn Waterson.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school program at Blaine is one of our strengths in helping people learn from God's word and build strong Christian friendships. There are classes for all ages (2yrs-adult) each Sunday morning at 9:45 am.

The classes study the Bible and what it teaches about our faith and living a life that is pleasing to God and shows witness to Jesus. Plan to come to a class this Sunday and invite a family member or friend to come with you.

Please be in prayer for the following folks who each Sunday lead a Sunday School class: Jenny Caylen, Julie Zych, Shannon Gillison, Cynthia Briske, Shelli Merrill, Kim Shadwick, Sarah Esper, and Gary Waterson.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 6, 2017

7 pm

The Christian Education Committee is responsible for planning educational programs like Sunday School, Bible studies, VBS, youth programs, and Kids Kare. We find the leaders, research materials and organize the events.

The committee is in need of members. You are invited to attend our next meeting on February 6th at 7 pm in the downstairs adult classroom. Contact Shannon Gillison for more information, (231) 383-0007.

## CHILDREN'S SERMONS



If you would like to be included in the rotation of those who share Children Sermon's in the worship services, please contact Lynda Faber via phone, email or at church.

(231) 299-5862  
faberfam88@yahoo.com

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There are 28 women participating in the winter Bible study, "Entrusted" a study of 2 Timothy by Beth Moore. They meet each Tuesday at either 9:30am or 6:50pm at the church. Be in prayer for these women as they study how God is calling them to serve and help others grow in their faith. This study will conclude with a potluck on February 28th at the church.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Two men's Bible studies are currently meeting each week. On Monday nights at 7pm a group meets at the church in the upstairs classroom near the office. On Tuesday nights at 7pm another group meets in the fellowship hall at the church for a 6 week study (A Real Win) that will conclude on February 21st.

## CHURCH PROPERTY NEWS

Lots of "things" are stored at our church. The property team is constantly working to store only things we need and to store them safely.

Because you see plastic buckets, bussing tubs, square pie day pails or new 4<sup>th</sup> of July pails for carrying water bottles, don't assume all those aren't necessary. If you need them for a church activity: use them, clean them and return them to the original storage spot.

If you need to borrow and use them for a home project, please let Dede in the church office know what you are borrowing and return promptly.

A borrowing procedure is now in place for borrowing tables, chairs, and other items. Check in at the office before you borrow, please and thank you.

Please, always, always, shut the lights off on your way out of church, if you are the last one out, make sure every light is out. Thank you.



**LOVE INC  
2017 Safe Harbor Schedule**

Safe Harbor of Manistee County is a sanctuary from the winter cold for the Homeless. They offer a warm place to sleep and a hot evening meal and light breakfast for the winter. Blaine will be serving the hot meal February 15 and March 15.

If you would like to help; please check with Shirley Felt 864-4420 or Bonnie 352-4940.



**“You are Here”  
Week of Compassion  
Offering  
February 12 & 19**

In Rural areas of Cambodia, 41% of children do not receive adequate nutrition. By supplementing the diets of children while partnering with the community to develop sustainable agriculture, clean water and relational resilience, Week of Compassion accompanies communities as they create a better future.

As a grandmother spoons life giving food into the mouth of her grandchild, “you are here.” Where people feed, and are fed “you are here.” Thank you for your continued support of Week of Compassion.

The Mission Committee’s traditional St Patrick’s Day Dinner will be on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in fellowship hall. Free will offering for Week of Compassion

**Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Habitat, LoveINC, Week of Compassion, Operation Christmas Child, Benzie Academy Students, and Safe Harbor are Mission Opportunities**



**BLAINE’S  
PRAYER CHAIN**



Blaine Christian Church has many faithful and caring people who pray daily for people with sadness and sickness and joy. Blaine has two (2) prayer chains; the Church Telephone Prayer Chain and our E-prayer Chain. Pastor Bob, Bonnie, Dede or JoEllen start the 2 prayer chains. The Church Telephone Prayer Chain is requested for intercessory prayers; someone is on their way to the hospital, in an accident, fire or any prayer someone requests for friends or family members. The e-prayer goes out to 71 people. The e-prayer goes out for any and all prayer requests; after the telephone list when requested has been called.

The request the prayer chain has is to have more people on the telephone calling list. Blaine has 19 pray-ers. Looking at our list we have great pray-ers, but they work during the day and don’t respond to the requests until after work or evening. Any prayers are welcomed, but some time the intercessory prayers are needed immediately.

**When we rework the chain is there anyone who would like to help this prayer ministry** by praying for a need immediately and passing on one or two phone calls?

We give only the information we receive. God knows the details. Please call Bonnie at 231-352-4940 if you would like to pray and call on.

Our e-prayer can be edited anytime. If you would like to be included or taken off the e-prayer list, please e-mail

Bonnie at [bonnieputney@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieputney@gmail.com) or JoEllen at [kjlathwell@gmail.com](mailto:kjlathwell@gmail.com)



**BENZIE AREA  
CHRISTIAN  
NEIGHBORS**  
benziebacn.org

### **BACN's Winter Food Drive March 2-4**

Please clear 2-4 hours to help Shop and Save Shoppers purchase basic food items for BACN's grocery shelves. A signup sheet will be on the fellowship hall bulletin board in mid February.

We will have to turn some donations away. At present, we are now only able to accept donations of quality clothing, linens (sheets, towels, blankets) and basic kitchen items such as dishes, cutlery, pots and pans.

### **Dine Out for BACN - February 7th**

Mayfair in Elberta and Villa Marine in Frankfort Eat at either of the partner restaurants and a portion of your bill is donated to BACN.

**2804 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 882-9544**



Open: Wed - Sat 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
(231) 325-7750 • benziehabitat.org/restore  
13998 Honor Hwy (3 miles east of Honor)

### **MISSION COMMITTEE 2017**

Blaine's Mission Committee met in January. Members of the committee: Terry and Sandy VanHeyningen, Maggie Baker, and Jan Heverly with Bonnie Putney, staff, met to set quarterly mission committee meeting dates and designate the local mission offerings. Absent were Wayne and Nina Margetson and Rebecca Tanner. If you would like to help with mission's ministries please call Jan Heverly, Missions Chair 231-649-4884 or Bonnie Putney, Missions staff 231-352-4940.

For more information on these mission opportunities, go to our website [blainechristianchurch.org](http://blainechristianchurch.org) and go to the resources page.

**Cupboard of Love** Benzie Academy is the county's alternative school for Benzie Central and Frankfort High Schools. We collect food or other necessary things on the first Sunday of the month. Hanging on the mission's board or in the niche you will find a list of things the students could use in their "Cupboard of Love" at the school.

**Benzie Area Christian Neighbors** or BACN is Benzie and northern Manistee County's food pantry and clothing give away. They have many ways to help neighbors in need with other emergency services. A list of grocery items is posted on the bulletin board next to the baskets. Place donations in the "BACN" basket.

**Operation Christmas Child** – Hat, Scarves, Gloves for Boys and Girls! The Operation Christmas Child Ministry team met and set October 28th for our 2017 Christmas Box Packing Party. Packing over 150 Christmas boxes take a lot of quality gifts and hygiene items. Last year the OCC Ministry Team worked hard to fill 6 dining hall tables with items that filled 131 boxes. We invite you to help fill our 2017 Christmas boxes. This is part of Franklin Graham's Samaritan Purse Ministry and millions of Christmas boxes are sent world-wide. Each month we will suggest an item to donate to our gift tables. This February please look for sales on hats, gloves and scarves for children ages 2-10 (small-medium sizes are recommended). A gray bin in the hallway will be labeled for donations.

# February Blaine Visitor

## *Our Mission*

Our purpose at the Blaine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to live and share the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we seek to learn, teach, hear, minister, support, grow and worship as a community of faith. As Christ's disciples, we accept the call to reach out with God's love to those outside the church. Thus, as part of the Church Universal, we intend to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of our immediate community and the world. To this end we commit ourselves to witness and serve in the fellowship and traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Rev. Robert D. Larimer, Pastor**  
**(231) 352-9148**

**[www.blainechristianchurch.org](http://www.blainechristianchurch.org)**  
**email: [blainechurch@gmail.com](mailto:blainechurch@gmail.com)**

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Coffee & Fellowship following services.



**Blaine Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**7018 Putney Road**  
**Arcadia, MI 49613**

