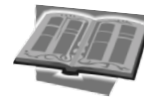


The Bluff Hall News

March 2025



Pastor's Thoughts

In last month's newsletter I shared the distinct vision that guides the ministry of Bluff Hall Church. As a church we want to be "Growing in Christ – Sharing His Love". On top of this we have values that we as a church find important, these we have expressed as our core values. The focus of this article will be our first core value of "Biblical Teaching". The statement reads, "Biblical teaching leads believers to a life change found only in Jesus Christ." While so much more could be said about the importance of teaching the Bible our focus is on the power of the Word of God to transform the hearts and minds of those who hear and receive it. Thinking on the transformational power of the Word brought a passage from the Prophet Ezekiel to my mind, let me share it with you.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. (Ezekiel 37:1–10 ESV)

Wow! Can you imagine seeing such a stirring vision? The Lord explains to His prophet that these "dry bones" are the people of Israel. They have perished and lost hope in the Lord their God. Although the vision does not detail the reason behind the perishing of the people, I wonder if it has to do with God's Word. We know that the Lord often sent the prophets to remind Israel about the Word of God and to call them back to faithful obedience. You see when the people of God disconnect from His Word they find themselves suffering starvation. They begin to do things the way they want and in all honesty they make a great big mess (for proof of this see the book of Judges). The word of God has the ability to breathe life into the things that are dead. It can bring hope to the hopeless and strength to the powerless. In Hebrews we just learned that the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword, and is able to pierce through lies and deception.

At Bluff Hall the Word of God is central in all that we do. On a Sunday morning our service incorporates many instances of the Word, with the primary focus being on the study of the Bible. Over the last nine and half years through our weekly sermon time we have together studied 34 of the 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament in their entirety. Through our Christian Education programs we have also learned more about the Word of God. Likewise our children have been instructed in the Word of God as we seek to help them know and love Jesus. Yet, this core value is not just held within the church, every Sunday I see people bringing their own Bible to worship. I hear of how the Word spoke to various individuals as they read it throughout the week. It is my prayer that the people of Bluff Hall would hunger and thirst for the Word of the Lord, that you would remain connected to it and avoid becoming a valley of dry bones separated from God.

To God be the Glory!

	Bluff Hall Evangelical	Church Office	Pastor Richard Moore
Contact	Free Church	217.656.4370	217.656.3144 (H)
Information:	951 North 400th Ave.	bluffhallefc@gmail.com	602.469.1436 (C)
	Payson, IL 62360	www.bluffhallefc.org	pastor.richard.moore@gmail.com 1

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am Christian Education Hour: 10:30-11:30am

Highlights of Annual Meeting – February 2, 2025

2024 Summary: Income: \$95,824.29 Expenses: \$92,487.32 Year-End gain of \$3,336.97

Balances: Checkbook: \$20,198.46, Memorial Fund: \$14,538.74,
Savings Account: \$15,400.55 (includes money earmarked for the building Fund)

CD's: Memorial Fund \$75,000.00, Building Fund \$10,339.33 and Special Family Tithe \$144,804.00.

Audit of the Treasurer's Records for 2024 will be conducted after the annual meeting.

Annual reports from all officers and groups were given and approved per Annual Meeting booklet.

A motion was passed that all entities submit financial reports to be included in the Annual Meeting Booklet in the future.

StarLink Internet has been installed. Memorial Fund money approved to pay the monthly \$140 fee for this fiscal year.

Use for special family tithe was discussed. Currently money is in a CD and will remain in the CD until needed use is determined and approved. Any interest earned will be reinvested in the CD.

Cabin repairs are needed and associated cost as well as long term plan for the cabin will be discussed between trustees and cabin donors. Records will be researched for history of any previous cabin agreements.

Memorial Fund CD is due next month and accrued interest goes into the general fund. Motion made to reinvest CD at best available interest rate.

Nominating Committee Report was approved as presented in the Annual Meeting Booklet.

Individual groups and boards reminded to meet soon to elect officers and appoint their Church Council representative. This information to be given to Debbie Dodd, clerk.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Next Quarterly meeting is Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

REMINDER

Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD Sunday, March 9!

That's right Daylight Saving Time is beginning soon.



Easter Egg Hunt Help

Plastic Eggs will be available in the back of church
Sunday, March 16 to take home and fill with candy or goodies.

Please return filled eggs to church by Sunday, April 13.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the church on Saturday, April 19 at 10am.

All are welcome to help and watch the fun.

Thank you for supporting our young people!





Prayer Needs



New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Eric Rogers – Cancer returned, undergoing treatment and surgery
- Kathy Schorn – Cancer journey
- Ruth Anne Bowen – Cancer diagnosis
- Sandy Crim – Healing
- Joan Groh – Healing for foot
- Bob Cutforth – Continued recovery
- Dale Loos – Heart health
- Rhoda Wohemer – Cancer treatment
- Alley Buck – Healing from terminal cancer
- Shelia Harwell Parkhill – Healing complications
- Judy Booth – Recovering from a stroke
- Leo Dietrich – Cancer diagnosis
- Rebecca Allen – Long road of rehab
- Sandy Beckert – Treatment for breast cancer
- Danny Thomure – Cancer treatment
- Chris Blackmore – Cancer battle
- Peace in Ukraine and Israel

Military:

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

If you have any prayers concerns, please let the prayer chain know by contacting Pastor Richard. Also if you are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Richard or a Deacon.

Ongoing Requests:

- Ross & Sandy Loos
- Betty Speckhart
- Ron Whittaker
- BJ Cutforth – Needs miraculous healing
- Jim Woods – Continued recovery
- Carolyn and Steve Kaiser – Health
- Ralph Venvertloh – Healing from fall
- Tim Davis – Continued health
- Janice Walbring – Health
- Gail Otiker
- 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 Rhoda Wohemer good news regarding cancer scans!

Praise Sarah Riggs, recovering from back surgery!
Praise the arrival of baby Iris Joy to Melina and Daijon Collins!

Date	Mar 2 nd	Mar 9 th	Mar 16 th	Mar 23 rd	Mar 30 th	Apr 6 th
Children's Message	Penni	Katie	Penni	Laurel	Mary	Katie
Announcements & Prayer	Richard	Geoff	Bill	Richard	Geoff	Bill

Deacons for the month: Greg and Kenny S.

Flowers: Oct. 2024 thru March 2025 artificial or donated flowers



Bluff Hall Outreach Mission

There is a 5th Sunday in March, if you would like to support Bluff Hall Missions, please use the envelopes in the pew-backs and place in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

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 in need of 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 are unable to join us Sunday on mornings 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 .



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Bible Study 6:45pm	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins	10	11 Bible Study 6:45pm	12 Deacon Meeting 7pm	13	14	15
16 Family Fun Day!	17	18 Bible Study 6:45pm	19 Church Council Meeting 7pm	20	21	22
23	24	25 Bible Study 6:45pm	26	27	28	29
30	31	BLUFF HALL NOW ACCEPTS ONLINE GIFTS				

Want to give online?
Go to bluffhallefc.org/donate and click the link to fill out the giving form.

Bible Study

Mid-Week Bible study has resumed on Tuesday, evenings at 6:45pm. The Study is entitled "Learn the Gospel". We'd love to have you join us!



Women's Fellowship News

Family Fun Day: Join us for a time of food, fellowship and of course fun, following worship on Sunday, March 16. Committee: Mary and Ralph Fairchild, Teresa and Rob Tedrow, and Cathy and Todd Willer.



- Mar. 7 Grayson Tedrow
- Mar. 11 Mary Fairchild
- Mar. 12 Clayton Miller
Meredith Humphrey
- Mar. 13 Henry Dodd
- Mar. 15 Tim Maiers
- Mar. 16 Kristin Davis
- Mar. 24 Mel Loos
- Mar. 29 Ailaa Ippensen
- Mar. 30 Philip Miller



Happy Anniversary

- Mar. 19 Paul & Kristy Miller
- Mar. 25 Tim & LeAnn Maiers

Church Chuckles

"What is hell like? Come hear our pastor."

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



Annual Pie and Dessert Auction

Pennies for Life

Bluff Hall EFC will once again be participating in Right to Life of Adams County "Pennies for Life" event. On Sunday, April 6 everyone one is encouraged to bring in a penny (or more) for every year of your life to express our gratitude to God for the gift of life. Right to Life depends heavily on the yearly "Pennies for Life" donations to conduct its pro-life, pro-chastity outreach. If you have any questions see Mary Fairchild or Pastor Richard.

Announcements

- Bible Study Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:45pm.
- Women's Fellowship Sewing Day, Wed. Feb. 26 at 9am.
- Bible Study is Tuesday, Mar. 4 at 6:45pm.
- Daylight Savings begins Sunday, Mar. 9!
- Bible Study is Tuesday, Mar. 11 at 6:45pm.
- Deacon Meeting Wed., Mar. 12 at 7pm
- Family Fun Day is Sunday, Mar. 16 following worship.
- Bible Study is Tuesday, Mar. 18 at 6:45pm.
- Church Council Meeting Mar. 19 at 7pm.
- Bible Study is Tuesday, Mar. 25 at 6:45pm.
- Please check website for any updates.

Looking Ahead

- April 2 - Deacon Meeting
- April 5 - Cleaning Day
- April 9 - Quarterly Meeting
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 17- Maundy Thursday Service
- April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt
- April 20 - Easter Sunday

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