



Elections for 2018

The following church offices were filled by election at the December Business Meeting.

Church Board Secretary - Cindy Strong

Conference Delegate - Dennis Fay

Alternate Delegate - Cheryl Rhinier

Deaconess - Linda Woodard

Sunday School Superintendent

Tanya Procknow

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Brad Byard

Trustee - Bruce Byard

Head Usher - Dan Procknow

Missions Committee - None Elected

Fellowship Committee - None Elected

Appointments for 2018

The following church offices were filled by appointment at the Church Board's December Meeting.

Youth Director - Hunter Kilpatrick

Treasurer - Dennis Fay

Assistant Treasurer - Linda Woodard

Music Director - Eleanor Hill

Auditors - 2017 books

Vicky Anderson, Darrin Benzing

Benevolence - Phyllis Smith

Hostesses - Eleanor Hill, Vicky

Anderson, Melissa Benzing, Verna

Fay, Barbara Strong

Newsletter Editor - Dennis Fay

WMMC Work Days

The WMMC ladies will begin their Work Days on Tuesday, January 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Gives Bassinets



The Sunday School purchased and donated four bassinets to the Pregnancy Care Center in Petoskey. Included with the bassinets were baby products. An offering of \$144, taken at the Christmas Program, was also given to the Center.

The bassinets and other items will be given to women with babies in need, although they are required to "earn" the items by taking classes which teach them how to care for their children.

The center offers pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, baby care supplies, and counseling.

From Pastor Rob

This is the church

First I wish to thank everyone for the amazing Christmas gift to our family! I cannot express how much your generosity means to us. Not only that but the prayers and love shown to us throughout the year have been a tremendous blessing to us. We are truly blessed to call Bliss our family.

As 2017 has come to a close I have been thinking about the year and all that has taken place, not only in my family, but here at the church as well. Yes my family has grown by 2 very quickly, actually way more than two if you count the extended family due to Sarah's marriage to Tom. Maxine Byard's prophecy has been fulfilled. I will never forget her words back in 2012. "I am related to everyone here and if you stick around long enough you will be too!" So now that we are connected through marriage looks like our family has grown 100 fold! But this is not the purpose of my article today.

I sense something exciting taking place, at least from my perspective, here at Bliss Missionary Church. The body is taking steps in unity and participation unlike I have seen before! If you are not sure what I mean, here is just a short list of changes that have taken place.

First, the cleaning of the facilities has changed from a paid position to volunteers. If you were not aware of it, the board has taken the risk and asked the body of the church to step up and take ownership of the facilities and volunteer to clean on a rotating schedule. This means that anyone who is looking for a simple way to step in and help in a meaningful way can talk to Cindy Strong and be added to the list. You do not have to do it every week or every month, once every quarter would be a huge help too!

Secondly, since Sarah was due with Rain in October she had to stop mowing for the church and what a better time to ask for help from the body then when the need arises. So Hunter has taken over the oversight of volunteer mower and grounds keeping for the church and is in need of more volunteers for the upcoming summer mowing schedule. Once again some have stepped up to help already, but more help

would be awesome. The African proverb "Many hands make light work." Is a great reminder that we as the body are to work together and that the church is not built by spectators but by role-players.

However, the greatest piece of encouragement is those stepping up to help in many other areas. For instance, as you may know Hunter is now our Youth Director and he and Hannah are doing an amazing work with the kids. There are others working behind the scene to pick kids up in the van, make snacks (Which is a huge undertaking these days), help with the programming and oversight of the large group of kids and then take them all back home in the van.

By the way, the drivers of the vans leave the church around 6 pm and get back just in time for the start of the youth program at 7:15. Then, when they take them home at 9 pm they don't get back until after 10 pm and have to shut down all the lights and sometimes help with more clean up before headed home!

On top of these areas there are those stepping up and asking to do special music, run services and even take over special services. One such example was the Christmas Eve service this year, which was amazingly done! I could go on and on with all the help and people stepping up to pick up necessary jobs at the church, but I would run out of room in this newsletter!

What I want you all to know is whether you have been acknowledged in this article or not, you are a very valuable piece of the body here at Bliss Missionary Church and I wish to thank you for all you do! Each of you is an amazing piece, that without, the body would be incomplete.

Remember these words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12;
"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body."

Once again I thank each and every one of you for your role in the body of Christ and I look forward to see how God will grow His body in 2018!

Happy New Year Pastor Rob

January 2018		<i>Bliss Missionary Church</i>				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 8:00 - L.I.F.E. Young Adult Class	3	4	5	6
7 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	8	9 1:00 - WMMC Work Day 8:00 - L.I.F.E. Young Adult Class	10 7:15 - Youth	11	12	13
14 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	15	16 1:00 - WMMC Business Meeting 8:00 - L.I.F.E. Young Adult Class	17 7:15 - Youth	18	19	20
21 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	22	23 1:00 - WMMC Work Day 8:00 - L.I.F.E. Young Adult Class	24 7:15 - Youth	25	26	27
28 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 12 - Luncheon/ Business Meeting	29	30 1:00 - WMMC Work Day 8:00 - L.I.F.E. Young Adult Class	31 7:15 - Youth			

Where Is God In this Mess?

[Adapted from a Bible study by Christianity Today]

During our lifetime we are likely to find ourselves in many messes—trials, difficulties, etc. Some are readily identifiable as self-inflicted, brought on by our poor decisions. Others just “seem to happen”, and are hard to explain.

But God has a purpose for all these “messes”. He even promises to turn our self-inflicted messes to good. *“And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28) So the Lord can even take our self-inflicted messes and turn them to good.

Here are four possible explanations for our messes for which we can find no other explanation. There are undoubtedly more possible explanations.

We Need To Learn Dependence On God

God delivered the Israelites from Egypt and took them to the Promised Land. However, they hesitated to enter it, afraid of the inhabitants—they didn’t trust God to help them.

So, God sent them back to the desert to live for 40 years, where they had to depend on God for both water and food.

So a question to ask ourselves in our mess, is: Is God trying to teach me to depend on Him? Am I supposed to use this time of trial to draw closer to God, and to trust Him more than I have in the past?

We Need to Listen For God’s Voice

The example comes from Elijah. After his great victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah was threatened by the Queen, so he ran, went into the desert, and finally hid in a cave. When God asked him why he was there, Elijah explained that he was the only faithful one left. But God told him he was

mistaken—there were many people who had not worshipped Baal.

Perhaps all the activity surrounding Elijah’s victory caused him to stop listening to God, and the threat to his life scared him.

We also need to be careful to listen always for God’s direction. It’s possible our “mess” is God’s way of slowing us down and requiring us to listen to Him.

We Need To Learn God’s Lessons

Paul had some sort of physical ailment, as explained in 2 Corinthians 12, which he asked God to take away. In fact, he asked, pleaded, with God, three times. But God said “No.” Paul concluded that God gave him this problem to keep him humble.

It’s possible that keeping you humble may be God’s purpose, but it may also be possible that you will be able to minister to someone else with the same problem.

We Must Be Patient

James (5:13) reminds us to pray if we are suffering. But quick healing is not promised. And some people do not receive the type of healing which they first expect.

There are many instances of people who have prayed for healing, but in the end, have considered themselves “healed” even when their physical problem continues.

Even though they once wanted to be rid of the physical problem, they have come to realize that having the problem has allowed them to be a better minister for the Lord, and are satisfied to continue their life “hampered” by what others would call a handicap.

So, when your life is a “mess”, ask the Lord to show you what you can learn and benefit from it.