

## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS

### Advisory Group Members

Dr. Roseland Bainum  
Dr. Keely Baronak  
Rev. Joseph Hedden, Jr.  
Rev. Nicita Moses  
Ms. Lee Ann Risha  
Ms. Lori Sachs  
Ms. J. Cynthia Smith



### How Your Congregation Can Become Involved

Contact Mary Ann Hvizdos for a membership form.

### Membership Benefits

- Request Christmas donations for your distribution to congregants or community members in need (children's hats/gloves, new books, school supplies and some adult clothing.)
- Receive child abuse prevention resources for Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer
- Receive up to 35 educator recognition gifts for annual celebration

**BLESSED BE EDUCATORS** is an ecumenical, non-partisan organization. We are under the fiscal sponsorship of Destiny of Faith Church and an affiliate of their *Faith-Based Health Collaborative*.

Membership is open to all churches located in *Southwest PA*, in addition to Bedford, Blair, and Cambria Counties.

#### Contact:

Mary Ann Hvizdos, Ph.D.  
Program Director  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
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Look for additional information about Blessed Be Educators on the

**BBE Facebook page** or at **www.baidos.net**

*Funding for BBE is provided by grants from the Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation and the Faith-Based Health Collaborative, member congregations, businesses and individual donors.*

*Carlow University's Education Department provides in-kind workshop registration and technical support. Together with the Campus Laboratory School, they hold charity drives for Christmas Giveaways.*

*The University of Pittsburgh's Athletic Department provides several hundred tees annually for Christmas Giveaways.*



## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS



*To provide educators with spiritual support & recognition by sponsoring faith-based programs.*

### OUR PURPOSE

## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS:

- Seeks to uplift teaching as a Christian ministry, to recognize teachers for their spiritual gifts and their ministry with children.
- Extends opportunities for prayerful support to current and retired educators, and all who minister to children and youth, through sponsored programs.
- Provides opportunities for congregations to recognize and value the gifts of all educators.

*"I give thanks to God  
always for you..."*

*~1 Corinthians 1:4*

## Our Program

### **BLESSED BE EDUCATORS (BBE)**

sponsors a series of faith-based programs in support of our mission. Pastors and their congregations participate in those programs as they find helpful and appropriate. Educators and community friends also are welcome to participate in most programs. Some are reserved solely for member congregations.

## Program Year

*Programs are presented chronologically as they occur October 2023 --June 2024*

### Virtual Book Club

*Five monthly sessions, one hour each beginning October 20*

Facilitator

Rev. Rhonda Higgins

Pastor, New Vision Tabernacle Church

Chosen Book

*When Women Pray: 10 Women of the Bible*

*Who Changed the World Through Prayer*

By T. D. Jakes

### Educator Prayer Breakfast

In celebration of World Teachers' Day, held annually, October 5, educators and guests gather for fellowship and prayer, to share a meal and hear a guest speaker. *The next breakfast will be held October 28, Church of the Redeemer Parish Hall.*

## Annual Christmas Giveaways

Thanks to generous donations from individuals and local universities, each December BBE distributes \$3,000 to \$4,000 worth of children's hats, gloves, new books, and school supplies; also, some new adult clothing to member congregations that complete a request form.

### Educator Workshop

#### **Community Violence Prevention**

This workshop, open to all, is sponsored by three organizations: Faith-Based Health Collaborative, Carlow University Education Department and Blessed Be Educators. Description, speakers, and registration details coming late Fall. Workshop is approved for PA Act 48 professional development hours and *will be held March 9 at Carlow University.*

### Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer for Abused Children

BBE provides pastors with up-to-date prevention resources for use/distribution to parents and others who care about children. In 2024, Blue Sunday will be held April 28.

### Educator Recognitions

In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Month, held annually during May, pastors select a Sunday worship service to honor all from their congregation who minister to students. Pastors choose the recognition format and BBE provides up to 35 educator thank-you gifts. Recognitions may be scheduled during May or June.

## **BLESSED BE EDUCATORS 2023-2024 Primary Programs and Membership Benefits** (See brochure content for additional details)

<b>Virtual Book Club Begins</b> 5 Monthly Sessions Open to All  <b>October 20, 2024</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Facilitator: Rev. Rhonda Higgins Chosen Book: <i>When Women Pray: 10 Women of the Bible</i> <i>Who Changed the World Through Prayer</i> by T.D. Jakes  Participants purchase own book.	<b>Annual Prayer Breakfast</b> Children Welcome Open to All  <b>October 28, 2023</b> 9:15am - 11:30am Church of the Redeemer 5700 Forbes Avenue Squirrel Hill <i>Prayer and Worship,</i> <i>Hot Breakfast,</i> Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Brenda J. Gregg  <b>\$10/Adults; \$5/Children</b>	<b>Annual Christmas Giveaways</b> Membership Benefit  <b>Mid-December 2023</b> Members request donated items to be distributed.  <b>Educator Workshop</b> Open to All  <b>March 9, 2024</b> 10:00am - Noon <i>Community Violence Prevention</i> Carlow University A.J. Palumbo Hall	<b>Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer for Abused Children</b> Membership Benefit  <b>April 28, 2024</b> Members receive up-to-date resources for use and distribution.  <b>Educator Recognitions</b> Membership Benefit  <b>May and June 2024</b> In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Month, members receive thank-you gifts for educators.
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