

THE CERULEAN

CERULEAN: THE COLOR OF A CALM, BLUE SKY
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

COMPLIMENTS OF *Blue Sky*
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

November 2014

Planting in Others' Gardens

This past weekend, my wife, Cheryl, spent several hours planting flower bulbs in our front yard. For years she's admired the cheerful blooms in others' yards yet we've never had any in our landscape. This was the year she made it happen. With a shovel, a pair of gloves and 150 bulbs, she got to work. It may have given her a sore back and dirt under her nails but the promise of daffodils, crocus and tulips made it worth the effort. Right now all we can see is barren dirt, but come springtime, we'll have a grand palate of color. It will have been worth the effort.

It's been said that if you **plant flowers in others' gardens, your life becomes a bouquet.** I've found this to be true in my own life. As I sow into others, my life becomes blessed. Whether it's volunteering to teach financial concepts to junior high and high school students, remodeling an inner-city youth center, or handing out sandwiches to the homeless, my life is richer because of it.

Many of our clients are actively engaged in volunteering and it's those clients who seem to have the most positive outlook on life. Let me encourage you to take some time and invest it in others. Stop by your local food pantry, homeless shelter, women's center or Boys and Girls Club and ask how you can help. Another way to volunteer is to contact the local Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) office, one of the largest volunteer networks in the country. Our client Joyce Bolin is the Director of RSVP of Porter County where seniors are encouraged to use their talents and skills to help others and to enrich their lives. You can reach Joyce at (219) 464-1028. Together, we can make this world a brighter place.

Todd Wooten



FOOD DRIVE

It may be hard to believe, but hunger really does still exist in our communities. Many are less fortunate, but you can help by donating canned and dry goods during our Fall Food Drive. You can drop off your non-perishable food items in the box at our office. All donations will go to the Country Food Pantry at Hebron United Methodist Church.

The Food Pantry is in special need of spaghetti, canned green beans, peas, peaches and tuna, children's cereal, cleaning products and laundry soap. Clean, brown paper grocery bags with handles are also appreciated. **We will be accepting donations until November 20th.** Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Events

November 4: Morning Brew: *Leveraging Your IRA*

December 2: Morning Brew: *Reducing Taxes on Social Security Income*

December 4: Teachers Retirement Workshop: *Social Security, Medicare, and Volunteer Opportunities*

For more information about an event or to reserve your seat

call (219) 548-9370



Nov 4: Leveraging Your IRA

Dec 2: Reducing Taxes on Social Security Income

Join us for our monthly **Morning Brew Workshop**. The first Tuesday of each month, we host a free educational workshop in the upstairs workshop room at our office. Come enjoy coffee and pastries while learning about important and timely information.

10:00 am to 11:30 am

4001 Murvihill Rd

Valparaiso, IN 46383

(in the Eagle Aircraft Building at the Porter County Municipal Airport)

WE LOVE OUR VETERANS!

Each November 11th, our country takes time to honor those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Many of our clients are veterans and we value your courage and sacrifice. Thank you to Kent and Rosy Vaudt for sending in this picture of Kent who served in the US Army from 1971-1973 at Fort Riley, Kansas. One of the highlights of Kent's service was standing guard at the library in Independence, Missouri during President Harry Truman's funeral. It's an honor to have clients who have helped to protect our country. Thank you for your service.



Client Connection

Bill Burger LaPorte, IN

Pulling Out All the Stops

By Cheryl Wooten

With feet and fingers flying, Bill Burger deftly plays Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C Major. An accomplished organist, Bill makes it look easy. His hands glide masterfully between the two keyboards, occasionally flipping one of the 50 plus stops on the console. With a feather-light touch, his feet skim across the foot pedals adding deep bass tones.

For more than 62 years Bill has coaxed beautiful music from the organ. From the early age of four, Bill began playing the piano then became intrigued by the organ at age 10. "Our church was in a building program and there was no place to keep the organ. So my Dad brought it home until the church building was complete. For the next six or eight months, I got to play the organ almost every day." Later on, while earning his degree in Business, he took a course on Organ History and Design. "I read that book from cover to cover and learned everything in it. I was more interested in the organ than my business classes!"

When asked about his most memorable event, Bill recalls when the Valparaiso University Chapel windows were repaired and the organ had to be completely dismantled. "Once it was reassembled, voiced and tuned, I was the first person to play it. I wondered if it would still work. With over 15,000 pipes, a lot can go wrong. I sat down and began to practice for an upcoming wedding and fortunately everything was okay."

Practice makes perfect, which is why Bill takes time each week to play the large digital pipe organ at his church. He plays for weddings and occasionally substitutes for area churches. Bill is also a Silver Sneaker and Silver Splash instructor at the YMCA in LaPorte; the Michiana Area Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child; President of the LaPorte Community Concert Association; husband to Marci, father of three and grandfather of 12. As you can see, when it comes to living life to the fullest, Bill really is pulling out all the stops!

You can watch Bill playing the organ on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BlueSkyFinancialPartners/videos>) or our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/BlueSkyFinancial>).

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