



Brethren Highlights

For members and friends of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren

May, 2011

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

After Sunday morning worship and a delicious Soup & Salad Lunch provided by the youth of the church, the April 10th spring congregational business meeting was held. Moderator Al Hansell opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Reports were given by the pastors, auditors, treasurer, Deacons, Executive Committee and all of the Ministry Teams. We heard reports by ...

...the Auditors that the books are in order and that they have implemented uniform reporting standards for future audits.

... the treasurer that our giving this first quarter has been behind about \$18,000 to the Plan of Ministry. There is optimism that this will be made up, given our history of giving.

...the Deacons of the creation of a new fund known as the *In-Reach Program*. This fund would assist persons within the congregation that need financial assistance. An individual will donate \$10,000 if matching funds are given to this program. It is hoped that this fund would eventually have \$100,000 for future assistance activities.

...the Leadership Search Team who is requesting names of persons to be called to fill the following positions: Assistant Chair of Communications Ministry Team; Pastor Relations Team; Auditor; Annual Conference & District Conference delegates.

...The Executive Committee that the positions of Children & Youth Ministries may be filled by persons of the congregation. If anyone is interested in Children's ministries or Youth ministries, let themselves be known to the Executive Committee.

The business meeting approved...

...Jim Heck as chair of the Leadership Search Committee.

...the calling of Linford Moyer to a three year term as Deacon.

Those in attendance celebrated that the call to build one house in Haiti ended in building five, totaling \$32,500 in giving.

Jay V. Wenger

RECOGNIZING OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH PASTOR'S TIME AT LCOB

On Sunday, May 22, 2011, during the scheduled Soup & Salad Lunch that follows the 10:15 a.m. worship services, our Children and Youth Pastor will be recognized for his time at the Lancaster COB these last three years. Plan to be in attendance to support the youth and recognize Curtis Dehmay as he leaves us and pursues other endeavors. All are encourage to attend.

CHURCH PROPERTY SPRING CLEAN UP AND MULCHING EXTRAVAGANZA

Do you have an unfulfilled urge to garden? Have you moved into a no maintenance home and wish you could feel the earth beneath your fingertips again? Would you like to expose your family to the fun of interacting with others for the common good of the wonderful property we have at 1601 Sunset Ave and appreciate parts of the property you have never explored or noticed? Are you tired of cleaning up your own yard? Please join the property ministry team's annual spring clean up and mulching team on Saturday May 7th from 8:00-noon. Bring a willing spirit, your favorite gardening gloves, tools, wheelbarrows, etc. Everyone always has a good time! We really need your help. Property Ministry Team

Lancaster Church of the Brethren is a working, worshipping, learning Christian community, open and accepting without discrimination or force in matters of belief and practice.

SERVING THIS MONTH

GREETERS

7:40 AM Marian Varner and Ray Frace
8:40 AM Renea and Mike Snyder
8:40 AM Shirley and Ervin Martin
9:50 AM Darlene and Earl Williams
9:50 AM Mim Longenecker and Dee Leonard
11:15 AM Marvin Harnish

USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 A.M.

John Graham Barry Wilson

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

*Greg Hughes John Biemiller Bob Hopple
John Lines Doug Lunger Barb Morrow
Russ Morrow Mark Smith

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45-10:15 A.M.

Nicole Putt

VAN INFORMATION

Anyone wishing transportation to Sunday morning worship services, please contact:
Rich Bohn – 394-4956

ACOLYTES

Week 1: Drew Smith
Week 2: Grant Turkki
Week 3: Andrew Lines
Week 4: Eric Snyder
Week 5: Cory Betz

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED!

If you are interested in submitting an article or letter, here's how to do it!

1. The deadline is the 10th of every month.
2. If submissions are emailed, the deadline is the 11th. ***Electronically submitted is best!***
3. Email to **both** the editor and the church office for safety. csgraham618@comcast.net
4. Please do not extensively format emailed submissions. Simple paragraph form is best. No bullet points, graphics, etc. An attached file must be in a *Word* document.
5. Mail any submissions to the church office, attention Peggy Bush, **NOT** to the editor's home.
6. Use the newsletter folder in the office to submit any written or typed submissions.

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|--------|-----|
| MAR 27 | 501 |
| APR 3 | 357 |
| APR 10 | 333 |

DIRECTORY CHANGES- PLEASE NOTE

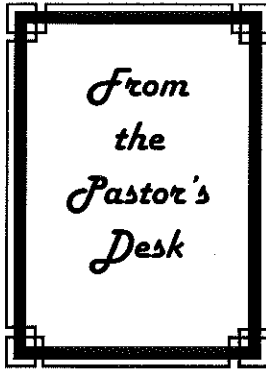


Galen's and Joan Miley's phone number is 394-6345.

Jay Weaver's email is jaydweaver@gmail.com

Ellen Weaver's email is ellensweaver@gmail.com

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The **absolute** deadline for the June issue is **May 10, 2011**



As I sit here in my office in April and my departure from this congregation continues to become more of a reality, I have mixed emotions. I know that I have deliberated over this decision over a course of six months, sought spiritual direction, prayed frequently and God has clearly called me to make this decision, but leaving people that you have established wonderful relationships with is difficult. I can honestly say that I have been blessed by the many friendships of this congregation. I became closest to these friends when we were experiencing challenges together, problem solving and comforting one another.

I do have to admit that I am weary after my time here at the church. I felt I took all the proper steps to make sure I was well supported and spiritually nourished. That being said, I realize how much my soul lacked the ability to just “be” in worship (a difficult task for many pastors). I may have been there physically, but I would be thinking about who I need to talk to after the service or thinking anxiously about what I need to do next in the worship service or I would not be able to attend worship at all because I was working on the next thing that was planned to happen after worship. I have attended Youth Ministry Conferences where I have come back totally refreshed mainly because I was able to love on God and God was able to love on me in the midst of worship. I did not truly appreciate worship until it was almost absent in my life.

I am not willing to call my weariness “burn-out” because of the many negative connotations that can come with that label. No catastrophic incident pushed me to this decision, but there were plenty of “valley” and “mountaintop” moments. I like to think of my time at this congregation as a positive one where I had a hard and fast learning curve to achieve. I believe that I was greatly impacted by many of you and I hope that many of you were impacted by my ministry. I need some time to rest and I believe this was one of many reasons God called me to move on from this congregation. I cannot give you my fullest ministry when I am weary.

Thank you for your mentorship, prayers, overall support and the opportunity to minister to many of you! It has truly been a blessing!

With gratitude,
J. Curtis Dehmey

TRANSITIONS

We welcome Dean and Joanne Thomas to our church family. Dean and Joanne joined the church through transfer of letter on March 27.

Congratulations to Jason and Jenny Haines on the birth of their daughter, Molly Marie, on March 28

In 2010, LCOB adopted a new statement of Basic Beliefs and Core Values. The featured Beliefs and Values for this month are:
Salvation -We are justified by faith
The Body of Christ-Community of believers

**LANCASTER CHURCH
OF
THE BRETHREN**

VISION STATEMENT
To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

MISSION STATEMENT
To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.

GOALS
Radical Hospitality
Passionate Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Risk-Taking Mission and Service
Extravagant Generosity

(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGES

We continue to celebrate the goodness of God in our lives. He gave us strength to endure our March 16 and 18 surgeries; family, friends and neighbors to carry us through a challenging time; doctors, nurses and caregivers who shared their gifts with us and thankful hearts for our restored health. We have been touched by your prayers, thoughts, cards, phone calls, food, reading materials and flowers. We are truly grateful for your love. God bless you.

John and Audrey Martin

Many thanks for the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, food and visits during my stay in the hospital and recovery at home after my recent fall. A special thank you to Pastor Rill for anointing me prior to my surgery to repair the fractured femur bone. Hopefully by the time you read this I will be walking on two legs with or without a walker. Keith and I are very thankful for the support we received from our church family.

Marilyn Hummel

Many thanks for all the cards, meals and warm wishes during my recovery from surgery. I felt the love and God's calming spirit during the Anointing Service led by Pastor Jeff and attended by many friends. It really did help!

Mary Ellen DeWitt

Thanks to all who acknowledged my recent hospitalization. Your concerns, prayers, cards, calls and pastoral visits were all greatly appreciated.

Jack Wilson

Words can never express how uplifting it was to receive cards, notes and phone calls celebrating my 90th Birthday. My heartfelt thanks, dear friends, for your kindness. Our loving Lord has blessed me abundantly through my life. Blessings to each of you.

Helen Thatcher

I would like to thank you all, especially the Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast Group, for all the letters, cards, phone calls and prayers.

J. Ervin Martin



LIBRARY LINES

Several new books have recently been added to the Library - a variety of topics from which you can choose! You will find most of the newest books on the shelves in the Gathering Place - an easy place to find them!

I would like to highlight one of them - an especially inspiring book by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, titled "The Dressmaker of Khair Khana". This is a true story of five sisters, one remarkable family, and the woman who risked everything to keep them safe. When the Taliban seized control of the city of Kabul in Afghanistan, women were confined to their homes - they could not attend school, they could not work outside the home - essentially they were prisoners in their houses. These women defied the rulers and found a way to help each other and to hold the family together. It is a story of war, but it is also a story of sisterhood and resilience in the face of despair.

Kamila Sidiqi's journey will inspire you and also change the way you think about one of the most important political and humanitarian issues of our time. I read this book in one day - could not put it down!

Theresa Herr



PMT ENERGY TIP OF THE MONTH –

Improve freezer efficiency by keeping it as full as possible with bags of ice for instance. But, keep a 1-inch open space on each side of the interior for better air exchange.

LCOB KITCHEN NEWS

Anyone interested in working in some capacity in the kitchen and/or dish room should place their name and phone number in mailbox #11 (Robin Baker) or contact her at rab6575@aol.com. Continued activities using the church kitchen and dish room need your help and involvement. Please volunteer.

Just a reminder....Anyone using the kitchen is expected to leave it clean. Please wipe up the mess on the counters and floor. Thank you.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

SOWING SEEDS . . . HARVESTING HOPE

"The Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) is the primary way the Church of the Brethren assists hungry people in developing food security. For over 25 years GFCF has provided grants upwards of \$400,000 annually for seeds, livestock, tools, and training directed to helping the poor develop sustainable agriculture. GFCF invests in small-scale economic development, joins efforts to improve diet and health practices, champions soil conservation, and promotes awareness-raising and advocacy on hunger issues. Its grants serve community development programs in 32 countries" (www.brethren.org/gfcf).

While it is important to give help directly to people in need, as we do through our work with the Lancaster County Council of Churches (LCCC), it is equally important to support church programs like the GFCF. This caring denominational program assists people in the tough battle of escaping the cruel clutches of poverty and hunger.

Isaiah wrote, "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness. . ." (Is. 58:10).

We trust you are gathering the **2 Cents a Meal** offering in your homes. It is important that we remember the hungry each day, especially at mealtimes.

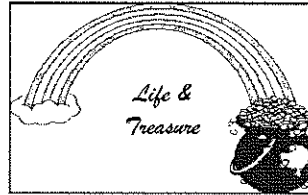
The next 2 Cents a Meal offering will be received during worship on May 1.

Hunger and Poverty Group

HYGIENE KIT SERVICE PROJECT

Sunday, June 12

Please remember the "Gifts of the Heart" Hygiene Kit Service Project for the Brethren Service Center. Your help is needed to purchase items for the kits. **To contribute, make checks payable to LCOB, write "Hygiene Kits" on your check and envelope and place it in the offering plate.** If you have any questions, please contact Keith or Marilyn Hummel at: 295-9121.



Giving Even While I Was in Debt

There was a season in my life when my bills had piled up so high that I had more month than I had money! It was during this time that I was prompted in my heart to start giving 10% of my income to the Lord. This didn't make sense to me since I didn't have enough money to pay my bills and take care of my needs every month. But I decided to trust God and cross over this new line in the sand to live and give more generously. The next time I received a paycheck, the first check I wrote (hesitantly) was a check for 10% to the Lord's work.

As I continued to do this, I noticed that I was not as foolish with my money, I had a greater trust in God to provide for my needs, and I began to make progress in paying off my debts. I also joined a Crown Financial Ministries Bible study (www.crown.org) and learned how to prayerfully develop a spending plan to help me get out of debt completely within a few years. <http://www.givewithjoy.org/articles.htm> . . . SMT

ALPHA & OMEGA COMMUNITY CENTER BANQUET

It's spring time again which means it is time for the Annual Banquet of the Alpha & Omega Community Center, an outreach program that was started by the A & Ω COB to support the Latino community in Lancaster. This year's banquet is being sponsored by the Chiques COB in their new facilities on Saturday evening, May 14, beginning at 6 p.m. We hope that you will join friends from ANE District to enjoy a delicious meal together and hear testimonies from individuals who benefit from the service provided at the Community Center. Don Mitchell, Director of Church Development of Atlantic NE District will be the guest speaker.

A table of 8 has been reserved for our congregation. There is no cost to you, but you will have an opportunity to support the ongoing ministries of the Community Center through a free-will offering. Please sign up on the OMT bulletin board outside of room 162.

CAMP SWATARA NEWS

It's not too late to sign up for summer camps and activities at Camp Swatara. **Got Spirit?** is the theme for Camp Swatara summer camps. Campers will explore ways to connect with God every day. Sign up your child before May 20th for a fun-filled, spiritual week in the woods. Camps are available for campers in K-12th grade.

Volunteer positions are also available for those wanting to give of their time and talents.

Family Camping and Day Camp is available throughout the spring, summer and fall in the Family Camping Center.

Good as Gold certificates, which pay for ½ of your fee, are available from the church office.

May 20th – 22nd is **Spring Bird Watchers Weekend**

September 3rd **Benefit Auction**

September 9th – 18th – **Acadia National Park**, Bar Harbor, ME

For more information, check out the Camp Swatara website : <http://www.campswatara.org>, the bulletin board on the lower level across from the elevator, or call Donna Lunger 464-4966

Senior Adult Day at Camp Swatara – June 8, 2011

Schedule

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Registration, coffee and pastries

10:00-10:30 a.m. – Announcements and Devotions

10:30- 11:30 a.m. – “Music Delight” – H. William Moyer and Keynote Presentation

12:00 noon – Dinner (\$10) – Pay at the door

1:00-2:00 p.m. Options:

Presentation by Irv and Nancy Heishman who have just returned from a 7-year mission in the Dominican Republic

Presentation by Donald R. Brown on “The Study of Postcards”

Van tour of camp property

Walk, play miniature golf, borrow binoculars and watch birds

2:30 p.m. – Depart for home

The deadline to register is May 20. Call Camp Swatara at (717) 933-8510 and give the number attending with your party.

TRAVEL TO BRAZIL NO PLANE & NO COST

Suzanne and Otto Schaudel recently returned from a visit to Brazil where they had lived for three years in the 1970s. It was a great time to get reacquainted with friends and to view first hand the progress that is happening in this South American country.

The Schaudels will be sharing photos and stories about Brazil on Friday evening, May 13th, in room 162. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to the Schaudels at schaudels@comcast.net or by calling 656-8592.

CLIMBERS' CORNER

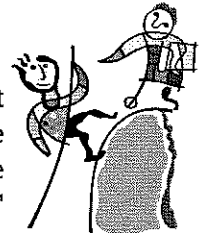
On Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center, the Climbers and Homebuilders will be entertained by the "Soul Purpose" Gospel Quartet featuring time-honored hymns and gospel songs.

The group was formed in 1994 and, after several changes in members and delivery of their music, currently strives to display four part harmony in a lineup of traditional, gospel, country and worship music. While they perform primarily in Lancaster County and the Tri-State area, they have ventured into Virginia, the Carolinas, and as far west as Nebraska. Soul Purpose has averaged 45 - 55 programs yearly. A free will offering will be taken for them. Refreshments will be served after their performance.

Climbers should bring beef stew, baked beans and/or rice for the LCCC Food Bank.



HOMEBUILDERS





RAINBOW CRUISE

When: Saturday, May 7, 2011

Time: Boarding at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: Served at 6:00 p.m.

Donation: \$25 – adults; \$15 children (12 yrs. & under)

Includes: Four Star Dining and Live Entertainment

Tickets Available: March 6 at the Gathering Place or call Cindy Harmes at 569-5277. Limited seating.

BUSY MONTH FOR TRADITIONAL MUSICIANS!

The month of May is a busy one for our Chancel Choir and Carillon Bell Choir. On Saturday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m., the Chancel Choir will participate in a benefit concert at Highland Presbyterian Church, 1801 Oregon Pike, Lancaster. We will join the Highland Chancel Choir and choirs from other area churches in several masterworks, including Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*, and Joseph Martin's *The Awakening*. The Chancel Choir will also be featured alone, singing selections from our Music Celebration service.

The Music Celebration in the 10:15 a.m. Traditional service is the very next day, May 22! The theme of the day is *Light!*, and Rev. Judith Gible will preach. The choir will sing works by Joseph Haydn (*The Heavens are Telling*), Olaf Christiansen (*Light Everlasting*), Bradley Ellingboe (*O Gracious Light*, featuring flutist Beth Shirk), Richard Erickson (*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*), and Keith Hampton (*True Light*). Several soloists from the choir will be featured. In addition, the Carillon Bell Choir will ring a brand new work titled *Dance of Celebration*, by composer Steven Taranto.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Matt Shaffer | 16 | Jeanne Heck |
| 2 | Barb King | | Emery DeWitt |
| | Hilda Douple | | Luke Wenger |
| 3 | Melode Forsha | | Troy Nace |
| | Nathan Biemiller | 17 | Kyle Shirk |
| | Gladys Arnold | | Jill Bridgeman |
| | Steve Holsinger | 18 | Judy Hess |
| | Wendi Holsinger | | Nicklaus Kreider |
| | Bonnie Frick | 20 | Audrey Martin |
| 4 | Andrew Graham | | Donna Wilson |
| | Laurie Rhoades | | Donna Hernandez |
| 5 | Robert Smith | 21 | Don Hursh |
| | Liz Roth | | Donna Myer |
| | Otto Schaudel | 23 | Taylor Husted |
| | Vince Ruby | 24 | Dory Voulopos |
| 6 | Eric Yunginger | 25 | Pat Breidenstine |
| 9 | Sherry Weaver | | Shirley Frey |
| | Jodi Yingling | 26 | Madelynn Riedel |
| 11 | John Graham | 27 | Kate Kinderwater |
| 13 | James Biemiller | | Joe Peffley |
| | Joe Bryson | | Joanne Mellinger |
| 14 | Stu Kauffman | 29 | Gwen Martin |
| | Juanita Lunger | | Laura Bowser |
| 15 | Tracy Sadd | 30 | Courtney Riegen |
| | | | Lois Shenk |

PANDAMANIA AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 26-June 30, 6:15-8:15 pm



Hey, kids! Are you ready for a wild adventure? At PandaMania you'll discover that God is wild about you! Children age 3 through grade 5, come join us for a Vacation Bible School adventure from June 26-30, 6:15-8:15 nightly. Experience Bible stories, crazy crafts, treetop treats, bamboo blast games and a rowdy wrap-up of singing. Watch for registration forms throughout the church. If you would like to help with this wild VBS adventure, please contact Madelynn Riedel (569-7626).

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

May 2011

*The following classes are open to everyone. All are invited.
Even though these groups are "ongoing," they are always looking for new members!*

9:00 – 9:45 Sunday Mornings

The Chapel Bible Study Group, led by Calvin Wenger and John Snader, meets in the Chapel. They are currently immersed in an intensive study of the New Testament. In May they will be continuing their study of the book of *Acts*.

The Thoughtful Life Class, meeting in Rooms 162-163, features stimulating resource persons who lead discussions in a variety of topics. During May they will focus on a variety of World Religions.

May 1 – *Finding the Dharma: My Journey to Hinduism* by Dr. **Jeff Long**, Chair of the Religion Department of Elizabethtown College.

May 8 – *Walking the Buddhist Path*, by Dr. **Jeff Long**.

May 15 – *The Path of Mitzvah*, by Rabbi **Carl Choper**, Reconstructionist Jew. Chair of The Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania. Director of the Religion & Society Center, Harrisburg.

May 22 – *Christianity from a Church Historian's Perspective*, by Dr. **Anne Thayer**, Professor of Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

May 29 – *Islam: Historical Origins, Beliefs, Laws and Practices, and Muslim life today*, by **Omar Rushdi**, Iraqi refugee sponsored by our congregation.

The One Another Class, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office. In the first two weeks of May they will conclude their study of the book of *Mark* using a Bible study program from Yale Divinity School. In the following weeks Curtis Dubble will share with them his *Life Story*.

The Nesters Bible Study Group, meeting in Room 170, ask you to join them in May as they continue discussion of a DVD series titled, *On Being a Good Samaritan*. Discussions are casual and leisurely, and anyone is free to join in at any point. The Nesters are a group of adults who have kids of various ages. They understand that parents have busy schedules, so you can participate in as much or as little as you prefer. Contact Todd Bookman at bookert@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

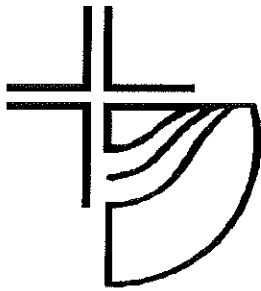
Various Times

The young adult group "J.U.M.P." (Jesus, use me please!) meets at various times. They've been gathering once or twice a month in homes for a meal or going out to lunch after church. For details, contact Megan Eldredge via email at megan.eldredge@gmail.com or call her at 717-250-6713.

Children's Coloring Page

Please color and submit to the Church Office for a prize! ☺ Don't forget to include your name.





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**LANCASTER CHURCH
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the transformation of the world.

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- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
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(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**

- 8:00 a.m. Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Family Life Center
- 10:15 a.m. Family Life Center
- 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Maranatha

Sunday School

9:00 a.m.

The deadline for the June issue
is May 10, 2011.

**Brethren Highlights
2010**

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor

J. Curtis Dehmey
Associate Pastor of Children and Youth

Emery A. DeWitt
Director of Music

Jamie Nace
Director of Children's Music

Carol S. Graham
Brethren Highlights Editor