



Brethren Highlights

For members and friends of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren

December, 2011

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year.

The two combined worship services on July 17, 2011 were received very favorably by many people. Encouragement came from numerous persons that we should plan to combine for worship again. What better day to do that than on one of the holiest days of the Christian year—Christmas!

So, we plan to hold **one worship service on Christmas day at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.** During that worship service childcare will be available for infants through age three.

There will be a children's story, song, and small gift for all children in attendance at the combined 10:15 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. Following that story, song, and receiving a gift, children age four through fourth grade may proceed to Praise Kidz.

No Sunday school classes meet Christmas day. Instead, plan to attend the Meet and Greet in the Gathering Place, starting at 9:15 a.m. This gives us an opportunity to interact with and get to know each other over coffee and pastries.

During the worship service the Choir will sing *Mary, Go Tell It!* The sermon, based on the story of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2, will be preached by Pastors Cindy Lattimer and Jeff Rill.

Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'" (Luke 2:7, 13-14).

Plan now to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas Sunday, December 25, 2011, at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.



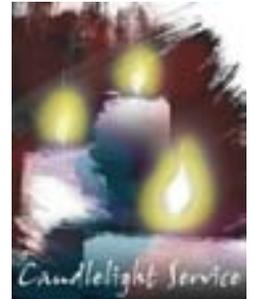
CHRISTMAS RECITAL & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary, we continue our annual tradition of the gentle, contemplative service known as the "Festival of Lessons and Carols." This service combines readings from scripture with choral anthems, congregational carols and an appearance by the Holy Family. This year, soloists Giny Mackey (soprano), Suzanne Schaudel (alto), Matt Kramer (tenor), and Bob Hess (bass) will join the choir in Franz Biebl's beautiful *Ave Maria*. The choir will also sing Bob Chilcott's *Mid-Winter* and G. Winston Cassler's *Adeste Fideles*.

It is a time to set aside the hectic pace of our lives during this busy season and meditate on the true meaning of Christmas. Again, continuing an annual tradition, the service concludes with the congregational singing of *Silent Night*, as each person raises his or her candle to symbolize the light of Christ spreading throughout the world.

The service begins at 6:30 p.m. with the Christmas Recital, in which the talented musicians of our congregation present music celebrating Christmas and the Christ Child. We are so blessed by the musical talent in our church - come let them bless you with their gifts during this holy season! The Candlelight Lessons and Carols will follow at 7:00 p.m. This popular service always fills the Sanctuary, so be sure to arrive early to begin celebrating the birth of Jesus!

Join us for the Family Service at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve in the Family Life Center. We will use this time to discover the best gift to give a king.



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

SERVING THIS MONTH

GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Deb & Chuck Neslund
 8:40 a.m. Ruth & Glenn Shultz
 8:40 a.m. Gay & Steve Polanskey
 9:50 a.m. Donna & Doug Lunger
 9:50 a.m. Shirley & Calvin Wenger
 11:15 a.m. Melode & Mark Forsha



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 Jerry Brown and Jere Tankelsey

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

*John Groff Zachary Baughman Rich Bohn
 Ray Leckrone Marvin Harnish Ed Riegen
 Calvin Wenger Shirley Wenger

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



Committee Member

ACOLYTES

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



VAN INFORMATION

Bob Gish



ATTENDANCE

October 23 - 332
 October 30 - 244
 November 6 - 346
 November 13 - 362

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Bob & Linda Hopple
 1001 E. Oregon Rd., #1503
 Lititz, PA 17543
 519-2602

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Renea Snyder
 3 Clair Greiner
 4 Ellen Weaver
 Tom Wolf
 5 Amy Wiggins
 Carol Kramer
 Dolores Leonard
 8 Peggy Bates
 10 Nicole Putt
 11 Shane Heck
 Harry Coble
 Jack Wilson
 13 Judith Gible
 14 Doug Deihm
 15 Brenda Stout

17 Jean Deemer
 18 Floyd Montgomery
 Flossie Mellinger
 Ashley Wenger
 Carol Graham
 Marvin Harnish
 19 Gene Koser
 21 Sarah Shreckise
 Deb Neslund
 23 Pat Shreckhise
 25 Fred Kreider
 26 Ray Leckrone
 27 Ryan Bookman
 28 Alex Truit
 29 George Murray

30 Mark Frace
 Jared St. John
 Allen Mellinger



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Pastor Jeff Rill

Advent begins Sunday, November 27, 2011. It marks the beginning of a new church year. That day we celebrate with bread and cup communion in all worship services. Advent is a season of waiting with eager expectation and preparation for Christmas, the coming of the Christ Child. It is also a

season of preparing for the second coming of Christ, Judge at the last day.

In this beautiful season of the year we decorate with greens, evergreens, poinsettias, and a Christmas tree. We light another candle each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas—the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy. These four, in that order, represent our worship themes this year in all worship services.

Since Advent does begin a new church year, why not resolve to plan now to attend worship each

Sunday during Advent? Start the new church year with a determination to bring to and receive from worship the very best. Open yourself to allow the songs and hymns, the sounds and sights of the season bless you, so that you may bless others in Jesus' name.

As we prepare for Christmas, may we find our faith renewed, our hope restored, the rich blessing of peace within and among us all. We are reminded again that "God so loved the world" that he sent his only Son into the world in the form of love in the flesh. The result is great joy, "which shall be for all people."

May your joy be complete. Blessings for a deeply meaningful Advent and Christmas Season.

-Pastor Jeff Rill



STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT, JAN 8, FEATURES BRASS

A relatively recent tradition at LCOB is the **Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert**, held in early January. Previously, this concert was held during the busy Christmas season, but after the Great Snowstorm of 2009 forced a rescheduling to January, both performers and audience members realized that the Epiphany season was a great time to experience this concert. It gives us a wonderful opportunity to revisit the music of Advent and Christmas one more time, and also look ahead to the new year.

On **Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**, the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bell Choir and Margaret Marsch on the organ will be joined by **QuintEssentially Brass**, a highly regarded local brass quintet. They will join the choir in K. Lee Scott's stunning new *Gloria*, a 15-minute work setting the ancient Latin text that begins "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of goodwill." The quintet will also join the Carillon Bell Choir in a wonderful arrangement of *Angels From the Realms of Glory* by Janet Linker and Jane McFadden.

The choir is also preparing a very rewarding piece in the High English tradition: the *Magnificat* of John

Rushby-Smith. Despite the Latin title, this version of Mary's song is sung in English. Director of Music Emery DeWitt was alerted to the existence of this music by a friend in Switzerland, who introduced him to the British composer! The music was composed for Southwell Minster, a cathedral in Nottingham, England. Southwell has been in continuous existence since 956 AD.

The concert will conclude with a famous setting of the Epiphany Carol by Felix Mendelssohn: *There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob*, from the unfinished oratorio *Christus*.

As with all Starlight Tea concerts, admission is free with a free-will offering taken. Invite your friends to experience the sweep of the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, providing an apt start to the New Year!





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

As on a movie set, the director's cry sets the stage for filming to begin. Our moderator, Allen Hansell calls to order with agenda approval the October 23rd Congregational Meeting in the Family Life Center that followed a soup & salad lunch hosted by the Youth of the church. (The youth raised \$1,145 toward future projects.)

Action taken by the congregation includes; approving the 2012 budget of \$747,405 with a \$9,831 outreach challenge; approving new Position Descriptions for the pastoral staff; approving the Pastor of Caregiving position with J. Calvin Wenger called to fill that position; approving a \$200,000 line of credit to assist with financing the geothermal HVAC project; approving Outreach & Scholarship Fund Distribution of \$4,000 for *New Community Project*, \$4,000 for *Bridge of Hope* & \$1,000 for *We're All God's Children*; approving re-licensing for Curtis Dehney, John & Judith Breidenstine & Jennifer Hess Biemiller.

The congregation approved the following to leadership positions: Ken Harnish, Chair Communication Ministry Team (MT); Bryan Miley, Asst. Chair Communication MT; Bob Hopple, Chair Education MT; Carmen Segura, Asst. Chair Hospitality MT; Todd Bookman, Asst. Chair Morning Psalm MT; Dave Creighton, Asst. Chair Outreach MT; Frank Fox, Chair Stewardship MT; Gregg Shulenberger, Interim Church Treasurer; David Hosler, Asst. Treasurer; Rich Bohn, Pastoral Relations Team; David Hernandez, Auditor; Hazel Huffman, Leadership Search Team; District Conference Delegates: Beverly & Clyde Angle, Charles Denlinger, Allen Hansell, Jay Wenger, Calvin Wenger & Cindy Lattimer; Annual Conference Delegates: Ellen Weaver, Allen Hansell & Jeff Rill.

Those in attendance received their copy of the newly published *Brethren Beliefs* booklet; edited by Guy Wampler, which includes written contribution by twenty other members of the church. These booklets are intended for every member & friend household of the church. So, get your copy of the booklet. Don't wait for the movie!

--Jay V. Wenger

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The *absolute* deadline for the January 2012 issue is December 15, 2011.

SAVE THE DATE

26th Anniversary of the Prayer Breakfast will be celebrated on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and the January newsletter.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULE

We will be meeting for dinner on December 7, 14 and 21 at 5:15 p.m.. There will be one adult class on December 14 at 6:30 p.m.. The title is **Befriend the World at Friday International Gatherings**, presented by Scott Bonner. The following is a description of the class.

Scott Bronner along with his wife Taeko started a weekly Friday International Gathering out of their home in the belief that internationals need to experience the love and hospitality of Christ. Throughout the Scriptures one sees a call to love all people, with special provisions being made for the foreigner, widow and orphan. Leviticus 19:34 even says, "Love the Foreigner as you Love yourself". Since Lancaster CoB has also been active in caring & cooperating with the nations, we wanted to share about our gathering. We believe a synergy occurs when churches cooperate. (We go to Lampeter CoB but volunteers come from a variety of fellowships.) You are most welcome any Friday (email list for exceptions like winter break) to our informal 6:00-9:00 p.m. potluck gathering where conversation and fun fill the air for families, students and adults of all ages. Even if you can't come, feel free to invite internationals you meet as a way of sharing the love of Christ with the world. nationsfriends.webstarts.com for map, etc.



WNL will resume on January 25, 2012.

Any questions, please call Deb Chillias

DECEMBER PMT ENERGY TIP

Lower your thermostat in the winter. For each degree that you drop you cut your heating bill by 3%. To feel more comfortable at lower temperatures, place pans of water near heating outlets or radiators. Water filled air retains heat better and the added humidity reduces itching and dry skin.



TOWEL & BASIN SERVANT RECOGNITION

During the luncheon on Friendship Sunday, November 6, we celebrated the recognition of four persons who have set for us an example of service for Christ and His kingdom. A joint effort of the Stewardship Ministry Team & the Hospitality Ministry Team, these persons were chosen because we admire their walk with our Lord. And we have every confidence that they will continue to be great examples for us all to follow.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) ²³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* ²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

The Apostle Paul, known for his heart-felt words of appreciation for the faithful members in the many churches he started, knew that the heart of every congregation is filled with dedicated people who give unselfishly of their time, talent, and resources. The recognition that we celebrate today does not diminish the significant service of countless numbers of our members and friends, but rather it reminds us that in serving one another we build up the body of Christ.

For many of you, the service of these four persons is well known. It doesn't take long to notice their faith. They are committed to Christ Jesus and His church, and this quality enhances and enriches all their other qualities. It is likely that they have had some impact on your life - your spiritual maturity - your increased involvement in this body.

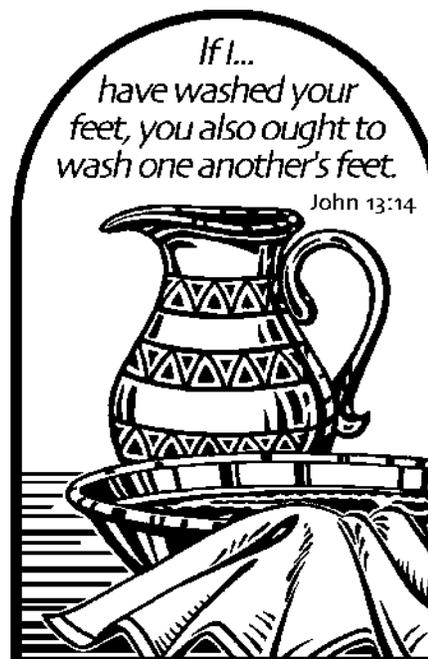
Carl and Milly Bomberger – pillars in this congregation since becoming members in the 1960s, they have become deeply involved, pouring themselves passionately into many ministries over these five decades. With tremendous dedication, commitment, and capacity, they never seem satisfied until they have made every possible contribution to the task at hand. Carl's long service with Property Ministry Team projects, Milly's pioneering efforts with the Morning Psalm ministry and, in collaboration with Carole Deck, LCoB Performing Arts Dinner Theaters, their consistent attendance, involvement, and support for Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast hints at their genuine love and caring for members and friends of LCoB. From their heavy involvement with college and career young adults some years ago to their welcom-

ing of visitors and guests, their sensitivity for special needs in the congregation, and encouragement of leadership potential among others, it becomes obvious that this terrific couple has invested their entire lives in the life, causes, and hope of Jesus Christ.

Don and Lorraine Dotterer – give unselfishly to the life of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. They have served in the kitchen, on worship teams, and in countless other ways, always with quiet humility and genuine caring. Their dedication calls to mind the words of Psalm 84: *"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wicked."*

Joining the Junior Choir in the eighth grade, Don has been singing in the church choir ever since – over 60 years! He serves on Traditional Worship Team seeing to the many details behind the scenes. Lorraine served many years as kitchen coordinator and making sure supplies are on hand for the numerous events around the church. They served together in the youth group at LCoB, small group Bible studies, and have been faithful Servant Leaders in the church. Familiar words from them are - "we'll take care of that". They did. And they do.

So **Thank You, Carl - Thank You, Milly - Thank You Don - Thank You Lorraine** – for your example of humble servanthood! All of us are inspired by the path you have set for us.



LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN – DECEMBER, 2011 CALENDAR

Worship Services:

8:00 AM	Morning Worship	Chapel
9:00 AM	Sunday School hour	Various Locations
9:00 AM /10:15 AM	Morning Psalm Worship	Family Life Center
10:15 AM	Praise Kidz	Room 162-163
10:15 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 AM	Maranatha – Bilingual Worship	Upper Room

Thursday, December 01, 2011

5:30PM FLC Boy Scouts Pack 102

Friday, December 02, 2011

3:30PM Room 162-3 Girl Scouts - Troop

Saturday, December 03, 2011

8:00AM Room 162-3 Middle East Interest Group

12:30PM FLC Youth Volleyball

5:00PM FLC Potluck & Game Night

Sunday, December 04, 2011

3:00PM Sanctuary Lancaster Chamber Singers concert

Meeting Date: Monday, December 05, 2011

8:30AM Room 162-3 TOPS

2:00PM Room 170 LIPW Officers' Meeting

6:30PM Room 170 Kitchen Committee Meeting

7:00PM Room 162-3 Daisy Troop Parents Meeting

7:00PM Room 221 TOPS

Wednesday, December 07, 2011

7:00AM Room 162-3 Prayer Breakfast

5:00PM Room 162-3 Praise Kidz Room Decorating

5:15PM FLC WNL Meal (*No Adult Classes*)

6:30PM Choir Room Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:45PM Choir Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 08, 2011

6:00PM Room 170 Circle Meeting

Saturday, December 10, 2011

8:30AM FLC Christmas Family Breakfast

12:30PM FLC Volleyball

4:45PM Off Site Location Climbers caroling

Sunday, December 11, 2011

2:30PM FLC Gish/Shultz/Harnish Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 12, 2011

8:30AM Room 162-3 TOPS

7:00PM Room 221 TOPS

YOUTH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Dec. 3 - **Jr. High & Sr. High** Leaf raking @ church.
- Dec. 4 - **Sr. High** Mall Hunt & shopping
- Dec. 11 - Youth & Parent Meeting @ 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 18 - **Jr. High** Christmas Party
- Dec. 25 - **Christmas Day - No Sunday School**

NO Wednesday Night Live Youth Activities in December

- Jan. 15 - **Jr. High & Sr. High** serve Spaghetti Dinner.
- Feb. 5 - **Jr. High & Sr. High** Soup & Salad Souper Bowl.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST!

Come and Enjoy some great family time around the breakfast table! It's a crazy time of year so why not come in and have some breakfast and fellowship! Saturday, December 10, from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit and drinks will be provided.

There will be cookie decorating and a small craft for the kids! Please RSVP to April

Curran by December 3 at 293-0446 or aprilcurran254@comcast.net.



Tuesday, December 13, 2011

12:00 PM Outside Location Staff Christmas Lunch
 12:00PM Room 170 Greeting Card Committee
 6:30PM various locations Ministry Team Meetings

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

7:00AM Room 162-3 Prayer Breakfast
 5:00PM - Room 162-3 Praise Kidz Room Decorating
 5:15PM FLC WNL Meal (*Adult class @ 6:30*)
 6:30PM Choir Room Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
 7:45PM Choir Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 16, 2011

12:00PM Room 170 AARP Board Meeting
 1:00PM FLC AARP
 3:30PM Room 162-3 Girl Scouts - Troop #70451

Saturday, December 17, 2011

8:30AM Room 170 LIPW Board
 12:30PM FLC Volleyball
 5:00PM Room 162-3 Family Christmas Caroling & Dinner

Monday, December 19, 2011

8:30AM Room 162-3 TOPS
 7:00PM Room 221 TOPS

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

6:30PM Room 162-3 Church Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

7:00AM Room 162-3 Prayer Breakfast
 5:00PM Room 162-3 Praise Kidz Room Decorating
 5:15PM FLC WNL Meal (*No Adult Classes*)
 6:30PM Choir Room Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
 7:45PM Choir Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 24, 2011

5:00PM FLC Family Service
 7:00PM Sanctuary Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 25, 2011

9:15AM Gathering Place Meet & Greet
 10:15AM Sanctuary Combined Christmas Worship

Monday, December 26, 2011

8:30AM Room 162-3 TOPS
 12:00PM Room 162-3 Calvin and Shirley Wenger
 7:00PM Room 221 TOPS

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

7:00AM Room 162-3 Prayer Breakfast
 6:30PM Choir Room Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
 7:45PM Choir Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal

HOSPITALITY UPCOMING EVENTS

POTLUCK DINNER AND BUNCO on Saturday, December 3, at 5:00 p.m. in the

Family Life Center.

All are welcome to

join this fun and

easy game which

will be played right

after our dinner. If



childcare is needed, please notify George

Harmes in advance by calling 569-5277.

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Place

or in the Family Life Center. Friends are

welcome!

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. to see the

production of "**Miracle**

on 34th Street." Tickets

are limited, so please make

your reservations ASAP in

the Gathering Place. The

cost is \$35 per ticket which

includes dinner and the show.



Hershey Bears Hockey Game on Saturday, January 7, 2012, 7:00 p.m. The

Bears play Adirondack. Limited amount

of tickets are available, so

make your purchase ASAP

in the Gathering Place.

Cost is \$18 per ticket

which includes the game,

hot dog, popcorn and soda.



Christmas Day Worship

10:15 a.m.

CLIMBERS' CORNER

Caroling is our activity for this month. Saturday, December 10, we will meet in the parking lot of the LCoB at 4:45 p.m. We will then travel by bus to sing Christmas Carols and visit with those members and friends of the church who are home bound. Afterwards, refreshments will be served at Glenn and Pat Breidenshtein's home. Please bring peanut butter, jelly, and cereal for the LCCC Food Bank.



THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION

Many thanks for the prayers, phone calls, cards and encouragement during the long persistence of Lois's illness and the death of Allen's brother. Your caring touched our hearts anew.

Lois and Allen Hansell

We wish to thank this warm and caring congregation for their many prayers and cards sent our way during my back surgery and recovery. Don was in the hospital three times since August along with his rehabilitation time at Landis Homes. We wish to thank Pastor Rill, Pastor Lattimer and Reverend Wenger for their comforting visits and the prayer breakfast members for their prayers and encouragement during our ordeal.

Yours in Christ,
Don and Elizabeth Trostle

Many thanks for surprising us with the "Towel and Basin" Recognition. We have always been thankful to be a part of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. We both believe in prayer and our goal is to try to share God's love to all we touch. We are thankful for each person in our church and all who are trying hard to find ways to share God's love within the church and also to so many who need our love outside the church. May we all continue to follow God's leading in the future.

Carl and Milly Bomberger

LIBRARY LINES - DECEMBER 2011

Merry Christmas, everyone! And as is our usual gift to the congregation, we have placed the Christmas Books on the shelves and table in the Gathering Place - books for adults and books for children. Sometimes we get caught up in the secular side of this exciting Holiday - special events, holiday dinners, family gatherings - but let's not forget the "reason for the season". These Library books can be helpful!



We also want you to know that we have added many books given to the Library by Dick Shreckhise when he retired. These books are on a shelf to the left side of the clock and we hope you will check them out.

We welcome Debra Hall as a new member of the Library Committee - Debra, along with Romaine Lefever, LaRue Helm, John and Theresa Herr, wish you a blessed Christmas season - and a New Year filled with Reading Good Books!

LANCASTER CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT

WONDROUS MYSTERY DEC 4

LCoB is pleased to host the **Lancaster Chamber Singers** and conductor Jay W. Risser for a concert on **Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 p.m.** Celebrate the beauty of the Christmas season as classical guitarist Anthony Derrico joins the Singers to present *Wondrous Mystery*, a program of Christmas choral music. Selections include Biebl's stunning *Ave Maria*, *The Three Kings* by Healey Willan, Pachelbel's *Magnificat*, and Malcolm Sargent's *Silent Night*, one



of the most beautiful arrangements of this beloved carol, as well as carols with audience and choir. Tickets are available at the door and are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students (including adult students with an ID), with children 12 and under attending free. For further information, please call 717-330-9025.

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 15th of every month.
2. ***Electronically submitted is best!***
3. Email to the church office at lancob@comcast.net.
4. Please do not extensively format emailed submissions. Simple paragraph form is best. An attached file should be in a *Word* document.
5. Mail any submissions to the church office, attention Tiffany Dickel, or place them in the "Newsletter" folder in the church office.

71 STOCKINGS STUFFED

Women's Fellowship has filled 71, much appreciated, Christmas stockings for the handicapped people residing at the PAI group home. If you would like to sponsor one of these stockings, the cost is \$5.00. See Grace Glasmire, Jeanne Heck or Marilyn Hummel in the Gathering Place following worship. Your support is appreciated.



What is ANE Today?

ANE Today is published bi-monthly by the Atlantic Northeast District. The newsletter is mailed to all elected or appointed district personnel and to the officers of each congregation.

The newsletter is a great way to learn what's happening here in the Atlantic Northeast District and beyond.

Are you interested in learning more about such things as: our response to disaster, news from ANE congregations, volunteer opportunities, youth events, district conference and much more?

For a donation of \$12 per year (to cover printing and postage) you can subscribe to *ANE Today*. Please make checks payable to Atlantic Northeast District. Clip and mail the form below by December 15.



ANE Today Subscription

Name _____
 Address _____
 Congregation _____
 Phone _____

Mail to: Atlantic Northeast District
 500 East Cedar Street
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022

PRAYSE KIDZ TACKLE A BIG GOAL

Our Praise Kidz, ages 4 – 4th grade, have decided to help feed the hungry in our area by purchasing a **ton of food** (2000 pounds) between now and Christmas. The Lancaster County Council of Churches is able to purchase food at **18 cents per pound**. Wow! Will the kids be able to raise **\$360** in six weeks? Well, don't underestimate the power of children! They will tackle the goal with enthusiasm! If the adults want to help, your gifts will be appreciated. Checks should be payable to the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, ear-marked Praise Kidz. Cash should be identified in a similar manner.



--Lisa Miley & Jodi Yingling, Coordinators

MANY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

We will have opportunities during this Thanksgiving/Christmas season to support many worthy causes, both within the church family and outside the church, and we will have to make some choices. No one is expected to give to every cause. Please give, as you are able, to those things that **touch your hearts**. I don't need to remind you that the needs around us are great, and your generous hearts will help to make a difference in the lives of many who live on very little; indeed, many are homeless, hungry, ill, and filled with despair. Thanks for your love of neighbor - the ones who live around the block and around the world.

--Allen Hansell, Moderator

NEW TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

Church Phone Numbers
 397-4751, 397-4752

Tiffany Dickel	101
Jeff Rill	103
Cindy Lattimer	104
Linda Byers	105
Jamie Nace	106
Workroom	107
Library	108
Emery DeWitt	109
Kitchen	110
Senior High	112

After office hours: When calling the church after hours, you may enter the extension number of the person with whom you wish to speak as soon as the recorded message begins.

To bypass the answering service completely, you may dial our additional phone number: 397-6225.

Prayer Line 397-1888
Lancaster Brethren Preschool - 397-6227

LIFE & TREASURE

"I feel like God wants me to be alone for a while." "I'm waiting for God to open a door to the right job." "If I choose this path, will I be going against God's will for my life?"



We've all made statements like these before. Whether it's dating and marriage, the quest for the perfect job, what college to go to or where to buy a house, many

Christians get hung up on the question of God's will. *What is God's will for my life and how can I know what it is?* While it's good to be concerned about living a life that glorifies God, sometimes we spend too much time navel-gazing when we really ought to just do *something!*

Too many of us have passed off our instability, inconsistency, and endless self-exploration as 'looking for God's will,' as if not making up our minds and meandering through life were marks of spiritual sensitivity... We're tinkering around with everyone and everything. Instead, when it comes to our future, we should take some responsibility, make a decision, and just do something.¹

God does have a specific plan for our lives, *but* it is not one that He expects us to figure out before we make a decision... [W]e should stop thinking of God's will like a corn maze or a tight-rope, or a bull's eye, or a choose-your-own adventure novel.¹

We are encouraged to remember that God has already revealed His will for our lives in Scripture: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thes. 4:3). The sum total of what we need to know about God's will for our lives is that we are to grow in the image and likeness of Christ. To live holy, set-apart lives, being obedient to the Scriptures and thankful to God in all circumstances.

Seems so uncomplicated, doesn't it?

That, in a nutshell, is the point of Kevin DeYoung's book, *Just Do Something: How to Make a Decision Without Dreams, Visions, Fleeces, Open Doors, Random Bible Verses, Casting Lots, Liver Shivers, Writing in the Sky, etc.*

If you worry endlessly about the question of God's will, read this book—then, stop worrying, make a decision and just do something. . . . SMT

WHAT I WANT MY CHURCH TO BE

¹⁰ For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. ¹¹ Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations though they had named lands after themselves. (Psalm 49 NIV).

The rich and poor have one similarity – when they die, they leave all they own here on earth. At the moment of death (and all of us will face that moment) both rich and poor are naked and empty-handed before God. The only riches we have at that time are those we have already invested in our eternal heritage. At the time of death, each of us will wish we had invested less on earth where we must leave it, and more in heaven, where we will retain it forever. To have treasure in heaven, we must place our faith in God, pledge ourselves to obey Him, and utilize our resources for the good of His kingdom. This is a good time to check up on our investments and see where we have invested the most. Then we can do whatever it takes to place our investments where they really count.¹

Often, we are tempted to think that it's older believers who need to be re-focusing their investments of time, talent, and finances. But then we read a verse like 1 Timothy 4:12 *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.* Regardless of our age, God can use each of us. Whether we are young or old, we must not think of our age as a handicap. We must live and serve so others can see Christ in us.¹

If you have not yet returned your pledge card for the 2012 Plan of Ministry, won't you please consider doing so soon? If you are undecided, pray about it, ask God what He desires for you. Your pledge can be changed at any time by notifying the Church Administrator. If you misplaced your card, they are available at the Gathering Place, at the Heritage Center, or at the church office. It takes all of us at LCoB – our talents, our time, and our treasure, to live out meaningful ministry to our God – to whom we will forever be grateful.

¹ notes from Life Application Bible . . . Pledge campaign for 2012 Plan of Ministry. . . SMT

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

December 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 December they will be continuing their study of the book of *Romans*.

The Thoughtful Life Class, meeting in Rooms 162-163, features stimulating resource persons who lead discussions in a variety of topics. Topics in December include –

December 4 – *Reflections on Serving as a Pastor*, by **Judith Gibble**

December 11 – *The Meaning of Anointing*, by **Guy Wampler**

December 18 – *Reflections from a Retired Pastor*, by **Dale Hylton**

December 25 – *Meet & Greet* at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Place.

The One Another Class, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office. In December they will be continuing their study of the book of **Mark**, using a video-based curriculum developed by Yale Theological Seminary professors. Contact Linda Husted at clhusted@aol.com if you have any questions.

The Nesters Bible Study Group meets in Room 170. Plans for December are uncertain at the time this newsletter went to press. Contact Todd Bookman at bookert@gmail.com if you have questions.

Meet & Greet - All are invited December 25 at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Place to enjoy special treats and see your friends before the 10:15 a.m. worship service.





Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1226
Lancaster, PA 17604

LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

1601 Sunset Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601-4329
(717)-397-4751 lancob@comcast.net
www.lancob.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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)

**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.

www.lancob.org
lancob@comcast.net
717.397.4751

The deadline for every issue
is the 15th of each month.

**Brethren Highlights
2011**

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor

Cindy E. L. Lattimer
Associate Pastor

J. Calvin Wenger
Pastor of Caregiving

Emery A. DeWitt
Director of Music
Margaret Marsch
Jeanne Heck
Organists

Jamie Nace
Director of Children's Music
Interim Coord. of Children's Ministry

Linda Byers
Interim Coord. of Youth Ministries

Carole Deck
Director of Performing Arts

Tiffany L. Dickel
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor