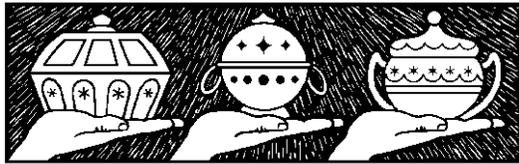


Brethren Highlights

For members and friends of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren

January, 2012



epiphany

26TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER BREAKFAST SATURDAY – JANUARY 14, 2012

While a pre-dawn arrival at the Church on a Wednesday morning for the weekly Prayer Breakfast may not be possible for many, EVERYONE is welcome to attend the 26th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast on SATURDAY, January 14. Breakfast will be available starting at 8:00 AM. The Program will begin at 8:30AM in the Family Life Center.

For 26 years members of the Church and visitors from the community have been faithfully gathering for lessons and prayers each Wednesday morning. During this time, thousands of prayer cards have been mailed or delivered to people in need of encouragement, healing or good health. This is the ministry of our Prayer Breakfast.

The anniversary prayer breakfast is an occasion each year when many choose to attend and celebrate the Love of God in their lives. The keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Peter Teague, President of Lancaster Bible College. In addition the program will include song, inspirational readings and, of course, an opportunity for Prayers.

It is so helpful for planning purposes when we know the approximate number of people attending. Please sign up in the Church Office at anytime or in the Gathering Area on Sundays until January 8. However, if at the last minute you find it possible to attend...don't worry about reservation, just come on out and Praise the Lord!

If questions – call Dave Hosler (575-5382) or email to dave@hoslerfamily.net

STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT

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!

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 a.m. Kathy and Gene Mummau
 8:40 a.m. Sue and John Groff
 8:40 a.m. Penny and Joel Kettering
 9:50 a.m. Carlene and Scott Hufford
 9:50 a.m. Barb and Russ Marrow
 11:15 a.m. Bob and Judi Hess



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 Jerry Brown
 John Graham

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

*Jay Wenger Donald Brenner Scott Brubaker
 Joan Miley Marvin Harnish Paul Herr
 Carol Kramer Dick Kramer

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



Wilma Garland

ACOLYTES

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



VAN INFORMATION

Bill Evans



ATTENDANCE

November 20 - 355
 November 27 - 315
 December 4 - 382
 December 11 - 396
 December 18 - 391

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Ray Leckrone, and *Darle Good
 54 Third St, Akron PA 17501
 859-3288

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Charles Denlinger
Del Akech Del
Phillip Deng
James Kongor
Chol Mading Deng
Deng Kudior Bol
Jacob Kongor | 11 Joy Montgomery
Marie Benner | 26 Craig Husted |
| 2 Donald Dotterer | 12 Grant Husted | 27 Kathy Brinkman |
| 4 Madeleine Miller
Carly Deihm | 14 Mike Snyder | 28 Norma Hollinger
Joel Kettering
David Braksator |
| 5 Mary Snyder | 15 Terry Shearer
William Brinkman | 30 Gloria Denlinger
Glenn Shultz |
| 6 James Fahnestock
Paul Herr
Theresa Herr
Shawn Smith | 16 Carl Gish
Barry Wilson | |
| 7 Brad Snyder | 17 Ryan Brubaker
Luke Brandt | |
| 10 Alaina Bridgeman
Shirley Gish
Brian Shotzberger | 22 Stanford Cox
J. Ervin Martin
Jessica Dunbar | |
| | 23 Wanda Fox
Sarah Shearer
Ron Yunginger | |
| | 24 Eric Snyder
Donna Bowman | |
| | 25 Melissa Heck | |



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Emery Dewitt
Director of Music

In *The Screwtape Letters*, the great Christian apologist C. S. Lewis imagined a series of letters between Screwtape, a senior devil, and the junior devil Wormwood. In one letter, Screwtape is teaching Wormwood how to tempt weak humans using the Church itself, and he makes this remarkable statement: “Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean the

Church as we see her spread out through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That I confess is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy.”

That vision of the church spread across the ages is one of the reasons I love to have the choir sing ancient texts. It roots us and reminds us of the faithful who have preceded us – often by many centuries. It lifts our focus from the temporal to the eternal.

One of my favorite of such texts is the second movement of the Mass: the *Gloria*. It dates to around 500 AD, and has been set to music by thousands of composers across the years. Even if you don't know a bit of Latin, you have seen the opening of this text many times on artworks and cards, especially during the Christmas season. It begins, *Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*. The English transla-

tion is just as familiar: *Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace to men of good will*. This, of course, echoes the song the angels sang and the shepherds heard as reported in Luke chapter 2.

After that strong opening, the *Gloria* becomes a hymn of praise. Just consider the verbs that are attributed to us: “We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you. We give thanks to you...” It concludes with a lengthy list of the names and attributes of God and Jesus. You could call this a textbook in the work of worship!

Following that is a supplication for mercy and for God's ear to hear our prayers. In a formula that was ancient even in 500 AD, it is set as a three-part invocation. The *Gloria* concludes with another Trinitarian statement praising the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If all this talk of the *Gloria* has whetted your appetite to hear one, you're in luck! Our 2012 Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert on Sunday, January 8, will feature a brand-new (copyright 2011) setting of the *Gloria* text by composer K. Lee Scott. It is a thrilling, dynamic work for choir, soloists, organ, brass quintet and timpani. We are so fortunate to have QuintEssentially Brass joining us for this performance! Be sure to make plans to attend and participate in worship through this ancient text.

-Emery Dewitt

JOIN US FOR A MEAL WITH JESUS

“Love feast portrays the inseparable relationship of the two greatest commandments. The feast combines commands to experience a loving response to God's love and to love one another.” (Dale Brown, *Another Way of Living*)

On January 29 at 6pm, we will gather as the body of Christ to share in food, fellowship, confession, and service to one another. The worship time is intended to build us up together. The service is open to everyone, but we hope those of you who have never experienced the drama and depth of a Love Feast will join us. There will be singing, feetwashing, a potluck meal, and communion.

As is our tradition at Lancaster COB, we will use the time of communion as a time to remember those without daily bread, so please bring your donation of non-perishable food items for the Lancaster County

Council of Churches. These food donations will be the beginning of a “Super” week at the church, as we add the food collected at the Meal with Jesus to the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser, being spear-headed by the youth, the following week in celebration of the Super Bowl.

Join us, January 29 at 6pm, as we experience God's love while loving one another!



A Meal with Jesus!

GREETINGS FROM THE MARANATHA MULTICULTURAL FELLOWSHIP.

There are many reasons for which to be thankful to God during this season's celebrations. Our Lord continues to do many things through the work of Maranatha. MMF continues to endeavor towards reaching others for Christ. During the month of December, 2011, Brother Luis Bosch became a licensed minister. Venecia Cuevas, and Javier Sable were accepted as MMF's members by testimony and relocation. In addition, Eric Ramirez and Leonor Ochoa have committed to baptism classes to be baptized in January, 2012. The youth and children are taking a more active role in sharing and participating within the larger church services. Maranatha as a whole is also working towards implementing new and refined skills and strategies in reaching out towards a new population using technology, available resources, and support offered through the Church Development Commission, as well as having a part time Pastor for 2012. Brother Alix Sable has been called into this position.

CLIMBERS' CORNER

A slide presentation by Don Dotterer on the HVAC and Geothermal installation time line will be shown in room 162-163 on Saturday, January 14th at 7pm. Please bring canned fruit/tuna.



Thank you,
Darlene Creighton

JANUARY PMT ENERGY TIP

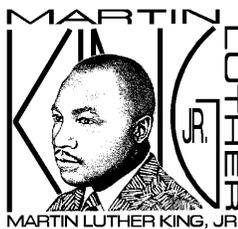
Did you know about 10% of your energy bill is spent on lighting your home? There's an easy way to reduce that; switching to COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS. Start by deciding which lights you use most often and change those first. Any light you use more than two hours per day is a good candidate for a CFL.



26TH ANNUAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR BREAKFAST

Monday – January 16 (7:00am to 9:00 am) 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast - at Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. Keynote Speaker – Patricia Russell McCloud. We have reserved a table of ten. This is a fundraiser for Crispus Attucks Community Center, thus a donation of \$60 per person is requested. Contact Dave Hosler for reservations – dave@hoslerfamily.net or 575-5382



EMERGENCY CLEAN-UP BUCKETS

Emergency Clean-up Buckets enable people to begin the overwhelming task of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

The Church World Services and the Brethren Disaster Ministries needs your help to assemble and donate Emergency Clean-up Buckets to replenish the supply normally kept on hand at New Windson Service Center. The floods in the East and Northeast parts of United States this spring and summer have depleted the supply.

If any individuals or groups within our congregation are interested in this service project please contact Dave Creighton for information and details on how to get started.



Dave Creighton
Outreach Ministry Team

VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR

The Parish Resource Center presents – VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR on Saturday, March 10 – 7:30 PM at Hempfield Performing Arts Center, Landisville, PA. Tickets are from \$28 to \$42 (assigned seating). To purchase tickets visit www.parishresourcecenter.com or call 717-299-9932.



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

PORK & SAUERKRAUT NEW YEAR'S DAY



January 1 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hospitality Ministry Team will server their annual New Year's Day dinner. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 & under. Takeout is available at 11:30 a.m. The dinner is all you can eat: pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, rolls, drink and dessert. (Hot Dogs are also available.) --HMT

YOUTH EVENTS AND NEWS

The start of a new year is a good time to say a word about all the youth have been doing and what is going to be keeping our youth active in the months to come.

If you haven't seen a copy of "Youth News", be sure to check out the youth bulletin board in the hallway between the Family Life Center and the sanctuary. This fall we've gone to the Disaster Relief Auction, Jr High Retreat, held a movie night to watch "Soul Surfer", visited Ephrata Cloister, shopped for Angel Tree gifts, went on a scavenger hunt at Park City, visited Calvary Home, competed with the Presbyterians in "Challenge Games", raked (and bagged) leaves for a church neighbor, held the Jr High Christmas party and served plenty of Soup and Salad each month.

2012 holds lots for the youth to do - District retreats and lock-in's, ski weekend, spaghetti and salad and more soup too. One activity we are gearing up for in January is "**Soup Bowl of Caring**" -

that is not a typo. Souper Bowl is held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5. Youth will be collecting food and cash donations after Church Services on February 5. In addition to holding our regular fundraising for Work Camp Support at Soup and Salad that day - there will be a Bowl Auction during the meal to raise funds for the Souper Bowl. The bowls will be designed and painted by our youth and we hope to have them on display before the auction. Our donations will go toward Lancaster County Counsel of Churches Food Bank and be added with those collected during the Meal with Jesus the Sunday before. (Jan. 29)

So plan now to be with us and ready to donate on Sunday, February 5, for the "Souper Bowl of Caring", Soup and Salad and the Soup Bowl Auction. Hope to see you there.



LIBRARY LINES

A recent book placed on the shelf in the Gathering Place is The Future of Faith by Harvey Cox. The rise and fall of belief and the coming age of the spirit is the theme of this Harvard religious scholar's book. There is an essential change taking place in what it means to be "religious" today, so says Harvey Cox. Religious people are now more interested in ethical guidelines and spiritual discipline than in doctrine. All the signs suggest we are poised to enter a new age of the Spirit and that the future will be a future of faith.

Another recent addition to our Library is the very engaging and meaningful book entitled, Eternal Life:



A New Vision – Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell by John Shelby Spong.

He says "it was the fourth Gospel that describes the purpose for which Jesus lived to be that of giving us life and giving it abundantly." It is the fully human Jesus who makes the holy visible, the fully conscious are who enables us to see that the human and the divine are one, and the fully alive one who enables us to see that death is ultimately a dimension of life through which we journey into timelessness.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE BEGINS

Happy New Year from Wednesday Night Live. We will begin on January 25, 2012. Dinner will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will end at 6:00 p.m. Helpers are needed for tearing down the tables and putting food away in the kitchen. Please serve others by pitching in as needed. A special thank you goes out to all those who have helped in the past and the fellowship groups that donate desserts. Yum Yum!!

Chuck Denlinger will lead a class starting January 25 titled HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US. It will be a historical survey from the time of Jesus until now. The class will run approximately 7 weeks.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Any questions, please call Deb Chillas.

LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN VISION STATEMENT

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

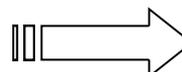
LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN – JANUARY, 2012 CALENDAR

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

Sunday, January 01, 2012

8:00AM	Chapel	Chapel Service
9:00AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
10:15AM	Sanctuary	Traditional Worship
10:15AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
11:30AM	FLC	Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner



Monday, January 02, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 03, 2012

5:00PM	FLC	Girl Scout Cookie Rally
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Wednesday, January 04, 2012

7:00AM	Room 162-3	Prayer Breakfast
5:00PM	Room 162-3	Praise Kidz Room Decorating
6:30PM	Choir Room	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:45PM	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 06, 2012

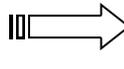
3:30PM	Room 162-3	Girl Scouts - Troop #70451
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Saturday, January 07, 2012

8:00AM	Room 162-3	Middle East Interest Group
9:00AM	Choir Room	Starlight Tea Dress Rehearsal
9:00AM	Sanctuary	Starlight Tea Dress Rehearsal
12:00PM	FLC	Volleyball
5:00PM	FLC	Hospitality Game Night

Sunday, January 08, 2012

8:00AM	Chapel	Chapel Service
9:00AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
10:15AM	Sanctuary	Traditional Worship
10:15AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
7:00PM	Sanctuary	Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert



Monday, January 09, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

1:00PM	G. Place	Greeting Card Committee
6:30PM	various locations	Ministry Team Meetings

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

7:00AM	Room 162-3	Prayer Breakfast
5:00PM	Room 162-3	Praise Kidz Room Decorating
6:30PM	Choir Room	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
	No Rehearsal	Chancel Choir

Friday, January 13, 2012

4:30PM	Room 162-3	Daisy Troop
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Saturday, January 14, 2012

6:30AM	Kitchen	Prayer Breakfast
8:00AM	FLC	Prayer Breakfast 26 th Celebration
12:00PM	FLC	Volleyball
2:00PM	Room 162-3	Homebuilders Class
7:00PM	Room 162-3	Climbers - HVAC Movie

Sunday, January 15, 2012

8:00AM	Chapel	Chapel Service
9:00AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
10:15AM	Sanctuary	Traditional Worship
10:15AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
11:30AM	FLC	Spaghetti luncheon

Monday, January 16, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

6:30PM	Room 162-3	Church Board Meeting
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Wednesday, January 18, 2012

7:00AM	Room 162-3	Prayer Breakfast
5:00PM	Room 162-3	Praise Kidz Room Decorating
6:30PM	Choir Room	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:45PM	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 20, 2012

3:30PM	Room 162-3	Girl Scouts - Troop #70451
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Sunday, January 22, 2012

8:00AM	Chapel	Chapel Service
9:00AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
10:15AM	Sanctuary	Traditional Worship
10:15AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship

Monday, January 23, 2012

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

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

7:00AM	Room 162-3	Prayer Breakfast
5:00PM	Room 162-3	Praise Kidz Room Decorating
6:30PM	Choir Room	Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:45PM	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 27, 2012

4:30PM	Room 162-3	Daisy Troop
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Saturday, January 28, 2012

12:00PM	FLC	Volleyball
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Sunday, January 29, 2012

8:00AM	Chapel	Chapel Service
9:00AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
10:15AM	Sanctuary	Traditional Worship
10:15AM	FLC	Morning Psalm Worship
6:00PM	FLC	Meal with Jesus

Monday, January 30, 2012

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

8:30AM	Room 162-3	Prevention Health Screenings
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HUNGER AND POVERTY SCHEDULE

Some folks like to have the Hunger and Poverty Group's schedule for the whole year, and we are glad to provide it.

- **Jan. 15**—first "2 Cents a Meal" offering for 2012. Remember, 1/3 of this offering goes to the Lancaster County Council of Churches (LCCC), and 2/3 goes to the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund.
- **Jan. 29**—Meal with Jesus. **Please read the article by Cindy Lattimer and Linda Byers for the special food collection opportunity.**
- **Feb. 26**—First Sunday in Lent, Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- **April 5**—Maundy Thursday, Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- **April 29**—"2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- **May 27**—Pentecost Sunday, Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- **June 17 – Aug. 19**—"Be An Angel" project to purchase uniforms and supplies for over 1000 homeless students in the School District of Lancaster (city of Lancaster).
- **Sept. 9**—"2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- **Oct. 7**—World Communion Sunday, Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- **Nov. 18**—Thanksgiving Sunday, "2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- **Dec. 2**—First Sunday in Advent, Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.

-Hunger and Poverty Group



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat more fruit, but surely I can't be expected to go through with it after that!"



What you value most is your treasure.

Where you spend your time and your money is your treasure.

Whatever dominates your conversation is what you treasure.

What others know you for is a good indication of what your treasure is.

Most Christians are quick to claim that God is their first priority. Yet often their actions reveal that their treasure is not God, but the things of this world. Some Christians find it difficult to discuss their relationship with God, but they can chatter easily about their family, friends, or hobbies. Some find it impossible to rise early to spend time with God, but they willingly get up at dawn to pursue a hobby. Some find it difficult to give an offering to God, but readily spend lavishly on recreation. Some boldly approach strangers to sell a product, yet they are painfully timid in telling others about their Savior. Some give hundreds of hours to serve in volunteer organizations, but they feel they have no time available to serve God.

If you are unsure of where your treasure is, examine where you spend your available time and money. Reflect on what it is you most enjoy thinking about and discussing. Ask your friends to tell you what they think is most important to you. Ask your family to list the things most valuable to you. It may surprise you to know what others consider your treasure. www.alifeinchrist.com/storing_up_treasure.html.

—SMT

FOUR TONS OF FOOD

Our Praise Kidz are “on a roll!” They and their supporters hoped to raise enough funds to purchase **one** ton of food through the Lancaster County Council of Churches by Dec. 25. They will likely have enough money to purchase **over four** tons of food! Have you ever seen four tons of food? Look at this list below and praise God for this wonderful effort?

600 boxes of instant oatmeal
 960 cans of corn
 960 boxes of instant potatoes
 800 jars of peanut butter
 880 cans of tuna fish
 800 jars of strawberry jam



AMAZING OUTREACH

Thanks to many generous and caring people, and the leadership of the *Outreach Ministry Team* (OMT) and the *Hunger and Poverty Group*, our congregation achieved an amazing feat in 2011. We made significant contributions to help end hunger and homelessness through non-budgeted giving.

In February members of OMT challenged the congregation with their giving to build **one** house in earthquake-damaged Haiti. Through the generous response within 4 weeks, we were able to send \$32,600; enough for **five** houses plus \$100 for Brethren Disaster Ministries.

Several years ago we encouraged the congregation to contribute 2¢ a Meal four times a year. In 2011 we were able to collect \$6,210. One-third went to the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank, two-thirds to the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund.

Last July and August, Hunger & Poverty (for the third year) made the congregation aware of the plight of the more than 1000 homeless students in Lancaster City. We gave **\$10,195** to purchase **475** school uniforms and countless school supplies for this urgent need. (Note: Another \$1,110 came in on December 11, 2011.)

Our efforts continued into the Christmas Season. Our Praise Kidz, ages 4 – grade 4, took on the goal of raising funds to purchase **one ton of food** for the Lancaster County Council of Churches, and they will likely purchase **over 4 tons!** (See the article “Four Tons of Food.”)

We usually end the year with the “Angel Tree.” We receive names of children from the Lancaster County Council of Churches with their needs for clothing and wishes for a toy. Members buy these items and wrap them with the child’s name. We deliver these items for distribution before Christmas.

Despite the economic downturn, the Lancaster COB has been fulfilling one of its mission goals of Extravagant Generosity. (This article was adapted from a larger article submitted to Messenger in December by Otto Schandel, Chair of the Outreach Ministry Team.)

960 jars of apple sauce
 1000 boxes of macaroni & cheese
 680 boxes of stuffing
 600 pounds of meatballs
 80 turkeys
 --from the Hunger and Poverty Group

NIGERIAN BRETHREN VISIT

It was a great joy to have eight members of EYN (*Ekklesiyar Yan'uvwa a Nigeria*) or Church of the Brethren in Nigeria visit churches in the Atlantic Northeast and Southern PA Districts in the Fall of 2011. These Nigerian Brethren who are part of Brethren Evangelism Support Trust or BEST came to our area primarily to participate in the Disaster Relief Auction at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. They wanted to observe how the auction is run to gather ideas for starting such an event in Nigeria. While they were in the States, they were hosted by families, participated in worship services in ten different churches sharing information and insights about the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. During their 18-day visit, they led a forum on Nigerian Church issues and participated in seminars and Love-feast celebrations. They attended a Rotary luncheon, toured Brightside Opportunity Center and even joined middle school students in singing songs accompanied by African drums. In addition, the Nigerian guests traveled to Washington, D.C., volunteered at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor and spent a day at the Brooklyn Church in New York City.

Lancaster COB was the sponsoring church for the visit. A committee consisting of Monroe Good, Fern and Gene Bucher, Allen Hansell and Suzanne Schaudel organized and coordinated the activities.

Some statistics about EYN that might astound you.

- Number of Church Districts – 52
- Number of congregations – 423
- Additional preaching points – 530
- Active membership – 169,932
- Average total number in worship in EYN churches – 460,000
- Ordained ministers in active service – 516
- Retired ministers – 98
- One College – Kulp Bible College started by Church of the Brethren Missionaries in 1923
- Five Bible Schools that offer certificates in Pastoral Studies and Christian Ministry
- EYN Comprehensive Secondary School and a Mason Technical School.

Nate and Jenn Hosler from the U.S. have spent the past two years at Kulp Bible College, building the Peace Programme to assist others in learning the skills, gaining the knowledge and finding the resources needed for constructive conflict resolution, promoting peace building initiatives and collaborating within the larger society of Northern Nigeria in which Islam often dominates. Our Nigerian sisters and brothers ask for our ongoing prayers as they continue to face religious violence.

IT IS WINTER

It is winter!
The world is enveloped in darkness;
The Roman Empire rules the universe.
Pacification is with an iron hand and the people cry,
“Where is our salvation?”

It is winter!
A carpenter and his bride travel in darkness;
They are tired and fear the unknown.
Their firstborn is about to arrive and they wonder,
“Where will this child be born?”

It is winter!
The sheep are restless in the darkness;
A wolf howls and the shepherds tremble in fear.
This flock now belongs to others, and they mutter,
“Where is our hope?”

It is winter!
A bright light cleaves the darkness;
The heavens declare the birth of a child.
Frightened, the shepherds raise the cry,
“Where can we find this child?”

It is winter!
Gethsemane lies in total darkness;
A lone figure kneels and prays.
With the enemy at the gate, he cries bitterly,
“Will You take this cup from me?”

It is winter!
Golgotha succumbs to bitter darkness;
The preacher from Nazareth is nailed to a tree.
The earth trembles and he cries out,
“Where is my God?”

It is winter!
Warm sunlight penetrates the darkness;
A new day has dawned and life is renewed.
The Prince of Peace comes forth and ponders,
“Will they follow my way?”

It is winter!
Again, the world is enveloped in darkness;
New empires follow old empires.
But the iron hand now yields to hope,
For his peace has become our salvation.

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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.

THANK YOU...

Many thanks to everyone who donated homemade cookies for the Brethren Village Bazaar on Friday, December 2nd. Also, thank you to the people who purchased cookies and to Grace Cox & Jeanne Heck who helped at the cookie sale.

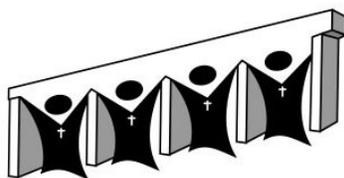
Marilyn Hummel
BV Key person from LCoB

Thank you to everybody who either provided the entertainment, donated food, table centerpieces, paper products, party favors, money or helped at the December birthday/anniversary party at Brethren Village. What a wonderful afternoon for the residents who celebrated a birthday or anniversary during the month of December.

Marilyn Hummel
BV Key Person from LCoB

Our church was asked to help take down Christmas decorations at BV on Monday, January 2nd. Jeanne Heck, Judi Hess and Marilyn Wagner volunteered to help with this project. Thanks to these three persons for saying yes.

Marilyn Hummel BV Key Person from LCoB



BRIDGE

working together as one body

Chapel • Morning Psalm • Sanctuary • Maranatha

CONTINUED THANK YOU...

I, Joyce Hursh, along with Don, want to express our deepest appreciation to all of you who remembered me in many thoughtful and prayerful ways during my recent illness, spent in two hospitals and nursing care. It has meant more to me and my healing than any of us can now know. Thank you so much!

Joyce Hursh

Doug and I would like to send a sincere "from the heart" thank you for all your thoughts, cards, prayers and concerns during the difficult time of Doug's brothers' death. Being new members of the church it was heartwarming to know that everyone truly cares for each other at our house of worship. God's love is present and it shows in each and every one of you! We feel thankful to have found LCOB.

Blessings to you all,
Doug and Diana Wiker

Thank You from the Sebest Family

To the family that is the Lancaster Church of the Brethren,

I am truly blessed. I am truly humbled. And I am truly amazed. God takes such care of us. In the midst of what seemed like the worst, He sent his very best. He sent his angels not only to pick us up and carry us thru, but to lift us up and change our perspective. Life is an amazing adventure. The family that is LCOB is an extraordinary group of people. We can't thank you enough for all you have done for us. The spaghetti dinner fundraiser was simply beyond anything I imagined. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. To whoever idea it was, to the people who planned it, to the people who executed it, to the people who donated food and time, to the people who attended it, to the people who cleaned up after – thank you more than you will ever know. I am amazed by your generosity, your spirit, your devotion. What you have done for us is such a gift. Because you see, it is not only the financial help with the wheelchair and the medical expenses, which is amazing and wonderful, but the way in which I now see life. I know with an amazing clarity that everything is going to be okay. I know that God has got me. I know I can live my life without fear. No matter what. He sent his angels. His very best. Thank you all for being our angels!

With heartfelt love and appreciation,
The Sebest Family: Jim, Andi, Addison and Olivia

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 2012

*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 January 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 January include –

January 1 – *Reflections on Serving as a Pastor*, by **Clem Rosenberger**

January 8 – *Seagoing Cowboys and the Start of Heifer Project*, by **Floyd Bantz**.

January 15 – *Report on work at New Windsor – Hygiene Kits and SERRV*, by **Russ Adsitt** and **Carlos Schaudel**.

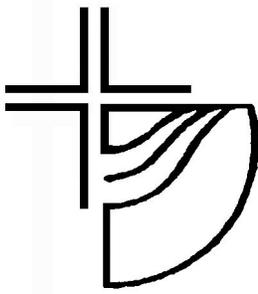
January 22 – Review of Rick Warren's book, *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions*, led by **Christine Turkki**.

January 29 – Continuation of discussion of *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions*, led by **Christine Turkki**. (Also continued on February 5, 12, 19, & 26)

The One Another Class, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office. In January they will begin a new topic. Contact Linda Husted at lhusted@aol.com if you have any questions.

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





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<p>LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN</p> <p>VISION STATEMENT To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.</p> <p>MISSION STATEMENT To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.</p> <p>GOALS Radical Hospitality Passionate Worship Intentional Faith Development Risk-Taking Mission and Service Extravagant Generosity</p> <p><small>(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)</small></p>	<p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>www.lancob.org lancob@comcast.net 717.397.4751</p> <p>The deadline for every issue is the 15th of each month.</p>	<p>Brethren Highlights 2011</p> <p>Jeffrey B. Rill Senior Pastor Cindy E. L. Lattimer Associate Pastor J. Calvin Wenger Pastor of Caregiving</p> <p>Emery A. DeWitt Director of Music Margaret Marsch Jeanne Heck Organists</p> <p>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</p>
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