

Brethren Highlights

For members and friends of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren

December, 2009



PRESENTS HAPPY ENDINGS AT CHRISTMAS

You won't want to miss the last performance of the L.C.O.B. Performing Arts under the leadership of Carole Deck! Read all about it on page 5.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY BREAKFAST!

Saturday, December 12, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center

Come and enjoy some family time
around the breakfast table!

Many stations where Mom and Dad
and the kids
can have fun!

Cookie decorating, singing and crafts!

Sign-up sheet located on the Children's Ministries bulletin board. For more information please contact April Curran at 293-0446.

WHITE GIFT OFFERING

December 20, 2009 is White Gift Offering Sunday. We will be collecting non-perishable food items wrapped in white tissue paper at all services. They will go to the Lancaster Council of Churches Food Bank. Of course, monetary contributions will also be accepted.

STARLIGHT TEA CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00 PM

One of the most beloved traditions of our congregation is our annual Starlight Tea Christmas Concert. Read all about this year's concert on page 5.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

What's in a name? Come to the FLC at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and find out why our Savior has so many names. Special music will be provided by The Music Makers and The Mallets and More Ensemble. Some special guests from Praise Kidz will be there, too! Plan to be there to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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 and congregational carols. Also traditional in this style of service is to have a baby from the congregation, born in the past year, represent the Christ Child. This year, that child will be Mackenzie Metzger, who with her parents Jon and Heather will appear in a manger scene as the choir sings an anthem.

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. 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 7:00 p.m., but please plan to come early! At 6:30 p.m., we will also continue our annual tradition of 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!

In October 2007, LCOB adopted a new Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Five Goals and Twelve Core Values. This month's featured Core Value is printed throughout the newsletter.

SERVING THIS MONTH

GREETERS

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

USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 A.M.

Jerry Brown Jere Tankesley

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

*Ben Greenawalt Bev Angle Clyde Angle
 Stan Cox Bill Evans Barry Nyman
 Lisa Werner Jack Wilson

CHURCH LIBRARY

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

Ray Leckrone

VAN INFORMATION

Anyone wishing transportation to Sunday morning
 worship services, please contact:

Bob Gish at 898-7876

DIRECTORY CHANGES- PLEASE NOTE



Address Changes

Jen Meyer
 292 Bowyer Lane
 Lititz, PA 17543

Eric Yunginger
 637 South Spruce Street
 Lititz, PA 17543

Email change

Deb Chillas
dchillas@comcast.net

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, columns, 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

October 25	416
November 1	379
November 8	360
November 15	347

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by
 the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The
absolute deadline for the January issue is
 December 10, 2009



"I HAVE TAKEN THE CIVILITY PLEDGE." Folks who have received emails from me recently may have noticed those words at the end of my signature file. It seems to me that in so many areas of our national life – political discourse, so-called entertainment, even one-on-one interactions with friends and strangers – the tone and tenor of communications has become unbelievably coarse. Even vile!

We all can name examples of this behavior, whether it's a driver screaming at another in traffic, rudeness to clerks in stores or waiters in restaurants, or aggressive, demeaning speech and actions in relationships. And of course, there are many, many examples on television and in print.

Driven by the never-ending quest for television ratings and dollars, commentators and talk show hosts seem to take delight in being rude or dismissive. Shouting matches have replaced reasoned discussion, and facts and figures are lost in wild, one-dimensional characterizations of opponents. The truth is the first casualty when we are unable to reasonably discuss differences of opinion.

I am deeply concerned about this trend in our beloved country. That's why I was so glad to learn of an organization called The Civility Project (www.civilityproject.org). This group, a coalition of people of good will from all faiths and political persuasions, has devised a simple pledge that we should all be able to embrace. It has three statements:

- I will be civil in my public discourse and behavior.*
- I will be respectful of others whether or not I agree with them.*
- I will stand against incivility when I see it.*

That is my pledge as well, and I hope you will consider taking it too. As Christians, and especially as Brethren, we have a special obligation to stand apart from those aspects of the world that are not in keeping with Jesus' teaching and example. By living an example of love and respect for those with whom we disagree, we can be living examples of the love of Christ.

Emery DeWitt

TRANSITIONS

We congratulate Jen Meyer and Dan East who were married on October 24, 2009

We express our condolences to the family and friends of Jacqueline Rost, who passed away on October 24, 2009.

We express our condolences to the family and friends of Judy Garber, who passed away on November 4, 2009.

PEACE

Commitment to the denomination's historic peace position.

Living peacefully in the family, locally and globally.

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 NEWS

CHURCH BOARD SERVING THE CONGREGATION

With the focus of putting a deliberate emphasis on evangelism for LCoB, the Church Board has renamed the Renewal and Growth Ministry Team to the Hospitality and Community Friendship Ministry Team. In this revision, all the evangelistic responsibilities of the former Renewal and Growth Team are being transferred to a new Evangelistic Task Force. This newly formed group will develop their own priorities and agenda. George Harmes continues as chair of the Hospitality and Community Friendship Ministry Team.

Another area of our congregation that will receive special attention is our Adult Education Ministry. A new Adult Education Team is being formed to discuss and plan classes, facilities, and technology.

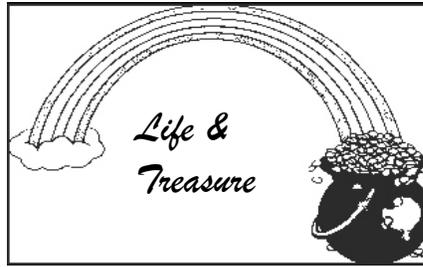
We covet your prayers for our ongoing efforts.

J. Calvin Wenger

LIVING A LIFE THAT COUNTS - reloaded . . .

. . . concluded on November 22nd in a moving testimony to the faith and trust of believers, in this time of economic uncertainty, that God will provide the means to complete our expressed intentions to support our 2010 Plan of Ministry. We are demonstrating that *living a life that counts* includes becoming good stewards of our time, our treasure, and our talent - being sure to return to God a portion of that which He has blessed us. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, it is not too late. If you are unsure about what to do, take a moment to read Malachi 3:10-12. Pray and ask God to lead you. If He is nudging you to express your intention to support the Plan of Ministry, do not procrastinate, - do it today. Place your pledge in the offering or mail it in. If you need a new card, they are available in our lobbies, an usher can provide one, or call the office at 397-4751.

Marie, a personal chef from the United Kingdom writes: "Living a life that matters is no accident . . . it doesn't just happen and is not a matter of circumstance. . . living a life that counts is a choice. . . that only we can make. I choose to live a life that counts for something - how about you?" . . . *Stewardship Ministry Team*



Over the years it has been a puzzle to me how God has never given me so much that I could not receive it.

Well, according to Malachi 3:10 that is the promise in the Bible. A promise that says God will open up the heavens and send so many blessings that you will not be able to receive them.

Then several years ago my mother-in-law passed away and my wife and her sisters divided the inheritance. We had so much furniture and other items that we did not have room in our home to put them. What do you think we did with them? We gave most of them away to other family members. That is when it dawned on me. God had been giving me so many blessings over the years that He never intended me to store them up. His intention was for me to give them away. The purpose of His blessing me was so I could be a blessing to others.

A lady once said to me, "Have you ever wondered why you have extra money in your bank account?" My reply was, "Yes, so I can buy new golf clubs or get a new suit." "Well," she said, "I believe God gives us extra money so we can meet needs in the lives of others. Of course, God expects us to first meet the needs of our household. He also wants us to save, invest, and plan for retirement, but His intention is for us to be generous givers."

One lady said to her friend that she was so depressed she could no longer feel the presence of God. She said, "I wish God would just reach down and touch me with His hand." Her friend said, "We should pray and ask God to do that." They bowed in prayer and afterwards the depressed lady said, "I felt His hand on my shoulder, but it felt a lot like yours." Her friend remarked, "It was my hand. God just used the hand that was nearest you."

When you and I have more than we need, God intends for us to share. Let's become God's hand in someone's life today. . . . *Jerry Mixon, State Stewardship Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. . . . SMT*

December PMT Energy Tip – Do not keep doors open. Check for leaks around doors and windows. Seal with brand name caulking. Open blinds so the sun can come through windows to help increase room temperature.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STARLIGHT TEA CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY, DEC. 20 AT 7:00 PM

One of the most beloved traditions of our congregation is our annual Starlight Tea Christmas Concert. This year's concert, on Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary, will feature the Chancel Choir, the Carillon Bell Choir, soloists and orchestra in a program titled "*THE GIFT*".

The concert will include familiar carols, an ancient Mass based on old French carols, and a brand-new composition arranged specifically for our choir! The name of the concert comes from the brand-new work, which will end the program. *The Gift of Angel's Wings*, written by Elizabethtown composer Ralph Lehman, was originally written for a *cappella* chorus, but Mr. Lehman kindly offered a new, expanded version of the work to our choir, accompanied by oboe, strings, handbells, piano and celesta. The celesta is a keyboard instrument that makes the sounds of bells, and our new Roland digital harpsichord has a lovely celesta voice. The program includes another modern composition with a link to our congregation: *In Thee is Gladness*, arranged for chorus, flute, handbells and organ by Lisa Bair. Many of you know Lisa, the daughter of Cliff and Hazel Huffman. This sparkling work will help set the tone for our celebration!

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) was a French composer and organist, best-known for the work we will include on our program: the *Messe de Minuit pour Noel*, referred to in English as the *Midnight Mass for Christmas*. This work uses French carol tunes as the basis for the traditional Mass text.

And... what is a Christmas concert without familiar carols! We'll have arrangements of *I Wonder as I Wander*, *Away in a Manger*, and *In Dulci Jubilo*, as well as a wonderful organ solo by our superb organist, Margaret Marsch.

Another beloved tradition is the Starlight Tea following the concert in the Family Life Center, where the ladies of the congregation prepare dozens and dozens of homemade cookies for our pleasure and delight! Be sure to join the choirs for this special concert, and stay afterward to greet the singers and ringers and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

CLIMBERS' CORNER

Saturday, December 12

Christmas Caroling at 6 pm

Gift cards to Weis or Giant Food Store



PRESENTS HAPPY ENDINGS AT CHRISTMAS

You'll find happy, friendly folks live at Happy Endings -- a retirement residence in Pennsylvania -- who are savoring the sunset season of their lives. Well, almost everyone except for Martha, a sarcastic spinster who dislikes everything, even Christmas. Mary is as sweet as Martha is sour. Franklin, a widower, is a secret admirer of Dorothy, a vivacious widow, who seems attracted to Fritz, the young wellness director. Everyone enjoys the special Christmas Program presented by the children from Hope for Kids Home. You'll laugh and maybe shed a tear or two with the life changing surprises that put everyone at Happy Endings in the Christmas spirit.

Performances are Friday, Dec. 4, Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. followed by the performance.

Written and directed by Carole Deck in her last appearance as Director, the cast includes: Judi Hess, Tim Dunbar, Jackie St. John, Matt Shenk, Carol Shearer, Tim Heck, Jenny Lines, Melissa Heck, Andrew Lines, Sarah Shearer, Drew Smith, Alison Buckwalter, Brandon Nace, Jack Smith and Carole Deck.

Reserve your seats! Limited seating! Call Cindy Harmes at 717-569-5277 or purchase tickets at The Gathering Place on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. Cost: Adults \$20; children \$10 (12 & younger). Tickets include dinner and theatre and are non-refundable.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Ridgeway Community COB Brass Group will be performing on Sunday, Dec. 13 at Trinity UCC, 2340 State St. East Petersburg, at 6:30 p.m. Greg Bidgood Enders is a member of the group. Trinity musicians will also be featured. Enjoy traditional, secular, and sacred selections for the holidays.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Maranatha Multicultural Fellowship will present a special Hispanic meal on Jan. 10, 2010 at noon. All the brothers and sisters of Lancaster Church of the Brethren are invited. This event is in appreciation of the LCoB's hospitality to MMF. There will be **NO** contribution or donation of any kind. Details will be given at a later date. Please RSVP to Alix Sable, 285-7062 by Dec. 27, 2009.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

50TH ANNUAL NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS PEACE PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, December 12, 2009

The annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage is planned for the Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Walk the Road of Peace

The Pilgrimage began in 1960 as a Christian witness for peace. We welcome all persons of any age to join the Pilgrimage, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph. In the 10-mile trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in the rally, we seek to reflect the non-violent life of Jesus Christ and his truth of forgiving love. Walk with your family and friends and make new friends with others who seek a more peaceful world.

Schedule

Pilgrimage participants meet at the parking lot at 520 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem before 10:45 AM. Buses transport pilgrims to Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square where the Pilgrimage begins. The Pilgrimage follows PA #191. Persons join at any point along the way. Support vehicles assist those not able to walk the entire way. Dress appropriately for the weather; pilgrims walk in sun, wind, rain or snow. Pilgrims arrive at Christ United Church of Christ, Market & Center Streets, Bethlehem, around 5:30 for a light meal and to hear this year's speaker, the Rev. James A. Forbes, Jr.

Rev. Forbes is President and Founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation of New York and Senior Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church. His presentation is entitled: "Get on the Path and Stay on the Path."

For more information call:

Fran Dreisbach at 610-258-7313 or
Lehigh County Conference of Churches
534 Chew St
Allentown PA 18102

610/433-6421

PEACE

Commitment to the denomination's historic peace position.

Living peacefully in the family, locally and globally.

GIVING IS A GREAT BLESSING!

Many of you have been very generous with your contributions of food for the Lancaster County Council of Churches, your special "2 Cents a Meal" offerings, and gift of supplies for the homeless school children in Lancaster. Your gifts have made life a little more livable for many people. What we might consider a small gift is very large for those who have little or nothing!

Our last "2 Cents a Meal" offering for 2009 will be on December 13. As always, bring it to church with you that Sunday. We thank you in advance for that special offering and on behalf of the recipients we likely will never meet, we express our heart-felt appreciation for your support the entire year. Hunger and Poverty Team



CROCHET CLUB 2010 PROJECT

We will be crocheting baby blankets to hand out to single and/or teen mothers at the Women's and Babies Hospital throughout the year of 2010.

Crochet Club is for any skill level and for anyone who would like to learn to crochet and participate in this project. Patterns are provided. Knitters are welcome to join. We meet every Wednesday evening from 6 pm – 7:30 pm in the Gathering Place.

For more information, contact Melissa Hufford.

HYGIENE KITS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT...of those who made it possible to take 600 Hygiene Kits to CWS Brethren Service Center. Thank you to all who contributed toward the \$2,479 and to those who stayed after the service on November 1 to assemble the kits. Also, we thank Rich Bohn and Lynn Shively who unloaded soap and towels, Grace Cox and Bonnie Frick who unpacked and folded towels, John and Sue Groff who donated and unzipped 600 Ziploc bags, and the Shivelys who took the kits to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor.

Giving is down by about \$400 this year. The fund is down to \$202.34. Please contribute and replenish this fund so that supplies can be purchased and processed for the Spring Hygiene Kit Project. To contribute, make your check payable to LCOB and write "Hygiene Kits" on your check and envelope. For more information, call Keith and Marilyn Hummel at 295-9121.

27,000,000

By James Biemiller, Taylor Husted, Kelsey Murray, Kyle Shirk, Tami White

"I [could do] nothing but pray to God. That's about it," said seventeen year old Shyima, who at the age of nine was forced into slavery in a wealthy California household. Shyima was forced to work up to 20-hours a day for the family, being locked inside during her ordeal, often disguised as a cousin of the family. Her family gave her away in hope that she would have a well-paying job to support the family, but she ended up working with no pay.

Since the beginning of Brethren history, the Brethren have held a strong position against slavery. This issue has begun to take a backseat to more publicized issues in our church and culture.

As many of you heard at the recent Sunday School class for A Thoughtful Life, the youth recently attended the annual Brethren Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS). The topic of discussion throughout the conference was human trafficking and modern-day slavery. The youth as a whole feel very strongly about the issue and are dedicated to fighting slavery in our local, national, and global communities. Our first goal is to educate the congregation and ask for your support in eliminating slavery in our world.

Modern-day slavery is a rather ambiguous term used loosely in discussion of human rights but rarely defined exactly. Slaves are defined as any people who are forced into a situation where they lose control of their life and cannot escape their situation. Various types of modern-day slavery include sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and debt-bondage agricultural workers, or workers who are constantly trapped in a cycle of interest and fees upon a small loan from the slave driver.

One common misconception about modern-day slavery is that slavery only exists in foreign countries in continents such as Africa and Asia. This is a horrible generalization as it neglects the more than 15,000 slaves in the United States alone. Even locally, slavery is a growing, yet ignored, issue. Recently, a sex slavery ring was busted in Harrisburg, where young girls were bused from Toledo to Harrisburg to work in a sex hub.

The largest variety of slavery in the United States is agricultural debt-bondage slavery, generally in Florida, or other southern farming states. In November 2008, two slaves from a farm in Florida escaped through a ventilation hatch in the trailer where they were locked away for the night. The slaves were forced to spend their "free time" in the trailer where they lived in their excrement and were underfed. During the day, the slaves worked twelve-hour days for less than minimum wage. Their captors then charged them for simple amenities such as taking a shower with a garden hose (cost five dollars per person). If they disobeyed their captors, they were beaten until they were bruised and bloody. These conditions are common for farm-workers who raise tomatoes and other produce for nationally recognized restaurants such as Subway and Chipotle Mexican Grill. By purchasing from companies that employ slave labor, we are inadvertently encouraging modern-day slavery.

While 15,000 slaves may sound like a large number, it is only a small percentage of the 27 million slaves in bondage worldwide. A majority of slavery occurs in South Asia where selling children into slavery is a common practice for poverty-stricken families. Prostitution is almost an accepted industry in some countries where personal rights are ignored in favor of profit. Indian carpet factories are staffed by thousands of indentured children stolen or bought from their families at a young age and forced to work long hours in cramped, uncomfortable spaces.

While "rescuing" slaves may sound like a valiant goal, fixing slavery is a more difficult task than imagined. Once slaves are returned to their homes, they face immigration and logistic issues. They are often denied government services because of their undocumented alien status. In some cases, the slaves are criminalized for their inability to produce proper paperwork or comply with the government in federal investigations. In even worse situations, some slaves are kidnapped or purchased from their homes again, once they return to their communities, as the actual slave trade in the area has not been stopped, only a small portion disbanded. A more realistically ideal strategy to fighting slavery is to eliminate the slave trade completely. Prevention is the best method of eradication.

These stories and statistics have created a passion within our youth group towards eliminating slavery to the best of our ability. 27 million people are relying on the assistance of the free citizens of Earth to rescue them from their imprisonment. Our group will be setting up a booth in the Gathering Place in the coming weeks to support the rights and freedom of these slaves. We will be asking for congregational donations to support children rescued from slavery as well as efforts against child slavery, and would appreciate any support you can provide. Thank you for making a difference.

Ed. Note: This article presents us all with an opportunity to bring hope to those with none. What better goal at Christmas?



LIBRARY LINES

BOOK REVIEW

WWJD? Some years ago, a group of members at a Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan made a commitment to shape their lives around the question: "What would Jesus Do?". This question may sound uncontroversial but the moment we get specific, it suddenly gets more complicated when we consider the implications.

John Roth, author of the book, Choosing Against War, presents a framework for a practical Christian life that embraces the world with a non-violent love that is stronger than our fears...even if it means humiliation, suffering or death. Christian humility begins with a positive assertion that we are God's children, made in his image, created for Shalom, with an inherent dignity and stature that cannot be taken away.

Instead of exacting "an eye for an eye", which feeds the endless cycles of war and violence, could we, having received God's gracious (undeserved) gift of love, try to express that same love to others, including *especially* our enemies? When Jesus said, "Love your enemies." could he have meant, "Don't kill them."?

Because of our identity with Christ, should Christians respond differently to the world's pain? Is God's love stronger than our fears?

Reviewed by Grace Cox

NEW BOOKS

A few lines to update you on the addition of the following books-- found on the shelves in the Gathering Place, listed as **NEW BOOKS**

- Dalai Lama *Ethics for the New Millennium*
- Mitch Albom *Have a Little Faith, a true story*
- B. Kolodiejchuk *Mother Theresa, Come Be My Light*
- Bruce Feiler *America's Prophet History*
- K. Armstrong *The Case for God*
- David S. Young *Springs of Living Water*
- Harvey Cox *The Future of Faith*
- Vicki Newby *Games, The Ideas Library*
- Todd Tucker *Great Starvation Experiment*

This is the month we celebrate Christmas and you will find books on this theme also on the Gathering Place Shelves. We wish you all a happy and meaningful Christmas. The Library Committee

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGES

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all those who visited, prayed, sent cards and called me since my knee replacement surgery. Also, to those of you who brought meals when I came home. What a blessing for Clyde and me! It's truly wonderful being part of such a caring and loving congregation. We are never alone, even on our worse days.

Love,
Beverly Angle

Nancy Dotterer organized a card shower for the two of us who celebrated our 90th birthdays in October. We want to express our deepest appreciation to Nancy and all of you who so kindly remembered us. Those beautiful cards and messages helped us make the transition into the "final decade" easier.

Gratefully,
Orpha Bauer and Rhoda Gamble

Thanks to Pastor Jeff Rill and Dr. Calvin Wenger for their visits and prayers when I was in the hospital. Thanks to Mo and Rachel Salamh for bringing the beautiful alter flowers to me and for the nice visit. Also, I appreciate the visits, phone calls and cards from my church family.

Sally Sherr

SUCCESSFUL CROP WALK 2009

Carlos Schaudel participated in the 37th Annual Lancaster City CROP Walk at Clipper Magazine Stadium in October. Supporters of Carlos donated \$1600 to fight hunger in Lancaster and around the world. Over the past 36 years the Lancaster CROP Walk has raised more than \$4,000,000. Carlos has raised approximately \$20,000 of that total!

Don't forget these important facts about world hunger. 6 million children under the age of 5 die annually as a result of hunger and malnutrition. 1.2 billion people in developing countries live on an income of \$1 a day or less.

CROP/CHURCH WORLD SERVICE helps stop hunger in 80 countries by teaching people how to have a future with food through technological assistance, seed and tool programs, by building wells with safe, clean drinking water, by food cooperatives and by creating more efficient agricultural methods.

YOUTH NEWS

NO Soup and Salad for December-Our next Soup and Salad Sunday is **January 17, 2009 in which we will have spaghetti instead of soup.** Come out to connect with other members of our church over a delicious meal and to support our youth.

Junior High

Action Sunday-Action Sunday occurs one Sunday a month where the youth get to participate in an activity that is physically active and enjoyable. This is also a great time to bring friends and get to know other members of the LCOB Youth Group. Lunch will be provided. On **December 20, 2009 in the FLC 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.**

Senior High

Candy Lane!The youth will take a trip one weekend evening to Hershey Park's Candy Lane! Friends are welcome. Look for more details to come.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Renea Snyder	17	Jean Deemer
3	Clair Greiner	18	Floyd Montgomery
4	Ellen Weaver		Flossie Mellinger
	Tom Wolf		Ashley Wenger
	Dorothy Jacoby		Carol Graham
5	Amy Wiggins		Marvin Harnish
	Carol Kramer	19	Gene Koser
	Dolores Leonard	21	Sarah Shreckise
8	Peggy Bates		Deb Neslund
	David Bowman	23	Pat Shreckise
10	Mildred Armstrong	25	Fred Kreider
	Nicole Putt	26	Ray Leckrone
11	Shane Heck	27	Ryan Bookman
	Harry Coble	28	Alex Truit
	Jack Wilson	29	George Murray
	Debbie Keim	30	Mark Frace
13	Judith Gibble Kipp		Jared St. John
14	Doug Deihm		Allen Mellinger
15	Brenda Stout		

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Dec. 27 there will be no adult Sunday School classes. Instead, there will be the customary Christmas Meet-and-Greet in the Gathering Place during the Sunday School hour.

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

Dec.6 – *Sermons I Cannot Preach Today Without a Discussion Following, "Heaven, Hell, and Place"*

Curtis Dubble

Dec.13 – *You Gotta Love Those Good Old Hymns,*

Linda Hopple

December 20 – *The Meaning of Christmas Preparations,*
Clem Rosenberger

The Nesters Bible Study Group, meeting in Room 170, explores the basics of faith, focusing on weekly stand-alone topics chosen from a list developed by class members. Everyone is encouraged to bring to class relevant information, questions, scripture, etc. The group is led by Darryl and Sandy Rock, as well as volunteers from the group.

The One Another group, coordinated by Linda Husted, meets in Pastor Rill's office. They are continuing a 9-week study of *Romans*, using the Yale Bible Study series. Discussion is based on a DVD presentation by two Yale Divinity School scholars. Class members receive passages of scriptures to read and questions for reflection prior to class.

Time to **JUMP!** into the holiday spirit with our annual Christmas Caroling. All are welcome to join us for any or all of these events. All voices and instruments welcome!

Nov. 28 Saturday ~ 6 p.m.

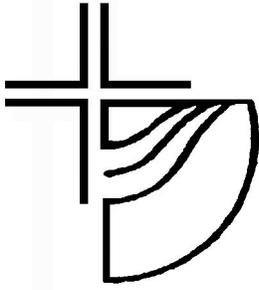
Get in the holiday spirit as we look over music and watch a Christmas film at Melissa Hufford's in Lititz.

Dec. 4 Friday ~ 4 p.m. Caroling around the Church neighborhood. Meet in the church parking lot.

Dec. 12 Saturday ~ 6 p.m. Caroling at Garden Spot

Dec. 19 Saturday ~ 6 p.m. Caroling at Brethren Village

Questions: contact either Megan Eldredge or Melissa Hufford.



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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.

The deadline for the
January issue
is Dec. 10, 2009.

**Brethren Highlights
2009**

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor

Richard F. Shreckhise
Associate Pastor

J. Curtis Dehney
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