

Brethren Highlights

For members and friends of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren

February, 2010

“YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD.”

--Mahatma Gandhi

The ministry of caring for those caught in the world of hunger and poverty will continue as a vital part of the Outreach Ministry Team in 2010. Listed below you will find some of the ways in which we can be the change Gandhi might have had in mind.

“2 Cents a Meal” offerings for the Lancaster County Council of Churches (LCCC), and our denomination’s Global Food Crisis Fund. The next “2 Cent” offering is scheduled for February 7.

Collection of food for the LCCC Food Bank. As you know, the early Christians brought food for the hungry each time they served Communion.

Bread and Cup Communion—Feb. 21, May 23, & Nov. 28

Love Feast—April 1 & Oct. 3

Food distribution at Church Street Towers the third Wednesday each month.

Collection of clothing and blankets for LCCC. This will be an on-going effort.

Supplies/Funds for homeless school children in Lancaster. This will be a major focus in the late summer.

New ministry possibilities are being explored and you will be kept informed as they develop.

The biblical theme that continues to haunt and inspire us is the passage in Matthew 25. The people wanted to know when they had seen the Master hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison and ministered to him. The response likely surprised them as it does us: Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these . . . , you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). --Outreach Ministry Team

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 Donna Wilson and Kate Rill
8:40 AM Grace and Stan Cox
8:40 AM Shirley and Calvin Wenger
9:50 AM Cindy and Bruce Shuman
9:50 AM Bonnie Frick and Jack Wilson
11:15 AM Judi and Bob Hess

USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 A.M.

Bob Barber David Evans

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

*Mike Hess Darlene Creighton David Creighton
Shirley Gish Steve Holsinger Robert Mackey
Jeff Putt Michael Wenger

CHURCH LIBRARY
Staffed Sunday 9:45-10:15 A.M.
Ada Good

VAN INFORMATION

Anyone wishing transportation to Sunday morning
worship services, please contact:
John Zimmerman – 396-9724

DIRECTORY CHANGES: Please note.

Jon and Heather Metzger and Mackenzie
(717) 653-4249

Dory Voulopos
1538 Hollywood Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17601

Andrew Lefever
687-5603

ATTENDANCE

December 27, 2009	348
January 3, 2010	371
January 10, 2010	392
January 17, 2010	395

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED!

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

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

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by
the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The
absolute deadline for the March issue is
February 11, 2010.



Well, it is February! It seems Christmas was just yesterday and now February is here with the beginning of Lent. We often speak of fasting during Lent. We speak of “giving up” something for Lent. Why do we do that, and is it really fasting? Perhaps Lent is a time to take a closer look at fasting.

People fasted in the Bible in response to some grievous event – like death or the realization of sin or when the nation was threatened. Fasting is the response of a person to an often painful grievous sacred moment. Does it get results? Yes, at times, but that is not the point of fasting. Fasting is a response to a sacred moment such as death, sin, fear, threat, needs, sickness, etc... Results may come as deeper life, forgiveness, rescue, hope, grace, or health.

The Bible presents a responsive view of fasting. Fasting is not just a bodily experience, it is spirit and body. We are one person with an inner and outer dimension. Fasting is about joining the material to the immaterial, the body to the soul, the body to the spirit in a unified, organic act.

When people give up watching TV for Lent, that is not fasting but abstinence. Fasting is a response to some sacred moment or task ahead, when we choose to avoid physical indulgence of food for a period of time in order to focus attention on God.

Fasting connects us to God’s perspective in a grievous sacred moment. Fasting enables us to identify with and empathize with God...God’s *pathos*, grieving with God. Fasting is a response to a sacred moment and not an instrument to get what we want. Amy Frykholm concluded that “Fasting is about three things: attentiveness, compassion and freedom.” Attentiveness to God’s tears, compassion for those who suffer as well as in our own suffering, and freedom to experience God’s love, healing, forgiveness, grace and joy.

If you choose to fast during Lent this year, do so in response to God’s grieving for the world and the suffering of all of us. Brokenness is sacred...Jesus is the bread broken for us and in that grievous moment of his crucifixion we respond by fasting for all he grieved for. In our fasting may we find healing.

Pastor Shreckhise

TRANSITIONS

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of Virginia Cox, who passed away on January 7, 2010.

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of George Breniser who passed away on January 10, 2010.

Thank you for pledging to LCOB’s 2010 Plan of Ministry. The total amount pledged was \$430,258.00. —SMT

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)

Family

Appreciation of commitments, wholesome relationships and spiritual growth

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGES

Dear members of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren,

Thank you sincerely for the purse-size LED flashlight with the incredibly bright beam. It will certainly come in handy in my many searches for a loss of things which I seem constantly to misplace around the apartment. Much appreciated also, was the pleasant visit with Jim and Doris Bridgeman who delivered it.

The shower of birthday cards received from many of you folks was a delightful surprise and made my 90th special indeed! Thank you kindly.

Fondly,
Flossie Mellinger

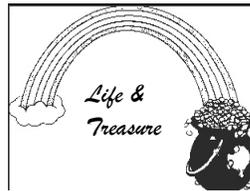
Thank you for all the cards, notes and e-mails expressing appreciation for my years of dedicated professionalism to the L.C.O.B. Performing Arts Dinner Theatre. Your kind words meant more to me than you'll ever know.

Blessings,
Carole Deck

I want to express my sincere thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to everyone for their support and prayers before and after my Dec. 1, 2009 surgery to repair a herniated disc in my back. I have been awed and humbled by the outpouring of support I have received from the church community. Many thanks to Pastors Rill and Shreckhise as well as Calvin Wenger for their calls, emails, and words of encouragement. I also want to thank the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group who prayed for me and sent me cards of encouragement and to everyone who sent me cards or emails with words of encouragement. Thanks to Madelynn Riedel for delivering the flashlight from the church to remind that He is the light and to keep my faith in His ability to heal me. The list of those who have offered encouragement and told me they were praying for me is too long for this space.

They tell me the recuperation period from back surgery is slow and long and that I need to be patient. I am slowly returning to my daily routine. While it is too early to tell if the surgery is a success, I am encouraged by the results so far and pray for a complete recovery and pain free 2010. I feel truly blessed and thankful to be part of a caring and supportive community. May God bless all of you.

David Hernandez



Stewardship: Faith

At a church meeting a very wealthy man rose to tell the rest of those present about his Christian faith. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember the turning point in my faith. I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today." He finished and there was an awed silence at his testimony as he moved toward his seat. As he sat down a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said to him: "I dare you to do it again."

There was a knock on the door of his hut. Answering, the missionary found one of the native boys holding a large fish in his hands. The boy said, "You taught us what tithing is, so here -- I've brought you my tithe." As the missionary gratefully took the fish, he asked the young lad, "If this is your tithe, where are the other nine fish?" At this, the young boy beamed and said, "Oh, they're still in the river. I'm going back to catch them now."

Stewardship: Funny

A minister sent out an invitation to all his members, inviting them to a fund-raising dinner at the church. One member wrote back, "Dear Reverend, I regret to inform you that other engagements prevent my attending your fund-raising dinner, but I shall be with you in spirit."

The minister wrote back: "Dear John, where would your spirit like to SIT? We have tickets for a hundred dollars, five hundred dollars, and a thousand dollars."

A man was going for an evening stroll, when he heard terrified screams coming from a house nearby. He ran up the steps, only to find a frantic mother, whose small boy was choking on a large coin.

The man seized the child by his heels, thumped his chest, and out popped the coin. The grateful mother was lost in admiration. "You certainly knew what to do," she said. "Are you a doctor?"

"No, Madam," said the stranger, "I'm a church treasurer."

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. SMT

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

February 2010

9:00 – 9:45 Sunday Mornings

The following classes are open to everyone. All are invited.



LIBRARY LINES

Winter is here - time to stay indoors and read a good book! You will find many new books for adults and children on the shelves in the Gathering Place just outside the Library entrance. There are also many new DVDs for children on the Library shelves. Now is a good time to check them out as well. These books and DVDs are NOT for show only - they are meant to leave the shelves and be enjoyed by everyone! So do yourself a favor - stay warm, entertained and enlightened by the new Books and DVDs.

Happy Winter!

The Library Committee

Wednesday Night Live needs your help!

We are looking for volunteers to help clean up after dinner on Wednesdays between 6:00 and 7:00 P.M.

If you can help, please tell Deb Chillas or call her at 299-6843.

February PMT Energy Tip

When running your dishwasher always try to wait until you can run a full load.

THANK YOU

"The Traditional Worship Ministry Team regretfully accepts the "retirement" of Shirley Wenger as Usher Coordinator for our traditional services.

Shirley capably handled that job for many, many years, and certainly will be missed circulating in the rear of the sanctuary each week offering help, friendship, and suggestions to ushers, members, and friends alike. Join us in thanking Shirley for a job faithfully carried out in the life of our congregation.

Ken Harnish will take over the position starting February 7. Thanks, also, to Ken for stepping in and taking on this important job."

The Chapel Bible Study Group, led by Calvin Wenger, meets in the Chapel. They are currently immersed in an intensive study of the New Testament. In February they will continue in the Gospel of Matthew.

The Thoughtful Life Class, meeting in Rooms 162-163, features stimulating resource persons who lead discussion in a variety of topics. Topic for February are:

Feb. 7 – *The Nature of God, Part 2*, Dr. Lee Barrett, Prof. of Theology at Lancaster Seminary

Feb. 14 – *The Nature of God, Part 3*, Dr. Lee Barrett

Feb. 21 – *The U.S. and Militarism I*, discussion based on video by David Waas

Feb. 28 – *The U.S. and Militarism II*, discussion based on video by David Waas

Discussions on Feb. 21 and 28 will be led by Jay Weaver. David Waas is History Professor Emeritus at Manchester College and is well-known for his insights into what the Brethren way of following Jesus has to say about the nation state.

The Nesters Bible Study Group, meeting in Room 170, explores the basics of faith. Currently the group is studying the book, *Parenting: How to Raise Spiritually Healthy Kids*, by Bill Hybels. The group is led by members of the class. It is not necessary to purchase the book, as it is just a guide to parenting in current society, guided by Biblical principles.

The One Another group, coordinated by Linda Husted, meets in Pastor Rill's office. They are continuing an intensive study of *Romans*, using the Yale Bible Study series. Discussion is based on a DVD presentation by two Yale Divinity School scholars.

The young adult group "J.U.M.P." (Jesus, use me please!) meets mostly Monday evenings. For details, contact Megan.eldredge@gmail.com or 717-250-6713.

Family

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIMBERS' CORNER

On Friday, February 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 162-163, we will be traveling west to "Explore the Grand Staircase", a DVD featuring breathtaking cinematography, seasons, storms, majestic music and authoritative information about the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. You won't want to miss this beautiful trip. Refreshment will be served following the presentation. Bring canned soup/pasta for the LCCC Food Bank.



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ANE District Women's Spring Fellowship will be hosted by the Ephrata COB on Saturday, March 6, 2010. The speaker will be Lu Ann Wise, member of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship COB where she is active in children's ministry. The event begins with registration and fellowship with coffee and tea at 8:45 a.m. A buffet luncheon will be provided at a cost of \$5.00 each for all those who pre-register. The program will conclude about 2:30 p.m. Forms for registration will be on bulletin boards as soon as they are sent to us from the District.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 5, 2010

Highland Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by Church Women United

ALL WELCOME

YOUTH NEWS

Soup and Salad Sunday-Our next Soup and Salad Sunday is **February 28, 2010**. Come out to connect with other members of our church over a delicious meal and to support our youth.

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 **February 21, 2010** in the **FLC 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. NOW OPEN TO ALL YOUTH (Junior and Senior High)!**

Junior High

District Lock-In-It is that time of the year again to head on over to the Lebanon Valley College Arnold Sports Complex for the District Lock-In. There is a big gym with infinite games to play including Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Swimming, movies and lots of food. **If your teenager is interested in going on February 5-6, let Curtis know by January 24. We will leave the church by 9 PM and return by 7 AM.**

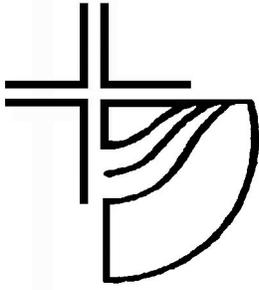
Senior High

District Lock-In-On February 26-27 your teenager will have the opportunity to attend a whole night of games, snacks and more with other teenagers around the district at Mount Zion Road COB. Let Curtis know by February 14 if you plan to attend. We will leave the church at 9 PM and return by 7 AM.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

	6	Charlotte Garman	18	Karen Forsha
		Ralph Martin		Reba Horst
1	7	Richard Bowser	22	Jenny Elmeier
	8	Megan Eldredge		Loretta Kreider
	11	Bretta Illig		Peg Thomas
2	12	Grace Glasmire		Mary Ellen DeWitt
3	13	Charles Armstrong	24	Penny Kettering
4		Morgan Husted		Virginia Herr
		Bob Hopple	25	Tim Kreider
	17	Christa Shulenberger		Don Keim
		Kelsey Murray	28	Jean Hosler
		Mark Snyder		





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**LANCASTER CHURCH
OF
THE BRETHREN**

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**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 March issue
is February 10, 2010.

**Brethren Highlights
2010**

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor

Richard F. Shreckhise
Associate Pastor

J. Curtis Dehmey
Associate Pastor of Children and Youth

Emery A. DeWitt
Director of Music

Jamie Nace
Director of Children's Music

Carol S. Graham
Brethren Highlights Editor