

Brethren Highlights

May, 2010

CHURCH NEWS AND PRAYER LINE REQUESTS VIA E-MAIL

Do you own a computer? Do you have an e-mail address? The Church office staff will maintain an address list of everyone who has an e-mail address. When prayer requests are made you will be notified through e-mail. You can continue to call the prayer line telephone number at 397-1888. Sending prayer requests electronically is another way to reach a lot of people very quickly to begin the prayer process. You will also be notified of Church news and events. If you are interested in having your e-mail address included, please notify Peggy or Jamie by sending them an e-mail message requesting that you be included at lancob@comcast.net.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday is May 2!

Come and enjoy our youth in action in the
Traditional Worship Services!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduate Recognition on May 30

All students graduating from high school, college or another institution will be recognized in all of our worship services on May 30. Please contact Curtis Dehmei at lancob.curtis@comcast.net with information of anyone in your family who is receiving a diploma this spring.

*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.*

ARE ANY OF THESE STATEMENTS FAMILIAR?

*"When I am not in church, No one even knows I am missing."
"No one has ever contacted me, so I guess I am not
important."
"I just stopped going but no one contacted me to ask WHY."
"I attend regularly but I received a card saying I was missed,
why?"*

This is a story about a couple who were members of a local church. They were active members on committees and he was an officer of the church for 7 years. However, after 16 years they were no longer getting any inspiration from the message and learned the standards of the church were changing and those changes were unacceptable. Well, enough was enough and they left the church. It took 3 years for someone to realize they were not attending.

Well, finally, they received a call from a deacon who wanted to visit and talk to them. When the deacons arrived, they were surprised to learn that no one had been in contact with them for the past 3 years. It was too late because the couple found another church family where they are now attending on a regular basis.

We do not want that to happen to our members.

This statement is in each bulletin: *"We care about all our church family members and friends, please take time to let us know you were here today by signing the attendance register."*

While we would like to track everyone in attendance, it is extremely difficult to accomplish in our four services. Therefore, when you are a regular signer of the attendance register and for whatever reason are absent for four consecutive Sundays, your absence allows us to send you a card letting you know you are missed. Please be sure you pass the register book and invite visitors to sign. By helping in this manner, we can see when it is time to ask a regularly attending visitor if they would be interested in a membership with our church.

Finally, it only takes a moment to sign the attendance register each Sunday. It is the ONLY true way to make sure we know of your presence.

SERVING THIS MONTH

GREETERS

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

USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 A.M.

John Graham Barry Wilson

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

*Ben Greenawalt Bev Angle Clyde Angle
Stan Cox Bill Evans Lois Hansell
John Herr Barry Nyman

CHURCH LIBRARY

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

Nicki Putt

ACOLYTES

Week 1: Jared St. John
Week 2: Tristan Turkki
Week 3: Andrew Lines
Week 4: Brad Snyder
Week 5: Colin Betz

VAN INFORMATION

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

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. Cut and paste into an email if possible. This is much easier for the publication staff than an attachment.
5. Mail any submissions to the church office, attention Peggy Bush, **NOT** to the editor's home.
6. Use the newsletter folder in the office to submit any written or typed submissions.

ATTENDANCE

Mar. 28	418
Apr. 4	600
Apr. 11	381
Apr. 18	393

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The absolute deadline for the June issue is May 10, 2010



As I am in seminary at Lancaster Theological Seminary, I am finding that I am being deeply challenged on many levels. For one of my classes I read an article by Anabel Proffitt and Chuck Melchert titled "Playing in the Presence of God: Wonder, Wisdom and Education." In this article, I was struck by their opening paragraph:

"In a secular and postmodern world, most of those who give little credence to religion and religious activities do so because they have notions of what counts as religion. Many of those notions they have received from religious institutions and persons, who have conveyed the idea that religion is primarily about certain beliefs about God and about moral conduct, mostly what one shouldn't do (ten commandments), deriving from a "picture" that the divine and the human are essentially connected by a relation of sin, guilt, blame and atonement, forgiveness, absolution and salvation, all mediated through religions hierarchy."

The rest of the article articulates an argument for how we oftentimes undervalue the importance of presence and play. What they mean by "play" is very simple; to enjoy the company of others and see God in it. Sometimes the most deeply profound ideas of God come through laughter, a child's "first...", or through nature. When we are in social settings and forming relationships with people, God is at work.

I find that this is profoundly true as I minister to youth. Most times I do not have the most deep and meaningful conversation during times of Bible study or lecture. Those conversations that are going to stick both with me and with the youth happen at times when we are just being; when we are just being sincerely and utterly ourselves. The most moving conversation happen at times when we are waiting to do one thing to the next or even when we are playing games around the church. The both scary and wonderful part about being a youth minister is learning with the youth. We can often think that to be older must mean that we know more, but the reality is we can learn as much from the young as we can from the old. Wisdom is not necessarily associated with age. To be wise is not a matter of knowledge, but a matter of being connected. This makes us all co-learners.

In order to break some of the beliefs of the people of Christian institutions and Christians, it may greatly depend on practicing being present and playing. I am not talking about doing this haphazardly, but doing this intentionally. To acknowledge the presence of God while you are being present with others makes a huge difference when we are walking and talking with people. If we want others to know God the same way we have come to love and know God, we must do well at being present, like any other spiritual practice.

J. Curtis Dehmey

TRANSITIONS

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.

COMMITMENT
To God in all areas of life

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

SHOULD WE DO MORE?

The Stewardship Ministry Team recently released a special report of outreach giving by the LCOB. The report is on page 21 of the packet for the Congregational Meeting, April 18, 2010.

According to this timely report, our congregation gave \$235,572 to outreach ministries in 2009. This represents **42%** of our over-all program expenses. This level of financial giving is truly remarkable, and merits celebration. A church that gives at that level is a church that truly affirms the teaching in Matthew 25:40: "Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (NRSV).

The report states that the dollar amount above does not include donations of school supplies for homeless children, regular donations of food, coats and blankets for the Lancaster County Council of Churches, Christmas gifts for the Angel Trees, White Gifts, and several other projects. These gifts actually add thousands of dollars more to our giving.

This is a glowing report, and it may seem inappropriate to suggest that we should do more. While we do superbly well in our financial giving, we do less well in our personal involvement. For example, we struggle to find volunteers to go to the Church World Service headquarters in New Windsor, Maryland, to process items for shipment to disaster areas. At the time of this writing (4/10), there are 6000 Health Kits at New Windsor waiting for volunteers to process them for shipment to Haiti. Our monthly trip to the Water Street Rescue Mission to help serve a prepared meal has been discontinued due to the lack of volunteers. We have been unable, in recent years, to organize a work crew to go to disaster areas to help with clean-up and to rebuild houses.

Should we do more? The church could not do all that it does without our generous financial giving, but we hope and pray that more of us, as we are able, will give more of our personal time and energy to the congregation's outreach ministries.

Hunger and Poverty Group



Pompeii was a flourishing city in Southern Italy until 79 AD. Suddenly, for two days Mt. Vesuvius erupted and completely destroyed Pompeii

in all its pomp. The city was covered in meters of ash and pumice for 1700 years until it was accidentally discovered in 1748.

When archaeologists began excavations in 1910 they uncovered a petrified woman clutching some of the finest jewelry ever recovered from the ancient world. She was apparently attempting to flee the doomed city, and in her haste, holding desperately onto her valuable possessions -- she lost her life.

During its time Pompeii was a magnificent city, yet its destiny was destruction by a nearby volcano -- and so it is with our world today. There's so much beauty on our planet earth -- yet its destiny is certain! The day is soon coming when its elements will be destroyed with fire, the earth and everything in it, laid bare, [2 Peter 3:10] -- and our earthly possessions will not come with us into glory, (only what we have done with them).

As the Apostle Paul said, we came into this world with nothing -- and when we leave this world, we take nothing with us. We can make the mistake of holding too dearly onto our earthly possessions, making them our "treasure", (rather than storing treasure where moth and rust do not corrode etc.) -- but this is a costly error, as illustrated by our "petrified lady".

Instead, let's remind ourselves that we are stewards of God's possessions, responsible to use them with His interests in mind, to further His Kingdom with the things He has entrusted to us.

With so much work to be done, let's never allow our earthly possessions to petrify us with greed or fear thus preventing the eternal work we were preordained for, and stealing our eternal rewards.

<http://www.worthydevotions.com/christian/stewardship> SMT

COMMITMENT
To God in all areas of life

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

FROM THE MARANATHA MULTICULTURAL FELLOWSHIP

Love Feast has been very meaningful for the people of Maranatha Multicultural Fellowship. This last Love Feast was very special, because we invited three visitors who have been worshipping recently with us. For them, Love Feast was a new experience. Two of them sat at the table for the hand washing.

Brother Luis Bosch was one of the three visitors. He participated in the feet washing. He sat with me at the table where Clair Greiner was sitting. Here, in his own, words is what he shared in Maranatha Multicultural fellowship today, April 11, 2010 during the worship service. He said: "I was deeply touched when one of the brothers whom I have never met before and who did not know Spanish, politely instructed me to take off my shoes and my socks, and then proceeded to wash my feet. In the past I have heard that the feet washing was something symbolic. As my feet were being washed, I felt so impressed that I did not see the brother, but I saw Jesus washing my feet. To be sure of what I was seeing, I looked around and observed the calmness and the tranquil atmosphere. So much reverence, I perceived Jesus was washing the feet of the people at each table that I could see." Brother Luis said that he would like to participate in LCOB's Love Feast in the future.

Submitted by Alix M. Sable

COMMITMENT
To God in all areas of life

BUY A KEY WITH DEE AND ME!

If you were in one of the services on April 11, you heard about the latest way you can support our project to upgrade our sanctuary organ - a campaign called "Buy a Key With Dee and Me!" John and Dee Zimmerman, fundraising chairs of the Sanctuary Instrument Fund, cordially invite you to have a very personal stake in our organ upgrade, by funding the cost of one or more keys on the enhanced organ!

There are a total of 215 keys on the organ, divided among three keyboards and a pedalboard (the thing Margaret plays with her feet). To accommodate different budgets, we've set suggested donations for each key that vary depending on which keyboard the key lives. Our hope is to have commitments for EVERY key on the organ by the end of May! And we hope that the bulk of the giving can be completed throughout the summer, so that we can begin the long process of completing the design and preparing for the upgrade. Of course, if you'd rather make a donation if any amount rather than buying a key, that's fine too - any help you can give is deeply appreciated!

In the April 11 services, we distributed flyers that detail the project, and give you a way to respond by filling out the form and returning it in the offering or to the church office. If you did not receive a flyer or would like another, they are available from the church office. Thank you for your support of this upgrade, designed to prepare our organ for another 50 years or more of service to the glory of God!



LIBRARY LINES

Your Library Committee wants to remind you that we are constantly adding new books to the Library. We invite you to come in and browse the shelves - check out some books - enjoy them and then return them promptly to the Library for others to enjoy.

If you have checked out a book, or books, within the past 6 months, please check whether or not you have returned it! Thank you for reading the selections from the Library and do tell us whether or not you enjoyed the book! We are also open to your suggestions for the purchase of future books or DVDs. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGES

Dear Friends,

I want to say thank you to the Wednesday morning prayer group for their lovely card and to the pastors for their visits following my recent surgery. I also want to thank all of you, my dear church family, for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers. It is so nice to have all your love and support.

Sincerely,
Sharon Nace

To whom it may concern,

We wanted to say thank you for the lovely service and flowers for my mother, Judy Wilson. Thanks for being so helpful and kind.

Sincerely,
Tom and Melissa Frankhouser

We would like to thank all of you for your concern, prayers, and cards during our grandson, Benjamin's, extended stay in the Chicago Children's Memorial Hospital. It is uplifting to be a part of this caring congregation.

Lynn & Lynne Shively

DIRECTORY CHANGES- PLEASE NOTE



Monroe and Ada Good
2001 Harrisburg Pk
CW T47
Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 391-3614

Don and Lorraine Dotterer
no longer have a landline
telephone. Their cell
phone numbers are:
Don – 682-4663
Lorraine – 682-5526

YOUTH NEWS

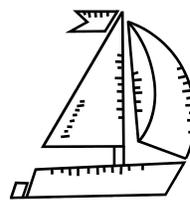
Soup and Salad Sunday-Our next Soup and Salad Sunday is **May 16, 2010**. Come out to connect with other members of our church over a delicious meal and to support our youth. **Special Addition: We are going to auction off the clay jars our youth made! Proceeds will go towards supporting the people of Haiti!**

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 **May 23, 2010** in the **FLC 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.**

Summer Sunday School-This summer the Senior High youth will be learning about different world faiths. Things are only in the planning stages at this point, but we hope to bring in some guest speakers, speakers from our congregation and learn more about other faiths and how we can interact with them positively. If you know of any good people to get involved, please let me know! Look for more details soon!

Junior High

High Sports Center-On May 29 the JH will be taking a trip to High Sports Center. Look for details soon!



SET SAIL FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Ahoy, children age 3 through grade 5! Join us for a Vacation Bible School voyage on the High Seas, June 27-July 1, 6:15-8:15 nightly. Come explore the mighty love of God as we sing, play games, hear about God's Word and eat goodies from the galley! Watch for registration forms throughout the church. If you are an adult or a "big kid" and would like to board the VBS ship to assist, contact Madelynn Riedel (569-7626).

UPCOMING EVENTS

STARLIGHT TEA PRESENTS UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE CHORALE!

Do you remember where you were on October 24, 2008? If you were in our Sanctuary that evening, you heard a wonderful performance by the **University of Delaware Chorale!** We're pleased to announce that they will be with us again on **Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 pm**, in the final concert of our 2009/10 Starlight Tea Concert Series. The concert is free, with a free-will offering accepted.

The Chorale is a nationally-renowned ensemble, and in 2007 won a major choral competition in Estonia, which is an important center of European choral art. The Chorale has also performed at regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, an honor reserved for the very finest choirs. Director of Music Emery DeWitt heard the Chorale at a convention in Philadelphia in February, and reports that the performance was simply stunning - beautiful singing, exquisite control, and the deepest musicianship. This is a concert not to be missed! Please plan to attend, and stay afterward for the Starlight Tea, so you can greet these fine young musicians!

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

CLIMBERS' CORNER



On Friday, May 14, at 7:00 PM, we have a real treat in store for us.

We will meet at Church in the Family Life Center. Senator Mike Brubaker will speak to us on "Good Government Requires An Active Citizenry". Mike will emphasize that the only way to have an effective government is for the citizens to be fully engaged. He will also answer questions you may have. Our guests for the evening will be the Homebuilders and the Friendship Class from Lititz Church of the Brethren. We ask that Climbers bring Beef Stew, Baked Beans, and/or Rice for the LCCC Food Bank.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

An *Evening of Melody at Brethren Village Wolfe Auditorium* will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of music provided by musicians from area churches. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Brethren Village Auxiliary Projects.

BV Key Person
Marilyn Hummel



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED TO MEET

May Friendship Day, sponsored by Church Women United, will be held on Friday, May 7 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 148 Locust St., Lancaster. Health kits for local migrant workers will be collected - In a large bath towel, wrap a small towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and comb. Tie each kit with a ribbon. The service will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by a fellowship tea. For childcare, call Doris Johnson, 397-3163.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS
May 2010
9:00 – 9:45 Sunday Mornings

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

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 May, they expect to finish the Gospel of *Matthew* and begin a study of the Gospel of *Mark*.

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

May 2 & 9 – a two-week series on ***Keeping the Faith in the Modern Era***.

May 2 – *An Evolving Conception of God*, presented by Jay Weaver.

May 9 – *Science: Friend or Foe of Religion? A Critique of Two Books by Prominent Atheists, Hitchens and Dawkins*, presented by Guy Wampler.

May 16 – *Who Are These Other Anabaptists Called the Hutterites?* Presented by Robert Rhodes.

May 23 & 30 – a two-week discussion of ***The Church and Homosexuality***, based on the video, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. Discussion led by Guy Wampler.

The Nesters Bible Study Group, meeting in Room 170, explores the basics of faith. The group is currently studying the book, *Parenting: Loving our Children with God’s Love*, by Richard Patterson Jr. The book focuses on Biblical principles of parenting. It is not necessary to own or purchase the book to be part of the class. Contact Todd Bookman at bookert@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The One Another Class, coordinated by Linda Husted, is beginning a study of Spiritual Disciplines as outlined in Richard Foster’s book, *Celebration of Discipline*. The study begins with an introduction titled, *Door to Liberation*. The group will be learning 13 different spiritual disciplines, categorized as inward, outward, or corporate. They welcome anyone to join them in Pastor Rill’s office Sunday mornings as they discover how disciplines lead to liberation.

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.



PMT ENERGY TIP OF THE MONTH –

Line dry clothing if you have a yard or porch. You will appreciate the “fresh” smell when you hang laundry outside. You may need to be careful not to hang your laundry outside when a neighboring farmer is spreading manure!

COMMITMENT
To God in all areas of life

A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

by Ina Hughs

In a recent service, Susan Adsitt gave a heartfelt, sometimes tearful, reading of this powerful poem. It is printed here that we may prayerfully read it again, and having read it, act on behalf of the most vulnerable in our world.

We pray for the children who put chocolate fingers on everything, who love to be tickled, who stomp in puddles and ruin new pants, who eat candy before supper and who can never find their shoes in the morning.

And we also pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who have never bound down the street in a new pair of shoes, who never played "one potato, two potatoes," and who are born in places that we would not be caught dead in and they will be.

We pray for the children who give us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with their dog and who bury their goldfish, who hug us so tightly and who forget their lunch money, who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink, who watch their fathers shave, and who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those who will never get dessert, who have no favorite blanket to drag around behind them, who watch their fathers suffer, who cannot find any bread to steal, who do not have any rooms to clean up, whose pictures are on milk cartons instead of on dressers, and whose monsters are real.

We pray for the children who spend all their allowance by Tuesday, who pick at their food, who love ghost stories, who shove their dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse the bathtub, who love visits from the Tooth Fairy, even after they find out who it really is, who do not like to be kissed in front of the school bus, and who squirm during services.

And we also pray for those children whose nightmares occur in the daytime, who will eat anything, who have never seen a dentist, who are not spoiled by anyone, who go to bed hungry and wake up hungry, who live and move and have no address.

We pray for those children who like to be carried and for those children who have to be carried, for those who give up and those who never give up, for those who will grab the hand of anyone kind enough to offer it and for those who find no hand to grab.

For all these children, we pray today, for they are all so precious.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**LANCASTER CHURCH
OF
THE BRETHREN**

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

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- 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 June issue
is May 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