



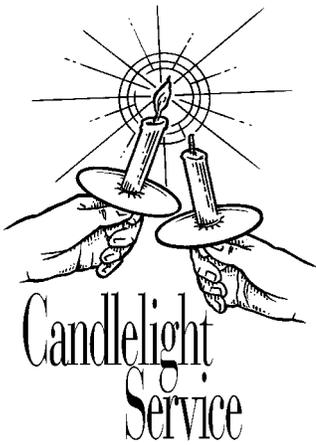
BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

December 2012

CHRISTMAS RECITAL & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary, we continue our annual tradition of the gentle, contemplative service known as the "Festival of Lessons and Carols." This service combines readings from scripture with choral anthems, congregational carols and an appearance by the Holy Family. This year, the Chancel Choir will present three anthems: the *Christmas Antiphon* by Arlen Clarke, *How Far Is It to Bethlehem* by Robert Sterling, and a lovely arrangement of *Still, Still, Still* by Robert Hobby.



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

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

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Family Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Our Christmas Eve Family Service will be fun for the whole family! Bring the kids and come to the FLC to celebrate the birth of our King!



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND DINNER

There will be a Family Christmas Caroling and Dinner on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in room 162-163.



CAROLING

We will have a pizza dinner and then proceed into the neighborhood for caroling. When we're done, we'll head back to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. For more information contact Jamie Nace at 940-1790.

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FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST!

Come and enjoy some great family time around the breakfast table! (Pancakes, sausage, fruit and drinks will be provided.) It's a crazy time of year, so why not come in and have some breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, December 8, from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Kids will have fun decorating cookies and doing a small craft. There is no fee. However, if you would like to make a small donation, it would be appreciated. **Please RSVP to April Curran by Wednesday, December 5, at 293-0446 or aprilcurran254@comcast.net.**



WHITE GIFT OFFERING

The Christmas season is here once again, so on Sunday, December 16, we will be collecting for the White Gift Offering in all the services. This means, if you care to participate, that you bring canned goods wrapped in white tissue paper to your service. You may also give a check or cash for this purpose. If you have any questions, call Bev Angle at 581-5721. Leave a message and she will return your call. Thanks for your help.



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 DECEMBER

GREETERS

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



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 Jerry Brown
 Jere Tankesley

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

*Mike Hess Dave Creighton Shirley Gish
 Courtney Hartman Steve Holsinger Jeff Putt
 Lin Moyer Robert Mackey

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



ACOLYTES

Week 1: Drew Smith
 Week 2: Jack Smith
 Week 3: Andrew Lines
 Week 4: Gabby Rodriguez
 Week 5: Eric Snyder



VAN INFORMATION

Bob Gish—560-6767



ATTENDANCE

October 21—346
 October 28—315
 November 4—307
 November 11—351

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Christine Turkki Paul & Janet Groff
 6714 Imperial Oak Lane 101 Way Point Dr.
 Orlando, FL 32819 Lancaster, PA 17603

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Renea Snyder
 3 Clair Greiner

4 Ellen Weaver
 Tom Wolf

5 Amy Wiggins
 Carol Kramer
 Dolores Leonard

8 Peggy Bates
 10 Nicole Putt

11 Shane Heck
 Jack Wilson

13 Judith Gibble
 14 Doug Deihm
 15 Brenda Stout

17 Jean Deemer

18 Floyd Montgomery
 Ashley Wenger
 Carol Graham
 Marvin Harnish

19 Gene Koser

21 Sarah Shreckise
 Deb Neslund

23 Pat Shreckise
 25 Fred Kreider

26 Ray Leckrone
 Logan Wenger

27 Ryan Bookman

28 Alex Truit

29 George Murray

30 Mark Frace
 Allen Mellinger



MUSICAL NOTES

Why do we come together to worship? Modern technology has sort of rendered that obsolete, hasn't it? Can't we just all agree to watch the same service on TV, and then maybe discuss it via email? Just think of the benefits: no expense to travel to church, less exposure to this season's cold and flu bugs, etc., etc. Indeed, numerous science fiction stories have explored a future where people never meet face to face; the only interaction is electronic.

But that seems kind of icky to even think about, doesn't it? It is a very human need to come together. Indeed, Jesus doesn't seem to have envisioned His church as a solitary exercise at all. In Matthew 18, Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." In a famous sermon, John Wesley said that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. According to the Wesley Center, Christian life is life in community, in the fellowship of the Spirit we call the church.

We come together for worship, for fellowship, and for service. And at certain times of the year, those days that we consider the most holy, we come together for special celebrations of great joy. Christmas is just such a defining time, where families converge to be together. We gather in ancestral homes and new homes, visiting, renewing ties, exclaiming over growing children, missing those no longer with us, remembering and rejoicing in the bonds of love and family.

And very, very often, the entire family then comes to church together, to experience the power and grace of our extended family in Christ. In theory, the components of those special times could be experienced alone. All by yourself, you could look at Christmas art, sing

carols, light a candle and hold it aloft, but it just would not be the same, would it! In our Candlelight Christmas Eve service, when we all light candles and hold them overhead while singing *Silent Night*, the very proximity of other believers adds a dimension to the worship that is very real, and very special.

There are three very special events in the life of our con-



Emery DeWitt



gregation that bring music and art together in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. Two of them are on Christmas Eve, December 24. The Family Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. is geared to both delight and highlight the children and youth of our church, with stories, music and more.

At 6:30 pm, the Christmas Eve Recital and Lessons and Carols service bring a gentle, holy glow to the season with readings and music.

The third special event is on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate our Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert as a final look at this high and holy season. All three of these events are described elsewhere in this newsletter. Make a commitment to join others in our Christian community to come together for these celebrations – Christ will be in our midst!

Emery DeWitt, Director of Music

RESULTS OF CROP WALK 2012

Thanks to members and friends of our congregation for their generous contributions to the annual CROP Walk. This year the total donations turned in by the Lancaster COB reached \$2195.

Carlos Schaudel, who spearheads our church's participation in the CROP Walk, was joined by several Jr. High youth and their families taking part in the walk. Thanks to Director of Youth Ministries Linda Byers for coordinating this event for the youth.

The CROP Walk is a program of Church World Service that helps to fight hunger in 80 countries around the world. In addition, 25% of the proceeds from the Lancaster Walk go to support the Lancaster Food Banks. Contributions from CWS/CROP also go

to areas struck by disaster. Another way that donations to CROP are used is by teaching people how to get enough food through self-development.

Thank you, LCOB, for your great support of the CROP Walk!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Women's Fellowship is filling 78 Christmas stockings for people residing at Partners Achieving Independence Group Homes. If you would like to make a contribution of \$5.00 or more to this project, please see Millie Bomberger, Jeanne Heck or Marilyn Hummel. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The count down is one! With less than 20 shopping days until Christmas (not including Sundays of course!) the January newsletter's **absolute** deadline will be **December 10, 2012**. If you have email, please email your articles to Tiffany Dickel in the church office at lancob@comcast.net. Otherwise put them in mailbox 29 or in the "Newsletter Articles" folder behind her desk.

PRAYER BREAKFAST'S

27TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast at Lancaster Church of the Brethren began January 15, 1986, with 16 worshipers on an 8 degree morning. This initiative was the inspiration of David Hosler and T. Norwood (Woody) Herr. With few exceptions, the Wednesday Prayer Breakfast has occurred weekly at LCOB ever since.

On **Saturday morning**, January 12, 2013, there will be a 27th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast held in the Family Life Center at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast will start at 8:00 a.m. with prayers and meditations at 8:30. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The program is expected to last about 50 minutes.

Meditations, readings, prayers and meaningful recollections from prayer breakfasts past will be part of the program. The guest speaker of the day will be Dr. Brenda J. Becker, Superintendent of Hempfield School District.

A hot breakfast will be served, so an approximate count will be helpful. Please contact the Church Office (717-397-4751) and simply give your name and the number of people expected to attend with you. Again, **ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend and to bring a friend.

--David Hosler, Prayer Breakfast Coach

CLIMBERS' CORNER

On Saturday, December 8, the Climbers will be meeting at the Calvin Wengers, 123 Evergreen Ct., Pleasant View, Manheim at 4:45 p.m. for caroling. The items for donation to the Food Bank are peanut butter, jelly and cereal. We will return to the Wengers after caroling for refreshments.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CRAFT SALE

Please support the annual CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CRAFT SALE at Brethren Village sponsored by the BV Auxiliary. Come to Wolfe Auditorium in the Welcome



Center on Friday, December 7, 9-4 p.m. to purchase cookies. The cost is \$4.00 per pound. Shop on Friday, December 7, 9-4 &

Saturday, December 8, 9-12:00 for your crafts. **In order for people to purchase cookies, we need YOU to donate lots of cookies.** You may deliver the cookies anytime the week of December 3 but no later than Friday, the 7th before 9:00 a.m. If you deliver them before the day of the sale, drop them off at the Volunteer Services Office or the Reception desk in the Courtyards. **Please label the cookies & note ingredients such as nuts, fruit, etc.** Thank you.

--Marilyn Hummel, 295-9121 BV Key Person LCoB

DECEMBER PMT ENERGY TIP

Install a programmable thermostat. When using a programmable thermostat, make a schedule and stick to it. Program it to set back the heat two hours before you go to



bed and increase it just before you wake. When used properly, you can save up to \$150 per year according to Energy Star.

CANCELLATION POLICY

-Sunday worship will be cancelled only under extreme conditions, such as the loss of power. Even in heavy snow storms, those who live nearby can walk to church.

-The **church office** will be open on schedule unless there is a loss of power, or it is too dangerous for the staff to travel.

-All programs and events other than Sunday worship will be handled on a case by case basis, with the person in charge making the decision relative to cancellation. Those in charge of a program or event are responsible for notification when there is a cancellation.

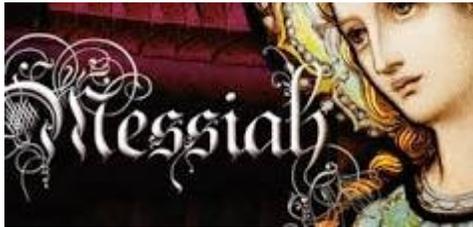
-If there is a question about a potential cancellation, call the church office (397-4751) press 6. All cancellations will be posted at that location on the phone system.

--Moderator

STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT, JAN 6, FEATURES HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

The *Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert* is a much-beloved tradition at Lancaster Church of the Brethren – a chance after the holiday “rush” to experience the music of Advent and Christmas one more time, and also to look forward with music for the New Year. On **Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.**, join the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bell Choir, soloists and instrumentalists in the Sanctuary for this wonderful musical event!

The centerpiece of the concert will be a set of movements from one of the most renowned compositions in the choral literature: George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*. Handel wrote *Messiah* in 1741, on scripture texts compiled by Charles Jennings. The entire work comprises three parts and takes almost two hours to perform; our set of excerpts will last around 35 minutes, and include famous choruses and solos from the first two parts, concluding with the *Hallelujah* chorus. The Chancel choir will be joined by a small orchestra of strings, oboes and harpsichord.



The concert will also include a World Premiere, of British composer John Rushby-Smith's *Te Deum*. In last year's Epiphany Concert, the Chancel Choir gave the U.S. premiere of Rushby-Smith's *Magnificat* – a difficult yet very rewarding work. When the composer heard the recording of that concert, he asked Director of Music Emery DeWitt if we would premiere his *Te Deum* on our next concert. What an honor!

The Carillon Bell Choir will be featured on Kathy Mokolbust's arrangement of *The First Noel*, and also on a sparkling arrangement called *A Calypso Christmas* by Kevin McChesney. The ringers will join the Chancel Choir in *Christmas Bells With Joy Are Ringing* by Hal H. Hopson.

As with all Starlight Tea concerts, admission is free, with a free-will offering taken. After the concert, join us for another long-standing tradition: the Starlight Tea reception, with cookies and treats baked by the congregation's chefs! We hope to see you there!

HAITI – ISLAND OR CONTINENT?

Hurricane Sandy has focused our attention on the wide spread devastation and death near us. Many of us have contributed in some way to helping recovery efforts.

At the same time Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, has had serious damage to crops, land, livestock, fisheries and rural infrastructures. Sixty people were killed. **This was the third disaster to hit Haiti this year:** first, a severe drought, followed by tropical storm Isaac in August, and now Sandy. The livelihoods of at least 1.5 million people were affected.

Technically, Haiti is an island nation. But consider what the 17th century poet and pastor, John Donne wrote: “No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never seem to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

The Church of the Brethren has responded to the need in the United States and in Haiti through (1) the Children's Disaster Services in New York and New Jersey, and (2) a \$50,000 grant from the Global Food Crisis Fund for agriculture projects in Haiti.

Your support for these services goes a long way.
--Hunger and Poverty Group

STORM SANDY

Super Storm Sandy brought much destruction to property and suffering, especially to people living in New Jersey and New York. Brethren Disaster Relief has responded promptly by sending needed materials, including Hygiene Kits and Clean-Up Buckets among other items to the areas most affected.

When disaster strikes, it doesn't take into consideration whether it is Thanksgiving or the time before Christmas. Our responsibility as followers of Christ is to help those in need. We have been asked by members of the congregation what we are going to do.



Stay tuned! We plan to have a fund drive, especially for this disaster area affected by Sandy. You will hear more about this in announcements in the services as we move along.
--The Outreach Ministry Team.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT OF OCTOBER 28, 2012

On Sunday, October 28, 2012, moderator Allen Hansell called the congregation together in the business of the church after devotions and a soup & salad lunch hosted by our Youth. The Youth raised \$1,278.50 toward future projects.

The congregation was presented the Alpha Society recognition from Elizabethtown College for having contributed to the college over \$100,000 (the first COB congregation to have such honors). The recognition was presented by E-town's former board president, David Hosler.

Changes to the Constitution & Bylaws were approved: discontinuing the Pastoral Relations Team, expanding the Executive Committee by an additional appointment from the congregation at-large, allowing for the Church Treasurer to not be the Chair of Stewards Ministry Team and adding the Safe Church Committee. Also approved was the policy statement on Ethics & Moral Issues.

Approved was the renewal of ministry licenses for Jennifer Biemiller, Judith Breidenstine, John Breidenstine and Curtis Dehme. Also approved was the licensing of Megan Eldridge Lester.

Additional action taken by the congregation includes: approving the 2013 Plan of Ministry (budget) of \$755,423 (0.38% increase), approving Outreach & Scholarship Fund Distribution of \$2,000 for *Lancaster Co. Coalition to End Homelessness*, \$2,000 for *Bridge of Hope*, \$2,000 for *Bethany Theological Seminary at Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center* (aiding Megan Eldridge Lester) and \$2,000 for *SERRV International*.

The congregation approved the following to leadership positions: Allen Hansell, Moderator; Jay Wenger, Assistant Moderator; Deacons: Grace & Stan Cox, Shirley Gish, Janet Groff, Sue & John Groff, Joan Miley, Sharon Nace, Madelynn Riedel, Shirley & Calvin Wenger; Gail Murray, Education Ministry Team Assist. Chair; Diana Wiker, Hospitality Ministry Team Chair; Otto Schaudel, Outreach Ministry Team Chair; Jeff Putt, Property Ministry Assist. Chair; Frank Fox, Stewardship Ministry Team Chair; Don Dotterer, Traditional Worship Ministry Team Assist. Chair; Frank Fox, Treasurer; Doug Deihm, Assist. Treasurer; Dory Voulopos, Auditor; Fern Bucher & Grace Cox, Leadership Search Team; Donna Lunger, Dist. Conf. Delegate; and Linda Hopple, Annual Conf. Delegate.. The very heavy agenda was expedited efficiently, allowing time for those in attendance to express their feelings on the blended style of Love Feast

that was held on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 7, 2012. Many, but not all, were in support of this style which gives the Deacons input in their future planning of Love Feast.

--Jay V. Wenger, Assist. Moderator



COMMITMENT CHECK

A number of years ago Norman Cousins wrote an editorial in *Saturday Review* in which he reported a conversation he had on a trip in India.

He was talking with a Hindu priest named Satis Prasad. The man said he wanted to come to our country to work as a missionary among the Americans.

Cousins assumed that he meant that he wanted to convert Americans to the Hindu religion, but when asked, Satis Prasad said, "Oh no, I would like to convert them to the Christian religion. Christianity cannot survive in the abstract. It needs not membership, but believers. The people of your country may claim they believe in Christianity, but from what I read at this distance, Christianity is more a custom than anything else. I would ask that either you accept the teachings of Jesus in your everyday life and in your affairs as a nation, or stop invoking His name as sanction for everything you do. I want to help save Christianity for the Christian."

B. Clayton Bell, in Preaching, May-June, 1986.

In Russia, Christians are tested by hardship, but in America you are tested by freedom. And testing by freedom is much harder. Nobody pressures you about your religion. So you relax and are not so concentrated on Christ, on His teaching, how He wants you to live."

Pavel Poloz, recently (1987) exiled from Russia, Moody Monthly, April, 1989.

A missionary society wrote to David Livingstone and asked, "Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to know how to send other men to join you." Livingstone wrote back, "If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

Good News Broadcaster, April, 1985, p. 12.

<http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/> . . . smt

THANK YOU

Thank you for the churches and individuals in our district who donated items for Hurricane Sandy Victims. We received over 600 blankets, and hundreds of coats and sweaters. Tomorrow (Saturday, November 10, 2012) I will be taking the items and meeting Jonathan Bream, Pastor of the Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren, to distribute the items in the NY area. I will post pictures on the Brethren Village Website next week.

Dana Statler
Associate Pastor
Brethren Village

Thank You for the prayers and expressions of support during my surgery and recovery. The church family is an important part of my life that gives me daily strength.

Blessings, Lynn Shively

Many thanks and with great appreciation to Grace Cox in my time of need. There are many prayers coming her way.

Vicki Williams

Thank you for the prayers, phone calls and expressions of concern I received from many of my new church family and the visits from Pastors J. Calvin and Cindy during my recent surgery and recuperation. The Wednesday morning prayer group was truly a blessing.

Bob Bingaman

Special thanks to Pastor Calvin and all our friends who upheld us in prayer and shared loving notes and cards during Steven's unexpected surgery. God bless you all.

Love, Stan and Grace Cox

To the Deacon Body and Wednesday Morning Prayer Group,

Celebrating God's love and mercy! My recovery will take a few more months until I am feeling normal again. I'll continue to be monitored with cat scans for the next ten years, but my progress has been nothing short of a miracle. Beverly and I simply cannot express the extent of our gratitude for all the prayers, cards, support and love shared by so many...requesting God's peace, strength and healing hand during this trial. This experience has been a test of my faith and may it continue to develop my perseverance and maturity in faith (James 1:2-4).

May you continue to bless others with your comforting words and prayers because it is a cherished gift at a time of need.

With our love, Steve and Beverly Cox

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during recent weeks. Having been diagnosed with a DVT (deep vein thrombosis) in my right leg, my recuperation is ongoing. Your continuing concern is much appreciated.

Love & blessings, Carol Kramer (and Dick)

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your support while I was hospitalized in October. Your cards, calls and prayers were sincerely appreciated and aided in my recovery. Faithful pastoral support from Pastors Calvin and Cindy was indeed uplifting.

Blessings to all, Doris Bridgeman

To the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was so grateful to receive your note informing me that you are praying for Bridgewater College. What an encouragement to know the College is being lifted up in prayer.

Thank you for being faithful to follow Paul's instruction in Ephesians 6:18: "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all

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the saints.”

Please stop by to see me if you are in the area so that I may have a chance to thank you personally. With best regards, Roy W. Ferguson, Jr.

My recent rotator cuff surgery prompted many of you to offer prayers on my behalf, and to make personal contacts via phone calls and get well cards. Each act of love and concern was deeply appreciated. Surgery went well and I am ready to begin several weeks of physical therapy. Lois is also appreciative of your thoughts and prayers for her as she cared for a rather impatient patient. ☺

--Al Hansell

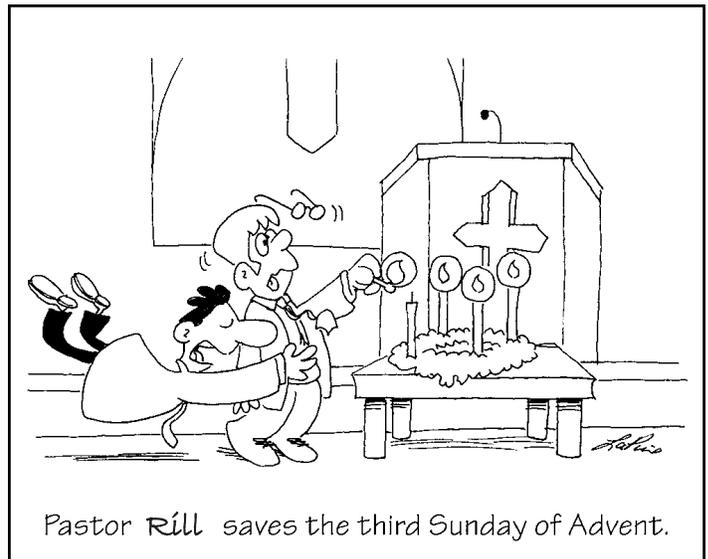
I wish to thank all of you from the church family for your concern, prayers from individuals as well as the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group, E-mails and cards during my recent episodes with fainting and subsequent stay in the hospital for numerous tests. All of these tests proved negative and I am back to normal. I want to especially thank Dave Creighton for being there with me during my medical crisis in the Dominican Republic. And a big thank you to Calvin. He came when I needed him most, with his presence and prayers. I appreciate being part of this church family. May our God bless you all.

--Otto Schaudel

I want to thank Pastors Jeff Rill, Cindy Lattimer and J. Calvin Wenger for their spiritual support and visits during Harry's extended illness and death. Thank you also to my Chancel choir family for their everlasting love and support; my undershepherds, Mo & Rachel Salamh for their visit and gift of food; the Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast group for their prayers and cards; Pathfinders for their memorial to Harry; Lynn & Lynne Shively for their kindnesses and all others who sent cards and messages of condolence. I am blessed to be a part of a very wonderful and caring church congregation.

--Judy Coble and family

David & Friedlinde Ebersole would like to thank the pastors and all the church family and the choir for their prayers, cards, visits and good wishes following their recent surgeries.



WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the Christ child at Christmas. (The word “advent” comes from the Latin word that means “coming.”)

For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth and become more excited about his coming in the past, in the future, and in our own lives.

There is no set meaning for the candles of the Advent wreath (except for the middle candle, which always signifies the birth of Jesus the Christ and is often called the Christ Candle). Many churches (but not all) have the candles point to peace, hope, joy, and love. In other settings they are identified with key figures in the stories of the birth of Jesus, such as the shepherds, the angels, Joseph, and Mary.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/>

*O come,
O come,
Emmanuel*



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

December 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

On Sunday, December 23, our annual **Meet-and-Greet** will be held in the Gathering Place. Regular adult classes will **not** be held that morning. Instead, please stop by the Gathering Place to enjoy some special Christmas treats and a chance to meet friends and greet new people.

The Chapel Bible Study Group, led by Calvin Wenger and John Snader, meets in the Chapel. They are currently immersed in an intensive study of the New Testament. In December they expect to complete their study of Paul's letter to the *Ephesians* and continue into Paul's letter to the *Philippians*.

The One Another Class, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office. In December they will focus on advent. Anyone interested in celebrating the Christmas season with discussions based on the lectionary scriptures for Advent is encouraged to join this small group. For details, contact Linda Husted at clhusted@aol.com.

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

Dec. 9 – *Women of the Old Testament, Week 1*, with **Linda Hopple**. Three of King David's wives (Michel, Abigail, and Bathsheba) will "appear" and share their insights and feelings.

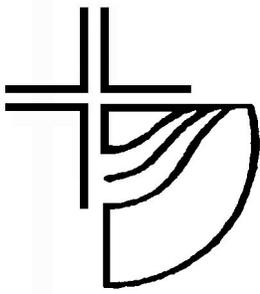
Dec. 16 – *Women of the Old Testament, Week 2*, with **Linda Hopple**. This week will feature *Sarah*, wife of Abraham, and *Hagar*, servant of Sarah.

Dec. 23 – *Meet-and-Greet*. Please stop by the gathering area for some delicious Christmas treats and a chance to meet friends and greet new people.

Dec. 30 – **Melanie Snyder**, Executive Director of Lanc. Co. Reentry Management Org. and author of the book Grace Goes to Prison: An Inspiring Story of Hope and Humanity, will speak on the topic of restorative justice. What does it mean? How can it transform lives? Hear how Marie Hamilton, a Brethren woman and the subject of Grace Goes to Prison, applied Jesus' teachings in her volunteer work with men and women in prison. Also learn how restorative justice can bring healing to victim, offenders, their families and communities.

Connections, a casual conversation group meeting in room 200, opens at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation, and continues informal conversation during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour. It is open to everyone interested in connecting with other people on a more personal level. In December the group will be examining ways to keep focus on Christmas and not lose your sanity with the holiday hype. For details, contact Rich Bowser at 201-8734 or rbowser4@yahoo.com.





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www.lancob.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**LANCASTER CHURCH
OF
THE BRETHREN**

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.

GOALS

Radical Hospitality
Passionate Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Risk-Taking Mission and Service
Extravagant Generosity

(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. Chapel
9:00 a.m. Family Life Center
10:15 a.m. Family Life Center
10:15 a.m. Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Maranatha

**WORSHIP FOR
CHILDREN**

10:15 a.m. Praise Kidz
(Age 4—3rd grade)
10:15 a.m. S.A.L.T.
(4th—6th grade)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00a.m. Children & Adults

Our Staff

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor
Cindy E. L. Lattimer
Associate Pastor
J. Calvin Wenger
Pastor of Caregiving

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

Jamie Nace
Director of Children's Music
Director of Children's Ministry
Linda Byers
Director of Youth Ministries
Carole Deck
Director of Performing Arts
Tiffany L. Dickel
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor