



# BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

January 2013

## 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!

## DENOMINATIONAL LEADERS TO VISIT US

**Stan Noffsinger**, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren, will be here on January 13 to talk



about the **State of the Church**, with a special emphasis on the ministries of the CoB at home and around the world. **Mary Jo Flory-Stuery**, Executive Director of Ministry and Associate General Secretary, will be here on February



10 to talk about the **State of Ministry** in the CoB, with a special emphasis on the new *Ministerial Leadership* paper that will go to the 2013 Annual Conference for final approval. On their respective Sundays, Stan and Mary Jo will preach in the chapel and sanctuary worship services, meet with the Thoughtful Life Class, stay for the Soup & Salad lunch and a talk-back after lunch.

Stan, having grown up in the Conestoga Church of the Brethren in Leola, is well known by many Brethren in our congregation and the Atlantic Northeast District. Mary Jo, a former pastor, has been the Executive Director of Ministry for the past ten years. I hope you will plan to be present on Jan. 13 and Feb. 10 and help give Stan and Mary Jo a warm welcome.

--Allen T. Hansell, Moderator

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

### BREAKFAST

Those interested in attending this inspiring event Monday, January 21, 2013, need to sign up in the Church Office. This year's speaker is Dr. Ron Archer. Held at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square (7:00 - 9:00 a.m.), the event raises funds for the work of Crispus Attucks Community Center with a gift of \$60 for each seat. The Wednesday Prayer Breakfast will support anyone who wishes to attend but otherwise is challenged by the requested donation. Contact David Hosler or Tiffany Dickel (church office) for details and reservation.

--David Hosler

*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 JANUARY

## GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Kathy & Gene Mummau  
 8:40 a.m. Sue & John Groff  
 8:40 a.m.  
 9:50 a.m. Carlene & Scott Hufford  
 9:50 a.m. Barb & Russ Morrow  
 11:15 a.m. Judi & Bob Hess



## USHERS

**CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.**

Jerry Brown & John Graham

**SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.**

\*Ken Harnish James Bridgeman Jere Bridgeman  
 Jon Bridgeman Linda Harnish George Murray  
 John Vesper Pat Vesper

## CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



Wilma Garland

## ACOLYTES

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



## VAN INFORMATION

Bill Evans  
 560-6502



## ATTENDANCE

November 18—344  
 November 25—328  
 December 2—355  
 December 9—369



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Charles Denlinger<br>Del Akech Del<br>Phillip Deng<br>James Kongor<br>Chol Mading Deng<br>Deng Kudior Bol<br>Jacob Kongor | 7 Brad Snyder  | 22 Stanford Cox<br>J. Ervin Martin<br>Jessica Dunbar |
| 2 Donald Dotterer   | 10 Alaina Bridgeman<br>Shirley Gish<br>Brian Shotzberger | 23 Wanda Fox<br>Sarah Shearer<br>Ron Yunginger       |
| 3 Andrew Lefever  | 11 Joy Montgomery<br>12 Grant Husted                     | 24 Eric Snyder<br>25 Melissa Heck<br>26 Craig Husted |
| 4 Madeleine Miller<br>Carly Deihm   | 14 Mike Snyder<br>15 Terry Shearer                       | 28 Norma Hollinger<br>Joel Kettering<br>Bob Frick    |
| 5 Mary Snyder   | 16 Carl Gish<br>Barry Wilson                             | 30 Gloria Denlinger<br>Glenn Shultz                  |
| 6 Paul Herr<br>Theresa Herr<br>Shawn Smith  | 17 Ryan Brubaker<br>Luke Brandt<br>David Ebersole        |  |

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I am in a book club with several friends we used to live near in New York. We live all over the United States now, but have maintained contact and get together when possible face-to-face. We also keep connected by “doing stuff” together from far away, such as having our own Fantasy Football league (Ben and I are defending champions!) and reading together. We take turns picking a book that we have not read and it was my turn to choose recently. This group is pretty diverse, not just in our reading preferences but in our education levels, interests, job choices and family life. We have doctors, PhD researchers, stay at home dads, retail managers, Christians, agnostics, socialists, pacifists, soldiers...I'm not kidding when I say diverse. You can imagine that choosing a book for this group is no easy task. I spent a full month trying to figure out what I would choose. I enjoy reading and have a pretty broad range of tastes. I thought through some non-fiction I had wanted to read, I looked at some fantasy choices, I dabbled in some classics. I kept running options by Ben and he kept giving me skepticism over whether anyone would enjoy what I picked. He also flat out said he wouldn't read some of the things I proposed! The pressure to choose the perfect book started to become paralyzing. I realized I wanted everyone to like the book I chose. I didn't want them to think I was dumb or had bad taste.

Well you can imagine that picking something everyone will love is impossible and I'm happy to say that I finally figured that out. But I remembered a couple things I used to know in the process. First, what unites our book club is not that we all like to read the same things. I have read about aliens and werewolves and Bonnie and Clyde – not because I chose them, but because I enjoy reading. That's why we read together –

because we like to. And more than that – the second thing I remembered is that *we also like each other*. So while I may not have chosen a book written from the perspective of a werewolf, I *like* my friend and am curious about what it says to him. I may never read another book like it, but I hope I have a long time to keep learning about the people who read it with me.



**Pastor Cindy Lattimer**

We are a pretty diverse group here at LCOB too. We have business people, doctors, theologians, Republicans, pacifists, soldiers – and maybe a couple closet agnostics. No one program or service or style or study or viewpoint is ever going to make us all happy. And we all struggle with wanting to be known and loved for who we are – no one wants to have bad taste. But it's hard to not get caught in our preferences and forget that we are united in our love for God and for each other. We have a lot of similarities in our differences. But remembering to look for what we have in common can be difficult. It's a choice we make – we *choose* to be curious about our differences in our similarities *and* about our similarities in our differences.

So as the New Year begins, engage your curious side. Wonder about your similarities with those who are different. Listen for what God is doing in others that you may not have known or noticed without knowing them. You may discover some joy in “reading a new kind of book,” even if it is about werewolves!

**Pastor Cindy**

## HELPING HANDS FOR OUTREACH

Thank you to all 147 people who gave a day of service to go to New Windsor, MD to help either at Church World Service to verify the Hygiene Kits Assembly or to go to SERRV to repack for shipping artisan goods from various countries. This merchandise has been selected by SERRV to help local artists in Third World Places. OMT's Russel Adsitt organized this effort. We made 12 trips this year and Russ and his wife Linda went a total of ten times! I call that Commitment! We, the Outreach Ministry

# SERRV

Team, plan to continue this effort in 2013. Here is a chance for many new participants to experience a day of fun and camaraderie, getting a delicious free lunch and in general, having a good time while helping an endeavor without spending any money. We are looking forward to seeing some new faces participate in this effort. Stay tuned for the next opportunity to serve. Russ will communicate the next available date.

--Outreach Ministry Team

## INC PLANS ANOTHER SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT JIM SEBEST

A year and a half ago *INC* or *Into the Neighborhood Committee* was formed in our congregation to reach out into the local community. One of INC's activities has been to plan film discussion evenings in the spring and in the fall. Most recently when we showed the movie *Amazing Grace* about the Nickel Mine school shootings, we had more than 60 people attend from our church and the surrounding neighborhood. We are organizing another film discussion evening again this spring, so stay tuned.

You might recall that INC's first big project in June of 2011 was a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to help Jim Sebest. Jim was paralyzed as the result of a swimming accident in August of 2010. We were overwhelmed by the response of the community who came together for this event and helped us to raise more than \$34,000, which was used to purchase a standing wheelchair for Jim be able to get himself into a standing position by himself. Since last summer Jim has made such significant progress that he is now looking forward to traveling to California where he will undergo extensive rehab through a program called Project Walk.

In order for the Sebests to be able to afford the trip and rehab in California, they will need approximately \$20,000. Members of Into the Neighborhood Committee decided it was time once again to plan a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Sebests.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, January 26 from 4:30 – 8:00 pm in our Family Life Center. The Lancaster COB, Grandview United Methodist and St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran are coordinating this project to bring the community together to support the Sebests who live on Louise Avenue in Grandview Heights. We are planning a delicious meal plus musical entertainment. All proceeds will go to the *Help Hope Live – Mid-Atlantic Spinal Cord Injury Fund* which is handling all of Jim Sebest's special needs. Please tell your family and friends, invite your neighbors and plan to attend the Spaghetti Dinner on January 26. Checks should be made out to **Help Hope Live** with "**Jim Sebest**" in the memo.

-Suzanne Schaudel



## PRAYER BREAKFAST – 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION @ LCOB

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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, with timely thoughts from her life and professional experience.

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. Sign-up sheets can also be found in the Gathering Place & Church Office.

Again, **ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend and encouraged to bring a neighbor.

--David Hosler, Prayer Breakfast Coach



## WNL RESUMES JANUARY 16

*Wednesday Night Live (WNL)* has been going strong at the Lancaster COB for seven years. For ten weeks in the fall and again in the spring, we are treated to delicious meals and stimulating classes on Wednesday evenings. This program serves us well and has become an outreach program in which many from the community regularly participate.

Deb Chillas has been the coordinator of the entire WNL program for all these years, but has recently asked to step down from the position of coordinator. Our sincerest thanks go to Deb for her many years of devoted service to this program. To fill Deb's shoes, two people have agreed to take on the job of overseeing WNL. Suzanne Schaudel will coordinate the meals and Chuck Denlinger will be responsible for planning the classes.

Cont'd on page 5.

### HUNGER AND POVERTY SCHEDULE

We know that many of you like to have the Hunger and Poverty Group's schedule for the entire year, so here is the 2013 schedule.

- Jan. 13**—first "2 Cents a Meal" offering for 2013. Remember, 1/3 of this offering goes to the Lancaster County Council of Churches (LCCC) and 2/3 to the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund.
- Feb. 17**—First Sunday in Lent—Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- Mar. 28**—Maundy Thursday—Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- April 14**—"2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- May 19**—Pentecost Sunday—Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- July and August**—"Be An Angel" project to purchase uniforms and supplies for over 1200 homeless students in the School District of Lancaster (city of Lancaster).
- Sept. 8**—"2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- Oct. 6**—World Communion Sunday—Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- Nov. 10**—"2 Cents a Meal" offering.
- Dec. 1**—First Sunday in Advent—Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.

Note- "2 Cents a Meal" offerings totaled \$6,452.43 in 2012.

Wednesday Night Live, from February 13 through March 20, will feature classes related to hunger and poverty. Jim Wallis' book, *Rediscovering Values*, will be examined.

Remember these words of Jesus from Mathew 25:31-46: "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing..."

-Hunger and Poverty Group

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**January 15, 2013**

### KIDZNSNOW

Snow transforms the landscape into a winter wonderland, but to enjoy the glistening sparkle, you need a warm parka and boots! Some local children lack snow boots and winter coats, so the Lancaster County Council of Churches is collecting snowsuits and winter parkas for children and babies, from infants through age 12. We also need snow boots for toddlers through youth sizes, as cold, wet feet dampen the fun of building snowmen.



Please consider donating new or gently used snowsuits, coats, jackets, ski pants, and boots for Girls and Boys. We will collect till the end of February and then deliver to LCCC.

The sizes needed are:

- Snowsuits – Infants through Toddler 3
- Winter Parkas in sizes 2 through 14
- Snow boots for Toddlers through youth sizes

There will be collection boxes at 2 places, with one box in the Gathering Place, and one box at the area of Family Life Center. Any questions, please contact Ellen Weaver at 290-1715.

### WNL RESUMES cont'd from page 4.

As with any church program, many volunteers are needed to make WNL a success. Behind the scene are cooks, helpers, dishwashers and people who set up and tear down the tables & chairs. There are volunteers who provide desserts and others who serve as part of the set-up crew. Thanks to all who serve and will continue to serve in these roles. We are always looking for more volunteers to help.

In order for the classes to take place, we need persons to plan and to teach. Of course, we also need you to come to participate in all that is offered at the Lancaster COB on Wednesday evenings.

Two series of WNL classes will begin in January. One series will be a 10-week Bible study of *2 Corinthians*, led by Calvin Wenger. The other series will be in two parts: the first 4 weeks will focus on *Expressing Life and Faith through Poetry*. The remaining six weeks will focus on poverty and the recent book by Jim Wallis entitled *Rediscovering Values*.

Dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. and classes run from 6:15 – 7:15 each Wednesday during the WNL season. Please plan to attend WNL from January 16 – March 20!

-Suzanne Schaudel

## START OUT 2013 ON THE ROAD TO GOOD HEALTH!

As seen on NBC's "The Biggest Loser" there is a way to tell how "old" your arteries are and if you are at risk for a stroke or heart disease. The Prevention Health Screenings group has the ability to tell you this by offering a quick, painless, non-invasive health test to see if you are at risk for serious health problems.

**Save the Date!** On **Thursday, January 31**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. you & community members are invited to **Lancaster Church of the Brethren** to participate in the available health screenings.

Along with the heart disease screening, there will be 7 other tests you can choose from. The costs range from \$25 up to \$179 for the complete package. You must have an appointment to have the screenings done and appointments are at first come first serve, so register early. This program has been very popular in the past years.

Call 1-800-257-3516 or go to [www.preventionhealth.org](http://www.preventionhealth.org) for more information.



### LIBRARY LINES

Happy New Year to all! Your Library Committee wishes you a blessed New Year and hopes you will all visit the Library and discover what entertaining and enlightening books await your perusal. There is really no better way to fend off the *cold winds* of winter than to curl up with a good book! So come to the Library and discover what many choices you have.

New arrivals include:

[Mighty Be Our Powers](#) by Leyman G. Bowee  
[The One World School House](#) by Salmon Khan  
[Who is My Enemy?](#) by Lee C. Camp  
[The Bhogavad Gito](#) by Eknath Easwaran

Best wishes from Deborah Hall, LaRue Helm and John and Theresa Herr



visit the Library and discover what entertaining and enlightening books await your perusal. There is really no better way to fend off the *cold winds* of winter than to curl up with a good book! So come to the Li-

### JANUARY PMT ENERGY TIP

Install timers instead of leaving your lights on when leaving your house. If you don't like coming home to a dark house in the short days of winter, save energy by using timers, motion detectors and daylight sensors.



### BV COOKIE SALE THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who donated homemade cookies for the Brethren Village Cookie Sale on Friday, December 7. Also, thank you to the people who purchased cookies and to Fern Bucher, Grace Cox, Nancy Enders and Jeanne Heck who helped at the cookie sale.

Marilyn Hummel  
BV Key Person from LCoB

### BV CHRISTMAS DECORATING THANK YOU

Volunteers from our church helped to set up and decorate Christmas trees at Brethren Village on Monday, November 26. Thank you to Jay & Nancy Enders, Steve Focht, Jeanne Heck, Laverne Eyer & Bretta Illig and Marilyn Wagner for helping in this project to make the BV Campus look special during the Christmas season.

Marilyn Hummel  
BV Key Person from LCoB

### CHRISTMAS STOCKING THANK YOU

Women's Fellowship filled 78 Christmas stockings for people residing at Partners Achieving Independence Group Homes. Thank you so much for all your contributions to this very worthwhile project which helps to make Christmas extra special for people who live in group homes. -Marilyn Hummel

### THANK YOU, LCOB

Dear Pastors Jeff Rill, Cindy Lattimer and Calvin Wenger, Wednesday morning prayer group and friends,

Your kind words of encouragement, prayers and cards meant so much to me during the months along with the sympathy shown during Earl's sister passing. Calvin, no words can express your faithful phone calls and concerns in the present and past with Millie and Carl Bomberger and our Undershephards. Sincerely, Darlene and Earl Williams

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The family of Wilbur Graham truly journeyed with faith in the last few months as we spent many hours at Wilbur's bedside; talking, reminiscing, crying, praying and grieving. We were sustained by the heartfelt expressions of concern and support from many in the congregation, especially the visits from Calvin, Cindy and Jeff. Thank you all.

-The family of Wilbur Graham

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I would like to thank everyone at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren for all the calls, cards and hospital visits during my sickness. I want to thank Pastor Cindy and Pastor Rill for their concerns. A special thank you to Calvin Wenger, what an amazing man! He has been on my heels every step of the way. Saturday, December 8, the Climbers' class Caroled at our house, what joy this brought me and my husband. Thank you! Thank you! My life is filled with the greatest friends.

Sincerely,  
Anna Heiber

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A Christmas Wish to Lancaster CoB,

Even though I'm just a once a month visitor, you have welcomed me very warmly. I appreciate the stimulating Sunday School Class, the music and Pastor Rill's sermons. You are blessed with a welcoming congregation. Visiting Pastor, Calvin, was especially gracious.

With warm caring,  
Betty Bomberger

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Thanks to all who so generously aided us during Grace's recent health problems: food, visits, phone calls, cards and prayers. What more could one ask? Love abounds!

Thanks to all,  
Bill & Grace Glasmire

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Thanks to the church members for their cards and prayers while I was in the hospital. A special thanks to the pastors. I am so blessed to have such a loving church family.

Allen Mellinger



## WHEN TRIALS COME: A TESTIMONIAL

As we enter a brand new year, trials will come into our lives, as they inevitably must because we are part of this world and are subject to the laws of nature and the nature of ourselves and others as human beings. What we *do* with those trials makes all the difference in our personal lives, the lives of those around us, and our testimony to the sustaining, healing, and restoring grace of God. There are a number of things to bear in mind when a trial comes upon you.

**First, do not worry over what trials may come into your life.** We cannot know what is ahead of us in terms of testing, and we cannot control when such things may happen. Worrying that something may be coming along drains us of living today to the best of our ability and drains us of being a testimony to the fact that God will take care of the future for us. Remember that Jesus told us, *"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."* (Matthew 6:34).<sup>i</sup>

**Second, recognize that quite frequently a trial will come into your life through absolutely no conduct or misconduct of your own.** Because we are all born with a sinful nature, but still with the capacity to choose between right and wrong, we are often deeply affected in ways either good or bad due to the deeds or misdeeds of others. We may be very, very deeply hurt by the wrongs of others, which hurt is ever more emphasized when caused by someone who is very closely connected to us and whom we love very much. You cannot control this, but when such behavior happens and draws us in, it can become very difficult to bear in mind that you are suffering the present circumstances because you are connected to others. Try to keep it in the uppermost part of your mind, and it will be one of the ways in which you will be sustained.

**Third, do not be afraid to be dependent upon others.** Speaking from first-hand experience, I can tell you that a trial of a very extreme nature can cause you to want to withdraw due to severe pain, suffering, thoughts that you don't know what to do next, thoughts of wondering what others are thinking and will think of you, and wondering if others are judging you, questioning whether you have done something terrible to bring such tragedy upon yourself. Remember the second point above, and ask God to carry you into the unknown.

When my family began to suffer a very severe trial that would last for many, many years, we were about 5½ years into the experience and found ourselves, due to the circumstances, geographically separated from each other. During a rare time when we could get together in a neutral setting, the pressure that had been building up over those early years was becoming unbearable. When my oldest son, who was 22, was getting ready to leave and

head back home, I walked over to embrace him. I did not know when I might see him again. I barely got the word “goodbye” out of my mouth and just melted into wracking, uncontrollable sobs that seemed like they would never come to an end. In graciousness and love, my young son did not react with any type of shock, but instead held onto me as long as I needed – and it was quite a while. The dam had been building for a long time, the contents were very great, and the wall had finally burst. And it felt really good to let it all go. When the episode began to subside, I apologized, but my son said he understood and that I should not feel the least bit embarrassed. And in that moment, I realized that I didn’t. Tears are part of the process.

When you are suffering, let others know. Talk, ask questions, and when help is offered, readily accept. You may be surprised to find that family and friends who have such great love for you can provide the greatest warmth, support, encouragement, and prayers that will carry you when you feel you cannot make it another step. And in your deep distress, call upon the Lord often. Remember the words of the psalmist: *“Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, bear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.”* (Psalm 130:1).

**Fourth, you cannot “rush through” your trials.** It is not possible to determine the length of your testing. When God has a work to do in us, it must be according to what He knows we need and in the length of time He deems necessary. He is working to perfect you exactly as is necessary. Remember Job’s suffering, how he viewed the work of God in his life, even as he was severely tested and suffered: *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”* (Job 23:10).

God’s work in us is for our purification. Recently, when I was trying to recall the name of a hymn that contains some text pertinent to this point, I learned that Fern Bucher almost never uses a hymnal when in the chancel choir because she has so many, many hymns committed to memory. So I asked her, “What hymn contains the words,

*“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine?”*

Fern smiled and immediately replied, “Why that’s ‘How Firm a Foundation.’” I was glad I asked her at that moment, but afterward I began to think not only how great it was to be able to recall a hymn so quickly, but I also began to think what great comfort and strength the memorization of beloved hymns must be in Fern’s life. The melodies and words can wash over her soul, and the soul of any one of us, during times of deepest distress. God is refining you into gold, so be patient and allow Him to work with as much time as He believes He must.

**Fifth, remind yourself that the best request you can make of God is to ask Him what he wants you to do with your suffering.** You have probably heard this before, but it is not useful, and there is no answer, to the question, “Why?” We may never know any specific reason as to why we are suffering or have suffered a specific trial. I’ve had people, well-meaning I am sure, say that, “When you get to heaven you’ll be able to ask God why.” But over time I learned so very much, as you either have or will, that I can now honestly answer, “When I meet God face to face, I don’t even wish to ask Him why. By that time, the why will no longer matter. The life I knew will be over, I’ll be with God, and that’s all I’ll need.”

The best thing you can do is to ask God to show you how to use your suffering for the good of others. Many years ago, in the midst of an earlier trial, I read two very helpful books: *Don’t Waste Your Sorrows* by Paul E. Billheimer, and *Rose from Brier* by Amy Carmichael. Both of these were tremendously insightful about how to use our sorrows for the good of others. At that time, my trials were of a less severe nature such that it would be very beneficial to presently go through both of those books once again. Learning the usefulness of our pain and turning the lessons learned into tools for the future is one of the best things you can do to turn your grief to positive use.

**Last, but certainly not exhaustive on this subject, reach out to others around you who are suffering.** Whether your trial is over or you are still in its midst, you can be of so much help to others who are suffering what you yourself have suffered. You can offer to come alongside them, offer support, lend listening ears, answer questions, offer encouragement, and be steady over the long haul. Even if you’re not really sure what to do, take the step to make yourself available, and you may be surprised to find that your offer of help will be readily accepted. Perhaps you can accompany the individual(s) to something difficult to go through without support, offer to help in practical ways about the home, accompany them to do mundane things during which they may appreciate your company, or make a dinner for them and invite them into your home to change their routine and surroundings. More than you know, you have so much to offer.

**Coming through a trial is a tremendous opportunity to be a testimony and bring glory to God.** Certainly due to the result of a terrible trial and tragedy, we can understandably succumb and allow our suffering to completely destroy us. This is the way of human response to things that happen to us. But how much more survival, learning, growing, being restored, and healing are to the grace of God in our lives, to His ability to take a broken, thousand-pieces mess, much like a jumbled jigsaw puzzle, and put it back together not like before,

Cont’d on next page.

but better, much, much better. I have had people ask me how I have ever managed to survive great tragedy, and it gives me the opportunity to tell them that I could not have done it if I had not been redeemed by the Lord many years before my trial began. The work of God in you will be evident, even when you're not aware that others can see it.

Years ago a British comedy used to be aired, "*Keeping Up Appearances*," if you have ever seen it. There is a character in the show to whom the rest of the cast simply refers to as "Vicar." Some family and friends who watched the show began to call me "Vicar." While humorous, I also took it as quite a compliment to what God wants others to see in me. And I even had a cousin ex-

claim to me, who I do not see very often because of the geographical distance between us, "I know you have been through a lot, but the joy of the Lord just shines from you!" Wow! What a compliment, not to me, but to the work of grace and living proof that Christ is able to do all things no matter what we have endured. Trust Him – "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*" (*Hebrews 13:5*).

~ Lenny Lambert

<sup>i</sup> All quotations are from *The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible*, Fourth Improved Edition, compiled and edited by Frank Charles Thompson, D.D., PH.D., B. B. Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana, copyright 1964 (previous editions copyright 1908, 1917, 1929, 1934, 1957).

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 2013

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

*Even though these groups are "ongoing," they are always looking for new members!*

**9:00 – 9:45 Sunday Mornings**

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

**The One Another Class**, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office. In January they will begin a new Bible study. Anyone interested in a small group Bible study/discussion is encouraged to join this group. For details, contact Linda Husted at [clhusted@aol.com](mailto: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 January will include:

**Jan. 6** – *Christians Meeting & Greeting Muslims*. **John Bornman** of Eastern Mennonite Ministries will share stories and Biblical insights that inform a positive approach to Muslim-Christian relations.

**Jan. 13** – *The State of the Church*, presented by special guest **Stan Noffsinger**, general secretary of the **Church of the Brethren**, who will also be preaching in our worship services this morning.

**Jan. 20** – In the first of a two-week series, **Anabel Proffitt**, of Lancaster Theological Seminary, will speak on *The Importance of Wonder*. In his Journal, Dag Hammarskjöld wrote, "God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illuminated by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason." How do we find this wonder in the midst of our daily tasks?

**Jan. 27** – **Anabel Proffitt**, of Lancaster Theological Seminary, will speak on *Cultivating Religious Imagination*. "How can we contrive to be at once astonished at the world and yet at home in it?" G. K. Chesterton speaks of these two states as a "double spiritual need." We need both for our spiritual lives. This requires cultivating religious imagination.

**Connections**, a casual conversation group meeting in room 200, opens at 8:30 for coffee and conversation, and continues informal conversation during the 9:00 Sunday School hour. It is open to everyone interested in connecting with other people on a more personal level. Loosely organized discussions each month are focused as follows:

First Sunday: Holiday(s) of the month and their religious background.

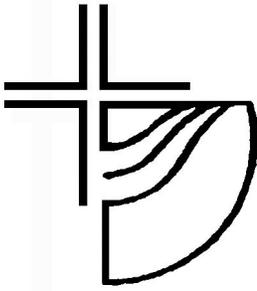
Second Sunday: Hot topics within the church.

Third Sunday: Game Day. Word games to stimulate thinking and conversation.

Fourth Sunday: God at the Movies – our take on a Pastor Shreckhise favorite topic.

Fifth Sunday: Guest speakers addressing Brethren Beliefs.

Follow the **Connections** sign to room 200 on the second floor. For details, contact Rich Bowser at 201-8734 or [rbowser4@yahoo.com](mailto:rbowser4@yahoo.com).



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<p><b>LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN</b></p> <p><b>VISION STATEMENT</b> To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.</p> <p><b>MISSION STATEMENT</b> To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.</p> <p><b>GOALS</b> Radical Hospitality Passionate Worship Intentional Faith Development Risk-Taking Mission and Service Extravagant Generosity</p> <p><small>(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)</small></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES</b></p> <p>8:00 a.m. Chapel 9:00 a.m. Family Life Center 10:15 a.m. Family Life Center 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary 10:15 a.m. Maranatha</p> <p><b>WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN</b></p> <p>10:15 a.m. Praise Kidz (Age 4—3<sup>rd</sup> grade) 10:15 a.m. S.A.L.T. (4<sup>th</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> grade)</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:00a.m. Children &amp; Adults</p>	<p><b>Our Staff</b></p> <p><b>Jeffrey B. Rill</b> Senior Pastor <b>Cindy E. L. Lattimer</b> Associate Pastor <b>J. Calvin Wenger</b> Pastor of Caregiving <b>Emery A. DeWitt</b> Director of Music <b>Margaret Marsch</b> <b>Jeanne Heck</b> Organists <b>Jamie Nace</b> Director of Children's Music Director of Children's Ministry <b>Linda Byers</b> Director of Youth Ministries <b>Carole Deck</b> Director of Performing Arts <b>Tiffany L. Dickel</b> Church Administrator Newsletter Editor <b>Linda Harnish</b> Secretary</p>
<p>The deadline for every issue is the 15th of the previous month.</p>		