



# BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

December 2013

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Holiday Season is certainly one of hope and joy - but for many it can also be a time of sadness, pain, and loneliness. Many of us miss loved ones, have worries about the future, experience painful conflict in our families, or simply develop the winter blues. Sometimes we are left searching for healing and wholeness in the midst of parties and presents. A Blue Christmas service is a time of worship aimed at creating that space to acknowledge that there is often darkness and hurt at this time of year, mixed in with the hope and joy. It is a time where we recognize that we need God to come among us - to **BE** Emmanuel, God with us, in our fear, loneliness and pain, as well as in our celebration. On Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel we will gather as a community of faith for a Blue Christmas Service. All are welcome. The service will be simple in format, allowing for prayer, reflection, and singing. We will gather after it's dark, trusting that with the advent of Emmanuel, light can truly shine into all of our lives. -Pastor Cindy

## TLC WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL PEACE ADVOCATE

Michael Hardin, an internationally known peace advocate, will speak Sundays, December 8 and 15, at the 9:00 a.m. gathering of the *Thoughtful Life Class*.

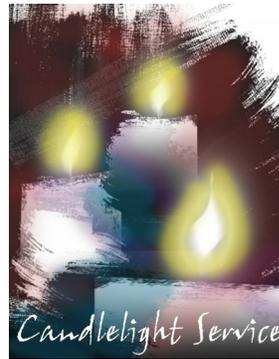
Mr. Hardin is the co-founder and Executive Director of **Preaching Peace**, a non-profit based in Lancaster, whose motto is "*Educating the Church in Jesus' Vision of Peace*." He is one of the earliest members of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion and a co-founder of **Theology and Peace**. Michael was educated at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago and is a PhD candidate at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, Australia.

Michael Harden is the acclaimed author of *The Jesus Driven Life* and is currently writing his latest book, *Lamb Up!: The Resurrection Gospel*.

With his wife, Lori, Michael has taken courses for the past decade on wilderness survival and Native American healing traditions. He also has been involved in movie and video production and is a singer/songwriter. -Clem Rosenberger

## 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: *Ave Maria* by Arlen Clarke, *Cradle Song* by John Rutter, and a wonderful arrangement of *In Dulci Jubilo*, also by John Rutter.



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!

--Emery DeWitt

## CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Join us on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. for an Old-fashioned Christmas Pageant.

The children's music class as well as several of our youth will perform for this service. It is sure to be a warm and wonderful time for the whole family! -

-Jamie Nace



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



## USHERS

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

Jerry Brown & Jere Tankesley

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

\*Jay Wenger    Donald Brenner    Scott Brubaker  
 Joan Miley    Marvin Harnish    Paul Herr  
 Carol Kramer    Dick Kramer

## CHURCH LIBRARY

**Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.**

Committee Member



## ACOLYTES

Week 1: Drew Smith  
 Week 2: Jack Smith  
 Week 3: Luke Wenger  
 Week 4: Gabby Rodriguez  
 Week 5: Andrew Lines



## VAN INFORMATION

Bob Gish 560-6767



## ATTENDANCE

October 20 - 311  
 October 27 - 313  
 November 3 - 360  
 November 10 - 345

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**New Address & Phone:**

Joe & Nancy Buckwalter  
 108 Horizon Ct.  
 Manheim, PA 17544  
 664-6585



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Renea Snyder  
 2 Alaina 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

14 Doug Deihm  
 15 Brenda Stout  
 17 Jean Deemer

18 Floyd Montgomery  
 Ashley Wenger  
 Carol Graham  
 Marvin Harnish

21 Sarah Shreckise  
 Deb Neslund

23 Pat Shreckhise  
 25 Fred Kreider

26 Ray Leckrone  
 Logan Wenger

27 Ryan Bookman  
 28 Alex Truit  
 29 George Murray  
 30 Mark Frace  
 Allen Mellinger



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Time surely does fly. My ten weeks of ministry has gone so quickly! It has been a wonderful experience for me, and I hope that I have been able to be a pastoral presence to you while Pastor Cindy was able to dedicate her time to being a new mother. As I have seen her with Everett, I know she will do very well as a mother and a pastor.

Before I officially was introduced to you as your interim associate pastor, my husband, Michael, and I came to visit one July morning. We wanted to have the opportunity to worship with you before I began as your pastor. We enjoyed attending Morning Psalm and the Traditional service. On our drive home and over lunch, we discussed our experiences extensively. Both of us agreed that the preaching in both services was incredibly strong -- theologically sound, intelligent, and thoughtful. We appreciated, also, being able to hear both pastors preach on the same scripture, but present two very different sermons. We were impressed at the different styles of worships and how they were presented.

**But the thing that stood out most clearly to both of us was how during our entire morning, not one person talked to us, aside from the greeter.** There was a sense of "friendliness" as we watched members interact, but that friendliness was not extended to us. Imagine my further surprise when I learned that one of the top priorities of the congregation was "Radical Hospitality."

I shared this story in a sermon in Morning Psalm. People were shocked, surprised, and a bit embarrassed.

I believe it is a valuable story. Community life is very important to church-goers. It is one reason (of many, I hope) that we attend church. Sometimes we get so caught up with each other, that we forget to notice the guests. If this congregation is committed, not only to Radical Hospitality, but also to growing, we must make welcoming others a top priority.

## A few ideas:

1. When you see someone you have never met, say, "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I don't know if I've met you yet. If I have, I'm sorry, I've forgotten your name."
2. At the end of worship each week, take 30 seconds to specifically search out persons whom you have never met. If everyone did this, imagine how new guests might be welcomed.
3. Consider sitting in a different place for worship. A new vantage point of the pulpit may be refreshing (and a chance to meet new people).
4. Go beyond "Good morning" with guests, but at the very minimum, do say, "Good morning!"
5. When you have met someone new, end your conversation by saying, "I'm glad we could worship together this morning."

It has been a privilege and a gift to me to be able to serve you these 10 weeks. I will continue to hold you in my heart and in my prayers. And I look forward to hearing how this church is growing due to its radical hospitality!

--Interim Assoc. Pastor, Sue Conrad Howes

## THANK YOU, CONGREGATION

In a joking mood the other day, I said, "My S.S. teachers and parents taught me that the Bible says, 'In all things give thanks!'" Well, I'm thankful in the midst of this recuperation that I have only two knees! Hopefully, there will be no more surgeries! Thanks to all of you for your cards, calls, prayers and so many acts of kindness. They were all greatly appreciated.  
--Joyce Bohn

Thank you for the cards, notes, e-mails, phone calls and in-person comments regarding my resignation as Performing Arts Director. Your kind words of appreciation meant so much to me. --Carole Deck

We have been so blessed by your outpouring of support since Everett's birth. During our time in the NICU, transitioning home and now as Cindy transitions back to work, we have so appreciated your prayers, concern, cards, meals, gifts and other acts of love. We are so grateful that our family is part of this con-

gregation. For all you have done for us, truly, THANK YOU. --Ben, Cindy, and Everett Lattimer

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits, and cards during my stay at the hospital and Manor Care. It really meant a lot to me to have people praying for me, and it worked because I hopefully get to go home Sunday, November 17. I want to thank my sister, Diana Wiker for putting me on the prayer list and helping me out during this time in my life. Thanks again to everyone. God Bless You All, Glenda Fahnestock

To the Members of the LCOB, the Deacon Body, Wednesday Morning Prayer Group and the pastoral staff, thank you so much for the cards, caring thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and hospital stay. I feel blessed to be a member of such a caring church family. Thanks to Calvin for his visits. Sincerely, DelDonna Forrest

### CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Women's Fellowship is filling 79 Christmas stockings for people residing at Excentia, formerly known as PAI 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.  
--Marilyn Hummel



### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

On Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the FLC Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a Women's Christmas Holiday Breakfast. Come and enjoy a breakfast together and the fun of a "White Elephant" exchange to start off this year's Christmas Season. Have something at home that you do not want and can't seem to give away?? Wrap it up and bring it along to the breakfast and have fun seeing who ends up with it! Bring a friend along to share in the fun. There will also be a couple of "door prizes." Any questions, contact Myrl Greiner.

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CRAFT SALE

The Brethren Village Auxiliary will host the annual CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CRAFT SALE in Wolfe Auditorium on Friday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. for cookies, which cost \$4.00 per pound. Shop on Friday, December 6, 9-4 & Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon for your crafts. In order for people to purchase cookies we need YOU to donate cookies. You may take your cookies anytime after 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 5, to the Welcome Center or to Wolfe Auditorium by 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 6. Please label the cookies. Thank you: Marilyn Hummel, Key Person LCOB 295-9121.



lots of cookies anytime

### DECEMBER PMT ENERGY TIP

**LED holiday bulbs**, are now available in many colors. They're safe to touch and won't burn your children's hands! They save up to 80-90 percent of your energy costs and are long lasting. Make sure all lights you purchase contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label, which means they meet UL safety requirements.



### FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST & CAROLING

Looking for a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season? Come and enjoy some family time around the breakfast table at 8:30 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, fruit and drinks will be provided. There will be cookie decorating and a small craft for the kids. Afterward, we will take a short walk over to Calvary Homes and carol around their cottages. What a great way to share the Christmas spirit! There is no fee. However, if you would like to make a small donation, it would be appreciated. --Jamie Nace



### CLIMBERS' CORNER

All Climbers going to "Ryan and Friends" Comedy Show, should meet at Hershey Farms on Saturday, December 14, for the 1:30 p.m. show. Please bring a donation for the food bank. The items we will be giving this month are apples, oranges and candy. --Darlene Creighton



### HOMEBUILDERS

The Homebuilders Fellowship Group will have its annual Christmas Banquet at the 4-Seasons Golf Course at noon on Saturday, December 14. If you have questions about this banquet contact Grace Cox or Wilma Garland.



### LIBRARY

Christmas is Here! Are you Ready? Are your decorations hung, cards sent out, packages wrapped, parties planned?? Have I made you anxious yet?



Every year as Christmas time comes near, earlier and earlier with every passing year, a sense of dread comes over me. I find myself wishing to escape rather than participate. If you are feeling the way I do, perhaps this new library book, Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mark Slaughter will give you some suggestions to help turn your attention toward honoring Jesus and really celebrating **His** birth this Christmas. You can find it in our church library along with new family DVD's, more New Testament Bible commentaries from the Believer's Church and other new titles for children and adults.

We hope you will have a meaningful and blessed Christmas this season.

4 --Deborah Hall, Library Committee Chairperson

## HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Mark your calendars! To help ease the stress in the church office over the holidays, please make note of the following change to the newsletter deadline.



January's **absolute** deadline is **December 10**. If you have email, please email your articles to Tiffany Dickel in the church office at [lancob@comcast.net](mailto:lancob@comcast.net). Otherwise, put them in mailbox #29.  
--Tiffany Dickel

## BV GIFT SHOP

Please remember to stop in at the Brethren Village gift shop while doing your Christmas shopping. The BV Gift Shop is a non-profit Gift Shop and is ready for the Holiday and Christmas Season. Choose an item for that special person on your list. Hours are Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.



--Marilyn Hummel, Key Person LCOB 295-9121.

## STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT - SONGS OF JOY AND PEACE!

Each year at LCOB, we celebrate the music of Advent, Christmas and the new year with our **Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert**. This year's concert is **Sunday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. It is wonderful, after the hustle and bustle of family celebrations for Christmas and New Year's Day, to pause and take one more look at the music of the season, in a much more relaxed frame of mind!

This year, our concert will begin with a wonderful handbell arrangement of the classic hymn, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, arranged by Michael R. Keller and rung by the Carillon Bell Choir. We'll then look to the season of Advent, with the Chancel Choir singing music by Jay Rouse (*Come, Emmanuel, Come*), Emery DeWitt (*The Angel Gabriel*), Christopher Aaspas (*As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*) and Dan Forrest (*The First Noel*).



We'll continue with a set we've titled **FIVE BY RUTTER**. British composer John Rutter is much-beloved by churches worldwide, and this set gathers five of his most famous compositions: *Wexford Carol*, *Donkey Carol*, *Angel Tidings*, *Cradle Song*, and the *Star Carol*.

## SUGGESTION BOX

A box has been placed in the Gathering Place to receive your suggestions for maintenance and improvement of church property both inside and outside the building. Property Ministry Team (PMT) believes that putting your suggestions into writing with a signature will be a more reliable procedure than we now have. The church administrator (Tiffany) and chair of PMT (Doug) will process the suggestions and respond. Please do not make verbal requests to the custodian (Troy); Sunday is his day of worship. Have a suggestion? Let us hear from you. --PMT



## BOOK NOW - ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Camp Swatara Acadia National Park adult trip - book now for this exciting trip to Maine September 5-14, 2014! Activities include nature discovery walks, boat/carriage rides, lobster dinners, museum/lighthouse visits, shopping, etc. This trip is limited to 18 and the price includes accommodations, all breakfasts and supper/dinners while in Maine and most fees and ticket costs. The cost is \$875-950 with a \$200 deposit to reserve your place. For more information, check out the Camp Swatara bulletin board or call Donna Lunger at 464-4966, or Amy and Mark Holinger at 354-6144 (*who just went on this trip*).  
-- Donna Lunger

Flutist Jana MacKay, oboist Jill Marchione and bassoonist Robin Plant will join us for Ander Öhrwall's *Gaudete*. The Latin word *gaudete* means "rejoice," and this music definitely does that, with a set of readings and carols from various countries dating to the Medieval and Renaissance periods. The accompaniment by our guest woodwind trio greatly adds to the celebration! Although the title is in Latin, the sung text is in English.

Our concert will end with a set that is all about peace - surely appropriate for LCOB as we start a new year so deeply in need of peace. Felix Mendelssohn's *How Lovely Are the Messengers That Bring Us the Gospel of Peace* will remind us of the peace of Christ. The spiritual *How Long?* by Pepper Choplin asks the question, "When will peace come?" The concert will end with perhaps the most profound prayer for peace in all of music: *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)* from J. S. Bach's masterwork, the *B Minor Mass*.

Admission is free, with a free-will offering taken. Please join us as we celebrate our faith with joyous music! --Emery Dewitt

## THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship means being good managers of the resources that we have earned and that life has given us. As good stewards we know that when we choose to spend our time or money, there are always opportunities foregone. We consider our choices and we use our resources in keeping with our values and life mission.

Stewardship means that we weigh not only our own needs and desires but those of other people and future generations. We realize that none of us is a self-made person and that part of what we own is wealth that flows from others through us. We appreciate the natural resources, societal resources and financial resources that have been handed down to us by our ancestors, and we are conscious of our own legacy.

Stewardship is also an integral part of our worship experience. Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others. This is an act of Stewardship.

Of course as the Stewardship Chair, I am inclined to remind us that stewardship has a financial dimension, and many of us are at the age that we may have unique contribution opportunities before the end of 2013.

With the passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, the provision for Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCD) from an IRA has been extended to the end of calendar year 2013. As you know, the QCD provision is limited to taxpayers who are over age 70½ and thus subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). In addition, the QCD must normally be sent directly from your IRA custodian to the qualified charity – it can't be taken in cash and then sent to the charity. If you qualify and you do the distribution correctly, you will not have to include the distribution on your tax return as income. You also would not count the charitable contribution as an itemized deduction.

Currently YTD our expenses are exceeding our contributions to the Plan of Ministry. Any extra contributions would help put us in good order by the end of the year.

--Frank Fox

## A TWICE-TOLD TALE OF WEALTH AND POVERTY

Once upon a time there was a very rich country. This country considered itself in many ways to be a leader in the world. After a while this country's banks and financial institutions decided that they wanted to become even wealthier. So they started to speculate, to loan out money that was very risky. After a while



these speculations led to a sharp drop in the country's wealth. So the leaders of the country decided that these banks and financial institutions, while doing something very wrong, were too important to fail. So the leaders of the country decided to help the banks and financial institutions survive. And they provided such help.

A few years later the country's leaders looked at the country's financial condition and decided to reduce spending to improve the country's financial condition. But where could they find the savings to cut spending? Aha! They discovered that there were a sizable number of poor people who were receiving help from the country's government to help feed children, elderly and those with disabilities.

So the country's leaders decided that these people must be poor because they made poor life decisions - probably many of them were undeserving! So the leaders of the country decided that this would be a very good place to save money.

Let's go back in time. Jesus once told this story: *"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the*

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 8. "A TWICE-TOLD TALE... " *prophets; they should listen to them.*' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luke 16:19-31)

--Hunger and Poverty Group

## CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT OF OCTOBER 27, 2013

On Sunday, October 27, 2013, Moderator Allen Hansell called the congregation together in the business of the church after devotions and a soup & salad lunch hosted by our Youth.

Approved for Ministerial Licenses for another year were: Judith Breidenstine, John Breidenstine, Curtis Dehmey and Megan Lester. Approved for Ordination with a 97% approval was Jennifer Hess Biemiller.

Additional action taken by the congregation was the approval of the 2014 Plan of Ministry (budget) of \$764,637 (1.21% increase). This 2014 budget includes \$15,000 pay back to the Capital Improvement Endowment Fund (for HVAC & roof).

The Outreach & Scholarship Fund Distribution was approved with a \$3,200 Grant to Bridge of Hope and a \$5,000 Grant to Beth Shalom House of Peace, a program of Tabor Community Services.

LCOB's 2020 Vision & Mission was present and approved with Eleven Criteria areas of what we hope "to be" in the year of 2020. Four items of the Eleven Criteria are moving forward at once, including: Membership Growth, Small Group Focus, Outreach Proposal and Spiritual Renewal.

The congregation approved the following to leadership positions: Property Ministry Team Chair, Doug Lunger; Traditional Ministry Team Chair, Gene Mummau; Morning Psalm Asst. Chair, Tim Dunbar; Stewardship Ministry Asst. Chair, Deb Chillias; Auditor, Steve Focht; Church Board Secretary, Suzanne Schaudel; Leadership Search Team, Jack Bryer, Barb Morrow, Clem Rosenberger and Jerry Smoker; Annual Conference delegate, Tim Dunbar; District Conference delegates, Ellen Weaver, Donna Lunger, Linda Husted, Jamie Nace and Pastor Jeff Rill.

- Jay V. Wenger



## TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES/VIETNAM

"Brethren Disaster Ministries [Church of the Brethren] is intent on organizing a response that will focus Brethren resources on the areas of greatest need by working with partners already active in the Philippines and Vietnam. An initial grant of **\$35,000** already is being sent to support emergency operations and lifesaving support. **Our [denomination's] goal is to raise at least \$500,000** to expand this initial work into the long-term rebuilding of homes and lives." —Church of the Brethren *Newsline*, November 11, 2013. **One family in our congregation has pledged seed money of \$10,000.** Our challenge over the next few weeks is for us to match this gift. Someone has said that church folks are foolish enough to believe their giving can make a difference. Indeed it does! If you wish to give, make checks payable to the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, earmarked "*Asian Disaster Relief*."

--Outreach Ministry Team

## WOMEN - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### *District Women's Fellowship*

~ **District Women's Spring Fellowship** will be hosted by Midway CoB on Saturday, March 8. The speaker will be Dory Crater. 

The event begins with registration at 8:45 a.m. and a fellowship time with coffee and tea. The program will conclude at 2:30 p.m. A buffet luncheon will be available if pre-registered and payment for the luncheon will be taken at the Church the morning of the event. Child care for children five and under will be provided for those who request that service.

More detailed information and a registration form will be mailed to each congregation in January. Registration forms should be returned no later than February 28. For more information, contact Juli Thomas at (215) 529-4581 or email Juli at [jdthomas77@comcast.net](mailto:jdthomas77@comcast.net).

~ **Women's Fellowship Camp** will be at Camp Swatara August 17-19, 2014. All women of the district are invited to attend. Our speaker will be Misty Wintsch.

There will be opportunities for worship, Bible study, hiking, swimming, water aerobics, crafts and other interest groups.

Mark your calendars now! Come and enjoy this time of fellowship and personal growth and renewal. Detailed information will be mailed in July. For more information contact Juli Thomas at (215)529-4581 or via email at [jdthomas77@comcast.net](mailto:jdthomas77@comcast.net).

## CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN PLUS ONE!

*This is the tenth in a series of articles featuring Deacons of the Lancaster CoB.* --By Linda Hopple

Imagine being a part of a family with six brothers and six sisters! And being the eleventh born of thirteen! Such is the case with Janet Groff who slept on a cot in the same room with her older sisters who crowded into two double beds.



This Mennonite family lived on a farm in the Millersville area. The older siblings had to work on the farm or other places to provide income and never had the opportunity to graduate from high school. "But all were reimbursed by Dad from their earnings when they came of age," clarified Janet.

Eleventh-born Janet was the first to be given the "privilege" of graduating from Penn Manor High School because farm work never agreed with her asthma condition. "Some of my siblings resented me and some encouraged me with my continued schooling," admitted Janet.

Janet distinctly remembers attending a revival meeting at Oakwood Mennonite Church in Maryland with older sister Elsie and her boyfriend. She was only 12 years old, but it was at this service that Janet accepted Jesus. "From that point on, I have always tried to grow spiritually," she shared.

At that stage in her life, Janet dressed in the plain garb of the Mennonite sect. By the age of 14, she began to resent the mandatory garb. "I remember being made fun of...it was painful," she admitted.

This strong willed and feisty teenager eventually got her hair cut and removed her prayer covering while her Dad was away at hunting camp. Her Mom said, "Wait till your dad gets home." And days later Dad, seeing her leave for school, shouted, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. What are people going to say!"

"The shame stayed with me for a very long time," said Janet sadly. "Some of my older sisters had also changed their way of dress, but none had done so until they had moved away and were married or on their own."

Upon graduation from Penn Manor, Janet was offered a job at the Lancaster Branch of State Farm Insurance. "I always wanted to be a secretary and was quite pleased to be chosen to be a secretary for four men." It seems quite evident that State Farm was also happy with the hiring; Janet worked for the company from 1967 to 2005.

During her early years at State Farm, Janet became

restless socially and vowed: "If I am not married by the age of 30, I will buy a motorcycle and see the world!" As it happened, the motorcycle excursion never occurred because Janet met and married a young Mennonite man. A daughter Jennifer, now 30, who is a design engineer, is a memorable result of that 20 year marriage.

In 2005, the State Farm Office 'went electronic' and Janet was offered early retirement. "They were kind and always treated me well," mused Janet.

She re-met her present husband Paul as a result of her Mother's viewing. Apparently, Paul's father attended the viewing where he saw Janet. He remembered her and questioned her present status. And, to make a long story short, he must have relayed the news to son Paul. They now have shared and enjoyed ten years as a married couple.

When queried about her connection with our church, Janet remembers, "The people at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren were so friendly. And I became very involved with the Praise and Worship Services. I was astonished, in fact, when asked to become a Deacon," she related. "Growing up, only men were Deacons in my church. I feel honored and touched to be chosen!"

This energetic, capable lady contributes greatly to our Lancaster Church of the Brethren Deacon Body. She offers devotions during Deacon meetings, sends cards to those in the congregation with health issues, and oversees bread and cup communion services in the Family Life Center. In addition, she serves as one of several mentors for Rasha Muhsen and her two children.

Always happiest when busy, Janet began her own cleaning service after 'early retirement.' "I love being my own boss and I work for wonderful people. I have proven to be reliable and trustworthy and am quite happy and content."

When not orchestrating her cleaning service and volunteering at church, Janet enjoys gardening, reading, and antiquing. She sees her strongest attributes as being merciful and forgiving. Those who know her, appreciate these traits!

## SERRV

An opportunity to volunteer at SERRV is on **Monday, December 16**. Join us as we go to New Windsor to process crafts and gift items. We will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. and return about 5:00 p.m. Lunch and a time for shopping in the international mall will be provided. You will even receive a discount! **Please RSVP** to Rus Adsitt by *Tuesday, December 10*, at 569-0278, also contact Rus for more information.

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

December 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**

**Please note:** On December 22 our annual Meet-and-Greet will be held in the Gathering Area. Regular adult classes will not be held that morning. Instead, please stop by the Gathering Area 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, John Snader, and Bob Frick, meets in the Chapel. They are currently immersed in an intensive study of the New Testament. In December they will be studying the epistles 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude.

**The One Another Class**, coordinated by Linda Husted and Jeff Rill, meets in Pastor Rill's office for a time of fellowship and study. In December they will start a new series, a video presentation by Walter Brueggemann titled, *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture*. This study is a tool for reflection and community-building. Brueggemann discusses prophetic thinking in clear and appealing terms as it challenges ancient cultures and worlds. Turning to our contemporary western world, he finds an urgent prophetic call to resist consumerism and power structures that oppress and dehumanize us all. This study is sure to stir up some lively conversation. Anyone curious is encouraged to come.

**The Thoughtful Life Class**, meeting in Rooms 162-3, features stimulating resource persons who lead discussions in a variety of topics. Speakers and topics scheduled in December are:

**Dec. 1 – Gene Bucher**, will lead us in a discussion of Paul's letter to the *Philippians*, session 2.

**Dec. 8 – Michael Hardin**, prolific theological thinker, speaker and writer, internationally known peace advocate, and Executive Director of Preaching Peace, will speak on *How Jesus Read His Bible*.

**Dec. 15 – Michael Hardin**, will speak on *Reading the Bible Through a Jesus Lens*.

**Dec. 29 – Jerry Lee Miller**, will lead us in a discussion of *Faith and Climate*.

**Connections** meets in room 200 for coffee and conversation. 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: Alternates between scripture study and a service project.

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.

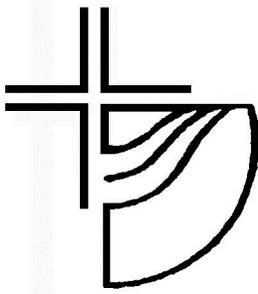
For details, contact Rich Bowser at 201-8734 or [rbowser4@yahoo.com](mailto:rbowser4@yahoo.com).

### SOME MORE THANKS

Thank you to all the volunteers who graciously served coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings throughout the year 2013! Your commitment to this important service is greatly appreciated by the people you serve before and after the worship times here at LCOB. -- Hospitality Ministry Team

BINGO - Thanks to everyone who helped at the Saturday afternoon Bingo on November 16 at Brethren Village. The residents at BV very much appreciated you spending time with them. Marilyn Hummel, Brethren Village Key Person LCOB





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1601 Sunset Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601-4329  
(717)-397-4751 lancob@comcast.net  
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)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon - Thur 8:00am—4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am—1:00pm

**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—3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
10:15 a.m. S.A.L.T.  
(4<sup>th</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> 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

**Tiffany L. Dickel**  
Church Administrator  
Newsletter Editor

**Linda Harnish**  
Secretary

**Troy Nace**  
Custodian

*Merry  
Christmas*