



BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

March 2015

LCOB HOSTING MISSION AND MINISTRY BOARD MEETINGS

The Lancaster Church of the Brethren has the privilege of hosting the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board for their March Board Meetings. They will be using our building March 13-16. There are still opportunities for you to help with hosting, set-up, and food. Some of the meetings are open. You are more than welcome to be in the gallery during the following meeting times: Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m. - NOON in the FLC (lunch is only provided for outside/invited guests); Saturday March 14, 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the FLC. Sunday, March 15, 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.



Photo by Regina Holmes

In addition to hosting the meetings, our church will also be blessed from having Church of the Brethren Moderator-elect **Andy Murray** as our Sunday morning service preacher on March 15. Andy and his wife Terry are familiar faces around this church and we are so happy to worship with them once again! We will have one combined worship service that morning in the sanctuary. Plans are already in place for it to be a wonderful celebration focusing on Jesus' use of and teachings on prayer. Don't miss out on any of these special opportunities to experience the breadth and beauty of the larger denomination!

COBYS KIDS CLOSET

The **Outreach Ministry Team** would like to thank everyone that contributed items for the COBYS Kids Closet. We collected many items from games, books, toys, balls, baby items, and backpacks to name a few. They were delivered to COBYS and were very thankful to the LCOB for the many items.
--Ellen Weaver



* NEW * SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN * NEW *

Please stop by Room 170 on March 8 at 9:00 a.m. to grab a bagel, fruit, and something to drink as you learn about the **new parenting class** starting at LCOB.

Our new Sunday morning parenting class will be for parents of children ages 0-12. Although this is the targeted group, any parent, grandparent or friend is welcome. The class will be focusing on topics that will enlighten, encourage, and inspire parenting from a Christian perspective.

Families today face an overwhelming amount of new material and challenges on parenting. The mission of this new class is to stir up some lively conversations about topics that today's parents are interested in wrestling with. Topics will include but are not limited to: the spiritual journey of parenthood, bringing out the best in you and your child, understanding and practicing Sabbath (How do we do that with kids?), affordable family fun ideas, and teaching stewardship to our kids.

As an extra bonus, the class will occasionally meet with a panel of seasoned LCOB parenting "experts." Our expert panels will be folks in their 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's who have experience in raising children. The class will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from the experience of this group of "experts". It is also a great way for folks to get to know one another across generations and connect through their common experiences.

Please come out and join this new group starting in March. If you have any questions, or ideas for this class please contact Linda Husted, linda-husted61@gmail.com

Class details:

- **Where:** Room 170
- **When:** Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., beginning March 8, 2015
- **Who:** Parents of young children seeking relationship, knowledge and connection with Christ and his followers

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 MARCH

GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Audrey and John Martin
 8:40 a.m. Laura and Rich Bowser
 8:40 a.m. Dee and John Zimmerman
 9:50 a.m. Eileen Hull
 9:50 a.m. Barb and Russ Morrow
 10:15 a.m. Amy and Mark Hollinger



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.

Jay Enders
 Don King

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

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

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



LeRue Helm

ACOLYTES

Week 1: Maria Ramirez
 Week 2: Jack Smith
 Week 3: Luke Wenger
 Week 4: Sadie Bowser
 Week 5: Drew Smith



VAN INFORMATION

Bill Evans
 560-6502



ATTENDANCE

January 18 - 331
 January 25 - 342
 February 1 - 336
 February 8 - 367

DIRECTORY CHANGES

New Email Address:
 Judi Hess - jahess212@gmail.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Ann Horning	11 Burnell Kreider	19 Rachel Salamh	27 John Groff
3 Mason Byers	Herb Frey	Paige Snyder	Doris Bridgeman
5 Cory Betz	12 Donna Lungert	20 Wendy Young	28 Fern Bucher
Darlene Creighton	Stephanie Schaudel	21 Joan Miley	Dana (Shirk) Nau
Gary Horning	13 Heather Metzger	Eric Shulenberg	29 Alex Bookman
Anna Brandt	15 Robin Baker	22 Susan Johnson	30 Helen Thatcher
7 Tyler Shuman	Kaitlyn Heck	Lauren Young	31 Josef Kinderwater
8 Ross Deihm	16 Betty Mayers	Pat Wolf	Tim Dunbar
Danielle Shulenberg	Susan Miley	Brian Horning	Doris Reynolds
Ricky Reynolds	17 Bill Glasmire	Billie Forsha	
9 Sue Lines	Bob Mackey	Howard Groff	
Mark Hollinger	Gene Mummau	Lisa Miley	
10 Earl Williams	18 Grace Cox	23 Bryan Miley	
		24 Tiffany Dickel	
		25 Keith Hummel	



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world” is our Vision Statement of the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. “Hospitality is a mark of Christian discipleship.”ⁱ

According to Robert Schnase, in his book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, “Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ. It describes a genuine love for others who are not yet part of the faith community, an outward focus, a reaching out to those not yet known, a love that motivates church members to openness and adaptability, a willingness to change behaviors in order to accommodate the needs and receive the talents of newcomers.”ⁱⁱ

In Deuteronomy God reminds the people of Israel to welcome the stranger, the sojourner, the wanderer. Why? “For you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19).

“We, too, were once strangers to the faith,... the community where we now find rich resources of meaning, grace, hope, friendship, and service.” We belong to the community of faith, which is the church, because “someone invited us, encouraged us, received us and helped us feel welcome—a parent, a spouse, a friend, a pastor, or even a stranger. By someone’s love, we were engrafted onto the Body of Christ. If we had not felt welcomed and supported in some measure, we would not have stayed.”ⁱⁱⁱ

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:34c). “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”

(Matthew 25:40). Would we not change our behaviors toward people we do not yet know if we lived as if we really believed this?

Have you ever looked around the church on a Sunday morning and seen someone you do not yet know? Most of us have. What do you usually do next? Among the possible options, you can go on not knowing who that person is, talking to the people you already know. Some people ask another person whom they know, “who is that?”

According to Jesus, as recorded by Matthew, in the Great Judgment Scene, whenever we welcome a stranger (someone we do not yet know) we welcome Jesus himself.

The next time you are at church and see someone you do not yet know, I encourage you to walk over to them, extend a welcoming hand, and say, “welcome,” and tell them your name.

In Hebrews 13:2 we find these words: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

In Romans 15:7 Paul writes to the Christians in Rome: “Welcome one another,..., just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

May God bless us, as we sincerely try to welcome people in Jesus’ name. For the good of others, for the growth of the church, and to God’s glory, may it be so.

--Pastor Jeff Rill

ⁱRobert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), p. 12.

ⁱⁱSchnase, pp. 11-12.

ⁱⁱⁱSchnase, p. 12.

VISIT TO LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON

During Wednesday Night Live a few years ago, Bob Cooper was the leader of a class that focused on justice activities and ministries in Lancaster County. During one session, Bob suggested that we try to arrange a visit to the Lancaster County Prison on East King Street. Although there was quite a bit of interest in that venture, it never came off due to a number of transitions of prison wardens. It has now stabilized and we have arranged this tour for Thursday, April 9. We will meet in our church parking lot at 9:30 a.m., and then proceed to the prison in cars. If you are interested in this tour, please inform Calvin Wenger by telling him personally or via email at calvin-shirleywenger@gmail.com. We should know who is interested by Sunday, March 29. --Calvin Wenger



GETTING OUT OF THE BOAT

David and Linda Byers have begun their missionary journey in the Bahamas, and they plan to maintain an online diary of their experiences. To sign up to receive their posts via email, visit the website daveandlindabyers.blogspot.com. You can see their posts there, and in the top right corner, you can enter your email address in the box marked "FOLLOW BY EMAIL". When you do that, a new window will open with a verification code you should enter. Do that, and then you'll receive an email verifying your request. You must click on the link in that email to start the subscription. Please continue to pray for Dave and Linda as they serve the Lord in the Bahamas! --Emery DeWitt



HYGIENE KITS TO BE ASSEMBLED

The Pathfinders Fellowship Group is organizing another assembly of 600 hygiene kits on **Sunday, April 26**, after the 10:15 services. We need your help in order to make this a success. Over the past 18 years, we have assembled more than 16,000 hygiene kits that are sent to areas around the world suffering from disasters. Your contributions make it possible for us to purchase the personal hygiene items needed for the kits at the low cost of approximately \$6 a piece. In addition, we must contribute \$2 to Church World Service in handling fees, therefore each time we assemble 600 kits we need donations amounting to \$4,800.



Please make out your check to Lancaster CoB and place it in the offering plate. Be sure to indicate *hygiene kits* on the memo line. And don't forget to stay for about 45 minutes on April 26 to help assemble the hygiene kits in the rear of the Family Life Center. Any questions, contact Suzanne Schaudel.

CAKE DECORATING PHASE 2

Women's Fellowship Cake Decorating Phase 2-back by popular demand! Women's Fellowship will be meeting the first day after Spring, March 21, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. to have some "creative" fun. After a continental breakfast we will gather in the kitchen to learn



new cake decorating ideas that anyone can do. Materials that you need will be either a **9x13 cake**, a **round cake** or **six cupcakes**. Also bring along your favorite **white icing** to decorate with. You will go home with your beautiful made-by-you

sweets. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Questions contact Diana Wiker or Myrl Greiner.

BATTER UP!

Anyone interested in participating on the church softball team this year is encouraged to contact Jon Bridgeman (665-1614 home phone) or e-mail Jon at (jonkat18@dejazzd.com) or Tim Heck (560-9758 home phone) or e-mail Tim at (heckt7@verizon.net).

We are hoping to have more of a true "church" team this summer. We will start practicing in latter March or early April weather permitting.

--Jon Bridgeman



CLIMBERS FELLOWSHIP

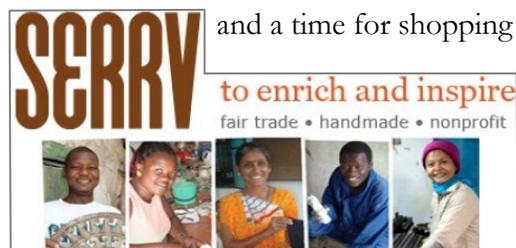
Sunday, March 8, Climbers Fellowship group will be going to Yoders Restaurant in New Holland (across from Garden Spot High School) for a Noon Sunday Brunch. Your contact person will be calling you the end of February to find out if you are interested in joining us.



--Bob & Mary Ann, Elvin & Linda, Mo & Rachel

SERRV

An opportunity to volunteer at SERRV is on **Thursday, March 19**. 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 Monday, March 16, at 569-0278.

CAMP SWATARA NEWS

Look ahead to all the exciting programs offered at Camp Swatara this year.

- 🏠 **Power Up!** Weekend camps for grades 1-9 in March
- 🏠 **Spring Into Swatara** - Sat. April 11 for a fun-filled day for the whole family
- 🏠 **Spring Birding Weekend** - May 8-10
- 🏠 **Resident Camps** start June 12th for grades K-12 - sign up before May 1.
- 🏠 **Gold Fore Camp** - July 15th
- 🏠 **Summer Family Camping**- March 28 - November 7
- 🏠 **Family Camping Benefit Auction**- September 5
- 🏠 **Acadia National Park Adult Trip** - September 11 -20
- 🏠 Become a **Friend of Camp Swatara** by contributing to the vital ministries of camp.

Find additional information on the Camp Swatara bulletin board, call Donna Lunger 464-4966, or go to their website www.campswatara.org.

--Donna Lunger

MPMT UPDATE

Ever been in a crowd and still felt alone? You're not the only one. In 1 John 5-10, John speaks of being honest with ourselves in that we all sin. If we confess those sins, we are forgiven. If we claim we have not sinned, we separate ourselves from the presence of God. In that light, I would like to confess something to God and you right now. I have not always felt connected with the congregation at large. Somewhere along the way there has been a disconnect that I can't quite put my finger on how it happened, but can honestly say it's present. Perhaps you feel the same way.

Not being completely social is okay. In fact, Jesus often withdrew to pray and be alone. However, we also have to note His mission and ministry happened when he was around other people.

The beginning of this year, I assumed role of chair of Morning Psalm. I'm really excited about what this year may bring! One of the first big things we're doing to increase our connection with one another is to get rid of the two projector screens in favor of a single one that will be set above the drum kit. First off, I LOVE worshipping with everyone, and you all have beautiful profiles, but when we're worshipping, more often than not that's all I see! :) Once the new screen is in place, that will get both worship leaders, and worshippers alike looking in the same direction. Who knows, we may even have more eye contact!

This is but one of the many things on the horizon for Morning Psalm! We want to have fellowship not only with the Holy Spirit, but with everyone in the room as we all worship our risen Lord together! My prayer is that by the end of this year, everyone will feel not only a closer connection with God, but also with the congregation as a whole - including the other worship services. We are all knit together by grace! The more we can introduce fellowship with one another, the more we will be reminded that yes, we are not just a congregation, but a church family.

If we keep being honest with ourselves and God, bringing our shortfalls into the light, our path ends in truth. Only then we can shed some of the things that may have eaten away at making Morning Psalm the absolute best worship service God intends it to be! Let's see what kind of connections we make this year with God at the helm! --In His service, Tim Dunbar

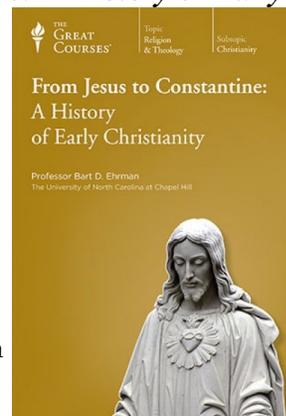
Brethren Highlights is published monthly by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The absolute deadline for the **April** issue is **March 15, 2015**.

WNL: ADULT CHRISTIAN ED. FOCUS ON THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Most of us are unaware of how the church developed and grew from a small band of lower-class followers of a Jewish apocalyptic preacher in a remote corner of the Roman Empire into the most powerful religious, cultural, political, and intellectual institution in the history of Western civilization. How did we get from the simple faith of Jesus' early followers to the vast and complex church of our own time? What were the pressures, internal and external, that shaped its growth and gave it the form it has today? It's really a very fascinating, mostly unknown, story.

The Education Ministry Team is offering a rare opportunity to fill this void in our understanding by a two-fold initiative. First, the **Wednesday Night Live (WNL)** classes in January – March 2015 are presenting a 12-week showing of the “Great Courses” video series, ***From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity***. This outstanding course is taught by Professor Bart Ehrman, well known for his expertise in the history of Christianity in the Greco-Roman environment and in the textual development of the New Testament. Chairman of the Religious Studies Department of the University of North Carolina, Ehrman has many publications in the history of early Christianity and is in high demand for his stimulating lectures and engaging teaching style.

Second, beginning in March, **John Snader** is offering a complete course in the ***History of the Christian Church*** (from its beginning to the present day) in the 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning **Sunday School** hour. This course will be taught in four parts and offered in alternating “quarters.” Part 1 will be March – May 2015; Part 2 will be September – November 2015, and so on through 2016. The Thoughtful Life Class will not meet during those quarters, but will yield their classroom to this course. In the quarters when John Snader's course does not meet, the Thoughtful Life Class will meet as usual. It is hoped that this format will avoid teacher and student fatigue, and allow a periodic fresh start. Everyone is invited to attend, even those who do not regularly attend Sunday School, or normally attend another class.



THANK YOU, CONGREGATION

Dear Wednesday Morning Prayer Group:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent letter and kind words. It was truly an honor and great privilege to serve you, your families and the Commonwealth over the years.

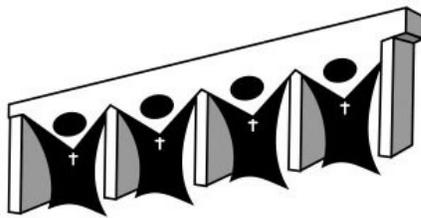
The safety, health and well-being of Pennsylvania's families and citizens have always been a top priority for me. I have committed my time and effort toward initiatives and reforms that protect taxpayers, invest in education and create jobs across the Commonwealth. I have had the opportunity to meet residents across the state whose hard work and dedication inspire me on a daily basis.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and encouragement during my Administration. Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season and happy New Year. Sincerely, Tom Corbett, Governor

Many, many thanks for all the prayers, visits, calls, and cards during my recent hospitalizations and recuperation. I am indeed fortunate to be a member of such a caring congregation. --Annette Bucher

Thank you for the prayers, phone calls, cards and other acts of kindness during Dad's brief illness and passing. Your compassion and love has lightened our days. --John and Dee Zimmerman and family

A big "thank-you" to Bretta Illig who donated delicious homemade chocolate sauce for our "One in Christ" celebration in January. She was also the baker of the homemade red velvet cupcakes we recently enjoyed at our February Friendship Meal. Many of you wondered where they came from and now you know. Thank you Bretta for your "yummy" kitchen talents to LCOB! --Hospitality Ministry Team



BRIDGE

working together as one body

Chapel • Morning Psalm • Sanctuary • Maranatha

16TH ANNUAL GARDEN LUNCHEON

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties' Annual Garden Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 21, at The Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, Pa. Silent auction opens at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon follows at 11:30 a.m. Former White House Chef, John Moeller, will share his journey of serving 3 First Families at the White House.

For reservations: call 610-380-1360, x 106. Individual tickets are \$65 and all proceeds from the luncheon and auction benefit Bridge of Hope and their work helping homeless single mothers find housing and build better futures for their families. Early registration is encouraged. For further information about the event, visit www.bridgeofhopebcc.org or call *Otto Schaudel*.

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)

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

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

1. The deadline is the 15th of every month.
2. ***Electronically submitted is best!***
3. Email to the church office at lancob@comcast.net.
4. Please do not extensively format emailed submissions. Simple paragraph form is best. An attached file should be in a *Word* document.
5. Mail any submissions to the church office, attention Tiffany Dickel, or place them in the "Newsletter" folder in the church office.

REACHING OUT

It is the time of the year again when many of the local NGO's that work to help the underprivileged, the people who need our help, hold their annual Fundraising Banquets. The church does support organizations like COBYS, Tabor House, A & Ω Community Center, Bridge of Hope among others.

There are several events coming up where we, in the Outreach Ministry Team ask you to lend us a helping hand.

COBYS is the first coming up. They will hold their **"COBYS Has Talent"** banquet. This will take place on Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. at Middle Creek CoB, 351 Middle Creek Road, Lititz. Please join us for this event. The Schaudels will sponsor a table for 8. Give us a call to help celebrate with us.

Alpha & Omega (A & Ω) is holding their annual fundraising affair on Saturday, April 18, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 West Orange Street, Lititz. The Hansells will sponsor a table. Please join them and call them (or Schaudels) to show your support for A & Ω Community Center for this event.

On April 16 **Tabor Community Services** will hold their 47th Annual Banquet at Palm Court Double Tree Resort, formally known as Willow Valley. The Outreach Ministry Team will sponsor a table for 8. Call the Schaudels to reserve your place at the table.

For insights and inspiration please read the timely article from the Hunger & Poverty Group. Please make your intentions known A.S.A.P.

--The Outreach Ministry Team

COBYS ANNUAL BANQUET

On Thursday, March 5, beginning at 6:00 p.m., Brethren from across the District will once again converge at the Middle Creek CoB for a delicious meal, to share some laughs and hear some heartwarming stories about what COBYS is doing to care for children, to teach parenting principles and encourage families in need of help.

COBYS Family Services is a Christian agency affiliated with the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren. Founded in 1979 as a teen foster care program, COBYS has provided more than a quarter century of service, offering a comprehensive family ministry that now includes adoption and foster care services, counseling and family life education.

We are sponsoring a table for eight and invite you to join us at this fun fundraiser as a guest at our table. Please contact Suzanne & Otto Schaudel to make your reservation for the COBYS banquet.

--Suzanne Schaudel, COBYS Board Member

SIMPLE LIVING: A NEW NECESSITY

Forty-two years ago T. Wayne Rieman wrote a *Messenger* article under this title. Tim, as he was known to students and faculty alike at Manchester College, was outspoken in his advocacy for the poor. We will quote extensively from this article since it is as relevant today as it was in 1973.

He begins "The New Testament calls us to the simple life, a focused, intentional life of discipleship characterized by singleness of eye and purpose. It is a life-style that, knowing what it is about, and having counted the cost, is integrated in 'doing one thing.' It is a free life: it is uncomplicated; it is the good life. It is living under orders—under the Lordship of Jesus, and it seeks first the kingdom of God."

Curtis Dubble, in his commentary on Simplicity in *A Dunker Guide to Brethren Beliefs* says "The idea of simplicity is especially relevant in our time. Living the simple life liberates us from the oppressive pressure of our advertising-driven culture to have multiple masters, and helps us to focus on what is most important."

Tim Rieman goes further. "Simple living is a necessity, not only for the goodness of our soul and the inner life, but also for the love of neighbor, because the earth cannot sustain our level of economic consumption for all people. . . . Jesus called us to be more *caring*. The eco-energy crisis calls us to be more *sparing* of the earth's resources. A Christian conscience calls us to *sharing* with the world's community. Caring, sparing, sharing are key words."

And Tim associates caring with caring for those living in poverty no matter where they live. "Poverty is what happens when people give up caring for one another; and poverty is the great problem of half of the world."

Caring. Sparing. Sharing.

Will we still have a caring problem 42 years from now?
--Hunger and Poverty Group

MARCH PMT ENERGY TIP

Need security lighting? Consider LEDs. They're much more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and last years longer, so you save money. As always, look for ENERGY STAR on the label to get the most efficient models.



STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT

The scriptures reveal the extravagant love and extraordinary generosity of God. The essence of God's love is seen in the gospel's revelation of God's self-giving in Jesus Christ. We, who are created in the image of God, are called to reflect God's image by being loving and generous. Again and again we are reminded that God wants us to give of ourselves; to love as we have been loved; to give as we have been given. Our Christian tradition is one of self-giving born of love.

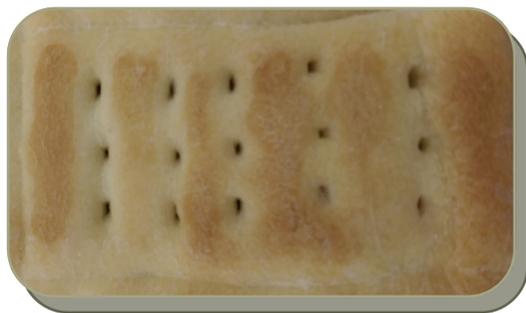
God has entrusted us with time, talents and resources -- gifts we are expected to use wisely and generously. Trying to reflect God's image as "givers" in the midst of daily choices makes decisions concerning personal finances unavoidable. Though God does not declare money to be evil, God does warn us against worshiping money or becoming dependent on it. Jesus clearly taught about dangers inherent in accumulating wealth for its own sake. How we spend our money reveals our priorities and the depth of our commitment. Our stewardship addresses the reconciliation between financial and faith commitments.

We at LCOB are fortunate to be part of a congregation that does show our faith commitment through our stewardship practices. This can be seen in our financial commitments to both internal nurture and outreach programs. In 2014 we were able to raise in excess of \$6,000 beyond our program needs. A fantastic achievement.

It will be difficult to maintain this momentum without continued commitment and careful planning. Last year we circulated "Intentional Giving Cards" for you to fill out to help us with our planning. We have had only about a 25% response from contributing members. If you have not already done so, please help us plan by returning your intentions. Extra cards can be found in the church office or in the Gathering Place.

Also you may have noted that we are off to a bit of a slow start in 2015. As of February 8 our contributions were about \$15,000 below the budget. Let's make sure we can keep up the pace in 2015!!

--Frank Fox, SMT Chair



COMMUNION BREAD

The Love Feast and Communion Services and sacraments have always been very meaningful and very sacred to me.

Unleavened bread, which symbolizes the body of Christ, is a most significant part of the event. Its ingredients, the way of preparing it and rich meaning portrayed by it are most interesting.

The ingredients include flour, butter and milk. Multiple recipes are available for making the unleavened bread and the Lancaster Church of the Brethren utilizes one which has been time tested for 80 plus years by the Deacon Body ladies.

It is prepared primarily by eight ladies, occasionally men assist, who gather two days before the Communion occasion, be it a Love Feast two times a year or Pew Communion three times a year, in the church kitchen. One lady purchases the ingredients, prepares the kitchen, weighs the dough, tends to the oven, and wets and wraps the bread. After devotions by one of the Pastors, the women begin to mix the dough which includes 10 lbs of flour, 2 ½ lbs butter and ½ gallon of milk. It is mixed in two large dish pans and kneaded together in one pan. It is then weighed into 2 ½ lb balls of dough of which each woman gets one. All women knead their ball for a period of time and then pass it around the table until the dough has a certain consistency. The dough is transferred to seven wooden forms which have tin inserts to form the bottom of the frames which assist the baking. Regular rolling pins are used to spread the dough evenly in the seven frames. Then two different marked rolling pins are used to put the distinctive marking on the dough. There are 72 pieces per sheet and each piece pricked with a three prong fork designating the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and five lines represent the five wounds of Christ on the Cross — one on His thorn pierced head, two for each of His nailed pierced hands, one for the sword wound on His side and one for the nailed feet tied together.

The bread is baked in the church's convection ovens and then wrapped in wet clothes, put into a plastic bag for about 12 hours until cooled and placed in the refrigerator for 24 hours. Then it is removed from the refrigerator, unwrapped, wet again and wrapped in clothes and plastic bag. This will stay on the counter as it is now ready for cutting and serving on the morning or evening of the Communion and/or Love Feast Services. -- Shirley A. (Mrs. Calvin) Wenger

"I received an especially well-crafted letter from Allen Hansell addressed to the Church Board. I read Allen's heartfelt letter to the Board at its January meeting. With both the Board and Brother Allen's consent, this letter is being shared with the Congregation. Thank you Allen for putting things into context so clearly!!" David Hosler, Church Board Chair

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

January 5, 2015

Church Board
David Hosler, Chair

Dear Board Members:

Those of you who were on the board last year know of my concern over finances last spring and summer. When the six-month financial report was distributed in July, it appeared that we might miss the budget for the year by \$75,000 or more. And, at the time, we appeared to be in danger of not being able to meet expenses. As a result, I recommended that we reduce expenses by about 5%. As I projected ahead, I recommended that the 2015 budget should be 10% less than the 2014 budget.

I'm not too proud to say that I under-estimated our congregation. A few hearty folks on the board said, "We always come through in December." It didn't look that way in July, September, or even in November. But, we did come through in an abundance of giving last month. As one who likes to have some idea about what to expect, I wish folks would not wait until December to come through. (I am aware that some folks have resources at the end of the year that are not available at other times.) **As you now know, the giving in 2104 went beyond all expectations, and that is to be celebrated.** I'm glad to confess my "lack of faith" in the heat of summer.

While I'm writing, let me share some things that you may not know. Church leaders generally agree that a congregation needs at least 150 members to support a full-time pastor. According to the latest denominational statistics (2013), the Church of the Brethren had 1043 congregations.

- 76% of the 1043 congregations had 150 or fewer members;
- 94% of our congregations had **100** or fewer worshipers on Sunday mornings;
- 73% of our congregations had **part-time** pastoral leadership (many 10-15 hours per week).

I sometimes wonder if we truly recognize how fortunate we are to be members of Lancaster Church of the Brethren. Last Sunday, as I worshiped in the sanctuary, I counted **42** chancel choir members. We have a very talented Director of Music and an equally talented Organist, a talented and committed pastoral staff and other excellent staff in a number of key areas. There are multiple worship services in the building, and each has its special appeal to worshipers.

Our total congregational giving in 2013 was \$957,938. That made us **#3** in the denomination in **total giving**. I don't write this to brag about how great we are; I do so to remind us that we are part of a very healthy and committed congregation. Jonathan Shively, Executive Director of the denomination's *Congregational Life Ministries*, says that Lancaster is one of a handful of Brethren congregations intentionally working at multicultural and multiracial ministries, as the 2007 Annual Conference challenged all of our congregations to do.

Our acceptance of 33 Maranatha worshipers, as we will do on January 18, is quite unique. Alix Sable is serving on our pastoral staff. The Maranatha Ministry Team is one of nine ministry teams, along with a Deacon Body, that comprise our church board, and the Chair and Assistant Chair of the Team serve on the board. There is much more that I could say about this. There is much to celebrate. I know, however, we do not have total acceptance of this change, but, in time, I hope and pray that all of us will embrace this as a call by God.

Finally, let me tell you what one small membership church in our district is doing. This congregation has 120 members, an average attendance of 70, and an annual budget of \$110,000. As of last Sunday, their giving totaled \$89,000. They finished the year \$21,000 under budget. **They did not have a December like ours.** These sisters and brothers are trying to beat the odds by supporting a full-time pastor; a graduate of Bethany. With a pastor who is paid on the denominational scale, plus benefits, there are few dollars available for other things they would like to do. They give what they can to Outreach, because giving to others is important, even when they know that means less money for internal programming. I learned recently that they have committed themselves to raising \$5,000 for Nigeria. A goal of \$5,000 for them is equal to a far larger goal for us. I'm sure they will raise that amount and more.

Our Plan of Ministry giving for the **month of December** was nearly \$100,000. That amount is equal to or larger than the annual budgets of 750 small membership churches in the Church of the Brethren. We are greatly blessed as the people of God at 1601 Sunset Ave. Let us always be grateful, and strive to give away generous amounts to help others in need.

I have often thought about our congregation working in partnership with a small membership church that is pressed to the wall. Some of our small churches do their best to have a full-time pastoral program, because that is likely their best hope for numerical growth. However, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the small membership churches in our denomination have part-time pastoral leadership. Many of these sisters and brothers strive to be faithful followers of Christ, but the odds against them are high.

May God bless you and our congregation in 2015,
Allen T. Hansell

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

March 2015

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 meets in the Chapel. In March they will focus on the Gospel of *John*, with emphasis on Jesus’ teachings about the promise of the Holy Spirit. Teachers in March will be **Jim Bridgeman, Bob Frick**, and **Calvin Wenger**.

(NEW) **Sacred Parenting, How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls**, is a *new class* designed for parents of children ages 0-12, but open to anyone. Based on Gary Thomas’ book of that title, this class will be led by **Linda Husted** and **Dave and Liz Koser**. Not a “how-to” series on ways to discipline your kids or help them achieve their full potential, *Sacred Parenting* turns the tables and demonstrates how God uses our kids to change us. It affirms the spiritual value of being a parent, showing you the holy potential of the parent-child relationship. It offers parents needed encouragement and inspiration through stories that tell how other parents handle the challenges of being a parent and how their children transform their relationship with God. Classes will be held in **Room 170**.

Mar. 8 – Kick-off. Come, enjoy some food and be introduced to the class.

Mar. 15, 22, 29 – *Sacred Parenting, How Raising Children Shapes our Souls*.

(NEW) **The Story of Christianity**, an intensive course in the history of the church, will begin in March, meeting in Rooms 162-163. The teacher will be **John Snader** who, in addition to being President of Brethren Village, is a well-spring of historical knowledge. Everyone who has been in a class taught by John knows him to be a most fascinating teacher who is simply incapable of being boring. Based on Justo Gonzales’ 2-volume textbook, *The Story of Christianity*, the course will run in alternating quarters over a two-year period. Part 1 will run March – May 2015. Topics in March:

March 1 – Introduction: Jewish Sect to Gentile Church

March 8 – Caesar to Christ

March 15 – Internal Challenges to Christianity

March 22 – Constantine

March 29 – Establishment of Orthodoxy

The Thoughtful Life Class, normally meeting in Rooms 162-163, will not meet March – May, the quarter in which *The Story of Christianity, Part 1* is being taught. The TLC will resume in June.

Connections is a casual conversation group meeting in Room 200 for coffee. 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.

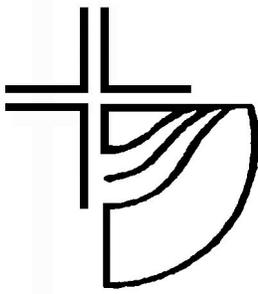
For details, contact Rich Bowser at 201-8734 or rbowser4@yahoo.com.

The **Maranatha** Ministry offers an adult Sunday School class in Spanish and English, taught by **Areli Sable** in Room 202. Further details are available from her.



 Sunday School

 SCHEDULE



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(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—3rd grade)
10:15 a.m. SALT
(4th—6th grade)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00a.m. Children & Adults

The deadline for every issue
is the 15th of the previous month.

Our Staff

Jeffrey B. Rill
Senior Pastor
Cindy E. L. Lattimer
Associate Pastor
J. Calvin Wenger
Pastor of Caregiving
Alix Sable
Associate Pastor
Emery A. DeWitt
Director of Music
Margaret Marsch
Jeanne Heck
Organists
Jamie Nace
Director of Children's Music
Director of Children's Ministry
Kelsey Murray
Interim Director of Youth Ministries
Tiffany L. Dickel
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor
Linda Harnish
Secretary
Troy Nace
Custodian