



BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

January 2015

IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The Lancaster Church of the Brethren and the Maranatha Multicultural Fellowship will officially become one body on January 1, 2015. A special service of celebration is being planned for **Sunday, January 18, 2015**. The celebration, under the theme of "One in Christ," will include the reception of Maranatha's members, lunch, a special guest speaker and lots of music. Watch the bulletin and your mailboxes for details after the first of the year. --Al Hansell & Alix Sable, Co-Chairs



Celebration!

WNL RESUMES JANUARY 7

Wednesday Night Live is one of the most popular mid-week programs offered at the Lancaster COB. Each Wednesday evening beginning January 7 and continuing twelve weeks through March 25, we will gather at 5:00 p.m. in the FLC for a tasty supper prepared by our volunteer staff. After the meal, you can participate in a very interesting class, 6:15 – 7:15, or other activities scheduled for Wednesday evenings.

The class this semester will focus on the history of the Christian church in its first three centuries, featuring 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. We are indebted to Don Hursh for bringing this video series to us. Don has shared this video series with a group of Brethren ministers and their wives, who enthusiastically recommended showing it to our congregation.

Wednesday evenings are truly alive at Lancaster Church of the Brethren. We hope that you will come and join in the fun and fellowship.

--Suzanne Schaudel, meal coordinator

--Chuck Denlinger and Beverly Angle, class steering committee

STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT - CHRISTMAS JOY!

Each year at Lancaster Church of the Brethren, we celebrate the music of Advent, Christmas and the New Year with our **Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert**. This year's concert is **Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm** 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!

Our concert this year welcomes some very special guests: the members of the **Lancaster Brass Quintet**, along with percussionist Mark Yingling. These fine musicians will accompany us on the piece that gave our concert its title: *Christmas Joy*, by celebrated Canadian composer Stephen Chatman. They will also join in an exuberant arrangement of *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, arranged by Robert Hobby. The brass will join organist Margaret Marsch in Paul Davis' arrangement of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and will accompany us in some congregational singing as well.

Of course, the Epiphany Concert would not be complete without hearing from the Carillon Bell Choir, and they have a real treat for you this year. It's called *A Calypso Christmas*, by noted handbell composer Kevin McChesney. He calls them, "Traditional carols arranged untraditionally!"

And as is our tradition, we will also include beloved carols and new music celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas, including two works by local composer Simon Andrews.

Admission is free, with a free-will offering taken. Please join us as we celebrate our faith with joyous music! And afterwards, be sure to stay for the Starlight Tea in our Family Life Center, featuring homemade cookies and treats by members of our congregation! --Emery DeWitt



Lancaster Church of the Brethren is a working, worshiping, learning Christian community, open and accepting without discrimination or force in matters of belief and practice.

SERVING THIS JANUARY

GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Kathy & Gene Mummau
 8:40 a.m. Sue & John Groff
 8:40 a.m. Wanda & Frank Fox
 9:50 a.m. Carlene & Scott Hufford
 9:50 a.m. Barb & Russ Morrow
 10:15 a.m. Lorraine & Don Dotterer



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 Warren Evans & John Graham

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

*Greg Hughes John Biemiller Bob Hopple
 John Lines Doug Lunger Barb Morrow
 Russ Morrow Mark Smith
**Head Usher*

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



ACOLYTES

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



VAN INFORMATION

John Zimmerman
 396-9724



ATTENDANCE

November 16 - 343
 November 23 - 376
 November 30 - 358
 December 7 - 406
 December 14 - 354

DIRECTORY CHANGES

2015 Church Directory coming soon.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Gibson Alvino	7 Brad Snyder	22 J. Ervin Martin
Charles Denlinger	9 Logan Reynolds	Jessica Dunbar
Del Akech Del		
Phillip Deng	10 Alaina Bridgeman	23 Wanda Fox
James Kongor	Shirley Gish	Sarah Shearer
Chol Mading Deng	Brian Shotzberger	Ron Yunginger
Deng Kudior Bol		
Jacob Kongor	12 Grant Husted	24 Eric Snyder
	Diana Lohr	25 Melissa Heck
2 Donald Dotterer		26 Craig Husted
3 Andrew Lefever	14 Mike Snyder	
		28 Norma Hollinger
4 Madeleine Miller	15 Terry Shearer	Bob Frick
Carly Deihm	Donald Nolt	
5 Mary Snyder	16 Carl Gish	30 Gloria Denlinger
	Barry Wilson	Glenn Shultz
6 Paul Herr		Shirley (Clyde) Wenger
Theresa Herr	17 Ryan Brubaker	31 Eric Keepers
Shawn Smith	Luke Brandt	
Elvin Heck	David Ebersole	



FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

I have joked with staff that my New Year's resolution/motto is going to be, "Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." As



I thought about this quote my husband, Ed, has been using for years and I found annoying, I started to think that maybe my stress level would go down if I did some more planning. I am a habitual procrastinator! I have also noticed that many of you too are procrastinators.

So, part of my New Year's resolution is going to be "planning ahead."

God all through the Bible was trying to prepare and plan for the future of his people. He told Noah to build a big boat because God planned to destroy the earth with a flood. God gave Pharaoh dreams that Joseph interpreted about 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine. He prepared Jesus for his death and Jesus in turn prepared the Disciples for taking over his ministry.

God did not just wake up one day and say to Mary, "Mary tomorrow you are going to have my son." No, he sent an angel to Mary telling her of God's plan. Then God gave Mary's body 9 months to prepare itself to give birth to his son. Otherwise, like me, Mary would be freaking out and completely stressed out. (I think you would be feeling that as well.)

Like the Church Calendar prepares us for the liturgical year, which starts first Sunday of Advent, we need to be in constant preparation. Advent prepares us for the

coming of our Lord on Christmas; Lent prepares us for Palm Sunday and the Passion (death) of our Lord and so on, and so on... I try to prepare you (the congregation) for what is happening in the church. By preparing the church newsletter, sending out quarterly contribution statements (which, goes out to everyone who has made a contribution - I single out no one), keeping the church calendar (which by the way, you can view at any time on the church's website), sending out the email Prayer Line... But none of this can happen without your help.

How does that happen? By getting your information to me in a timely manner! Except for the December and January newsletters, the newsletter due date for articles is the 15th of every month (November 10 and December 10 for the December and January newsletters). Emailing your articles to me or at the very least hand writing your article and submit it **on time**. Don't call me and say, "Hey could you put something in about..." because this is time I need to be preparing/putting together the newsletter or the bulletin or entering contributions or paying the bills or answering emails or, etc... I should be the first person you check for dates and room availability for your meeting. This will ensure the door is unlocked, the room is warm or cool and the room is set up for your needs. Also, it ensures we have a space to accommodate you.

So my challenge to **you** and **me** is not only to be in constant prayer but to be constantly planning and preparing. My new motto is going to be, "*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.*" Proverbs 21:5

Happy New Year,
Tiffany Dickel

WHAT'S NEXT? EPIPHANY!

Christmas is over. The celebrations are winding down. We have been overstuffed with good food and presents. As we look out on the dark dreariness of winter, we may be thinking - "Well, that's over - What's next?" In the church season - the answer is Epiphany. Typically when we think of Epiphany we only think of January 6, when we celebrate the visit of the Magi to Jesus and his family. But truly, Epiphany is an entire season, lasting until Lent. It is a time when we look for the multitude of ways that God shows up in our



lives. An epiphany is a revelation, a sudden insight into the essence of something - in this case - a revelation or insight into the essence of God! The hope for this season is that it helps us continue to look for God's presence in our lives - and that we learn more about who God is as more is revealed to us. So what's next? In Morning Psalm worship and most of the Traditional services, what's next is God being revealed more fully through: Creation (January 11), Calling (January 18), Following (January 25), Community (February 1), Challenges (February 8), Transformation (February 15). --Pastor Cindy

PRAYER BREAKFAST

29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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

On **SATURDAY morning, January 17, 2015**, a 29th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Family Life Center at 8:00 am for breakfast - 8:30 am for prayers and meditations. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. While midweek, early mornings



may not be possible for some, a Saturday morning is usually suitable for everyone. The program is expected to last about 50 minutes.

Meditations, Readings, Prayers and meaningful recollections from prayer breakfast's past will be part of the program. The guest speaker of the day will be **Dr. Robert Bigley**. His comments will include the importance of The Arts in worship and prayer. Robert Bigley joined the faculty of Lancaster Bible College in the fall of 2007. He serves as Director of Choral Activities and Executive Director of the Trust Performing Arts Center in downtown Lancaster. Dr. Bigley studied at the University of Washington (D.M.A.), the Eastman School of Music (M.Mus.), and the University of Miami (B.Mus.), where he served as conductor of the university's musical theater productions. He lives in Lancaster City, PA, with his beautiful wife, Kendra (a professional pianist and fellow Eastman grad) and their three wonderful children.

A hot breakfast buffet will be available, so an approximate count is 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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2015 EVENTS

January 10- Christmas Women's Retreat lead by Pastor Cindy. This Retreat is intended to be relaxing and renewing following a busy Christmas Season. We will look together at some different readings and questions to help us reflect and then have time to respond individually to that reflection. We will also have ample time for fellowship and relationship building.

Please Contact Pastor Cindy or Myrl Greiner if you are interested in attending as soon as possible. Invite a friend!

- ☞ **March 7** - ANE District Women's Spring Fellowship at Blue Ball COB
- ☞ **March 21** - Cake Decorating Phase 2 - lead by Diana Wiker
- ☞ **May 16-** Mother & Daughter event sponsored by the Maranatha women
- ☞ **June** - Basket of Love Project
- ☞ **August 16-18** - District Women's Conference at Camp Swatara
- ☞ **August 22** - Women of Faith trip to Philadelphia - 25th Anniversary Celebration
- ☞ **September 12** - Women's Retreat lead by the Maranatha women;
- ☞ **September 24** - Pie Baking for Disaster Relief Auction
- ☞ **October 24** - Sherry Eshelman, Speaker
- ☞ **December 5** - Christmas Breakfast

Please add these events to your calendar and join in the fun and fellowship with other women in our church body. **Women's Fellowship is for ALL age groups.** Questions, contact Myrl Greiner.

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.

ANNOUNCING A NEW SMALL GROUP PROGRAM!

The first of four new small group sessions planned for 2015 will launch in February. The program is designed to give ongoing points of connection and study for our members and friends. Sessions will run during Lent, after Easter, in the Fall after school starts and during Advent. Groups will meet weekly during each session - each studying the same material. Each session will also contain a time for service and a time for fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to participate!

You can join a group simply by signing up for the one you want to participate in. We will begin sign-ups for our first session at the end of January/beginning of February. Start thinking now about how you might make a weekly gathering for study, reflection and discussion work with your life. Small groups have been named in our 2020 visioning as an important part of how we, as a congregation, continue to grow together and with God. Your participation is important!

Here's what you can do to prepare:

- pray for the program and its leaders
- look for announcements on sign ups - and **sign up** to be in a group!
- if you have questions or want to provide leadership, contact Pastor Cindy
- Pastor Cindy

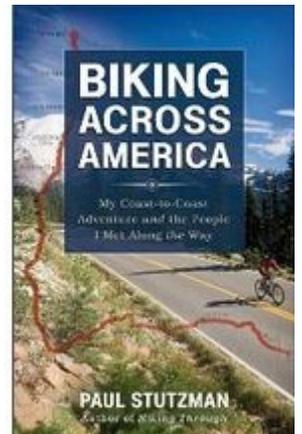
WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS RETREAT

Jan Richardson writes of her hopes for us as we move through the reflections she shares: "I often talk about how I hope to offer a space of comfort as well as a space of challenge. I hope you will find this kind of space within these pages. If you have arrived at this point in your path feeling weary and depleted, I pray that you will find something here that provides comfort and Sabbath rest. At the same time, I pray that you will find something that stretches you into new terrain, that invites you to think or move or pray in a direction that will draw you into some uncharted territory in your soul, and there find the God who ever waits to meet us in those spaces that lie beyond what is familiar and comfortable and habitual for us."

Please join with Pastor Cindy and the Women's Fellowship in a day set aside for reflection, retreat, and renewal. We will use Jan Richardson's "The Shimmering Hours: Retreat for Women's Christmas" as a guide on our journey. Our day will last from **9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, in a TBD location.** We hope to eat, fellowship, and grow together. All women in the church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Pastor Cindy or Myrl Greiner so that we can plan on a space that will accommodate us well. --Pastor Cindy

JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

More new books and DVD's have been added to our library. I wish I could write a review for each one of these but a sentence or two will have to suffice. *What Holds Brethren Together?* is a DVD of Guy Wampler's address at the 2012 Annual Conference Messenger Dinner. Guy delivered an insightful and passionate address that, in some respect, might be relevant to the current concerns our church is navigating. Discussion questions by Wendy McFadden are included with the DVD. Another DVD, titled *Outrageous and Courageous*, might be used to facilitate a discussion concerning our 2020 goals on church growth. Three Covenant Bible Study guides were also purchased so that if you are considering the use of any of the following studies, you now have the opportunity to look them over. The studies are: Miracles of Jesus, Women in Luke and Acts, and Holy War or Just Peace. If you are feeling exhausted by the holidays or by the fast paced media driven lives that we live, you might want to check out a book that Joyce Rupp wrote 25 years ago. Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment, is a guide to help connect one with their deepest selves and cultivate the most important relationship of all, a reverent and closer relationship with God. Biking Across America: My Coast to Coast Adventure and the People I Met Along the Way, is about the latest trek of Paul Stutzman. He is a former restaurant owner who left his career and hiked the Appalachian Trail after losing his wife to breast cancer. Navigating these challenges, he has found a new love and appreciation for this country and the lives of people in it. Finally, a classic set of books by Madeleine L'Engle, The Wrinkle in Time quintet, is now available in our library for our young people and anyone else who enjoys reading mystery and adventure books.



--Deborah Hall, Library Chairperson

Brethren Highlights is published monthly by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The absolute deadline for the February issue is January 15, 2015.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, December 14, our congregation welcomed 3 new members through the act of baptism.

Sadie Bowser is the daughter of Rich and Laura Bowser and the younger sister to Ava. Their family has been attending the Morning Psalm service since 2005. She has known LCOB as her church home all of her life. Sadie is in the 7th grade in the Manheim Township School District. She is also an avid field hockey player as a Midfielder for the Manheim Township Junior High Streaks. Sadie is an active member of our Junior High Youth events and Sunday School class. She had fun at her first youth work camp this past summer when the group went to Camp Harmony in western PA. Sadie has shared that the van rides to and from youth events are something not to be missed. She had been active in children's ministry and has participated in drama ministry at church along with her sister. When asked what has been an important influence in her decision to be baptized, Sadie shared she was moved to follow in her sister's footsteps. (Ava was baptized in March of 2013). A favorite Bible passage of Sadie's is Matthew 17:20 about faith as small as a mustard seed being powerful enough to move mountains. A future goal Sadie has set for herself is to read the entire Bible.

Alex Nye is the son of Karen Nye and Bob Nye and the older brother to Andrew. Alex has been attending the Morning Psalm service with his family since he was about 4 years old (2006). He is in the 7th grade in the Elizabethtown School District. Alex plays football with the Bears B squad in the Red Rose Midget Football League. Alex LOVES attending summer camp and spring camping weekends at Camp Swatara. Now, as a youth, he sees many of his camp friends at district youth events. This summer Alex also attended his first work camp with the Junior High Youth. Alex often gets to church early and helps out in moving chairs in the FLC on Sundays when his mom, Karen, sings. Alex remarked that seeing his Mom as a part of the Praise Team and attending worship service has had a significant impact on his choosing to join the church through baptism. Alex plans in his faith journey to learn and know all of the significant stories and characters from the Bible's Old and New Testament. One of his favorite worship songs is "Mighty to Save" by Laura Story.

Paige Snyder is the daughter of Mike and Renea Snyder and sister to Connor. Paige has many relatives who are members of our congregation including her Pop-pop Marvin Harnish, Uncle Ken and Aunt Lin Harnish and great aunts and uncles – Ruth and Glen



Shultz and Shirley Gish. Paige is uniquely surrounded on both sides of her family with Brethren heritage. Paige is in the 8th grade in the Conestoga Valley School District. Paige plays the flute and also practices dance with the Premiere Dance Academy. Her favorite dance style is modern dance. Paige shared some of her talents during Junior High Sunday by playing her flute and reading in the scripture jam. The bowl Paige created for the Soup Bowl auction in February revealed her talent at painting pottery too. Paige regularly attends and helps out at Soup and Salad as a Jr. High youth since her brother and parents are usually working in the kitchen on those days. Paige shared that witnessing her brother's

baptism and seeing Connor take this step in his journey of faith has been an important influence on her choice to be baptized. The Bible verse Paige feels is important to her faith journey is John 3:16. Paige has set a goal to attend the Brethren National Junior High Conference at Elizabethtown College next summer.

Thanks to all of those who call the Lancaster Church of the Brethren their place of worship, for their nurturing, love and support. Thank you for all of the prayers prayed, blessings shared, Sunday School lessons taught, sermons preached and smiles that welcomed each one of our newest family members.

--Linda Byers

BV News

I want to thank Bev Angle, Fern Bucher, Grace Cox, Darlene Creighton, Jeanne Heck, Eileen Hull, Mary Weaver and Clyde & Shirley Wenger for volunteering to assist Brethren Village residents at the Saturday afternoon October 18 Bingo. Our church sponsors this activity once a year.

Please check if your calendar is clear on Monday, January 5th to help take down Christmas trees and decorations at Brethren Village. Meet in Village Center at 8:30 am. If you are available to help, call Marilyn Hummel, 295-9121.

Thanks to everyone who donated cookies and/or purchased some cookies at the Brethren Village Christmas Cookie Sale on Friday, December 5. Also, thanks to Friedlinde Ebersole and Jeanne Heck for volunteering to helping at the Bazaar and Cookie Sale.

Many thanks to the following persons who helped set up and decorate trees for Christmas on the Brethren Village Campus: Bev Angle, Friedlinde Ebersole, Jay & Nancy Enders, Kathy & Steve Focht, Jeanne Heck, Elaine & Keith Snyder and Marilyn Wagner.

--Marilyn Hummel, BV Key Person

2015-2016

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 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 classes in January – March 2015 will present a 12-week showing of the outstanding “Great Courses” video series, *From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity.* For a description of that course, see the WNL announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

Second, beginning in March, John Snader will be offering a complete course in the *History of the Christian Church* (from its beginning to the present day) in the 9:00 AM 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.

We expect this *History of the Christian Church* to have wide appeal. Everyone who has been in a class taught by John Snader knows that he is a most fascinating teacher; he is a wellspring of historical knowledge and is simply incapable of being boring! Everyone is invited to attend, even those who do not regularly attend Sunday School, or normally attend another class.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Women's Fellowship filled 80 Christmas stockings for people living in group homes at Excentia. To everyone who supported this project, THANK YOU.
--Marilyn Hummel



HUNGER AND POVERTY UPDATE FOR 2015

This month we are reporting totals of “Be An Angel” through 2014 and are giving you the Hunger and Poverty Group schedule for 2015.

The homeless students of the School District of Lancaster have benefitted from the “Be An Angel” project for six years: 2009-2014. “Be An Angel” started in 2008 to provide school supplies. Since 2009 we have included both supplies and school uniforms. Here are the totals for the six years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Supplies</u>	<u>Uniforms</u>	<u>Total Given</u>
2009	\$ 5,000	_____	\$ 5,000
2010	1,100	\$ 6,500	7,600
2011	1,645	8,550	10,195
2012	1,750	11,000	12,750
2013	1,185	14,009	15,194
2014	<u>1,000</u>	<u>17,123</u>	<u>18,323</u>
Total	<u>\$11,680</u>	<u>\$57,182</u>	<u>\$68,862</u>

The Lancaster Church of the Brethren has been generous. **1,345** uniforms were provided in 2014 and a total of **4,055** uniforms have been provided over the past five years.

Looking ahead, here is the schedule for 2015.

- **Jan. 11** ---First “2¢ a Meal” offering for 2015. 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 22** ---First Sunday in Lent - Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- **Mar. 15** ---“2 Cents a Meal” offering.
- **Apr. 2** ---Maundy Thursday - Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- **May 3** ---“2 Cents a Meal” offering.
- **May 24**---Pentecost - Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.
- **June 28 - August 9** —“Be An Angel” project to purchase uniforms and supplies for approximately 1200 homeless students in the School District of Lancaster.
- **Sept. 20** ---“2 Cents a Meal” offering.
- **Oct. 4** ---World Communion Sunday - Love Feast and Communion, food for LCCC.
- **Nov. 29** ---First Sunday in Advent - Bread and Cup Communion, food for LCCC.

These words of Jesus from Mathew 25:31-46 continue to guide us: “. . . 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 . . .”

Thank you for your generous giving to help the poor and hungry in our local and global communities. As the need persists we encourage your continued generosity. --Hunger and Poverty Group

IF I HAD A HAMMER

Today I received the e-mail below from Carlos Schaudel. It prompted me to make it available to our congregation. Here it is:

Dear brothers and sisters of the Lancaster CoB, I am trying to get a group together to go down to Toms River, NJ the week of January 25-31. If you would like to go down with me, please e-mail me at cschaudel@hotmail.com

Hard Times, by Carlos

As we remember our brothers and sisters in Toms River, NJ read this verse from Psalm 50:15.

And call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you and you shall glorify me. People all over the world are suffering because of wars, famines and storms.

Many are homeless, hungry and poor. What this tells us is that God is going to deliver his people in time of need. Never give up.

So much for the e-mail from Carlos. Carlos has gone with Brethren Disaster Ministries on various occasions to different work sites. Indiana, New Orleans, somewhere in West Virginia and repeatedly at Toms River, NJ. Here is an opportunity to reach out and help others without writing a check! Brethren Disaster Ministries is looking for people to come to Toms River the last week in January. We encourage you to join Carlos in this endeavor. For more information, go the Brethren Disaster Ministries website under *Toms River*. --Otto Schaudel for the Outreach Ministry Team.



BRETHREN VILLAGE

BV is no longer an old folks home of the 20th century, but a retirement community of the 21st century. BV is here for YOU, whether you are a resident or not. Friedlinde and I moved to BV in December of 2013. It is the right place for us and it was the right time. We are extremely happy.

There are approximately 1,000 residents living at BV. The average age of residents is 86 and the average age of new residents is 83. We are in our early 70's. Out of 671 residents living in Residential Living there are 176 under the age of 80. If you are considering retiring in a community setting, NOW is the time to get your name on the list.

The latest buzz word at BV is CHOICES. There are choices to be made in Residential Living, Personal Care, Skilled Care, Home Care, Outpatient Therapy, Life Styles & Amenities, and Wellness. (Visit our website at bv.org). The important thing to remember is to come while you are still able to make all these choices for yourself.

More than 60 LCOB members live at Brethren Village. Even if you are not a resident, you can take advantage of programs offered by BV, such as lecture series and seminars, cultural events, dementia support groups, home care services, and financial advice in regard to planned giving.

Brethren Village is the only retirement community in Lancaster County to offer low income housing. At the present time there are 120 residents who are able to take advantage of this service and there are plans for another building which will house 51 more.

This year alone, Brethren Village will incur in excess of \$2 million in unreimbursed costs to provide housing and services to residents in need. Donations help BV continue to enhance lives and provide an environment of caring and services in a community where residents can age in place. You may support BV by making contributions to either the Endowment or Good Samaritan Fund which provide benevolent care.

Each Brethren church in Lancaster Co. has a representative to the BV Development Office. I am that rep. for our congregation. (Not to be confused with Marilyn Hummel who does a wonderful job as the Auxiliary representative). If you have any questions, I will try to answer them or refer you to a person who may have the answer.

--David Ebersole 569-1924; jdebersole@comcast.net

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 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 January they will focus on the theme **Learning to Pray**. They will study New Testament selections from *Luke, John, Hebrews and James* using *A Guide for Biblical Studies*, by Brethren writer Ed Poling. Written from a Church of the Brethren perspective, this quarterly *Guide* follows the International Sunday School Lessons and includes daily scripture lessons and questions for both individual preparation and class discussion. Teachers in January will be **Al Cott, Bob Frick, and Calvin Wenger**.

The Thoughtful Life Class, meeting in Rooms 162-163, features resource persons who lead stimulating discussions in a variety of topics. In January and February they will engage in an eight-week study of ***The Lord's Prayer*** by **Mary Sue Rosenberger**, part of the Covenant Bible Series.

Jan. 4 – Chap. 1 & 2, *Prayer as an Act of Allegiance*, and "Our Father" – **Calvin Wenger**.

Jan. 11 – Chap. 3, "Who Art in Heaven," – **Gene Bucher**.

Jan. 18 – Chap. 4, "Hallowed be Thy Name," – **Gene Bucher**.

Jan. 25 – Chap. 5, "Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will be Done," – **Gene Bucher**.

Feb. 1 – Chap. 6, "Our Daily Bread," – **Ben Lattimer**.

Feb. 8 – Chap. 7, "Forgive Us . . . As We Forgive," – **Lois Shenk**.

Feb. 15 – Chap. 8, "Lead Us Not Into Temptation," – **Cindy Lattimer**.

Feb. 22 – Chap. 9 & 10, "Deliver Us From Evil" and "For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory," – **David Hosler**.

Individual study booklets are available free of charge.

Connections is a casual group meeting 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.

THANK YOU, CONGREGATION

Our thanks go out to the many members of the church for the prayers and the cards received at the passing of Deb's mother, Shirley Rettew. It is so comforting to be held in the arms of Jesus at a time like this. Thanks also go out to the Deacons, the Prayer Breakfast group, and to Calvin Wenger for the cards and calls offering their sympathy and support. You are truly a blessing at a time of sorrow.

--May peace and love surround you, Chuck and Deb Neslund

We wish to thank you for the many prayers and acts of kindness for our daughter Tammy Rowan during her recent surgery.

--Jim and Jeanne Heck

This is from a young lady that Prayer Breakfast has been praying for. She is a coworker of Dave Hosler who has terminal cancer.

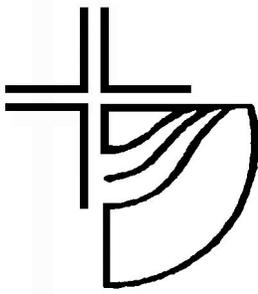
Dearest Prayer Warriors of Lancaster Church of the Brethren,

Thank you for your prayers! I smile every time I am reminded of your prayers. I can rely on every Wednesday morning for your love. Merry Christmas!
--Carmen Broker

PMT ENERGY TIP

Remember to keep supply and return air vents clear of furniture and appliances and *pets (Ha! Ha!)* so your furnace can work more efficiently.





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<p>LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN</p> <p>VISION STATEMENT To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.</p> <p>MISSION STATEMENT To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.</p> <p>GOALS 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>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Mon - Thur 8:00am—4:00pm Friday 8:00am—1:00pm</p>	<p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES</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>WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Praise Kidz (Age 4—3rd grade) 10:15 a.m. SALT (4th—6th grade)</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00a.m. Children & Adults</p>	<p>Our Staff</p> <p>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</p>
<p>The deadline for every issue is the 15th of the previous month.</p>		