



Bridgewater Church of the Brethren

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Web Site: www.bwcob.org

FROM THE MODERATOR

Because of the important events related to our recent search process, I'm suggesting we have only one Council Meeting in January, where we will focus our attention to the issue of calling a new pastor. The meeting on **January 24** should not be long and should provide us with the opportunity immediately to inform our new pastor of the calling if voted affirmatively. The principal financial considerations on which we will focus regardless will be the new figures related to the salary and expenses of our new pastor. I think we should open the floor for other items of business but likely refer them to proper committees and bring them to our next Council Meeting on April 25.

Thanks from us all go to our Search Committee and Board for their extensive work in recent months. Your prayerful consideration of our possible call to a new pastor will also be appreciated. I cannot resist commenting that this may provide many of us with a new opportunity for service in our church. We certainly do not want to assume that the job is primarily that of our new pastor. Instead let's renew our commitments to extend the service of our church to others in our community, for new forms of ministry, and abundant support to our new leader.

~ *Steve Watson*

ALT. WORSHIP IMAGINING GATHERING

Many of our members and friends have expressed interest in beginning some kind of alternative / contemporary worship gathering at BWCOB, offering worship that is more participatory, multisensory, and open to the full range of all the arts in worship expression. This Sunday evening, **January 10**, at 6:30 p.m., those who are interested in exploring such worship possibilities are invited to gather for a time of worship and of "imagining" when we can all share, dream, and make plans together for continued alt. worship experiences. If you are interested, but not able to attend this initial gathering, please be in touch with Pastor Chris to share your ideas and dreams or to get more information.

CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, **has re-scheduled its winter Concert for FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren.** The concert will feature Part I of G. F. Handel's enduring masterpiece, *Messiah*, accompanied by the SVCS orchestra with featured soloists Brenda Witmer, Carrie Stevens, Les Helmuth, and Shannon Kiser. John Rutter's beautiful setting of *Magnificat* will feature soloist, Brenda Witmer and the SVCS orchestra.

All previously purchased tickets will be honored and additional tickets will be available at the door. Admission is \$10 for adults/\$9 for seniors and students.

SUPPORT GROUP GATHERING

Several church members have expressed an interest in forming a support group for gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons. A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **January 17**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Seekers Room. Childcare will be provided. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Questions? Speak with Lucile Vaughn, Hugh Whitten, Roma Jo Thompson, or Allen Clague.

North River Library 16th Annual Pancake Breakfast

Turner Ashby High School
Saturday, January 16, 2010
Serving from 7:00 am - 11:00 am
All proceeds go directly to North River Library
(Snow date Jan. 23)

2009 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS will be available for pick up on January 10 & 17. Statements not picked up by January 18 will be mailed. Your help in delivering statements to family and neighbors will be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks for the prayers and good wishes by so many church members, and visits by Pastors Fred and Chris during our recent hospitalizations. The many acts of kindness have meant so much to us. God bless each of you.
~ **Charles & Ferne Owen**

During my recent hip replacement surgery and recovery I was humbled by the support of our family of believers. The visits by pastors Fred and Chris, the phone calls of concern, the cards from members of this church, and the numerous acts of kindness made the recovery time a warm experience.

We were taught that it is more blessed to give than receive. We have all given and understand the blessing we feel from giving. I was on the receiving end of the acts of kindness of this family of believers during November 2009. I shall always remember your acts of kindness and praise God for our church as a family of believers.
~ **Dan Myers**

Thanks to those who shared flowers and decorations during November:

Edgar Flora family
Clayton Towers family
Gene Edmonson family
District Conference
S.L. and Delores Simmons
Dorris Wampler

The beauty of our Church is enjoyed by many and our thanks go to all who helped to create a beautiful and welcoming atmosphere.

~ **Heather Barkey & Gerri Rigney**
November Decorators

We wanted to thank you for sending us our care packages during exam week. We really appreciated this thoughtful gift. We really enjoy being a part of your congregation and we always feel welcomed at the services. We hope you all enjoy your Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing you in January. God bless,
**Taylor Barry, Dustin Lent,
& Kyle Baiocchi**

Please accept my thanks for the thoughtful care package sent during exam time. ~ **Jessica Crawford**

"Hoping that your Christmas brings a bounty of the nicest things and may each day the new year through hold special happiness for you." We appreciate your loyal support.
~ **Baker Garber**
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic

THANK YOU NOTES CONTINUED

To my friends at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren – Thank you for the candy and snacks to help me through the final weeks of school. It really means a lot.
With love,
Corey Henderson

Thank you for the care package I received. It was wonderful to be reminded that even though I was 5 hours away I wasn't forgotten back home. I was very touched! Thank you!
~ **Sarah Jerome**

BACH FESTIVAL CONCERT

The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival would like to invite you to a winter concert and dessert reception to benefit the Bach Festival on Sunday, **January 17**, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Donations will be taken at the door. All proceeds will benefit the 2010 Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, June 13-20. For more information call 432-4652.

2010 BRIDGEWATER HOME AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARY DINNER

January 22 – 6:00 p.m. at Bridgewater College KCC
Entertainment: Shen Fine: Celtic music with an Appalachian twist
Ticket price: \$44 per person (optional \$35 per person). Paid reservations need to be sent to Bridgewater Home Auxiliary, 302 N. Second Street, Bridgewater. Call 828-2682 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BRETHERN WOODS

- **Winter Workday – January 30**
There's wood to be chopped and woodsheds to fill. There's summer camp brochures and newsletters to stuff for mailing. This important work (and more!) will take place on Saturday, **January 30**, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. Your help is needed to make it all happen. Lunch will be provided.
- **Sweet Life Café Women's Retreat – February 19-20**
Women of all ages are invited to savor time with God and friends at this annual retreat. Take time to relax, make new friends, worship God, and savor your relationship with Jesus. Cost: \$70 per person. Registration due February 5.

For more information on either event, contact Brethren Woods at 269-2741 or camp@brethrenwoods.org.

THANKS FOR RINGING THE BELL

Thanks to all those who volunteered to staff the Salvation Army booth down at the IGA last month. Your time was a gift from you and from our congregation to those less fortunate. The participation in this project was excellent and appreciated very much. Many thanks!

SPONSOR A CHILD

Compassion International is an evangelical Christian child development ministry dedicated to helping children in need around the world. Compassion's programs help release children from poverty in Jesus' name and enable them to become responsible, fulfilled adults. As a child sponsor, you can significantly affect the life of a child living in a developing country. You'll be personally linked with a child who will experience God's love through your support, love and prayers. Your support of \$38 each month provides:

- educational opportunities
- basic health services
- opportunities to be encouraged, loved, guided and valued through a local church

In short, you'll be giving your child hope for the future and you will get to know your child through regular updates and the letters you exchange. More information and child sponsorship forms are available from the literature rack in the greeting hall. Follow the Lord's example of mercy – sponsor a child today.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Congratulations to **Dr. Timothy Kreps** who was recently awarded tenure and ranked to associate professor of biology at Bridgewater College.
- **Dr. Steve Longenecker**, professor of history at B.C., had an essay, "Shenandoah Religion during the Civil War," published in a booklet edited by Jonathan A. Noyales, *Home Front to Front Line: The Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley* (New Market, Va.: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, 2009). Also published in this booklet is **Dr. Emmert F. Bittinger**, "Dissenters from the 'Southern Cause': Unionists in the Shenandoah Valley."

People who develop the habit of thinking of themselves as world citizens are fulfilling the first requirement of sanity in our time. ~ Norman Cousins
(shared by Peace Committee)

2010 LEARNING TOURS FROM NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

These intergenerational trips are reasonably priced and promise eye-opening experiences of our world and its people. The 2010 schedule:

- Burma, January 9-21 (learn about the social and political situation of the only country in the world with a Nobel Peace Prize winner under house arrest; trek through the countryside; visit victims of Cyclone Nargis; see cultural sites)
- El Salvador, March 19-25 (visit poor communities and participate in conference commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Oscar Romero's death)
- Ecuadorian Amazon, May 11-22 (take a trip into the rainforest, guided by Siona shaman Delio; see impacts of ranching and oil drilling; visit land being preserved by NCP)
- Guatemala, July 14-23 (visit poor but gracious communities; learn about Guatemala history and current realities; visit NCP-supported tree nurseries)
- Denali/Kenai Fjords, August 3-11 (camp in Denali; see moose, bear, wolves, caribou, lynx; travel to Kenai Fjords for sea life cruise)
- Sudan & Nepal in early 2011 (visit two of the most poignant places on earth—resourceful and resilient people struggling for a decent life)

For more information, visit the NCP website or contact David Radcliff (dradcliff@newcommunityproject.org; 888-800-2985).

JANUARY BOOK CLUB SELECTION

The book club has selected *Grace Goes to Prison* by Melanie G Snyder as their January selection. The book tells the story of a Brethren woman who started visiting a group of inmates and the change she this brought to the Pennsylvania prison system. The book is available from Brethren Press and our church library has a copy of the book. Come join the discussion in the lounge on Monday, **January 25**, at 7:00 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

We celebrate the lives of

- **Agnes Hawbaker**, mother of **Glenna Wampler**, who died on Monday, December 14
- **Geneva Whitmore**, mother of **Wayne Whitmore**, who died on Wednesday, December 23

CoB 2010 NATIONAL WORKCAMPS

The 2010 Church of the Brethren youth and young adult workcamp schedule is now posted on the website, www.brethren.org/workcamps. This year's theme is "With Glad and Generous Hearts" from Acts 2:46. In the early church, people were passionate about the good news of Jesus. They worshiped, ate, served and celebrated together. They shared everything in common so that no one was in need. This small community of believers changed the world. Come to a Church of the Brethren workcamp this summer - bring your glad and generous heart! We can still change the world for the better! There are seven junior high workcamps, two Brethren Revival Fellowship senior high workcamps, an intergenerational workcamp, a young adult workcamp, and a We Are Able workcamp. Custom workcamps for your extended family or your congregation can be arranged through the workcamp office. **Registration opens January 25 at 8 p.m. eastern time.** To request a brochure or get more information, please call the workcamp office at 1-800-323-8039 x 286, e-mail us at cobworkcamps@brethren.org.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

DVDs:

- Brethren Heritage Collection – a four-DVD set of Brethren history.
- The Powers That Be – "Theology for a New Millennium" by Walter Wink
- What We Said, What We Heard and Why it Matters – a report of Together Conversations by Steve Clapp
- 300th Anniversary of the Brethren – celebrated by Church of the Brethren Annual Conference and Brethren Church General Conference

By Jan Karon:

- Patches of Godlight – "Father Tim's Favorite Quote"
- The Mitford Bedside Companion – "A Treasury of Favorite Mitford Moments"

Two Large-Prints:

- Lady Bird – A biography of Mrs. Johnson – by Jarboe Russell
- Lazy B – Sandra Day O'Connor and H. Alan O'Connor
- Home to Harmony – Phillip Gully (We also have "Just Shy of Harmony")

We have lots of new Children's Books!

CROP REPORT

The **Bridgewater College CROP Meal** on October 22 and the **Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk** on October 25 raised a total of **\$7,544.32** to support Church Worlds Service's hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. 25% of that total will be returned to fight hunger in our local community through the Bridgewater Area Inter-Church Food Pantry. A very special thanks to all who helped make this year's CROP events such a success.

WORSHIP SERVICES

At 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

January 3 – *Second Sunday after Christmas*

Pastor Chris preaching
Sermon: "The Past and the Promise"
Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

January 10 – *Third Sunday after Christmas*

Pastor Fred preaching
Sermon: "The Christian Faith in a Bathtub"
Scripture: Isaiah 55:6-13 & Romans 12:14-21
Children's Worship – Worship @ 11

January 17 – *Fourth Sunday after Christmas*

Pastor Fred preaching
Sermon: "Jesus' Bad Manners"
Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

January 24 – *Fifth Sunday after Christmas*

Pastor Fred preaching
Sermon: "Do You Believe in Miracles?"
Scripture: Mark 10:46-52
Children's Worship – Worship @ 11

January 31 – *Sixth Sunday after Christmas*

Guest preacher: Ruthann Johansen, president of Bethany Theological Seminary

JANUARY WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Decorators: Lori Lineweaver & Ann Monger

Sound/Light Operators: Ellsworth Neff & Skip Eger

Ushers: John Hipps, leader	Beth Day-Miller
Justin Carpenter	Rod Miller
Mark Cubbage	Ann Monger
Dustin Dedrick	John Monger
Clif Keplinger	Brad Neher
Kevin Keplinger	Don Remnant
George Mason	Kyle Remnant
Burton Metzler	Fred Zimmerman

JANUARY CALENDAR

All events take place at the church unless otherwise noted.

Sundays: Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.

Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

- 1 Church Offices & Building Closed – New Year’s Holiday
- 3 Sustainable Living – 8:30 a.m.
- 4 Spanish Conversations – 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
Stewardship Commission – 7 p.m.
Women’s Fellowship Cabinet – 7 p.m.
- 6 Another Voice – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Witness & Renewal Commission – 7 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 7 Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Ministerial Services Commission – 4 p.m.
- 8-9 Girl Scout Lock-In – 7 p.m.-9 a.m.
- 10 Children’s Worship – Worship @ 11
Alternative Worship Imagining Gathering – 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Spanish Conversations – 9:30 a.m.
Retired Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace
- 12 Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 13 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
Another Voice – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Children’s Ensemble – 3:30 p.m.
YORFFs – 4 p.m.
Puppet Practice – 4:30 p.m.
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
Friendship Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Kathy Zimmerman
JOY Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Gerri Rigney
- 14 Leaveners – 10:30 a.m. – North River Library
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Men’s Fellowship – 7:30 a.m.
N. River Library Pancake Breakfast – 7-11 a.m. – TAHS
- 17 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Deacon Lunch & Meeting – Noon – Maple Terrace
Bach Festival Concert – 3 p.m.
LGBT Support Group – 6 p.m.
- 18 Spanish Conversations – 9:30 a.m.

- 19 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 20 Another Voice – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Children’s Ensemble – 3:30 p.m.
YORFFs – 4 p.m.
Puppet Practice – 4:30 p.m.
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
- 21 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 22 SVCS Concert – 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Harp Recital by J. F. Ballas Students – 3 p.m.
- 24 Children’s Worship – Worship @ 11
Council – Noon
- 25 Spanish Conversations – 9:30 a.m.
Book Club – 7 p.m.
- 26 Child Care Center Board – 7 p.m. – Lounge
- 27 Another Voice – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Children’s Ensemble – 3:30 p.m.
YORFFs – 4 p.m.
Puppet Practice – 4:30 p.m.
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
- 28 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Fellowship Meal – Noon

Connections is published by Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
Collating/Mailing: Brittany Lovell,
Clayton & Jackie Towers, Glenn Felix, Harold Jennings
Next Newsletter – February 2010

Information is due by noon on Monday, February 2.
Church Staff: Interim Pastor Fred Bernhard
Associate Pastor Chris Zepp
Christian Education Director Jeanie Eye
Administrative Assistant Shannon Puffenbarger
Business Manager Glenna Wampler
Custodian Fortunato Correa
Sr. Hi. Youth Mentors Josh & Erin Eye
Jr. Hi. Youth Director Heather Galang-Ellerbee
Child Care Center Administrator Kathleen Arndt

ARE YOU LIVING IN A FIVE AND DIME?

Remember the old adage “Cluttered home, cluttered mind”? A lot of us have the “blankey syndrome.” We want to hang on to favorite clothes, knickknacks or other comfort items. These items are really triggers that remind us of the great memories they hold for us. Too much holding on eventually leads to clutter. (Didn't Fred just preach on this? YES!)

Rejuvenate your peace and well-being by finding other ways to hold on to the memories and vow to clear up the clutter. Here are some tips to help you decide whether something is worth keeping or not:

- Go room by room, tidy each room completely before moving on and make a list of things that can be let go.
- Establish zones or boxes for recycling, charity, sentimental or monetary value, and undecided items. Label your boxes: recycle, sell, store, give away. Put trash in the trash right away.
- If an item is going into the store box, ask yourself what you plan to do with it. Will you give it to your children or a friend? Is it really worth keeping? For example, do you think your child will want your fifth-grade report card?
- If you think an item has monetary value, consider having it appraised. You may learn it has none, or you might decide to sell it for some extra green!
- For items in the undecided box, give yourself a deadline. If you do nothing with the items by your next de-clutter session (say, in three to six months), consider tossing or donating them to charity.
- Check your safety deposit box or home safe and make sure all of your important documents are current. Medical records and directives should be filed with both family and doctors.

Having a clean and clutter-free home or office space will leave you feeling calm and relaxed and even more organized for the next day.