



CONNECTIONS



Bridgewater Church of the Brethren * Bridgewater, Virginia

November 2011

Come Celebrate LOVE FEAST!!!

In the spirit of Feasting, deacons will provide the main meat for the meal and drinks; the rest of the meal is a potluck in which we are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In addition to a time of fellowship and feasting, there will be time to share in washing one another's hands or feet, and sharing in the bread and cup of communion. In this time of Feasting we celebrate God's Love, we remember Christ's command to serve and be served, and we recognize our own needs, desires and hopes for being children of God in Christ.



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When:

Sunday, November 13th
6:30 p.m.

Where:

BWCOB Social Hall

Who:

Any and all are welcome - children, old and young, middle-aged, families of all stripes, individuals, couples, those who are curious about Love Feast and those who have made Love Feast a part of their lives for decades. Childcare will be available. Come Taste and See!



ADVENT CELEBRATION: December 10

Please put Saturday, December 10, on your calendars for our Advent Celebration. It will begin at 4:30 with **crafts for kids**. **Dinner** will be at 5:30. A short **worship service** featuring our **Puppet Ministry** will begin at 6:30. Following the service we are going **Christmas Caroling** and then back to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. **Please join us!**

Supporting *Bridge of Hope*

WOMEN'S THRIFT SHOP FASHION SHOW

~ Locavore Luncheon ~ Silent Auction ~

Saturday, **November 12**
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene

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Per person ticket—\$25: Contact Loreen May 828-6096

NOVEMBER BOOK STUDY

Pastor Chris invites anyone interested in reading and discussing Rob Bell's bestselling book *Love Wins* to join him for a book study at 2 pm on Tuesday afternoons in November starting Nov. 8. We will meet in the church lounge for about an hour and discuss two chapters each week. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please let Chris know by Sunday, Nov. 6, get your book, and read the first two chapters in preparation for the first gathering.

DECEMBER BOOK GROUP SELECTION

Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooke is the book group's next selection for discussion on Monday, December 5. (There will not be a book group meeting in November.) All are welcome to join in the discussion on Monday, 12/5/11, at 7:00 pm in the church library.



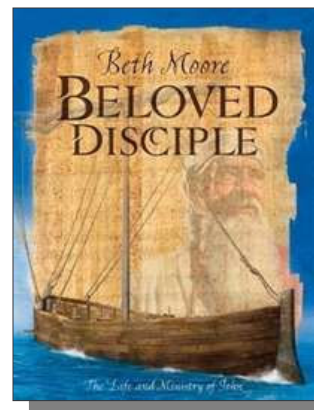
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mark your calendar! A new Bible study for women will begin in January. *Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John* is an 11 week interactive study which includes personal, daily assignments and weekly video centered group sessions. Evening sessions will begin on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. and day sessions will begin on Wednesday, January 11, at 9:30 a.m.

There is a fee of \$20.00 to cover the cost of the study books. Some scholarships are available.

John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Just as Christ took John on a lifelong journey into the depths of His love, He will do the same for you. This unique study will help you look at familiar Bible stories from a very different perspective.

Registration will begin soon! See Joyce Wampler or Doris Showalter for additional information.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
420 College View Drive
Bridgewater, VA 22812

Phone: 540-828-3711
Fax: 540-828-0328
Web: www.bwcob.org

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-Noon & 1-5

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas is coming soon! It's already that time of year again when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In this time we are often distracted by rampant consumerism added to our already busy lives. Bridgewater Church of the Brethren will again be helping everyone focus on the true spirit of Christmas as we hold our Alternative Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You may give monetary donations to a variety of local and global charities in the name of a loved one. You may also purchase fair trade handicrafts from SERRV. In addition, there will be creative, non-violent toys for sale. There will also be lunch and a bake sale (with proceeds going to local charities).

How can you be part of this? You can come and get your Christmas shopping started or just have a delicious lunch and something from the bake sale.



WORSHIP SERVICES

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

November 6—21st Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "Knock, Knock"

Scripture Readings: Psalm 70 & Matthew 25:1-13

November 13—22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "The Buildup"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 25:14-30 &
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 20—23rd Sunday After Pentecost & Reign of Christ Sunday

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Symbol?"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 25:31-46,
Ephesians 1:15-23, & Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

November 27—First Sunday in Advent

Pastor Chris preaching

Sermon: "Restore Us, O God: *Hope*"

Scripture Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

CELEBRATION CAFÉ—STAUNTON CoB

Staunton Church of the Brethren (1615 N Coalter Street) invites you to the "Celebration Café." Join us for a contemporary celebration of Christian Thanksgiving on Saturday November 19th at 6 pm in our fellowship hall. The service will be held in a coffee house setting and will feature a drama troupe from Bridgewater College and the Bittersweet East Band among others. An offering of food items will be collected that night for our neighbors in need. We hope to see you there!

SHARED BY PEACE COMMITTEE

- So often we think we have got to make a difference and be a big dog. Let us just try to be little fleas biting. Enough fleas biting strategically can make a big dog very uncomfortable.
~ Marian Wright Edelman
- Activism is my rent for living on this planet. ~ Alice Walker
- We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank You

Episcopal Migration Ministries is extremely grateful for the generous support that caring partners like you provide to refugees in your community. Your donation to our affiliate, the Virginia Council of Churches, will help make the transition to a new life of security and peace possible for our clients in Harrisonburg. Please accept my humble thanks for all you do to help welcome up-rooted newcomers to your community.

Gratefully Yours, **Deborah Stein**, Director EMM

Thank you for letting us use your church for our special day. Your church was beautiful! Thank you for all of your help with the preparations. God Bless,
Colton & Megan Hepner

IT'S TIME TO RING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY



A little time can go a long way in helping others less fortunate have a brighter Christmas. You can be one of those persons helping others by signing up to **RING THE BELL** and staff the Salvation Army booth at Bridgewater IGA. Our church will staff the booth on Thursday, December 1; Friday, December 2; and Saturday, December 3 from 8 a.m. 'til 8 p.m. each day. There will be sign-up sheets on the hospitality desk in the greeting hall on Sundays, November 20 & 27, for you to select a time that is convenient for you. You can man the booth by yourself for two hours or sign up with a friend and each **RING THE BELL** for an hour. Your participation in this project is very much appreciated.

IN OUR LIBRARY

Three Books by Kenneth Osbeck:

- 25 Most Treasured Gospel Hymn Stories
- 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions
- 101 Hymn Stories—“The Inspiring True Stories Behind 101 Favorite Hymns”
- On the Brink—“Breaking Through Every Obstacle into the Glory of God” by Rod Parsley—He challenges the perception that the New Testament is all that matters.
- The Bible Jesus Read by Phillip Yancy
- Finding God in Unexpected Places by Phillip Yancy
- Six Hours on Friday—Anchoring to the Power of the Cross by Max Lucado
- The Joyful Christian by C.S. Lewis
- A New Kind of Christian—“A tale of two friends on a spiritual journey” by Brian McLaren
- **DVD:** Beyond the News—Facing Death
- **Large Print:** We have six new fiction books by the window.



AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 2
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Church Social Hall



Cost: \$5.00 (carry-outs available)
Menu: Homemade Beef Stew, Cornbread Muffins, Applesauce, Assorted Sheet Cakes, Iced Tea, Coffee

Prepared and served by Bridgewater Village Residents Association to benefit the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary Peaceful Living & Gardner Wing Staff Training Programs.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Decorators: Kathleen Gardner, Lori Lineweaver, Deb Mitchell

Sound / Light Operator: Ellsworth Neff

Ushers: John Hipps, leader

Justin Carpenter, Drew Cabbage, Walter Erdman, Courtney Flory, Clif Keplinger, Kevin Keplinger, George Mason, Burton Metzler, Riley Metzler, Beth Day-Miller, Rod Miller, Ann Monger, John Monger, Eli Quay, Don Remnant, Fred Zimmerman

COUNCIL MEETING: November 20

Immediately following the conclusion of our 11:00 worship service, church council will meet. Action on the 2012 budget and calling congregational leadership are among the items of business.

VACATION NOTICE

Pastor Jeff will be on vacation November 21-November 28.
He will return to the office on November 29

Help us provide "Care Packages" for our College Students

As the fall progresses toward winter, and our thoughts turn from Halloween to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, our college students have a few extra things on their minds – exams, final papers, and more exams. So to show them a little extra love during this stressful time, the College Ministry Team will be sending "Care Packages" to our students near and far.

We are inviting you to help us fill them with lots of goodies. Throughout the month of November there will be a collection bin in the Greeting Hall for you to make contributions to this effort.

Some suggestions:

- Microwave popcorn
- Hot Chocolate Packs
- Bags of individually wrapped snack size candy
- Prepackaged cookies, crackers, granola bars, etc
- Snack size raisins, peanuts, etc



The College Ministry Team will divvy up all contributions, supplement where necessary, and then ship the packages off to the students. If you wish, you may also contribute \$\$\$ for the team to fill up and mail the packages. Donations should be marked "College Care Packages" and can be dropped in the offering plate or given to Pastor Chris by **November 27**.

Thanks for your help in this ministry of care and hospitality!
The College Ministry Team

P.S. – **If your child / grandchild, etc is currently attending a school other than Bridgewater College, we need a CURRENT mailing address** to get a package to them! Contact the church office no later than November 27 to ensure that we have their most up-to-date mailing address.

ALTRUISTIC CLASS TO CONDUCT SERIES ON HUMAN SEXUALITY VISITORS INVITED

The Altruistic Class will conduct a Five-Sunday Series on Human Sexuality. **Visitors are cordially invited.** The schedule will be as follows:

- November 5—Robert Alley—Differing Views on Homosexuality in the CoB
- November 13—Carl Bowman—Church of the Brethren Statistics on Sexuality
- November 20—Chris Zepp—Sin or Variation, Part 1
- November 27—Chris Zepp—Sin or Variation, Part 2
- December 4—Earle Fike—Brethren Forbearance