



CONNECTIONS



Bridgewater Church of the Brethren * Bridgewater, Virginia

October 2011

AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE

On October 16, 2011 as we celebrate our First Fruits stewardship emphasis, I want to personally invite you and your family to attend worship and lunch. On that day we will have one worship service beginning at 11 am. Our goal is to have as many members and regular worshippers present as we dedicate our financial commitments for the coming year. Fred Bernhard will preach that day as a guest minister and will lead us through the process of sharing our first fruits gifts. Following our worship service we sincerely hope you will enjoy the provided lunch and fellowship to follow. All are welcome to share in the meal. There is no need to RSVP -- simply join us as we celebrate the sharing of our first fruits for the mission of our congregation and the work of the Kingdom. I look forward to seeing you on October 16th ... if not before!

Yours in Christ,
Jeff Carr, Senior Pastor



FIRST-FRUIT CELEBRATION

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATES THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

We are very humbled, having been asked to give a statement about the joy we receive from our sharing of the blessings with which we have been showered. We were both very fortunate, in our very young years, to have been taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," with the least being a tithe, a large portion going to support our church and its programs. Through these many years, we have carried in our hearts and many times in our spoken prayers the following:

"Dear God, please, help us to appreciate our blessings fully, to share them generously, and to use them wisely."

We feel a listening ear, time spent using helping hands and/or equipment when needed, and sharing the use of our material blessings are sometimes as important as our tithes. This prayer has guided us well in giving and helping us remember our many blessings, which include the generosity shown to us in these ways.

~ **Bob & Eva Reeves**

OUR FIRST FRUITS

Over the next four weeks, we will be participating in our First-Fruits Stewardship emphasis, culminating in our Celebration dinner on October 16. Various members of our church will share how their faith journey is enriched through the stewardship act of giving from the first-fruits perspective. It is hoped that each of us will be led to consider the question "what is God asking me to give" and to treat this gift as a priority in our personal planning.

Estimate of Giving cards are being included in this newsletter mailing, in an effort to be good stewards of postage and time. On October 2, we will be led in a period of reflection and consideration of the challenge to "grow one step" in our giving. Each of us is being asked to prayerfully complete the Estimate of Giving card after that date and to bring it to our October 16 First-Fruits Celebration Sunday when we will dedicate and celebrate with each other the stewardship aspect of our Christian lives.

~ **Stewardship Commission**

CPS / BVS

All those who were in CPS, BVS (past & present), and alternative service are invited to a luncheon on Thursday, October 6, in one of the Mack Rooms in Maple Terrace. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. at a cost of \$7.50. Please call Fonda Erdman at 828-3883 or email FondaErdman@verizon.net by October 2 if you plan to attend. The convener will be James Eberly.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A new church **pictorial directory** is being planned by the Witness & Renewal Commission. Pictures will be taken the first two weekends of November. There will be sign-ups in the greeting hall the first two Sundays of October. Sign-ups can also be made on the church's website by going to: <http://www.bwco.org/lifetouch/lifetouch.shtml>. For those who wish, prints will be available well before Christmas.

WOMEN, WAR & PEACE SERIES

Women, War & Peace is a groundbreaking five-part PBS series uncovering the powerful role of women in war and peace-building. With segments narrated by Matt Damon, Geena Davis, Alfre Woodard, and Tilda Swinton, Women, War & Peace brings us to Afghanistan, Colombia, the Balkans, and Liberia—exploring for the first time on television the incredible impact of conflict on women...and of women on conflict. Tuesday nights October 11-November 8 on PBS.

FALL QUARTER COIN DRIVE

As junior members of the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary, our children will be having a coin drive as their offering for the fall quarter. Large containers are available in the greeting hall for anyone to deposit coins if you would like to help the children with their project. Thank you!

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

GIVING STATEMENTS for the 3rd quarter of 2011 will be available for pick up on October 2 & 9. Statements not picked up by October 10 will be mailed. Your help in delivering statements to family and neighbors will be greatly appreciated.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

To the followers of Jesus gathered at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren:

The leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren wishes to acknowledge the contribution of your congregation in the nurture and support of Robert Alley, Moderator of the 2011 Annual Conference. Moderator Alley was called to lead a very difficult Conference. His firm and sensitive guidance to the church, both in preparation for Conference and during the Conference business sessions, enabled the church to process its business in an orderly and reflective manner. We recognize that Robert's long pastoral opportunity at Bridgewater afforded him opportunity to hone his skills of discernment and leadership.

We also acknowledge the thoughtfulness of the Bridgewater congregation in presenting Robert with gifts honoring his leadership at Conference. This was a very special moment of recognition, not only in salute of his accomplishment as Moderator, but also a gesture of endearing love for his years of service and pastoral care to your congregation.

Bridgewater Church has a rich tradition of developing leadership for our denomination in many program areas. We appreciate your faithfulness to the values and calling of the Church of the Brethren and for your support of denominational ministries.

Sincerely,
Fred Swartz on behalf of The Leadership Team (Stan Noffsinger, chair; Tim Harvey; Bob Krouse; Fred Swartz)

PASTOR CHRIS will be on vacation October 3-8. He will return to worship on October 9.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

October 2—Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost & World Communion Sunday

Pastor Jeff preaching
Sermon: "More Than Just Remembering"
Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 &
John 15:9-17

October 9—Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Jeff preaching
Sermon: "A Giving Name"
Scripture Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7 &
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 16—Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost First Fruits Celebration

Fred Bernhard preaching

October 23—Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Chris preaching
Sermon: "Questions, Questions"
Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

October 30—Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Jeff preaching
Sermon: "Blessed Recollections"
Scripture Readings: Psalm 43 & Matthew 5:1-12

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

John G. Barr has had published, *Prelude* on: "Faith of Our Fathers" (ST. CATHERINE) in *The Organist's Companion*, Sept. 1, 2011, published by Wayne Leupold Editions of Colfax, N.C.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Decorators: Tony & Dwynn Stovall

Sound / Light Operator: Ellsworth Neff

Ushers: Devin Bowman, leader

Palmer Lee Berry, David Evick, Rick Fawley, Leroy Harsh, Missy Hipps, Chuck Horn, Harold Jennings, Jim Lane, Michael Mason, Sr., Stephen Miller, Bill Miracle, Brad Neher, Jonathan Nicholas, Fred Showalter

Thank You

This note is to show our appreciation for a wonderful VBS experience. We were very impressed with the curriculum and activities as well as the number of volunteers who made it all possible. A special thank you to those helping to provide dinner each evening. This was "worth its weight in gold" for our family. I'm so thankful we were able to participate in this great Vacation Bible School. Sincerely,

**Michael, Rebekah
Ellie, Katie, Betsy & Mikah Overman**

The family of Edith H. Miller would like to express their gratitude for the beautiful flower arrangement, the cards, the visits of Pastor Jeff Carr, and other acts of kindness shown to mother during her illness and death. It has been heart-warming and very much appreciated.

~ Lucretia Lane

Thank you to Pastors Jeff and Chris and all of my friends at BCOB for the kind words, cards, e-mails and hugs in regards to the passing of my mother Carole Hanau. Mom was a gentle person who is now in the care of her heavenly Father and I am grateful for all of the support I received these last few years. With deep appreciation,

~ Nancy O'Baugh

We wish to express our appreciation to the following people for their contribution of flowers during the month of August: Leroy & Doris Harsh, Doris Metzler, Metzler family, Lev Norford, and Faye Witters; also, for Murvel Annan memorial roses and Jacob Zigler memorial flowers. Thank you,

The Flower Committee

IN OUR LIBRARY

Emmert Bittinger was scheduled to give a lecture at the Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. Due to illness, he was unable to attend, however, with the help of his daughter, Lori Lineweaver, arrangements were made to deliver the talk via a DVD video. The title of the presentation is "Crisis of Conscience: Shenandoah Anabaptists and the Civil War." A copy of Emmert's talk is available in the church library.



WFC DATE CHANGE

Women's Fellowship Cabinet meeting date will be one week later than originally scheduled - October 11 instead of October 4. Time is still 7 p.m. Location: Lounge. President Linda Alley will be out of state on the 4th and appreciates your flexibility. At this meeting the new slate of officers and committees for 2012 will be announced, as well as the theme for next year, chosen by 2012 President Brenna Layne.



AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, October 5
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Church Social Hall

Cost: \$5.00 (carry-outs available)
Menu: Pork Tenderloin BBQ on Martin's Potato Roll, Coleslaw, Homemade Applesauce, Potato Chips, Super Sweet Garlic Dill Pickles, Cream Pudding, Taste of Bazaar Cookies, Iced Tea, Coffee
Prepared and served by Waynesboro CoB to benefit the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary.

Happy Halloween

BRIDGEWATER CHILD CARE CENTER NEEDS YOUR HELP



Bridgewater Child Care Center is a ministry of our church. It is a before- & after-school program during the school year and an all-day program in the summer. The Child Care Center program consists of age-appropriate activities for the children, including playing on the playground, snack time, homework time, organized games, and crafts. The Center is in need of craft supplies. The following items can be purchased at Michael's craft store. Your help in buying and donating any of the items to the Center will be greatly appreciated.

Items needed for projects this fall:

- Clear glass Christmas ornaments
- Glue dots
- Foam shapes for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas
- Creatology activity kits for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas
- Creatology paper cutout shapes for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas
- Creatology Holiday Foam activity kits that will make at least 8

Thank you for supporting our Child Care Center.

CROP MEAL / CROP WALK

On Thursday, October 27, from 4:45-7 p.m., members of local churches are invited to the Bridgewater College **CROP Meal** where they can purchase and enjoy meals surrendered by B.C. students in the college's Kline Campus Center. All proceeds will go to Church World Service's hunger education and relief programs in 80 countries around the world.

On Sunday, October 30, at 2 p.m., the Augusta & Rockingham County **CROP Hunger Walk** will bring help and hope to God's hungry children across the street and around the world. Prior to that day, members of area churches and Bridgewater College students will ask others to sponsor them for every kilometer of the 10K (6.2 mile) or 5K (3.1 mile) route they will walk. On that day, they will gather at the Bridgewater Community Center to enjoy good fellowship, good exercise, and the good feeling of knowing they are making a difference.

New this year—several prizes will be awarded: one to the walker who raises the most money and one to the walker who gets the most sponsors. Also, three prizes will be awarded to the best costume worn by walkers: one best male costume, one best female costume, and one best food-related costume.

If you would like to participate in the CROP Walk or attend the CROP Meal, please contact our CROP recruiter, Palmer Lee Berry, at 828-2386 or palmerleeberry@hotmail.com or B.C. Chaplain Robbie Miller at 828-5383 or rmiller@bridgewater.edu.

BRC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for a new ministry at Bridgewater Retirement Community.

Parting Presence will provide a caring presence at the bedside of BRC residents who are dying, especially those whose family cannot be present. If you would be available to volunteer a few hours a month to sit with dying residents, or to make calls to schedule other volunteers to be at the bedside, please contact Mary Jo Bowman, Pastoral Care Volunteer/Parting Presence Coordinator, at 350-4228 (evenings) or bowbro@juno.com. Training and ongoing support will be provided for volunteers.