



CONNECTIONS



Bridgewater Church of the Brethren * Bridgewater, Virginia

February 2012

Bridgewater Home Auxiliary

PANCAKE LUNCH & SUPPER

Church Social Hall
Tuesday, February 21

Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Supper: 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Menu:
Pancakes—Plain & Buckwheat
Sausage Gravy Chicken Gravy Syrup
Applesauce Fruit Cup
Tea Coffee

Donations to the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary will benefit
Bridgewater Home residents.



WELCOME YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN

We welcome Megan McNeil as an intern with our congregation this spring focusing on youth ministry. Megan hails from Peoria, IL, and is a senior Sociology major at Bridgewater College. She has been an active member and leader of the Brethren Student Movement and has worshipped with us regularly during her four years at Bridgewater. Her interest in youth ministry stems in part from six years experience in summer camp ministry. She hopes this internship will give her the opportunity to explore this interest more fully and gain some experience working with youth in a congregational setting.

HARTS MINISTRY

The weather is getting colder, so warm up your hospitality! HARTS is coming to Bridgewater COB February 27 - March 5. Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter (HARTS) is an emergency shelter for people who have no where else to go in the coldest months of the year. We have lots of ways for you to be involved! We are happy that ALL the dinner meals have already been arranged, so if you would like to provide breakfasts or help to serve them, contact Joyce Benedict at 434-6938. Every evening we will have church volunteers present to welcome our guests and eat dinner together, and we will need at least two volunteers to spend the night each night (these individuals are able to sleep as the HARTS staff stay awake to monitor the shelter). Perhaps you could help with setting up on the morning of 2/27 or cleaning up on the morning of 3/5? If you are willing to participate in any of these ways, please be in touch with Wendy Carr at 421-0808 or carrwdc@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for sharing in this ministry.

BLANKET OFFERING

Will be received in Worship
on Sunday, February 5

Envelopes are included in this mailing
and extras are available from the literature rack.



JUBILEE CIRCLE February 8

Sisters to Sisters
visiting our shut-in members

GAME NIGHT

Fellowship & Recreation Commission invites everyone to the church social hall on Saturday, **February 18**, at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. Bring your favorite games and snacks to share. Childcare will be provided.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Pastor Chris invites anyone interested to join him for a two-week book study on Tuesday afternoons, 2-3 p.m., on February 14 & 21. We will be reading and discussing the 2011 book *Insurrection: To Believe is Human; To Doubt, Divine* by Peter Rollins, a post-modern philosopher and theologian from Belfast, Northern Ireland. If you'd like to join the discussion, you may either obtain your own copy of the book; OR if you would prefer, sign up on the list in the church office by Sunday, January 29, if you would like to order through the church at a cost of \$11. We will discuss Part 1 (Chapters 1-4) at the February 14th meeting. See you then.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Phone: 540-828-3711

Office Hours

Fax: 540-828-0328

Monday-Friday

Web: www.bwcob.org

8 a.m.-Noon & 1-5 p.m.

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HARTS at You Made It!

Located at:
163 South Main Street, Harrisonburg

Date: Thursday, February 2
Time: 5-9p.m.

Create your own pottery.
Make hearts and gifts for your sweetheart.
20% of your purchases will support HARTS.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

February 5—4th Sunday After the Epiphany

Pastor Chris preaching

Sermon: "The Message and the Mission"

Scripture Reading: 1st Corinthians 9:16-23

February 12—5th Sunday After the Epiphany

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "Looking Back and Looking Forward"

Scripture Readings: Psalm 30 & 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

February 19—6th Sunday After the Epiphany

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "Beyond Our Hearts"

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

February 26—Transfiguration Sunday

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: "Buber, Me, You, and Us—All of Us"

Scripture Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22;

Mark 1:9-15

NOTES FROM THE TELLERS

In addition to our pledged giving to support the church budget, there are a number of worthwhile causes, sponsored or supported by the church, to give to during the year.

In order for you to receive credit for these contributions in your total church giving, checks for these designated gifts should be made to the church, with the name of the recipient in the memo space on the lower left corner of the check.

Please do not combine your giving to 2 or 3 causes in one check. In our totaling and recording, it makes it much easier for us to have a separate check for each designated gift.

Checks, for pledges or other causes, not in church envelopes, will be credited to your giving record. If you recall your envelope number, please write it in the memo space of your check.

Thank you for your support of the church and its mission, and for your cooperation in writing your checks to the church.

~ *Leon Rhodes*, Head Teller



Thank you so much for the care package you sent me. I really enjoyed being able to have a snack in my dorm room while I was studying for exams or just relaxing. Thank you also for being so welcoming to me as I attend the church services while at school. Sincerely,
Crystal Stone

Thank you for the generous support of Angel Tree this year. We were able to provide 37 children / 16 families with gifts this Christmas! A special thank you to Glenn & Elsie Reitze, Doris Harsh, Ada Longenecker, Kathy Zimmerman, Shannon Puffenbarger, and Jeanne Eye and the children for creating the beautiful Christmas cards that were included with the gifts. ~ **Jeannie Turner**

I so appreciate the visits from pastors and friends, the gifts of food, the cards and the prayers during my recent hospitalizations. I am scheduled for two more procedures in the hospital, at least one of which will be at UVA. I am reminded of the song "Love Came Down at Christmas" when I recall the love and kindness of my church family. I know the Christ child is present here and now with us all. Love, **Peggy Ringgold & Family**

The family of Bob McKay would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all your loving support in recent weeks. All the many ways you have shown your caring has been such a blessing. With our deepest appreciation,
Charlotte McKay

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Decorators: Anita Beckman & Kathy Zimmerman

Sound / Light Operator: Ellsworth Neff

Ushers: Devin Bowman, leader

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

FEBRUARY BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS

The book group will discuss multiple books at the next book group meeting. The theme of the February meeting is books for young teens and older children. The selected books are books that adults can read and enjoy. All are welcome as we discuss the following books: Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson, Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare, and The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck. Select one of the books to read and come join us on Monday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in the church library.



2011 FOOD PANTRY REPORT

The Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry was open 24 times in 2011 and served 112 different households. A total of 395 recipients represented 1,795 individuals resulting in an average attendance of 16.46 households representing 74.79 individuals. Attendance ranged from a high of 29 households on 1/18/11 to a low of 6 households on 2/1/11. The amount of food dispersed is based on the number in the household.

The Boy Scout Food Drive continues to provide the largest single donation of canned food items. During the Christmas season we received over 750 items from the Bridgewater College men's basketball tournament and over 900 items from the employees of Bridgewater Retirement Community. Several churches donate large quantities of food and other supplies on a regular basis. These donations, along with occasional contributions from individuals and civic clubs, keep the food pantry well-stocked.

Kroger and Martin's supply food pantry with more bread and baked goods than can be used, so the surplus is shared with Salvation Army. Occasional contributions from Sharp Shopper contain a wide variety of food items.

Bonnie Grim provides large quantities of clothing and household items on the first Tuesday.

The efforts of all the volunteers enable food pantry to continue providing assistance to those in need.

YOUTH INQUIRERS CLASS OFFERED

This class provides youth in grades 6-12 the chance to think together about the “deep things” of life and faith, to think about what it means to be a part of the Church of the Brethren in today’s world, and to ask questions that we often don’t take the time or energy to ask. We will meet on 4 Sunday afternoons after worship – February 19 and 26 and March 11 and 25 – from noon to 2:30 pm. Youth do not need to be considering or ready to commit to being baptized or joining the church to be a part of this group (though there will be an invitation for those who are ready to take this step of faith.) And even if youth took part in this class before, they may productively do so again if they have interest. Please let Pastor Chris know if you or someone you know are interested in participating in this group no later than Sunday, February 5.

BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

On Palm Sunday, April 1, **The Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers** will present Matthew’s version of the Passion of our Lord. The program, “Listen: The Road to Easter According to Matthew.” The program will be at Court Square Theater at 4:00 p.m.; it is free to attend. The program will include instrumental accompaniment in addition to the Telling. All are welcome.

2012 BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

* indicates executive committee member

Elected Members:

*Doris Showalter, chr	Claire Martindale
Heather Driver	*Terry Slaubaugh
*Alice Lee Hopkins, v-chr	Jason Eye
Gladys Remnant	John Hipps
[vacant]	Chuck Horn
*Sidney Grove	Burton Metzler

Ex-Officio Members:

*Earle Fike (Moderator)
*Bea Miller (Associate Moderator)
*Jan Matteson (Clerk)
*Jeff Carr (Senior Pastor)
Chris Zepp (Associate Pastor)
Bill & Andrea Miracle (Deacon Chairs)

Chairs of Commissions:

Diane Metzler (Christian Education)
Rod Miller (Fellowship & Recreation)
Dan Myers (Finance)
Steve Longenecker (Ministerial Services)
S.L. Simmons (Mission & Service)
Bob May (Properties)
Dale Ulrich (Stewardship)
Elaine Huffman (Witness & Renewal)
Tony Stovall (Worship & Music)
Brenna Layne (Women’s Fellowship President)
S.L. Simmons (Men’s Fellowship President)



The Virginia Council of Churches Refugee Resettlement Program presents:

STORIES OF HOPE: A PHOTO GALLERY DEPICTING THE LIVES OF REFUGEES IN HARRISONBURG

Reception: Friday, February 3, 5-7 p.m.
Clementine (153 Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA)

“America is not my motherland, but it will always be my homeland.” ~ Harrisonburg Refugee

Come learn the stories of refugee families from many cultures, view amazing art, enjoy appetizers, see old friends, and meet new friends! Local photographers Aaron Johnston, Lindsey Kolb, Rachel Freed, and Seth Binsted portray the lives of newcomers in the Harrisonburg community. For more information please visit our website at www.harrisonburgrefugees.com or contact Jackie Cramer at (540) 433-7942 or cramer@vacouncilofchurches.org.

Sponsored in part by: Clementine, JMU Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, JMU Amnesty International, and The Frame Factory and Gallery