



Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

14010 Greencastle Pike, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Len Smith, Pastor

301-791-5432 (Church Office) 717-328-4496 (Residence)

Pastor's home e-mail address: lensmith@TKIemail.com

Church's e-mail: broadfordingcob@verizon.net

Web site: www.broadfordingcobfellowship.com

What About Lent?

by Pastor Len Smith

Last month, March 9th, marked the beginning of a period of time in the church year known as Lent. According to *The Brethren Encyclopedia* the Christian church traditionally observed an extended period of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and education in preparation for Resurrection Day beginning in the second or third centuries. Since the sixth century in the western church Lent has generally been practiced for forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday. In the early years of the eighteenth century the Brethren were usually opposed to observing the special days and seasons associated with the liturgical church year.

Today many Church of the Brethren congregations plan special services during Lent. These services emphasize repentance and prayer, but members are not expected to carry out any special personal restrictions limited to this particular time of the year. Often congregations will choose the day before Good Friday, known as Maundy Thursday, to observe the ordinances of feet washing, the love feast, and communion. Other congregations make plans for special spiritual renewal or revival meetings during the last week of Lent called Holy Week. Some congregations choose to participate in congregational or community observances of the World Day of Prayer or in a special financial offering set aside for the One Great Hour of Sharing collected to help alleviate the scourge of hunger in the world during the season of Lent.

The General Board of the Church of the Brethren has produced a packet of worship resources which congregations may use for their worship planning during Lent. One of the writers of these resources was Glenn F. Timmons who shared the following.

Lent is often characterized by the metaphor of journey. It is identified with the 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness, the 40 days of Moses on Mt. Sinai, and the 40 years of the Hebrews wandering in the wilderness. Framed as a journey of faith, Lent is a time of intense self-examination, of

penance for the gaps in our lives – our distance from God and our alienation from our sisters and brothers. Such penance prepares us for restoration.

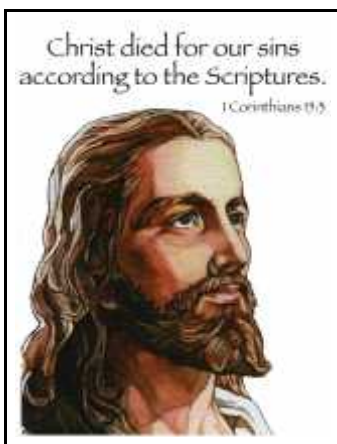
The Gospel of Luke (9:51) says: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." For Jesus, an itinerant preacher, teacher, healer, and liberator, his journey was the "beginning of the end." For the

followers of Jesus, it was the beginning of a journey. As pilgrims on the way, we discover that God is both our companion and the path. With this discovery the journey turns to adventure.

All of Lent points us toward Holy Week. This is the week Jesus enters Jerusalem, determined to complete his mission. Even though it means facing death, Jesus gives himself in complete trust to God. In his forgiveness from the cross of those who betray him and execute him, Jesus lives out the central characteristic of God, that of unqualified love. In these acts Jesus' followers are squarely confronted with the cost of discipleship. The

compelling truth of Easter is discovered on the way when life is handed over to God, and God gives life back.

What about Lent? For me Lent is a time to remind me about the spiritual disciplines of prayer, repentance, and charitable works of service. Ephesians 6:18 reminds us to *pray in the Spirit on all occasions*. We do not need to limit special Holy Spirit empowered prayer to the season of Lent. Acts 3:19 states *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord*. Certainly we do not need to wait for Lent to experience cleansing from sin and spiritual refreshment. Finally, good works of service are not to be limited to the season of Lent according to I Peter 2:12. *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us*. Those who do not know Christ in their lives are watching us not only 40 days each year, but 365 days every year.





Church of the Brethren

Brethren help to address cholera outbreak

Groups in Haiti receive clean water and new homes

The Church of the Brethren is helping communities and neighborhoods of L'Eglise des Freres Haitiens (the Haitian Church of the Brethren) gain access to clean water during the cholera outbreak in Haiti. Jeff Boshart, Haiti coordinator for Brethren Disaster Ministries, returned in November from a week visiting church leaders and partner organizations in Haiti.

One hundred new water filters have been distributed to the Haitian congregations by Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM), with another 100 water filters to come. A new well dug with BDM funding in Gonaives has proven to be an artesian well capable of providing a steady flow of clean water for one neighborhood where Haitian Brethren live. Also, a cistern for collecting rainwater funded by the Church of the Brethren's Global Food Crisis Fund has

been completed on the island of La Tortue. It will serve a school supported by a Haitian Brethren congregation in Miami.

The Haitian Brethren are not severely affected by the epidemic, so far. "According to general secretary Jean Bily Telfort and moderator Yves Jean, except for the Peris congregation near St. Marc, where one church member lost her life to the epidemic, they have no other reports of anyone even being sick," Boshart said.

BDM also recently celebrated the completion of its 85th house in Haiti. "This is a special house," Boshart said, "as it is the first permanent house to be built for any of the Brethren earthquake victims."

—Church of the Brethren **TAPESTRY**
Jan./Feb. 2011, Vol. 9, Issue 1

A pitch in time saves Kline

Historic property will be used as an educational site

Paul Roth, pastor of Linville Creek Church of the Brethren in Broadway, Va., reported "exciting news" in December. The John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust, which Roth has spearheaded since 2006, met a year-end deadline to raise \$425,000 needed to purchase the historic Kline family property located near the church.

The Harrisonburg (Va.) Daily News-Record on Jan. 6 reported the sale of the property from Park View Federal Credit Union, which plans to develop adjacent property, to the trust.

The trust "plans to use the property to teach visitors about Kline and the Brethren Church's heritage," Roth said in the report. It culminates a long campaign to save the house where Kline lived. Kline's grave is located nearby.

Kline was a noted 19th-century Brethren leader who

traveled back and forth across Civil War battle lines to preach and carry out other services for the church. Suspected of being a spy due to his travels, he was shot while returning from one such trip in 1864.

This past fall the homestead hosted a number of events—including historical candlelight dinners—both to raise funds and to highlight the peacemaking witness of Elder John Kline as the landmark 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War approaches later this year.

Additional candlelight dinners were tentatively scheduled for Feb. 18-19, March 18-19, and April 15-16. For information, contact Roth at 540-896-5001 or proth@eagles.bridgewater.edu.

—Church of the Brethren **TAPESTRY**
March 2011, Vol. 9, Issue 2

Fund tackles hunger in 2011

Grants will assist projects in Africa, Asia, and beyond

In its first grants of 2011, the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) allocated funds to support a variety of initiatives.

The Nagarta Water for Life project in Niger has received a \$10,000 grant to support construction of 10 gardening wells in the village of Barho-Banima. The project will extend off-season gardening, diversify produce, reduce food losses through improved preservation and storage, spearhead reforestation, and promote the growing and consumption of tubers (cassava). This is the second GFCF grant issued to Water for Life.

The Ayok Anei Girls School in Sudan has received a \$3,000 grant. The school educates more than 200 girls

ages 6 to 15, and includes a nursery school that enrolls 135 youngsters. Opened in 2009, the school comprises eight classrooms, a meeting room, an office, and 12 huts for teachers. Funds will aid the school's effort to become more self-sufficient in food operations.

A \$3,000 grant has been given to the Asia Rural Institute in Japan, a community of learning that trains grassroots leaders primarily from Asia, the Pacific, and Africa to work with the poor, the hungry, and the marginalized in their home communities. The grant will support a residence program that emphasizes sustainable agriculture.

—Church of the Brethren **TAPESTRY**
April 2011, Vol. 9, Issue 3



Clear Spring Lions Club issues annual food bank report

A total of 728 hours were needed to operate the food bank during 2010. 208 of the hours were used to distribute food every Tuesday and Thursday during the year at the food bank. 520 of these hours were used to:

- pick up food at various locations,
- sort and count food items for record purposes,
- keep necessary records,
- type and send out thank you letters for donations of food and money,
- make and copy forms used at the food bank,
- keep files and necessary records for control of the food bank,
- purchase food items not received in donations.

Approximately 4,000 miles were traveled by volunteers in their private vehicles doing the work necessary to operate the food bank. Ten volunteers helped at the food bank during the past year.

Total families served - 346

Total Persons - 706

Total bags of groceries - 1,094

Pounds of food items - approximately 13,128

All families reside in the Clear Spring School District and are approved by Community Action Council.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our congregation helps to support the Clear Spring Food Bank in the following ways:

- Monetary offering from the Good Friday Service,
- Collection of nonperishable food items at the Thanksgiving Eve Service.



Reaching the remote North using digital media

We have been busy moving to our new home in Palmer, Alaska and are now all settled in. We have officially been reassigned by SEND from the Northern Light Network to the Church Ministries Division of SEND North.

God has given us a more effective way to fulfill our calling to reach the unreached in the remote North. Daryl is now working in conjunction with our missionaries living in remote villages in Alaska and northern Canada. He will be putting together web-based tools and other digital resources to help them effectively reach those in their areas who are isolated. That involves researching what tools are out there, networking with others who can help us here in Alaska, and putting together whatever mix of tools are best suited for the job.

Isolation is one of the biggest struggles of living in Alaska. Unless you have seen it for yourself, you can't really comprehend how vast Alaska is and what isolation really is like. Alaska's state government has recognized this problem and has set out an aggressive plan to get high speed internet and reliable cell phone networks in place in every village. This fact alone is reason enough to work now to put tools in place to reach these people once they come online. We are looking at websites, blogs, text messaging services, smart phone applications, and whatever else will work. The time is now to take advantage of these tools to reach those who are lost and connect isolated believers.

—Excerpts from email and newsletter from Daryl, Laura, Emily and Annika Carlson

New address: P.O. Box 263, Palmer, AK 99645-0263
Email: daryl.laura@gmail.com



Vacation Bible School

We're bringing kitchen fun to the kids at our Vacation Bible School, with **Shake It Up Cafe: Where kids carry out God's recipe for living.**

After a high energy opening at Shake It Up Cafe, the chefs make their way to Kitchen a la King. Interactive Bible lessons reveal five secret ingredients for living as a follower of God, and your chefs will learn Bible Bite memory verses that will boost their faith long after VBS.

The children will expand on what they've learned by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at Tangy & Tart Arts, singing new music, participating in recreational activities at Spork Sports and enjoying tasty snacks at the Takeout Treatery.

Let's get cookin! Join us at Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship on June 13-17 from 6:30-8:45 Monday-Thursday. On Friday evening your family is invited to join us for the closing program with ice cream sodas to follow. To register or find out more about Shake It Up Cafe volunteer opportunities, call or email Nicole Row at 301-733-3706 or nickirow@hotmail.com.



It Takes a Village

You have heard that it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a village to raise awareness about world hunger and poverty. One village that can do that is the **Heifer Global Village at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center** near Sharpsburg, Md. That Village needs our help. Please read on to find out how.

Hundreds of millions of people on the face of the earth are living in poverty. Tens of millions of those people are living in constant hunger. Many relief efforts have been established to address these staggering needs.

One of the most effective efforts in this regard is Heifer International, a 65-year old ministry, originally established by the Church of the Brethren. Heifer goes beyond just providing food to a hungry world. Heifer provides the resources and know-how for families in all parts of the world to sustain themselves. Help is provided for the immediate need and beyond. Details about what Heifer does can be found at www.heifer.org.

The world needs to know about Heifer's ministry. One powerful vehicle for doing that is a Heifer Global Village, a composite of very modest dwellings that show how life is lived in remote places in Africa, Asia, Central America, even here in the United States. A Heifer Global Village allows people to come and experience, first-hand, life in these places.

What many people in our area don't know is that a Heifer Global Village is being built near Sharpsburg, Md., on the campus of the Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, a ministry of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren. **The Village near Sharpsburg is only one of five villages in the US.** Visitors can come and actually stay in the Village, experiencing what the poor do every day. The site currently has homes typical of Guatemala, Mozambique, Kenya, and Appalachia. Still to be built, as funds become available, are new homes or additional ones in Thailand, Mozambique, and Tibet, as well as other needed facilities. Details about the Heifer Global Village at Shepherd's Spring can be found at <http://www.shepherdsspring.org/heifer.php>.

A fundraising effort associated with this summer's annual Shepherd's Spring golf tournament hopes to raise \$50,000 toward continued construction of the Village. If you can help by making a donation through your Sunday school class, your ministry group or as an individual, write your check to **Shepherd's Spring**, with a note in the memo line "Heifer Global Village/GT," and mail it to Shepherd's Spring, P.O. Box 369, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.

Volunteers Needed

Hospice of Washington County, Inc.
747 Northern Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742
301-791-6360
www.hospiceofwc.org

Volunteers are currently needed for the following:

- Compassionate, reliable, and flexible individuals who can visit patients to provide companionship, socialization, caregiver relief, run errands, or provide transportation.
- Licensed hairdressers or massage therapists who can provide these services to homebound patients.
- Individuals who have pets certified to visit with patients.
- Individuals with a special skill who would like to share their talent with patients, such as musicians or artists.

Hospice of Washington County, Inc. volunteers are key members of the interdisciplinary team providing support to people dealing with illness, grief and loss. As a Hospice volunteer, you **will** make a difference.

If you are interested in a unique volunteer experience which will offer personal growth as well as giving to others, please call Lindsay Anderson, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 301-791-6360. Required comprehensive training provides education on hospice philosophy and end-of-life issues.

2011 Volunteer Training Programs

April 4, 6, and 8
9 a.m.—4 p.m.

July 12 - 28, Tuesdays and Thursdays
6 p.m.—9 p.m.

October 17, 19, and 21
9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Fahrney Keedy

Home & Village

8507 Mapleville Road, Boonsboro, MD 21713

Spring Open House Saturday, May 14, from 1—4 p.m.

See firsthand the full range of retirement opportunities, including independent living, single family homes and apartments, assisted-living studio accommodations and a highly acclaimed skilled nursing center. Plan to attend, if not for yourself, for a family member or friend who might be considering a continuing-care retirement lifestyle.

No pressure, no sales pitch (unless you ask for one)!

Enjoy gourmet refreshments and meet the staff and residents.

For more information, call 301-671-5015
or visit www.fkhv.org.



10 REASONS

TO BRING YOUR CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

While sleeping late can be nice, have you considered the benefits of Sunday School attendance for your child?

Here are 10 reasons to make it a priority in your family:

1. **Age-Targeted Teaching:** Where else can your kids get Biblical instruction that's focused toward their developmental abilities?
2. **Friends:** In Sunday School, your child will build positive friendships with their peers by discovering God's Word together.
3. **It's Fun:** Sunday School is not Disney Land, but our teachers do work hard to teach the Bible in ways that are relevant and fun for kids.
4. **Spiritual Mentors:** A dedicated teacher can be a Christian role model who supports you and helps inspire the faith of your child.
5. **Systematic Bible Learning:** Our curriculum is designed to give a broad foundation, so children will understand how all the parts of Scripture point to Christ.
6. **Praying Teachers:** Our teachers consistently pray for your child's faith to grow. Coming to Sunday School gives another occasion for God to answer those requests.
7. **Big Reward for a Small Investment:** If you're already coming to church, just come a littler earlier. That one change will equal over 800 hours of additional Christian teaching before your child graduates.
8. **Send the Right Message:** Making Sunday School a priority shows your kids that God's Word really does matter more than pillow-time.
9. **Adult Bible Fellowship:** While the children enjoy their class, you can fellowship with other adults in your own Bible study group.
10. **You'll Be On Time:** Families who come to Sunday School always get to worship on time. It's the easiest way to avoid being late.

The above article was written for another congregation but it applies to our Sunday School as well. We thank Rehoboth United Methodist Church, Williamsport, Md., for permission to print it in our newsletter.

If you are not currently joining us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, we invite you to take that step now! **YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

Adults may choose from the following classes:



- **College/Career/Singles Young Adult Class** — has been studying what a "Biblical Portrait of Womanhood" is with the booklet written by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. The focus is "discovering and living out God's plan for our lives" by fulfilling the purpose and intent God had designed for women. Teacher: Debbie Harsh.
- **Adult Elective Class** — currently studying a different chapter each week from Matthew's Gospel using a video/discussion format. Teacher: Pastor Len Smith.
- **Faith Searchers Class** — discusses exciting topics on how to live a Christian life. Teacher: Sam Hawbaker.
- **Pathfinders and Truth Seekers Classes** — study from curriculum based on International Sunday School Lessons. The two remaining units of study in the spring quarter are "Ancient Words of Praise" from selected passages of Scripture and "John's Vision of Worship" from Revelation. Teachers: (Pathfinders) Paul Reid, Roman Barvinchack, and Teresa Smith; (Truth Seekers) Charles Wasson and Roman Barvinchack.

Please mark your calendar and join us in commemorating the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Children's Saturday Happening

April 16

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

"Let the little children come to me."

Palm Sunday

April 17

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Praise & Worship Service

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Maundy Thursday Love Feast/Communion Service

April 21

7:00 p.m.

"Do this in remembrance of me."

Good Friday Service

April 22

7:00 p.m.

"Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, He bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

Resurrection Day Celebration

April 24

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service (breakfast following)

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:15 a.m. - Worship Service/Children's Program

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."



Fundraising efforts . . .



Income in 2010 from the Martin's Cash for Causes Gift Card Program

totaled \$2,400.00. This brings the total earned over the past eight years to \$14,010.00. Martin's gift cards, if purchased from Bernie Burkett, earn \$5 for our church for each \$100 of cards purchased. They are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, and \$300, and can be used to purchase groceries, prescriptions, and gas. To learn more about the program or to obtain cards, please see Bernie or call her at 301-791-3440.

The spaghetti dinner held on Saturday, March 26, raised a total of \$2,102.00 to benefit our community ministry center's debt reduction. Approximately 310 people were served. We are deeply grateful to the Heart to Heart ladies and their many helpers, as well as everyone in our congregation and in the community who purchased tickets. The success of such an event is possible only because of the support of many, many people.

Our eleventh annual church yard sale is scheduled for:



Friday, May 13

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

and

Saturday, May 14

7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Indoors—Rain or Shine

We need **many volunteers** to help; also, donations of good saleable household items, clothing, antiques, toys, glassware, furniture, etc.

Table space is available for \$15. To reserve a table, see or call Sam Hawbaker (301-739-7598) or Millie Lowman (301-223-9145).

Last year's yard sale proceeds totaled \$2,289.75.

Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship
14010 Greencastle Pike
Hagerstown, MD 21740

FIRST CLASS MAIL