



**Broadfording
Church of the Brethren
Fellowship**

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BE of GOOD CHEER by Pastor Len Smith

Be of good cheer? How can we be of good cheer with the great drop in the value of the stock market since September 2008? As I write this article stocks have declined to levels not seen since 2003. How can we be of good cheer when we learn that a friend or family member has lost their job? Unemployment is at a 16 year high. How can we be of good cheer when our 401K is declining in value? How can we be of good cheer when the economists disagree about the future economic outlook? Some are forecasting inflation and some are forecasting deflation. How can we be of good cheer when millions of homeowners are facing foreclosure? How can we be of good cheer when the rates for savings accounts or certificates of deposits are drifting downward? How can we be of good cheer when a business we thought was solvent and we depended upon for many years may declare bankruptcy?

Yes, in recent months there has been a lot of bad economic news in our world. But in the Bible we can find some awesome spiritual news that can replace the troublesome and fearful news that we have been immersed in over the last several months.

Over the last several weeks an imaging of a smiling, confident Jesus has crossed my mind saying these words recorded in John 16:33. *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (KJV)* We can have a daily spiritual peace in spite of the economic tribulation we are experiencing. There are only three other occasions in the Gospels where you find the word, “cheer.” In Matthew 9:2 Jesus told a sick bed ridden man, *Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.* Jesus used this occasion to emphasize the importance of the eternal healing He came to offer. Jesus knew that it is more important to have sins forgiven than to have a body physically healed. Later, the disciples found themselves on a storm tossed sea. When they saw Jesus walking on the tempestuous sea they were troubled and cried out for fear. We read in Matthew 14:27, *But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.* It is significant that the disciples’ fear gave way to worship in Matthew 14:33. Again in Mark 6:50 in reference to the disciples we read, *For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.* Even though His disciples were alarmed, violently agitated, and disturbed, Jesus instantly allayed their fears with His reassuring words. *Be of good cheer* can also be translated as cheer up, or take courage. The presence of Jesus and His Holy Spirit dwelling within is more than sufficient to banish any fear.

Yes, in spite of the turbulent times in which we live, we can ***be of good cheer*** because regardless of our financial struggles, we can experience Jesus’ peace, the forgiveness of our sins, worship, and the spiritual courage we need to spiritually face the future with confidence.

Serving at SERRV

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, five volunteers from our congregation traveled to the Church of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland, to work at the SERRV facility.

SERRV International is a nonprofit organization that has worked with artisan and farming communities across the globe for almost 60 years. Its mission is to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner.

The Broadfording volunteers were assigned the task of packing bottles of olive oil from the West Bank for shipment to locations where they will be marketed.

The assembly line was composed of:

- Pastor Len making boxes,
- Betty Lou Wasson applying labels to bottles,
- Roy and Debbie Harsh securing bottles with bubble wrap in the custom-made boxes, and
- Ashley Burger labeling boxes and arranging them in a large shipping container—**340 bottles were processed!**

The food was delicious and the fellowship was great but most importantly, the volunteers felt a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day because they had done something to help others. Our thanks to Pastor Len for organizing the trip.

The Brethren Service Center - Planning for the Future

The Brethren Service Center (BSC), owned by the Church of the Brethren, has been a vital part of the New Windsor, Md. community since 1944. For decades the ministries located at the BSC have touched many lives around the world.

After several years of research and study, the former Church of the Brethren General Board (now Mission and Ministry Board) affirmed these ministries and asserted its support for their continued development. They include Brethren Disaster Ministries, Children's Disaster Services, Material Resources, New Windsor Conference Center, On Earth Peace, Mid-Atlantic District office and Annual Conference office, as well as partner agencies, IMA World Health and SERRV.

The new mission statement approved by the Board recognizes the rich history and gives a clear direction for the future: The mission of Brethren Service Center is to be a community that fosters ministry to human need around the world and nurtures commitment to service, peace and justice in the name of Christ.

At the recommendation of the Board, a master plan is being developed and implemented to make the best use of the BSC to continue its mission. The property, formerly a college campus, has been surveyed, and a facilities assessment plan has been completed for all seven of the BSC's buildings. Staff from both the Brethren Service Center and the Church of the Brethren headquarters in Elgin, Illinois are part of the master planning process.

Executive Director Roy Winter along with employees and volunteers are looking forward to the opportunities ahead for the Brethren Service Center.

—*Kathleen Campanella,*

*Director of Partner & Public Relations
at the Brethren Service Center*

Brethren Disaster Ministries BRIDGES, Fall 2008

Recipe Card Corner ... featuring favorites from Broadfording's very own. In this issue, Millie Lowman shares her recipe for:

Southern Pecan Pie

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 3 eggs (slightly beaten)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (good vanilla)
- 1 3/4 cups pecans
- 1 unbaked 9 inch pastry shell

Melt butter over low heat. Remove from heat. Mix in sugar and corn syrup. Blend in eggs and vanilla extract. Add pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until well done.

Cover edges of pie shell with aluminum foil so as not to burn edges. Remove foil for the last 10 minutes. Serve warm or cool with vanilla ice cream.

“Gift of the Heart” School Kits

The Truth Seekers Sunday School Class recently donated school kits to Church World Service. At a pizza party on October 4, the class packed twelve 12" x 14" cloth bags with the following school supplies: scissors, ruled paper, ruler, pencil sharpener, new pencils with erasers, large eraser, colored construction paper, and crayons. A monetary gift for processing/shipping accompanied the kits. The class thanks Pastor Len for transporting the kits to New Windsor.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

submitted by Carolyn Adams, Choir Director

Edmund Sears is the author of two Christmas carols that are mirror images of each other, written fifteen years apart. Mr. Sears was born in Sandisfield, Massachusetts, on April 6, 1819, and attended Union College in Schenectady and then Harvard Divinity School. He was ordained into the Unitarian ministry and chose to devote himself to small towns in Massachusetts where he had time to think, study, and write.

At the age of 24 he wrote "Calm on the Listening Ear" a Christmas carol based on the song of the angels in Luke 2. It can be sung to the same tune and timing as the song he wrote 15 years later, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear".

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" is an unusual song because it does not mention Christ, the newborn Babe, or the Savior's Mission. The author's only focus was on the request of the angels for peace on earth. The hymn was written in 1849 when clouds of civil strife were coming upon the United States, setting the stage for the War Between the States. One of the verses to the song he wrote is usually omitted from most hymnals. By reading the words to this stanza, one can see that he was concerned about peace.



Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

Edmund Sears became well-known because of his hymns and books. He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1871 and took a preaching tour of England where he was met by large congregations. He died in Weston, Massachusetts, on January 16, 1876.

As we enter into the Christmas season this year, may we, too, proclaim the message of the angels to the shepherds that night over 2000 years ago, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"



The Quarter Project

At the end of this year, missionaries Chuck and Debby Baldwin and their son Jean-Luc will be moving to Rwanda, Africa, to live and work.

One of their goals is to make a difference in the lives of at least some of Rwanda's hungry street children. Statistics show that most street children eat only every two to three days, and when they do, it's neither sufficient nor healthy. In order to have funds to begin to meet the immediate needs of these children when they arrive in Rwanda, Debby proposed a "quarter-a-day" fundraising project.

Challenged by Heart to Heart, Sunday School classes have been collecting quarters since August to help the Baldwins realize their goal. The 18-week project will end December 14.

SHARE Food Network

Since April of this year, our church has been a host site for the SHARE Food Network.

For \$19.50 and two hours of volunteer service each month, this organization provides a nutritious food package of frozen meat, fish, poultry, and fresh fruit and vegetables to registered participants. Food packages are delivered to the church for pick up at a designated time once a month.



To learn more about this program, call the church at 301-791-5432.

Need a gift idea?

Is there someone on your gift list who is difficult to buy for?



Purchase a Martin's "Cash for Causes" gift card from Bernie Burkett. You will solve your gift-giving problem and the church will benefit as well. Gift card sales in 2007 earned \$2,100.00 for our building fund.

Call Bernie at 301-791-3440.



Water Ritual

Many of us make a New Year's resolution to take better care of our bodies and one of the easiest ways to fulfill that is to simply drink more water everyday. To make it more likely, head to a local warehouse shop or flea market and buy one single beautiful glass. It can be crystal or plastic, expensive or cheap, but pick something that truly pleases you. Whether you take it to work or leave it at home, drink water and only water from this special glass. To further the ritual, create a short message or toast to say to yourself each time you drink a new glassful, something simple like, "To my health!"

Enter the New Year with gusto and innocence. Play, work, read, cook and observe the world with an intense new focus as though you've just emerged from a coma and need to reclaim what matters to you. Try new things. Be good to your family.

*Meg Cox's Ritual Newsletter for January 2008
ALTERNATIVES for Simple Living –
2008 Whose Birthday is It, Anyway?*

The Month After Christmas ...

'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house,
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I did taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk, more a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The eggnog and meat balls, the bread and the cheese.
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please!"
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt —
I said to myself, as I only can,
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So—away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip,
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie—not even a lick.
I want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore—
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!
—Anonymous

How Your 2009 Local Operating and Outreach Dollar is Allocated

Administration	.07
Christian Education	.07
Music & Worship	.03
Outreach *	.13
Pastoral Program	.38
Property & Stewardship	.32
Total	\$1.00

* We take up additional special designated offerings for outreach at various times throughout the year.

Our local operating and outreach budget for 2009 is \$164,553.77 or \$3,164.50 per week.

The above figures do not reflect our monthly mortgage payments on the 2007 addition that are paid through fundraisers and additional contributions made to our capital campaign and building funds.

How Our 2009 Outreach Dollars are Allocated

Advertising	.04
Mid-Atlantic District	.20
Emergency Disaster Fund	.06
Emerging Global Mission Fund	.06
Global Food Crisis Fund	.06
Missionaries:	
Kays (Dominican Republic)	.07
Glessners (Children's Bible Mission)	.07
Baldwins (Rwanda)	.08
Heidebrinks (Missionary Aviation)	.05
Bhaskars (India)	.03
Carlsons (Ukraine)	.05
Shepherd's Spring Camp	.14
WCRH	.035
WTRM	.035
Susquehanna Valley Minister Center	-
Meat Canning	.02
Outreach Total	\$1.00

Meet our Sunday School Teachers

Note: This is a continuing series of articles profiling the teachers of our Sunday School. We appreciate their dedication to this calling.



Sharon Reese is teacher of the Senior High Youth Class (Grades 9-12)

Sharon's story began in New Jersey, the year 19-- (She's not telling). She was the oldest of five children. Her father was in the Air Force and they moved around every 3-4 years. That made it hard to keep life-long friendships but she liked the excitement of seeing new places. Growing up, Sharon attended school in Italy and Germany as well as Maryland and

Illinois where she graduated from high school. Though they moved often, Sharon and her siblings attended church regularly. In middle school Sharon remembers a Sunday School teacher's lesson that led her to accepting Christ. Around that time she began dreaming of becoming a missionary nurse. In high school she served as a Candy Stripper at the military hospital for 3 years. Back then, a candy stripper was a free nurse's aide and she learned a lot.

After her graduation her parents were talking about retiring in Ohio where her grandparents lived. Sharon was accepted into a nursing school in Columbus, Ohio. Then her parents decided to retire in Virginia. She often wondered if there was a message they were trying to convey to her.

After she graduated from nursing school, Sharon moved to Virginia and worked at several hospitals. That was a trying time in her faith. She was looking for a church home but the worldly culture in the Washington, DC area

was calling out pretty strong.

There was one sport that Sharon ventured in that brought her to Hagerstown. She came to Downsville to sky dive. She remembers driving through Hagerstown and thinking how she would never want to live in a place like that. One weekend in May 1977 when she came up to sky dive, she met Greg and his kids. That August they were married and she was living in Hagerstown, MD. The rest of Sharon's story is similar to Greg's in last month's newsletter.

Sharon worked at Washington County Hospital till 1994 (except for 2 years at the dialysis center). After she attained her Masters Degree as a Nurse Practitioner, she began practicing with Dr. Delaportas. Sharon loves her job as a nurse but her best memories have been made with her grandchildren and with the youth in our church.

God has always amazed her in how he has directed her life story in ways that have fulfilled her love of adventure and her desire to work for Him.

New Sunday School Elective

Pastor Len will begin a new 12-week Sunday School elective on "Overcoming Life's Trials" on December 7.

The Scripture/video/discussion format will include the following topics:

- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| anger | marriage |
| burnout | divorce |
| worry | care giving |
| fear | children |
| trauma | life transitions |
| grief | case studies |

The class is open to all interested individuals.



The Church Library

by Lisa Weller

It is amazing to learn! Come see our great library. It has books and videos for everyone—there are even scary mysteries and tons more.

Come and see it!!!

Christmas for the Birds



In the spirit of Saint Francis share your Christmas celebration with feathered friends. Decorating an outdoor Christmas tree with treats for birds is a great way to celebrate the season. Ideally pick a tree that you can view from the kitchen or living room window and one that is close to shrubs or other trees to provide additional protective cover. Here are some ideas:

- Strings of popcorn. Use a sewing needle and heavy duty dark thread to string decorative popcorn garlands. Unbuttered and unsalted popcorn will look festive and tastes like a holiday treat to the birds.
- Strings of grapes, cranberries, or dried fruit. Thread like the popcorn garlands.
- Small pine cones spread with peanut butter mix. Mix 1 cup of peanut butter, smooth or crunchy, and 2 cups of cornmeal or uncooked oatmeal. Spread on pine cone with a soft spatula. For an extra touch, roll in bird seed.
- Suet bags. Use a plastic mesh bag that is used to sell fresh oranges or other fruit in grocery stores and fill it with 2" square chunks of suet (hard beef fat). Suet can be trimmed off cuts of meat before cooking or be purchased at bird feed supply stores.
- Oranges and grapefruit. Cut fruit into quarters and tie to sturdy branches fruit side up.

*Michael Mortvedt, Co-Director of
ALTERNATIVES for Simple Living -
2008 Whose Birthday is It, Anyway?*

Jesus is the reason for the season ... join us in celebrating His birth!

December 14

1:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling
and distribution of gift
bags to shut-ins

December 20

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

**Advent Saturday
Happening**
for kindergarten through
5th grade

December 21

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service
with
Children's Presentation
6:00 p.m.
**Praise & Worship
Service**

December 24

7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**



Each Sunday during Advent

10:30 a.m.

Worship Services
will include a *Children's Advent Candle Devotional*



**May the birth of the Holy Child
renew your faith and hope now
and throughout the new year.**

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