

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
455 Trumbauersville Road  
Quakertown, Pa. 18951  
Phone: 215-536-7510  
Web Site: [www.quakertowncob.org](http://www.quakertowncob.org)  
Email address: [quakertowncob@verizon.net](mailto:quakertowncob@verizon.net)  
Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor

Non-Profit  
Organization  
Permit #11  
Quakertown,  
Pennsylvania  
US Postage Paid



**CHURCH & COMMUNITY YARD SALE**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – 8AM – 2PM**  
**ALL FOOD & BEVERAGE MONIES**  
**SUPPORT ALEX'S LEMONADE**  
**STAND - FOUNDATION FOR**  
**CHILDHOOD CANCER**



**CALL 215-536-7510 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**  
**TABLES AVAILABLE FOR RENT!**

# THE BEACON

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD \* QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951

PHONE: 215-536-7510 \* EMAIL: QUAKERTOWNCOB@VERIZON.NET

PASTOR: REV. JOHN B. SHAFFER

August 2011

## “H—H—H”

Hazy, Hot & Humid—As I write this short note that is exactly what it is like outside. And, it reminds me of the “sermon” preached on board a cruise ship some years ago. In its entirety, it went something like this. “It is hot. Hell is hotter.” Amen.



I will acknowledge at the outset that it was not a Church of the Brethren pastor who uttered, perhaps, one of the shortest sermons ever. After all, have you ever heard a Church of the Brethren pastor preach a six word, two sentence sermon? Enough said.

While on the surface this is quite humorous, it does make us think, not only about the hereafter, but also, what message is God sending us? I’m not going to push or disprove the “global warming” or “climate change” theories, but I am going to suggest that no matter what the answer may be, God is in charge. If we go back thousands of years, God led the Israelites on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land through the hot desert, often times lacking water, and without the “creature comforts” we enjoy today (air conditioning, modern transportation, ice water, fans, etc.).

As we have been learning in our Bible Study hour, this was a real time of testing for the Israelites. Testing to see what was in their hearts and testing to show them—the Israelites—what was really in their hearts. It was a test of obedience and a test of dependence—dependence on the one true God. Is it much different for us today? Do we depend on God, or do we worry about paying the higher electric bill, or questioning if the well will run dry or our water will be rationed, or how much food prices will increase because of the weather’s negative impact on the crops? Like the Israelites, it is easy to thank and praise God when the temperature gets cooler, the needed rain arrives and our bills are paid. But shouldn’t we also be thankful that HE, and not WE, is in control? The Israelites had difficult times, the early Christians had difficult times and we have difficult times, but in the final analysis, I’m thankful that we worship a loving and just God who will never leave us nor forsake us. Paul writes... ***“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16b***

I’m not worried about the temperature of Hell or the temperature here on earth. Are you?

*PASTOR JOHN*



**PASTOR: Rev. John B. Shaffer**

Pastor John is available **any time** and can be reached at the numbers below; however, he does have weekly office hours. Just to be sure he isn't visiting an area hospital or someone at their home, you may wish to call in advance.

**Monday thru Thursday – 9:30am – 12:30pm**

**Church: 215-536-7510 \* Home: 215-538-2032 \* Cell: 610-413-1997**

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**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

August 1 – Jean Haring  
August 2 – Niko Balkit  
August 3 – Beth Moser  
August 4 – Christopher Adams  
August 5 – John Breiner / Jim Peiffer / Zach Zomberg  
August 7 – Jerry Clymer  
August 11 – Gillian Baker  
August 12 – Bob Uhl  
August 15 – Alex Beard

August 18 – David George  
August 21 – Jeanne Schlicher  
August 22 – Seth Sassaman  
August 23 – Marjorie Kooker  
August 24 – Connie Holsinger  
August 26 – Brianna Dutterer,  
Meredith Vandegrift  
August 27 – Stu Zomberg  
August 28 – Austin Zomberg  
August 30 – Scott Beard, Blanche Peiffer

August 1 – Lee & Arlene Shubert  
August 26 – Bob & Joyce Klein – Celebrating 50 years of marriage!  
August 27 – John & Evelyn Pfeiffer  
August 29 – John & Susan Shaffer  
August 29 – Bob & Karen Uhl



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS!**

**THREE ADULT CLASSES** : 1) This adult class, led by Juli, is doing a study from the Book of Ephesians 2) **“END TIMES”**, senior adult study led by Helen. 3) **“IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER, YOU’VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT”**, young adult study, led by Keith.

**PRE-NURSERY** (CHILDREN 3 & UNDER) LED BY ERIC DIETERLY & TRACEY SHEARER

**NURSERY CLASS** (AGES 3 & 4) LED BY CONNIE HOLSINGER

**BEGINNERS CLASS** (KDG & GR 1) LED BY TINA DIETERLY & JUDY MENSZAK

**LITTLE GLEANERS** (GR 2 & 3) LED BY SUSAN SHAFFER

**SUNBEAM CLASS** (GR 4 – 6) LED BY AUDREY HOWARD & PAT MURPHY

**JUNIOR HIGH** (GR 7 – 8) LED BY AMANDA & JEFF VANDEGRIFT

**SENIOR HIGH** (GR 9 – 12) – LED BY BRIAN & HOLLY KELLY & LISA & AARON SASSAMAN

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – RALLY DAY**  
**“GET BACK TO CHURCH” SUNDAY!**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHURCH!**

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 11AM & WEDNESDAY EVENING AT 6:45PM & WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY ON SATURDAY AT 9:30AM CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS.

### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS ...

#### **WE HAVE A NEW BABY IN OUR CONGREGATION**...

Please welcome Elizabeth Frances to our church family born to Tom & Megan on July 13 – Congratulations to mom and dad and to Grandma Beth!

#### **SON HARVEST COUNTY FAIR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “GROWING KIDS IN THE SON”**

– What an awesome Bible School we held this year! The high attendance for the week was 35. Nineteen of those children had perfect attendance with nine children who missed only one night! Our offering project supported Heifer Project. The total donation for the week was \$190. A matching fund donation brought the grand total to \$380. We lift thanks and praise to our Lord for guiding us. Thank you to all of the helping hands to bring the Country Fair alive! Affirmations were posted on the “Affirmation Board”. Here are a few: *“Thanks to Judy & Heidi (Co-Directors of Bible School) and the helpers that made VBS great again this year. Also “Uncle Zeke” for being a great sport.”*

*“Wendy & Jeff, the decoration for VBS was great!”*  
Meredith

*“ALL TEACHERS – Your classrooms were each all beautiful & different, but all conveyed the theme “Fruits of the Spirit.”! Heidi & Judy*

**A TRIP OF A LIFE TIME** – That’s what Ashley, her mother, her Girl Scout Troop and Leaders had in June. They traveled by car to the western part of the country. Ashley sent a postcard from Utah:

*“Hello, Greetings From Utah! We are having a wonderful time. We have seen so many amazing sites. And have many more to see. We have seen many animals including a snake named*

*“Dolores” that was in our cabin! See you soon. Love, Hope (Mom) and Ashley*



#### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE** ...

*“Bible verses are stars that light our path and help keep us on course.”*

#### **MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST**

*“Be imitators of God as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us ...” Ephesians 5:1, 2*

#### **NEWS FROM HEAVEN’S BOUNTY FOOD**



**PANTRY ...** In June we served 62 families for a total of 179 people. Our cupboards are fairly well stocked, but as you can tell by our numbers, the demand is still great. We are seeing many new people who are at a financially difficult period in their lives. Please pray for Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry and the ministry as we endeavor to be Christ’s “hands and feet” as we serve. It’s not always an easy task.

One particular item that is needed is ***spaghetti sauce*** - any kind – canned or jar – is appreciated. Thanks again for your help in this community outreach.

– Staff & Volunteers at Heaven’s Bounty

#### **“HIS LOVE WILL LIGHT THE WAY”**

*His love will light the way  
As we travel through this life.  
His love will guide our path  
Through days filled with toil and strife.  
As we struggle through the valleys  
Where our fears shut out the light,  
His love will light the way  
And will make our pathway bright.*

*His love will light the way  
As the billows ‘round us roll;  
As the storms of life are raging  
And we feel out of control.  
When we put our faith in Him  
And in His strength alone,  
His love will light the way  
And will lead us safely home.  
By: Shirley W. Langley*

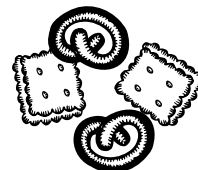
***“... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”***  
I John 1:5

#### **FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

the first Sunday of the month, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the

Chapel, sponsored by Women’s Fellowship.

If you would like to help please and provide the snacks, please see Juli.



**MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY: DO YOU HAVE A NEED OR CONCERN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO LIFT UP IN PRAYER?**

Please call the church office at anytime, send us an email, or drop us a note mentioning your prayer concern or joy. If you feel more comfortable, include only your first name. Our burdens are made much lighter just knowing that we are being lifted in prayer. We will gladly include your need or concern with our own on Wednesday evening during our time of prayer and on Sunday morning during the Worship Service. We also have a Prayer Chain, and we would be glad to place your prayer request on that. It's a great comfort and strength to know that we have a caring God who loves us and responds to the prayers of His people.

**CALL US FOR PRAYER  
CHURCH OFFICE: 215-536-7510**



**SOME PRAYER CONCERNS**

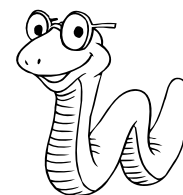
**WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION:** Please keep in prayer Jim's family as they mourn the passing of his mother. ... And, for a young 20 year old woman whose family are friends of our congregation. Ariel was critically injured in a car accident and is in need of prayer. Because she loves getting cards, the family is requesting that cards be sent to her so that when she wakes up, she'll know how many people have been thinking of her and praying for her. If you would like to send a card, please address it to the church, attention "Ariel". We'll make sure it is given to her family. Thank you for caring and for praying.



*"Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song, as the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long? O yes He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares."*

**AUGUST BOOK REVIEW BY**

**SANDY** ... "Rachel" by: Mary Christner Borntrager - Rachel's story is different than anything I have ever read. Can you imagine growing up outside the Amish community (although your parents grew up Amish and left to be missionaries)? When your family comes home you meet your grandparents and fall in love with their way of life, and the way they worship God. It's then you decide you want to be Amish. Read about what Rachel struggles with and see if she really does become Amish.



"Andy" by Mary Christner Borntrager - Andy has a problem that many children have - no matter where you're raised. He is teased and has tricks played on him because of his weight. He doesn't fit in with the group of kids in his Amish community, and he doesn't know what to do. He meets a drifter who is kind to him and tells him stories of his travels. Andy thinks that sounds like the kind of life he'd like. When he's old enough Andy takes off, but is this really the life Andy's looking for? Does he come back to his Amish life? You'll have to read the book to find out!

**JOIN US FOR A VESPER SERVICE** on

Sunday evening, August 7 beginning at 7:00pm.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Mark Baliles,



Pastor of the Indian Creek Church of the Brethren. The Music & Worship Commission will provide refreshments. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS REMINDER:** If

you have filled out a Pastor Review Form, it is due. The Committee is meeting August 9 to summarize the answers. Please give your evaluation form to any of the committee members or place it in Beth's mailbox. Thank you.



**THE WITNESS COMMISSION**  
**IS SPONSORING A**  
**MOVIE NIGHT** on

Saturday evening, August 20  
at 8:00pm. The feature  
being shown is "Soul Surfer".

Invite your friends and family and join us for this family activity. There will be wonderful fellowship, and refreshments (maybe popcorn?). See you there!

**FROM THE DEACON BOARD**

Recently we have all been challenged to encourage others by mentioning things we appreciate about them on the "Affirmation Board" in the hallway at the ramp door. The pages have been turned many times to accommodate the many things we appreciate about each other. Did you find your name among the many there? How did it make you feel – encouraged I hope.

That's what we are called to do for each other – be encouragers. Life can sometimes drag us down and many of us have had encounters with those who have a negative or critical spirit. They leave us feeling discouraged, unappreciated, and disheartened – and can even sometimes affect our love and joy for the work we are doing for the Lord. That is why it is most important that we be encouragers and not discouragers. Before you say something, think how you would feel if someone said the same thing to you.

There are many people in our world who are hurting in some way. Imagine what a difference it would make if they knew that someone cared about them. Sometimes a phone call or a card send can make all the difference. Don't know what to say or write? Don't worry. Ask God to help and the recipient will be most appreciative.

Just as you have received a card or call at just the right time, the efforts you make will be most appreciated too. And don't forget our

*"Grand Cheerleader" – the Encourager of all Encouragers – GOD. Even in those times when no one seems to appreciate what you do – He does. II Thessalonians 2:16-17 says, "May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." Be an encourager! You are of great importance to God and He loves you. Then, go and encourage someone else today – let's pass it on and on ...*

**"WHAT IS CHARITY?"**

- It is silence – when your words would hurt.
- It is patience – when your neighbor's curt.
- It is deafness – when a scandal flows.
- It is thoughtfulness – for other's woes.
- It is promptness – when a duty calls.
- It is courage – when misfortune falls.



*"Kind words make good echoes." -- Copied*

**SEPTEMBER**

**HAPPENINGS!**

**RALLY DAY – "GET BACK TO CHURCH" SUNDAY! 9/11**



**PIONEER CLUBS BEGINS –**  
**Wednesday, 9/14 - Picnic / Classes Begin 9/21 -**  
**Kindergarten – Grade 6**

**ALL CHURCH & COMMUNITY YARD SALE**  
**& ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND**  
**Saturday, 9/17 – 8am – 2pm**

**DISASTER RELIEF AUCTION - Lebanon Area**  
**Fairgrounds – 9/23-24**



**HARVEST HOME**  
**CELEBRATION & COVERED**  
**DISH – Sunday, 9/25**

**“TIME WITH YOU”**

When my soul is heavy laden,  
And my heart bowed down with care  
Wishful thinking cannot change things –  
So I come to You in prayer.

When life seems overwhelming,  
Much more than I can face,  
You lift me far above this world –  
To a peaceful, restful place.

When I am feeling lonely  
Though there are people everywhere,  
Your presence is my comfort –  
Your hand is always there.

When I am tired and weary  
And unending seems the day –  
You restore my soul and assure me  
Everything will be okay.

My time with You is all I need  
To face the coming day.  
I'm ready to return again –  
To what life brings my way.  
Written and submitted by: Linda



***“Let us pass over unto the other side.” Mark 4:35***

Even when we go forth at Christ’s command, we need not expect to escape storms; for these disciples were going forth at Christ’s command, yet they encountered the fiercest storm and were in great danger of being overwhelmed, so that they cried out in their distress for Christ’s assistance.

Though Christ may delay His coming in our time of distress, it is only that our faith may be tried and strengthened, and that our prayers may be more intense, and that our desires for deliverance may be increased, so that when the deliverance does come we will appreciate it more fully. Christ gave them a gentle rebuke,

saying, “Where is your faith?” Why did you not shout victory in the very face of the storm, and say to the raging winds and rolling waves, “You can do no harm, for Christ, the Mighty Savior is on board”?

It is much easier to trust when the sun is shining than when the storm is raging. We never know how much real faith we have until it is put to the test in some fierce storm; and that is the reason why the Savior is on board. If you are ever to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, your strength will be born in some storm. “With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm. Christ said, “Let us go to the other side” – not to the middle of the lake to be drowned.”

Written By: Dan Crawford – Submitted by: Ann

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## FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN \* AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR

August 1	Monday	Deacon Board Meeting – 7pm
August 2	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 3	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm
August 4	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 5	Friday	
August 6	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
<b>August 7</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b><i>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship * Nursing Home Services at Quakertown Manor – 1:30pm; Belle Haven – 2:15pm * Outdoor Vesper Service – 7pm</i></b>
August 8	Monday	Women's Fellowship Meeting – 7pm
August 9	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Pastoral Relations Meeting – 7pm
August 10	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm
August 11	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 12	Friday	
August 13	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
<b>August 14</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b><i>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am – Missionary Offering</i></b>
August 15	Monday	Music & Worship, Stewardship, Christian Ed. Commissions Meet – 7pm
August 16	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Witness Commission Meets – 7pm
August 17	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm
August 18	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Sunshine Stitchers Meet – 7pm
August 19	Friday	
August 20	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am * Movie Night Sponsored by the Witness Commission – “Soul Surfer”
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b><i>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am Women leave to attend District Women's Camp @ Camp Swatara – Sunday, 8/21 thru Tuesday, 8/23</i></b>
August 22	Monday	Church Board Meeting – 7pm
August 23	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 24	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm
August 25	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 26	Friday	
August 27	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
<b>August 28</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b><i>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am</i></b>
August 29	Monday	
August 30	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
August 31	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS – CHURCH YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – 8AM – 2PM**

**ALL FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROFITS HELP ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND**

**FOUNDATION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER**

**CALL 215-536-7510 FOR MORE INFORMATION & TABLE RENTALS.**