

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
455 Trumbauersville Road
Quakertown, Pa. 18951
215-536-7510

Web site: www.quakertowncob.org
Email: quakertowncob@verizon.net
Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor

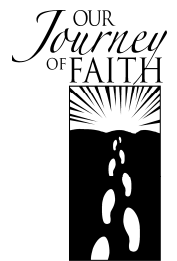
THE BEACON

February 2009

ASH WEDNESDAY / LENT

It's hard to believe, but on the 25th of February we begin the period of Lent, starting with "Ash Wednesday". This six and a half-week period (40 days, excluding Sundays) before Easter, is not really emphasized in the Church of the Brethren, but maybe - just maybe - it should have more significance to all of us. In some traditions (Roman Catholic, for instance), Ash Wednesday services are a time of repentance and mourning, symbolized by the imposition of ashes on one's forehead. The Lenten period typically includes periods of fasting and abstinence from some luxuries and activities. Fundamentally, it is designed as a 40-day devotional preparation for Easter, based on Jesus' wilderness fast as we read in the Gospel of Mark (1:13).

In the *Book of Common Prayer* (The Episcopal Church), the Ash Wednesday Service includes an invitation to those gathered "*...in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word...*"



While some may be thinking, "I'm not Catholic"; "I'm not Episcopal"; or "I don't really go for a pre-defined approach to my worship or faith", let me challenge you this Lenten period in a couple of areas, regardless of how you want to "package" it:

- * Give serious thought to the blessings God has given you.
- * Give even more serious thought as to what Good Friday and Easter is all about, and what it means to you personally, including the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life.
- * Consider using a daily devotional to focus your thinking.
- * Read and meditate on God's Word.
- * And, if you give up something for Lent, make sure it is something you can give to help someone else.
- * And, by the way, start each day in prayer.

The intent is simply to draw one closer to our Lord and Savior, so that the glorious celebration of Easter will add still more ethos in our Christian life. May this Lenten season and the glorious celebration of His resurrection on April 12th be an inspirational to all of us.

God Bless You,

Pastor John

"What is prayer? Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear, the upward glancing of an eye when none but God is near." By: James Montgomery



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 & Wednesday – 12:30pm – 3:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday – 9:30am – 12:30pm
Church: 215-536-7510 * Home: 215-538-2032
Cell: 610-413-1997

BIRTHDAYS

- February 2 – Desiree' Detweiler / Matthew Patton
- February 3 – Logan Evans / Pauline Lerch / Jeanette Renner
- February 4 – Larry Renninger / Kevin Steich
- February 8 – Eric Dieterly / Sylvia Schoellkopf
- February 10 – Steve Hunter
- February 11 – Gloria Evans
- February 12 – Lisa Dutterer
- February 14 – Beth Shaffer
- February 15 – Courtney Adams / Dennis Rupert
- February 18 – Arlene Shubert
- February 19 – Carroll Donnelly
- February 20 – Morgan Allen
- February 24 – Kelly Stever

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- February 15 – Jim & Blanche Peiffer
- February 26 – Gerald & Joan Hangey





IN NOVEMBER, 230 CHRISTMAS CARDS were collected from folks in our congregation and sent to those serving in the military, through the endeavors of Kris & Brenda Hoot. Children and adults of ALL ages prepared cards for this special effort. Our hope and prayer was that the cards would touch those receiving them in a special way and that they would know we are praying for them. Sandy received a Christmas card from one of the recipients. The card is posted on the bulletin board beside the water fountain. He wrote, *“Hello Sandra Shearer – How are you. Fine I hope and pray. I wish to thank you for your time and support for all troops – God has blessed us with wonderful people like yourself. May you have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Joyous New Year. SSF Miller, Charles L. Jr.”*

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON HARING upon his graduation from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa., on December 30th, with an Associate Degree in Building Construction Technology. While at college Jason worked for a local contractor to further his learning skills. He also joined and became active as a volunteer with the Citizens Fire Co. #2, located in South Williamsport. Jason is currently living back in Quakertown and working on starting his own handyman/home improvement business. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Jason and his family.

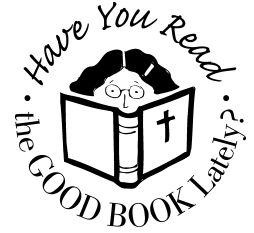


Thank You

THE STAFF AT THE QUAKERTOWN POST OFFICE is so helpful to us when mailing our monthly newsletter. We delivered a box of chocolates for Christmas as our expression of appreciation and we received this note back: *“Dear Pastor John and Susan – Thank you for the Christmas gift – (the goodies were great) - and for taking the time to be so thoughtful. Happy New Year. Fondly, Joan – Quakertown Post Office.”*

Christian Education

THREE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ... "**Fruit of the Spirit**", led by Juli, meets in Pastor John's office. "**The Book of Revelation**", a class for young adults (post senior high to about 35 years of age) is led by Keith in the chapel. "**Forgiveness – Making Peace With the Past**" a class for senior adults, is led by Helen. They meet in the Library.



CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

A LOVING PRE-NURSERY (UNDER 3 YEARS) IS LED BY MISS JOAN
 MISS CONNIE TEACHES THE NURSERY CLASS (AGES 3 & 4)
 MISS JUDY & MISS TINA LEAD THE BEGINNERS CLASS (KDG & GRADE 1)
 LITTLE GLEANERS (GRADES 2 & 3) IS LED BY MISS SANDY & MISS SUSAN
 SUNBEAM CLASS (GRADES 4 – 6) IS LED BY JEFF & WENDY
 JUNIOR HIGH CLASS (GRADES 7 – 8) - LEADERSHIP IS SHARED BY AMANDA, WENDELL AND DARLENA. THE SENIOR HIGH CLASS (GRADES 9 – 12) – LEADERSHIP IS SHARED BETWEEN LISA & AARON AND BRIAN & HOLLY.

PIONEER CLUBS meets on Wednesday evening from 6:45pm – 8:00pm. There are classes for children kindergarten through senior high. The children are full of enthusiasm and excitement as they come to learn more about Jesus and how He can work in their lives.

TWO MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES FOR ADULTS meet on Wednesday: At 11:00am we are continuing the Brethren study, "**To Follow in Jesus' Steps**", written by C. Wayne Zunkel. We will begin a new study focus in a few weeks. Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:45pm the adults gather for a time of lifting prayer joys and concerns, followed by Bible Study. This group continues their study the Book of Proverbs.

"It was to this God called you, for Christ Himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in His steps." 1 Peter 2:21

Donations for Heaven's Bounty CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN –
2009 DOMESTIC HUNGER MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY ... THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
 is encouraging congregations to make a special effort in January and February to respond to the financial needs in a local food bank or soup kitchen. Congregations' giving will be matched dollar for dollar – up to \$500 by the Church of the Brethren's Global Food Crisis Fund for a gift to one local food bank or soup kitchen.

You can help to support our church food pantry – Heaven's Bounty. Donations of cash can be put in an envelope designated for the Pantry and given in the offering plate or to the Treasurer, Ellen Yorgey. Checks can be made payable to First Church of the Brethren. (Please designate somewhere on the check that the donation is for Heaven's Bounty.) Thank you in advance for your generous donations to this cause - the Pantry appreciates the on-going donations. We're grateful for this one time only matching funds opportunity offered by the Church of the Brethren.

"Continuing the work of Jesus – Peacefully, Simply, Together"

“FRIENDS”

Once in your lifetime God will send
Someone who’s special, someone who’s a friend
Someone who’s faithful, someone who’s true
Someone who’s trustworthy, someone like you.

Someone full of laughter, charm and wit
Someone whose company you’re never bored with
Someone who puts up with you when others won’t
Someone who understands you when others don’t

If there were a book on what a friend should be
You’d be on the cover for everyone to see
There’d be a chapter on Love, Honesty, and Trust
And a chapter called inseparable with a picture of us

You’re always available to share a smile
To listen to my problems or just talk for awhile
And when I’m confused you offer friendly advice
Your friendship is one thing that doesn’t come with a price

Friends like you don’t come along everyday
That’s why the more I know you the more I can say
That you bring joy in all the little things you do
I wish everyone could have a friend like you.

By: Cedric L. Threatt
Submitted by: Helen Grey

YOUNG ADULT NEWS ... The young adult Sunday School class has taken “shape” finally and is progressing in several ways. There has been an on-going, interesting study of the Book of Revelation while including



Sunday School Planning

lots of class discussion in which we relate events to those in our everyday life. We have recently discovered other “tools” (i.e., books and TV discussion) relating to our study and certain members have expressed interest in sharing them with everyone who is interested.

In addition, our first meeting took place on January 4th at Giovanni’s Pizza Restaurant. We had a great time laughing and catching up while discussing new and exciting things for our group! Some things discussed were: Breakfast once a month / Movie Night (“Fireproof” film) / skiing and/or snow tubing / Karaoke night / Faith Fest / beach day and a few other activities. By now, a copy of my “notes/letter” are in the church mailboxes of all young adults in our congregation. We again invite ALL young adults (between the age of 18 – 35), to come and learn, fellowship, and have fun!

By: Jen Roth

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” I Peter 3:8-9

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. We love Him because He first loved us.” I John 4:10, 16, 19










Newsletter Folding Party

WE SEND OUT OVER 1,000 COPIES OF “THE BEACON” each

month. We’re seen some response to our mailing through visitors in worship, and attendance in Pioneer Clubs and Bible Study. Please continue to pray for this outreach ministry. There is a great crew of workers who help collate, fold, tape, and add decorative stickers to prepare it for church mailboxes and mailing. We hope you’ll join the team of dedicated volunteers. When you get a call about coming to help – please say YES! An incentive – FREE coffee!!

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY 
FEBRUARY 14TH 

*“A prayer for you on Valentine’s Day
That God will grant to you
The happiness you so deserve
Today and always too
And may He keep you in His care
Through every future day
And fill your heart with blessings
In His tender loving way.”* 







SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 1st. 2009 the 20th anniversary of this most wonderful outreach started by just one youth group which has spread all over the world. Millions of dollars have been collected over the years by organizations to help many needy people. Our youth will be collecting your donations at the end of the service. Please drop your \$1.00 (or more) in the soup bowls as you leave the service.

FRIEND DAY - Feb 15, 2009

“Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 3:19, 20)



Can you believe that **Friend Day** is just around the corner already?

This year we have set aside the Sunday after Valentine’s Day to welcome friends of our congregation to a special day. Last year our theme was on being a **Child of God**; this year our theme goes the next step and talks about belonging to the **Family of God**. We are encouraging each and every person to invite at least one guest to come to church and/or Sunday school on Sunday, February 15.

This day is designed to be friendly, warm, and fun; we have something special at our church, something that is easy to share. We will have Sunday School at 9:00am and Worship at 10:00am, followed by a time of fellowship hosted by the Witness Commission.

Please pray earnestly and then invite a friend as the Lord leads; this could be someone you work with, a neighbor, or perhaps a family member.

Yours in Christ,
Judy Moyer

*“Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.”
Luke 14:23*

THE YOUTH RETREAT AT SPRUCE LAKE is Friday

through Sunday, February 20 – 22. Please pray for the Advisors and youth as they gather as a group of Christians

for recreation and spiritual growth. Pray that they have fun – and stay safe!

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**LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**
**A time to look inward and reflect on our
relationship with Jesus Christ and with our
brothers and sisters.**

A FUN NIGHT OUT ... The Witness Commission invites you to a Family Game Night on Saturday, February 28th, beginning at 6:00pm. Bring a main dish or vegetable/salad for our covered dish dinner, as well as your favorite game(s). Last year was our first time for this activity and it was quite successful. The Commission will supply beverages as well as a special dessert. Why not sign on to enjoy this fun evening by adding your name to the sign-up sheet by the water fountain. Hope to see you there!

HELP WANTED! Do you have one or two hours to spare for a great cause? Volunteer at the Peter Becker Community Flower Show. Help is needed in the “Creation Café”. The dates are March 13th & 14th. You can pick your own hours: The Café will be open on Friday from 9:00am – 7:00pm and on Saturday from 9:00am – 4:00pm. If you are interested, please call Pat Bub at 215-723-5003 at let her know the hours you can volunteer. Thank you in advance for your help.



Tracey Shearer
Peter Becker Representative

“MY FRIEND”



Thank you ... for bringing sunshine
To my gray and gloomy days.
For being there when needed,

And for your caring, loving ways.

Thank you ... for encouragement
When I was weary and distraught,
For words of consolation,
And for all the joy you brought.

Thank you ... for all your prayers
That were made in my behalf,
For helping to erase my tears
And to replace them with a laugh.

I can face each new tomorrow,
For I know I can depend ...
On God ... who sent an angel,
And it is you ... my precious friend.

By: Patience Allison Hartbauer
Submitted By: Helen Grey

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
FEBRUARY 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

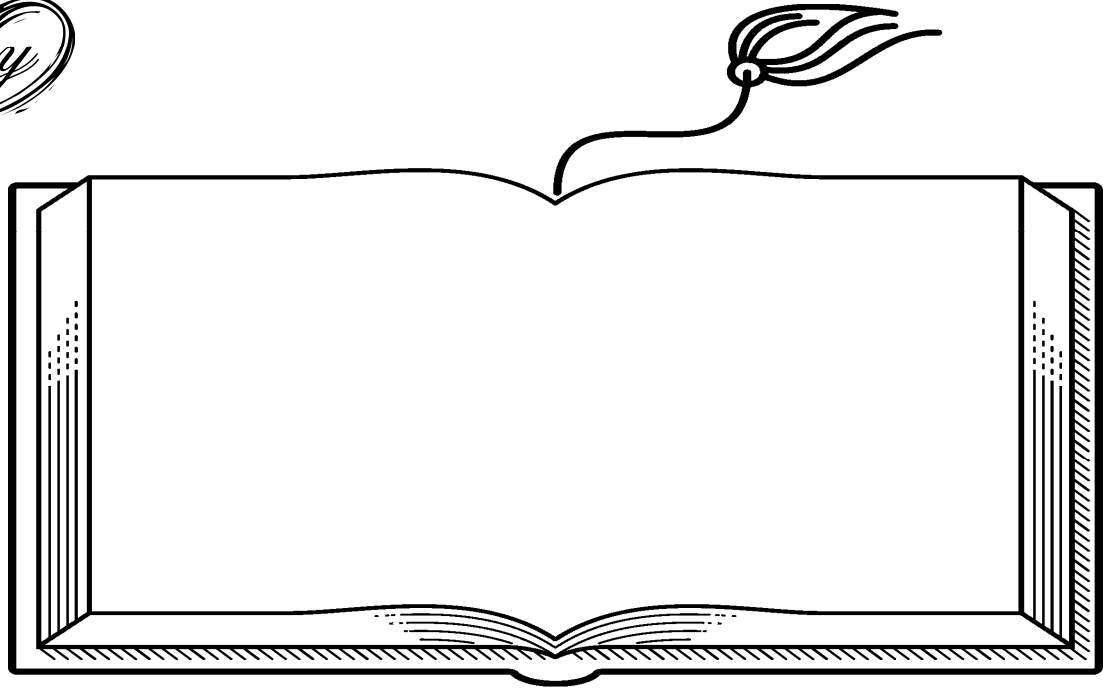
Sunday	February 1	SUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Special Offering / Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am * Nursing Home Services: 1:30pm Quakertown Manor / 2:15pm Belle Haven
Monday	February 2	Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm
Tuesday	February 3	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Wednesday	February 4	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 & TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Bell Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	February 5	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	February 6	
Saturday	February 7	Women’s Bible Study – 9:30am
Sunday	February 8	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am * Youth Group Meeting – 4:00pm
Monday	February 9	Women’s Fellowship Meeting – 7:00pm * Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm
Tuesday	February 10	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * Pastoral Relations Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday	February 11	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 & TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	February 12	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	February 13	
Saturday	February 14	HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY – God Loves You.
Sunday	February 15	FRIEND DAY! Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am, Followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments
Monday	February 16	HAPPY PRESIDENTS’ DAY! Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm * Commission Meetings: Music & Worship – 6:00pm / Christian Ed. – 7:00pm / Stewardship – 7:30pm
Tuesday	February 17	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * Sunshine Stitchers – 7:00pm
Wednesday	February 18	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 & TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Bell Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	February 19	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	February 20	Salisbury Behavioral Health Management Meeting – 9:00am-3:00pm * Youth Leave for their retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat Center – February 20 – February 22
Saturday	February 21	Men’s & Boy’s Prayer Breakfast – 9:00am at John’s Plain & Fancy, Quakertown * Women’s Bible Study – 9:30am * Youth at Spruce Lake Retreat Center
Sunday	February 22	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am * Youth at Spruce Lake Retreat Center & return home trip
Monday	February 23	Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm * Church Board Meeting – 7:00pm
Tuesday	February 24	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Wednesday	February 25	ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS -- BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 & TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	February 26	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	February 27	
Saturday	February 28	COVERED DISH DINNER & GAME NIGHT – 6:00pm
		MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS IN MARCH:

**MARCH 7 – Women’s Spring Fellowship at Parker Ford COB – Watch for the sign-up sheet.
MARCH 25 – Greater Philadelphia Area Senior Spring Banquet at Peter Becker Community.**

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February



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Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor



SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages – Including Nursery)
WORSHIP – 10:00am (A Loving Nursery & Junior Church)
MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES – Wednesday morning – 11:00am & evening – 6:45pm
PIONEER CLUBS MEETINGS for children Kindergarten – Senior High – 6:45pm

SEE OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE!
FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR OUR SERVICES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES.
FRIEND DAY SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 15
GAME NIGHT & COVERED DISH – FEBRUARY 28