

THE BEACON

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD * QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951

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

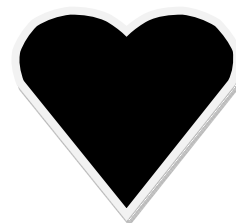
PASTOR: REV. JOHN B. SHAFFER

February 2011

Have You Opened Your Heart to New Opportunities?

For this Newsletter, I could raise the question as to whether or not old "Punxsutawney Phil" will see his shadow in a few short days, but I am not. I could ask all of you how well you are doing on your New Year's resolutions, but I am not. Or, I could ask how you are holding up under the cold and snowy winter. These questions make for great "small-talk", but I am more interested what you have done with Jesus!

Oh, how quickly we forget. This Advent Season our theme was "A Season of Wonder". The emphasis was on opening our heart to: God's Plan; to friends and strangers, alike; to silence and song; to divine encounters; to God's love for you; and, to new opportunities. The purpose was to make ourselves aware of how God works in our lives and how we can work in the lives of others. The "Season of Wonder" was not just Advent, but a season that will last a lifetime.



What have you done to reflect the love of Christ towards other people? What have you done to enhance your personal devotion to Christ and the Church? What have you done to recognize more fully God's activity in your life? Since the New Year began, has anyone noticed anything different about you? Has your attitude changed (for the good!) at work, school, church, or in your neighborhood? Have you been just a little bit nicer to your family? Often, they are the first victims of our moodiness, anger, frustration or even rage.

My intent is not to make anyone feel guilty. My intent is to challenge all of us to a new level of devotion and faithfulness. We can't stay where we are. We can backslide. But the best alternative is to grow in our faith. You will feel a whole lot better about yourself, and your relationship with the Lord will never be the same.

Trust me. Better yet, trust the Lord with the rest of your life.

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 & Wednesday – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday – 9:30am – 12:30pm

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2 – Desiree Detweiler/Bill Mapes/Matthew Patton
February 3 – Logan Evans/Pauline Lerch
February 4 – Jeanette Renner/Larry Renninger/Kevin Steich
February 8 – Eric Dieterly
February 9 – Brittany Dieterly
February 10 – Steve Hunter
February 11 – Gloria Evans
February 12 – Lisa Dutterer

February 14 – Beth Shaffer
February 15 – Courtney Adams
February 18 – Arlene Shubert
February 19 – Carroll Donnelly
February 20 – Morgan Allen
February 24 – Kelly Stever
February 28 – Betsy Steen Madison

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 15 – Jim & Blanche Peiffer (64 years)
February 26 – Gerald & Joan Hangey (45 years)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN

THREE ADULT CLASSES : 1) “EXCELLENT LIVING”, led by Juli, 2) “ANGELS”, led by Helen. 3) “IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER, YOU’VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT”, led by Keith. **THERE’S MORE ...**

A LOVING PRE-NURSERY (FOR UNDER 3 YEARS OF AGE)
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 (SANDY SHEARER, SUBSTITUTE)

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

**PIONEER CLUBS! FOR CHILDREN KINDERGARTEN - JUNIOR HIGH
WEDNESDAY - 6:45PM – 8:00PM**

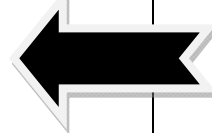
**BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF BIBLE STUDY AND ACTIVITIES.
IT’S FREE! IT’S FUN! AND YOU DON’T NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH TO
ATTEND! BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU!**

VOYAGERS (led by Karen Steich) – Grades 1 – 3

TRAILBLAZERS (led by Juli Thomas & Susan Shaffer) – Grades 4 – 6

JUNIOR HIGH (led by Audrey Howard)

PIONEER CLUBS DIRECTORS: Audrey Howard & Karen Steich





WEDNESDAY MORNING

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

begins at 11:00am.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

PRAYER AND ADULT

BIBLE STUDY - 6:45pm –

8:00pm (same time as the children's Pioneer Clubs program!). During the final 15 to 20 minutes, joys and concerns are lifted in prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING WOMEN'S

BIBLE STUDY meets from 9:30am –

10:30am. Join us as we continue the study of "Bad Girls of the Bible".

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE ...

"Bible verses are stars that light our path and help keep us on course."

MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR FEBRUARY

"When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought joy to my soul." Psalm 94:19

*The beauty of a Valentine
Is not with its words in rhyme.
The loveliest, most important part
Is not the fancy, flowery art
But the reaching out from*



THE 2011 DIRECTORY was completed and distributed in January, thanks to Judy Moyer and her team of helpers who gathered to copy, collate, and add the binding. If you notice any corrections, please put a note in Judy's mailbox. If you didn't receive a 2011 directory, or would like an extra copy, please see Judy. If you need a large print copy, she has those too! Thanks to all for their work.



"For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish,
But have Everlasting life."

John 3:16



Be sure to take notice of the February Calendar. There's a lot going on in the life of the church. Here are a few highlights of upcoming events:

YOUTH HOAGIE SALE – Saturday, February 5.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT and covered dish sponsored by the Witness Commission, will be held Saturday, February 19 beginning at 6pm. Families are asked to bring a main dish, a side to share, and their favorite game! The Witness



Commission will provide beverages and desserts. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the water fountain! Any questions, please see Amanda.

THE YOUTH WILL BE HEADING TO THE POCONOS for their Annual Winter Retreat at

Spruce Lake Mennonite Retreat Center on Friday, February 25, and they'll return Sunday, February 27. Please keep the youth and their advisors in prayer.



BREAKFAST ... Deciding to eat healthier breakfasts, my brother-in-law declared that oatmeal would now be his cereal of choice. But after eating his first bowl, he told my sister, "I hope I develop a taste for the stuff. It goes down real rough."

Page 3

“Well,” she asked, “how long did you cook it?”

“You’re supposed to cook it?” he said.

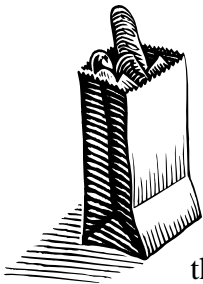
“THE LOVE OF GOD”

With all the love God gives to us,
We must give some away,
By some kind deeds, to those with needs,
And not just words we say.
Our action speaks louder than words,
For words alone are cheap.
The love of God is love to share;
It is not love to keep.

God pours His love on each of us;
He’s always just and fair,
In His unknown, yet perfect way,
He measures out each share.
“GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN THEE,”
His holy Word declares.
The more love that we give away,
The larger grows our shares.

We cannot give all His love away,
No matter how we try.
The more we give, the more He gives,
Adding to our supply.
May more and more of mankind see;
May more and more believe.
The more love that we give away,
The more love we receive.

By: Robert K. Phillips
From: Fishwrapper Stories



JUST A REMINDER: THE HEAVEN’S BOUNTY FOOD PANTRY CONTINUES TO NEED OUR HELP

as they serve families in our community. There is a basket in the narthex for your donations. When you go grocery shopping, put a few extras in your cart for the pantry. It will be greatly appreciated.



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.

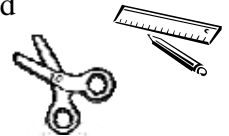
CALL FOR PRAYER AT
215-536-7510

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT ITEMS FOR HEALTH KITS AND SCHOOL KITS

for those in need in our country and around the world. Items included in each kit are listed below. If you can help by purchasing any of the items, please put them in the plastic tote in the narthex.

HEALTH KITS: Wide-tooth comb, bath size bar of soap (in wrapper), toothbrush (in individual wrapper), a 16” x 28” hand towel, six band-aids. (Wash cloths are included in a health kit, but are not needed at this time.) See Audrey with questions.

SCHOOL KITS: One pair of blunt scissors, pads or notebooks of ruled paper, 8 ½” x 11” (containing 140-200 sheets of paper – no filler paper please), one 30-centimeter ruler (12”), one pencil sharpener, six new pencils with erasers. See Ann with questions.



FEBRUARY BOOK REVIEW BY SANDY



"October Song"

By: Beverly Lewis. This book is divided into three communities: Hickory Hollow, Bird-In-Hand, and Grasshopper Level. In each community, you will meet both Amish and plain folk and see how they deal with life's situation through their love for each other and their faith in God. See Sandy if you would like to borrow this book.

A PRAYER FOR ALL

Lord, we thank You for the gift of JOY
That fills our hearts with praise.

We thank You for the gift of PEACE
That blesses all our days.

We thank You for the gift of HOPE
That helps us make it through

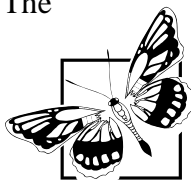
We thank You for the gift of LOVE
That keeps us close to You.



**ASH WEDNESDAY
PRAYER VIGIL -
MARCH 9**

**THE ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
WOMEN'S SPRING FELLOWSHIP** is Saturday,

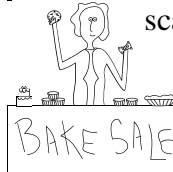
March 12, from 8:45am - 2:30pm at the Hanoverdale Church of the Brethren. The speaker is Dr. April Hershey who will be speaking on "For Such a Time as This", which is based on the book of Esther. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$6.00 per person, by reservation only. All registrations are due by February 28. Any questions, or to register, please see Juli. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.



**THE 28th ANNUAL PETER
BECKER COMMUNITY FLOWER
SHOW** will be held March 17 - 19.



Their theme this year is "Gulliver's Travels". See the posters throughout the church promoting this annual event. There are crafts, a scavenger hunt, antique show, bake sale, good food, plant sale, quilt sale and so much more. There is fun for ALL ages. See Tracey, our Peter Becker Representative if you have any questions, or if you would like to help in anyway.



**THE CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION COMMISSION
IS HOLDING THEIR
ANNUAL BREAKFAST** on




Saturday, March 26 at 9:00am, at John's Plain & Fancy Restaurant in Quakertown. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex so we have an idea of how many will be attending. This year, the Christian Ed. Commission would like to gear this event to teachers and/or those who have an interest in teaching as a workshop event. Our speaker for the morning will be Sherry Eshelman. We are not restricting this event to just teachers, as all are invited, but the Commission is encouraging ALL teachers to attend this event. We hope it will be helpful in assisting with educating our children and adults in the church. Any questions please speak to Juli, Chair of the Christian Ed. Commission.



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS


WHEN ... You are sad, phone John 14
You have sinned, phone Psalm 51
You are facing danger, phone Psalm 91
People have failed you, phone Psalm 27
You are alone and scared, phone Psalm 23
You are worried, phone Matthew 8:19-34
You are seeking peace, phone Matthew 11:25-30

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN * FEBRUARY 2011 CALENDAR

February 1	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 – 6:30pm
February 2	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Bell Choir Practice – 8pm
February 3	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Daisy Troop #216 Meeting – 6:30pm
February 4	Friday	
February 5	Saturday	Youth Hoagie Sale * Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
February 6	“Souper Bowl” Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am (Missionary offering) Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor – 1:30pm; Belle Haven – 2:15pm * Youth Fellowship Meeting
February 7	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting – 6:30pm * Deacon Meeting – 7pm
February 8	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 – 6:30pm * Pastoral Relations Meet – 7pm
February 9	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8pm
February 10	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm *
February 11	Friday	
February 12	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
February 13	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am
February 14	Monday	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Daisy Troop #216 Meeting – 6:30pm
February 15	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 – 6:30pm * Women's Fellowship Meeting – 7pm
February 16	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Bell Choir Practice – 8pm
February 17	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Sunshine Stitchers – 7pm
February 18	Friday	Salisbury Behavioral Health Group Meets – 9am-3pm
February 19	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am Family Covered Dish & Game Night – 6pm 
February 20	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am Articles due for the March Beacon!
February 21	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting – 6:30pm * Christian Ed., Music & Worship & Stewardship Commissions Meet – 7pm
February 22	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 – 6:30pm * Witness Commission Meets – 7pm
February 23	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Bell Practice – 8pm
February 24	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Work group gathers to work on the March Beacon
February 25	Friday	Youth leave for their winter retreat at Spruce Lake / Return Sunday, Feb. 27
February 26	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
February 27	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am
February 28	Monday	Church Board Meeting
March 1	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 – 6:30pm
March 2	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – PETER BECKER FLOWER SHOW – MARCH 17 - 29

WE HAVEN'T DONE AN ACTIVITY PAGE FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE BEACON FOR QUITE A WHILE. ATTENTION KIDS OF ALL AGES: COMPLETE THIS PUZZLE BASED ON I CORINTHIANS 13 AND BRING IT TO PASTOR JOHN. HE HAS A SURPRISE TREAT FOR YOU! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! GOD LOVES YOU – AND WE DO TOO!



Just for KIDS

LOVE IS...

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes about love. He tells us what love does and does not do. Let's find out about love!

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

LOVE IS 16 1 20 9 5 14 20

LOVE IS 11 9 14 4

LOVE 18 5 10 15 9 3 5 19 WITH THE TRUTH

LOVE 16 18 15 20 5 3 20 19

LOVE 20 18 21 19 20 19

LOVE 8 15 16 5 19

LOVE 16 5 18 19 5 22 5 18 5 19

... THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

12 15 22 5

Answer: PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES, PROTECTS, TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES, LOVE

A PRAYER FOR SPRING CLEANING

Be with me, Father, as I use this broom; direct me, as I clear this dust away,
That courage penetrate the deepening gloom and praying rout the fears that mar each day.
Oh, grant some solvent that will cleanse the stain where careless acts soiled fibers of my being;
If any sorrow, let it buff the grain while faith reflects Thy plan I should be seeing.
Where life accumulates the webs of hate and scars of envy groove my yielding face,
Lest greed destroy the pattern, soon or late – Until the joy of living loses pace –
Let heart and mind be also set aright as winter's grime is now removed from sight.

By: Marel Brown – From: Heart to Heart Poetry Album

