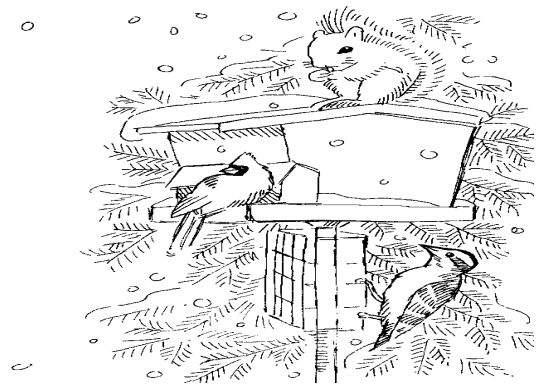


FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
455 Trumbauersville Road
Quakertown, Pa. 18951
Phone: 215-536-7510
Web Site: www.quakertowncob.org
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Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor

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Pennsylvania
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JOIN US EACH SUNDAY ...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9AM
WORSHIP – 10AM**

MID-WEEK HAPPENINGS ...

**PIONEER CLUBS
AGES: KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 6
“TEENS & TWEENS”
WEDNESDAY – 6:45PM**

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY – 11AM & 6:45PM**

**See the “Calendar of Events”
for more happenings.**

“THE HAND OF GOD”

By: Peggy Ferrell, Prayers & Poems

**God’s gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn’t push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.**

**We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.**

Happy New Year *Happy New Year* *Happy New Year*

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

January 2012

RENOVARE' **(To be Renewed)**

Most of you know by now that I'm not big on New Year's resolutions. Not that there is anything wrong with them, but all too often most are silly ideas or resolutions we have no real intent on keeping. So if you make a resolution, make one that is meaningful and one you intend to keep. Remember, your word is your bond!

As Christians, however, we know that life is a journey. We know that it is a constant growth process. We are never truly perfected until the day we meet the Lord. But we also know that we need to keep on trying to be the best we can be. So it isn't about an annual resolution—it is about a daily walk with the Lord.

This year, the District is hosting a Renovare' Conference at Elizabethtown College on Saturday, April 21st. A similar conference was held about ten years ago to a "sell-out" crowd of 850. What is the Conference all about? It is about spiritual renewal and growth. Started many years ago by Richard Foster, author of the modern classic on Christian spirituality "Celebration of Discipline" (See Sandy Shearer's book review elsewhere in this newsletter), this conference will get you thinking and will change your life. Because of the positive impact of the previous conference, Richard Foster will come out of retirement to share in the leadership of this program.

Now you might be wondering why I brought this up so early, since the conference isn't until the end of April. First of all, the precious conference sold out, with many being turned away. But most importantly, we must remember that spiritual growth is an everyday responsibility and privilege. The more you prepare for a conference of this type, the more you will take away at the end of the day. How do you prepare? There are several ways that would be effective. Reading "Celebration of Discipline" would be an excellent start. Researching the disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration to determine what the Word of God has to say will provide a firm foundation. And there is nothing as powerful as practicing those disciplines!

Let's make our New Year's resolution a new day resolution, walking and growing in the faith 24/7!

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



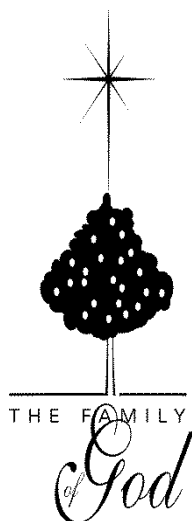
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 – Scott Adams | 19 – Karly Mapes |
| 2 – Ann Dieterly | 21 – Bill Holsinger |
| 3 – James Grow | 22 – Cary Bender |
| 7 – Aaron Sassaman | 23 – Mason Breiner |
| 8 – Donna Clymer / Eric Klein | 24 – Kelly Stever |
| 10 – Cynthia Allen / Melanie Graham | 26 – Matt Roth |
| 12 – Jackie Murphy / Heidi Rosenberger | 27 – Jim Madison / Joanne Scott |
| 14 – Paul Jacoby | 28 – Rosario Pistone (son) |
| 15 – Wendell Waddell | 30 – Don Bryant / Dallas
Rosenberger |
| 17 – Luke Brandt | |
| 18 – Stephanie Hunter | |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 19 – Harry & Sylvia Schoellkopf



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:00 AM

THREE ADULT CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM

- 1) "Six Big Questions" by Bill Hybels. Studies remaining in this study are "Is God Really Out There?"; "Does God Hear My Prayers?" and "Aren't All Religions the Same?" (in the Pastor's study). Three lessons have been completed in this study, but it's not too late to join in!
 - 2) "DECISIONS, Seeking God's Guidance" by Donald Baker. (in the chapel)
 - 3) "When God's People Pray" (in the Library). Classes are open to adults of ALL ages.
- Try each class, then decide which one best suits your interest.

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/SENIOR HIGH (GR 7 – 12) LED BY JEFF VANDEGRIFT/ BRIAN & HOLLY KELLY & AARON & LISA SASSAMAN

*When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost * to heal the broken
To feed the hungry * to release the prisoner * to rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers * to make music in the heart.
Because Jesus came then, Christmas is now.*

THE NEW YEAR

He came to my desk
With quivering lip;
The lesson was done.

“Have you a new leaf for me,
Dear Teacher? I have spoiled this one!”

I took his leaf, all soiled and blotted,
And gave him a new one, all unspotted,
Then into his tired heart I smiled:

“Do better now, my child.”

I went to the throne with trembling heart;
The year was done.

“Have you a new year for me, Dear Master?
I have spoiled this one!”

He took my year, all soiled and blotted,
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
Then into my tired heart He smiled:

“Do better now, my child!”

*“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints,
is this grace given ...” Ephesians 3:8*

JANUARY BOOK REVIEW

from Sandy

“Celebration of Discipline”

By: Richard Foster



I began reading this book when I saw that the District Renovare Conference was based on it. The conference newsletter talked about how this would help with spiritual growth. Having a really bad year, I was looking for something to help me hold on to my faith, but also give me some direction since I felt I lost my way. When I started reading about the 12 classic disciplines I was really surprised by what I didn't know and some of the information I knew was incorrect. I also started wanting to apply the disciplines in my life. This is not a quick fix self-help book - it's a study of emptying out yourself and allowing God to come in and fill you up. You may feel you already have a great relationship with God and don't need any help, but I can tell you, you will find a new perspective on your relationship with God. I have been studying these disciplines for a few months and I have found an internal change in myself and strongly recommend you get this book and start studying to awaken yourself. This is not a novel for relaxation reading, this is a MUST have along with your devotional & Bible.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9AM

WORSHIP &

BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION – 10AM

Coffee Fellowship Following the Service



UNDECORATE THE CHURCH

on January 8th, following the Worship Service. “Many hands make light work”! Everyone is welcome.

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY!

*“O Father, may that Holy Star
Grow every year more bright,
and send its glorious beams afar
to fill the world with light.”*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RENOVARE ESSENTIALS CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 21 – 8am

Leffler Chapel – Elizabethtown College

Cost: \$40 (register before 3/1)

(Child care is provided –

Little ones through Grade 6)

(See Pastor John for registration information.)

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

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

MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR JANUARY

“And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See I am making all things new.” Revelation 21:5

PIONEER CLUBS will begin again Wednesday evening, December 11 – 6:45pm – 8pm – kindergarten thru Grade 6 & “Teens & Tweens”.





**There is
a legend
that tells that
when Jesus was
born the sun danced
in the sky, the aged trees
straightened themselves
and put on leaves and sent
forth the fragrance of blossoms
once more. These are the symbols of
what takes place in our hearts when the
Christ Child is born anew each year. Blessed
by the Christmas sunshine, our natures, perhaps
long leafless, bring forth new love, new kindness,
new mercy, new compassion. As the birth of Jesus was
the beginning of the Christian life, so the unselfish joy at
Christmas shall start the spirit that is to rule the New Year.**

*Helen
Keller,
The Miracle
Of
Christmas*

FROM THE DEACON BOARD ... No doubt as you're reading this your celebrations of Christmas 2011 have ended, or are winding down. How does that make you feel? Did you know that it's common for many people to feel depressed over the holiday? Many people become disappointed when the Christmas they envision in their mind is completely different from how their celebrations turn out. As a result there is a corporate "sigh of relief" at the ending of the season. Suppose we change our focus a bit. Instead of welcoming the ending of the Christmas Season, let's try to keep it alive in our hearts all year. Not the parts we associated with frenzy, stress, pressure, disappointment, etc., but the simple basic realization of how much God loved us that He was willing to give us the Greatest Gift ever. Let's

basque 24/7 in the love He has for us. Let's live simple lives of joy, peace, patience, and love. Let's allow Christ and His spirit to live in us all year 'round. Then, while we may still be glad that the Christmas "frenzy" is over, we'll look forward to a New Year of spreading God's love as His message of Hope to the world. Let's make Christmas a way of living, not a season of the year we look forward to "getting through". This New Year, let's honor Christ by seeking out ways to love and serve others. We can never repay Him for His Gift to us, but we can live our lives in service to Him and others. Accept His love for you and pass it on. Make it your gift to Christ in the New Year. Both you and those whose lives you touch will be better for it.
By: Linda

Wishing You a Blessed New Year!

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN * JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

1	Sunday	HAPPY NEW YEAR! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP & BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION - 10:00am Coffee Fellowship follows Worship Service in the Chapel! Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor – 1:30pm; Belle Haven – 2:15pm
2	Monday	
3	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm
4	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer * Choir – 8:15pm
5	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm
6	Friday	
7	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am * Pioneer Clubs Staff Meeting – 11am
8	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am Nursing Home Service: LifeQuest – 2pm
9	Monday	Daisy Troop Meets – 6:30pm * Women's Fellowship Meeting – 7pm
10	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm * JR Girl Scouts Meet – 6:30pm
11	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am Adult Bible Study & Prayer & Pioneer Clubs for Children & Youth – 6:45pm Bell Choir – 8:15pm
12	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm
13	Friday	
14	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
15	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am Nursing Home Service: Phoebe-Richlandtown – 2:30pm * Youth Group Meets
16	Monday	Daisy Troop Meets – 6:30pm Commissions Meet: Music & Worship, Stewardship, Christian Ed. – 7pm meeting
17	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm * JR Girl Scouts Meet – 6:30pm
18	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am Adult Bible Study & Prayer & Pioneer Clubs for Children & Youth – 6:45pm Choir – 8:15pm
19	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm * Sunshine Stitchers -7pm
20	Friday	
21	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am Men's & Boy's Prayer Breakfast – 9am at John's Plain & Fancy
22	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am Deadline for articles for the February Beacon
23	Monday	Daisy Troop Meets – 6:30pm * Church Board Meeting – 7pm
24	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am – 2pm * JR Girl Scouts Meet – 6:30pm
25	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am Adult Bible Study & Prayer & Pioneer Clubs for Children & Youth – 6:45pm Bell Choir – 8:15pm
26	Thursday	Work on the February Beacon * Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am
27	Friday	
28	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
29	Sunday	SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP - 10:00am
30	Monday	Daisy Troop Meets – 6:30pm
31	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am