

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

Non-Profit
Organization
Permit #11
Quakertown,
Pennsylvania
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SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00AM

(Classes for ALL ages)

WORSHIP – 10:00AM

(Nursery & Junior Church)

PIONEER CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

KINDERGARTEN – JUNIOR HIGH

WEDNESDAY, 6:45PM – 8:00PM

TWO WEEKLY

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY – 11AM & 6:45PM

Please Join Us!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday – 9:30am

Look inside for information on services,
programs & activities.

MUSIC SUNDAY,
MAY 22 - 10:00AM

Adult Choir

Celebration Rings Bell Choir

Praise Team

& More



Come and enjoy this uplifting service
of praise through music.

*“Praise the Lord! Praise Him with trumpet
sound; praise Him with lute and harp! Praise Him
with tambourine and dance; Praise Him with
strings and pipe! Praise Him with clanging
cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!” Psalm 150: 1, 3-6*

THE BEACON

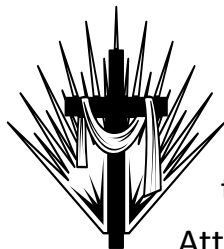
FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD * QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951

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

PASTOR: REV. JOHN B. SHAFFER

May 2011



NOW THAT THE EASTER CELEBRATION IS OVER ... WHAT'S NEXT?

... **ANSWER:** Wait for the next Christian holiday? **WRONG ANSWER!** Our theme for Lent and Easter has been "Celebrate Jesus...Discover What Makes Him Attractive to so Many People." Woven throughout that theme was the fact that Jesus loved people, interacted with them -- no matter who they were -- and shared the Good News in word and deed. He wasn't influenced by public opinion or political correctness. But He was influenced by the will of His Heavenly Father!

What am I suggesting *should* be our response to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? First, we need to accept Him as Lord and Savior of our lives. That means to repent of our sins and make a life commitment to Him. But what is that "life commitment"? It is more than a token visit to Church on Christmas and Easter. It is more than a one hour celebration of those two important dates on the Christian calendar. It is more than making that life commitment through Baptism or Confirmation. It is even more than showing up each and every Sunday!

A "life commitment" pretty much means what the words imply. It suggests that all that we do and say is grounded in the person, divine and human, to whom we have made that commitment. It doesn't mean that we all have to be full-time missionaries in a foreign land or full-time preachers in a local church; but, it does mean that all we say and do will follow the teachings and example of the One who taught and continues to teach us. The Church of the Brethren "tag line": "*Continuing the Work of Jesus ... Peacefully ... Simply ... Together*" sums it up nicely. Will we reach out to all people, even though they are "different" than we are? Will we be willing to share the Good News even though it may feel a little awkward at first and not politically correct? Will we make decisions in our life that are for the Glory of God and our neighbor's good, instead of for our own personal advancement or glory? Will we work for the Kingdom as the Body of Christ, rather than separate parts? Will we spread the cause of peace within ourselves, our families, our communities and the world community?

May I suggest that this is one of the ways that we "Celebrate Jesus" each and every day! Be influenced by The Master, The Teacher, Our Lord, Our Savior...EVERYDAY and in EVERY WAY!

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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MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2 – Stephanie Grow / Tim Shearer
May 5 – Michelle Evans / Brenda Hoot
May 11 – Ellie Mapes
May 12 – Evelyn Pfeiffer
May 13 – Diane Wert
May 14 – Abigail Patton

May 16 – John Allen
May 17 – Audrey Howard
May 18 – Travis Shearer
May 21 – Kale Donnelly, James Shaffer / Jim Yorgey
May 23 – Elaine Holsinger / Jacob Lee Shubert
May 29 – Nancy Doehl



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kris & Brenda Hoot – May 15 – Happy 12th Anniversary!
David & Betty George – May 15 – Happy 63rd Anniversary!
Bill & Heidi Rosenberger – May 15 – Happy 18th Anniversary!
Tim & Tracey Shearer – May 16 – Happy 19th Anniversary!
Bob & Diane Wert – May 28 – Happy 45th Anniversary!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

THREE ADULT CLASSES : 1) “EXCELLENT LIVING”, led by Juli, 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 (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

PIONEER CLUBS PICNIC, Wednesday, May 11 at 6pm

PIONEER CLUBS CAR RACES, Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30pm

Classes will resume in the fall! Thanks for another great year in PIONEER CLUBS!

A special thanks to the teachers and to Audrey & Karen, the Co-Directors of the Program.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 11AM & WEDNESDAY EVENING AT 6:45PM CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS.



WEDNESDAY MORNING

ADULT BIBLE STUDY, “God Heard Their Cry” by Ray VanderLaan, 11:00am, continues to be the focus of study.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND ADULT BIBLE

STUDY - 6:45pm – 8:00pm. During the final 15 to 20 minutes, joys and concerns are lifted in prayer. “Preparing God’s Path” by Ray VanderLaan is the book this group continues to study. **SATURDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** - 9:30am. Join us as we begin a new DVD study by Liz Curtis Higgs, “Unveiling Mary Magdalene” – “Discover the truth about a not-so-bad girl of the Bible”. See Juli or Susan if you would like a study guide. Please join us.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE ...

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

MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR APRIL

“God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”
Romans 5:5

“COBYS” – CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES ...

Thank you to everyone who has supported COBYS by donating their Redner’s cash register receipts. Please remember COBYS only receives a donation when the Redner’s Pumps Perks card is swiped prior to the ringing of the sale. If the card is not swiped, no donation will be received. The card is free and can be easily obtained at the Customer Service desk. **COBYS EVENTS: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

May 1 – Family Fun Walk at Peter Becker Community, Harleysville

May 5 – Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner at the Lebanon Expo Center

September 11 – Bike & Hike /Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride, Lititz Church of the Brethren

Check the bulletin board in the hallway nearest the Chapel, see Bill & April our COBYS representatives, or check out the COBYS website at **www.COBYS.org**.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY – MAY 8

“And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to Him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.’”

Samuel’s Mother, Hannah’s Prayer
I Samuel 1:26-28

“LIVE EACH DAY FOR GOD”

*Don’t fret about tomorrow or live in yesterday.
Concern yourself with current things
And do your best today.*

*Tomorrow lies beyond the stars,
beyond the sleeping sun,
and yesterday lies in the past
and cannot be undone.*

*Live life in the present tense
and wisely spend your time,
for time is such a precious thing
you dare not waste a dime.*

*Set your sights on a worthy goal
and choose the path you’ll trod.
Your tomorrows will be brighter
when you live each day for God.*

By: Clay Harrison

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.” Matthew 6:33

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP SPRING SOCIAL

will be held Tuesday, May 10 at 7pm. ALL women are invited to join us for a time of entertainment, fellowship and refreshments. Our Guest Speaker Kathryn Brown, will portray Fanny Crosby, “a prolific and blind hymn writer”, who wrote over 9,000 hymns, many of which we sing today. Be watching for the sign-up sheet and if you have any questions, please see Juli.



MORE WOMEN’S NEWS ... Mark your calendar for August 21 – 23, District Women’s Fellowship Camp at Camp Swatara. Guest speaker is Amy Messler, Pastor of the Waynesboro Church of the Brethren. Her theme is “A Woman’s Hope Chest.” Be watching for more information

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**

MAY BOOK REVIEW BY

SANDY ...“Amish Prayers” is not a novel. Beverly Lewis has taken prayers which the Amish and Old Mennonite Orders learned from the time they were little and has translated them from German to English. These prayers are over 300 years old and are as beautiful and relevant today as they were when they were first written. Just reading the prayers gives you a feeling of comfort. This is a great book to have around for the times when you just want to be closer to God. It makes a great gift for someone who may need just a pick-me-up or for a friend for the times when you can't be there. It also makes a great gift for your Mom. I highly recommend you purchase this book for your own home library.



“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

PRAYER FOR THE DAY - “O Lord, awaken in us a hunger and thirst for You and Your righteousness. Teach us to act according to Your will, for You are our God. May Your good Spirit lead us along the straight path. We commend ourselves to You. Let all of our works be blessed and bring honor to Your name and be useful to our neighbors. Make us into tools of Your mercy, and let us joyfully go forth and practice our calling.” Amen From: “Amish Prayers”

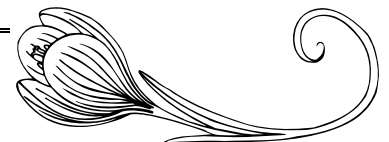
A NOTE FROM HEAVEN’S BOUNTY FOOD PANTRY ...

We have seen a steady increase in the number of families and individuals we serve at the Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry. In March, we served 71 families for a total of 199 people. As of April 21, we have served 51 families, for a total of 161 people. The food has been flying off the shelves. Right now our stock is low again, and any and all food donations are appreciated. We are still getting day-old pastry items from STARBUCKS three times a week, thanks to our “go-for” Jim. Day old breads, cakes, pies, and various other “goodies” are being donated from the “GIANT Grocery Store in Coopersburg, thanks to “Bob” from St. Isidore’s who picks up and delivers the items – with a smile – to various pantries. There is a tote in the hallway at the ramp door for your donations.



“THE CROCUS”

*Little crocus asleep in winter’s dark earth,
Awaiting the stirring of springtime’s rebirth.
Awake! Awake! The south wind is calling,
The sky’s turning blue, no snowflakes are falling.
God’s children are weary of wintertime’s gloom.
They peer from their windows o see your bright bloom.
Send forth thy fair blossom and make our hearts sing;
Oh, how we adore thee, first bloom of the spring.
By: Kay Hoffman*



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS ...

THE SYMPATHIES OF THE CHURCH are with Beth Moser and her family as they mourn the passing of her mother; and with Benay's family as they mourn the passing of her nephew Joey, following his battle with cancer. Please pray for these families as they mourn their loss.



THE GIRLS' SLEEPOVER was held in

April and 15 girls, ranging in age from 5 years old to 15 years old attended. Rose came and did some crafts with the girls, organized a

scavenger hunt, and then played a game. They had to act like a monkey and were challenged to peel a banana with their feet!! They had ice cream sundaes and a talent show. They finally settled down to watch a movie. The movie ended at 12:30am and the adults thought they could finally get some sleep, but the girls got their second wind and some were up talking into the wee hours of the morning! A wonderful breakfast was prepared for the girls and their chaperones by Beth and Tina. A special thank you to all who helped make the girls' sleepover a fun time!

REMEMBER THE CARDS WE SENT TO THE MILITARY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Helen has a "pen pal", SGT Shirley. Helen shared one of the letters she received – Shirley writes, *"I truly enjoy receiving mail because I do not often receive mail and when I do, it's a great thing and it means a lot."* She goes on to say, *"I'm in the Gospel Choir and I go to church every Sunday. And when I come back to the USA, I will continue to sing in the choir and go to church."* Shirley is from Maryland, and has two brothers (both are ministers) and one sister. She has a son (21 years old) who is staying with her parents while she serves in Afghanistan. He helps them and makes *"sure they are okay"*. It's a beautiful letter and Helen would be glad to share it with you. A friendship in the making!

THE DEACON'S CORNER

It has been attributed to Woody Allen, saying, "Ninety percent of life is just showing up."

Don't we all wish life was that easy? However, Woody had a point, a starting point as it may have been. Really, to get started, one must be present and genuine in their interest. The other ten percent is being effective and caring in the role of a Deacon.

The word Deacon means "servant" or service to others. It is a humble and gratifying joy that we serve others, celebrate the feetwashing and communion, join in prayer, initiate visitation, participate in fellowship, perform acts of charity and kindness, help in reconciliation and more. Being a new Deacon is to learn the foundation of the position and interject positive participation to enhance through a process of exchanging ideas in refining the work for the continual betterment of the congregation.

A Deacon is not required to be a wizard and induce change beyond belief. A Deacon starts the positive process in making a difference in the lives of others just by showing up (that's 90%). Then the most important 10% is extending his/her hand in fellowship, inquiring of the need for assistance, reassuring those with support, and following through on requests and commitments.

If you are interested in learning more about the role of Deacon at First Church of the Brethren, please reach out to any Deacon or Pastor John. There will be another calling soon to serve. How about you?

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2011
OCTOBER 7 & 8**

**Leffler Chapel – Elizabethtown College Campus
Moderator: Rev. David Stauffer**

Conference Theme:

"The Wisdom From Above" James 3:17

Conference Delegate: Amanda * Chris, Alternate
All are invited to attend the service Friday evening
& business meeting Saturday.

See the District Newsletter posted on the bulletin
outside the Pastor's office.

April found this poem in an old book given to her by Marguerite Ritter many years ago. She thought we might want to put it in the newsletter to share with our readers, and so we are copying it here for you to enjoy. Thank you April!

“TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS”

Ten little Christians, standing in a line –
One didn't like the preacher; then there were nine,
Nine little Christians stayed up very late,
One slept on Sunday morning; then there were eight.
Eight little Christians on the road to heaven –
One took a lower road; then there were seven.
Seven little Christians got in an awful fix –
One wouldn't cooperate; then there were six.
Six little Christians seemed very much alive,
But one lost her interest; then there were five.
Five little Christians, wishing there were more,
But they quarreled with each other, then there were four.
Four little Christians, cheerful as could be,
But one lost his temper; then there were three.
Three little Christians knew not what to do.
One joined the crowd; then there were two.
Two little Christians – our rhyme is almost done –
Differed with each other, then there was one.
One lone Christian won her neighbor true,
Brought her with her to church, and then there were two.
Two earnest Christians each won one more,
That doubled their number, so then there were four.
Four sincere Christians worked very late,
But each won another, so then there were eight.
Eight splendid Christians – but nothing rhymes with “16”;
So we simply note that in seven more jingles there
Would be 1,024 Christians -
Which would be quite a church-ful!

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A Prayer for the days and weeks after Easter ... “Father, thank You for the love expressed in the death of Your Son to redeem me, for “greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Help me express Your love to others by being willing to give of myself in the way You have given to me – not sparingly, but generously; not selfishly, but selflessly. (From: “Look Unto Me” Devotions of Charles Spurgeon and Jim Reimann)

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN * MAY 2011 CALENDAR

May 1	Sunday	<i>YOUTH SUNDAY! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am – CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING Immediately Following Worship * Nursing Home Services at Quakertown Manor – 1:30pm; Belle Haven – 2:15pm * COBYS Fundraiser Walk @ Peter Becker – 4pm</i>
May 2	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting
May 3	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Junior Girl Scout Troop #218
May 4	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs – 6:45pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8pm
May 5	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
May 6	Friday	
May 7	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
May 8	Sunday	<i>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am * Nursing Home Service at Life Quest – 2pm</i>
May 9	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting
May 10	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 Women's Fellowship Spring Social – 7pm * Pastoral Relations Meeting – 7pm
May 11	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs Picnic – 6pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Bell Choir Practice – 8pm
May 12	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
May 13	Friday	
May 14	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am Quakertown Food Pantry Meeting – 10am at our church
May 15	Sunday	<i>YOUTH SUNDAY! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am * Nursing Home Service at Phoebe-Richlandtown – 2:30pm</i>
May 16	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting * Commissions Meet at 7pm
May 17	Tuesday	Primary Elections – 1 st Church Poling Place * Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 * Witness Commission Meeting
May 18	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Pioneer Clubs Car Races – 6:30pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8pm
May 19	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Sunshine Stitches – 7pm
May 20	Friday	Salisbury Behavioral Health Group Meeting – 9am
May 21	Saturday	Men's Prayer Breakfast @ John's Plain & Fancy – 9am * Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
May 22	Sunday	<i>MUSIC SUNDAY! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) WORSHIP SERVICE OF PRAISE THROUGH MUSIC - 10:00am</i>
May 23	Monday	Daisy Troop #216 Meeting
May 24	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm Junior Girl Scout Troop #218 * Church Board Meets – 7pm
May 25	Wednesday	Adult Bible Study – 11am * Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm
May 26	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm
May 27	Friday	
May 28	Saturday	Women's Bible Study – 9:30am
May 29	Sunday	<i>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am</i>
May 30	Monday	HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!
May 31	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2pm * Junior Girl Scout Troop #218