

# THE BEACON

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD \* QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951

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PASTOR: REV. JOHN B. SHAFFER

September 2010

## “BACK TO SCHOOL”



This is NOT going to be a traditional “Back to School” message to encourage the students among us to make sure they have their school supplies and are ready for another year of school. Rather it is a brief message to discuss our use of words to describe events. Such word choices might just focus our attention in less important ways. We use “**back**” to school to describe moving forward to another year of learning and growing (yes, even if we are repeating a year)! We go on church “**retreats**” to hopefully advance the mission and ministry of the church.

And knowing that life only moves forward, when you get to be my age you think of the “**Good Old Days**”. I guess these and other terms have become second nature to all of us, but what if we talked more about “**forward**” to school, church “**advances**”, and the “**Good New Days?**”

I am one of those who believe that we do need to understand our history (what took place) in order to plan and prepare for the here and now and the future (what is and will be), but there is a limit to how much we should dwell on the past. As we look forward to a new school year, we should focus our attention on the opportunities for learning and growing in wisdom, knowledge, and the practical dimensions of life. Learn from our past mistakes and failures but, move forward.

It can be enjoyable to reminisce about the past, particularly when reflecting on friends, family get-togethers and life experiences; what is most critical is what we do with the days the Lord has planned for us. Enrich those friendships, enjoy the family and make the experience yet to be the most rewarding ever.

Finally, as we meet as the Body of Christ to discuss “next” steps, it no doubt will include an assessment of what worked or didn’t work. But any church meeting should be for the expressed purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God. The Lord forgives and “forgets” our sins. Jesus commands us to move forward by making disciples of all nations. Jesus focuses our attention on the eternal realities—the future life with Him, forever. Make no mistake about it, we are not to worry about the future but embrace each day as a gift from God. A new school year, a new Church School year, a new day, a blessing from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*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**

## Celebrating Birthdays in September ...

September 2 – Alexander Grow

September 3 – Bill Odor

September 6 – Alison Schlicher

September 7 – Bob Fawcett / Rose Fear

September 9 – Sandy Shearer

September 11 – Ashley Donnelly / Cory Schwartz

September 12 – Susan Pritts

September 18 – Darlene Detweiler / Ellen Yorgey



September 20 – Janelle Swavely

September 21 – Alberta Helveston

September 22 – Suzanne Kantner

September 23 – Glenna Austin

September 27 – Amanda Graham /

Anna Jacoby

September 28 – Kathy Arbogast

September 29 – Angela Kantner

### **HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY**

September 6 – Don and Sue Bryant (30 years!)

September 7 – Matt & Trina Patton

September 8 – Keith & Tina Dieterly & Jim & Ellen Yorgey

September 10 – Steve & Darlena Detweiler

September 15 – Larry & Sharon Renninger

September 17 – Keith & Hope Donnelly

September 18 – Joseph & Tracy Chicchi

September 19 – Ken & Kathy Troxell

September 24 – Jim & Betsy Madison

September 25 – Bob & Linda Fawcett

September 25 – Chuck & Sue Kantner

September 29 – Harold & Ann Dieterly (63 years!)



**FAST DRIVER** ... My mom has a lead foot, so I was not surprised when a state trooper pulled us over as we were speeding through Georgia. Hoping to get off with a warning, Mom tried to appear shocked when the trooper walked up to the car. "I have never been stopped like this before," she said to the officer. "What do they usually do, ma'am," he asked, "shoot the tires out?" (Copied from The Fishwrapper)

**BRETHREN MISSION WORK IN CHINA EXHIBIT** will be at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville through November 2. This exhibit is similar to the exhibit at Annual Conference and the Young Center on the Elizabethtown College Campus in 2008. Jeff Bach will be share facts about the exhibit on September 19 – everyone is invited to attend.

**"NO EXCUSE SUNDAY" TIDBITS** ... Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my day for sleeping in." We have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church services! **SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY!** (Copied from Senior Adult News, ANE District Newsletter)

# Christian Education Sunday School - 9 a.m.



\*\* THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is the topic of study for this adult class led by Juli. They meet in Pastor John's office.

\*\* SPIRITUAL WARFARE - The senior adult Sunday School Class continues their study focus on "Spiritual Warfare". There are three crucial questions: 1. Who is Our Enemy? 2. What Is Their Plan of Attack? 3. How Can We Defend Ourselves in Battle and Be Victorious! It's not too late to join this class - They've moved to a new location - join them in the Chapel. This class is led by Helen.

\*\* IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT is the title of the video study series the Young Adult Sunday School Class is continuing to use. Co-teachers: Keith & Jenn.



A LOVING PRE-NURSERY (UNDER 3 YEAR 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 SANDY SHEARER & 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



**RALLY DAY SUNDAY "Get Back To Church" Sunday!** Join us for breakfast (sponsored by the Christian Ed. Commission) on Sunday morning, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Then plan to stay for Sunday School at 9:00am / there are classes for ALL ages \* Worship at 10:00am.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY** -

11:00am ... **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. **SATURDAY MORNING**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** begins October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Join us at 9:30am as we continue the study "Bad Girls of the Bible".

## Adult Bible Study

**PIONEER CLUBS BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER!**

**CLASSES FOR CHILDREN KINDERGARTEN - JUNIOR HIGH**

**6:45PM - 8:00PM**

**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!**

**FAMILY "KICK-OFF" PICNIC - 9/15 - 6:00PM**

**CLASSES BEGIN - 9/22 - 6:45PM - 8:00PM**

**CALL THE CHURCH FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER**

**215-536-7510**

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**A GOOD MANY OF OUR YOUTH** of all ages attended church camp at Camp Swatara this summer. A special thanks to our church for helping with the cost of a week at camp. “Willy Wonka” was the play prepared during the week of Music Camp. Janel and Monica attended this unique camp and were part of this wonderful production. Janel played the part of Grandma Georgina and Monica designed the program cover and helped with creating the scenery. Several from our church attended the show in support of camp and our young people.

**SCHOOL KITS** for those in need continue to be packaged and sent to New Windsor for distribution. See Ann and Harold if you would like to help and/or contribute to this ministry.

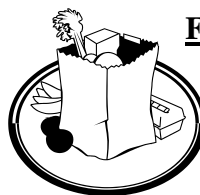
**HEALTH KITS** are also prepared and distributed to those in need. See Audrey H. if you would like to help and/or contribute to this ongoing project.

**OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** is another area where hands are used to touch lives in our congregation and beyond. Women of our church continue to knit and crochet beautiful prayer shawls for distribution to those in need of prayer and comfort. See April if you would like to help with this or if you know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl.



**HARVEST HOME SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 26**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00AM**  
**WORSHIP - 10:00AM**  
**COVERED DISH**  
**FOLLOWS**

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND** – Your donations to the Deacon’s Good Samaritan Fund enable them to help those in need throughout the year. Many people have been helped because of your generosity. The Good Samaritan Fund boxes are due on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and will be collected during our Harvest Home Worship Service. Thank you from the Deacon Board for your donations.



### **FROM THE HEAVEN’S BOUNTY**

**FOOD PANTRY** – June and July have been busy months for us. In June we served 37 households for a total of 117 people, and in July we served 58 households for a total of 218 people. As you can guess, this puts quite a demand on our food supplies. We will not be able to order food until our new contract is approved and reviewed. You can help by donating canned and/or dry goods. **Also remember that we will be collecting food items for a display for Harvest Home Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.** Food items can be brought any time and put in the specially marked basket in the hallway. Also there is a lot of volunteer interest in Friday evening hours (6pm-8pm). We will be starting evening hours to see what the client interest is. **THANK YOU** to any and all who help in anyway – be it donations or volunteer hours. Your help is greatly appreciated by the many served by our food pantry.

*“O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.”*

*Psalm 105:1*

**34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BRETHERN DISASTER  
RELIEF AUCTION  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY- SEPT 24 & 25  
LEBANON VALLEY EXPO CENTER  
Quilt Auctions \* Crafts  
Baked Goods  
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables  
Collectables ... AND LOTS OF  
FELLOWSHIP!  
“To God be the Glory”**

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE ...**

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

**MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR SEPTEMBER**

“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.”

Isaiah 54:15



**“HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT” --**

By: Marta Perry

When Audrea Hampton leaves her job for a family emergency back

in Amish country, little does she know what she is in for. Her grandmother and sister want to turn their family estate into a country bed and breakfast. Andrea thinks it’s a bad idea. She’s not the only one who thinks that. As she gets closer to the truth about the “accidents” that have been happening and regaining her relationship with God, what will she finally find back home in Amish country? **NOTE FROM SANDY:** *I was very fortunate to have*

*contacted the author through email and she sent me this book. She is a wonderful author and God has truly given her a gift that she shares with those of us who enjoy reading.*

Book Review by: Sandy Shearer

**ATTENTION SENIORS (55+) A**

Senior Adult Fellowship Banquet is planned for Wednesday, October 10 at Yoder’s Restaurant. The banquet will begin at noon and there is a meal choice of



broasted chicken or roast beef. Music by Andy Murray will be featured. The cost is \$18 per person. If you would like to attend, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the water fountain. Please



designate your meal choice. If paying by check, please make payment out to Linda Fawcett, Key Person. Please note the September 22 deadline for registration. **FOR MORE SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES,** please check the Senior Adult News fliers placed in your mailbox.

**AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE 2010 RENEWAL SERVICES LED BY REV. LEVI ZIEGLER, WE CONTINUE TO LIST**

**“50 EVIDENCES OF THE NEED FOR A FRESH VISITATION OF THE SPIRIT IN REVIVAL”**

41. When our giving is measured and calculated, rather than extravagant and sacrificial ... when we aren’t seeing lost people drawn to Jesus on a regular basis. 42. When we aren’t exercising faith and believing God for the impossible. 43. When we are more concerned about what others think about us than what God thinks about us. 44. When we are unmoved by the fact that 2.5 billion people in this world have never heard the name of Jesus. 45. When we are unmoved by the thought of neighbors, business associates, acquaintances, and family members who are lost and without Christ.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICES 2010**

**OCTOBER 17 – 19**

**GUEST SPEAKER – REV. LEVI ZIEGLER**

**“A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS”**

The 6 most important words:

“I admit I made a mistake.”

The 5 most important words:

“You did a good job.”

The 4 most important words:

“What is your opinion?”

The 3 most important words:

“If you please.”

The 2 most important words:

“Thank You.”

The 1 most important word: “WE”

**THE LEAST IMPORTANT WORD: “I”**

*“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16*

***“Make this valley full of ditches.” II Kings 3:16***

Do we say, “Lord, I want my life to be a channel through which Thy power may flow”? Then let the spade of His Word go down into the depths of your heart, that the hidden things may be revealed. Blessing must be prepared for. You can hinder it, and shirk it, you can shut your ears to His voice; or you can get alone with the Lord Jesus and let Him have His way. God has a glorious work to do in every yielded life; He has a glorious fullness to bestow. But there is also a work for us to do; there must be a digging down into the depths of our heart; we must resolve to get rid of all the rubbish, and to prepare for the living water. Lord, spare nothing in me that would hinder the flowing of the rivers of water of life. Carry Thy cross to every root and corner of my most secret being. “Beware of paddling in the ocean of God’s truth, when you should be out swimming!”

*Go deeper, into me, Lord Jesus;  
Yes, deeper every day,  
Till Thou hast conquered me, Lord Jesus;  
Go deeper all the way.*

- Copied / Submitted by: Ann

**“GOD’S PROMISES”**

God never promised there’d be no trouble – no hardship for you and me,  
But He promised to always be with us whatever the trial may be.  
He never promised sunshine only – freedom from storms and rain,  
But He promised the difficult times would work for our spiritual gain.  
He promised to be our Shelter, and cover us with His hand;  
The Rock upon which our feet are planted – stability in a weary land.  
He promised to be our Light in darkness, and guide our steps each day;  
Our tender loving Comforter when heartaches come our way.  
He promised to be our Teacher, revealing His will and plan,  
Teaching us to trust Him when we fail to understand.  
The lessons we learn through suffering qualify us for the Highest Degree  
As we become more like Jesus – prepared for eternity.

- Author Unknown / Submitted by: Linda

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**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 (215-536-7510) at anytime 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.

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN \* SEPTEMBER 2010 CALENDAR

September 1	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am *Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
September 2	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm
September 3	Friday	TRYING SOMETHING NEW: Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry –6:00pm – 8:00pm
September 4	Saturday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am *Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
<b>September 5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor - 1:30pm / Belle Haven -2:15pm</b>
September 6	Monday	<i>Happy Labor Day!</i>
September 7	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm
September 8	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study group to Camp Swatara for Senior Adult Day Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
September 9	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am-2:00pm
September 10	Friday	Salisbury Behavioral Health Meetings – 9:00am – 3:00pm TRYING SOMETHING NEW: Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 6:00pm – 8:00pm
September 11	Saturday	<i>Invite a friend to attend church with you this Sunday.</i>
<b>September 12</b> <b>Rally Day!</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>RALLY DAY BREAKFAST – 8:00am - SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am Youth Meeting &amp; Activity- 4pm Nursing Home Service: Life Quest-2:00pm * COBYS Bike &amp; Hike/Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride</b>
September 13	Monday	Women's Fellowship/Baby Comforter Knitting Project for Disaster Relief – 7pm
September 14	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting – 7:00pm
September 15	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11am *Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8pm <b>PIONEER CLUBS FAMILY KICK-OFF PICNIC – 6:00pm</b>
September 16	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm Sunshine Stitchers – 7pm
September 17	Friday	TRYING SOMETHING NEW: Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry –6:00pm – 8:00pm
September 18	Saturday	Men's Prayer Breakfast @ John's Plain & Fancy – 9:00am
<b>September 19</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) - WORSHIP 10:00am Nursing Home Service: Phoebe/Richlandtown – 2:30pm * "Brethren Mission Work in China Exhibit" w/ Jeff Bach – Mennonite Heritage Center</b>
September 20	Monday	Commission Meetings
September 21	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm
September 22	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11am *Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm <b>PIONEER CLUBS BEGINS – 6:45pm-8:00pm – JOIN US!</b>
September 23	Thursday	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN! Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm
September 24	Friday	TRYING SOMETHING NEW: Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 6:00pm- 8:00pm BRETHREN DISASTER RELIEF AUCTION – LEBANON VALLEY EXPO CENTER – September 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> "TO GOD BE THE GLORY"
September 25	Saturday	DISASTER RELIEF AUCTION – DAY 2!
<b>September 26</b>	<b>Harvest Home Sunday</b>	<b>HARVEST HOME SUNDAY! SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * WORSHIP 10:00am * COVERED DISH LUNCH FOLLOWS!</b>
September 27	Monday	Church Board Meeting – 7:00pm
September 28	Tuesday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm
September 29	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11am *Adult Bible Study & Prayer & PIONEER CLUBS - 6:45pm-8:00pm
September 30	Thursday	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – 9:30am - 2:00pm