



Living the Word

The Newsletter of the
Huntington Church of the Brethren

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July - August 2009

FROM THE PASTOR

The bread and the cup, in the Brethren tradition, are commonly associated with Love Feast. We gather in a room to worship, eat, fellowship, study, share, wash feet, and share bread and cup. Communion, however, has a broader use beyond love feast. For All Who Minister: A Worship Manual for the Church of the Brethren, expands the use of bread and cup to other worship settings. In the early church setting, breaking bread together was an expression of a covenant between two or more people. The covenant or agreement might concern a business deal, a marriage arrangement, a partnership to do something together, or an expression of an ongoing friendship. In our culture, we use written documents and contracts to bind people to a common agreement. Biblical Times, in both Old and New Testaments, reflect the culture then. Consequently, we find Jesus in the New Testament sharing a meal with those he taught. It was an expression of friendship. The New Testament Church gathered in a room or home to eat, fellowship, and worship. They adopted Christ's idea of sharing bread and cup as a way to renew a relationship with Christ and to express an ongoing commitment to the fellowship of the church.

I have suggested to Ministry Team that we expand our practice of communion beyond the Maundy Thursday Love Feast, World Communion in October, and Christmas Eve. Some members asked that we have communion more often. There are many other times and places where breaking bread and sharing the cup enable us to renew our covenant with God and renew our commitment to fellowship. I will use the sermon time on these occasions to explore the rich symbolism scripture offers about the meaning of bread and cup. We will have communion during morning worship on Sunday, July 12. Summer is a time when we slow down a bit, think about what is important in life, and recharge our batteries for a busy fall schedule.

Should children take communion? For All Who Worship holds forth the opportunity to include children or to exclude them. Our church policy leaves that decision up to the parents. The argument to exclude is based on the idea that a child needs to wait until they profess their faith and are baptized as followers of Christ. The argument to include children is based on the concept that children found a special place in Christ's ministry and they are a gift in the life of any church. Children are part of the community of faith based on the commitment of their parents and their own evolving faith. I encourage parents to develop their own policy. I have found that children understand much more than we give them credit for. Their ideas are simple but have great meaning for them. I also think parents need to consider the fact that adults do not fully understand communion. We are all on a journey where we learn and discover at many points along the way. When Ian was a child, we worked with him each time before communion. As he grew, we could see his faith and idea of communion expanding in new directions. We often allowed him to participate. We felt that excluding him would never allow him to experience something that was important to us. I would be happy to talk with parents about this if it is helpful.

Pastor Barry A. Belknap

News Briefs

Barry Belknap's ordination transfer was given final approval by the South/Central District in May. He is now an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. We will recognize his ordination during worship on Sunday, August 23. Rev. Alan Kahler, the District Executive, will preach. We will have a cookout at the church after Sunday School.

Painting of the Narthex by volunteers is well under way at the time of this publication. The Decorating Task Force picked out the carpet and is receiving final bids. The current plan is to have the carpet installed in July. Ministry Team designated funds for part of this project with the challenge that special gifts totaling \$4,500 from members would enable the church to purchase furniture and complete the project. If you would like to contribute, you can share your gift in the offering plate or by mail, designated for this project.

Ministry Team is seeking one or two people to coordinate SERRV sales for the church. SERRV is a mission organization that markets art & craft items from people in developing countries. In the past, the organizers have offered church members the opportunity to order items for gifts or themselves. If you would like to lead this ministry, please contact Barry Belknap.

Ministry Team has revised the application to use our church facility for events such as weddings, showers, and family reunions. The application is enclosed in this newsletter. If you want to book space at the church, please contact Betty Dillon in the church office.

Part of the aging ceiling tiles upstairs have fallen down in the back Sunday School room. This room has been closed for current use. Ministry Team is working with Buildings and Grounds to assess the problem, remove the tiles, and price new tiles.

Huntington County 4-H Fair

The 79th Huntington County 4-H Fair begins July 11th with the Dog Show. There will be many 4-H activities to enjoy. Not only does our congregation have an opportunity to help support many of the young 4-H participants, but at the same time we are raising funds to help our Sister Church and the pre-school in Nicaragua. It is not hard work and it is a great opportunity to see a lot of your friends. ***Work days are July 25th through July 30th.*** If you haven't signed up to work at the concession booth yet and are able to do so, please sign up soon. If you cannot help in that way, please contact someone from the Sister Church committee, to see how you can help.

Community Food Pantry of Love, Inc.

They are collecting a different item each month. For the month of July (***noodles & all purpose cleaner***) August (***hamburger helper & dish soap***). There is a box in the handicap entrance for these items. Items brought in during May & June were approximately a donation of \$30.

District Conference

District Conference will be held at Anderson University, Friday, July 24, & Saturday July 25. Our delegates are, Pastor Barry, Leon Stong, Glenn Dillon, Steve Miller.

Camp Mack Festival

Camp Mack Festival will be held on ***Saturday, October 3, 2009, 9 a.m.-4p.m.*** There will be kids activities, foods and crafts, rides, entertainment, demonstrations and displays and a benefit and a silent auction. Mark your calendar and plan to attend Camp Mack Festival. Proceeds will be divided between camper scholarships and program facilities and supplies; new boathouse, waterfront equipment, sports equipment, shuffleboard upgrade.

Camp Mack is a faith based camp and retreat center located in Northern Indiana that is supported by the Church of the Brethren.

Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	English Classes for Spanish speakers wanting to learn English
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Morning Worship
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Sunday School

The church e-mail address

office@cobhuntington.org

The church web site

<http://www.cobhuntington.org>. You can view the church newsletter and the monthly calendar on this site. If you have an idea, share it with Jeff Lehman or Barry Belknap.

Prayer Concerns

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| .. Ian Belknap, injured in a bicycle accident | .. Abbi Crago, recovering from shingles |
| .. Corlene Flora on the death of her brother, Paul Wine | .. Pastor Barry's father, Murray, health concerns |
| .. Carol Pearson, health concerns | .. Doras Weinley, health concerns |
| .. Ann Malone, skin graft surgery | .. Doras Weinley's sister, Donna knee replacement |
| .. Our love and prayer support to the family and friends of Clark Shearer on his recent death | .. Corelene Flora's grandson, training for the military |
| .. Jim Bennett, recovering from shingles | .. Dorsan & Eileen Nichols |
| .. Reba Beery's friend, Sarah, receiving chemo | .. Kate Craig, Miller's Merry Manor |
| .. Norma Jean Baker, now at home after receiving rehab at Kingston Care, Ft. Wayne | .. Minnie Brandenburg, Norwoods |
| | .. Peace in the world |
| | .. Unemployed |
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