



Living the Word

The Newsletter of the
Huntington Church of the Brethren

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March-April 2009

FROM THE PASTOR

Did God create winter? If so, why? I thought about this as I shoveled snow recently while a bitter wind cut at my face and blew the snow I was shoveling back in the driveway. I realize there are people who like winter...skiers, ice fishermen, and other Nordic warriors. They are the minority. Most of us look out the window and wait for spring. We think that spring will completely arrive suddenly, warming our cold bodies and giving us a new sense of hope and energy. It does not work that way. Spring starts with tiny previews like a warm day, migrating birds showing up at the feeder, or spring bulbs sticking their cold tips out of the frozen ground. Time marches on and more signs of spring appear more frequently. Weeks later, the full picture unfolds and we forget all about winter.

The powerful truth of Easter follows a similar pattern. We think of it coming all at once on Easter Sunday. In truth it begins much earlier. Lent is the label we give to the season of Easter emerging. This is the time period we set aside to experience the unfolding of God's love and power lived out through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we pay close attention, small pictures present themselves to us. Like the weather seasons, each Lent holds the possibility of new truths unfolding a bit at a time that build our faith and give us strength for the journey.

God has not answered my question yet about the purpose of winter. Perhaps it was designed to help us appreciate the beautiful spring season that follows. I know why God created the season of Lent. Each year I need that emerging picture of God's powerful truth revealing itself to me wherever life's journey finds me.

Pastor Barry

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
11:00 a.m.- Noon	Spanish Classes for English speakers wanting to learn Spanish

Council Meeting

Council Meeting is scheduled for *Sunday, March 29th*, following the Sunday School hour. Those attending should bring luncheon food to share. Refreshments will be provided.

Prayer Concerns

- . . . Sharon Lehman's mother Joann Basinger
 - . . . Doras Weinley, cataract surgery
 - . . . Carol Pearson
 - . . . Valarie Riddle's grandmother
 - . . . Doras Weinley on the death of her cousin, Carol
 - . . . Claire Bates & Christiana Warner serving abroad
 - . . . Lydia Miller, Alena & Gregory traveling to Ukraine
 - . . . dedication of new Habitat home
 - . . . Pastor Barry's father, Murray recovering from a fall
 - . . . Kate Craig, Miller's Merry Manor
 - . . . Dorsan Nichols, Miller's Merry Manor
 - . . . Minnie Brandenburg, Norwoods, recently celebrated her 98th birthday
 - . . . Peace in the world
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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.

Camp Mack 2009

Camp Mack is a Christian camp based in Northern Indiana that is supported by the Church of the Brethren. Their summer camp program is intentionally designed to provide campers with life changing experiences that lead to the formation of personal faith within a safe Christian community.

Letters and registration forms have been sent out to all children who are eligible to attend camp. *Camp Mack registration discount date is March 15th, to save \$20.* The church will pay ½ of the camp fee. See Jeff Lehman, Camp Mack Representative or check in the church office

Community Food Pantry of Love, Inc.

They are collecting a different item each month. For the month of March (*vegetable soup, dish soap*) April (*can peas and toilet paper*). There is a box in the narthex for these items. Items brought in during February was a donation of approximately \$75.

One Great Hour of Sharing

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be tough.

One Great Hour of Sharing joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells.

Included in your bulletin on *Sunday, March 15th*, will be a brochure and envelope for your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday – April 5

The adult choir is scheduled to sing and the children and their palms will help us join in this festive day.

Maundy Thursday – April 9

Our Brethren tradition adds significantly to the power and intimacy of Holy Week. We gather at table and share a simple meal called the Love Feast. We wash each others feet to express the sacrificial love of Christ. We share in the bread and cup to profess our faith in the Christ who gave His life for us. Join us at the church on *Thursday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m.*, as we gather to fellowship with Christ and each other.

Easter Breakfast – April 12

Easter Breakfast will be held on *April 12th at 8:30 a.m.* in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: egg casserole, potato casserole, fruit, cereal, milk, orange juice and coffee. All are invited to attend.

Easter Lilies

Lilies will be available for \$9.00 each to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one fill in the information below and return to the church office by April 6.

I would like to purchase a lily:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name _____

Fundraiser

The deacons are planning a community fundraiser on *Friday April 24, 4:30-7:00 p.m.* The menu: Potato Bar with all the toppings, with a variety of desserts. Adults, \$5.50, children, 6-12 \$3.00, 5 and under free. Tickets will be \$6.00 at the door. Tickets will be available on March 8th. A portion of the proceeds will go to Camp Mack's capital fund campaign, "On The Way. . .Continuing in Faith."

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