



# Living the Word

The Newsletter of the  
Huntington Church of the Brethren

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May-June 2009

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us.” Ephesians 2:10

Easter is over and Christ has risen....so now what? Easter, in many congregations, marks the end of the busy church year. The temperature warms, we turn our thoughts to the outdoors, and the church shifts into low gear until later in the fall. I wonder about this practice. It seems contrary to the flow of New Testament events. If a team like the Cubs started winning more games than losing, would they hang it up for the season or would they keep playing while things were going their way? We hope they would keep playing! If we waited to do yard work during the cold winter months, would we decide not to complete the work when the weather improved? We, of course, would race into the yard and would get to work while the opportunity existed. Why would we think of winding down in the church just when things all come together?

Paul reminds us that as people of faith we are created to work. Our faith has defined us, God’s Spirit empowers us, and the world awaits our witness. When I read the quoted passage, I think of woodworking. If I turned a piece of wood on my lathe that turned out nice, the last thing I would want to do is put it away where it could not be seen or used. The season that follows faith formation is the season of being the church! This is when it all comes together.

We have ample opportunity to be the church in the coming months. This newsletter is loaded with events that draw on our dedication and talents. Our Vacation Bible School in June provides us an opportunity to share our faith with another generation of young people. A newly remodeled trailer will provide us with volunteer opportunities to raise money in July for our mission relationship with the Tisma church. Plans are being finalized for a new look to our Narthex and entry area. As we speak, decisions have not been finalized about professional or volunteer help. My best guess is we will do some of the work ourselves to save money on the project costs. These are three ambitious projects for a small church! I hope each of you finds a place to plug in your time and talent. Now that faith burns within us, the work of our church begins!

Pastor Barry A. Belknap

## **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 Spanis

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## **Prayer Concerns**

- .. .Carole Baker's sister-in-law, Sarah recovering from surgery
- .. .Flooding in Fargo, ND
- ... Carol Pearson, health concerns
- .. .Corlene Flora's brother, Paul Wine, health concerns
- .. .Doras Weinley's cousin Gene, heart surgery
- ... Lydia Miller's, mother, health concerns
- .. . Donna Belknap's mother, recovering from a fall on stairs
- ... Brandy Baker's sister, recovering from an aneurism
- ... Pastor Barry's father, Murray, health concerns
- ... .Bob Weinley, asthmatic bronchitis
- .. .Kate Craig, Miller's Merry Manor
- .. .Minnie Brandenburg, Norwoods
- ... Peace in the world
- ... Unemployed

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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.

## **2009 High School Graduates**

Nichole Summers – Huntington North High School  
Daughter of Steve & Laura Summers

Brittany Miller – North Side, Ft Wayne  
Daughter of Steve & Jennifer Miller

## **Community Food Pantry of Love, Inc.**

They are collecting a different item each month. For the month of May (*pork & beans & paper towel*) June (*can peaches, & laundry soap*). There is a box in the handicap entrance for these items. Items brought in during March & April was a donation of approximately \$35.

## **Update on Deacon Fundraiser**

We realized a total of \$ 907.25 from the potato bar held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. A portion of the proceeds will go to Camp Mack's capital fund campaign, "*On The Way. . .Continuing in Faith.*"

## **Annual Conference**

The 2009 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will be held in *San Diego, CA, June 26-June 30<sup>th</sup>*. *Dean Beery* will serve as the Huntington Church of the Brethren delegate.

## **For The Bible Tells Me So**

On *Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>*, I am going to show the video “For the Bible Tells Me So” after a carry in meal following Sunday School. The video tells the story of five families, each of which has a child who is gay or lesbian. Each family in the video reacts differently and the video looks at those reactions and how each family handles the situation. It also looks at the Bible passages that are often quoted around the issue.

One of the main narrators of the video is Mel White. He is a man who did “ghost” writing for several evangelical leaders including Billy Graham, Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. He has struggled with the issue in his own life and has had extensive counseling.

Annual Conference passed a paper on Human Sexuality back in 1983 and encouraged churches to discuss the issue. Again in 1994 Annual Conference asked churches to have a more active dialogue around the issues surrounding the church’s relationship to lesbian and gay persons.

It is a timely issue, not only because of the struggle many churches have in dealing with the subject, but because in our own congregation there are several families with a gay or lesbian child.

There will be a time after the video to share with one another in a relaxed atmosphere for those who desire to do so. This is designed as a time for hearing each other, not for making any decisions.

Dean Beery

## **Camp Mack**

Camp Mack is a faith based camp and retreat center located in Northern Indiana that is supported by the Church of the Brethren. Camp Alexander Mack is a sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian community. Those attending Camp Mack this summer are: ***Brandon Kratz, June 7-11, Anthony Beery Bennett, Quinten Custer & Briar Strle, June 7-13.*** For additional information, contact our Camp Mack representative, Jeff Lehman, 359-9990.

## **Vaction Bible School – June 8-12<sup>th</sup>**

**Catch the Spirit”!** Vacation Bible School is coming to the Huntington Church of the Brethren! Children ages 3 through 12 are invited to come June 8-12 from 9:00 – 11:30 am. Stories from Acts will bring them face to face with the power of the Holy Spirit as they learn how to get involved, speak up, and join God's work around the world. Fun worship, interactive dramas, lively songs, an emphasis on active Bible learning, and hands on activity centers will challenge the children to live together as Jesus' followers and to share the good news of Jesus with others.

The Christian Education committee needs your help! Our biggest need is for teachers, classroom assistants, activity leaders, and participants for the daily skits. We also need a snack coordinator and volunteers to help serve the snacks and clean up afterwards each day. And we need children!!!! Catch the spirit and invite your children and their friends, your grandchildren, and the children in your neighborhoods! To volunteer or register for VBS please call ***Sharon Lehman at 359-9990 or e-mail her at basingerlehman@yahoo.com.***

## **Heifer Project**

The Kum-Joy-Nus class has done it again! In just five months since they paid for their first heifer for Heifer International, this amazing group has collected enough money to buy another similar animal. Well, to be accurate, the class was helped by contributions from the pre-school class taught by Reba Beery. They proudly turned over their offering each week. Outstanding!

We will continue to collect money each week, with the final destination to be determined later. This is a demonstration of true Christianity. The pre-schoolers are learning what it means for us to feed the poor. Contributions from others are always welcome!

### **Task Team and Committee Descriptions**

The Ministry Team is working on a plan to better affirm and communicate with groups and individuals that are serving our church. One aspect of that is developing a list of responsibilities that are carried out by those people.

There are three reasons the Ministry Team is encouraging this effort:

1. To help someone new to a position to know what the specific responsibilities are and how to carry them out.
2. To help someone being asked to accept a position to know what they are being asked to do.
3. So that others in the church know what person or group to go to if they have a concern or problem they would like addressed.

Our church did develop such a list of job descriptions a number of years ago, but over time some of those responsibilities have been dropped, changed or added to.

Dean Beery will be contacting many of you over the next few weeks to give you a copy of what was done in the past and ask you to update it for the present. Those will be collected and put together in a handbook that should be a valuable asset for the church.

### **Nicaragua Sister Church & Pre-School**

Well, we are up and running, trying hard to fill a big man's shoes. It is going to take many of us. There were at least fifteen people at the first meeting indicating there is support to continue this mission.

Glenn Dillon, Lee Hughes, Ron Sharpe, The Dillon Gang (Bob, Rick & Josh), Paul Logan and maybe others have been at the Double "H" working on the concession trailer. It will soon be completely covered in wood which will help us fit in at the Pioneer Festival. The guys have worked in the wind and the rain and there is still a lot to do. Please keep their health and safety in your prayers.

At our second meeting we tasted a non-potato dough roll suggested by Liz Scheer and discussed using pre-made rolls versus baking our own rolls. Consensus determined we continue to make our own rolls and dates for baking the rolls were set for June 4<sup>th</sup>. We also reviewed a draft of a shift/work schedule of fair week. The dates are July 25<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. We have some Day Managers and discussed their roles and responsibilities. A sign up sheet will be available this month for three to four hour shifts for volunteer workers. Volunteers will also be needed to make sloppy joes.

We are still looking for an upright freezer and just missed one at an estate sale. Hope our timing is better the next time.

Kevin Miller has prepared an Annual Report for the pre-school and we all viewed it on screen. It looked very professional and there was some discussion of using some of the material to create a hand-out brochure.

Dean Beery is working on instruction sheets and has volunteered to go the 4-H Fair Health & Safety meeting which we are required to attend.

We will schedule another meeting closer to the time of the fair. Right now this seems like an awful lot of work, but I know it is nothing compared to the daily burdens in the lives of the people of Tisma.

Linda Hughes

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