



Living the Word

The Newsletter of the
Huntington Church of the Brethren

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September-October 2009

FROM THE PASTOR

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to seek Him in His temple.” Psalm 27:4

Life has its odd moments, which at the time seem like a crisis but are later quite amusing. Take for instance a stray cat living in a church. This recently happened in our church building. The doors have been open more than usual because of our painting project. It seems a stray cat thought that it had found itself a nice new home. I know this is not funny in one way. There is nothing humorous about cleaning up after such a resident. A live trap was set in a Sunday School room with the hope of removing this uninvited guest. The cat never took the bait and apparently decided that the Brethren lifestyle was not ideal. All signs of this creature have disappeared.

I chuckled as I watched the drama. Thirty years of ministry yields more than one animal in the church story. When I as a teen, my parents decided we would all go to church while on vacation at our lake home in Canada. There I sat in a tiny chapel thinking that vacation meant time off from church too. I was soon distracted from a sermon I did not want to listen to by a cow grazing near an open window of the sanctuary. Much to my delight the cow stuck her head through the unscreened window, chewed for a moment, then let out a loud moo and moved on. While in West Virginia, a neighboring pastor shared that while she was preaching she felt something cold crossing her ankles. She looked down to see a large rat snake crossing her feet. Her frozen plea for help was answered by some men rushing forth to grab the snake. They later discovered a whole nest of rat snakes under the pulpit. While attending my graduation for my doctoral degree in Rockefeller Chapel in Chicago, my attention was diverted from a long speech to the pigeons that came and roosted in the ceiling of that historical landmark. They had tried everything to keep them out, but were unsuccessful.

Though funny, these animal in the church stories have some teaching value. I have often wondered if God uses creation to teach us. Animals finding sanctuary in the church reflect the determination of the Psalmist...to live in the house of the Lord. A new church season approaches. What would happen if we shared the determination of the Psalmist and the animals? How enriched would our spiritual journey be if we positioned ourselves to live in God presence?

Pastor Barry A. Belknap

P.S. Thank you for sharing in my ordination recognition on August 23. It was a wonderful day!

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

.. Ian Belknap recovering from bicycle accident
.. Jeff Lehman's sister's mother-in-law upon her death
.. family and friends of Carol Pearson upon her death
.. Sharon Lehman, health concerns
.. Corlene Flora's son-in-law recently hospitalized
.. Christina Warner
... Reba Beery's nephew, Christopher
... 4-H Fair Mission Project
.. Glenn Dillon recovering from surgery
... Reba Beery's mother, health concerns

... Lee Hughes brother, Glenn, heart problems
... Pastor Barry's father, Murray, health concerns
... Doras Weinley, health concerns
.. Doras Weinley's sister, Donna knee replacement
.. Dorothy Weinley, Bob's stepmother, health concerns
... Dorsan & Eileen Nichols
.. Kate Craig, Miller's Merry Manor
.. Minnie Brandenburg, Norwoods
... Peace in the world
... Unemployed
.. Count your blessings

Community Food Pantry of Love, Inc.

Thank you for your continued support of the Huntington Community Food Pantry. We receive donations from the community, Kroger's Warehouse and Government Commodities each month. At the present time approximately 175 families are receiving groceries each month. For the month of September we are asking for (*instant mashed potatoes, laundry soap*) October (*tuna, all purpose cleaner*). There is a box in the handicap entrance for these items.

Camp Mack

Camp Mack provides a camp program that is intentionally designed to provide campers with life changing experiences that lead to the formation of personal faith within a safe Christian community. This summer, 4 of our youth attended Camp Mack. While much of the camp staff is volunteers, the cost of a week of camp is still around \$350. Our church helped support several of the youth this summer. Some of that came from a small item in the budget, but we have a deficit of about \$400 in that account. If you would like to help replenish that fund to support campers, please make out a check to the church and designate your gift to Camp Mack scholarships.

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.

Dedication Sunday

On Sunday September 13th we will kick off our Sunday School year, thanking those who taught this past year, dedicate our new teaching staff, dedicate our Sunday School Program, and award Bibles to those going into fourth grade, Levi Lehman and Brandon Kratz.

Adult Sunday School

The adult class downstairs has been viewing and discussing the NOOMA short film series featuring pastor Rob Bell. Each short video covers a different topic such as love, loss, suffering, relationship, and riches. We start each week by viewing the film and then work through the provided discussion questions. Each video is approximately ten minutes long. According to their web site "the name NOOMA is an English phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma, which is commonly translated into "spirit" or "breath". Pneumatology refers to the study of spiritual beings, particularly the interactions between humans and God." Jeff Lehman has facilitated the class.

This fall the adult class downstairs will be sharing stories with each other on a given theme each week. (Joy, sadness, holidays, God's presence...etc.) It will be a practice in sharing & listening. *The wisdom of the world's cultures is traditionally shared in the form of storytelling where everyone, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the learned and the not so learned, can find a place. Stories entertain us, help us to grow, to heal, and to understand and honor the world around us.* –sacredvoices.com This class will be facilitated by Beth Beery

The adult class upstairs is led by Leon Stong & Glenn Dillon. They have been working in the Guide for Biblical Studies. Written from a Church of the Brethren perspective, A Guide for Biblical Studies is issued quarterly and contains daily NRSV scriptures, lessons, and questions for both individual preparation and classroom use. It follows the International Sunday School Lessons/Uniform Series. They have recently been looking at the story of Moses and the fleeing of the Israelites and this fall they will be looking at covenant communities. How is God's covenant manifested in communities? Focus will be on persons whom God chose as covenant leaders (Joshua, Gideon, Ezra, and Nehemiah), the invitations God offered to enter into community, people's responses to the invitations (stories from Mark), and the nature of God's new covenant community (1 and 2 Peter).

International Day of Prayer for Peace

In the face of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression, the International Day of prayer for peace in 2009 offers congregations a way to help rebuild a sense of well being and peace in the hearts of people and their families, in their communities, and throughout the country.

The International Day of Prayer for Peace was developed by the World Council of Churches starting in 2004 to coordinate with the United Nation's call for an International Day of Peace.

A Christian commitment to God's peace is about responding to the real worries and pain of the world with the power of God's shalom – God's transformative real presence in all of our relationships – which is relevant to racism, poverty, and violence of all kinds (domestic as well as battlefield)

This year especially, you are invited to pray for that positive vision of peace on *September 22nd*. Our church is teaming with the Victory Noll sisters to hold a public prayer event at the Ministry Center at Victory Noll at 7:00 PM. We will coordinate the service with them and invite other churches and individuals to join us.

Please set that date aside and join us

Pioneer Festival

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Pioneer Festival on Saturday & Sunday September 26-27. The monies raised will go to support ongoing programs at our Sister church in Tisma, Nicaragua.

Volunteers are needed on *Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* A sign up sheet will be available on the table in the Narthex. For additional information, contact Lee or Linda Hughes, 356-1465.

World Communion Sunday – October 4th

World Communion Sunday, celebrated the first Sunday in October, is one of the most venerable of “special Sundays.” The day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice, and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God’s earth. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve, a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

We will celebrate *World Communion Sunday on October 4th during morning worship.* We hope you will plan to be a part of this meaningful service.

Huntington County CROP Hunger Walk

Everyone interested in fighting hunger and poverty locally and around the world is invited to take part in the Huntington County CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk on Sunday afternoon, *Oct. 4.* The theme "We walk because they walk" shows solidarity with the millions of people around the world who walk an average of 3.6 miles every day just to get water.

Money raised goes to places like the Habile Camp for internally displaced persons in Chad where a community garden project helps to increase their food security or to Guatemala where it helps families learn to grow more and better food and market their extra harvest.. Through Church World Service, it has also played a role in the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Part of the money raised goes to Love, INC which distributes it to local food pantries in Huntington and Warren.

Last year 68 walkers from 12 churches took part in the 5 Km (3 miles) walk. Please consider walking or helping to sponsor a walker. Dean Beery is County Coordinator for the walk and he will be signing up walkers for our church.

Fundraiser

A Community Soup and Sandwich Supper will be held on October 23th, 2009, 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Menu will be vegetable or chili soup, hot dogs, relishes, dessert and drink. Tickets will be \$6.00 and will be available for pick up on September 13th .

A portion of the monies raised will be used for Camp Mack Scholarships and furniture for the Narthex. For additional information contact, Doras Weinley356-5716.

PASTORAL MINISTRY SURVEY

One of the ongoing responsibilities of the Ministry Team is staff evaluation. The Ministry Team and the Pastor would like you to help us by filling out and turning in this survey. You can return it to the church office or put it in the offering plate. Dean Beery and Leon Stong will compile the results for the Ministry Team and Pastor. Please return by Sept. 20th.

In your consideration, please take into account that our pastor is part-time.

Thank you.

What do you consider to be the truly important things you need from a pastor personally and to help you in your service to others?

What is your pastor doing well that you want him to continue doing?

What is the pastor's style of ministry and what is the congregational response to this style?

What do you want your pastor to provide more of?

What do you want your pastor to provide less of?

Identify any recurring problems in pastoral performance or relationships and offer some suggestions about how you think they could be handled differently to be more helpful and productive.

What can we do as a congregation or as individuals to better support the pastor in his work?

(If you need more space, use the back of the paper)

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