



LIVING THE WORD

The Newsletter of the
Huntington Church of the Brethren

306 E. Washington St., Huntington, IN 46750 • 260-356-7983

Pastor, Barry Belknap

Email: office@cobhuntington.org

Web site: cobHuntington.org

September - October 2010

FROM THE PASTOR

“You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should call any person impure or unclean.” Acts 10:28

We mistakenly think the early church was abounding in success stories and had no controversy. This was not the case. The early church struggled to grow the church in the context of major differences that had the potential to severely divide their fragile mission. Peter firmly believed that the new church was only for Jews. He struggled with the idea that non-Jews could be equal partners in mission. The book of Acts documents the disciple's struggles to change the way they thought about controversial issues.

The life of the church today is no different. Our American Society is deeply divided on many issues. People have different opinions on whether a mosque should be built a few blocks from ground zero in New York City. That controversy has already erupted into violence as different viewpoints clash. Arizona has been at the center of attention when they adopted strict new laws about illegal immigrants living and working in their communities. Earlier this year a business establishment in Fort Wayne posted a sign forbidding Burmese people from using their restroom.

Undoubtedly the most controversial issue in today's society is homosexuality. It divides families, churches, and communities. The Church of the Brethren is deeply divided on this issue. Various factions have threatened to leave the denomination if their view point about homosexuality is not adopted. The 2010 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference approved a course of study for congregations on this issue and many others that we struggle with in today's world. Both Adult Sunday School Classes agreed to engage in this study with a joint class. That study will begin on Sunday, September 12. I will facilitate the class as we look at different scriptures that will enable us to think about how we process controversial issues and how we agree to disagree about issues that deeply divide us.

The point of the study is not to create one position on this issue or any other. We know we will disagree. The purpose of the study is to wrestle with controversial issues and learn how to understand other people's view points. The 2008 Annual Conference adopted a resolution calls us to “commit ourselves to forbearance which recognizes and respects differences of opinion and differing degrees of spiritual insight.” It urges us to resolve “that we agree to see our difference, not as discord, but as the blessing which can come when we openly discuss our disagreements, address our conflicts, and share our faith perspectives.”

No doubt this is a skill that all of us need to live and witness about our faith in today's society. I hope you will join us.

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. – 10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes

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

.. Pam Updike, health concerns
.. Lee Hughes brother, Glenn, recently hospitalized
.. family and friends on the death of Kathryn Craig, July 18th.
.. Norma Jean Baker's grandson, Tim, health concerns
.. Reba Beery's friend, Sarah, health concerns
.. Doras Weinley's twin sister, Donna, health concerns
.. family and friends of Art Gish on his death due to a tractor accident
.. Josh Watson & Claire Bates moving to Michigan
.. teachers and children going back to school
.. Laura Summers, good report from an MRI
.. Murray Belknap, Pastor Barry's father, health concerns

.. Dean Brown's friend upon his recent death
.. Doras Weinley recovering from shingles
.. Jeff Lehman and family on the death of his grandmother
.. Corlene Flora's great grandson health concerns

Our Shut-ins

.. **Minnie Brandenburg**, Norwood Nursing Center, 3720 N. Norwood Rd., Huntington, IN 46750
.. **Dorsan Nichols**, Miller's Merry Manor, 1500 Grant St., Huntington, IN 46750

Budget Update

There is good news and bad news to report on our financial well being as a church. The good news is that our total giving and average per Sunday were a little higher at the end of July than they were the last couple of years at the same time.

The bad news is that expenses have continued to go up, so our income is not keeping up with the expenses. It is not a huge difference, but it is approaching a point at which our funds available for budgeted expenses could go to zero. If that happens we will need to make some changes which will probably be difficult. We started the year with a balance of \$3,491. At the end of July that figure was \$1,126.

As we talked in Ministry Team and as Barry has mentioned from the pulpit, we could be helped by a common mission that energizes us and attracts others to our ministry. There are some areas we are involved in that could lead us in that direction. We would solicit your thoughts and prayers as we go forward.

Community Food Pantry of Love, Inc.

A great big thank you to the congregation for your monthly support of the Huntington Community Food Pantry. Love, INC receives donations from the community, as well as other sources each month. For the month of September they are asking for *cereal and dish soap*, for the month of October, *peaches, all purpose cleaner*. There is a box in the handicap entrance for these items.

Our volunteer schedule for the food pantry has changed. We now work on Thursday mornings 9:30 a.m.-noon. Our volunteers are: *Reba Beery, Joyce Denten, Betty Dillon, Charlotte Elzey, Erlene Endsley, Corlene Flora, Rosie Hughes, Joann Sailors, and Rosalyn Wilson.*

Work Day

The ceiling tile on the 3rd floor is old and falling down and needs to be removed. A work day is planned for **September 11, 8 a.m. – noon**, to remove the ceiling tile, pull nails, and load old tile on a truck to take to the land fill. If you extra time and would like to help, be here at 8 a.m. on Sept. 11th.

Timbercrest Fall Fellowship Day

You are invited to **Fall Fellowship Day at Timbercrest on Saturday, September 25, 2010**. The business meeting begin at 9 a.m. followed by a benefit auction at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. There will be clowns, antique tractors, buggy rides, demonstrations, fall decorating items, food market and various other activities. Mark your calendar and plan to attend Timbercrest Fall Fellowship Day hosted by friends of Timbercrest.

Invitation to Tisma church

The sister church relationship with the church in Tisma, Nicaragua began in the early 1990s. We have had 5 or 6 trips to Nicaragua from our church and 2 visits from Tisma here. It has been difficult to host visitors from Nicaragua because several times their visas have been denied. It has now been over 10 years since we have had a visit from Tisma and the Sister Church Committee would like to once more try to invite 2 individuals to join us for a week in July using funds that were designated gifts for this purpose. We will send an official letter and pray that visas will be granted this time.

Pioneer Festival & Tisma Preschool

We could use your help to support the preschool in Nicaragua. If you are willing to work at the pioneer festival on Sept. 25th or 26th for a 3 hour shift please contact Beth Beery 224-5640 or ihyrmea@gmail.com

The preschool consists of 3 classes of children divided into age groups from 3 to 5.

The preschool in Nicaragua needs \$4000/ year for its operating funds. This pays for teachers' salaries, water, electricity, food and supplies. This last year they were able to build a shaded area using palm leaves for the children to play under and receive their snack. With 90 degree weather year round, this shaded area is a blessing for the children.

We make an average of approximately \$2,000 per year selling cinnamon rolls at the 4-H Fair and at the Pioneer Festival. The other \$2,000 comes from members of the church and other interested people who donate money to become sponsors of a preschool child. We have a reserve of money in the bank of Trees for Life to use for special expenses like upkeep of the trailer booth, etc., or when our fund raisers don't amount to the \$4,000 in a year as sometimes happens when the weather is bad during fair time or the economy is bad.

About 46% of the population lives on less than \$1.15 a day according to the U.S. Department of State country profiles on Nicaragua. Education is seen as the hope for the future of their country.

Fellowship Potluck

The Ministry Team is suggesting we get together once a month for a potluck and time of fellowship. The first one is planned for **Wednesday, Sept. 29th at 6:00 PM**. Please bring a covered dish and a drink if you would like something other than water. Dean and Reba Beery will set up and clean up after this first one.

We would like to have some kind of sharing or program in connection with these. Some ideas have been a travelogue, a time of singing, a time of sharing around a topic, etc. If you have something you would like to do or you would like to see happen, please contact the church office.

Camp Mack Festival

Camp Mack Festival will be held on *Saturday, October 2, 2009, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*

Change due to Becker fire! The quilt show has been postponed until next year. Both auctions will be held in Quinter-Miller Auditorium. The Live Auction (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and the silent auction (noon-2 p.m.) are still in need of quality auction items. There will also be food and craft booths, as well as children's activities.

Proceeds from this year's festival will be divided between camper scholarships and technology upgrades.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK

The annual Huntington County CROP Hunger Walk will be held this year on *Oct. 3*. The walk will start at Central Christian Church, will go right past our church, and Trinity United Methodist will be the half way rest stop on the walk. Dean Beery is coordinating the county walk this year again and he and Reba are on the County Walk Team. Harlie Summers will be recruiting walkers for our church. There will be at least 10 local churches involved this year.

CROP stands for **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty. It is an opportunity to demonstrate through a united witness to our community how important it is to do something together about hunger issues. 25% of the money raised stays here in Huntington County and is distributed through Love INC.

The rest of the funds go to hunger projects of Church World Service. During its 60 years of operation, Church World Service has developed the partnerships needed to assure that the resources sent, reach those it is intended for. Their low overhead means that more than 80 cents of every dollar goes to programs helping people in need. Church World Service headquarters are in New Windsor, MD at the same complex where several Church of the Brethren offices are located. Church World Services is a cooperative ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations working to eradicate hunger and poverty- providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries.

Last year we had 10 walkers from our church. Only one church in the county had more. If you would like to walk, please see Harlie for your materials. If you're not walking, please consider sponsoring someone who is.

Habitat for Humanity

Huntington County Habitat for Humanity 4th Annual Dinner/Auction will be held on *Saturday, October 16, 2010* at the Central Christian Church with registration at 6 p.m., silent auction and dinner at 6:45 p.m. Please join us for a fun filled evening with both a live and a silent auction with lots of great items! For additional information call Michelle Crone, at 260.359.0938.

Fundraisers

We appreciate the hard work that goes into fund raising events to support our church and mission projects. At the July Ministry Team meeting we discussed the importance of using the money raised for its intended purpose. This purpose may sometimes be unclear. To avoid any misunderstanding we ask that fundraisers be submitted to the Ministry Team with a written description of how the funds raised should be used. Thanks again for all the hard work that you do for our church ministry.
