
The Light On The Hill



Monthly Newsletter of the First Church of the Brethren, Carlisle, PA

February 2018

From the Pastor's Pen . . .

I love to study hands. I remember my father's large hands, my mother's wide and well-used hands. I think about all the things people's hands have done. That woman's hands may have rolled out a thousand pie crusts or peeled 500,000 potatoes. That man's hands repaired cars and held a baby when it needed calming. Those hands of that couple have been joined together so often over the years; they easily mold to each other. I remember the shy first hand holding when I was dating. Whose hands were cold or clammy; did they fit together?

I was looking at my hands this week...and noticed as always how they are pretty much replicas of my mother's hands. They are wide, worker's hands, not beautiful, but useful. How many times have those hands wiped away tears or gently stroked a suffering person? How many hands have they been privileged to hold as we come to Jesus together to pray?

I also noticed that my hands are the most scarred and damaged part of my body! At this count, I have two splinter wounds, several scrapes, a cut from a piece of metal, and a paper cut. What about yours?

If we keep our hands in our pockets or do little at all our hands will be perfect. Think of the long fingernails on some women in China, who proved that they did nothing for themselves by having long and unusable fingernails! Or consider the fashion in the 1800s of women of the South, whose hands were to be soft and white, with no calluses from doing actual work. Think of the hands of slaves, and working people, with hands burned from cooking, knuckles gnarled from years of work....the useful hands, not the kept safe hands!

This month has several events. One day, February 14th has several meanings this year. It is the day we celebrate love...love of a little baby starfish hands, on the hands of the people we care about, and of course, romantic love. But it is also the beginning of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday when we contemplate the scarred hands of Jesus Christ. The hands that blessed children, healed the sick, multiplied the loaves, touched the contagious lepers...and their final statement is that Jesus sacrificed for us.

See the hands...what is their past, and what is their future?

Pastor Marla

News Of The Congregation

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Music and Worship Commission would like to thank Rita Young for preparing and displaying pictures of Christmas music that was played before the worship service each week of December. It is always a pleasure to hear holiday music that can be enjoyed during this special time of the year. We also thank her for the display of pictures, readings, hymns and scripture that we so enjoy before and during worship each Sunday. Rita, we appreciate your time and talent!

WITNESS COMMISSION

We were able to provide tuna and wipes to Project Share for their clients in 2017. Our yearly figures are:

558 cans of tuna
173 containers of wipes

We would like to thank all of our congregation for their giving of the generous gifts to Project Share in 2017.

February 4th will be the last day to collect funds or soup cans for Project SHARE's Souper Bowl Sunday. Winter is one of the seasons of the year when SHARE is low on some food supplies. A goal for us could be \$200 or 200 soup containers (or 100 of each). That would certainly get us over the 100 yard line for a touchdown! Go team, go!

On the last Sunday of February, we will hold a love offering to help cover some of the costs of one youth, Kirsten Shaulis, who would like to attend the church's Annual Youth Conference in Colorado this summer. Registration has already begun and some funds have already been appropriated to help with that part of the conference. Let's see what we can do to help her on this journey of a lifetime.

We are considering some different outreach activities this year. If you have some thoughts for us, please let Dale Miller, Gloria Ramirez, Linda Wilson, or Lisa Billman know your thoughts.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The monthly birthday breakfast will be held at the Farmer's Market on Wednesday, **February 28th** at 9:00 am. Hope you are able to join us. We have a great time catching up and the breakfast is delicious.

SAFE HARBOR NIGHT WITHOUT A TUX

You are cordially invited to attend Safe Harbour's Night without a Tux. This is a formal affair with a semi-casual flair to benefit Safe Harbour's housing and supportive service programs. The event will be held on Saturday, **February 24th** from 6:00 pm—10:00 pm at the Carlisle Country Club, 1242 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA. The guest speaker will be Robb Armstrong, creator of the JumpStart comic strip and author of "Fearless: A Cartoonist's Guide to life." The event will feature dinner, a silent auction, and music by Jazz Me. Ticket Price is \$75.00 per person and can be purchased at www.safeharbour.org, email—info@safeharbour.org, or call Safe Harbour at 717-249-2200.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Dear Congregation, Thank you for helping Children's Aid Society fight child abuse. At first glance the connection between your donation of Toys, Paper Goods, Art supplies and preventing child abuse might not be obvious but that will be the end result of your gift.

Each of the programs at Children's Aid Society work to help children who have been abused or who are at risk of being abused. Our Art Therapy program helps children cope with the challenges life has put before them and children who learn positive coping skills grow up to be adults with good problem-solving abilities. Our Parent Support Group program helps parents learn positive parenting techniques and gives them a support system to lean on when they need a friend.

So, whether your gift means that we will save money because we don't have to buy supplies or your donation provides a needed item to a family, you have helped us in our mission. You have kept a child safe, comforted a child who

News Of The Congregation, Community & Letters We Get . . .

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY (continued)

has been hurt, and helped a parent to be strong. Thank you for making our community a better place for children to grow up and for families to live.

With Gratitude, Eric M. Chase—Exe. Dir./CEO

BRETHREN HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Greetings Pastor Marla, Christmas is special when family and loved ones are together. This year, you helped 56 adults and children spend Christmas in their own home. It was a joyous holiday full of laughter, love and the creation of new memories. The time, prayers, and money you have shared with the families at BHA this year has made such a difference. On behalf of all the families, we thank you and could not do it without you. Your support enables the life changing work that is done to help families reach their God given potential. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2018 to help families have a safe place to call home. Blessings, Crystal Brown—Exe. Director

PROJECT SHARE

Dear Friends, Project SHARE is blessed to have your generous support. Thank you for your donation of 48 cans of Tune.

During the December Christmas distribution, I witnessed several of our Clients experiencing overwhelming emotions of appreciation for the support they were receiving.

One client, meaningfully articulated her appreciate and intense felling of indebtedness to those who care enough to share. "I want to thank YOU. You who touch my life with YOUR concern. I want to thank YOU who make my life more meaningful. YOU'RE one of them. YOU'RE an angel. Thank YOU for your contribution to my life and my children's lives. Bless YOU."

On behalf of all the Clients, thank you for your investment and commitment.

Warmest Regards, Debra Hess, Dir. Of Dev.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Hi Everyone, First, let me say a tremendous "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped with

THE SALVATION ARMY (continued)

our Christmas fundraising efforts. Whether you signed up to personally ring the bell, encouraged your friends to ring, helped deliver/pick-up kettles, hosted a desktop kettle at your establishment, or simply spare your loose pocket change...thank you!

I am absolutely thrilled to share that we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$130,000 and raised a whopping \$142,876! These funds help to provide necessities like food, clothing, and shelter to members of our community. Because of you, we can ensure that the basic needs of our neighbors will be met in the coming year.

If you are interested in becoming more engaged with volunteer opportunities throughout the year, please let me know. We can always use help in our feeding program, thrift store, and other program areas. I would be happy to help connect you with an opportunity that meets your interests and skills.

Thanks again for your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work that has made our 2017 red kettle campaign a tremendous success!

God Bless, Lauren Sheeler, Bus. Associate

MAN2MAN WORKSHOP 2018

The men's spiritual leadership summit and breakfast will be held on Saturday, **February 24th** from 8:00 am to Noon. The topic this year is: Man Enough to Follow the Son of Man? The guest speaker will be David Radcliff. The schedule is:

8:00 am—8:55 am—Welcome and Session 1

9:00 am—9:50 am—Breakfast

10:00 am—Noon—Session 2 & 3

Session 1—An American Man, Session 2—Jesus—Man Among Men, Session 3—Man Enough?

The workshop will be held at the Mechanicsburg Church CoB, 301 Gale St., Mechanicsburg. The registration fee is \$16.00 which includes the breakfast. Deadline for registration is **February 10th**. If you are interested in attending, please see Dale Miller. Additional information, posted on the bulletin board.

THE FRIENDS OF CROSS KEYS VILLAGE

We are grateful for your important role as Key-person for your congregation. Your help is needed to inform your people of the goals that The Friends have set for 2018, our 65th year! We all need to work together to accomplish these goals to enhance the lives of our residents. As the Key-person for your congregation, we are asking for your help to communicate to your members our 2018 goal of \$80,000, \$66,000 of which is for the Good Samaritan Fund. Please inform your congregation through newsletters, bulletins, announcement and physically collect membership dues to support The Friends 2018 membership goals. The memberships are as follows: Annual Membership \$10, Annual Patron Membership \$30, and New Lifetime Membership \$100. I am counting on you to emphasize the collection of dues throughout February, March, and April and accept them anytime during the year. Please remember to report any lifetime members who have passed away in 2017. Thank you for your help.

(Gloria is sharing this letter, as she is the key-person at the Brethren Home.)

NEW FRIENDS EVENT

February Food Friend-Z will be held on Saturday, February 10th from 11:00 am—1:30 pm at the Nicarry Meetinghouse at Cross Keys Village. There will be cupcakes, soup, and bread. Cupcake Challenge—enter your favorite cupcakes in our first ever cupcake contest. The categories for entry include: Decorators' Dream, Chocolate Anyone?, and Miscellaneous Mastery. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges and prizes will be awarded. Please bring at least two dozen cupcakes and the recipe to Nicarry Meetinghouse by 9:00 am. No pre-registration required. There will be a Cupcake Bake Sale—perhaps you like to bake but don't want to enter the cupcake contest. We are going to need lots of cupcakes for the bake sale! Please bake at least two dozen, and bring them to Nicarry Meetinghouse by 9:00 am. Our goal is to have at least 75 dozen

NEW FRIENDS EVENT (continued)

for sale! There will be a Bread Sale of white and whole wheat loaves. The cost is \$3.00 per loaf. There is also going to be a Soup Sale which will need to be preordered. The soups are Chicken Corn or Ham and Bean. They will be sold by the quart which will cost \$8.00. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for pre-order form.

SERRV WORK DAYS

Our next SERRV work days will be **February 23rd**, **March 16th** and **March 23th**. We will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 am and return around 5:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

CARLISLE TRUCK STOP MINISTRY, INC.

Dear Ministry Supporter:

We trust that you had a blessed Christmas with family and friends, and pray that God will be gracious to you in this new year.

Our cookie collection this past holiday season was a great success thanks to all of you. We collected and distributed over 14,000 bags of cookies to truckers and travelers—a new record! We have received many calls, emails and notes from the recipients and their families telling us how much they appreciated being remembered with a “taste of home” while on the road. With a tract, note or scripture verse in each bag, individuals have been presented the gospel message, some perhaps for the first time. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will use the Word to convict the hearts of many.

We continue to see the Lord working through the Ministry as we experience certain “God Moments” turn into lasting relationships. Many times, the Chaplains receive calls or visits from drivers who say, “I just had to get in touch with you while I was in the area. Our time together in the past has really helped me.” Little do we realize how much a word of encouragement or spiritual counsel can impact someone's life.

We are looking forward to our Spring Fundraising Dinner Concert which will be held at the Plainfield First Church of God on **May 5th**. Mark your calendar! This event will allow us to gather together as a “ministry family” to enjoy good food and fellowship around the table. And it's a blessing to hear what God is doing.

On the Personal Side...

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT THE FLU!

People who are exposed to cold and flu germs every day -- doctors, flight attendants, teachers -- know a thing or two about how to stay healthy when everyone around them is sick. Their suggestions can help you, too.

- Get a flu shot. It's the No. 1 thing you can do to prevent the flu.
- Wash your hands -- a lot. No matter what line of work you're in, if you come in contact with people who are contagious, you have to wash your hands over and over. Wash your hands as much as you can stand, and then some more -- especially after wrapping up a visit with someone who's sick. It sounds so simple, but soap and water are the constant companions of doctors and nurses. To completely get rid of viruses from your skin, you need to scrub hard for 20 seconds or more. A good way to time yourself is to sing "Happy Birthday" twice while scrubbing the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. It doesn't matter if the water's hot or cold -- the very act of scrubbing will physically remove the germs.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If you can't get to soap and water, sanitizer can kill cold and flu germs.
- Avoid getting close to people who are sick. For example, don't shake hands. Just explain, to keep transmission of colds and flu down, I'm not shaking hands. They will understand!
- Keep your surroundings clean.
- Keep up a healthy lifestyle. It's important to look after your own health. Get adequate rest -- which people underestimate -- get good nutrition, don't smoke, and keep your allergies controlled, because if they're out of control, then your upper respiratory tree is already inflamed, which sets it up to more easily acquire a virus.

Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

PERSONS FROM THE CONGREGATION who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include: Sara VanAsdlen, Virginia McCoy, Clair Tritt, Ruth Young, Jean Wert, Linda Young, Laurel Imes, Tim Imes, Graham Mulholland, Glenn Pepper

FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include: 230+ Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, Dorcas Yakubu has been seen on the latest video release by Boko Haram, Carrie Werner, Chrissy Kulp, Paul Robison, Dean Roth, Christi Fraker, Joan Mulholland's mother

SYMPATHIES TO the Thumma family in the passing of Elwood (Pete) Thumma, the Myers family in the passing of Violet Myers, to the Ditmer family in the Passing of Steven Robison's grandfather Paul Robison, and to the Dunkle family in the passing of Evelyn Gleim

RECIPE OF THE MONTH
Minestrone Soup

Prep Time: 15 Mins **Yields: 4 servings**

Ingredients:

- 1 28 oz. Can Diced Tomatoes
- 1 32 oz. Vegetable or Low-Sodium Chicken Broth
- 1 15 oz. Can White Beans
- 1 15 oz. Can Kidney Beans
- 1 9 or 16 oz. Package Frozen Green Beans
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1 5 oz. Bag Fresh Spinach or 1 10 oz. Box Frozen Spinach, thawed
- 1/2 Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese

Preparation

In a large pot, over medium heat, bring the tomatoes and their liquid to a simmer. Cook for 2 minutes.

Add the broth, white beans, and kidney beans and bring to a simmer. Add the green beans and cook until tender, about 3 minutes.

Add ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper, and spinach and stir until wilted.

Ladle the soup into bowls and sprinkle with the Parmesan Cheese.

REAL SIMPLE

*Happy
Birthday*

*Happy
Anniversary*

No Anniversaries to celebrate
this month!

First Church of the Brethren
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Carlisle, PA 17013



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Address Service Requested



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Secretary: Linda Shindledecker
Church Office 717-243-4984
A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15AM
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*Love is a fruit in season at all times,
and within reach of every hand.*

Mother Teresa