
The Light On The Hill



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

September 2018

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Of the many wonderful scriptures revealing the will and the way of following the will of God...My favorite scripture is Psalm 119:105! In the midst of the longest Psalm (176 verses!) as the psalmist reflects on the Torah (the Law of God) that is sufficient for every moment from suffering to praise...comes these words: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Of what good is a lamp if it is hidden under a bushel basket? Of what good is a path if it doesn't lead to Godliness? A lamp, or a candle for the psalmist, would not reveal the whole horizon...but only a horizon that came into view step by step. Life seems to be that way! So daily a venture day by day, moment by moment, step by step...but with the constant hope of movement in a Godly direction.

Starting in September we will be considering some of the steps and paths some old testament folks followed. With our recent rains we might feel a bit like Noah! Have we considered Abraham and his call to be a blessing to nations? Perhaps we are called to greater blessings to those around us! What about Joseph, unjustly cast into prison. Will God be with us through our troubled times? And long before Cecile B DeMille, God was delivering His people. Where do we need more freedom?

God's word was shared in many ways then...and even today as we seek that guidance. God's paths to faithfulness was shared in many ways then...and even today as we seek His ongoing Presence.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Might this September through the more outward paths of geography, also remind us of the inward presence of God's grace day by day.

September with the word of God and the path of his presence might be a STEP-tember! For the Glory of God and our neighbor's good.

See you on the journey (step by step). Pastor Jim

News Of The Congregation

WITNESS COMMISSION

The Witness Commission thanks everyone who have helped us with the School Kits Collection for Project SHARE. We thank everyone who helped with the Ice Cream Booth at the Cross Keys Village at the Brethren Home Chicken BBQ on August 11th. Thank you goes to Jeanne Bobenage, Mike Strickler, Dick Miller, Dale & Mary Miller, Dave & Doris Marks, Ike & Pat Tritt, Debbie Meenan and Gloria Ramirez. Also thanks for those who contributed baked goods to the Bake Sale part of the Chicken BBQ: The Witness Commission thanks those persons who helped bag groceries for home deliveries for Project Share this summer. Also thanks to Gene Roth for numbering the bags each month throughout the year.

Our next collection will be for the Children's Aid Society located in Cross Keys. The collection will go from September 7th to the last Sunday of September. Items will include the following: canned fruits and vegetables, canned pasta [ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs], peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese. Other items are baby wash, Lysol wipes, kitchen trash bags, and construction paper. Check the items pictured on the narthex bulletin board if you forget this listing.

On September 23rd, the Witness Commission will be looking for volunteers to help with preparing and serving the September Soup Kitchen Food that will be served at the Salvation Army building. Help will be needed to prepare the food around 1:30 on the 23rd and to serve the food around 4:30 to load and transport the baked food to Salvation Army.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ONLY 3 INGLENOK DESSERT BOOKS LEFT! If there is anyone who has not tasted Vinegar Pie, you are missing an interesting taste! If you would like to purchase one as a gift or one for yourself, see Gloria Ramirez.

Compelling Vision Conversations in the Southern District

The Church of the Brethren national leadership is providing opportunities for members across the country to be part of the compelling vision process begun at this year's Annual Conference. Southern District is providing four dates this September and October for churches in this district to have their members participate. I'm encouraging any members of our church who want input in the formation of this compelling vision to attend the closest conversation on Saturday, October 6, from 1:30-3:30 at the Faith Community of the Brethren Home in New Oxford. Other dates and places are on the bulletin board if this date isn't convenient. We can carpool. A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board in early September.

Reminder: All reports for the congregational business meeting on October 14 should be handed in to the church office no later than Friday, September 21.

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

CROSS KEYS VILLAGE

Civil War Living Historians Frank & Bonnie Orlando—Professional Artist Series, at the Nicarry Meetinghouse—The Life & Times of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee – Robert E. Lee once said “... two of the most sublime, if not the most sublime, words in the English language are duty and honor.” This simple quote is what Frank & Bonnie Orlando, Civil War living historians, utilizes as the basis when presenting to leadership groups, school groups, veterans and community organizations. This free event is open to all. Saturday, September 15, 2018, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

God's Work, Our Hands - Presentation to develop and spread awareness of our refugee family crisis. September 9, 4:00-6:00 pm at St. Paul Evangelical Church - Simple meal will be offered. RSVP to 717-243-2319 or email churchoffice@stpaulcarlisle.org

Project Share wants to thank you for your response to their request for assistance by donating canned food towards their mission of assisting our neighbors with their many struggles. Because of you, they are able to continue to respond to the peoples' need through the *Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope* vision.

Carlisle Area Religious Council thanks us for our donation of \$200 towards supporting the many community events that they sponsor throughout the year.

The Brethren Housing Association thanks us for our contribution to BHA which helps provide safe housing and supportive services for the individuals and families in their programs. BHA helps see that families have a safe place to live while working on their situations. One of those who received their help and graduated from the program has been offered a full-time supervisor job at an upscale hotel!

New Business Topics from this year's annual conference:

1. Vision for a Global Church Delegates approved a plan to have independent Church of the Brethren Denominations in other countries, rather than have international districts that would report to the U.S. annual conference.
2. Vision for Ecumenism for the 21st Century-delegates adopted this paper that reaffirmed the historical identity of the Church of the Brethren as active in ecumenical work and in relationship with other Christian bodies. The paper also calls for the church at all levels to nurture positive interfaith relationships.
3. Creation Care: Faith into Action-Recommendations were adopted that move the church at all levels away from fossil fuels use to renewable energy sources if feasible. Climate change has the potential to cause great harm to people around the world, and the committee shared that care for humanity is part of the church's calling in Christ.

Compelling Vision Process-Delegates began the process that is intended to move the denomination beyond our conversations, debates, and official statements into the experience of vision and purpose as we proclaim and serve Christ together. There is division in the denomination over biblical guidance concerning human sexuality which in part is why the leadership of the church is committed to the process. 2019 Annual Conference will suspend any new business items so that next year's delegates can discuss input from across the brotherhood and adopt a compelling vision for the church.

Music and Worship

On September 9th, Pastor Marla will be preaching on The Flood. It would be fun to have members bring "pairs" of items to be displayed in the front of the church on a table. Start looking around your home for such items. Let's see how many "pairs" we can display!

District and Brotherhood

September 9th is the third quarter Special Offering Sunday to donate funds to the District and Brotherhood. During the previous two quarters, the congregation donated a total of \$1,940 in special offerings for the District and Brotherhood. These special offerings represent 77.6% of the church's \$2,500 contribution to date. At the halfway point, we are on track to meet our 2018 District and Brotherhood commitments totaling \$5,000, helped enormously by these special offerings!

On the Personal Side...

Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

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 remains in captivity after three years. Her family holds little hope for her return, but we can continue praying that God bless and protect her.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS TO:

Prayer List: Dean Roth, Virginia McCoy, Blanche Shenk, Clair Tritt, Ruth Young, and Tessie Shrawder.

Virginia Wilson - continues to struggle with her leg and ankle issues. It is quite painful, and amputation has even been discussed.

Linda Shindledecker's - Husband **Ron** has had testing and bone cancer has gone through his body. However, they met a lot of people who had great treatment through Sloan Kettering and hope to get his treatment there.

Judy Moore's daughter-in-law, **Jaime Hutto**, is in ICU with pneumonia.

August 26, 2018

Dear Members and friends,

When we interviewed in 2009, we shared that we planned on staying ten years, since our experience has been that a longer pastorate benefits the church. Time has flown. Those ten years are up in May of 2019. Jim is ready to really retire, and Marla is not sure if she wants to pastor, or be in full retirement.

Marla's official age of retirement for Social Security is 66, a goal that will be reached on March 3, 2019. So we have decided to celebrate this as our last day with you. Plans are to move to Virginia to be near Joel and Heather.

It is with regret and sadness that we tender our resignations to you. It has been our privilege to serve with you in the name of the Lord.

We have great hope for the future of this church. However, church attendance and participation is down all over the US. Sadly, most young adults are making up their own religion. Some people see no reason why attendance at worship is important. Society has greatly changed. The Church will survive....but that may require major changes.

We are announcing this early enough to help the Board with budget building. Our District Executive Bill Waugh is aware of the change and will be working with you for the next steps. Normally, after a longer pastorate, there is an interim pastor, which will give you time to vision the future.

We have had great friends here, lots of good memories and shared ministries. But retiring seems like what we need right now!

Blessings and love, Marla and Jim

Serving You In September . . .

Worship Greeters

Hospitality

Ushers

Head Ushers

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

Children's Time

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

Nursery

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

Worship Leaders

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

Sound Room

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

Our Record of Faithfulness

August 2018	<u>Y-T-D</u> General Fund	<u>2017</u> General Fund	<u>Y-T-D.</u> Building Fund	<u>2017</u> Building Fund	<u>2018</u> Special Giving
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“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” The Covenant with Noah
Genesis 8:22

“Train yourself to recognize the hand of God in everything that happens to you.”
-Andrew Murray

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

PEACH COBBLER CAKE

4 cups fresh peaches peeled and sliced
(or canned)

1 16.25 oz (460g) cake mix, yellow or
white

1 stick (113g) butter, melted

½ cup chopped almonds (any nut work
fine)

Preheat oven to 350F.

Place the peach slices to the bottom of
a 9×13" pan.

Pour the cake mix into a medium bowl.
Melt the butter in a sauce pan and add
it into the bowl. Stir until combined.

Sprinkle evenly over the peaches.

Top it with chopped almonds and bake
for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Let it cool for 10-15 minutes and serve
it warm with a dollop of vanilla ice
cream and fresh peach slices.

*Happy
Birthday*

*Happy
Anniversary*

First Church of the Brethren
1340 Forge Road
Carlisle, PA 17013



The Light On The Hill

Address Service Requested



Pastors: Jim & Marla Abe
Secretary: Judy Moore
Church Office 717-243-4984

A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM
carlislecob.org
office@carlislecob.org

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4 9:00 am Central PA Pastors' Mtg 7:00 pm Music & Worship	5	6 CCNS Back to school Picnic	7	8
9 Special Offer- ing Dist/Brother- hood	10 7:00 pm Emergency Planning Commission	11 7:00 pm Stewards	12	13 9:30 am CCNS Orien- tation 3-day	14 9:30 am CCNS Orien- tation 5-day Dist. Conf. @ Newville	15 3:00-4:00 Witness Com Multi Cul- tural Event Dist. Conf.
16 Church Picnic	17 CCNS First day of Classes 5- day	18 CCNS First day of clas- ses 3-day 7:00 pm Church Bd Mtg	19	20	21 Disaster Re- lief Auction, Lebanon Fairgrounds	22 Disaster Re- lief Auction, All reports for Council must be in for 10/14
23 Salvation Ar- my Soup Kitchen 30 Deacons Meeting	24	25 Wampler Bible Study	26 9:00 am Birthday Breakfast @ Fairgrounds Diner	27 6:30 pm Dis- trict Min. Commission	28	29