

THE BEACON

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD * QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951

PHONE: 215-536-7510 * EMAIL: QUAKERTOWNCOB@VERIZON.NET

PASTOR: REV. JOHN B. SHAFFER

February 2010



"LOVE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."

We often celebrate February 14th with candy and jewelry for our sweethearts. It is a day set aside to recognize those we love in some small way. And, there is nothing wrong with that. Any day set aside to highlight positive things or qualities in our lives is important. Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day are but two examples. Of greater importance, however, are the days wherein we recognize love and thankfulness in a much broader and more significant context.

If we could sum up the meaning of love in the Bible, we could say that it is a self-giving relationship, expecting nothing in return. In the Old Testament specifically, the **love for God** and the **love of God for His people** are points of emphasis. God's love is a "steadfast love" and goes beyond the human concepts of physical love between the sexes and love of family, friends, slave, master, neighbor, and stranger, although they are still very important concepts in Biblical thought.

In the New Testament writings the emphasis is on loving God and loving our neighbor (Mark 12:28-31), the two greatest commandments. It is not a casual concept but an all-encompassing commitment to God and others. God loved us so much that he gave His only Son for us (John 3:16) and because of that we, too, are to love Him and others. Love is a divine gift and is a result of our faith in Jesus. **"We love because He first loved us"** (I John 4:19).

How do we put it all into practice? **First**, we need to recognize that it isn't a one day a year commitment to either God or others. **Second**, it is about much more than candy and material gifts. **Third**, it is about placing our emphasis on God and others and not on self. **Fourth**, it is about stretching our boundaries a bit and loving the person we believe is unlovable. (I often wonder what others think about me!) We need to love in both word and deed. Saying it isn't enough.

If we reflect for a moment on the love shown to us by the events that mark three special days --- Christmas, Good Friday and Easter --- it is not too difficult to recognize that we have a long way to go to match the perfect love of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. May Valentine's Day direct us in paths that honor God with our love for Him and others.

Pastor John



PASTOR: Rev. John B. Shaffer

Pastor John is available **any time** and can be reached at the numbers below, however, he does have weekly office hours. Just to be sure he isn't visiting an area hospital or someone at their home, you may wish to call in advance.

Monday & Wednesday – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday – 9:30am – 12:30pm

Church: 215-536-7510 * Home: 215-538-2032 * Cell: 610-413-1997

Celebrating Birthdays in February ...

- February 2 – Desiree' Detweiler / Matthew Patton
- February 3 – Logan Evans / Pauline Lerch
- February 4 – Jeanette Renner / Larry Renninger / Kevin Steich
- February 8 – Eric Dieterly / Sylvia Schoellkopf
- February 10 – Steve Hunter
- February 11 – Gloria Evans
- February 12 – Lisa Dutterer
- February 14 – Beth Shaffer
- February 15 – Courtney Adams / Dennis Rupert
- February 18 – Arlene Shubert
- February 19 – Carroll Donnelly
- February 20 – Morgan Rose Allen
- February 24 – Kelly Stever
- February 28 – Betsy Steen Madison



Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary ...

FEBRUARY 15 – JIM & BLANCHE PEIFFER – 63 YEARS!
GERALD AND JOAN HANGEY – 44 YEARS!

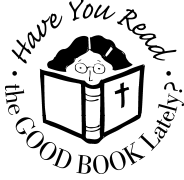
“A DIFFERENT WAY TO VIEW THE DAY”

In the race to get things done we struggle to stay afloat;
 Each task is an overwhelming obstacle, each sound, a discordant note.
 Our peace and joy get misplaced; we tend to neglect our Friend.
 Look up and see! God's sun shines still; we're headed to life without end.
 Ask the Lord for wisdom; let Him set the priority.
 Each day can be less stressful when we let Him set us free.

By: Elaine Hardt (Submitted by: Linda Fawcett)

“Happy the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding!” Proverbs 3:1

Christian Education



THERE ARE THREE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES to choose from:
“The Fruit of the Spirit”, led by Juli. Young adult class led by Keith. Senior Adult Class led by Helen. They have chosen a new course of study, **“OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS”**.

“Have you seen the commercial, “I’m a Character?” Truth be told, we are ALL characters. Join us as we study 12 “Characters” from the Old Testament. We will observe how our God uses common, faithful people to make history. As we study these “characters” we will find clues that God is using us today to fulfill history. Come – JOIN US – there’s room at the table – you are always WELCOME. See you in the church Library at 9:00am Sunday.”

A LOVING PRE-NURSERY (UNDER 3 YEARS) LED BY ERIC DIETERLY & TRACEY SHEARER

NURSERY CLASS (AGES 3 & 4) LED BY CONNIE HOLSINGER

BEGINNERS CLASS (KDG & GR 1) LED BY TINA DIETERLY & JUDY MENSZAK

LITTLE GLEANERS (GR 2 & 3) LED BY SANDY SHEARER & SUSAN SHAFFER

SUNBEAM CLASS (GR 4 – 6) LED BY AUDREY HOWARD & PAT MURPHY

JUNIOR HIGH (GR 7 – 8) LED BY AMANDA & JEFF VANDEGRIFT

“The **Junior High Sunday School class** has been very steady in attendance in the new year! They have been working hard at learning *The Lord’s Prayer*. Our students are getting more confident with the prayer each week. Their current unit is about “Knowing Jesus as God’s Son” and we have been studying about Jesus’ miracles and how each one came with a message from God. Keep up the great attendance guys!” -

From Teachers: Amanda and Jeff

SENIOR HIGH (GR 9 – 12) – LED BY BRIAN & HOLLY KELLY & LISA & AARON SASSAMAN

“PRAYER” – THE THEME FOR OUR ADULT STUDIES

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY 11:00am in the Chapel.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:45pm – 8:00pm.

During the final 15 to 20 minutes, joys and concerns are lifted in prayer. Both Bible Studies are using the DVD Study based upon the work of Philip Yancey, **“PRAYER: Does it make any difference?”** We hope to see you at one or both!



JUST ANOTHER REMINDER: TO MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY: DO YOU HAVE A NEED OR CONCERN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE

US TO LIFT UP IN PRAYER? You can call the church office or drop us a note mentioning your prayer concern or joy. If you feel more comfortable, include only your first name. Sometimes a burden is made lighter just knowing that you are being lifted in prayer. We will gladly include your need or concern with our own on Wednesday evening during our time of prayer and on Sunday morning. We also have a Prayer Chain, and we would be glad to place your prayer request on that. Our prayer chain has been updated for 2010 and 30 households are involved. It is a great comfort and strength to know that we have a caring God who loves us and responds to the prayers of His people.

“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:12

WHEN DO WE NEED REVIVAL? From the list of 50 Evidences of the Need For a Fresh Visitation of the Spirit in Revival, shared during the Renewal Services this past fall, we thought it would be a helpful reminder to list them in issues of The Beacon. We listed five in November; here are five more:

- 1) When we have little or no desire for prayer; 2) When we would rather make money than give money;
- 3) When we put people into leadership positions in our churches who do not meet scriptural qualifications;
- 4) When our Christianity is joyless and passionless; 5) When we know truth in our heads that we are not practicing in our lives.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

AUDREY AND OUR ENTIRE CONGREGATION MOURNED the loss of Jack Adams the end of January. Jack struggled with health issues for over five years. Through his suffering and pain, he remained faithful to the God who loved him and us, and touched the lives of so many people he came in contact with during his illness. Audrey was a strength always by his side. Our prayers are with Audrey, Scott, Gary and their entire family.

TRACEY SHEARER and her family suffered the loss of Tracey’s father Bill, following a long illness. Our prayers are with the entire family.

KRIS HOOT mourned the passing of his grandmother. Our prayers are with Kris, Brenda, and the family.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” Psalm 116:15

THE 2010 DIRECTORY was completed by Judy Moyer, and a lot of thanks to her for picking up on the work that Jack had started. When Jack wasn’t able to complete the project due to health issues and hospitalizations, Judy pitched in and completed it for him. He had most of it finished – and we know he loved this project and did a terrific job. A load of thanks to Judy and those who came to the church to help put it together. **NOTE:** As you use the 2010 Directory, if you notice any corrections, please let Judy Moyer know – give her a call or place a note in her mailbox.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE ...Beginning February 1, the newly updated Prayer Chain will be used. A special word of thanks to ALL who signed up to be a part of this very important ministry of our church. A big thanks to Joyce who does a wonderful job passing on the prayer requests as she receives them. Remember, if you have a prayer concern, please give her a call.

WE RECEIVED THIS LOVELY NOTE from Ken Dieterly. Ken was in the hospital for several weeks. We’re glad he’s doing better and able to join us for church ... *“First Church of the Brethren – A sincere thanks to the congregation of First Brethren in remembering me with prayers, flowers, cards, visits and phone calls during my recent illness. A special thank you to Pastor Shaffer for his visits to the hospital.*

Gratefully, Ken Dieterly.”

“BLESSINGS MANIFOLD”

By: Mildred Sires Jacobs

The frozen beauty of God’s world
With trees bowed down by snow,
Reveals in all its pristine charm
The peace we long to know.

And knowledge that the spring will come
To rescue earth from cold,
Gives faith that His eternal love
Brings blessings manifold.



“Bible verses are stars that light our path and help keep us on course.”



MEMORY SCRIPTURE FOR FEBRUARY ... Each month our congregation has been challenged to memorize a Scripture passage. The passage for February is:

“But now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
I Corinthians 13:13

*The beauty of a Valentine
is not with its words in rhyme.
The loveliest, most important part
is not the fancy, flowery art,
but the reaching out from*

to
HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY



Book Review



“THE LAST VALENTINE”

By: James Michael Pratt ... The story of Neil and Caroline Thomas with a 50 year love. Neil is sent off to fight in World War II while Caroline waits for his return. Their story is of true love that lasts a life time and the belief that GOD is with you at all times. The miracle of His last valentine reaching Caroline is so moving. Get the box of tissues out when you pick up this book.



Shared By: Sandy Shearer

PS: Sandy faithfully reads a book and writes a review for The Beacon each month. If you take Sandy’s suggestion and read the book, let her know. She would love to hear if you enjoyed the book as much as she did! Thanks Sandy!

YOU’RE INVITED TO FAMILY GAME NIGHT



sponsored by the Witness Commission! Come out Saturday, February 27th at 6:00pm to enjoy a night of fun and fellowship. The Commission will be providing beverages, desserts, plates and utensils. We ask that you bring a covered dish to pass and your family’s (or your) favorite board game! Last year’s Game Night was a huge hit with games of Spoons, Dominoes, and Scrabble! Hope to see you there!

PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH AND YOUTH ADVISORS AS THEY TRAVEL TO SPRUCE LAKE IN THE POCONOS FOR THEIR ANNUAL YOUTH RETREAT - 2/19 – 2/22

ENVISIONING MEETING PART II

**LED BY: DON BRYANT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
9:00AM**

**INPUT FROM FOLKS OF ALL AGES IS NEEDED!
COME A LITTLE EARLY FOR COFFEE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS!**

THE SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is having an Italian Dinner on Saturday, February 20 at 12 noon in the chapel.

Following the meal and time of fellowship, plan to stay for the movie, “Marley and Me”. RSVP to Donna.

ANOTHER “MOOOOVIE”

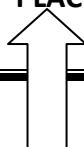
The Women’s Fellowship is sponsoring a Movie Matinee on Saturday, February 27 at 2:00pm. There will be light snacks and child care will be provided. What movie are they showing you ask, or want to RSVP? See Juli.





LOOKING INTO MARCH ... District Women’s Spring Fellowship, Saturday, March 6, from 8:45am – 2:30pm, at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. The speaker will be LuAnn Wise, a wife and mother, LuAnn is a member of the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Church of the Brethren where she is active in children’s ministry. A buffet luncheon will be provided at a cost of \$5 per person. Please see Juli, President of Women’s Fellowship for more information.

LOOKING INTO APRIL: BE WATCHING FOR MORE INFORMATION about a church and community workshop on preparing a will. Kathryn G. Carlson, Esquire, a co-worker of Juli’s, has agreed to come and share about this very important and timely topic. The date and time will be announced in the near future. (Sponsored by Women’s Fellowship.)

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH BEACON IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21. PLEASE PLACE THEM IN PASTOR JOHN’S MAILBOX OR SEND IT VIA EMAIL.



**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

February 1	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm
February 2	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 3	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am *PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm / Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
February 4	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 5	Friday	
February 6	Saturday	Women’s Bible Study - 9:30am
February 7	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am * Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor– 1:30pm / Belle Haven - 2:15pm
February 8	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Women’s Fellowship Meeting – 7:00pm @ Juli’s
February 9	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 10	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am *PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm / Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
February 11	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm *
February 12	Friday	
February 13	Saturday	Women’s Bible Study – 9:30am
February 14	Sunday	 Happy Valentine’s Day! Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am 
February 15	Monday	HAPPY PRESIDENT’S DAY! Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Commission Meetings – 7:00pm
February 16	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 17	Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS – SIGN-UP FOR THE PRAYER VIGIL – 7:00AM – 7:00PM * Morning Bible Study – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm / Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
February 18	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * Sunshine Stitchers – 7:00pm
February 19	Friday	YOUTH RETREAT AT SPRUCE LAKE – FRIDAY, 2/19 – MONDAY, 2/22
February 20	Saturday	Men’s Prayer Breakfast at John’s Plain & Fancy – 9:00am * Women’s Bible Study - 9:30am * Senior Adult Sunday School Class lunch and movie matinee – 12:00 noon
February 21	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am
February 22	Monday	YOUTH RETURN FROM SPRUCE LAKE RETREAT * Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Church Board Meeting – 7:00pm
February 23	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 24	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am *PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm / Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
February 25	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
February 26	Friday	Salisbury Behavioral Health Meetings – 9:00am – 3:00pm
February 27	Saturday	Women’s Bible Study – 9:30am * MOVIE MATINEE: Women’s Movie Matinee at 2:00pm – Sponsored by the Women’s Fellowship (Child care provided). ALL women and children are invited. Light refreshments will be served * Family Night Covered Dish & Games – 6:00pm – sponsored by the Witness Commission
A Busy Day!		
February 28	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am



“SNOWFLAKE ANGELS”

Snowflakes are a gift from God that float on angels’ wings,
Delighting all who see them with the beauty that they bring.
They glow with crystal brilliance that comes from God alone,
Then join to make a snowman with a newness all its own.
And like each perfect snowflake, we, too were made to be
A wonderful example of God’s creativity.
So when you see a snowflake, all pure and glistening white,
May you also be reminded you are precious in God’s sight.

“THE QUIET PLACE”

I like to find a quiet place, alone, where God and I can talk.
It may be in the church’s pew, or strolling down a shady walk.
But often times it’s right at home, amidst the toys, the dirt, the yells.
I shut my mind to all these things and find just where His presence dwells.
He fades them out, the problems, hurts, and cares. He gives me peace; He wipes away my tears.
He grants me courage my day’s work to face, When I meet God within this quiet place.



BEATITUDES FOR MARRIED COUPLES – BLESSED are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and courteous long after the wedding bells have ceased ringing. **BLESSED** are they who have a sense of humor and laugh together, for this will be a handy shock absorber in everyday problems. **BLESSED** are the married couples who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages. **BLESSED** are they who love their mates more than any other person, who joyfully remain faithful to one another, and continue to build for their family. **BLESSED** are they who attain parenthood, for children are a heritage of the Lord. **BLESSED** are they who remember to thank God for their food and who take time daily to read the Bible and pray. **BLESSED** are those mates who never speak loudly or disrespectfully to one another and who make their home a place “where seldom is heard a discouraging word.” **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who regularly worship in their church and who work together for the advancement of Christ’s kingdom. **BLESSED** are they who arrive at a satisfactory mature understanding concerning financial matters. **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ and who practice the teachings of Christ in the home.

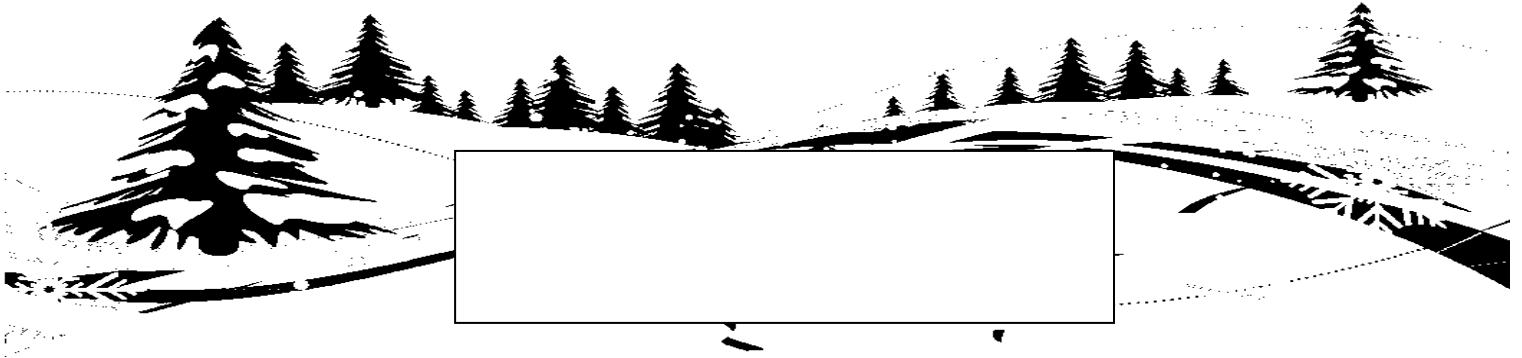
DO YOU REMEMBER THE SHOW “Heart to Heart”? (If you answer yes you’ll be dating yourself!!)

It was a broadcast for homemakers that brought a practical Christian approach to marriage, child-training and family living. In her informal “heart to heart” manner, Ella May Miller, (who wrote both of the writings above) speaker on “Heart to Heart”, and mother of three sons and one daughter, came to grips with those daily perplexing problems every homemaker faces. “Heart to Heart” was produced both as a weekly 15-minute broadcast and a daily 5-minute program in the early 1960’s. This writings were from her published booklet, “Poetry Album”.

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**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN
THE QUAKERTOWN AREA & BEYOND**

LENT BEGINS – ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17



SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – 11:00 AM & BIBLE STUDY
AND TIME OF PRAYER - 6:45 PM**

**PIONEER CLUBS FOR CHILDREN KINDERGARTEN – JUNIOR HIGH
6:45 PM – 8:00 PM**