

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

January 2010

?#&@&*RESOLUTIONS?!&#&%

I can't let January pass us by without saying something about resolutions for the new year. But, hopefully, I'll put a slightly different spin on it thanks to the year-end devotional from Dr. David Jeremiah and a TV interview with a Catholic priest at about that same time. Most of the time our resolutions are focused on ourselves ... I want to get a better job, I want to lose weight (that one never worked for me!), I want to buy a new car, I want, I want, I want...

Dr. Jeremiah suggests that instead of focusing on what is wrong with yourself (too fat, old car, don't make enough money, etc.), he suggested a focus on God. Our resolution should be one that reflects the Glory of the Lord by reflecting the image of Christ. The Catholic priest spoke in a similar manner, suggesting that we need to focus on others and our relationships, again, rather than ourselves.

Allow me to share just a few possibilities, any of which will truly make a difference in your life and in the life of others. Note: these are not resolutions that had to be in place by December 31, 2009, but rather challenges that can be implemented any time and any day. One caution, however, the longer you postpone your action, the longer you will be living without the highest measure of the Joy of the Lord.

--**Double the time you devote to daily Bible reading**, reading for understanding and application, not for the number of pages. If you currently do not read your Bible, start with 15 minutes per day.

--**Devote more time to prayer**. Don't begin with the things that you want (or need) but begin with praises and petitions for others. Make prayer a regular part of every day, not just when all else fails.

--**Help someone in need, at least once a week**. It could be volunteer work for an organization whose objective is to help meet the needs of others. It could be reaching out to those in need in our churches or communities.

--**Make positive conversation and correspondence with family members** - beyond the immediate family - a priority.

--**Have at least one sit-down meal with your immediate family, daily**.

--**Give more of your time, talent and treasure to the Church and Christ-centered ministries**. If you haven't yet reached the Biblical tithe (10%), work your way towards that goal. If you have "already arrived", remember, you cannot out-give the Lord.

--**Make it a goal to tell others about Jesus**. It shouldn't be an "in your face" confrontation, but rather, as Peter describes, an answer to others for the reason for the hope within you. And we are to do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15-16). Your lifestyle and your willingness to listen to, care for, and share the love of Jesus with others is a powerful witness.

Let's make 2010 the best year yet as we grow in our faith by reaching out to others!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! *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 – 12:30pm – 3:30pm

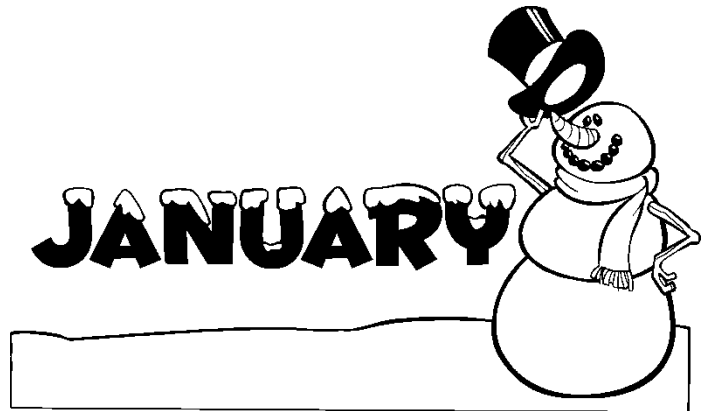
Tuesday & Thursday – 9:30am – 12:30pm

Church: 215-536-7510 * Home: 215-538-2032

Cell: 610-413-1997

**JANUARY 3 – MARGARET RUPERT
CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGARET
AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY!**

- January 1 – Scott Adams
- January 2 – Ann Dieterly
- January 3 – James Grow / Margaret Rupert
- January 7 – Aaron Sassaman
- January 8 – Donna Clymber / Eric Klein
- January 10 – Cynthia Allen / Melanie Graham
- January 12 – Jacqueline Murphy
- January 14 – Paul Jacoby
- January 15 – Wendell Waddell
- January 17 – Luke Brandt
- January 18 – Stephanie Hunter
- January 21 – Bill Holsinger
- January 22 – Cary Bender
- January 23 – Mason Breiner
- January 24 – Kelly Stever
- January 26 – Matthew Roth
- January 27 – Joanne Scott
- January 28 – Rosario Pistone (son)
- January 30 – Tara Breiner
- January 30 – Don Bryant



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**

January 19 –
Harry & Sylvia
Schoellkopf

GRANDPARENTS ... My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?" (From: Audrey Howard)

*I am my neighbor's Bible
He reads me when we meet,
Today he reads me in the house,
Tomorrow in the street.*



*He may be relative or friend,
Or slight acquaintance be,
He may not even know my name,
Yet he is reading me."*

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

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.

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

“PRAYER” – THE THEME FOR OUR ADULT STUDIES

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

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

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

TEN WAYS TO PRAY ~ PRAY DAILY FOR

A deeper understanding of my value and worth before God	Eph. 1:3-4; Psalm 139:1-18
Caring Christian friendships and involvement in Christian community	Heb. 10:25; Prov. 27:8-10, 17
Opportunities to share Christ through words and actions	Matt. 25:34-40; 28:18-20
Strength to stand firm in the face of temptation	I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 6:13
Greater understanding of what it means to be loved by God and to love others	Phil. 1:9-11; Rom. 8:38-39
Integrity and honesty	Prov. 12:22; Psalm 101:2b-3
Humility to admit my sins and ask for forgiveness	Prov. 28:13; Acts 3:19
Wisdom in my daily life and actions	James 1:5; Psalm 24:4-5
A sense of God’s calling and purpose in my life	Eph. 4:1-3; Eph. 1:11-12
Gratitude in all things	Col. 3:15-17; I Thes. 5:18

TO MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS:



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. 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. We have 36 people involved with this prayer ministry. 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.

“Father, look deep yet deeper in my heart, and there, beyond what I know, read Thou my prayer.”

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

APRIL ODOR SHARED THIS EMAIL from Chaplain (LTC) David Sorensen, Dover Army Family Support Center Chaplain: **THANK YOU SUNSHINE STITCHERS:** *“Many thanks to Ann Dieterly, Mary Afferbach, at First Church of the Brethren, Quakertown, Pa., and any others who assisted in providing the 24 prayer shawls that arrived yesterday for distribution to families coming to Dover Air Force Base to witness the Dignified Transfer of loved ones whose remains are being returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. They are beautiful! I will be proud to offer them to families as a token of your prayerful compassion in support of these grieving wives, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and aunts. With deep appreciation, Chaplain David Sorensen”*

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry, through the leadership of April and Bill, and the busy fingers of many members and friends of our church, has extended its loving arm to all parts of the country. These shawls have touched lives in amazing ways. This note from Chaplain David Sorensen is just one example of appreciation for this ministry.

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, several of our families suffered the loss of family members. Our prayers are with **THE GRAHAM FAMILY** as they mourn the sudden and tragic loss of Karen-daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother ... **THE GROW FAMILY** as they mourn the loss of Arlene. Arlene was a resident of Cedarbrook Nursing Home and an advocate for peace ... **THE FAWCETT FAMILY** mourned the loss of Bob’s mother Bertha. Bob’s father continues to be a resident at Life Quest Nursing Center. **THE SASSAMAN FAMILY** is mourning the loss of a young man in their family.

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



THE ROTH FAMILY WELCOMED

Mason Matthew to their family on November 30. Along with Matt and Jenn, sisters Allison and Meagan were excited too!

CONGRATULATIONS to Micah and Justine on the birth of their baby daughter, Avery Ella, born on December 29.

BEST WISHES to Kari Dieterly and Seth Sassaman as they announced their engagement.



Kari is living and working in North Carolina and Seth is serving in the military. **BEST WISHES** to Lisa Shaffer and Larry Gallagher who were engaged over the Christmas holiday. Lisa is a third year medical student and Larry is a carpenter. Congratulations to all the families.



“MOVING BEYOND”

As we move once more through the Christmas season, may you allow yourself to move beyond the routine to discover an understanding of what God seeks to communicate through the celebration of His Son’s birth ...

Move beyond the hustle and bustle of busy days, to moments of quiet communion with the Lord of all life, to discovery of your roots;

Move beyond the cookies, cakes, and dinners with family and friends, to recognition of our place in the family of God and a concern for needy brothers and sisters, to hear a call to share;

Move beyond the giving and receiving of gifts, to thank God for His Gift of a Son, to praise generosity unlimited;

Move beyond the times of worship with carols and candlelight, to openness to the birth of Christ within, to experience new life in you

Submitted by: Sharon Renninger

IN OUR SEPTEMBER BEACON, we started something new – **A BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE MONTH**. This is just a reminder about this challenge. Below are the Bible verses from the past four months, and a new one to work on for January.

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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

SEPTEMBER – “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3

OCTOBER – “My soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in His salvation.” Psalm 35:9

NOVEMBER – “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

I Thessalonians 5:18

DECEMBER - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

NEW BIBLE MEMORY VERSE - JANUARY

“... a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on the land, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.” Deuteronomy 11:12

“GOD SENT US A SAVIOR”

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Savior.

Book Review

START 2010 OFF BY READING A NEW BOOK SERIES

The Cape Light Series by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer will take you to the village of Cape Light where you will meet a cast of characters whose lives you’ll follow and become involved in. The stories will show how faith, love, and hope matter in day to day lives. There’s a total of ten books in the series and they will keep your interest throughout 2010.



By: Sandy Shearer

JUST A REMINDER – WE ARE CREATING A “MEMORY BOOK” from our 100th

Anniversary and Renewal Services. If you have a memory you would like included – maybe something that touched your life during the Christmas Season – the Advent Services and Christmas Eve Service / the Children’s Program, led by Amanda - just write it down and place it in Donna’s mailbox. -Music and Worship Comm.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LED BY AUDREY HOWARD



AND PAT MURPHY has been helping in a special way during the Worship Service. The children are being “trained” to travel with the microphone during the time in the service when individuals want to lift prayer joys and concerns. Pat guides the children and directs them to those who want to share. What a super idea! Thanks to Audrey, Pat, and the children!

CHUCKLES FROM CHILDREN – The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel microphone, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several more times moving back and forth, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, “If he gets loose, will he hurt us?!”





“TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS TREE”

Oh, to trim a Christmas tree, is such a pleasant chore
 On December twenty-fourth, or a day or so before!
 But when New Year’s Day is past, and carols cease to ring,
 The disrobing of the tree is quite another thing.
 Still we pack each shining bit of loveliness away,
 All marked and tied securely to use some future day.
 And suddenly our hearts grow warm, the task not half so drab,
 As we pause to ponder o’er the joyous times we’ve had;
 The beauty that the season brought, the happiness we shared,
 The cheery greetings warm and true, that showed how many cared.
 The rich reward in reaching out to help a brother’s need.
 The voices singing of His birth, Who brought us peace indeed.
 The ones we love around the hearth, the Christ Child very near;
 Oh, blessed, priceless memories, to carry through the year!

By: Alice Hansche Mortenson

From: Linda Fawcett

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OUR SANCTUARY WAS BEAUTIFUL this Christmas Season. The tree, the garland adorning the altar area, windows, and doors, the candles on the windowsills - it looked like a Christmas Card. The Live Nativity was a beautiful re-enactment of that Blessed Christmas Day. Our children and youth (and several adults) braved the cold, blustery weather to stand at the stable. For those who braved the weather, it was truly a blessed sight to see. **THANK YOU TO ALL** who helped make Christmas a beautiful time in our church and community. *“Praise God From Whom all blessings flow.”*

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the Glory of God through us.”

II Corinthians 1:20

From: Ann Dieterly



There shall be a performance of those things

That loving heart hath waited long to see;
 Those words shall be fulfilled to which she clings,
 Because her God hath promised faithfully;
 And, knowing Him, she ne’er can doubt His Word;
 “He speaks and it is done.” The Mighty Lord!

There shall be a performance of those things,

O burdened heart, rest ever in His care;
 In quietness beneath His shadowing wings
 Await the answer to thy longing prayer.

When thou hast “cast thy care,” the heart then sings,

There shall be a performance of those things.

There shall be a performance of those things,

O tired heart, believe and wait and pray;

At eventide the peaceful vesper rings,
 Though cloud, rain and storm have filled the day.
 Faith pierces through the mist of doubt that bars
 The coming night sometimes, and finds the stars.

There shall be a performance of those things,

O trusting heart, the Lord to thee hath told;
 Let Faith and Hope arise, and plume their wings,
 And soar towards the sunrise clouds of gold;
 The portals of the rosy dawn swing wide,
 Revealing joys the darkening night did hide.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1	Friday	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
January 2	Saturday	
January 3	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship and Bread and Cup Communion– 10:00am * Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor– 1:30pm / Belle Haven - 2:15pm
January 4	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm
January 5	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 6	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am
January 7	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 8	Friday	
January 9	Saturday	11:00 am - Memorial Service for Bertha Fawcett
January 10	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am Un-decorate the Sanctuary & Pizza Party – Right after the Worship Service Nursing Home Service: Life Quest – 2:00pm Youth Meeting and Activity – 6:30pm
January 11	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Women’s Fellowship Meeting – 7:00pm
January 12	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 13	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
January 14	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 15	Friday	Salisbury Behavioral Health Meetings – 9:00am – 3:00pm
January 16	Saturday	Men’s Prayer Breakfast at John’s Plain & Fancy – 9:00am Women’s Bible Study - 9:30am
January 17	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am Nursing Home Service: Phoebe/Richlandtown – 2:30 pm
January 18	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Commission Meetings
January 19	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm Sunshine Stitchers – 7:00pm
January 20	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
January 21	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 22	Friday	
January 23	Saturday	Women’s Bible Study – 9:30am
January 24	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am
January 25	Monday	Girl Scout Troop– 6:30pm * Church Board Meeting – 7:00pm
January 26	Tuesday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 27	Wednesday	Morning Bible Study – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS – 6:45pm – 8:00pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer – 6:45pm – 8:00pm
January 28	Thursday	Heaven’s Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
January 29	Friday	
January 30	Saturday	Woman’s Bible Study – 9:30 am
January 31	Sunday	Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) Worship – 10:00am

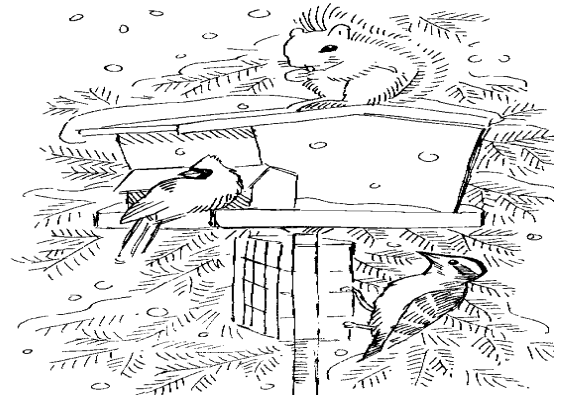
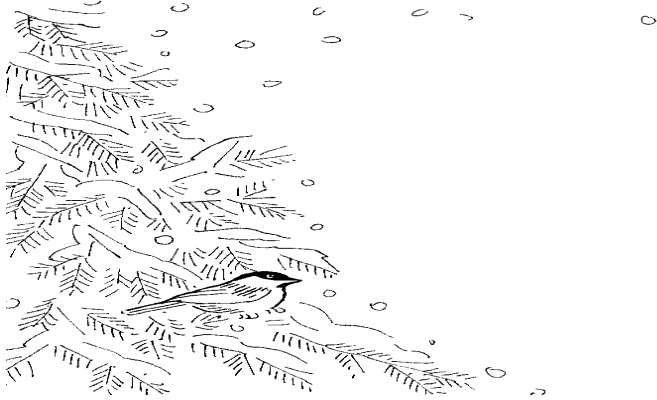
**Share Your
Faith**

**INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN
YOU FOR WORSHIP ON
A SUNDAY IN JANUARY.**



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Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – 11:00 AM & 6:45 PM

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