

May 2009

THE AFTER EASTER CELEBRATION

After virtually any major holiday, Christian or secular, there is generally a real “let-down”. There is just something about the holidays that bring excitement and enthusiasm into the middle of our lives - at least for the moment. But within days, if not hours, all the “hype”, preparations, and celebrations are over and our families and friends return to “normal”, whatever that may be! We wonder what is next. But that is not the way it needs to be, particularly after Easter.

We all feel a little down in the dumps now and again, but the thought of *Easter Glory* is more than enough to get us back on track. The Apostle Paul bet (whoops!) his entire life on *Resurrection Glory*, and we can too! While not well versed in all the religions of the world, I can say with a great deal of certainty, that Christianity is unique in several ways:

- God created the heavens and the earth and all therein. Science cannot prove otherwise.
- We worship a living and loving Lord. He is with us as we speak and all that Jesus said and did exemplified that love.
- We worship a God (both divine and human) who humbled Himself to join us here on earth and face the challenges that we face. He suffered but was perfect.
- We worship the Christ who said that “He and the Father are one” and no one believed Him. Easter proved His point.
- We worship a Lord who said that He would give His life for us and then be raised from the dead on the third day. He did and He was.
- We worship a God that says that loving God and loving others are the two most important commandments. His life exemplified those commandments.
- Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with us always. He did.
- By the grace of God we are saved. All we have to do is believe.

Think about the other religions of the world. Can they make the above claims? I think not! So the next time you feel a little blue, remember that we worship a God *who was, who is, and will always be*...and we can spend an eternity with Him who loves us unconditionally! Celebrate Easter now and forever.

May God Bless you and your family.

Pastor John

*“Mercy there was great and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.”*



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



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to Eric Dieterly and Brittany Storms who announced their engagement. A 2010 wedding is planned ... We had a beautiful service Easter Sunday and it was a joy to welcome the visitors who joined us. We were glad to have Nancy Doehl's son Robert, visiting from Alaska, and Cheryl Faul's father, who is in the United States visiting from Australia. It was a glorious celebration of Christ's Resurrection. The sanctuary was lovely with the display of Easter flowers and the music shared by those gifted was very much appreciated ... Please keep Gloria Evans in prayer as she continues to rest and heal ... Pray for Betsy Madison who had surgery the week after Easter and continues to recover. Please remember Jim as well ... A special thanks to Travis Shearer who is learning to run the equipment in the sound room. He's doing a great job too! ... Pastor John and Susan spent several days in Johnstown with family while attending his Aunt Ethel's funeral. Following the funeral, then spent several days traveling in "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia" and the blessing of that trip was that Cynthia, Morgan, and Baby John joined them – what fun (what energy they have!!). Our Prayer Chain has been busy and we're so grateful to Joyce Klein for her leadership in getting the prayer requests through. Thank you also to those who continue the chain once they get the message. God blesses a praying church and we're grateful to all who participate – and pray!

*"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers." III John 1:2*

→ **DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO INCLUDE IN THE "CHURCH FAMILY NEWS"** section of The Beacon? Perhaps news about your children and their achievements in school and/or sports? We're a FAMILY and family enjoys sharing in the joys and concerns of its members. Just place a note in Pastor John's mailbox or send an email.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 1 – Eric Schoellkopf
- May 2 – Stephanie Grow, Tim Shearer
- May 5 – Brenda Hoot
- May 12 – Luann Zitta Long, Evelyn Pfeiffer
- May 13 – Diane Wert
- May 14 – Abigail Patton
- May 16 – John R. Allen
- May 17 – Jack Adams, Audrey Howard
- May 18 – Travis Shearer
- May 21 – Kale Donnelly, James Shaffer, Jim Yorgey
- May 23 – Elaine Holsinger, Jacob Lee Shubert
- May 29 – Nancy Doehl

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 15 – Kris & Brenda Hoot
- May 15 – David & Betty George
- May 16 – Tim & Tracey Shearer
- May 23 – David & Susan Pritts



*"He who finds a wife finds a good thing,
and obtains favor from the Lord." Proverbs 18:22*

Christian Education

THREE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ... **“Fruit of the Spirit”** Bible Study, led by Juli Thomas, meets in Pastor John’s office. They’re just beginning the study of **“PATIENCE”**. Who can’t use a little more of that!! Join them. The Young Adult Class is studying **“Liquid”** a DVD Bible Study. If you haven’t visited this class yet – it’s not too late to catch up on this study. This class of young adults (post senior high to about 35 years of age) would give you a warm welcome! The class meets in the Chapel and the study leader is Keith Dieterly. **“Forgiveness – Making Peace With the Past”**, the senior adults class, continues to grow and the participants are so enthusiastic about the study. Stop in the Library at 9:00am and enjoy the study and fellowship. This class is led by Helen Grey.



CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

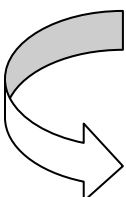
A LOVING PRE-NURSERY (UNDER 3 YEARS) IS LED BY JOAN HANGEY
 CONNIE HOLSINGER TEACHES THE NURSERY CLASS (AGES 3 & 4)
 JUDY MENSZAK & TINA DIETERLY LEAD THE BEGINNERS CLASS (KDG & GRADE 1)
LITTLE GLEANERS (GRADES 2 & 3) IS LED BY SANDY SHEARER & SUSAN SHAFFER
SUNBEAM CLASS (GRADES 4 – 6) IS LED BY JEFF & WENDY VANDEGRIFT
JUNIOR HIGH CLASS (GRADES 7 – 8) –
 LEADERSHIP IS SHARED BY AMANDA VANDEGRIFT & WENDELL WADDELL
 THE SENIOR HIGH CLASS (GRADES 9 – 12) –
 LEADERSHIP IS SHARED BY LISA & AARON SASSAMAN & BRIAN & HOLLY KELLY.

PIONEER CLUBS meets on Wednesday evening from 6:45pm – 8:00pm. This program is winding down – the final class will be Wednesday, May 27th. We’ll miss the children A LOT! It’s not too late to come though - There are classes for children kindergarten through senior high. The

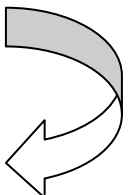


enthusiasm and excitement of the children and youth as they come to learn more about Jesus and how He can work in their lives, has continued throughout the entire year. For that we give thanks to our Lord – and hugs to the class leaders too! The children and youth are still working on their pine wood cars, designing and decorating them and “revving” them up for the big race to be held in May. Parents are invited to come to see who has designed the “fastest” car! A special thanks to Keith Donnelly and Dale Stutzman for their help in cutting the cars out following the design created by the “kids”. The Pioneer Club Picnic will be held on **Wednesday, May 6**. On Sunday, **May 10**, the children and youth will share some of what they’ve learned this past year during the morning Worship Service. The program will **not** be held over the summer months, but will continue in the fall. Be watching for that start date! A very special thank you to the parents/guardians who made sure the children were in class each and every week. We were thrilled to have several from our community attend as well.

TWO MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES FOR ADULTS meet on Wednesday. The first one meets at 11:00am: **“If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat”** This study started several weeks ago - but it’s not too late to join us. With the use of video and lesson books, this 6-session journey focuses on learning to trust God. The Bible records many instances when God asked people to walk with Him. Won’t you join us for the walk on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am? Study guides are available – see Pastor John. (NOTE: A special thank you to Ann and Harold, who treat us to donuts every Wednesday morning!) On Wednesday evening beginning at 6:45pm the adults gather for a time of prayer, followed by Bible Study - continuing the study of the Book of Proverbs.



THE CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING will be held Sunday, May 3 following the Worship Service. EVERYONE IS INVITED to attend and participate. Your voice is important.



SPRINGTIME PRAYER

We thank You, God, for spring's return,
For joy that sweet May brings,
For miracles occurring now
In all earth's growing things.
For length'ning days, for sunshine's warmth
Our grateful hearts will sing
Because once more You gave to us
Another wondrous spring.
By: Carice Williams



CROSSROADS

PREGNANCY CENTER can use your help! They are currently holding their "Change for Life" Campaign. You can help by taking a baby bottle from the table in the hallway and filling it with your loose change, dollar bills, or If you prefer, a check made out to the Center. Please return the bottles on Sunday, May 17. Many area churches have participated in this campaign, and it has become one of their largest fundraisers. Your donations will go a long way to help this most worthy organization. Thanks in advance for your help.



- Witness Commission

member of the commission. If you would like to borrow one of the CDs, there is a sign-out sheet on the bulletin board. You may keep it as long as you like (we make two each week), or you may copy it if you wish.

- Judy Moyer, Music & Worship Commission

LOOKING AHEAD: A BUS TRIP



to the Inner Harbor and Aquarium in Baltimore is being planned by the Women's Fellowship on Saturday, August 29th. There are 25 seats available and the cost is \$67. A \$5 deposit is required to hold your seat. Look for the sign-up sheet or see Juli Thomas.



"A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination. He looked at the old pages carefully as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mommy, look what I have found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered: 'It's Adam's clothes!!'"

- From: Dr. Jeremiah / Medicine For the Soul



HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY TO FIRST CHURCH!!!

It has been confirmed! This fall is, indeed, our 100th Anniversary. We are

collecting OLD photographs of the church and church family, old bulletins, newsletters, directories - anything that you think might be interesting. Please put your contributions in an envelope with your name on it; we will make a copy and give yours right back. We are planning on celebrating the entire month of October with a grand finale around the Spiritual Renewal Services, October 25 - 27, led by Rev. Earl Ziegler. It's going to be a grand time for looking back, looking forward, and being renewed.

Speaking about looking forward,



First Church is taking one more step into the 21st century. We have started to record our worship services on CDs - rather than cassette tapes. If there is a service that you would like saved onto a cassette, we can still do that - just ask one of the ushers, sound room guys, or any

JUNE 3rd IS SENIOR ADULT DAY AT CAMP SWATARA

- Do you know the story of the Seagoing Cowboys? Peggy Reiff Miller has done research for the past several years and has a wonderful program, and great pictures, to share about these heroes. Peggy will be sharing their story at Camp Swatara on June 3rd. Also making a presentation will be Aaron and Becky Johnston who just returned from 2 years in Guatemala working with the Church of the Brethren Global Mission Partnership and BVS. There will also be a van tour of the Camp led by Marlin Houff, Camp Administrator. The activities begin at 9:30am and end at 2:30pm. The cost for this event is only \$10, which can be paid when you arrive. Registrations are due by May 30th. Invite several of your friends that sit in your pew (if they're Senior Adults) and plan to car pool. The flyer is posted on the bulletin board outside the Pastor's office. PS: Did you know we have a Seagoing Cowboy in our congregation? Do you know who it might be? Here's a hint: His first name is Winfield!!

MOTHERS ... Somebody said it takes about 6 weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby ... somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, normal is history. Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct ... somebody never took a 3 year old shopping. Somebody said being a mother is boring ... somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit. Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out good" ... somebody thinks a child comes with directions and a guarantee. Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices ... somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window. Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother ... somebody never helped a 4th grader with his math. Somebody said you can't love the 5th child as much as you love the 1st ... somebody doesn't have five children. Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books ... somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose or in his ears. Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery ... somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the 1st day of kindergarten – or on a plane headed for military "boot camp". Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back ... somebody never organized 7 giggling Brownies to sell cookies. Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married ... somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings. Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home ... somebody never had grandchildren. Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her ... somebody isn't a mother. If your mother is still living, tell her you love her today!

"He knoweth the way that I take." Job 23:10 ... "Believer! What a glorious assurance! This way of thine – this, it may be, a crooked, mysterious, tangled way – this way of trial and tears. *"He knoweth it."* The furnace 7 times heated – He lighted it. There is an almighty Guide knowing and directing our footsteps, whether it be to the bitter Marah pool, or to the joy and refreshment of Elim. When you think Him least near, He is often nearest. *"When my spirit was overwhelmed, then Thou knewest my path."* Do we know of One brighter than the brightest radiance of the visible sun, visiting our chamber with the first waking beam of the morning; an eye of infinite tenderness and compassion following us throughout the day, knowing the way that we take? The world, in its cold vocabulary in the hour of adversity, speaks of "providence" – "the will of providence" – "the strokes of providence" Providence!! What is that? Why dethrone a living God from the sovereignty of His own earth? Job saw the Divine hand behind the gleaming swords of the Sabeans – he saw it behind the lightning flash – he saw it giving wings to the careening tempest – he saw it in the awful silence of his rifled home. Thus, seeing God in everything, his faith reached its climax when this once powerful prince of the desert, Job, seated on his bed of ashes, could say, *'Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.'*"

From: Ann Dieterly

MOTHER'S DAY


*"When Mother's Day is being observed and spring is here to stay,
 God blesses each of us with gifts of nature, in His special way.
 Fruit trees wear frills of pink and white; sweet lilacs bow with grace;
 Upon their branches songbirds light to seek a nesting place.
 These gifts of life on Mother's Day are priceless to me,
 For they express the miracles God gives so lovingly."*

By: Wendy Wagner Tousignant



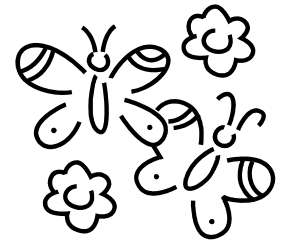
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**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MAY 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Friday	May 1	
Saturday	May 2	Young Adult Movie Night & Discussion - "Fireproof" - at the church at 6:30pm. Snacks will be provided. A short meeting will follow.
Sunday	May 3	NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am * Congregational Meeting immediately following the Worship Service – Everyone Welcome to attend * Nursing Home Services: Quakertown Manor – 1:30pm Belle Haven – 2:15pm
Monday	May 4	Deacon Meeting – 7:00pm * Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm
Tuesday	May 5	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * "Eating Better on Less" 10:00am (See article in The Beacon)
Wednesday	May 6	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS PICNIC TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Adult Bell Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	May 7	National Day of Prayer * Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	May 8	
Saturday	May 9	<i>"It's not what you do but who you are that's most important."</i>
Sunday	May 10	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY "Godly mothers not only bring you up, they bring you to God." Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am (The children will share some of what they've learned in Pioneer Clubs this year.)* LifeQuest Home Service – 2:00pm 
Monday	May 11	Women's Fellowship-sponsored program for the church and community 7:00pm – Guest Speaker: A Police Officer from the Richland Township Police Department, (See article in The Beacon) * Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm
Tuesday	May 12	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * "Eating Better on Less" 10:00am
Wednesday	May 13	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	May 14	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	May 15	<i>"The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10</i>
Saturday	May 16	Women's Fellowship Movie Matinee Event – 2:30pm – Popcorn & Pizza served!
Sunday	May 17	⇒ Sunday School – 9:00am * Worship Service – 10:00am Phoebe Richlandtown Home Service – 2:30pm
Monday	May 18	Commission Meetings * Girl Scout Troop #116 Meets – 7:00pm
Tuesday	May 19	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm * "Eating Better on Less" 10:00am * Sunshine Stitchers – 7:00pm
Wednesday	May 20	BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * PIONEER CLUBS for children kindergarten – grade 12 & TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Adult Bell Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	May 21	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	May 22	
Saturday	May 23	<i>"A Christian's life is the canvas on which others can see Jesus."</i>
Sunday	May 24	⇒ Sunday School – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages) * Worship – 10:00am
Monday	May 25	HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY! * Church Board Meeting – 7:00pm
Tuesday	May 26	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Wednesday	May 27	LAST DAY FOR PIONEER CLUBS UNTIL FALL – ADULT BIBLE STUDY – 11:00am * TIME OF PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY for adults (Studying the Book of Proverbs) – 6:45pm – 8:00pm * Adult Choir Practice – 8:00pm
Thursday	May 28	Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry – Hours: 9:30am – 2:00pm
Friday	May 29	
Saturday	May 30	<i>"Our sin is great – God's GRACE is greater."</i>
Sunday	May 31	PENTECOST SUNDAY - Sunday School – 9:00am * Worship – 10:00am

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
455 Trumbauersville Road
Quakertown, Pa. 18951
Phone: 215-536-7510
Web Site: www.quakertowncob.org
Email address: quakertowncob@verizon.net

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“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you.”
Deuteronomy 5:16

YOU’RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP.
WE’D LOVE TO SEE YOU!



FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
455 TRUMBAUERSVILLE ROAD, QUAKERTOWN, PA. 18951
PHONE: 215-536-7510
Rev. John B. Shaffer, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00am (Classes for ALL ages – Including Nursery)

WORSHIP – 10:00am (A Loving Nursery & Junior Church)

ADULT MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES – Wednesday morning – 11:00am & 6:45pm

PIONEER CLUBS for children Kindergarten – Senior High – 6:45pm

(NOTE: PIONEER CLUB PICNIC & PINWOOD CAR RACE – May 6th)

SEE OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE!
FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR OUR SERVICES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES.