

“THE CALL”

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

April, 2018

PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

Spring has now officially begun! It's a time of preparing and anticipation. The days are warming and preparations are being made for planting in anticipation of the harvest.

I love reading the history of the Church of the Brethren. The vision, the faith, and the commitment to living true to the teachings of the New Testament are truly inspiring. Recently I've been reading, and re-reading, a book written in 1946 by Walter M. Young entitled The History of the Church of the Brethren in Michigan. Following the writing of a short history of the churches, (once there were 31 churches in the Michigan District) some of which were closed by 1946, he wrote a chapter entitled Strength and Weaknesses of Existing Churches. In that chapter he wrote in part:

"...The strength of a church exists in the body of members that make it up, whether many or few, in proportion to the spirit of love that unites them in one common purpose... When a church, smaller or larger, keeps united in fellowship and love that church will manifest sufficient strength to overcome any problems. The forward look or the spirit of making any advance does not seem to be prevalent in over one half of the churches in Michigan. It does appear that these are unconcerned about taking a forward step in church work. So unity is essential, but along with it must be exercised wisdom and vision in planning the program. Unity with vision will inevitably produce a strong church. There seem to be a great many of our churches that fail to outline a definite program. They fail to plan for the future."

Since I began pastoring in the Church of the Brethren in 1977 Rodney, Battle Creek, Detroit First, and Sunfield have all closed, and Shepherd has withdrawn from the denomination. There are four or five others that are very small and struggling to continue.

There are many reasons given for the closing of the four churches and the struggles that others face today. Children growing up and moving away, young families involved in so many activities, and many others. I

question the reasons given.

When all these churches were organized they began with a small group of people with a vision, a plan, and a determination, a commitment, to follow where God was leading. They visualized a body of believers worshipping, fellowshiping and serving God together until the return of their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

However, somewhere along the way the vision was lost. Without a vision there isn't any need for a plan, and without a plan, there really isn't anything to be committed to, so it's just go from Sunday to Sunday, watch the decline, and lament all the "reasons" given. "We don't have... There aren't... We can't...." However, We have... There are.... We can..." Five loaves and two small fish can feed 5,000 when they are given to Jesus and used as He directs. We have all we need, we only need give it all to Jesus and follow His direction.

In his book The Knowledge of the Holy, which I seem to quote from frequently, A.W. Tozer writes, "*We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past.*"

That isn't something that can happen by chance or osmosis. It only happens when there is a vision, a plan, and a commitment to see it accomplished.

So as spring begins, a time of planting and preparing for the harvest, the questions are: "What is our vision, the plan, for the Beaverton Church of the Brethren?" "How are we going to go about preparing the 'soil,' 'planting and nurturing' the Word of God in the hearts of our members and the larger community around us?" "What is our plan for promoting the growth of the kingdom of God?"

Share your ideas, your vision, with me and together we'll see if we can discern where, and how, God would have us to go. Have a blessed April!

Shalom, Pastor Bill

~~~~~*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim one year of the Lord's favor."*~~~~~

Luke 4: 18-19



# ***EASTER PROGRAMS***

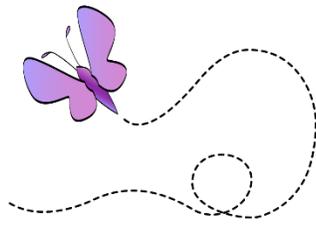
|                               |                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday                   | Sunday, March 25                                |
| Love Feast                    | Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.            |
| Good Friday Community Service | Friday, March 30, Nazarene Church,<br>1:30 p.m. |
| Easter Sunrise Service        | Sunday, April 1, 7:30 a.m.                      |
| Easter breakfast              | Sunday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.                      |
| Easter egg hunt               | Sunday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.                      |
| Easter worship service        | Sunday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.                      |

**Hallelujah, He is Risen!!**

*On MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29, this church will once again celebrate LOVE FEAST. We embrace this ordinance of the Church of the Brethren by washing our brothers' and sisters' feet, by sharing a meal, and by sharing communion. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for this act of **service and worship.***

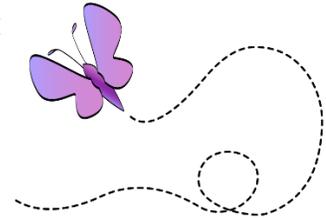
*"Jesus took a towel, poured water in a basin, and washed his disciples' feet"*





## **Women's Fellowship**

The women traveled to Mt. Pleasant in March for lunch at Culver's and shopping at Cook's Christian Store. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, at 10:30. An outing to Dow Garden's butterfly house is planned for that day. Everyone is invited to Bible study at 9:00 every Wednesday and the Fellowship meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.



~~~~~"Joy is the serious business of heaven." ~~~~~  
C.S. Lewis

PANCAKES

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

4 – 7 P.M.

And SAUSAGE

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA



Two Beaverton High School seniors, ***Parker Hayes and Anna Brushaber,*** have competed in business skills at the state level and will advance to National competition in Dallas, Texas. Let's support these students by attending the pancake dinner on Saturday, April 21, from 4-7 p.m. A good-will donation will be taken to help these students with their "Texas expenses." Come and enjoy good food and fellowship; weather permitting, a bonfire will be held after the dinner.

ITEMS OF INTEREST: *****

***** **Outreach cup offerings for January, February, March, April**

designated for Walk for Warmth

***** **BirthDay Sunday**, April 1, worship service

***** **Prayer gathering**, Sunday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.

***** **Women's outing**, Wednesday, April 4, 11:00 a.m.

***** **Council Meeting**, Monday, April 9, 7:00

***** **Board Meeting**, Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 Commissions, 7:30 Board

***** **Vet's dinner**, Sunday, April 15, 6:00 p.m.

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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

“The church council is the final authority and governing body within the local congregation; it is the Church in business session. All active members are eligible to vote in Council meetings. The Council evaluates past accomplishments, hears reports, studies present conditions, and makes plans for the future program of the Church; it provides officers, adopts budgets, rules on policy and organizational matters, and authorizes Church officials to act on behalf of the congregation.”

(Cited from the Church Plan of Organization)

We often hear “What is the Council? What does Council do? Who is a Council member? Can anyone come to the meetings? Can anyone vote?”

*If you are a member of the church by baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership, you are a member of Council. Members have one vote each when decisions are made. Please mark your calendars now for **Monday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m.** for this very important Spring meeting. Help make decisions for the church body, give voice to your thoughts, and be a part of the Church business meeting. Every member is needed to make this a positive working group for the church. **Everyone** is welcome to attend Council meetings. Don't miss out -- Council is the ultimate decision-making body of the Church. If you have items for new business to be added to the agenda, please see Claudia Whitmer or Pastor Bill.*

What are your prayer requests?



gathering of friends

time for instruction

prayer for each other

Sunday April 1 7:00 p.m.

A note of inspiration about prayer: "God made you to be the answer to someone else's prayers. Keep your eyes open."

Worship Leadership April

Date: April 1

Worship Leader: Candy Schnepf
Music Leader: Bob Schnepf
Special Gifts: Choir
Nursery Care: Elizabeth Hoag
Greeters: Eric and Peg Hillman
Deacons: Claudia Whitmer & Glen Blades
Closer: Bob Schnepf

Date: April 8

Worship Leader: Matt McKimmy
Music Leader: Amy Burns
Special Gifts: Darby?
Nursery Care: Elizabeth Hoag
Greeters: Jane Raymor
Deacons: Lana Blades & Bob Phillips
Closer: Bob Schnepf

Date: April 15

Worship Leader: Sandy Sprague
Music Leader: Sherm Fassett
Special Gifts: Nancy Shaffer
Nursery Care: Elizabeth Hoag
Greeters: Don Shaffer
Deacons: Amy Burns & Sherm Fassett
Closer: Bob Schnepf

Date: April 22

Worship Leader: Dan Whitmer
Music Leader: Bob Schnepf
Special Gifts: Puppets
Nursery Care: Elizabeth Hoag
Greeters: Ward Simpson
Deacons: Joanne Fassett & Dan Whitmer
Closer: Bob Schnepf

Date: April 29

Worship Leader: Rick Painter
Music Leader: Becky Phillips
Special Gifts: Dan Bergman
Nursery Care:
Greeters: Don Shaffer
Deacons: Candy Schnepf & Glen Blades
Closer: Bob Schnepf

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN VISION STATEMENT

Through scripture, Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples by word and action: to surrender ourselves to God, to embrace one another, to express God's love for all creation.

Adopted by the 2012 Annual Conference

