



## “THE CALL”

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

AUGUST  
PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

A long Ramblings this month as there are three things I'd like to share.

**First** a summary of the Standing Committee meeting before Annual Conference where the proposed Great Lakes District wanted to apply for denominational recognition. This information is taken from Newsline published by the denomination.

"Among attempts to open the agenda to new business was a motion to recognize a proposed new district made up of seven churches that are seeking to leave the Michigan District. The Moderator ruled the motion out of order.

However, a motion was adopted to open the agenda for discussion of the denominational Leadership Team's decision not to recognize the seven churches as a new district. The Moderator stated: "Our polity, made especially binding by our bylaws, requires that districts be geographic districts. We have no provision for forming a new district on the basis of specific statements of faith that must be agreed to by member congregations... Our polity does not allow two districts to claim the geographic area, nor does our polity allow for a district to form on the basis of congregational agreement to a specific statement of faith."

(A district did divide into two districts in the same geographic area based upon theological differences. "The convoluted line was basically designed to achieve a class division by drawing geographic lines. 'Plain' was separated from 'fancy.'" Moving Toward the Mainstream pages 27-28 by Donald R. Fitzkee.)

"Standing Committee held an evening session on July 2 to discuss the Leadership Team's decision. In advance, copies of the Leadership Team's correspondence to the seven churches were distributed." (Copies of the correspondence from the seven churches was not allowed.)

"Although two representatives from the seven churches were present in the gallery, the officers did not allow them to answer questions, citing Standing Committee rules limiting who may speak."

The Annual Conference Leadership Team side was presented to Standing Committee and the Great Lakes District side silenced. I found this interesting the next day when the Moderator said that Brethren values would supersede Robert's Rules and we should respect everyone and everyone should be allowed to speak and be heard.

All that is to say that our petition was not dismissed based upon its merit, or lack thereof, it simply was not allowed to be presented. The desires and petitions of seven churches seem to be not worthy enough to even be given a hearing. How far we have fallen from our founding in 1708!

**Secondly**, where will we go from here? As it is not long since Annual Conference, the seven churches have not met to discuss the future. However, the conditions that prompted us to withdraw from the Michigan District have not changed. Our request to withdraw was overwhelmingly approved and we have no intention, or desire, to return.

During our communication with the Leadership Team they gave us three options.

1. Remaining in the Michigan District and finding ways to work things out despite theological differences,
2. Making an appeal to Standing Committee (who has already refused to hear us and has already decided against us)
3. Sending a query to Annual Conference to consider a change in denominational polity. (Likely a three or more year process, if it could ever be successful)

They did not mention a fourth option that we could choose to follow God and His Word, which we have chosen to do.

**Thirdly**, there is some misunderstanding concerning why we withdrew from the Michigan District, and what our difficulty with the denomination is. Some believe it was the homosexual issue, however, that is only a symptom of a much larger problem.

A few years ago we had water bubbling up in our backyard and we needed to get a new well. Water bubbling up in the backyard wasn't the reason we got a new well, it was the symptom of a crack in the waterline many feet below. The crack demanded a new well.

Like the bubbling water the homosexual issue is simply a symptom of a much deeper problem: the denying of the inspiration and authority of the Word of God.

There is also the all too commonly held belief that God is not God. While He may have directed the writers of Scripture, however, He was not aware of what life would be like in the 21st. century. So God is not really

omniscient (all-knowing). Therefore the "learned" have to reinterpret what God really meant. If one doesn't believe the Bible as the inspired Word of God, there isn't a place to go for truth! There isn't a standard if everyone determines for themselves what's truth and what isn't.

In 1979 a study was completed on Biblical Inspiration and Authority. A recommendation of that paper that was accepted reads:

*"We recommend to all concerned that there be a more complete representation of persons holding different viewpoints on the Bible's inspiration and authority at all levels of the church's life, including the General Board, national and district staff, seminary faculty, writers for church publications, and Annual Conference committees."*

(Biblical Inspiration and Authority 1979 Annual Conference Paper, page 32.)

You hear often that the "Bible is our creed" and "our rule of faith and practice" and yet we have many in positions of authority and responsibility that do not believe many parts of it, or any of it. We have come to the place where the Israelites were in the last verse of the book of Judges.

***"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."*** (Judges 21:25) The King and His Word are no longer recognized as authoritative in the church, and we are suffering for it.

Homosexuality isn't the issue, it's a symptom. The issues are: is God really God, and is His Word inspired and authoritative?

To the seven churches, ours included, the answer is "Yes" and we must stand firm in that belief. Jesus told His followers that following Him would not always be easy. There would be difficulties, there would be trials, but they (and we) are to stand firm upon His Word. ***"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*** (John 15:19) And as the apostle Paul tells us, ***"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love."*** (1 Corinthians 16:13-14) (My emphasis)

Be in prayer for one another, and the other six churches that we will see clearly the will and way of God and follow obediently.

Enjoy the waning days of summer! May your August be filled with wonder and joy!

Shalom,  
Pastor Bill

# ANNUAL



The annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, August 19th** at the home of Bob and Becky Phillips. Plan to come following worship service. **Bring a friend** and a dish to pass. Enjoy fun and fellowship on a nice summer afternoon!



***What are your prayer requests?***

*gathering of friends*

*time for instruction*

Join Us

*prayer for each other*

Sunday

August 5

7:00 p.m.

*A note of inspiration about prayer:*

*"The tallest man in God's eyes is the one that's on his knees!"*

*Nishan Panwar*

**SCHOOL**

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT??

SCHOOL WILL STARTING SOON.....



**SUPPLIES**

The time is “now” to contribute to the teacher gift card outreach that happens in this church every year. Staples **Gift Cards** will be given to all teachers, K-6<sup>th</sup> grades. We have been able to give \$125 each after raising a little more than \$4,000. We are well on our way, but we need to keep forging ahead with our giving. Please, take part in this important outreach to our community, our schools—teachers and students. God has blessed this ministry!



## **Women's Fellowship**



The women held their monthly meeting on July 11th. Sherry Garvin entertained the group with lunch at her house on the following Saturday. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 1 at 10:30. Please join us for Bible study at 9:00 each Wednesday and the monthly Fellowship meetings and outings.

## **EVERY DAY IS A GREAT DAY**



Expect today to be a good day and then do what's necessary to make your expectation come true.

Each day is a miniature lifetime and your attitude concerning each day makes a difference.

If you make today a good day and repeat that process daily, you'll live a lifetime of good days.

So write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.

He is rich who owns the day and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with threat and anxiety.

Finish every day and be done with it.

Forget the mistakes that have crept in.

Tomorrow is a new day too dear with its hopes and invitations to waste a moment on the yesterdays.

## **ATTITUDE**

The longer I live, the more I realize  
the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me,  
is more important than facts.  
It is more important than the past,  
than education, than money,  
than circumstances,  
than failure, than successes,  
than what other people think,  
or say, or do.

It is more important than  
appearance,  
giftedness, or skill.  
It will make or break a company,  
a church or a home.  
The remarkable thing is  
we have a choice every day  
regarding the attitude  
we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past.

We cannot change the fact  
that people will act  
in a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do  
is play on the one string we have,  
and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that  
life is 10% what happens to me  
and 90% how I react to it.

We are in charge of  
our attitudes.

Charles Swindoll



## HEIFER, INTERNATIONAL----- "CHALLENGE"

The Women's Fellowship is challenging the rest of the church to raise \$5,000 for Heifer, International. \$5,000 will buy an "ark" filled with animals to benefit people in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. This traditional Brethren challenge begins with a donation of \$1,000 from the Women's Fellowship. The Board will be asked for donations and all of us can participate with individual donations, as well. We did it before, we can do it again!!!! Watch for more news beginning in September.

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

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST: \*\*\*\*\***

- \*\*\*\*\* **Outreach cup offerings for May, June, July, August**  
designated for school supplies (teacher gift cards)
- \*\*\*\*\* **Birthday Sunday**, August 5, worship service
- \*\*\*\*\* **Prayer gathering**, Sunday, August 5, 7:00 p.m.
- \*\*\*\*\* **Women's outing**, Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, to be determined
- \*\*\*\*\* **Communion**, Sunday, August 12 during worship
- \*\*\*\*\* **Board Meeting**, Tuesday, August 14, 7:00 Commissions, 7:30 p.m. Board
- \*\*\*\*\* **Church picnic**, following worship at Bob & Becky Phillips'
- \*\*\*\*\* **Vet's dinner**, Sunday, August 19, 6:00 p.m.

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A NEW PRAYER CHAIN is being developed. Please contact Peggy McKimmy if you know of changes, additions, or deletions that should be made.

~~~~"Prayer changes us in ways that we never thought would be possible. When we are unhappy, prayer can lift our hearts and fill it with unspeakable joy." Julia Bristol~~~~

## Worship Leadership August

**Date: August 5**

Worship Leader: Rick Painter  
Music Leader: Elizabeth Hoag  
Special Gifts:  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Eric and Peg Hillman  
Deacons: Leta Painter & Glen Blades  
Closer: Bob Phillips

**Date: August 19**

Worship Leader: Dan Whitmer  
Music Leader: Sherm Fassett  
Special Gifts: Puppets  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Don Shaffer  
Deacons: Amy Burns & Sherm Fassett  
Closer: Bob Phillips

**Date: August 12**

Worship Leader:  
Music Leader: Amy Burns  
Special Gifts: Nancy Shaffer  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Tom Prager  
Deacons: Lana Blades & Bob Phillips  
Closer: Bob Phillips

**Date: August 26**

Worship Leader: Sandy Sprague  
Music Leader: Glen Blades  
Special Gifts: Dan Bergman  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Ward Simpson  
Deacons: Joanne Fassett & Dan Whitmer  
Closer: Bob Phillips



**FUNERAL DINNERS**—*a ministry of this church.*

*Any one of these ladies or Pastor Bill may be contacted when there is a need*

*Claudia Whitmer: 989-435-7632*

*Peggy Hillman: 989-435-9290*

*Sherry Garvin: 989-435-0350*

*Peggy McKimmy: 989-435-3467*

### **Beaverton Church of the Brethren Vision Statement:**

*The Beaverton Church of the Brethren is a dynamic, Spirit-filled church impacting our community and beyond through worship, ministry and leadership development.*