



“THE CALL”

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JUNE, 2019

PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

At our May Church Board meeting last Tuesday, May 14th, a question came up asking how informed our church was concerning the “Compelling Vision” process that will be the sole focus of business for the upcoming Annual Conference in July.

In a news release on May 17th, (attached) the third bullet point giving the basic areas of visioning, states: “*How we can transform and better manage the division and conflict that has been a barrier to our full effectiveness in ministry as the Church of the Brethren.*”

There is a very deep division within the Church of the Brethren. The “Compelling Vision” process is an attempt to bring both sides of the division to a point where they work together. One question on the Individual Response Form used in discussion groups is: “*What changes within the Church of the Brethren could strengthen Christ’s work among us even as we disagree on how to be faithful to Scripture.*”

I believe an understanding of the reason for the division is important in understanding whether such a “Compelling Vision” can be found.

In 1708 the founding members of the Church of the Brethren engaged in serious Bible study and determined that there was a need to return to “Primitive Christianity.” To them that meant Christianity as practiced by the first church as recorded in Scripture. Basic to that was accepting the Bible as the inspired Word of God and ultimate authority for faith and practice. The Old Testament was regarded as the foundation of the New Testament and both were inspired. When questions arose concerning faith or practice, it was referred to the gathering of the larger Church and the *Scripture was the final answer.*

There have been disagreements and separations of the Church of the Brethren over the years concerning the *interpretation* of a verse or *passage*.

Many erroneously believe that the current division is over the question of homosexuality. Homosexuality is in reality a symptom of the larger problem, which is belief concerning Scripture.

In 1977 a query came to Annual Conference regarding the inspiration and authority of Scripture. As a result, the Conference appointed a committee to assess the denomination and determine where the Church stood on this issue.

The result was that many believed that the Bible was inspired by God and

authoritative for faith and practice. Others believed that portions were open to new interpretation, and others rejected the concept of inspiration. Others rejected all except the teaching of Jesus, and various other beliefs concerning the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

As a result of the committee's work a recommendation (which 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."

As a result many were placed in positions of authority and responsibility who rejected the inspiration and authority of the Bible. That brought us to where we are today.

It was no longer a question of **interpretation**. It now became a question of the **validity** of the Bible, of Scripture itself. The church no longer had a final authority. The "rule of faith ad practice" now became the part, or parts, of the Bible that one chose to accept. Right or wrong was now a decision everyone made for themselves.

Judges 21:28 reads, ***"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."***

Now there is no "king" in the Church of the Brethren. No standard of truth; everyone doing what is right in his own eyes. Accepting or rejecting the Word of God, or portions thereof, as each sees fit.

I cannot conceive of a "Compelling Vision" which could over-ride so deep a division. It would be like bringing black and white together and trying to walk in gray.

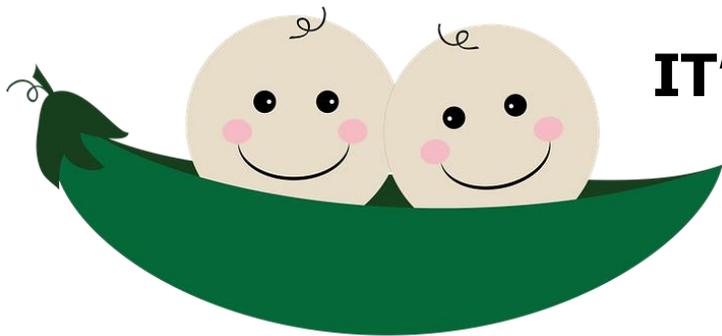
Amos 3:3 reads, ***"can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"***

To walk together, to serve together, "Compelling Vision" or not, the question of Biblical inspiration and authority must be settled. It is impossible to have a mix of believers and nonbelievers of this question to walk and work together. It is too fundamental a question because belief in the inspiration and authority of the Bible we not have a foundation.

I pray this helps you understand what the "Compelling Vision" process is about and my understanding of whether or not success is possible.

Shalom,
Pastor Bill

*"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
2 Peter 1:20-21*



**IT'S A BABY SHOWER
YOU'RE INVITED!!**

WHO: Lori Weaver, Audrey and Elizabeth
WHAT: Diaper shower
WHEN: Saturday, June 15, 11:00 a.m.
WHERE: Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall
3783 Shock Road
Beaverton, Michigan

**Lori is using Pampers diapers sizes 2 and up and
Pampers sensitive wipes.**

Please join us for brunch and fellowship.



Saturday

BRUNCH



MEMORIAL PAVILION TO BE BUILT



The Church Board with direction from Council has decided to build a memorial pavilion on the southwest side of the church property. The 24' x 24' structure will have a roof with a fire pit in the center and storage for chairs and other items. It will be a very welcome addition to our campfire fellowship especially in inclement weather. Anyone interested in donating to the pavilion in honor of someone may do so. A plaque will be hung in the pavilion to remember those who have gone before us. If you wish to donate, please add your gift to the offering plate designating how the money should be used.



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE.....

New Sunday school class brethren beliefs

In the fall a study of Brethren beliefs will be held during the Sunday School hour. Pastor Bill will lead a class in the basic disciplines of the denomination which includes the history behind those tenets. Class size will be limited. The study will be held for three months--October, November, and December. Please see Pastor Bill for more information and to discuss your intentions to participate.

**“The righteous man walks in his integrity. His children are blessed after him.”
Proverbs 20:7**



MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL PART OF YOUR REGULAR WORSHIP

Sunday School News

Sunday School classes begin at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings with “Get your worship on,” music and a short message. There are several classes available, and everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend.

Preschool - Kindergarten – Teacher, Becky Phillips

1st - 7th grades - Teacher, Joanne Fassett

Adult – Teacher, Tom Prager – Study of Titus and Philemon

Adult/Teen – Teacher, Peggy McKimmy and Sherry Garvin, Frances Chan’s book Crazy Love

What are your prayer requests?



Join Us

Sunday

gathering of friends

time for instruction

prayer for each other

June 2

7:00 p.m.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

***** **Outreach cup offerings for May, June, July and August** are designated for School Supplies (Teacher gift cards)

***** **Birthday Sunday**, June 2, worship service

***** **Prayer meeting**, Sunday, June 2, 7:00 p.m.

***** **Board Meeting**, Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 & 7:30 p.m.

***** **Vet’s dinner**, Sunday, June 16, 6:00 p.m.

***** **Fathers’ Day, Sunday, June 16**



I VOW TO SOFTEN

By Rachel Macy Stafford

By being softer you can hear more, learn more, feel more, and love more

I've had enough of my hard edges.
I'm tired of straining my voice.
I'd like to loosen up and laugh a little more,
Be positive rather than negative.

I'd like to feel the upward curve of my lips.
I'd like to surrender control of things over which I
have no control.
I'd like to let things unfold in their own time, in their
own way.
I'd like to participate joyfully in this fleeting life.

I'd like to be softer
toward him,
toward her,
toward myself.

Thus, this will be the year of my softening
And this is my vow:

I vow to listen to opinions. I don't always have to be
right
I don't always have to agree or have the last word.

I vow to hand over the hairbrush, the pile of laundry,
the school project, the task before me.
"How would you do it?" I will ask.

I vow to step aside and respect a new approach.
Success might be difficult to see at first; I vow to keep
looking.

I vow to be more accepting of quirks and mannerisms.
I vow to be more accepting of tastes and styles unlike
my own.

I vow to remember he is in the process of becoming;
she is in the process of finding her way.
And they are more apt to do it if I stop telling them
how.

I vow to regard "weaknesses" as hidden strengths.
Inner gifts can be nurtured when I stop plotting ways
to alter, change, and "improve."

I vow to greet my family –and myself – with a loving
smile, no matter what happened yesterday.
Grudge-holding only hurts us all.

I vow to pause before correcting.
I will take a moment to consider if the mistake even
needs to be mentioned at all.

I vow to stop nitpicking until it bleeds.
I vow to demand less and inquire more.
I vow to listen,
consider,
and expand my thinking.

I vow to be a voice of encouragement in a demeaning
world.

I vow to be a silver lining spotter in my family's little
world.

I vow to be softer today than I was yesterday – a softer
voice,
A softer posture, a softer touch, a softer thought, a
softer timetable.

I vow to be softer toward the imperfect human being
inside me and
the one beside me.

By being softer I can hear more, learn more, feel
more, and love more.

At last I will fully see. I will see his colors.

I will see her colors.

I will see my colors.

Perhaps for the very first time.
the colors might take my breath away,
bring me to tears,
or offer long-awaited peace.

I will soften in order to illuminate the colors of the
soul

I will soften so the human being within me and beside
me can shine.



Outreach cup Fund raiser for schools

During the months of May, June, July, and August cup donations will be used for gift cards that will be given to all teachers -- Kindergarten through 6th grade. This annual gift has been given by the Church of the Brethren to help our students, teachers, and community. Once again this year, please prayerfully consider your gift. Together we can make this happen!! Any donations can also be added to the offering plate during worship service. Please designate your offering for "school supplies."



The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5th, at 10:30. Please join us for Bible study at 9:00 each Wednesday and the monthly Fellowship meetings and outings. All women are welcome.....a good time to connect, study, pray.....and laugh!



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: 989-429-8799

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

