



“THE CALL”

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

March, 2020

I was asked to write a little Ramblings about Brethren baptism and the baptismal vows that are part of the baptismal ordinance. I'm not sure how "little" it will be, however, here goes.

Before we get to the vows, we must get a bit of background concerning why and how the Brethren came to baptize in the manner that they do.

In the 1600's and 1700s in Germany where the Brethren had their beginning, infant baptism was required by law. Alexander Mack and seven others were discouraged by what they saw as "empty religion" and began to study the Bible in earnest. They felt they could not accept any practice that did not have solid foundation in the Word of God. As a result they felt a deep desire to return to what Alexander called "primitive Christianity;" the church as it was formed and practiced by the first Christians.

The first thing that troubled them was the lack of a biblical basis for many of the ceremonies and practices of the "established" denominations. That led them to consider the practice of infant baptism. They could not find a biblical basis for the practice. Searching the Scripture they came to understand that baptism should follow conversion.

In Acts 18:8. *"Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized."* To the Brethren believing must come before baptism and that was something a child could not do. They also referenced Luke 14:27-28. *"And whoever does*

not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish..." So the Brethren came to believe that one must be of age to believe and count the cost before being baptized.

Now the method of baptism. First the Brethren believed that baptism must take place in a river or stream. When the candidate is immersed the water washes away the sinful nature and it goes down stream. They later came to accept baptizing in a pool, lake, or even a baptismal.

The method was kneeling before the Lord, facing forward as moving forward in faith. The candidate is immersed three times. Matthew 28:19. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

So to the Brethren baptism came as a result of believing, counting the cost and accepting the calling and the consequences.

Now, the baptismal vows.

There are three vows that are made at the time of baptism.

First:

Minister: You are here because you have made a confession of your faith, and have been members Christ's church. You are now presenting yourselves to be received as members of this church, in full covenant relationship with the believers who worship and serve God in this place.

Do you now reaffirm your faith in and loyalty to Jesus Christ our Lord and His gospel?

Candidates: I do.

Second:

Minister: As you willingly unite with this church, will you worship, serve, and share in its programs, supporting it by your earnest prayers, regular attendance, loyal service, and faithful stewardship, as God gives you strength?

Candidates: By God's help, I will.

Third

Minister: Do you promise to live and share with us in bonds of

Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I do.

As you have read, the Brethren took baptism very seriously. It encompassed three things.

First, a deep acceptance of, and commitment to, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Second, a commitment to being an active, supportive, member of the local church, and

Third, to live in full fellowship with the other members of the church.

I was glad for the question! It is very helpful to the strength of the individual Christian, and the church, to be reminded of what it means to be baptized and a member of the body of Christ.

To God be the glory for His wonderful plan for His people!

Shalom,
Pastor Bill



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COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 16, 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, March 16th, 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.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

E A S T E R P R O G R A M S

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5

Love Feast

Maundy Thursday, April 9,
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, April 10

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 12, 7:00 a.m.

Easter breakfast

Sunday, April 12, 7:30 a.m.

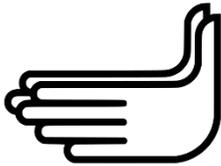
Easter worship service

Sunday, April 12, 9:00 a.m.

*Christ
is
Risen!*



What are your prayer requests?



gathering of friends

time for instruction

Join Us

prayer for each other

Sunday

March 1st

7:00

p.m.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

***** **Outreach** cup offerings for January, February, March, April
are designated for Walk for Warmth

***** **Birthday and Anniversary Sunday**, March 1, worship service

***** **Prayer group**, Sunday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.

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

***** **Council meeting**, Monday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S COOK-OFF

AND
CORN-BAG TOURNAMENT

MARCH 28 SATURDAY 6:00 P.M.

Calling all men to a great contest!!



Show us your culinary skills by making a main dish and/or dessert to be judged and then eaten by the rest of us. Everyone is invited to participate by judging the entries and enjoying a meal together.

A corn-hole tournament will be held after dinner.

All the fun starts at 6:00 p.m. Don't miss out.



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A MYSTERY DINNER IS COMING MARCH 7th



Come to dinner at church on Saturday, March 7th at 5:00 p.m. for a fun time. Pick your options from a menu. You may get food or utensils or none at all. No one will go home hungry. It's a good time with lots of laughs. Find some kids and bring them along. The more the merrier! (What's a mystery dinner, anyway? Come find out)



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.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN 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