



THE UPWARD CALL

Ephrata Church of the Brethren

Living for Jesus so others may know Him.



Volume 16, Issue 8

September 2009

*The heart
filled with
praise
brings
pleasure to
God.*

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Your spiritual growth and maturity is the most important thing about you. Churches exist to be the place where spiritual life is nurtured. Instead of guessing about where people are spiritually, our church will participate in a Spiritual Life Survey, which will help give us a clearer view of the spiritual life of our congregation—a view that will help us make ministry decisions so we can meet you at your point of need. The survey report will tell us things such as: where people are on their spiritual journey; what they're doing to grow spiritually; the barriers they face; the spiritual attitudes, practices and beliefs, that best move them forward, and many other things.

The survey will be done online and is completely anonymous. The questions are all multiple choice and

only take about 20 minutes to complete. Think of it as 20 minutes of your time to invest in your spiritual life as well as the future of ECOB.

To complete the survey, you will receive a link to an online site. If you do not have internet access, computers will be available at church to encourage participation, as well as volunteers to provide assistance to people who aren't comfortable with computer use. (Days and times to be announced).

The survey will be open for two weeks. It begins Saturday, Sept. 26 and runs through Saturday, Oct. 10 and is available 24/7.

All those who consider ECOB their church home are encouraged to take the survey. The more input we have the more complete and comprehensive will be

the insights received through the survey.

The results will be tabulated by an independent research organization and sent to Pastor Galen within 30 days.

It is important that we have your email address, as we will be sending out information about the survey as well as the link to the survey as it becomes available. Please email the church office with your name and email address: info@ephratabrethren.org. You will also be able to access the link via the church website.

There is nothing more important to our church than your spiritual growth—wherever you are on your journey. In order to help you—we need your help! Please invest in your spiritual life by taking the survey.

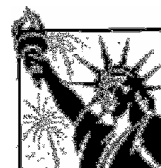
Spend a day in New York City!

Saturday, October 3

Shopping, Central Park, Shows, Dining, Rockefeller Center, Empire State Building, & more!

Leave ECOB at 7:00 a.m.; Depart New York City at 6:45 p.m.
\$40 per person, Tickets will be on sale in September.

Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin for more details.
—the Joyful Women of Fellowship



Pastor Galen's Sabbatical

Pastor Galen's Sabbatical will occur Aug. 31 through Nov. 30. Information on his sabbatical is available in the church literature racks. During his time off, we encourage you to follow him via his blog at www.galen-sabbatical.blogspot.com. If you don't have access to the internet, copies of his most recent blog entries are available in the literature rack by the church office.

You are invited to (sort of) journey with Pastor Galen during his sabbatical, by reading the book: *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*, by Gordon Fee. This book will help you connect with what he is studying while he is off & he is encouraging us to read it. Galen believes that the most important parts of it for us as a congregation lie in the understanding

it gives us of what it means to be a spirit-filled, spirit-led community of people—to be truly the church. Copies of the book are available in the Resource Room at church—for sale (\$10.00) or to borrow—or you can purchase a copy on your own. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God* by Gordon Fee: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1-56563-170-6.

Special Sunday School Session — Sunday, September 13

Come and meet Jeff and Erin Priour, Preemptive Love Coalition missionaries in Northern Iraq (& supported by ECOB) during the S.S. hour in the gym. The Happy Hearts S.S. class has been supporting this couple since January; this spring, the Missions & Service Commission began supporting them as well.

The Preemptive Love Coalition is seeking to eliminate the backlog of over 3000 Arab and Kurdish children waiting in line for life-saving heart surgery. Experts think that Saddam Hussein's chemical attacks and experiments on the Kurds in Northern Iraq contribute to the high rate of life-threatening heart disease

among children in that region today. All their activities say: "Love your neighbors, love your enemies, because LOVE never fails!"

Come and meet Jeff and Erin – see what the Lord is doing through their ministry.

COBYS Bike & Hike

COBYS Family Services is trying to turn 13 into a lucky number. The 13th annual COBYS Bike & Hike is slated for Sunday, September 13, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren. Events begin at 1:30 p.m.

The Bike & Hike includes a three-mile walk through Lititz, 10- and 25-mile bicycle rides on rural roads around Lititz, and the 55-mile Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride, which this year travels along the Susquehanna River Hills to Safe Harbor Dam and back. The two longer rides include covered bridges and winding roads along cool streams.

Last year 601 Bike & Hike participants raised nearly \$79,000 for COBYS ministries. Goals of 650 participants and \$85,000 have been set for this year. It will take more than luck to reach these goals, how-

ever. It will take hundreds of walkers and riders who are willing to give generously and to invite others to give.

Participants may choose between paying a registration fee and obtaining sponsors for the event. The registration fee is \$25 per person, with a \$5 discount for those who pre-register by September 7. The registration fee is waived entirely for those who obtain \$25 or more in pledges from sponsors. Pre-registration is not required.

Each participant receives a free t-shirt (while supplies last), ice cream and refreshments, and an opportunity to win one of dozens of door prizes donated by area businesses. Those who raise certain levels of support can earn additional prizes, including jackets, gym bags, fleece blankets,

hooded sweatshirts, polo shirts, caps, and canvas bags with the COBYS logo. Grand prizes will be awarded to top fundraisers.

Business donors are covering the event's expenses so that all proceeds raised by participants will support COBYS ministries.

Brochures are available in the literature racks or at: www.cobys.org/news.htm. More information will be in the upcoming bulletins. For more information, contact event coordinator Don Fitzkee at 800-452-6517 or don@cobys.org or ECOB contact: Marty Wenger, 733-4591.

We invite walkers, bicyclists, and motorcyclists to help make September 13 a lucky day for the children and families served by COBYS. Please join us!

From Pastor

As you may, or may not know, I will be on sabbatical from August 31 through November 30, 2009. This page outlines what my plan is for these weeks. It is condensed from one of the posts to my Sabbatical Blog (www.galen-sabbatical.blogspot.com).

The focus of my Sabbatical grows out of the things that I have sensed have been going on in my life for the past several years. I have addressed those in another post.

A Focus on the Holy Spirit

I have felt the drain of ministry most significantly on my own spiritual resources. In the past, I have found spiritual vitality most consistently through solitude, the focused and in depth study of the Word and the fueling of my personal relationship with God through the indwelling of his Spirit. Therefore I want to spend a significant amount of time during the Sabbatical working through the New Testament teaching about the vital nature of the Holy Spirit and how it is that he transforms us and empowers us. I have had a sense in recent years that I have had somewhat of a disconnect on the intimacy level of my relationship with Jesus, and I hope through study, prayer and meditation, to recover this, or better yet, to experience it anew in even greater ways.

My primary source for this part of my sabbatical, other than the Bible, is Gordon Fee's academic work, *God's Empowering Presence* (1994: Hendrickson). I have wanted to work through this when it was first published (wow! 15 years ago already) and never have. Fee is not only one of our best NT scholars, but is a Pentecostal from the Assembly of God church. His insights and exegesis have been hugely helpful over the years.

Prayer support in this area would

be welcome. And if you wish, you could get this book and read it with me. It is a heavy tome; however, Fee has condensed and summarized it in a book for wider readership, entitled *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God* (1996: Hendrickson), which will be a much easier read.

Developing Strategic Plans for the continued transition of ECOB into an Intentional Disciple Making Community

I have been working with the leadership of the church on an overall vision and strategy for becoming an intentional disciple making community of believers. This overall vision is well formulated but specifics of it need to be worked on and developed for interpretation to the congregation.

My personal study of the Holy Spirit's ministry dovetails at this point. I have preached and have written about the fact that the church is essentially a pneumatic (the Greek word for spirit) community, formed by the Spirit, led by the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit. At least, this is God's intention for the church. Today, the real presence of the Holy Spirit among us, in our worship and meetings and families, seems to play, at best, a minimal role in our community, rather than the dominate role. I want to be open to God changing this at ECOB.

Seeking a Fuller Understanding of God's Movement in my life

A second item, related to the above, is my quest to seek a deeper and fuller understanding of how God has been moving in my life during the past few years. To do this, I am hoping to connect with a Spiritual Director. I have been in conversation with the leadership of our local Catholic Church. The Catholics have a rich tradition in the art of spiritual direction and so I have gone there for help with this. Spiritual Directors are not counselors but rather "discerners" who listen to your heart and help you discern the movement of God. I am not sure if or how this will come

together, but I am pursuing it.

I would welcome prayer support in this area, as well.

Continued Growth in my Self Awareness and Leadership Skills

I have met regularly with Leadership Coach Geoff Davis for personal direction and development and holistic health, and will continue to do that before, during and after sabbatical. Geoff helps me look both at how I manage my life and how I lead with integrity.

Down Time and Fun Time

Sabbatical will be a time to have some fun. I expect that near the beginning and end of the Sabbatical period, Doris and I will hit the road for some time off and to be together. My plan as of now is to take off on or about September 7 for a 2 week road trip following the Seaway trail from Massena, NY, to Springfield, PA, along the St. Lawrence Seaway, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The route passes 29 lighthouses, numerous historic landmarks, museums and other attractions. And then at the end of the Sabbatical, Doris and I will do a mini time away for our 36th anniversary, which is November 24th.

Of course there will be some time for family and for tinkering on my car.

Worship

You might wonder where I will worship during this time. Good question. I would love to worship at ECOB, but you and I both know that if I do, I would be too easily drawn back into the responsibilities of work. You should expect to see Doris from time to time, however. I plan to worship consistently at an area church.

Blog

I have also created a blog, where I hope to post regular updates to what I am experiencing. You are invited to join with me at www.galen-sabbatical.blogspot.com. If you do not have internet service, copies of the blogs may be picked up in the literature rack by the church office.

Thoughts for Senior Citizens *by Charlie Bieber*



I am less likely in 2009 than I was, for example, in 1949, to regard the coming together of two events as a coincidence. At times, I can even recognize that God has plans that I had not realized. Two such events came together for me a few days ago. First: In my Old Testament reading, I had come to II Chron, 34:14b, "The priest Hilkiyah found the book of the law of the Lord

given through Moses." Recognizing the importance of the scroll, Hilkiyah took it to King Josiah. A plan of God came together. God's truth appeared to a king who turned aside neither to left or right, from God. Israel experienced one of its great revivals. Second: That same day, I was sorting through a sizable pile of papers accumulated long ago. I was startled to find a note Mary Beth had written to me after we had been dating for about seven months, and the response I

had written to her. Through that exchange, our relationship changed from a college-kid relationship to a love that would join us together for the rest of our lives. In the finding of those two notes, a plan of God came together. I was reminded of the hand of God in our life together. My thought, for what it is worth: It is well to cherish the discoveries we might make as we sort through our accumulations. We might be reminded of a plan of God.

Senior Adult Fellowship News

Service Days at the M.C.C. Resource Center on Trout Run Road, Ephrata, **September 14 & November 9**. Mark your calendar now and contact Rob Eshelman if you can extend the loving hand of Christ with those in need in our community and abroad. We meet at MCC at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch if you plan on staying the entire day. We work until 3:00 p.m. The beauty of this day is that you may work a half day or the entire day – your choice!

Senior Adult Fall Fellowship Banquet – October 7, 2009

This is a favorite and a special time to meet old friends and share in a delicious meal and delightful entertainment at Yoder's Family Restaurant in New Holland. The day starts at noon with a delicious lunch followed by entertainment provided by Brethren Village Men's Chorus and Ryan & Friends. Cost is \$16.00 per person. Please contact Betty Gross, 627-2539 for more information concerning this event.

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Senior Adult Tours with Earl and Vivian
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Contact: Earl Ziegler; 717-560-6488
or evzieg@verizon.net
.....
—Western PA Fall Foliage Tour –
October 12-13, 2009. Cost - \$179.00
.....
—Branson's Best, November 13-21,
2009.
.....
—A Pigeon Forge Christmas –
Dec. 6-11, 2009
.....



Happy Birthday to...
80 years and over

- Charles Garrett September 2
- Katie Gaeth September 5
- Charles Bieber September 11
- Elizabeth Adams September 14
- Charlotte Mellinger September 20

.....
Christian Sympathy is extended to
Clara Ruth & family on the death
of her husband, Albert, July 14.
.....

Thank you from...

—Thank you from Rob Eshelman:

—Thank you to Rob and Peggy Sowers for hosting the MS swim party on July 26. We all had a great time!

—Thank you to Cindy, Chelsea Zimmerman and Tyler Graham for their assistance during MS Day Camp the week of August 3–7. I greatly appreciated your leadership and openness with me, and the youth.

—Thank you to Lynda Jensen and company for heading up the parking cars fundraiser on July 4th for the MS youth, and to all the youth that helped as well. We collected \$590.78 for your efforts.

—Thank you to all the youth and adults who manned the milkshake stand on July 4th. Our efforts raised \$929.25 to offset costs of youth events.

Thank you from:

—Tammy Frey; Thank you to everyone who worked in the OFFC Sr. High Food Stand, both teens and adults and also to the people who donated food to sell. There were many so I can't list them all but I wanted everyone to know their help and donations were greatly appreciated and the fundraiser was a great success.

—The On Fire For Christ committee would like to thank all those involved in the July 4th event! The weather cooperated to give us an awesome event – we estimate as many as 2,000 people were on the church grounds at the height of the evening's events. The middle school youth group, by selling shakes and parking cars by donation, raised over \$1500 and the high school youth group, by selling food and drinks, had an awesome evening of fundraising as well – raising \$1800! The 64

people (including 6 from Akron COB) who helped by donating their time, their money (over \$1100) and/or their belongings, to make this event successful, should feel our warmest appreciation!

—The OFFC Committee:
Linda Fahnstock, Dawn Hall, Diane Hartranft, Bev Leisey, Karl Peifer, Dean Sensenig

—the Missions and Service Commission; With the donations from Vacation Bible School, we purchased 1 llama, 1 sheep, 2 goats, 1 trio of rabbits, 2 flock of chicks, 2 flock of ducks, 2 flock of geese and honeybees. We had fun with the challenges and picking the animals. Thank you everyone.

—Jane Wolf; Thank you to June & John for their help at Vacation Bible School. I really appreciated it.

—Dorothy Lied; thank you for all the cards, visits, and prayers I received during my recent setback. They were all very much appreciated.

—Clara Ruth and family; Thank you for all the cards & prayers on the death of my husband. Special thanks to Galen, Dean and Kim. Your caring meant so much. God bless you all.

—Barb Kindt and the “His Writers” group; Thank you to Donna Stauffer for typing and copying the poems and various inserts for the notes & cards that we mail.

—Thank you to Pastor Rob and the Middle School youth who weeded & cleaned up the courtyard and flower beds around the church for a Service Day during summer day camp. Your hard work is visible and is very much appreciated!

—Pastor Galen & Doris; thank you to everyone for their prayers, calls, emails, cards, flowers, and other acts of kindness, during the loss of Galen's mother. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

—Carol Bowman and Sharon Myers; thank you to everyone who donated school supplies & personal items for the Backpack for Kids Outreach. Enough items were donated to fill 100 backpacks. Thanks also to everyone who helped with sorting & packing the backpacks and those who helped on the night of distribution and with BINGO. We are sure that you were as blessed as the families receiving the items. Although we were not able to supply the demand that was needed that night, we praise God for all that he did do! Continue to pray for the children & families that received the backpacks.

—Esther Haller, (former) Historian; To the Ephrata Church of the Brethren: I have been Historian since 1982, taking over after Olive Keller. I saw a need for everything to be preserved at one place instead of all over the church. I was given the closet off the parlor. Wayne Stauffer built shelves & two cases in the lobby. Mick Zimmerman and I collected old books, pictures, certificates, articles from Sunday School classes, dishes, glasses, tapes, and the cornerstone box of the church on Church Ave. There are also pictures of the first minister through today. Bulletins are bound since the first one printed. The Upward Call newsletters are saved, as well as scrapbooks, files of different people, newspaper articles, birthday calendars and much more. Take a minute to observe the cases in the lobby. Thank you for honoring my work.

Health Ministry News—*Tricia Schlegel, Congregational Nurse*

Searching...

Recently, my family and I came back from a much anticipated trip to Disney. We went to the fireworks at Epcot. As we were waiting for them, a father ran by us several times frantically calling "Nic." Evidently, Nic was lost in this crowd of people. This father's search lasted about 10 minutes. He passed by us 3 times. His pace never slowed. He never got tired. Each time he passed, it seemed his voice was louder. All we could do was pray. God answered the many prayers that I'm sure were being lifted up for Nic. Nic was reunited with her family.

The father running by us looking for his daughter reminded me of how God searches for his children, especially when we walk away and how he pursues us actively. I'm certain this child didn't even know how she separated from her family; she may have just turned around when she wasn't looking and they weren't there. This can happen to us sometimes. We allow things to get into the relationship we have between

Christ and us. Still, God wants us, and runs after us, just like this father ran after his child.



One way that God keeps us spiritually healthy is by telling us the truth. These truths help us know our identity in him. By knowing our identity in Christ, we have become safe and have less of a chance of losing our way and becoming lost.

Below are some basic truths that God wants you to know today: The key is knowing your identity in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."*

I am Jesus' chosen friend (John 15:15).

I am holy and acceptable to God (Romans 5:1).

I have been bought with a price and belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

I am a saint, a holy one (Ephesians 1:1).

I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).

I am free from any condemning charges (Romans 8:31).

I can't be separated from God's love (Romans 8:35).

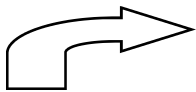
I am born of God; the evil one can't touch me (1 John 5:18).

I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

I am a Spirit-empowered witness of Christ (Acts 1:8).

I am a temple where the Holy Spirit lives (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19).

If you are feeling lost, his voice is becoming louder, he is running faster, his pace will never slow and he will never tire. The fireworks in your life will be much greater than you could ever imagine. Let God meet you wherever you are and carry you with him. You are never lost to him.



ECOB Email Communication

We will be using email more consistently to communicate with the ECOB church family about important church matters. We are requesting your participation in this new way of receiving communications, please send us an email at: info@ephratabrethren.org indicating your interest in receiving email communications from the church. If you are already receiving emails from the church 'info' account, you will automatically be included in the new email listings. If your email address changes or has changed please notify us promptly.

More Than Numbers

September 15, ECOB & S&F Commission will be hosting our first *Financial Peace University (FPU)* class. As an important part of discipleship, management of your financial provisions allows you to experience the freedom that God intended. If you didn't sign up for this class, if God's willing, we'll be having a class early next year. **You are invited to an Open House we'll be having on October 6th at 6:30pm.**

We'll be having our regular class and this will be a great opportunity to see how much fun you can have while learning about money! No need to sign up for the Open House, just show up on October 6th! In the meantime, here is some information about the course and what it can do for you, your family, and God's kingdom.

What is Financial Peace University?

FPU is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey.

FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! ***Very practical information that is biblically based and will provide you the peace that will set you free!***

Who is Financial Peace University for?

It's for EVERYONE!...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 650,000 families and individuals have attended Financial Peace University. Teenagers above 15 can attend with their parents.

Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

What Will I Learn?

In this life-changing program you will learn:

1. Step-by-Step Cash Flow Planning

Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit

down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."

2. Debt Snowball Plan Technique to Eliminating Debt

Proverbs 22:7: "The borrower is slave to the lender."

3. How to Invest Wisely

Ecclesiastes 11:2: "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land."

Testimonials

Here's what people just like you are saying about FPU:

"We've actually relieved ourselves of over \$50,000 worth of debt in two years just from using these principles." - Russ and Mary Lee

"It made us sit down as a couple and communicate... and it gave us an instant pay raise!" - Paul and Lynesa Benson

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email me, bmurphy@ephatabrethren.org.

Brad Murphy

Church Treasurer & ECOB FPU Coordinator



Children's Ministry News

Fresh Wind on Promiseland

Promiseland is the name we use for the ministry to children in kindergarten through fifth grade during the Sunday School hour. A Promiseland ministry team has been meeting since September 2008 under the leadership of Sarah Young. The Holy Spirit has guided us to some fresh wind for helping children to know, to experience, and to be like Jesus in this Promiseland ministry.

Sunday morning, September 13, 2009 the Promiseland ministry team will share at both services a new format and vision for this ministry. During the Sunday School hour parents and children will gather in the fellowship hall for a preview of the new format. Refreshments, worship, fun, learning, fellowship and information will take place during this hour. Please plan to attend with your child(ren) of this kindergarten – fifth grade age group.

I have been reading Mark A. Holmen's book *Building Faith at Home – Why Faith at Home Must Be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Mark reminds us that faith is not

something that can be taught; faith is something that is caught. "When faith is in the home, everyone catches it. As Pastors and leaders of Christ's church, we should be doing everything we can to get faith talk and faith living back into the homes and everyday life of the people of our churches. We must re-establish the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured. The main reason is the influence of Mom and Dad--who are two to three times more influential than any church program."

George Barna states that "The local church should be an intimate and valuable partner in the effort to raise the coming generation of Christ's followers and church leaders, but it is the parents whom God will hold primarily accountable for the spiritual maturation of their children." Listen to the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-7, "The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today



are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Our children have occasionally and will regularly receive a Home Connection paper from Promiseland. The information and suggested activities will promote spiritual formation and interaction in the home. As families pray together, have devotions together, do service together, and worship together on a regular basis the children will grow up doing those things themselves and teaching those disciplines to their own kids.

Please be in prayer for God's will to be done in this ministry to our children. Communicate with us concerning how we may support, encourage, inspire, motivate, and equip you as parents and caretakers of children. Contact me (Paul Hosler) at: 733-1229 ext. 230, phosler@ephatabrethren.org. May we join together in this Kingdom responsibility.

Director of Children's Ministries: Paul Hosler; 733-1229; phosler@ephatabrethren.org

Middle School Youth News

Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: *Rob Eshelman, 733-1229, reshelman@ephratabrethren.org*

WJTL Fall Blast – September 12 at Hershey Park is a Middle School event you don't want to miss! Christian bands and comedians will be performing throughout the park and all the rides will be up and running for you to enjoy. During the day there are two concerts that we will attend as a group to listen to the inspirational message brought to us in music.

Plan on attending this awesome event with your friends in your youth group. All you need to do is pick up a registration form in your Sunday school classroom or online and **return it to Rob by September 10th. Include \$26.00 with your registration form to cover a portion of the cost for this activity. Regular admission in 2009 is \$52.00.** What a deal at \$26.00 bucks! Contact Rob if you need more information on this event or check online. **No refunds for this event.**

Ephrata Fair – MilkShake Fundraiser for M.S. Youth and Families—September 22 & 25. This is a Tuesday and Friday and we need your help in making and selling delicious milkshakes at the Ephrata Fair Tent City down in the park. We did this last year and it was a blast! The senior high youth will cover Wednesday and Thursday, so we can all share in the fellowship, fun and the proceeds collected as well! Middle school youth and parents contact Rob for times and information pertaining to this event.

Harrisburg Quake – January 21-23, 2010. Early Bird registration is now in progress! The Quake is a Christ centered weekend at the Harrisburg Hilton complete with a pool and connected to Strawberry Square Mall and Food Court. The weekend is filled with spiritual messages, music concerts and awesome entertainment for everyone!



Your early bird registration form must be accompanied by a check for \$50.00 (non-refundable) made out to ECOB and returned to Rob or placed in his church mailbox by **October 21. Sorry no exceptions on this one.** Total cost for this weekend event at the early bird rate is \$100.00 per person. An additional \$25.00 will be deducted from this early bird rate if you participated in a Youth group fundraiser in 2009. If you miss the early bird registration you will not be left out of this awesome experience, but the cost will be \$150.00 per person.

M.S. Sunday Prep Nights! – October 7th through November 4th - You will have the opportunity to plan, participate and lead at both worship services, November 8. Starting on October 7 through November 4, right after Youth Club, 6:30—7:30 p.m., all interested middle school youth can help Rob brainstorm and plan the best worship service ever! This is an opportunity to play your instrument, act, sing, the sky is the limit!

Registration forms for activities listed are available in the Sunday School classrooms, at Youth Club or you may register online at www.ephratabrethren.org. Return the forms to Rob or place in his church office mailbox. Registration fees should accompany the registration form. Make checks out to "ECOB".

Crop Walk – October 18, 2009 (Service Day) Join your youth group as we spend an afternoon walking through some of the most beautiful countryside that God has created situated in our own backyard. It's fun, but 10 miles is quite a walk. If I can do it you can as well, and we have a great time along the way! Pick up a registration/donation form at church and meet us at 1:00 p.m. on October 18th in the church fellowship hall for the walk.

Fall Hoe Down in the Pavilion - The pavilion is the place to be October 25, 6:30 p.m. Join your friends as we get together to celebrate the fall season with crazy games and plenty of surprises to keep you laughing all night. Bring a friend! There will be prizes for the best hoe down costume, games, and awesome door prizes as well. Cost of admission is 3 non-perishable food items for Ephrata Area Social Services and a registration form for each person participating in this event. Deadline for registration is October 21.

Middle School Information Board
near the kitchen, next to the water fountain.

Youth Club is back! - Starting September 9



Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: Rob Eshelman,
733-1229;
reshelman@ephratabrethren.org.

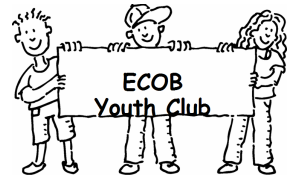
Yeah, you guessed it, more craziness and fun at Youth Club! If you thought last year was great, or this is your first year, hold on for the greatest time of your life. Jesus is alive and well at Youth Club and he's waiting for you to experience all he is and all he could be in your life. So, if you want to meet Jesus and some of your school buddies then join us every Wednesday for Youth Club.

Parents & guardians, if this is your child's first year or their fifth, come along and join in the fun! We have room for everyone. I know there are some really cool discoveries God has waiting for us and you may be one of them, so don't hesitate to share your ideas and thoughts with me at Youth Club. Also, at 5:30 I invite you and your family to join us for our delicious meal in the Fel-

lowship Hall. It's a great way to join in and be part of the living body of Christ at Youth Club.

Some of the awesome activities include: dodge ball, waffle ball, hockey, flag football, and many other sporty activities. If this is not your thing we have: Knit-wits, crafty crafts, Praise Dance Revolution, drama club, Rock Band, Spoons and a hay ride! This list will continue to grow as the year progresses, so stay tuned in.

Then at the beginning of our time together we have a half hour of Christian music videos, crazy games on the big screens, inspirational video testimonies and a time of devotion and prayer before dismissing for the activities of the day. At 5:30 we all sit together for a delicious meal prepared by Linda Sickmeier and company.



Through generous donations throughout the year, no registration fee is required! However, registration and medical information will still be necessary for each individual, but your child may attend at no cost to you. Pretty sweet deal!

Parent Handbooks may be viewed online or pick one up in the Middle School information rack near the church kitchen or at Youth Club. Registration is now in progress. **Sign up today!**

Contact Rob Eshelman for registration information; 733-1229; reshelman@ephratabrethren.org You may also register online at ephratabrethren.org

Coming To A Sanctuary Near You!

We are pleased to announce that due to the generosity of two anonymous donors the Lord has provided the funds to fulfill a long-standing vision. In agreement with the church board & the Stewardship & Finance Commission, we are excited about updates planned for our sanctuary. In mid-September you will begin to see beautiful new automated draperies

accented by a fresh new color on the walls. The color palette consists of warm neutrals with gold overtones that will modernize the décor while maintaining the traditional style of the room. An important fact to be aware of, especially in the current economic climate, is that these were dedicated funds given specifically for the purpose of enhancing the

overall worship experience at ECOB. No monies from the general funds of the church will be used. We are very grateful & blessed to have been given these gifts & we pray that as we use them in this visible way we express our worship to God, giving him all honor & glory. Praise him! Praise him!
-Worship & Music Commission.

District Relief Auction

September 26 & 27 Lebanon Expo Center

There are many ways you can become involved above and beyond attending the festivities:

Again this year will be a **Children's Auction** where only children ages 5-12 will be permitted to do the bidding (parental supervision required). We need now to enthruse our young people to carry on this important Christian Out-Reach. New toys and games are needed for this auction.

The **Baked Goods** stand is in need of many baked items: pies, sugar-free pies, cakes, cupcakes, candy, unsliced breads, whoopie pies, brownies; small lunch size pies are in big demand, anything you wish to bake will be greatly accepted. Due to concerns about pies that need refrigeration we can no longer accept pumpkin pies, lemon sponge pies, mince meat pies, custard pies or any pie made with the majority of milk.

If you or your Sunday School class, Discipleship group or a group of friends would like to donate any of the above items, the committee would like to know as soon as pos-

sible so that items needed, but not donated, can be ordered. (This cuts down on relief monies). The pie pan kits will be available on Monday, August 31. Please contact Linda Fahnstock, 733-4414, if you would be willing to help anytime on Friday or Saturday at the Baked Goods stand. We hope to have a good contribution from our church again this year.



Theme Basket Auction is getting to be a big auction of it's own and many of you have provided baskets in the past and we hope you continue to participate. This registration is due by September 8.

Share-a-Meal: This is always a fun way to meet new people, take to trip to Maine, visit with an Amish family or maybe learn to know a neighbor down the street or even better, host a dinner in your home or consider a Sunday School class or discipleship group

hosting a dinner perhaps here at the church. This can be a really fun event. These registrations are due by September 20.

Some **Other Events** in conjunction with the Auction are: Arts and Crafts; Farmers Market (lots of local produce, flowers, pumpkins, etc.); Heifer and livestock sale; and the **BIGGIE:** the quilt auction.

If you are interested in volunteering, supplying any baked goods or materials or just receiving more details on any of the above, please contact Linda Fahnstock at 733-4414, our church Disaster Relief Sale Representative.

Several weeks ago I put information packets in all the adult Sunday School Class mailboxes. This packet contains all the information you need to address the above events, but please feel free to contact me. There are additional packets in the lit rack outside the church office.

Hope to hear from all of you and see you all there.

GriefShare

Many people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You

will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. Grief related books/materials are available for participants to borrow. Please feel free to check out this Biblical based support group.

GriefShare is held Tuesdays beginning September 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor. There is no cost to you. Child care is provided.

For more information or to register contact the church office, 733-1229.

Sr. High Youth News

Director of Sr. High Youth: *Brian Nissly, 336-7221; bnissly@ephatabrethren.org*

Our Sr. High Youth Group has enjoyed sharing with you stories about our experience at Workcamp this summer. We encourage you to look at our bulletin board and talk with the youth that attended workcamp. God revealed Himself to us in many ways that we'd love to share with you.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, September 6: No youth group – Labor day weekend

Sunday, Sept. 13: Important Parent and Youth Meeting. This meeting will begin at 5 p.m. with a light supper and then move into sharing the calendar of special events and youth group goals. Siblings are welcome to come. **Please RSVP** via e-mail to Brian by Thursday, Sept. 10 as to how many will be attending so we can plan for supper. The YAC group can not stress enough to you how important this informational meeting is.

Sunday, Sept. 20: 5:45 p.m. Homebase

Wed. & Thurs., Sept. 23 & 24: Milkshake stand at the Ephrata Fair. This is an important fund raising event. Talk to Brian about signing up to help.

Sunday, Sept. 27: A "you won't want to miss" Scavenger Hunt !

Looking ahead:

Friday night, October 2: 5th Quarter Party; this is the night of the big Cocalico/Ephrata game. When the time on the clock runs out, come over to the Nissly's for a bonfire and fun.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Chicken BBQ fundraiser at Martin's Country Market; We will be looking for some youth to help and to also spread the word that we are selling Chicken BBQ.



Sunday, October 4: A unique Love Feast for our Sr. High youth; We will leave at 4 p.m. We are going for a hike and having our Love Feast on the trail. We will return at approx. 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11: Tailgate Party and Chili Cookoff. We will begin serving at 11 a.m. Do you have a great Chili recipe? Want to be in the cookoff? Want to be a griller? Contact Brian.

Why so many fundraising events? National Youth Conference is in 2010! We could have close to 40 youth attending! What a blessing!

Bethany Seminary Snapshot —Fall 2009

At the beginning of its 105th academic year, Bethany Seminary has reason to be enthused. More than thirty new students are expected to enroll this year, which includes the largest number of degree-seeking students in the last ten years. More important, their depth of personal faith, character, and academic ability will enrich both the Bethany community and the wider church. Bethany's faculty is now fully staffed, having welcomed Dr. Steven Schweitzer as associate professor and academic dean and Malinda Berry as instructor in theological studies and

director of the MA program. Together they bring experience in classroom instruction, ministry, and volunteer service leadership.

One way that Bethany strives to keep the door of communication open is through its Web site: www.bethanyseminary.edu. Visitors will find information on all degree and Academy programs, employees and trustees, new initiatives in student recruitment, the journal *Brethren Life & Thought*, and community life. Complete issues of Bethany

publications and all press releases are available as is a new collection of Webcasts, allowing those at a distance to view special events and presentations.

All at Bethany Seminary are grateful to be in partnership with congregations like ours, calling and preparing men and women to serve the church and upholding the deeply held values and faith traditions of the Church of the Brethren.

Is God calling you to become a student at Bethany Seminary?

Fellowship & Recreation News

Happy September to everyone! We hope you had an enjoyable summer. Thank you to all who helped us to serve food and clean up on Aug. 16 at the church picnic.

Card Shower
 —Charlie Bieber, birthday wishes, Sept. 11, P.O. Box 5093, Townhouse #118, Lancaster, PA 17606-5093
 —Charlotte Mellinger, birthday wishes, Sept. 20, 125A E. Walnut St., Ephrata, PA 17522



This month we spotlight:
 —Jeff and Lorie Zimmerman
 —Jack and Dee Wingenroth

Look for information about these families this month in the glass bulletin board, near the lobby, as we learn to know each other in this our “community of love”.



- *Congratulations to Kristy Meiskey & Melvin Waldner Jr., on the birth of their son, Marcus Jacob, born July 30.*
- *Parent/Child Dedication, August 9, Scott & Heidi (Zimmerman) Lindsay, dedicated Alexa Elizabeth.*
- *Nicole Grace was baptized on July 26.*
- *Congratulations to Sarah Bloomfield and Joel Horning who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 15.*



—Wayne & Ruth Lawrence, Garden Spot Village, Fallcrest #107

—Clarence & Bev Gerhart, 6 Buena Vista Lane, Denver, PA 17517

— Betty Earhart, United Zion Retirement Community, 722 Furnace Hills Pike, Nursing room #1, Lititz, PA 17543

—Has your address, phone number or email address changed? Please notify the church office with your new information 733-1229.

—Newsletter information for the October issue of the *Upward Call* is due by September 5. Please email information if possible to Carol Bowman: cbowman@ephratabrethren.org.



Calendar

September

- 4—Scrapbooking Club, 7:00 p.m., Fell. Hall
- 6—Prayer Time in the Parlor—9:30 a.m.
- 7—Labor Day
- 8—Support Group Sessions Start, 6:30 p.m.
- 9—Youth Club Starts, 2:30 p.m.
- 10—Brethren Village Golf Tournament
- 13—National Grandparents Day
- 13—COBYS Bike & Hike
- 15—Financial Peace class starts, 6:30 p.m.
- 20—Blood Pressure Screenings, Room #402
- 21—Leader’s Net mtg., 12:15 p.m.
- 21—International Day of Prayer for Peace
- 25-26—Brethren Disaster Relief Auction
- 26—Spiritual Life Survey starts (through Oct. 10)

October dates to mark on your calendar

- 4—Love Feast and Communion
- 7—District Sr. Adult Fall Fell. Banquet
- 7—Sonshine Club starts, 5:00 p.m.
- 9-10—District Conference
- 18—CROP Walk



EPHRATA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Living for Jesus so others may know Him.

201 Crescent Ave.
Ephrata, PA 17522

Phone: 717-733-1229
Fax: 717-733-1011
E-mail: info@ephratabrethren.org
Website: ephratabrethren.org

Address Service Requested



The Upward Call

SEPTEMBER 2009

Volume 16, Issue 8

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Ephrata Church of the Brethren

Sunday Morning Services

Traditional Worship - 8:30 a.m.
Promiseland Children's Ministry - 9:30 a.m.
(for grades K - 5)
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Galen Hackman
Pastor of Congregational Care: Rob Eshelman
Director of Worship and Music: Dean Sensenig
Congregational Administrator: Carol Bowman
Director of Children's Ministries: Paul Hosler
Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: Rob Eshelman
Director of Sr. High Youth Ministries: Brian Nissly

Support Staff:

Church Secretary: Donna Stauffer
Church Custodian: J. Henry Wolf
Treasurer: Brad Murphy

Volunteer Staff:

Pastor of Community Connection: Kim Ream
Congregational Nurse: Tricia Schlegel
Moderator: Steph Fassnacht
Pastor Emeritus: Charles Bieber

Prayer

Father, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love and a will devoted to serving; that in the days to come, this congregation may be known not for our glory but for your glory—a congregation of people who know you; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are changed and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us a heart to desire YOU above all other things. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen