

THE UPWARD CALL

Ephrata Church of the Brethren

Living for Jesus so others may know Him.

Volume 17, Issue 3

April 2010

*How did
you bring
Jesus Glory
today?*



Palm Sunday—March 28

Maundy Thursday, April 1

—Love Feast Service; 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday—April 2

Easter Sunday—April 4

—Sunrise Service/breakfast; 6:30 a.m.



Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.... "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

—John 20:11-16

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ECOB Pictorial Directory

The pictorial directory committee reminds you that Dennis Studio will be here between May 6 and May 20 to take your portrait. Your portraits will be taken at ECOB in the fellowship hall. There is no cost for the sitting and each participating family will receive a free directory. Portraits can be purchased at the time of your sitting.

Sign-up for your portrait session on Sunday, April 4 and Sunday, April 11 between 8:00 a.m. and noon, in the church lobby.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Fahnestock.



New Worship Series: *Hall of Faith*—starting April 11



Starting April 11, we will begin a worship series entitled: ***Hall of Faith***. We will be highlighting the lives of Christian believers

and martyrs, in our worship services and through elective Sunday School classes that will be offered each week.

Be sure to come and learn about these ordinary individuals, who through faith in Christ, became extraordinary.

April 11—*Hall of the “Faith-ers”*;

The Righteous Walk by Faith. Highlighting the people of faith in Hebrews 11.

April 18—*“Saints” on the Mission Field; Laying up Treasures in Heaven*. Highlighting five missionaries killed by the Auca Indians.

April 25—*John Kline; Do to Others, As You Would Have Them Do to You*. Highlighting the life of Elder John Kline.

May 2—*Eric Liddell; When I Run, I Feel His Pleasure*. Highlighting the life of Eric Liddell, a Scottish Olympic star.

May 9—*Fanny Crosby; More Than Conquerors*. Highlighting the life of Fanny Crosby, a blind hymn writer.

May 16—*Persecuted Church; Persecuted, But Not Abandoned*.

May 23—*Radical Disciples—Anabaptist Martyrs; The Power of Forgiveness*. Highlighting men and woman who gave their lives for the Anabaptist movement.

May 30—*Remembrance*. Remembering the Faithful who encouraged us in our faith.

June 6—*You Too Can Be a Hall of “Faith-er”*. (Graduation Sunday). Sending out the graduates and all believers to do what God has called them to do.



New Members received by transfer: March 21:
—Dr. James & Gail Carson & Sierra DeStefano
—Nelson & Lorie Sensenig

Christian Sympathy is extended to Wayne Lawrence, on the death of his wife, Ruth, on Feb. 25.

Mark your calendars for Weeding & Mulching Day of the ECOB grounds; Saturday, May 1, 8:00 a.m.

Community Meal hosted by ECOB, Thursday, April 8. This is our first of three meal ministries for 2010. We are in need of items for the meal as well as financial support and help serving. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Mark your calendars for July 22 & Oct. 7 for future community meals. Contact Linda Fahnestock or Linda Sickmeier for more info. Thank you for supporting this community ministry.

Annual 4TH of July Community Outreach Event, “On Fire For Christ” is a great opportunity to hang out with the community, providing them with an affordable family fun activity while sharing God’s love with them. Please consider being part of this planning team. Key volunteer positions must be filled ASAP. Call Diane Hartranft or Dean Sensenig for more info.

Did you hear the Buzz —The Buzz of electricity! Get “Plugged In” to the new College and Career (C&C) class. Join this exciting new group of singles, young married, college & career who want to have fun & grow in their walk. You are invited to the very first, “Final Friday” on March 26, 7-11 p.m. in the ECOB fellowship hall. Come enjoy coffee & pastries, hanging out with friends & fun. Watch the weekly bulletins for more info about this exciting new group & future activities. Contact Leann Huber for more info.

From Pastor Galen...

The word mystic, as a description of a Christian, has been popping up for me in a number of places recently.

During sabbatical last fall, I spent a few days with Paul Grout at his retreat center in Vermont. Paul says that in each of us, in our souls, God has placed a warrior, a monk and a mystic. Holistic spiritual life involves developing each of these aspects.

As we were discussing this last fall, I remembered that the highly venerated Brethren professor of a prior generation, Floyd Mallot, in his book *Studies in Brethren History* referred to the Brethren as “Biblical, Pietistic, mystics” (pp 13-16). I first read that years ago and was immediately challenged by it. Biblical I understood; Pietistic I was beginning to understand via my formal studies; mystic left me rather in the dark.

Now here was Paul Grout, revered leader in the church, talking about being a mystic.

And last week I just finished a book by psychologist Larry Crabb entitled *Becoming a True Spiritual Community* and he says for true spiritual community to emerge, we need to become *mystics*.

There’s that word again.

Of course these three people—Grout, Mallot and Crabb—are speaking of Christian mysticism. Crabb defines it like this:

“Mysticism is the felt arousal of spiritual passions within the regenerate heart, passions that can have no existence apart from a Spirit-revealed knowledge of truth and the promptings of the same Spirit to enjoy that truth” (p 146). Crabb goes on to say that in reality we either try to manage God or we are bad mystics, feeling the

wrong passions.

I have come to realize recently that I have always been a mystic, though maybe I am only awakening to this part of my being. Lord knows, I have tried to manage God, to keep him in the comfortable compartments of my life, to only desire him to do things I am comfortable with, to only see him through the lens of my own experience and tradition. I am still tempted to define God on my own terms, but I have come to realize that doing so is always a bad choice on my part.

I no longer want to manage God. I want to release him—release him from the bondage created by my own restraints. I want to experience God. I want him to do whatever it is he desires. I want him to shape me, not me to shape him. I want to feel him, know him, see him, sense him. And I not only want this for myself, I want it for my marriage, my family, the church and the community.

I believe God is real; that he exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that he has a host of spiritual beings that bid him homage and aid in his work. I believe that opposed to him in this world are a whole host of other spirits—bad ones—evil ones—who swagger about seeking whom they may derail and devour, and they are very successful.

I desire to see God manifest himself and to see his bright light of truth shatter the hopelessness and pettiness that grips our world. So many of us—believers and unbelievers alike—have believed the lie and the lies (2 Thess 2:11-12) propagated by the entities that rule the darkness. I want God to shatter the darkness of my own soul and mind, and that of those around me.

I want to worship God with abandon, without restraint and inhibition, because he is worth it. I believe in genuine worship I am changed and God is glorified. I long to see mediocrity, lukewarmness and indifference in the church dispelled by divine grace.

I believe God’s truth pervades the shoddy “isms” of today and yesterday; that God’s purpose stands and that his will reigns supreme. His love is immeasurable; his grace unfathomable; his mercy unsearchable; his anger pure; his judgment just. I long to be loved by him, forgiven by him, judged on his scale of justice meted out by his grace.

I guess I am a mystic. There are passions bubbling up in my soul. Some of these passions have been there a long time; some are new, at least in their intensity. These passions flow from the presence of his Spirit in my life; they are being fanned by the drawing of that Spirit into the heart of the Father and they are becoming irresistible.

I am being changed. I do not know what this means—it is mystical—but it feels right. It feels like I am coming home. And there is no place like home. Home is to be what God created me to be, to be where he created me to be; to do what he created me to do. Home is where his heart is.

Sabbatical had a huge part to play in this, in ways I can only feel and not describe. I began the sabbatical last fall saying that I lost a level of joy in my life and that I was seeking to rediscover it. I feel it now, writing this page about my passion. I think I’m home.

***I no longer
want to
manage
God. I want
to release
him.***

Thoughts for Senior Citizens *by Charlie Bieber*



THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.
Psalm 98:1

The life and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us cause to celebrate. It puts a new song in our heart:

A song that continues. Celebration of the resurrection is not a one-time thing that is completely done and over. It is always new, enabling us to build on the new life and keep it going.

A song of a special kind of prayer. Because we know that Jesus lives, we can talk with him on a very personal, intimate level.

A song of the Spirit, who blows afresh and brings new life, new joy, new hope, new faith, new power.

A song of Presence. Jesus is here, in our joys, in our hopes, our sorrows, our fears. Jesus is here in our homes, our work, our streets, our schools, our shops, our lanes, our alleys, our paths.

A song of surprise. In sudden, fresh awareness of the continuing POWER of God's grace, and the GRACE of God's power.

A song of love. Jesus laid down his life and took it up, for us, so that nothing can separate us from his love.

A song of growing experience of prayer, of presence, of Spirit, of power, of surprise, of love.

Please, God, please keep us aware of the resurrection.

Sr. Adult Fellowship News

Senior Adult Luncheons

12:00 p.m.; ECOB Fellowship Hall
June 10
August 12
December 9

Note: A \$5.00 donation is being requested from each individual attending the luncheons to help defer the cost of future entertainment and meal expenses. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

M.C.C. Resource Center Work Days

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
April 27 – Lunch is being provided!
September 14
November 2

We meet at the Resource Center at 9:00 a.m. You have the option of working the entire day and bringing a lunch or leaving at lunch time. The choice is yours. Please join us.



*Happy Birthday to...
80 years and over*

April

Ruth Seppi	April 3
Loretta Hill	April 11
Earl Hurst	April 16
Robert Griffith	April 17
Cathryn Adams	April 19
Margaret Gehr	April 20
Emily Crane	April 23

Thank you from...

—*Gail Carson*; Thank You for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, meals, and especially my prayer shawl! The surgery went great — the results were a miracle. For those who do not know; while Jim was serving in Africa on a medical mission trip, I had to undergo unexpected surgery. I was told it was greater than a 90% chance of ovarian cancer—with bloodwork testing very positive for cancer. My bloodwork numbers started dropping very "mysteriously" during the week before the surgery. My surgeon had "no explanation whatsoever". An oncologist was called in to assist for the surgery—no cancer was found. The oncologist, (who was part of the team at Duke that developed the blood test that detects this type of cancer), said despite the 2,000 "false positive" blood tests he had seen in his career, "never a false positive in someone with a score as high as 600". I made sure God received the credit for this miracle with all

the medical staff that came in contact with me. God does still heal, in miraculous ways as well as through doctors. NEVER underestimate the power of prayer. Peace & grace to you all.

—*Mona Murphy*; Thanks so much to my small group who provided meals for my parents while my mom has been recovering from several health issues. What a blessing to have such wonderful women take time out of their own busy schedules and families to help out my parents...who they don't even know! Thanks to all of you!

—*Barb Kindt*; Thank you to my ECOB church family for all the prayers and cards I received during my recent health issues. Your thoughts, prayers and kindness are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Bill & Mary Elaine Rutter, Linda Fahnestock and Karen Good for the care they provided me as I was recovering.

—*Joyce Lindberg*; Thank you for all the get well and birthday cards I received. I appreciate all of them very much. You are all a blessing to me!

Thank you from Rob Eshelman to:

—Jon Wingenroth, Nate & Lauren Eakin, Dave Campbell & Brian Nissly for assisting me in the 30 Hour Famine weekend experience on February 26 and 27.

—to the 25 youth who participated and raised funds for the 30 Hour Famine ministry of World Vision. I'm sure you made God smile!

—to Bill & Lynda Jensen, Dean and Cathy Putt, Doug and Marti Epler, Candy and son Calvin Walker, and all those who contributed the food and desserts for our Break-fast meal. It was greatly appreciated and delicious!



Joyful Women in Fellowship
Ladies Brunch & Tea
Saturday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m.

In the fellowship hall
 Brunch by Rettew's
 Guest Speaker: Bonni Greiner

Sign up in the kitchen hallway between services on
 April 4 & April 11, or call Jill Martin.
 A freewill offering will be taken to defer the cost of the
 brunch and the speaker.

Health Ministry News—Tricia Schlegel, Congregational Nurse

Retirement- A New Beginning (adapted from Debbie Best)

“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall begin to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting; and from the age of fifty years, they shall retire from the duty of the service and serve no more. They may assist their brothers in the tent of meeting in carrying out their duties’.” -Numbers 8:23-26a

One might assume that in the case of the Levites, forced retirement was meant to foster younger leadership – young men could begin to serve while still under the guidance of the temple elders. Or perhaps, it was due to the physical requirements of hauling the tabernacle and its furnishings through the wilderness. Regardless, God seemed to know that a healthy retirement requires some sort of advanced planning.

How well one adjusts to this new phase of life depends on a number of factors. Dr. George Valiant, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School likens it to being in 4th grade – “cooperative play, helping others, having friends, and learning are all important. Problem is that by this age, we’ve forgotten how to play.” There is some truth to this because

it appears that those who strongly identify with their occupation, often have some difficulty adjusting to life without a time clock.



Taking time to cultivate a network of friends outside of work relationships, can be immensely helpful in getting through the initial retirement adjustment phase. If you are one of those who used his/her job as an escape from family issues, this time may be particularly stressful. Spend time with your spouse, but don’t overwhelm them by expecting him/her to meet all your social needs – this is an adjustment for him/her as well. Meet friends for coffee, join a Bible study, or organize a regular round of golf – allow yourself to have fun! Try a new activity. Engage the creative side of your brain – Rediscover who you are! Do something you’ve always wanted to do!

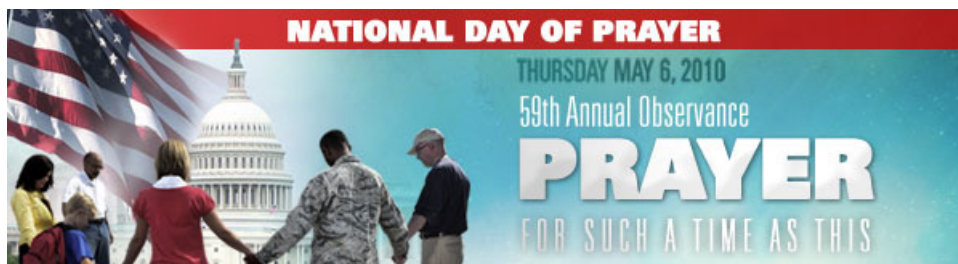
During retirement, physical activity is more important than ever. Consider participating in a formal fitness program or walking 20-30 minutes at least 3-5 times-a-week – all will go a long way toward establishing or maintaining healthy behaviors. Strength training exercises [weights or resistance] several times a week, have been recognized to

decrease stress, improve balance, and increase endurance and flexibility. Good dietary habits: limiting fats, sugar, and salt, in conjunction with drinking at least 8 glasses of water per day, and getting regular sleep, all contribute to living a full and productive life.

Plan your time and set some personal goals. What do you want to accomplish on a typical day? It is human nature to waste time when you have lots of it! Get more involved in your community; volunteer at your local hospital, the local chapter of the Red Cross, or Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Do you have a special gift or talent? Use it to teach others! Ask God where you should go-then go!

Get to know yourself spiritually. Join a small group. Study scripture. Sign up for seminary courses either locally or on-line. Explore a variety of prayer forms. Learn more about God as you simultaneously learn more about yourself.

In the words of Robert Fulghum, “Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw some and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday.” Blessings to you as you pursue this wonderful, new phase of life!



Lancaster County National Day of Prayer to be held on the grounds of Lancaster Bible College. Speaker: Dr. Tony Evans.
Log onto: lancasterndp.com for more information.

News & Events

The Missions & Service Commission is looking for a volunteer to be ECOB's representative on the Ephrata area Homes of Hope board. The board meets once a month. As needs arise for the families in this program or for the HOH houses, the representative brings back those requests to our commission and church family. The representative could take a more active part in the program and become a mentor to a family or help with various other tasks as needed. If you are interested in becoming a part of this program, please contact June Summers, M&S Commission chairperson.

Habitat for Humanity

ECOB, along with Mohler, Middle Creek COB's and Hinkletown Mennonite, will be sponsoring a duplex house to be built in a new development on North State Street, Ephrata. Start date has yet to be set, perhaps as soon as early summer! We'll need individuals, discipleship groups, Sunday schools and even businesses to help sponsor and build this house. We hope you'll get involved with this awesome community outreach opportunity! Contact Karl Peifer, ECOB's Habitat coordinator, for more information.

Bethany Seminary's Presidential Forum – April 9-10

When Strangers Are Angels: the spiritual and social movements of Brethren, Friends, and Mennonites in a new century.

Our third annual Presidential Forum brings together a number of voices from the historic peace churches to explore what our inheritances offer to the 21st Century church and world.

Special sessions include:

- Man of Magdalena* a musical about healing and sacrifice through the story of a Mexican migrant.
- discussion groups dealing with the topics of racism, militarism, poverty, and immigration.

More information is available at www.bethanyseminary.edu/forum2010.

did you know . . .

Bethany Offers Web Casts

The Bethany experience is not confined to a classroom, and our wish is to open our door to the wider church as much as possible. Bethany's *Web Cast Central* on our Website makes archived videos of campus events available to the public. Recent programs include:

- A Jewish Tentmaker Preaches Peace*; an insightful lecture on the apostle Paul by Dr. Dan Ulrich on the occasion of his promotion to full professor of New Testament Studies;
- A Celebration of Bethany's Special Collections, a fascinating overview and history of this unusually valuable library of rare books and theological works, now numbering 5462 volumes.

Walk for Life

Make a difference and walk for life! Please join Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services for Walk for Life 2010, Saturday morning, May 15 in Columbia, Ephrata or Lebanon. Walkers, sponsors, and volunteers are needed. Pre-registration is appreciated. For more information log on to www.svps.org and click on the "Events" tab.

The Promise Players

The Promise Players will be performing the musical, "High Cotton" on April 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m. and on April 18 & 25 at 2:30 p.m. at Lampeter COB. Suggested donation is \$7.00 with children 12 and under free. Babysitting is provided at the matinees only. Call 464-2050 during weekday business hours to reserve seats. Proceeds benefit *Compeer*, a volunteer based program that provides supportive friendships for people in mental health care.

Friendship Community

—April 5, Talent Night at 7 p.m. at Mellinger Mennonite Church, Lancaster. A freewill offering will be received. For information, call Betty Hess, 656-2466, ext. 165.

—May 7 & 8; 17th annual Fest & Auction. Chicken BBQ, musical entertainment by "Set Free" and tethered hot air balloon rides, pancake & sausage breakfast, auctions, children's activities, craft, plant, baked goods & gift certificate sales (refer to schedule for specific times of events). Donations & volunteers are now being accepted. For information, call Betty Hess, 656-2466, ext. 165.

Children's Ministry News

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

*Save the
Date!*
Vacation
Bible School
July 11-15,
2010

Reminder

Easter Egg
Hunt
Saturday,
April 3,
10:00 a.m.

More of — What Do Kids Need to Hear?

In Isaiah 43, God speaks to the people of Israel and tells them that they are priceless, treasured and that He loves them. God sent His Son Jesus to this earth to live and die and rise to life to show each one of us how we are priceless, treasured and loved by Him. Just as we learn from God's Word and His Spirit that we are "treasured" so too our children need to hear that they are "treasured" by us. When children feel treasured by a parent or other close adult, the conviction of believing that he or she is a treasured child of God comes more readily.

The following excerpt is by David Staal from his book: *Words Kids Need to Hear to help them be who God made them to be*. "Kids long to feel special, the kind of feeling that comes straight from a parent's heart. Not as a result of performance. Not for physical appearance. Not earned at all. Children need

to feel precious, prized, valued, or cherished – you pick the term – by mom and dad solely because they're kids and because kids are worth treasuring." This message of "I treasure you" needs to be expressed deliberately and repetitively.

How do we simply express this message to our children? "I am so thankful to God for sending you into our lives." "You are so precious to God and to mommy and me." "I love to watch you play. Write an "I treasure you" note and put it on the pillow, in the suitcase, in the backpack, or surprise place where it will be easily found. Send that special message via text mail or e-mail. Pray verbally a prayer of blessing at bed time. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26) I have a book of blessings to pray for children. Contact me and it is yours to

use.

Personal time and interaction with your children will provide opportunities to say the



words kids need to hear. Plan something new and/or different for just the two of you to do. This personal time with a child can provide memories that will always be remembered. Parents who make time to be with their kids find blessing and joy in that time together.

Parents need to speak strong words of love that correct, guide, and discipline their children. These words need not negate the "I treasure you" messages but be balanced with those that grow their hearts. Let us seek God's guidance in understanding the depth of His love for us as we share that love with our children. May we join together in this Kingdom responsibility.

Resources

Here are several resources of biblical truth for today's family — we all need encouragement and help to be the parents God desires.

—focusonthefamily.com: has hundreds of marriage and family resources. Need Help? Call 1-800-232-6459 with questions, or write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995.

Two other sites recommended for parents are:
—d6family.com and visionaryparenting.com

For some Christ-centered kids sites try:
—JellyTelly.com and kidstalkaboutgod.org

Middle School Youth News

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

Youth Club

God has blessed this outreach ministry of ECOB.

Youth in grades 4 through 8 attend this Wednesday after school activity. This is a great place to get your homework done or just kick back after a day at school. Activities include: Four Square, Kickball, and many other activities in the gym. In addition to this, we have Praise Dance Revolution, cool crafts, the Knit Wits and much more. At the end of the activities we have a delicious meal prepared by Linda Sickmeier and Company.

Now here is a crew you need to meet. Our kitchen coordinator, Linda Sickmeier: each Wednesday, she leaves her fulltime job and hustles over to the church to prepare and serve a delicious meal for about 50 to 60 youth and adults. Linda prepares the menu, orders the food, and has someone prepare dessert for each week. She does all of this with a smile!

Helping Linda each week are my good friends Charlie and Joyce Lindberg who have been lending a hand with Youth Club for 19 years. They are part of the kitchen crew which includes: Donna Ruth, Ruth Seppi, Darle Good, Sandy Sensenig, Earl & Pam Horst, Dawn Hall, Karen Haas, Jane Wolf and Linda Boyd. For you guys I missed on the list, sorry. I'll catch you next time. Without their help we would be eating pizza every week. Thank you all for the love you show and share to the youth and adults who attend Youth Club each week.

We can always use a few extra hands, so contact Linda Sickmeier if you would like to join the kitchen crew.



Middle School News

Destination Unknown Night April 11

Yes! It's back and the same rules apply – don't ask! We leave the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and return at 9:00 p.m. It's a freebie, so bring your friends and plan on having a great time at Destination Unknown!

Capture the Flag & Smoes Night

April 25 ushers in the first Capture the Flag night of the season! All the action will take place at Rob's house. During a break in the action, we will stoke up the fire ring in the backyard and toast those delicious marshmallows that are squished between two graham crackers and a chunk of chocolate. Umm, sounds pretty good to me.

Bring a friend along and join us for an excellent adventure. Wear camo and face paint if it's okay with your parents and really get into it!

We will meet at Rob's house (contact Rob for directions) at 6:00 p.m. and wrap things up by 9:00 p.m. Pick up a registration form at all the usual locations or register online at: ephatabrethren.org.



Registration forms for activities listed are available in the Sunday School classrooms, at Youth Club or you may register online at www.ephatabrethren.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".

Middle School District Service Day — May 1

Registration is now in progress. This year it is right in our own backyard! We will be serving at the MCC Material Resource Center here in Ephrata. We will meet as a group at church at 8:30 a.m. and return to the church around 1:00 p.m. It's a freebie and it comes with lunch too! You must be registered to attend this event. Registration deadline: April 21.

Cross Training April 11 to May 30

It's an eight week course, which could lead you to a new relationship with Jesus or build upon the relationship you already have with Him. Discover who Jesus is and how He fits into your life now and for eternity. He can make a difference in your life starting today!

We will meet every Sunday morning from 9:30—10:40 a.m. in Rob's office, right beside the Resource Room. Bring your Bible and join us for this time of discovery!

Middle School Information Board
by the water fountain, near the kitchen.

Sr. High Youth News

Director of Sr. High Youth: *Brian Nissly, 733-1229; bnissly@ephratabrethren.org*

L.B.I. Retreat

Theme: *The baby pool or the ocean where will you be?*

April 30 thru May 2

The Sr. High Youth are headed to the beach. This is an annual retreat for us and is a time of spiritual growth and of course fun because we are at the beach! This year, we will be having a guest speaker, James Horning from Crossfire ministries in Stevens will be making the trip with us and sharing lots of spiritual truths as God leads him. Jim is a great guy and we look forward to him joining us. We will be staying at the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference facility on Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

We will be departing Fri., Apr. 30, about 4 p.m. Youth who are involved in spring sports will be joining us later in the evening after their events. We will return to the church at approx. 2 p.m. Sun., May 2. Youth cost of this event is \$50.00. We would like to encourage all senior high youth to join us this weekend. Register online at the church web site. Deadline to register and have your money in is April 18.



April 4—Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. Breakfast provided. (no evening senior high youth group).

April 10—Youth Auction Fundraiser, 9:00 a.m., ECOB Fell. Hall.

April 11—Homebase; 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.

April 18—Homebase; 5:45 to 7:30

April 25—Grab a little lunch and then head over to the Ephrata High School to see the Musical. Leaving after 2nd service. See Brian if interested.

April 25—No evening youth group

April 30 to May 2—Long Beach Island Retreat

May 2—No evening youth group.

June 20 to 26—Work camp; Buffalo, NY

This year we will be shuffling off to Buffalo. This is always a great week of hard work, great fellowship, outreach and a time of watching God move in the lives of the residents of Buffalo and in the lives of youth.

July 17 to 25—National youth Conference

This trip only happens every four years. We will be joining 4000 other Brethren youth from around world and the United States in the Rocky Mountains to celebrate your faith in the midst of God's beautiful creation.

Thank you!

Dinner and Variety Show thanks...

Many thanks from all of the Sr. High Youth and the YAC committee to everyone who participated in the Saturday Feb. 20 Dinner and Variety Show. The food was so delicious! Thank you to all the kitchen staff and especially Linda Sickmeier who graciously planned the menu, shopped, cooked and made it all look so easy. Thanks to Doug Epler for providing a "stretch your brain time" with his T.V. trivia game. Thanks to Lisa Schmuck for the pretty table decorations. The variety show was fantastic. We were wowed many times over with all of the many talents displayed during the evening. Special thanks to Dean Sensenig for all of his work in getting that all organized and all his professional know how with the sound and music. And finally, we say thanks to every parent who helped and to the congregation for your attendance. Our church family is great!

Fellowship & Recreation News

Upcoming events

April 4 & 11—sign-up in church lobby from 8-12 for portrait session. (see page 1 for more information)

May 9—Mother's Day reception in lobby between services.

May 6—20 Dennis Studio will be here at the church to take your portrait.

For your information: Saturday April 24 will be the one day event known as *The Great American Clean-up Of Pennsylvania*. Learn more about this PENNDOT event by going to www.gacofpa.org.

Card Shower

This month we remember:

—Cathryn Adams, birthday wishes, April 19

—Emily Crane, birthday wishes, April 23

Refer to your church directory for addresses or call the church office, 733-1229.

Expectation is the breeding ground of the miraculous!

ECOB EMAIL COMMUNICATION: We are using email more consistently to communicate with the ECOB church family. If you have not been receiving ECOB Congregational emails and would like to, please send us an email at: info@ephratabrethren.org, indicating your interest in being added to the ECOB Congregational Email group. Please remember that if your email address changes please notify us promptly.

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

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



Church Directory change:

—Ivan and Lillian Horning have moved to Brethren Village, Lancaster, PA



Calendar

April

- 1—Maundy Thursday, Love Feast/Communion, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- 2—Good Friday (office closed)
- 2—Scrapbooking Club, 7:00 p.m., Fell. Hall
- 3—Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Fell. Hall
- 4—Easter
- 10—NYC Fundraiser Auction, 10:00 a.m., Fell. Hall
- 17—Ladies Tea, 10:30 a.m., Fell. Hall
- 18—Blood Pressure Screenings, Room #402
- 30—Coffee Night for College & Careers group 7:00 p.m., Fell. Hall

Weekly

Monday

Prayer Group, 2:00 p.m., parlor; all are welcome.

Tuesday

DivorceCare, 6:30 p.m., rooms #101/103

GriefShare, 6:30 p.m., Parlor

FPU: 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

Youth Club, 2:30 p.m.

Sonshine Club, 5:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.

(refer to choir schedule)

Men's Basketball, 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Bell practice, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday

Band practice, 7:30 p.m.



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

THE UPWARD CALL 

APRIL 2010

Volume 17, Issue 3

Ephrata Church of the Brethren

Sunday Morning Services

- Traditional Worship - 8:30 a.m.
- Promiseland Children's Ministry - 9:40 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

*What do you
bring to the wor-
ship service?*

Worship is a divine privilege, and with that privilege comes a great responsibility to show generosity to others in the body of Christ

through all we do. We should never leave worship to the pastors and worship leaders. We all need to learn to be—

Excellent, Extravagant Worshipers generous in our service to one another and generous in our expression of love toward one another—it will change the dynamics of this harvest.

