



# THE UPWARD CALL

## Ephrata Church of the Brethren

*Living for Jesus so others may know Him.*



Volume 17, Issue 2

March 2010



*Where is  
HE leading  
you today?*

### **Take Back the Night —Health Ministry News**

No doubt God uses all things for good. Even the most painful parts of our past can be transformed into something beautiful when God starts working on them. That's why "Take Back the Night" is so important for our community.

"Take Back the Night" is an international event, with marches and rallies occurring around the world since 1976. In that year, in Belgium, women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women walked together holding candles to protest the ways in which violence permeates the lives of women worldwide. Today "Take Back the Nights" occur internationally and focus on sexual violence, specifically against women.

This will be the first year the Ephrata area will host such an event. The purpose of this year's "Take Back

the Night" is to create an atmosphere of zero tolerance of violence against women by:

**\* Increasing community awareness** of issues of violence against women, and its interrelationship with all other forms of discrimination;

**\* Educating ourselves** and others about the extent and the nature of the violence that is systematically used against women; honoring the memory of the victims of violence against women and celebrating its survivors;

**\* Serving as a collective voice** for women to encourage a world in which women's bodies, minds and souls are not targets of violence.

Survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse and their supporters will have an opportunity to stand to-

gether and break the silence. Our first "Take Back the Night" will start on April 22, 2010, at the Ephrata Rec Center at 7 p.m. It will include a keynote speaker and a speak-out. All are invited to attend this event.

Please keep this on your prayer list as we approach our date. There are so many survivors who need to be encouraged and need to hear a message of hope. That's the gift we have to share. If you'd like to become involved, contact Tricia Schlegel, [tschlegel@ephratabrethren.org](mailto:tschlegel@ephratabrethren.org).

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. —Romans 15:4*

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## Future Habitat for Humanity House

Have you heard the exciting news? ECOB is helping to build a Habitat for Humanity House here in Ephrata! A duplex home will be built in a new development on North State Street. Hinkletown Menonite is sponsoring one half of the duplex: ECOB, along with Mohler and Middle Creek COB's and perhaps other churches in the Ephrata area will sponsor the other half of the duplex home. Groundbreaking for this exciting outreach opportunity will be sometime in May or June 2010.



*Elizabethtown, Quarryville, Columbia, Denver, and Mount Joy. Each family (who receives a Habitat House) contributes hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" - time spent hard at work building or*

*repairing their own homes or a future neighbor's home. Volunteers provide labor to ensure the low cost and affordability of the home or repair. At completion, Habitat finances the cost of the home or repair with a 0% interest mortgage to a qualified low-income family. Generous donations from the community and recycled mortgages fund the cost of operations, supplies, and equipment. (Source: <http://www.lancasterhabitat.org/>)*

Below, are a few paragraphs from Lancaster Area Habitat's website that give more detail on Habitat for Humanity.

*Lancaster Area Habitat for Humanity builds new homes and renovates older homes in partnership with families in need and community volunteers. We believe that everyone has the right to live in a safe, decent home. Affordable housing is a crisis in Lancaster County - over 10,000 families are in need of housing choices.*

*By working together, we can make a difference for hard-working families, seniors, and the disabled for whom the goal of owning an affordable, decent home often seems out of reach. Habitat has served over 182 families in Lancaster County since 1986. Habitat has built or renovated 114 homes and improved 60 homes in Lancaster and across the county in Ephrata,*

So as you can see this is not a "handout" – the family who moves into this house goes through a very thorough screen/application process and is then selected based on need and ability to successfully make monthly mortgage payments. The family is required to be involved with the actual building of their future home and/or another Habitat project. The family receives mentoring on personal finances and on home ownership by a Habitat mentoring program.

To quote Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, "We don't try to evangelize. You don't have to be Christian to live in one of our houses or to help us build one. But the fact is, the reason I do what I do, and so many of our vol-

unteers do what they do, is that we're being obedient to Jesus".

The planning for this project is still in the early stages but we know we'll need:

- Prayer for the planning of this outreach project
- Prayer that Habitat finds the 'right' individual or family to own this house
- Volunteers to help build the house
- Anyone with experience in any aspect of the construction industry to lead crews of volunteers
- Monetary (tax deductible) donations

Individuals/small groups/Sunday school classes/businesses to donate goods/materials (tax deductible) to the project – for example, a painter could donate the paint needed for the project in lieu of a cash donation.

Please prayerfully consider being obedient to Jesus by being involved in this awesome opportunity! At this point we are not ready to start signing up volunteers – please "stay tuned" for more information! However if you have questions or are involved with the building industry and already know that you would like to be involved in some way, big or small, please contact me: Karl Peifer, ECOB's Habitat Coordinator at: [peifer5@dejazzd.com](mailto:peifer5@dejazzd.com).

## From Pastor Galen...

Sunday evening Doris and I met together with a few other couples in the first of our Lenten studies. It was a good time of getting to know one another and looking together into the Word of God.

As we studied the first lesson in, *Sanctify them by the Truth*, I noticed this verse from John 14:12: *Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

At first this statement seems rather absurd. How could any of us, mere humans, do anything greater than what Jesus had done? How could anyone best turning water into wine, or healing a person born blind or raising someone from the dead. There can be no greater miracles than those done by Jesus.

However, the word “greater” in this passage does not so much refer to “quality” as it does to “quantity.” In other words, Jesus does not expect that any of his followers will do better things than he has done, but rather that they will do more things.

Consequently, if in the years since Jesus returned to the Father, the church has twice seen someone raised from the dead then the verse would be true. Jesus raised one person from death (Lazarus), the church raised two people, and thus we have done greater things.

However, something seems wrong with that kind of thinking. It feels like we are looking in the wrong direction. So I asked myself, what are the “things” Jesus is talking about? He says that “all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing.” In the Gospel of John, from where this

verse is taken, “works” mean “miracles.” But then he says, “they (his followers) will do greater things than these.”

When we read this, if we assume “greater” to mean “more” and “things” to mean “miracles” then the expectation would be for us to try to rack up more miracles than Jesus did. But what if, for Jesus, the great things he did were not the miracles?

I remember that in Luke 10:17-20, when the 72 whom Jesus sent out in his name to minister, returned, they were overjoyed that demons submitted to them in Jesus’ name. They had done some miracles. There was a significant WOW factor.

But Jesus was not impressed. Listen to what he says: “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. *However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*”

I also remember that regularly in the Gospels, Jesus became perturbed when people came to him seeking a miracle. The miracles he did were real, and they were really important. They were signs that the Kingdom of Heaven had arrived on earth. But they were not the real reason he came. The Son of Man, we are told in Luke 19:10, came to “seek and save those who were lost.” Jesus came to turn the hearts of people toward God, to awaken those living in spiritual slumber to the new life they may have in Him. This is the really great work and these are the really great things.

Miracles will follow all who believe in Jesus and his church will always experience the amazing

hand of God in their midst. But these are not the things that cause our hearts to leap for joy, but rather lives that have been rescued by a hand so loving that they will never again live alone. That Jesus would welcome me into his presence and allow me to experience the miracle of his life

coursing in my veins, that, my friend, is the real WOW factor.

If we look at John 14:12 through the eyes of Jesus and see things as he values them, we rejoice in how this verse has become true. We rejoice in the fact that we have been privileged to do more than Jesus did.

Today, most Christian churches have more followers of Jesus attending worship on Sunday morning than Jesus had following him during the three years of his life. He had 12 faithful followers (and actually a few more, but just a handful). After his ascension in Acts 2, 120 persons waited in the Upper Room for the Promise of the Father. A few days later, 3000 were saved. By the end of the first century, there were tens of thousands of believers; by AD 400, millions; today, 2.1 billion (33% of the world’s population).

This is the “greater things.” This is why Jesus came, to share his life with us, and this life is eternal and abundant, here and forever.

Let’s rejoice not in the fact that demons quiver in our presence (and they do) but that our names are written in the Book of Life. And let’s commit ourselves to the good work of sharing Jesus’ message of grace with the 67% of the world that does not follow Jesus.

*You will do  
greater  
things than  
these*

## Thoughts for Senior Citizens *by Charlie Bieber*



I've never been a very ambitious person, looking for ways to better myself or taking an upfront seat at an invited gathering. In truth, I confess that I am more often overwhelmed by moments of laziness. I am helped by a reading from Henri Nouwen, one of my favorite spiritual writers who wrote: "My life has been dominated by two voices. One says,

'Climb up. Make a difference in the world. Get influence.' The second voice says, 'Climb down. Go with Jesus to the poor, the less fortunate, the weak, the sick, the broken.' We need to hear the voice that calls us to the compassionate life."

The strength that enables us to live the compassionate life is in the assurance that we are God's beloved children. I do not know, from day to day, where I will go in

my journey of faith. I do know that there are two signs for the journey.

1. At His baptism, and again at His transfiguration, Jesus heard, "This is my beloved son."

2. When Jesus spoke to His disciples after the resurrection, He said, "As the father has sent me, so I send you."

Share with me the search to know the paths that Jesus takes to the world and in the world.

## Senior Adult Schedule of Events

### M.C.C. Resource Center Work Days: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

April 27, 2010  
September 14, 2010  
November 2, 2010

**Note:** You have the option of working the entire day and bringing a lunch or leaving at lunch time. The choice is yours, but we do hope you join us! We meet at the Resource Center at 9:00 a.m.

### Senior Adult Luncheons 12:00 noon ECOB Fellowship Hall

June 10, 2010  
August 12, 2010  
December 9, 2010

**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.



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

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Ivan Callihan    | March 12 |
| Dorothy Erb      | March 16 |
| Lillian Horning  | March 18 |
| Joseph Meck      | March 18 |
| Laura Harmes     | March 26 |
| Charles Lindberg | March 26 |
| Ivan Horning     | March 29 |



### Brethren Village Easter Candy Sale Friday, March 26

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

You are invited to the BV candy sale, held in Wolfe Auditorium at BV. Donations of homemade candy are welcome. Bring the candy to the Volunteer Services office in Brubaker Manor the week of the sale. Make sure all candy is labeled.

## *Thank you from...*

—Mick Zimmerman; Thank you to everyone for all the cards over Christmas. They were very much appreciated and a joy to see from all the church. Thank you!

—Esther Haller; Thank you to my church family for remembering me with Christmas cards this Christmas. They are all so beautiful and mean so much to me. I read and read them.

—Don and Charlotte Mellinger; Thanks so much for the bag full of Christmas cards and candy. It was greatly appreciated. Bless you all.

—Bettie Mull; Thank you for the Christmas cards I got from the church. I certainly appreciated them. Thanks again.

—Phyllis Brubaker; Thank you all so very much for the Christmas cards I received. They were very much appreciated.

—Bob and Jane Griffith; Many thanks to our church family for the Christmas Cheer Bag we received. We really enjoyed reading all the beautiful cards and greatly appreciated them. Each one brought us a lot of joy. Thanks again and God bless each one of you in the new year.

—the ECOB Custodial Staff; Thank you for the great clean-up job that was done following the Christmas Eve service. Your help was greatly appreciated!

—Earl Hurst; Thank you so much for all the beautiful Christmas Cards I received. I enjoyed reading each one of them and appreciated them so much. They brought a smile to my face. God bless every one of you.

—Ruth Seppi; Thank you to the ECOB church family for the Christmas Cheer Bag, filled with beautiful cards. It was very much appreciated. Thank you!

—Jerry and Mary Shearer; Thank you to Ken and Sandy Sensenig for delivering the bag of Christmas cheer and goodies; each holiday message is appreciated very much.

—John and Fay Allgyer; We wish to express our appreciation for the Christmas cards and prayers during the holiday season, and also the visitors from our church.

—Steve Oberholtzer; Praise the Lord for the healing he has provided to me! Thank you to everyone for your prayers and expressions of concern during my recent illness/hospitalization. I really felt your prayers and appreciate every one of them and you! God Bless.

—Ivan and Lillian Horning; Thank you for all the Christmas cards and well wishes for the new year and we wish God's blessings for you all this new year.

—Miriam Kachel; Thank you to all the Christmas Carolers and for all the Christmas cards and visits during the year. God bless you all.

—Dorothy Warfel; Special thanks to the church family for the Christmas Card bag and all the special greetings. Thank you also to the Christmas Carolers for their very enjoyable visit and songs.

—Edna Sheaffer; Thank you to ECOB for the good dinner on Dec. 4 and the good fun we had and also for all the Christmas cards I got.

—Bud and Shirley Wolbach; Thank you for the deacons visits at Landis Homes and our home, they

were very enjoyable. Also, the many holiday cards with lovely messages were wonderful. God bless the Homemakers class for their prayers and concerns.

—Clara Ruth; Thanks so much for my lovely cards over the Holidays and also for the prayers. It helped to get me through the holidays, since the loss of my husband.

—Delores Kulp; Thank you to Bonnie Hosler for her visit and for all of the beautiful cards I received from the church family.

—Millie Eisemann; To the dear church family; I want to thank you for all your kindness during my time in the hospital and at home. The prayers, cards, food, flowers, calls were all very much appreciated. I'm so glad to be back with all of you!

—Carl & Carol Bowman; Thank you to the church family for the prayers and all of the ways you've shown your love & support during, Carl's recent health concern, surgery and recuperation. We are so blessed that God has placed you in our lives and have been praising Him for each of you.

—Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services; thank you for your manger gifts to SVPS. Your assistance in our ongoing ministry to young fathers and mothers is greatly appreciated! On behalf of families in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, we thank you for your generosity in giving — you are part of a miracle in action!

—Rob Eshelman; thanks to the entire crew that made the Harrisburg Quake on January 22 - 24, 2010 a huge success. You guys are awesome!

## Health Ministry News

Hopefully we've gotten used to all the New Year's resolutions that we made for eating healthier and exercising. Remember to check the church bulletin weekly and the newsletter to see what is going on to help us keep up the good work physically, mentally and spiritually! The Health Ministry Team, worked hard this past year, planning things to help you with these three things.

Last year at this time, we were all making our way to Jerusalem, while learning about ourselves, others, Jesus and the Bible. We had a Men's Health and a Women's Health Focus Sunday. We hold blood pressure screenings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 8:00–8:25 and again following the first service until 10:40 in room 402/403. The Health Ministry bulletin board keeps you informed about various health related topics—check it out—it's located on the wall near the church office. We have a suggestion folder on our bulletin board where you can place an idea for a

topic you would like for us to address, for a forum or theme Sunday, or you can see one of the Health Ministry Team Members. We would love to hear from you!



2010 is gearing up to be another busy year for our team. Here is a small taste of what to expect this year.

**March 14 – Sports Medicine Seminar** for Senior High and Middle School Youth and their parents by Dr. Mason Platt of Orthopedic Consultants. 5:45 p.m.

**April 22 – Take Back the Night.** A project to include survivors, those who support survivors or those who are there in remembrance of someone who has survived or been affected by sexual abuse. This will be open to Ephrata and the surrounding community and will be held at Ephrata Recreation Center. 7:00 p.m.

**June – Men's Health Seminar.** Topic TBA.

**July – Sunscreen and Fire Safety.** Possibly at a booth at On Fire for Christ.

**October – Women's Health Seminar.** Topic TBA.

Tricia Schlegel, Congregational Nurse, will continue to assist you with your health and wellness needs or questions. Call 733-1229 Tuesdays or Wednesdays for an appointment.

We will continue to work on ideas for YOU, so keep your eyes and ears open.

**Health Ministry Team:** Gwyn Williams, Chairperson, Tricia Schlegel, Congregational Nurse, Kenetta Harsh, Secretary, Ron Schlegel & Scott Williams.

—Gwyn Williams, Health Ministry Team Chairperson

### Looking for Resources?

The Resource Room, located in the hallway between the kitchen and the office, is full of study guides that can be used individually or in groups. Some curricula include DVD's. Books on various Christian topics are also available. Stop in to see if there's something you'd like to read/view, then simply sign it out in the notebook on the coffee table. Happy reading/viewing!

**COBYS is celebrating 30 years** with a banquet on March 11, 6:30 p.m., at Middle Creek COB. Invitations and response cards are available on the office bulletin board. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required by March 4. Come and bring "presents" to support COBYS ministries! Good food, good humor, and good entertainment!

## More Than Numbers — Brad Murphy, treasurer

As Galen stated in his message on January 31; 2009 was a challenging year in many respects. However, through your faithful giving, church cuts, and God's grace the year ended showing us that he does have it all under control and we need to trust him. Our church has been blessed by God and his faithful disciples in many ways and we started 2010 in a better position than we experienced in 2009. The importance of trusting God has been demonstrated once again.

I received this devotion from Peggy Sowers to share with the next FPU class. Thanks Peggy! While we also need to be responsible with the provisions provided, I felt it was also appropriate to share it with you as we are focusing on our *Faith, Hope, and Love* during the first few months of 2010.

—Brad Murphy

### **God's Provision: Trust God**

—by Rick Warren

*... Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:32-33 (NLT)*

God promises to meet all your financial ***needs***, if you (1) ask him for help; (2) learn to be content; (3) practice giving in faith; (4) maintain your integrity; and (5) trust him with your life --

Worry is really just a form of atheism. Every time you worry, you're acting like an atheist. You're saying, "It all depends on me." That's just not in the Bible.

Worry is a warning light that you doubt the love of God. Yet, the Bible says God "provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever." (Psalm 111:5, NIV)

And the book of Romans tells us that God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for you to pay for your salvation. **If God loves you enough to send his own son to die for you, don't you think he loves you enough to take care of your bills?**

Don't you realize that any other problem is minor by comparison, that he solved your biggest problem when he saved you? **The bottom line is really this: Am I going to believe that God will do what he says he will do -- that he will provide for me?**

If you're serious about being set free from financial fears, then it's your choice. But you must choose to do what God has clearly told you to do. He's laid it out. He said, "I will do this -- the promise -- if you will obey the promise."

I want to challenge you to solidify your commitment:

- Are you willing to ask God for the things you need, rather than going out and charging them?
- Are you willing to learn to be content?
- Are you willing to worship with your tithe as God has commanded and believe that he's going to take care of your needs?
- Are you willing to live with integrity and be honest in your finances?
- Are you willing to trust Jesus completely with every area of your life?



**FPU Tip of the Month: Just say "No" to extended warranties on cars!**

Find out a better way and get more tips at [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) and search on "warranties".

—Dave Ramsey, Financial Peace University

## Children's Ministry News

—Director of Children's Ministries: Paul Hosler; 733-1229; [phosler@ephratabrethren.org](mailto:phosler@ephratabrethren.org)

### What Do Kids Need To Hear?

In James 1:19 God's Word instructs us, "...take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak....". Are we attentive to the words and the messages that others are speaking? Are we slow to speak so we can seek God's wisdom and guidance as to what others need to hear? What is it that others need to hear? I'd like to focus in this article mainly on what kids need to hear.

David Staal, the former director of the children's ministry at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, wrote a book, *Words Kids Need to Hear*, to help them be who God made them to be. I highly recommend this book. His first chapter talks about the many ways parents need to say to their children "I believe in you". As soon as Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him

I am well pleased." Children need to hear the personalized message, "I believe in you", which can make the difference between a fear of failure and the courage to try. This message can be sent in many affirming ways. "Your kindness shows." "Your hard work has led to a great project." "I noticed that your positive attitude is keeping you on track." "I believe you will make an excellent driver when you get older." Look for the positive whether it is something small or large. Encourage their strengths and express your faith in them. God loves us just the way we are right now. Our children need to know we love them and believe in them when they stumble and fail. Share this life-giving message of value so they can better understand the message of God's love.

God's Word tells us that He will never leave us or forsake us. We can count on His love to endure forever. Kids long for someone to

rely on. Children need to know that their parents care about them. One of the most powerful ways to show you care is by being there. Are we there for meal time, for homework time, for bed time, for birthday time, for the game or performance time? Are we there to listen, to laugh and to cry, to understand? Keep your commitments to be with and support your children. Partner with your children in work, play, and learning. The commitment we make to consistently be a participant in life with our kids will be an investment of great worth.

God gives us children to love with the attitude of Christ. He gives us children to disciple with His truths. May we join together in this Kingdom responsibility.



*God loves us just the way we are right now.*



Summer camp at Camp Swatara is just around the corner! Some of you may have already received your summer camp flyer in the mail and are beginning to register for camp. Please remember that Good as Gold certificates will be available for families who need financial assistance with camp. If you are interested in attending camp, visit [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org) for more information!

## Middle School Youth News

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

### Sports Medicine Night March 14, 2010

Remember back in August when the kids filled out the health surveys? Well the results are in! The number

ONE requested area of interest for Middle School and High School youth, was sports and health. So, on **March 14 at 5:45**, we're planning a special evening for you. Dr. Mason Platt is coming to give a talk to the kids about sports medicine. Dr. Platt is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine.

Both **youth and their parents** are invited to this evening. We hope you all can join us for this educational and fun evening sponsored by the ECOB Health Ministry Team.

### Sunday Night at the Movies March 21, 2010

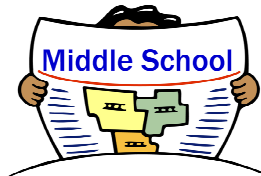


Join your friends for a great movie, buttery popcorn and a cold soda, and my personal favorite;

"Raisinets". A \$5.00 fee is all we are charging for this awesome night of entertainment! Bring your friends! A registration form is required. Pick one up at the church or online at: [ephatabrethren.org](http://ephatabrethren.org).

### Destination Unknown April 11, 2010

Don't ask, but I can tell you this much – it will be awesome! It's free and a road trip as well. We leave from the church at 6:00 p.m. and return around 9:00 p.m.



Youth News

### "Cross Training" —starting April 11

(Note date change from March 7)

Join us to discover who Jesus is and how He fits into your life now and for eternity. Many of you have

heard of Jesus, and some have not, so this is a great time to discover Jesus. Discover why Jesus is so important to your life and what it means to be a Christian. He can make a difference in your life starting today!

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. At the conclusion of this course, you will have the opportunity to be baptized. It's your decision. It's a low pressure course designed to help you discover Jesus and how He fits into your life.

We meet every Sunday morning in room 307 downstairs under the gym from 9:30–10:40 a.m. Bring your Bible and join us for this time of discovery!

### Youth Club News: Things are heating up over winter!

Karen's Knit Wits are gaining strength each week! Spoons are flying, and they're rocking with Rock Band in the basement. I was even dancing at Youth Club—well, I was attempting to anyway. So if you want to challenge me (Rob) to Praise Dance Revolution, Wii bowling or Ping Pong, then join us at Youth Club every Wednesday afternoon (starting at 2:30) and give it your best shot! I'm up for the challenge.

Registration forms for activities listed are available in the Sunday School classrooms, at Youth Club or you may register online at [www.ephatabrethren.org](http://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".

Tommy and crew are in the basement with Rock Band. Connie and Julie are very creative and have added a cool new groove to the crafty craft addition to Youth Club. Scuba Steve is up to his usual creative genius in the gym and the rest of the staff is always coming up with new and creative ideas. We even brought back one or two games from the past by popular demand, so you never know what is up at Youth Club.

This crew is awesome! God has certainly blessed me and all the youth with a great group of caring, sharing and loving people who give of their precious time to share the love of Jesus with the youth and adults who attend Youth Club. Thank you for your precious gifts that you share with us each week.

Next month I will spotlight Linda Sickmeier and the kitchen crew! What an awesome bunch they are as well.

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

## Sr. High Youth News

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

### Senior High March Events

**March 7:** Game Night; 5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a fun evening of games and fellowship. We've invited the Happy Hearts, adult Sunday school class to join us for all of the fun.

**March 14:** The Health Ministry Team will be sponsoring a Sports Medicine evening with an Orthopedic doctor here to answer questions. Parents you are also invited to attend and hear all the info. Snacks provided.

**March 21:** Homebase

**March 28:** Scavenger Hunt: Time to be announced

**April 4:** Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.; Breakfast provided; No evening activity — Happy Easter!

**April 10:** Youth Auction Fund-raiser; 9 a.m.

**April 11:** Homebase; 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



### Looking Ahead

**April 30—May 2: Long Beach Island Retreat.** All Senior High youth are encouraged to join us for this exciting weekend of spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun. Register online.

**June 20—26: Work Camp** in Buffalo, NY. This is always a great week of hard work, great fellowship, outreach and time of watching God move in the lives of the residents of Buffalo and in the lives of youth. Spaces are limited to 25, so get your registration and fee of \$200.00 in ASAP.

**July 17—25: National Youth Conference.** This trip only happens every four years. Join 4,000 other Brethren youth from around world and the U.S. in the Rocky Mountains to celebrate your faith in the midst of God's beautiful creation. Contact Brian if you have not yet registered—March 15<sup>th</sup> is the final deadline.



**The Church Board** had its first meeting of 2010 on January 12.

Here are a few highlights from the meeting.

—The Missions & Service Commission has committed to helping with a Habitat for Humanity house project this year in the Ephrata community. Funds and manpower will be used to help support this project.

—In April, a group of four from our congregation will be attending a training session to learn about a program called *Momentum* by Dave Ramsey. This program is to help with church wide stewardship.

—The Fellowship & Recreation Commission has many upcoming activities on the calendar for the year, including a pictorial directory to be done in May.

—The Church Board also discussed the ongoing problem of vacant commission seats.

If you are interested in reading the board minutes, please stop in at the church office. The next board meeting is in April.

## Fellowship & Recreation News

Happy March to everyone! Spring is just around the corner—Yea! Fellowship & Rec is putting together another year of events for you to enjoy with a church pictorial directory at the top of the list. Please be sure to read the notice on this page for details on scheduling a portrait sitting. Our hope is for everyone to participate.

**March 2:** We will host the BV March birthday party, 2:00 p.m.

**April 4 and April 11:** Sign up for a portrait session for the church pictorial directory in the church lobby from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

**April 10:** Opening the church pavilion.

**May 9:** Mother's Day reception in the lobby between services.

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

**June 20:** Father's Day reception in the lobby between services.

**July 16:** Family Fun Night at the church pavilion.

**August 15:** Church gathering at the church pavilion.

**August 21:** BV Bingo with the John Brass family hosting.

—The Fellowship & Rec Commission would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us either on the committee or as a helper for any of the above events. If you have a desire to "serve" others in the church please call Bev Gerhart.

## Card Shower



*This month we remember:*

- Ken Zimmerman, Birthday wishes, March 17
- Charlie Lindberg, Birthday wishes, March 26
- Steve Enck, thinking of you/encouragement

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



## ECOB Pictorial Directory

This is a notice from your pictorial directory committee that Dennis Studio will be taking your portrait in the near future. Please re-

serve some time in your schedule to have your portrait taken between May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 a.m. and noon, in the church lobby.

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



## Congratulations to:

- Darrin & Karen White on the birth of a son, **Hawk Zaidin**, born on January 4.
- Chris & Liz Umstead on the birth of a son, **Jonah Ray**, born on January 24.

A **Parent/Child Dedication** is being planned for both services on Palm Sunday, March 28. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Galen; 733-1229 or [ghackman@ephratabrethren.org](mailto:ghackman@ephratabrethren.org).

## Parent & Child Dedication — February 21, 2010

- Greg & Heather Brand and Brody Allan
- Melvin Waldner Jr. & Kristy Meiskey and Marcus Jacob.

## Missions & Service Commission News



*Thank you for  
your very  
generous  
support of our  
many projects.*

We began 2010 with two new commission members. Delores Neuber will finish a term and Jenn Groff will serve a three year term. Even with these two additions, this commission is still in need of two more members. If anyone would like to join our team, please contact June Summers, chairperson.

Due to the willingness and excitement for mission work of several church members along with that of commission members, we will have a very busy year serving God and others.

Karl Peifer came to our commission with a proposal that our church partner with Habitat International to help finance and build a home in Ephrata. His enthusiasm was caught by this commission. A separate article by Karl (on page 2) gives everyone more information on this project.

Michelle Nolt, out of her passion to help the Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, presented the idea of "Baby Bottle Boomerang". Baby bottles have been handed out to the congregation. We were to fill them with our loose change and then

they were collected. All the money that was collected will be given to SVPS.

Diane Fox, our Disaster Project co-coordinator, asked the church family to make up hygiene kits for Haiti. Those kits were collected throughout February. The very first Sunday of this collection period fifty kits were given. To date, 133 kits have been received. Diane will deliver the kits to New Windsor.

Along with these three projects, we had "Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday" when money was collected to feed the hungry. \$526.00 was collected and the money will be divided between EASS and Water Street Ministries.

At the present time our church continues to support the Linc Myers family, in Hungary. You can learn more about this family and their work by reading their newsletter on the bulletin board near the church office. (copies of the newsletter are also available in the literature racks). The other missionary family we supported, Jeff & Erin Prior, will not be returning to Iraq.

Sometime this year we would like to invite a Brethren Volunteer Service representative to come to our church to speak about BVS. We hope her words will inspire one or more persons from ECOB to become a BVS volunteer. We will give more information on this in the next newsletter.

The Lenten Food Drive began February 21 and will run six weeks, ending on Palm Sunday, March 28. The food will be given to Ephrata Area Social Services. Each week there are several food items highlighted to donate.

Week 1: Instant Potatoes, Rice, Spaghetti,  
Week 2: Cake Mix, Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese,  
Week 3: Jello, Pudding, Crackers,  
Week 4: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Juice  
Week 5: Paper Towel, Tissues, Toilet Paper  
Week 6: Canned Meats, Peas, Green Beans

—June Summers, M&S  
Chairperson



—Ephrata Church of the Brethren Sunday Service cancellations or changes due to inclement weather will be posted to radio stations: WJTL: [wjtl.com](http://wjtl.com) and WDAC: [wdac.com](http://wdac.com). **Please note change: we will not be posting to WGAL: [wgal.com](http://wgal.com) at this time.**

—**Please Remember;** If you use the church in the evenings, or weekends, please be sure to turn off the lights and lock the doors as you exit the building. Thank you in advance for your help in ensuring church safety and efficient use of the resources that God has blessed us with.

—A limited supply of the Easter edition of Our Daily Bread devotionals is available in the lit rack by the church office.

—Ephrata Hospital has the following needs: volunteer chaplains to visit patients during the work week, prayer shawls, donations of new or leftover yarn, baby blankets & hats for NICU babies, lap robes for rehab patients and hats for the Cancer Center. For more information, see the posters on the church bulletin boards.

—Ephrata Pregnancy Center (SVPS) is in need of volunteer male counselors. For more info, pick up a position description in the lit racks or call Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, 721-7550.



**Church Directory change:**

—Gene Buch, now resides at Lancashire Hall, Lancaster

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

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



**March Calendar**

**EASS Food Drive runs through April 4**

(see page 12 for details)

5—Scrapbooking Club, 7:00 p.m., Fell. Hall

6—District Women’s Fellowship; 8:45 a.m., at ECOB

11—COBYS banquet (see page 6)

14—Daylight Saving Time begins

17—St. Patrick’s Day

20—Spring begins

21—Leaders Net mtg., 12:15, room 201

21—Blood Pressure Screenings, Room #402

26—BV Easter Candy Sale (see page 4)

28—Palm Sunday

March 28—April 3—Holy Week

**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**

Women’s Bible Study, 9:00 a.m., parlor

Band practice, 7:30 p.m.



EPHRATA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*Living for Jesus so others may know Him.*

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THE UPWARD CALL 

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MARCH 2010

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Volume 17, Issue 2

### **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



**HOLY WEEK**

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**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.

*Jesus our Savior left heaven above,  
Coming to earth as a Servant with love;  
laying aside all His glory; he came,  
Bringing salvation through faith in His name.*

—Hess