

EASTER FAMILY FUN

On Friday, **March 27**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall, we will have a time of family fun getting ready for Easter. Bring a snack to share (& / or sandwiches if you haven't had time for dinner). Drinks will be provided. After eating we'll dye eggs and make spring crafts. All supplies will be provided.



On Sunday, **March 29**, following Worship at 11, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children. Meet in the social hall to participate. Baskets will be provided and each child will receive an Easter gift.

Please join us for both Easter events and bring a friend!

THOMPSONS TO BE HONORED AT PEACE FEAST MARCH 17

The Shenandoah District Pastors for Peace will present the annual Living Peace Recognition Award at a banquet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, at Staunton Church of the Brethren. Our own Roma Jo and the late R. Jan Thompson will be the recipients of this year's award. Evan Knappenberger, a member of Veterans for Peace, will speak and special music will be provided by Scott Duffey. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students. A flyer and registration form is available by contacting the church office or online at http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/929/2015PeaceFeast_Registration.pdf.

Reservations are due at the District Office by March 10. If you are interested in traveling in the church van, please contact the church office by the same date. Questions can be directed to Pastor Chris.

MESSENGER RENEWAL MONTH

For participants in our congregation, we provide an every-family subscription to *Messenger* (regular \$14.50; student \$10.50). *Messenger* keeps readers informed of national & international news relative to Church of the Brethren life, mission, and service. If you are not currently receiving *Messenger* or if you are receiving the magazine but would prefer not to, please be in touch with our *Messenger* Representative – Kay Dove – at 434-1255 or Missykdove@aol.com by March 15.

SPRING POTTED FLOWERS

To order: envelopes (*included in mailing*) with information and money are due in the church office by Palm Sunday, March 29.

GARDENERS NEEDED

The Church Garden Committee is looking for willing workers who like digging in the dirt. We would like to establish 8 teams of 3 or 4 people for each month from April to November to be responsible for any maintenance needed in the Church Garden. It could be weeding, pruning, spraying, planting flowers or whatever is needed during your month. This would be a great way for the whole family to work on a church project together. The lawn mowing company will continue to mow and edge for us. The Garden is a special place and an important part of our ministry. The lower garden is intended for the interment of ashes of members who prefer cremation. So far the ashes of 33 members of our church family have been interred there. The upper garden where the fish pond is has been the location for several weddings, receptions and other social functions. We feel it is important that the garden be free of weeds and bugs when these special occasions take place. If you are willing to help with caring for this space, please let us know by emailing or calling Bea Miller at busybea220@aol.com or 820-7606.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY CONTINUES IN MARCH

The Pastors Book Study continues this month with on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 pm, March 4 and 18. We are reading and discussing the 2014 book *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson, the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and a professor of law at New York University Law School. If you missed the first meeting, but would still like to read and/or join the discussion – please feel free! We will be discussing chapters 6-10 on March 4 and the rest of the book at the March 18th meeting. See you there!

BRETHREN WOODS: POWER UP THIS SUMMER

Don't forget to register for Camp Brethren Woods! Please register online or talk to Jeanie Eye **as soon as possible**.

FUNDING NEEDED FOR BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our congregation partners with local elementary schools to provide backpacks of food for children and their families in need of additional nutritional support. This ministry of our congregation is not included in the annual budget and is in current need of funding to support the remainder of the academic year. If you would like to make a contribution, gifts can be designated for the "Backpack Program."

"BIG AND SMALL" RETREAT AT BRETHREN WOODS

On March 27-28, 2015, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, Brethren Woods will be hosting a "Big and Small" Retreat for parents (or grandparents, etc.) and children ages 5-15. The retreat will provide time for bonding with your child, learning and experiencing activities together, and fellowship with other families. Amanda and Chris Zepp will be assisting in leadership and BWCOB will pay \$40 toward the \$85 registration fee for each adult-child pair that registers! To register through BWCOB, pick up a form from the hospitality desk or go online to www.brethrenwoods.org, click on the "Special Events" menu bar, select "Big and Small Retreat," and print a registration form on your own. Return the completed form and your \$45 deposit (checks payable to BWCOB) to Pastor Chris or the church office by March 15.

BRETHREN EVANGELICALISM: BOON OR BANE?

Three Brethren scholars will discuss the influence of evangelicalism on the Church of the Brethren in a panel on Thursday, March 19, at Bridgewater College. The session will consider the impact of modern, mainstream evangelicalism on a fellowship with deep roots in Anabaptism and Pietism.

Panelists are Carl Desportes Bowman, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia; Josh Brockway, Congregational Life Ministries, Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministries Board; and Karen Garrett, Coordinator of Assessment, Bethany Theological Seminary. Bowman will speak on "Evangelicalism among Members: The Brethren Member Profile Revisited," Brockway's topic is "The Brethren are Hip," and Garrett will discuss "Hitchhiking in the Middle of the Road: A Brethren Approach to Evangelicalism."

The event will take place in the Boitnott Room at Bridgewater College at 7:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public. The sponsor of the session is Bridgewater College's Forum for Brethren Studies. For more information contact Steve Longenecker, slongene@bridgewater.edu.

CHICKENS FOR PEACE

The Kreps Family has 35 free-range chickens which are producing eggs at such a speed that the family needs congregational support in purchasing eggs each week. The profits from the eggs support the "Give a Girl a Chance" program of New Community Project. Since July, \$300 has gone to the program which sends Burmese girls to school, thus giving them a chance at a meaningful life. The Kreps' bring eggs to church on Sundays, to Wednesday night meals, and have them available for delivery. The green basket of eggs may be located by the movable wall in the greeting hall. Simply take a dozen eggs and leave a \$3 or \$4 donation in the basket.



NOTES OF THANKS

The prayers and encouragement of so many were a great support during my recovery following hip surgery last month. I am very blessed to have had the necessary care for a speedy recovery, to have completed our stay in FL and returned home safely. Thank you for all your kind expressions of love and caring.
~ **Esther Bittinger**

Thank you for serving as bell ringers for the Salvation Army. We appreciate your time and dedication to help. We cannot thank you enough for doing your part...
~ **The Salvation Army**

Thank you for your generous and loyal support of Heifer International's work.
~ **Asmi Patel**
Heifer Rep. for the Mid-Atlantic Region

This is a good time of year to reflect and say thank you to all of you for your support of our students through the Friday Backpack Program. Your efforts, hard work, and caring truly do make a difference for our MVES (Mountain Valley Elementary School) kids and families!
Gratefully, **Danielle Brino-Dean**, School Counselor

On behalf of Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. Because of your generous contribution, we are able to continue to share the faith heritage of Mennonites and Brethren with our visitors....
Partners in Christ's Service, **Kathleen Gardner**
Vice President, Board of Directors

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

March 1—Second Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *David Steele, 2015 A.C. Moderator*
Sermon: "Bearing the Fruit of Faith"
Scripture: John 15:9-17

March 8—Third Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Sermon: "Rules to Live by...
Don't take anything without asking"
Scripture: Exodus 20:15

March 15—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Sermon: "Your Sake, Not Mine"
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

March 22—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Sermon: "Rules to Live by... Tell the truth"
Scripture: Exodus 20:17

March 29—Palm / Passion Sunday

Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*
Sermon: "King Me"
Scriptures: Mark 11:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Philippians 2:5-11



WE ARE READY!

The Refugee Resettlement Committee thanks all those who have contributed time, materials, money and prayers for the renovations of our church's two apartments available to refugees moving into our community. When our last family moved out in the fall of 2013, our committee had a professional evaluation of the building. The committee then drew up renovation plans that would deal with bringing the place up to code, be more efficient and maintenance free, inside and out. Some of the work was completed by volunteers, and other projects were contracted to Burton Metzler and Metzler Brothers Construction. His tragic death last spring has touched us all. We now give thanks for his commitments and dedication to so many in the life of our community and church. By mid-year, the refugee resettlement committee brought to the Church Board a plan to complete the renovations and move ahead on receiving families through Church World Service's (CWS) Refugee Resettlement offices in our area.

We are grateful for the wide and positive response to fund raising through the "One Community" fund, the emphasis during Vacation Bible School and the Junior High work projects. By the end of 2014, gifts from members and friends, the offerings from Vacation Bible School, memorial funds and church board grants totaled about \$55,000! Our goal was to be ready by Thanksgiving to take in a new family. David Metzler has ably stepped in to complete the work through Metzler Brother's Construction for renovations on Hospitality House on Broad Street. In addition, over 20 volunteers from the church and community helped paint, clean and move furniture last fall. (Let's not forget the work of the 15 Junior Highs last summer who worked two very hot afternoons at the apartments and had supper with two recent refugee families!) The back apartment was ready on time! We are waiting for word from CWS when a new family will be arriving. We invite your prayers and readiness to receive persons beginning a new life with us in Bridgewater.

~ **Jim Miller**, chair
Refugee Resettlement Committee

LIGHT YOUR WORLD 5K WALK / RUN

The BWCOB Youth are very excited about our 2nd Annual Light Your World 5K Walk/Run, happening April 10, at the Bridgewater Lawn Party Grounds. Last year's event was a huge success and we'd love to have an even better turnout this year. Wondering how you can help out? We've got lots of opportunities!

Display the Light Your World 5K poster to advertise the event

We want lots of people to attend this event, so one of the best and easiest things you can do is help us get the word out. Each newsletter this month should have a copy of our event poster, so all you need to do is ask one of your favorite businesses or organizations to hang it up for us! If you are on social media you can also share and like our 5K Facebook page. Just search Light Your World 5K and we're at the top of the list.

Volunteer to help on Race Day

This event can only happen with a lot of help. We will once again need people to help guide our runners along the course and setting up and closing down the event. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Hope Staton at youth@bwcob.org.

Donate supplies

There will be a display at the church with items that are needed for the event. If you see something you can contribute, just sign-up.

Be a Sponsor

If you know a business, organization or individual that would like to support a local event and get some good publicity, we would love to have them sponsor our event. Sponsor forms can be found at the church office or Hope Staton will be happy to email you one.

Register to run the Race

We always need runners. Registration forms are in the church office or you can register online at www.racesonline.com/events/light-your-world-5k.

Just come out and enjoy an evening of games, music and good company.

Thanks for all your help and everything you do to support our youth.

~ *Hope & Clarke Staton*
Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

Phone: 540-828-3711 / **Fax:** 540-828-0328

Web: www.bwcob.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-Noon & 1-5 p.m.