



The Valley Echoes

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren
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January 2010

Bread and Cup Communion

During Sunday morning worship on **January 10th**, we will celebrate communion. You are invited to the Lord's table to participate –an appropriate way to begin a brand new year.



M.A.D. Youth Winter Retreat

Starting Friday evening, **January 29**, thru Sunday noon, youth from around the Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) of the Church of the Brethren will gather at Camp Hashawa outside Westminster, MD for our annual Winter retreat.. This year's theme is "Been there, done that." Insights on Peer Pressure and Relationships will be shared by cabinets members of the past. The cost per person for this event is \$60. For more information and to register online, visit: www.madyouth.org

Church Family News

Health Concerns: **Carl Palmer** is recovering from pneumonia. His sister, **Doris Stahler**, fell and broke her wrist and is doing well after wrist surgery... Chemotherapy is shrinking **Monica Barlow**'s tumors, a treatment she'll continue for 6 weeks before another scan is taken... **Nancy Seim** is getting back to walking following her 2nd knee replacement... **Pam Scholle**, mother of Dennis, began radiation treatment for breast cancer... **Betty Chenowith** and **Bonnie Snyder** have had rough bouts of epileptic seizures this year. p.s. Betty has a motorized wheelchair and is able to get out and about from her nursing home using County transportation... **Norman Breidenbaugh** is doing fine following his Oct. 22 heart by-pass... **Lois Webb**'s leukemia has returned. She is home from the hospital on new medication... **Earl Braun** has recently struggled with depression that put him in the hospital (his mother, Virginia, has cancer and is not doing well)... **Jane Phyllis Brown** was in the hospital with a blood clot in her leg.

Celebrations: On Dec. 6, **Sharon & Mike Kagarise** celebrated their 12th anniversary... **Madeline Elise Wilhelm** was born Dec. 5, the first child of Marik Moen and Gregg Wilhelm (Sue Ellen Wheatley's brother)... **Russ Knight** received his Master's Degree certificate... **Meghan Knight** has been selected to be in the *Maryland All State Chorus*, involving a February concert at Morgan State University... **Leann Scholle's sister**, after years of trying, is now expecting a baby in early March.

Concerns: A Dec. 13th house fire put the **Knight family** out of their home for 6-8 months while it gets prepared. Thankfully no one was hurt, and insurance has them living nearby... The restaurant where **Laurie Erdman** and **Karen Braun** work was robbed. They're shaken but okay, tho' still recovering from the experience... The **Eric Lewis family** is going thru a difficult time – losing their home, living with Erin's father, gaining custody of Eric's son, losing 2 cars to repossession and a car accident. Uphold them!... **Lydia Eze-Sankara** needs only one more surgery. However, a new specialist is needed. Keep praying for her and her mother, **Eugenia Dunn**, thru the immigration process. **Roxanne Stevens** and her children were unhurt following a car accident recently. In addition, she and Darren have separated. He is now living in VA.

Here and There: **Glenn & Vickie Raistrick** transferred their membership to the Bel Air Church of the Nazarene on Nov. 22. We send them forth with our blessing. Vickie continues to stay connected through our prayer chain and the weekly Joys & Concerns ... Our District Executive Minister is back on duty. **Gene Hagenberger** and his wife now live in Hanover, Pennsylvania ... **Andy Duffey** (former pastor Scott's son) was licensed to ministry in the Westminster CoB on Nov. 22. He now attends Bethany Seminary...

Remember to pray for our brother in prison and send notes of encouragement, addressed to: **Callixtus Nwaehiri**

A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends of LGVCOB,

Thanks so much for the love and support you shared with me and my family during the recent death of my father. Your visits to the funeral home, cards, calls, gifts, kind words, etc. were very comforting. It was a "spiritual hug" to look across the room and see familiar faces.

. . . The Sonczewski & Talley family

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group meets **Saturday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 a.m.** in the church fellowship hall. Lew Marion is the facilitator for this month. Contact person: Bill Albright. Please sign up on the bulletin board so they will know how many breakfasts to prepare.

Deacon Fund

January 31 is the 5th Sunday of the month. People of the congregation are invited to give (above & beyond their regular offering) toward our congregation's Mutual Aid Fund. This money is used – when needed to help people in the fellowship who are going through hard times, financially.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP NEWS !

All adults are invited to the Planning Meeting on January 16, 2010, 7 pm,
at the home of Bill and Teresa Albright.

Bring your calendars and your ideas for activities for each month.

On December 13, thirty-three adult members of the congregation traveled around Harford County to enjoy fellowship and the delicious courses of The Annual Progressive Dinner. We celebrated the joy of Christmas by singing carols, appreciating the beautiful decorations while hearing about their history, and sharing conversation. We appreciated the guitar accompaniment provided by Pastor Pete. Many thanks for the hospitality of the hosts who invited us to their homes and so generously prepared the various courses: Appetizers: Dave and Jean Sack (assisted by John Ness), Salads: Ron and Lois Webb (assisted by Izzy and Nancy Rosas), and Desserts: Kay Kearns (assisted by Bill and Teresa Albright).

January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Alverta Showalter | 19 | Darren Gonzalez |
| 6 | Arnold Breidenbaugh, Sr. | 21 | John Pinkas |
| 7 | Lauri Showalter | 22 | Nancy Rosas |
| 10 | Joel Wheatley | 24 | Glen Longacre |
| 11 | Rebekah Wheatley | 26 | Millie Kreider |
| 12 | Lorrie Miller | 29 | Priscilla Brown |
| 14 | Warren Hansen | 30 | Laurie Hart |
| 19 | Lori Erdman | | |

January Anniversary



Jan. 16 – Darren & Sharon Weagly

Did we miss your important date? Please let us know.

SERRV/New Windsor

Serrv needs help as they get items ready for the release of their spring catalog. Three work dates are planned for Long Green folks in the new year, all on a Thursday. The first one is **January 21**, the second one on **February 4** and the third one is **February 18**. Anyone who is able and would like to help please sign up at the back bulletin board. Lunch is provided and we can car pool as much as possible.

Meet a New Member: Gladys Montero de Encarnacion

Gladys Montero Ramirez was born into a devout Catholic family near to San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic, the eleventh child of twelve. Not far from her home there was a Mennonite Church. The music that came from inside that house of worship eventually drew her in, and at age 14, she was baptized a Mennonite. Several others of her siblings also joined the Mennonite church.

At age 17, she went to a Methodist boarding school in the city of Santiago for two years of Christian Education studies. On returning home, she helped to set up the Evangelical Mennonite Day School and for a number of years served as teacher and later principal of the school. This school still functions in San Juan de la Maguana.

At this juncture, Guillermo Encarnacion Betancourt entered her life. Guillermo grew up in the capital, Santo Domingo. While a university student, he became a political activist against the oppressive regime of Rafael Trujillo. With other student leaders, he was thrown into prison. Many of them lost their lives but Guillermo survived. Fearing the same thing might happen again, his family sent him to relatives in a town near San Juan de la Maguana. There he met a relative of Gladys, who brought him to a new life in Christ. Within a short time, Gladys and Guillermo decided to become life partners. They were married in 1961, and moved to Santo Domingo where Guillermo served several functions with the Evangelical Mennonite Church of the Dominican Republic. Gladys finished her bachelor's degree as a teacher at the university and studied voice, while teaching at a Mennonite day school in Santo Domingo, and starting a family.

Leaving his family in Santo Domingo, Guillermo joined the staff of the American Bible Society in Puerto Rico in 1971. In 1972 Guillermo became pastor of a Brethren congregation in rural Castaner where his wife, three sons and a daughter joined him. For five years, they were next door neighbors of Ellis and Carolyn Shenk.

Gladys continued her interest in education, opening a day care program allied with the Castaner church. And when the Encarnacion family moved to Falfurrias, Texas in 1981 to serve the Church of the Brethren congregation there for five years, she worked in a Head Start program for migrants.

In 1986 Guillermo and Gladys were called to Lancaster, PA to build the emerging Alpha y Omega fellowship for Hispanics. They involved themselves in the lives of many in the city of Lancaster. Gladys worked in Community Action for nine years as well as directing a Community Life Center at the church, and for almost a decade she worked in Pennsylvania Migrant Education. Together, Guillermo and Gladys helped Brethren staff in Elgin when translation to Spanish was needed. Both were active in nurturing the wider Hispanic community and ministry within the Brotherhood. After the Church of the Brethren ministry in the Dominican Republic was launched, Guillermo was called on to help in many ways.

His last trip to the Dominican Republic in September 2008 was to help resolve some problems of misunderstanding. On October 11, 2008 the team of Brethren leaders from the United States met for breakfast near Lancaster, PA to discuss their visit. On leaving the restaurant, Guillermo fell in the parking lot, striking his head which led to his death within a few hours.

During the past year, Gladys has spent time with her children, three sons and two daughters, and worked toward selling the house in Lancaster. This fall, she moved to the home of her son in Bel Air.

With their cross-cultural experiences and their father's early political passion, it is not surprising that their two daughters and the eldest son majored in political science. Both daughters are now concentrating on their roles as mothers. And the son is a tenured professor at Bard College, NY. The second son has experience in banking and community organization, and the third is a criminal defense attorney. Gladys takes special pleasure in her nine grandchildren in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

*. . . Thanks to Ellis Shenk for sharing this information which was edited because of space limitation.
His complete article is posted on the church bulletin board.*

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HYGIENE AND SCHOOL KITS for Disaster Relief

Our final count of Hygiene kits for 2009 is **265**. The school kits sent were **359**. Despite the recession our total was **624** . . . very close to 2008 when we sent 684. In January we plan to prepare a new batch of hygiene kits. Our immediate need is for dozens of nail clippers, tooth brushes, soap and large tooth combs. In February we will need hand towels wash cloths and band aids as well.

Thank you to ALL who have helped financially as well as those who have gathered and assembled the supplies. This year there were many disasters thought out the world as well as the flooding in our country.

~Kathleen/Witness Committee

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LGV Book Club

The Book Club meets on **Friday, January 15 . . . 7pm** at the home of Jean & Dave Sack to discuss “*21 Reasons Bad Things Happen to Good People*” written by Dave Earley. This book can be purchased through Amazon.com or likely picked up at a local bookstore. Come and join the group!



Shepherd's Spring News

Shepherd's Spring 2010 Summer Camp forms are here. If you have not received a copy in the mail, pick up one at the church. A few of the summer camps programs I would like to highlight this year are:

- Pack and Paddle- July 25-30 Grades 6 – 8
Spend your week paddling akin to and hiking the nearby trails. Most of the week is spent off site with daily tent pitching and outdoor cooking.
- Adventures in Service- July 11-16 Grade 9-12
A camp with an emphasis on growing and God through work projects and service learning opportunities. Activities planned include biking, hiking, a night in the Global Village, and community service.
- Alumni and Friends- July 30 -August 1 Adults 18 and over
Having a withdrawal from Shepherd's Spring? Come back for weekend told with camp activities. Past campers and counselors bring a friend along shared the Shepherd's Spring experience.
- Youth Camp- is a long weekend this year to allow more youth to attend both NYC and Shepherd's Spring.

With Shepherd's Spring and Camp Mardela both incorporating last year, this year each camp was responsible for printing their own brochures. I do not have information on Camp Mardela but you may check their website www.campmardela.org (it still has 2009 schedule Listed). You can also look at Shepherd Spring website for information about programs there. www.shepherdsspring.org (Next year's summer camps as well as Exploritas programs are listed.)

Questions – contact our Camp Rep, Dennis Rosas

Spring 2010 Exploritas programs at Shepherd's Spring

- March 14-19- American Women in History: From the Battlefield to the Oval Office- Exploritas Program # 17046

See the February Newsletter for more programs or check the website listed above.

Record of our Faithfulness

	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Regular Offering	Special Offering	Total Offering
Nov. 29	55	25	\$2,043.	\$ 520.	\$2,563.
Dec. 06	66	37	3,434.	1,194.	4,628.
13	70	30	2,074.25	153.75	2,228.
20	(canceled)	(canceled)	(canceled)	(canceled)	(canceled)
Total	191	92	\$7,551.25	\$ 1,867.75	\$ 9,419.
Average	64	31	\$ 2,517.08	\$ 622.58	\$ 3,140.

Head Ushers: Jeff Wolf and Mike Hanna

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“WELLNESS MATTERS”



We are pleased to begin this New Year, walking with you as we journey toward wellness. Announcements and information about this step-by-step venture will be found in issues of this Newsletter, in the Sunday Bulletin, on the Wellness Resource Table, and on our web pages on the church website www.lgvcob.org. Make a personal commitment to be proactive in caring for your body, mind, and spirit: Do it with all your heart!

Health Departments in nearby jurisdictions are now offering the H1N1 vaccine to the general population. To find out the details, check these:

Baltimore City: www.baltimorehealth.org and Phone: 443-984-4358.

Baltimore County: www.baltimorecountymed.gov/go/health and Phone: 410-887-2243

Harford County: www.harfordcountyhealth.com and Phone: 410-612-1779

If you would like to be a part of the planning team for the Wellness Ministry, please call me.

Our next meeting is January 12, 2010. ---Teresa M. Albright, “Wellness Matters” Coordinator

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Remember how the year 2,000 began, with the Y2K scare of a huge computer meltdown bringing the world to its knees? Didn't happen. Of course, other things did. Y2K seems like a little thing compared to 9/11 and the recent recession. But it was a worry then, just like the viruses that circulate the Internet seeking to infect our computers now are a worry.

Speaking of viruses, let's talk in a physical rather than a virtual sense. This is the time of year when we need to pay attention to the flu and other bugs that travel person to person. For some of us this is a critical concern, as our bodies are fighting other things and do not need another adversary. When it comes to church, let's be careful that what we pass along to another person is God's love and not some hitch-hiking bug.

We all need physical contact. Many of you have expressed appreciation for the hugs you receive from our front door greeters. Hand shakes, too. Many churches have decided to refrain from such contact at this time of year. That's a rough call, for winter is a time when we, perhaps, need touch the most. The weather can shut us in or away from others, one of the reasons some folks suffer from seasonal depression.

I encourage you not to stop expressing your love and care, but to be care-full as you do so. If you have a cough or snuffle or are in any way contagious, please keep some distance from others. Let your words and your face express what you want to share. Or if you are sick, stay home and get well.

The problem with physical contact is that we can inadvertently pass along a bug from one person to another, through handshakes or from touching something another person has touched. That's why we have anti-bacterial lotion sitting around all over the place. Consider using it as often as you think of it. Most hospitals now have lotion dispensers located outside every room and next to elevators etc. When there, I lather up almost as often as I pass one, or so it seems. Why not here?

Let's share the good news of God's love this month, ... not germs.

Pastor Pete

Praise Band

We need to come up with a better name for this collection of folks who desire to “*make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*” We also need people interested in beginning (or learning how) to play guitar, bass, or drum, or to sing along in this group. You don't have to be good at it, just willing to grow. If that's you, come on **Jan. 19th at 7pm** (snowdate is Jan. 21st). Bring your instrument if you have one, or just yourself if you don't (singers have theirs built in). We'll do some talking, some learning, and hopefully also prepare to lead worship the next Sunday. All ages welcome.