



The Valley Echoes

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren
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2010

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Valentine's Day

We are encouraging you to come to church wearing **RED** on Valentine's Day **Sunday, February 14th** to help spread and promote heart awareness.

Adult Fellowship Activity

Adults are invited to the Miller's home on **Sat, Feb 20 at 6pm** for Favorite Recipe Night. Bring your favorite "Valentine themed recipe" to share with everyone. If you have questions, please contact Gary or Grace or see the back bulletin board for more information.

Food, Fellowship, and a Flick!

Join us after worship & Sunday School on **Sunday, Feb 21st** for a Potluck Meal (bring a dish or 2 to share). After the meal, we'll enjoy a movie provided to us by our Wellness Leadership Team.

Carpenter's Kitchen

Please sign-up to help prepare or serve food to the homeless on **Sat, Feb 27th**. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Mike Hanna.

Church Family News

Health Concerns: Keep praying for **Lois Webb** as she works with God and her doctors on her Leukemia; **Jane Phyllis Brown** as she recovers from the clot in her leg, and a stomach ulcer, and deals with pain in her back and legs; **Monica Barlow** as she continues her treatments to shrink the tumors in her lungs (successful thus far!). They've discovered she has a genetic mutation which likely caused her lung cancer. A promising new drug now in clinical trials is a possibility if current treatment is not successful.

A celebration of life: Our sister **Ida Mae Tombaugh** died on January 2nd while sitting in her chair at home. We laid her to rest with both sadness and gladness on the 6th... **Betty Twigg**, sister of Gail Hanna, died in her sleep at home on the eastern shore on Dec. 16th... Keep their families in your prayers, along with others we know who are grieving. It takes time!

Some More Concerns: **Mandy Roberts' father** has been diagnosed with a leaky heart valve and is seeing a specialist... **Ron Eckman**, father of Karen Haynes, has been struggling with pain in his hip for several weeks, without relief... **Autumn Lewis** fell & hit her head on the playground but a quick trip to the hospital showed no permanent damage. Sister **Noelle Lewis** got her thumb caught in a car door - nothing broken, but it did hurt! Problems continued for the **Eric & Erin Lewis family** as he lost his job. More recently **Don Henderson**, Erin's dad, was hospitalized for several days. He's now home doing better.

Sue Ellen Wheatley underwent a second eye surgery to correct her eye problem... **Nancy Seim** continues to recover from knee surgery... **Earl Braun** is journeying back from depression... **Ed Erdman** is still dealing with back pain, his wife **Lori** is doing the hard work of counseling following last month's robbery at work... **Naomi Ceryes**, mother of Debbie Bowman, spent several weeks in the hospital recovering from fractured ribs due to a fall and is moving to an Assisted Living Home. Uplift all these folks in prayer.

Remember: **Eugenia Dunn** and her daughter **Lydia** as they await justice from immigration... the **Knight family**, who are in a temporary home (for 6-8 months) until their home is repaired following their Dec.13th fire. They appreciate all the help they received!... Our brother in prison, **Callixtus Nwaehiri**. He is grateful for your letters & cards.

Joys: We heard that, with no music and keyboard (because of the fire) until the day of her recital, **Meghan Knight** played the most beautiful version of "Oh Holy Night" on the piano... **Carl Palmer** was able to return to church after being away a month because of his pneumonia. He and Lillie Mae are in Florida all this month... Although our workers at **Carpenter's Kitchen** had their work cancelled because of the snowstorm, they were happy to share the meat with another group the next week. We have another opportunity this month!



Wellness Matters

~Have you gotten your influenza shot? What about your H1N1 shot? The viruses are still around. Protect yourself, your family, and your friends and get your shots now. See your local pharmacy or county public health department for places convenient to you.

~Wear **RED** on Valentine's Day ~ **Sunday, February 14th** to promote heart awareness.

~Plan on staying after our Potluck meal on **Sunday, February 21st** to watch a movie together.

~ Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, April 17th** ~ 3rd annual Women's Retreat at church. Brochures will be ready soon with all of the information. (men – offer to watch the children)

The next planning meeting will be at the Albrights' home on **Tues, March 2nd** and you are invited.

Because..... ***Wellness Matters!***

Adult Fellowship Activities for 2010

***February 20** (Saturday) – Bring your favorite recipe “Valentines Theme” at Gary & Grace Miller's home at 6pm

March 20 (Saturday - tentative) - ***Movie and Desserts*** at the church hall (Gary Miller)

April 17 (Saturday) - ***Women's Retreat***

May 1 (Saturday) - ***Disaster Relief Auction*** in Westminster

**Further information about all activities will be posted each month- please join us!!
~A full list of the year's activities WILL be posted in the March Newsletter,
sorry for the inconvenience~*

Record of our Faithfulness

	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Regular Offering	Special Offering	Total Offering
Dec 27	94	47	\$6,175.25	\$2,008.75	\$8184.
Jan 03	83	41	3,168.	104.	3,272.
10	70	47	2,955.	310.	3,265.
17	72	32	1,787.	1,296.	3,083.
Total	319	167	\$14,085.25	\$3,718.75	\$17,804.
Average	80	42	\$3,521.	\$930.	\$4,451.

Regular offerings needed weekly to meet our **2010** budget: **\$2,758**. Remember to keep up your promise to God when you cannot make it here on Sunday. Our average worship attendance for the same 4 weeks last year was **79**. Sunday School average was **22**.

Head Ushers:

Floyd Myers & Paul Sonczewski

Book Club

The next book selection is "We Plan, God Laughs," by Sherri Hirsch. We will meet on **Friday, March 12 at 7pm** at the home of Teresa & Bill Albright. Gail Hanna is moderator.



*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

**Food provided by
The Southern Pennsylvania and
Mid Atlantic Districts
of the
Church of the Brethren**

The 2010 date for The Long Green Valley Church to participate in the Mid Atlantic District's Meat Canning Program is **Thurs, April 8th 2010 from 9am-2:30pm** (mark your calendars). As with last year the Meat canning has been cut to only one week, because of lack of funds. It is important to keep "Hands On" projects like this continuing. Special giving is encouraged, and should be labeled "Meat Canning". It is hoped by the District Office that the "Surplus Funds" account can be built back up, which would eventually allow the Meat Canning to be expanded back to two weeks ~ thus allowing more canned chicken to be available to combat World Hunger.

Anyone wanting to participate in this project, please contact Paul Sonczewski.

Sunday School News

Adult International Class- Sue Ellen Wheatley will be the teacher for the month of February.

Senior Youth- Jeannie Schwartz will be the teacher from February-May





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|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 02 | Lois Horst | 15 | Velma Meador |
| 03 | Mike Hanna | 16 | Daniel Wheatley |
| 04 | Charles Braun | 18 | Dwayne Miller |
| 05 | Gerald Champ | 19 | Mary Reed |
| 08 | Heather Smith | 20 | Leota Smith |
| 09 | Nathan Wheatley | 22 | Gene Meador |
| 09 | Annabelle Steiner | 23 | Ellen Pecora |
| 10 | Renee Kay | 23 | Lynn Shenk |
| 12 | Ryan Baity | 25 | Tim Kreider |
| 14 | David Bayless | 26 | Nancy Campbell |
| 14 | Pam Bryant | 27 | Lindsey Speilman |
| | | 29 | Ed Lewis |



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|----|---------------------------------|
| 13 | Alan & Ester Showalter |
| 26 | Chris III & Trisha Breidenbaugh |
| 15 | Robert & Barbara Makin |

Ten Thousand Villages Closing

Due to a drastic hike in rental rates, Ten Thousand Villages fair trade store at Kenilworth Mall in Towson is closing on January 31st. Items not sold by this Mennonite-sponsored, nonprofit outlet for third world artists will be consolidated at the Fells Point Ten Thousand Villages shop at 1621 Thames Street. Jean Sack will continue to recruit volunteers for that Baltimore location or call 410-342-5568.

Haiti

Uphold the people of this country as they deal with their recent earthquake, especially the people in the 3 Brethren congregations there. Our sister church in San Juan de la Maguana next door in the Dominican Republic (located only an hour from the border), felt the quake but thankfully did not have much damage. Many members of the Dominican church have family in Haiti, and Dominican hospitals are full of Haitian wounded. A disaster response team, headed up by Ludovic St. Fleur, coordinator of the Church of the Brethren mission in Haiti, is onsite. Check for updates at www.brethren.org . As you pray, lift up the church on the whole island of Hispaniola, that it might brightly shine in this hour.

Helping Out

Don't catch *Compassion Fatigue*! This malady affects our ability to help others. Know that even before the recent earthquake in Haiti, we were responding by sending health kits to New Windsor. We are able to keep up this simple project with your help, your Witness Commission setting a new goal (see below). Are you game? Money contributions are always welcome to pay for shipping to disaster zones. Donations marked "Haiti" (checks made out to this church) will head to *Church World Service*. Other easy ways of responding involve the Red Cross (www.redcross.org) or a bipartisan effort headed up by former Presidents Clinton and Bush (www.whitehouse.gov). Remember that recovery anywhere is no immediate, once and done effort. We are following Jesus for the long haul. If you get fatigued, take the following medicine – Matthew chapters 5-7. It works every time!

Hygiene Kits for Disaster Relief

99 Health kits were dropped off at New Windsor, Jan 21. for our brothers and sisters in need. We plan to send at least 100 kits each month (up from 50) to help *Church World Service* make up for all the thousands that were shipped to Haiti. If you wish to help out, the following items are needed:

-Band-aids

-Hand Towels

-Wash Cloths

-Wide Tooth Combs

-Nail Clippers

- Bath Soap (in wrapper)

- Toothbrushes (in wrapper)



Those who do not have time to shop... we are always in need of money for supplies and shipping. Thanks to all here at our church who continue to help with this project.

~Kathleen Nuttall

A Report from the Treasurer

All of the year-end activities for 2009 are now complete. After being as much as \$4,000 in the red in the fourth quarter, with regular offerings and year-end gifts, we ended the year with a deficit of only \$795. A copy of the final budget report has been posted on the bulletin board along with a list of the balances remaining in the non-budgeted funds.

Below is a listing of all outreach giving (both budget and non-budget) to give the congregation an idea of what our true giving was for the year 2009:

2009 Non-Budgeted Outreach Giving

Deacon's Assistance (Mutual Aid)	\$ 2,618
Dundalk Food Pantry (cash only, not including food)	1,825
Family Crisis Center (cash only, not including Christmas Proj.)	1,367
Health Kits/School Kits	1,124
Meat Canning (unbudgeted)	235

Total Non-Budgeted Outreach Giving **\$ 7,169**

2009 Budgeted Outreach Giving **6,712**

Total Outreach Giving **\$13,881**

2009 Total General & Special Offerings Received **\$138,789**

Congregation's giving %—Total Outreach/Total Offerings **10%**

These amounts do not include gifts given directly to an agency by individuals. There is no way of tracking such donations.

The continuing downward trend of our percentage of giving to outreach continued in 2009. Of course, in 2009 we had to expend nearly \$40,000 to replace our church roof. With that project behind us let us pray that in 2010 we will begin to respond to the challenge to increase our giving to the many worthwhile ministries we are called to support with our faithful giving.

I often wonder why we stick so many of our winter songs into a Christmas package, then put them away with all the decorations once that holiday is past. Is December really the time to sing, “oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful ... let it snow”? February is when those words should be ringing out. And why should “chestnuts roasting on an open fire” be limited to the last month of the year, when the second month could use a bit more of that “many times, many ways, merry Christmas to you.”?

Okay, we do have *Valentine’s Day* smack dab in the middle of this month. I don’t, however, have a whole notebook of Valentine’s songs, like I do for Christmas (sacred and secular). Speaking of mid-month, *Ash Wednesday* and the beginning of the season of *Lent* start only a few days later this year. In the Christian calendar, *Transfiguration Sunday* shares the same day as Valentines in 2010.

I know, I’m just babbling, trying to find a song at the heart of all this, seeking the melody and harmony of the time. Somehow that line from Don McLean’s 1971 song, *American Pie*, doesn’t fit the bill: “February made me shiver with every paper I’d deliver...” (by the way, he was recalling the February day in 1959 when rock and roll legend, Buddy Holly, was killed in a plane crash). I cringe every time the youth at camp or retreat ask me to sing with them that exhaustingly long song. They have no idea what it all means. Neither do I, for that matter.

Then, again, do we fully understand what all our songs of faith really mean? Like the disciple Peter, awestruck before the sight of Jesus and Moses and Elijah transfigured on the mountain (Luke 9:28-36), we catch a glimpse of glory in the words or tune, but remain slightly clueless, in a cloud. Like our Valentines, which allude to something greater, we stumble with the width and breadth and depth of God’s love. Lent is a time to admit our bumbling and stumbling and cluelessness, as we begin approaching the heart of our Christ song, where a cross meets an empty tomb. ... But that’s next month.

For now, “the weather outside” may be “frightful, but the fire is so delightful.” Know what I mean? See you along the snowy way.

Pastor Pete

February Sermon Menu

Feb. 7	“Drop everything”	Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 14	“Don’t lose heart”	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
<i>Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday – Feb. 17</i>		
Feb. 21	“and let us not succumb to the trial”	Luke 4:1-13
Feb. 28	“Cutting your teeth”	Genesis 15:1-18