

# The Valley Echoes

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren  
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**APRIL** 2010

## Love Feast

You are invited to attend Love feast and communion on **Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7pm**. Our service begins with a time of preparation. And, as Jesus did, we will wash one another's feet, share communion (older children and those not baptized are welcome to sit with us) and share in an agape meal (open to everyone). Child care will be provided for little ones.

## Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast

*"Jump!"* For those of you attending our Sunrise Service on **Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am** – you will find out what this statement means! So, come join us!

After the Sunrise Service, please join us for breakfast. Our youth's families will provide the food, and a freewill offering will be collected with proceeds going to NYC 2010.

## Easter Egg Hunt & Worship Service

After our Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast, all children will have the opportunity to search for Easter Eggs. Our youth will help with the little ones. Children, remember to bring your baskets! Our Easter worship will be at 10am, followed by Sunday School.

*(For those who ordered flowers, please feel free to take these after our 10am service)*

## Church Family News

**Good to hear news:** **Lois Webb**'s leukemia has nearly disappeared, tho' she's still undergoing treatment. Soreness from the fractured rib and bruising around her sternum (not the cancer) are still causing pain, however.... Results from **Monica Barlow**'s last scan show that all the tumors had either shrunk further or stayed the same – a joy! She will receive a “maintenance” drug once every 3 weeks as long as the tumors don't grow. Keep praying for both women!

**Further health concerns:** **Jane Phyllis Brown** undergoes therapy twice a week for her shoulder along with some other problems... **Mandy Robert's father** has been advised to lose weight and stop smoking for the sake of his “leaky heart.”... **Barbara Groff** (wife of our late, former pastor, Paul) broke her hip and had successful surgery in late February. She is receiving rehab therapy and doing well in her recovery... Priscilla Brown's friend, **George Depetria**, has lung cancer and skin cancer... **Terri Meushaw**, our Mid-Atlantic District Administrative Assistant, has a tumor near her brain stem and is undergoing tests to determine if the cancer has spread... Uphold these folks with prayer and presence.

**Pray for new possibilites:** for **Eric Lewis** and his family. He lost his third job in under 6 months. They continue to live with Erin's father.

**Congratulations:** **Nicci Smyth** graduated from the State University of New York (Oswego) on Dec. 19, 2009, second in her class... **Meghan Knight** received a “1” (superior) on a choral solo for county adjudication and will go to the state level in May... **Sara Shenk**, along with three others, was in the *Pro Star Culinary Management* competition and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place... **Tyler Haynes** will be heading to Thailand a week after graduation from college in May. He will be teaching English there for 9 months... After a very rough day, when life hung in the balance, Leanne Scholle's sister, **Nicki**, gave birth to a son, **Brian, jr** on Feb 18 in Ohio. Praise God!

**Update:** After the judge returned her case to the Immigration Dept, **Eugenia Dunn** has now received word that they are sending her a “Green Card.” An answer to prayer!... Daughter **Lydia** met with her surgeon who advised she not undergo surgery because of its high risk. She was actually glad for that advice and will be following it. (p.s. she's a good dancer!)

**This-n-that:** **Jason Stevens** is staying with his grandparents in Idaho, until July. This move was a difficult decision for his mother, a single parent... **Carl and Lillie Mae Palmer** have returned from their stay in Florida. **Beth Kagarise** collected pennies for patients (kids and others) with leukemia for her school. Her box of change was so heavy she had to take it to school on three different days.

**Thanks:** to **Mike Hanna and our group at Carpenter's Kitchen** who served about 170 people. The place had been closed for the 3 previous weeks because of the weather and even this week our large group was able to supply help in the dining room... Likewise, kudos to our monthly **New Windsor crew** who serve (at SERRV) and thoroughly enjoy themselves.

**Remember to pray** for our brother in prison and send notes of encouragement, **Callixtus Nwaehiri** (contact church office for address)

There's a new phone # for **Norman Breidenbaugh** (contact church office). Update your directory.

### **2010 Meat Canning**

The 2010 date for The Long Green Valley Church to participate in the Mid Atlantic District's Meat Canning Program is **Thurs, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 9am-2:30pm** (mark your calendars). Anyone wanting to participate in this project, please contact Paul Sonczewski.

### **Carpenter's Kitchen**

Our next date for Carpenter's Kitchen will be **Sat, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Are you able to help serve or prepare food? If so, please sign-up on the bulletin board or contact Mike Hanna. Can't help on this day? The next date for Carpenter's Kitchen is **Sat, Aug 21<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Long Green's Got Talent!**

Join us for an exciting evening on **April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** as our senior youth group puts together **Long Green's Got Talent!** Talent, refreshments, and fun will be had by all who attend. Proceeds from this event will go toward NYC 2010. Specific information is still in the works. Please look out for an updated announcement in our weekly bulletin, and or on our bulletin board!

## April Birthdays



02	Debbie Bowman	17	Paul Sack
05	Justin Waggle	17	Natasha Friend
08	Jason Ness	20	Joseph Grubb
10	Lillie Mae Palmer	21	Helen Dorman
12	Dorothy Hansen	21	Derek Gervais
12	David Ebaugh	21	Cody Gervais
12	Paul Sonczewski	22	Christopher Wolf
13	Sarah Smith	25	William Breidenbaugh
13	Barbara Raines	27	Jane Propst
15	Jackson Steiner	28	Christina Fonseca
16	Carson Scala	29	Sharon Weagly

## April Anniversaries

7	Richard & Sue Ellen Wheatley	21	Ronald & Lois Webb
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## Sunday School News

*We did not have the following teachers noted & recognized in last month's newsletter...*

Adult International Lesson- Teachings on Community

Room: Library

April – Gary Miller

May – Ellis Shenk

# *What a Wonderful day in May!*

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid Atlantic Disaster Response Auction**

Remember to put **Sat, May 1<sup>st</sup>** on your calendar for our District's 30<sup>th</sup> Mid Atlantic Disaster Response Auction. It will be held starting at 9am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, MD. The money raised on this day will help provide assistance to disaster victims world-wide – including our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Last year's auction raised \$66,780.00! We are hoping to top that amount this year, and we at Long Green can be an important part of that effort!

There will be crafts, white elephant tables, book tables, & plant booths. Don't forget about the General Auction, Special Items Auction, and the Quilt & Comforter Auctions. Not to mention all the delicious homemade food and treats to enjoy! So, grab an auction catalog at church (when they arrive) in the next few weeks. What a wonderful day to fellowship & spend with your family and friends. We'll see **YOU** there!

## **May 1st Concert of Remembrances**

The Deer Creek Chorale will join the choir of St. James Church of Monkton, and guest instrumentalists, in the performance of Johannes Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem," under the direction of Dr. Henry Chen on **Sat, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.** at the North Harford High School Concert Hall. The German Requiem will be dedicated to family and friends who have recently passed away and features the glorious chorus "How Lovely Are Thy Dwelling Places." Dr. Chen explains "Brahms wanted his requiem to be consolation for the bereaved, who need its message of comfort." The concert will end with refreshments and a May plant and flower sale in the atrium. Tickets to the event would make a wonderful family Mother's Day gift at \$5 students \$10 seniors \$15 adult admission. *A perfect May Day evening, after our District Auction in Westminster!* See David or Jean Sack for ticket information or visit the website: [deercreekchoral.org/Tickets.html](http://deercreekchoral.org/Tickets.html).

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Conference  
"Women As Spiritual Leaders"

**Saturday April 17, 2010**

9AM-2PM

Pre-Registration Fee (Ends April 5<sup>th</sup>) \$15

Registration Fee \$20

Join us to focus upon deepening one's connection to the presence of God Through the importance of nurturing mental, spiritual, physical and relational wellness.

This year you will choose 3 of 5 sessions to attend. Your choices include: Hip and Knee Arthritis, "Relationships-5 Languages or 7 Principles?", Spirituality and Wellness through Rhythm, Massage Therapy, and Interpretation of scripture and prayer through Dance. Our main speaker is a Reiki Master and has been practicing Reiki for 24 years. She will introduce us to Reiki, explaining what it is, its benefits and show us how it's God's gift to every single human to make everybody aware of the many blessings we have.

**Register Today!**

Registration Brochures are on the Wellness Table. Contact Lorrie Miller or Robin Burges to register or if you have any questions.

## “WELLNESS MATTERS”



### Save the Date!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Conference, "Women as Spiritual Lead  
will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9 am – 2 pm, at the church.

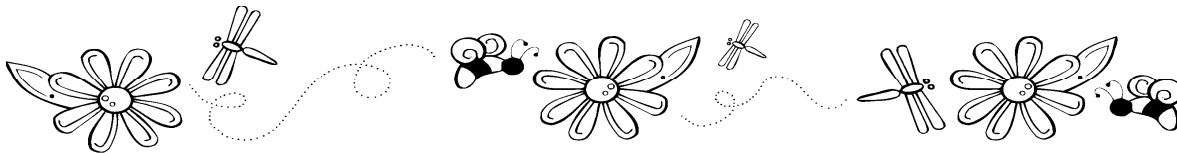
*(See separate article.)*

Ideas about “FINANCIAL FITNE\$\$” were presented and discussed on March 14, when Steve Bob, Director of Operations - Church of the Brethren Credit Union, shared ideas about “The Seven Biggest Mistakes People Make With Their Money” and “Making Healthy Choices About Money and Debt”. In addition, he provided useful printed information, pads of paper and pens, and a book, The Financial Peace Planner: A Step-by-Step Guide to Restoring Your Family's Financial Health, by Dave Ramsey, which was received by Lorrie Miller when her name was drawn. This Brethren Benefit Trust outreach program was planned by your Stewardship Commission and “Wellness Matters” ministry. If you would like to know more about the ideas presented, please contact us.

*Many thanks to those who helped with this initiative: Bill and Teresa Albright: Planning for the speaker, notices, and ads; Nathan, Sue Ellen, and Rebekah Wheatley: Ups-and-downs of tables and chairs; Pastor Pete: Creative invitational video prelude to the March 14 worship service; Gail Hanna and Michael Kagarise, Jr.: Assistance with announcements; John Ness: Set-up of audio/visual equipment; Dave and Jean Sack: Hosting our speaker at the church; Robin Burges, Mike Hanna, Lorrie and Tony Miller: Food/beverage readiness, serving, and kitchen clean-up; Mel and Lois Horst: Photos; Tessa Haynes and Rebekah Wheatley: Willingness to provide child care; and All who brought the delicious food for the pot-luck meal and were able to be with us for the meal and the program.*

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

*---Teresa M. Albright, “Wellness Matters” Coordinator*



## Record of our Faithfulness

	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Regular Offering	Special Offering	Total Offering
Feb 21	93	40	\$2,544.24	\$122.	\$2,666.24
28	76	41	2,675.	270.	2,945.
Mar 07	77	31	2,812.	70.	2,882.
14	65	25	2,711.	1,117.	3,828.
Total	311	137	\$10,742.24	\$1,579.	\$12,321.24
Average	<b>78</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>\$2,686.</b>	<b>\$395.</b>	<b>\$3,080.</b>

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 **63**. Sunday School average was **33**.

**Head Ushers:**  
**Steve Smith and Karl Huber**

**Letters to God**  
(in Theaters April 9)

A heartfelt tale of inspiration, hope and redemption, Letters to God is the story of what happens when one boy's walk of faith crosses paths with one man's search for meaning—the resulting transformational journey touches the lives of everyone around them. Tyler Doherty is an extraordinary eight-year-old boy. Surrounded by a loving family and community, and armed with the courage of his faith, he faces his daily battle against cancer with bravery and grace. To Tyler, God is a friend, a teacher and the ultimate pen pal—Tyler's prayers take the form of letters, which he composes and mails on a daily basis.

The letters find their way into the hands of Brady McDaniels, a beleaguered postman standing at a crossroads in his life. At first, he is confused and conflicted over what to do with the letters. Overtime he begins to form a friendship with the Doherty family who are trying to stand strong against the doubts that come with the chaotic turn their lives have taken.

Moved by Tyler's courage, Brady realizes what he must do with the letters... Inspired by a true story, Letters to God is an intimate, moving and often funny story about the galvanizing effect one child's belief can have on his family, friends and community.

In a recent children’s story, I mentioned a familiar bedtime prayer I was taught a long time ago. “*Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.*” Reflecting on that as an adult, I’m not sure why those words didn’t frighten my young soul and lead to nightmares. Perhaps it was the presence of the person who taught them beside me on the bed.

April begins this year on Maundy Thursday, the remembrance of “the night in which Jesus was betrayed,” the start of a series of frightening events that led to the painful death of the One who lies at the heart of our faith story. It’s enough to cause nightmares, but it doesn’t. Then the first Sunday of this month announces something almost beyond belief, an “idle tale” the women followers of Jesus brought back to the eleven disciples on Easter morning (Luke 14:11). For heaven’s sake, what is going on here? From all of this, you’d think that fear and foolishness reign, but that is not the case.

If there be foolishness, it is the folly of the cross – a symbol of intimidation that has lost its sting and now bears a different message. As fools for Christ’s sake, we profess that God’s power is made perfect in our weakness, that stooping to serve is a matter of dignity, and that in dying we live. If there be any fear, it is fear of the Lord – not as the big, bad wolf of our childhood nightmares, but as the One who sits beside us in the night. This is the beginning of any wisdom on our part, and the reason why we might ultimately fear no man.

After the service in which I shared the above bedtime prayer, Dot Hansen recalled to me one her maiden aunt, Helen Miller, taught her many years ago. “*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - four corners to my bed. Three angels ‘round my head - one to sing and one to pray and one to carry my soul away.*” This got me thinking, are there other prayers and poems out there that were passed along to you as a child, ones you can still recite by heart? If so, would you write them down and hand to me, or send an email? Do include your name. Anonymity is fine, but knowing the person who shares is even better.

Okay, April “fools for Christ,” let’s step out by faith.  
Pastor Pete

### April Sermon Menu

April 4	“Leros”	Luke 24:1-12
April 11	“Intimidate ... Intimate”	Acts 5:27-32
April 18	“From weeping to joy”	Psalm 30
April 25	“Obscured by a pile of wrongs”	Revelation 7:9-17