

The Chimes

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June 2015

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Recently I recorded a 60 second radio ad for our congregation at WTTR in an effort to get our name out in the community. I am hopeful it will plant a seed of encouragement for those seeking a church home to join us for worship. In case you didn't hear the ad, below is what I said.

The Apostle Paul urges us "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3, NIV)

Sustaining relationships is gratifying and frustrating. I find encouragement in Reinhold Niebuhr's prayer. "O God, you have bound us together in this bundle of life; give us grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of our fellow human beings; that we may be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them [and to you]; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

This is Glenn McCrickard, pastor of the Westminster Church of the Brethren, inviting you to worship with us. Visit our website at westminsterbrethren.org to learn how we are building relationships with one another and our community. I look forward to meeting you at 1 Park Place. Worship begins at 9:30 followed by Sunday school at 11:00. See you soon!

The words "bound together" and "give us grace to understand...out fellow human beings" articulate my understanding and practice of ministry. It is relational and community focused. Also, I feel the spirit of Niebuhr's prayer aptly describes the intent of the Leadership Team's appointment of a task team to assist with formulating a process for the congregation to examine the issue of my potential involvement in performing same-sex marriages.

Over the past three months I have met 4 times with Connie Davis, Gary Honeman, Susie Scott and Jeff Scott to reflect on this matter. In the April newsletter, I included a brief statement in my article about the formation of a task team. Later in April, an announcement was made during worship regarding plans for an upcoming informational meeting and an invitation was extended for individuals to share thoughts and recommendations with committee members. After reflecting upon the feedback received, I want to offer an explanation of why this topic is before us and to offer a more specific focus to the question being asked.

Why even consider this topic given its volatile nature? From my pastoral position, I can no longer ignore the issue for the following reasons. Last year, a Brethren colleague was fired because he officiated a wedding for a gay couple. I have learned that he and the congregation did not discuss his participation in such a ceremony prior to the event. Several pastoral friends have advised that having a conversation is essential for maintaining a pastoral relationship with a congregation. Secondly, the question was brought to the forefront for me with Maryland's decision to legalize gay marriage. As a pastor who places a high value on relationships, I cannot ignore the fact that one day in my future a gay couple who is actively involved in the life of the congregation I am serving will ask me to officiate their wedding. In my previous placement, a young man came to me in tears and fear of judgement as he confessed that he was gay. This young adult was a deeply committed Christian who was active in the life of the church and embodied compassion for others. He stated that all he wanted was "to love and be loved." I want the same thing. Finally, I recognize that we each read and interpret the Bible differently on any given topic. I want to remind us that the Bible is not a club, but a guide for us to understand God's presence in the world and how we are to embody God's love in our living. So here's the question before us. *Will you support and trust me as I make decisions to provide pastoral care and support to all church members?*

On Sunday, July 19 during the Sunday school hour, a moderated elective informational time will be offered for those who are interested. Continue to pray for "grace to understand" one another.

Leadership Team (Say Thanks)



Everyone wants to feel appreciated. How do you feel when it seems your contributions at home, at work, or in a church or civic group are taken for granted? Just as important, how well do you say thank you to those who make a difference in your life? Colleagues? Friends? Family members? Mentors?

Paul began and ended all his New Testament letters by expressing his gratitude for the collaborators who helped him spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. One letter, Philemon, is a very practical epistle written to a church leader. He says to Philemon, "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints" (vv. 4-5). Paul knew to express appreciation to his fellow workers meaningfully and often.

To who can you say thanks today? And how would your thank-you be most effective? Do you need to write a long letter, purchase a meaningful gift, or make a special visit? Ask God to give you a spirit of gratitude and the ability to express it well. (taken from "Inspired Faith")

~Marilyn Ebaugh, Leadership Team Chair

Lower Level Renovation Work Group



Painting in the Conference Room is now complete and the new flooring is being installed. Window blinds and new tables come next. We will let you know when the room is ready for use.

~Lower Level Team and Property Ministry Team

XYZ Planning Committee Hard at Work

On **Tuesday, June 16**, the XYZ group will enjoy lunch at Baugher's at 12:30pm followed by everyone sharing. **RSVP your attendance to the church office by noon Friday, June 12.**

And don't forget our volunteer service opportunity at SERRV on Tuesday, June 23. Join others at 8:30am at SERRV in the Warehouse building in New Windsor. Please **RSVP your attendance to the church office by**

noon Friday, June 19 so you will get a free lunch. We are generally finished by 3:30pm.

Planning ahead: On July 22 the group will go to Allenberry Playhouse to see South Pacific. The reservations for Allenberry need to be in the church office by Sunday, July 5. We will be carpooling to go to Allenberry. The cost for Allenberry is \$51 per person with checks made out to Chuck Izard. And of course in August is our

picnic at the Saville's. In October we will be hosting the M&M Group from Union Bridge.

Program ideas are always welcomed, so if you have suggestions, please see one of the committee members: Bill Achor, Barbara Groff, Lydia Ibex, Chuck Izard, Dot LeFevre, Dot Saville, or Mark Woodworth.

~Dot Saville,
XYZ Committee Chair

Fellowship/Hospitality



SAVE THE DATE: Church Picnic at Cascade Lake on August 9 beginning at 12:00pm.

We will be planning for C.A.N. this summer. Please let Linda Witter (campmh@verizon.net) or Norma Jean Swam (Njswam@comcast.net) know of persons to present for Backyard and Beyond as well as persons to prepare the C.A.N. meal.

~Norma Jean Swam

June Birthdays and Anniversaries



True Love Stories

Never Have

Endings

We hope all of your birthday and anniversary wishes come true.

Witness

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL AND CHURCH WORLD SERVICE TOOL KITS



Our congregation will be collecting contributions for **Heifer International and Church World Service Tool Kits** the first two weeks of June. Contributions can be made in memory of or in honor of your father or other important men in your life. A listing of those contributions will be printed in the bulletin on Father's Day, June 21.



Heifer gives animals such as chickens, cows, pigs, goats, and rabbits to families with the stipulation that offspring are to be given to others in the community, so that the gift is shared.

Church World Service provides gardening tools such as wheelbarrows, hoes, and shovels. Also, hand tools for carpentry, plumbing, and tailoring are provided to refugees.

"His voice leads us not into timid discipleship but into bold witness."

~Dr. Charles Stanley



Westminster Church of the Brethren

Fundraiser Yard Sale

Sponsored by our Sr. High Youth
Group

When: Saturday, June 13, 2015

Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Location: Westminster Church of
the
Brethren

1 Park Place, Westminster, MD

"One Man's Trash is Another Man's
Treasure"

Peace Notes (Community, Conflicts, & Negotiations)

We are born into a family of our parents, or brothers and sisters, with an assortment of uncles, aunts, cousins, their spouses, and friends. From all these we learn how to live together as our first community. Gradually our community expands to include both neighbors and friends we form in schools, churches, clubs, and work places. A few of these persons will become long-term friends as the result of our shared experiences. As we interact, we influence one another; we are, to a significant extent, the product of all the communities of which we have been, and continue to be as part. We will not always agree, but we continue to respect and enjoy each other's ideas and companionship as we wish the best experiences for one another. There exists a powerful element of mutual trust and concern shared by this group of friends.



However, not all our communities are places of our own choosing. Inevitably, we will find ourselves in competition and conflict with others whose outlooks and desires clash with ours. Therefore, we must learn how to deal constructively and non-violently with our rivals and opponents. We seek to manage our differences in ways that lead to solutions which provide a measure of satisfaction to all contesting parties.

What provides the motivation to settle our difference in an amicable manner? At least one party (A) must choose to deal compassionately with the opposing party (B). Party A must care as much about party B's feelings as his or her own. Party A needs to be willing to try to understand why Party B is unwilling to negotiate with Party A in the effort to reach a satisfactory resolution of their differences. It is quite possible in this case that no solution will be obtained without a lengthy and difficult effort by each of the parties concerned.

~Bill Achor

Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service



1. **"Thank you for being here."** It's just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told "thank you."
2. **"Let me help you with that."** If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.
3. **"Please take my seat."** I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
4. **"Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way."** Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.
5. **"Can I show you where you need to go?"** Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms, and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.
6. **"Let me introduce you to _____."** The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.
7. **"Would you join us for lunch?"** I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

~Thom S. Rainer

Every father should remember that one day his son will follow his example instead of his advice. ~Anonymous

Thoughts from our Community Spirit Coordinator

I'm preparing this newsletter article in the midst of an exciting weekend – celebrating Matthew's graduation with honors (Magna Cum Laude) from UNLV (University of Nevada Las Vegas) with 2 degrees – a Bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and a Bachelor's degree in Film with a minor in Global Entrepreneurship. The mother in me had to share those details – we're very proud of his hard work and accomplishments.



With this milestone achieved, we can't help but think about "what's next" for Matthew – and actually for all of us. In the midst of this fun-filled weekend, I just this moment received this email message from Maria Shriver's website that is giving me much food for thought. May it also provide you with much food for thought:

*The other afternoon a friend came by to visit. He wanted to talk to me about a film he's making about a former college classmate who had gone off to the Sudan to care for an entire community of villagers that have no doctor. I listened and then watched his footage of this man who had clearly given his life to care for others. My friend explained that his friend, the doctor, had left everything behind because he felt "**called**" to do what he is doing.*

*Our conversation has stayed with me all week. And I must say, throughout my life, I have thought a lot about the concept of being "**called upon**." I've often thought, 'Does every human being have a "mission" in life?' A purpose? A calling? Are we each called upon to do something unique and special with our lives? The wisest elders I have met would answer those questions with a resounding "YES!!"*

They would say that each of us do, in fact, have a calling and that our lives — our hearts — are speaking to us all of the time, but that most of us are moving too fast to hear. We are too distracted to listen. Too scared to act.

I have thought a lot about my own calling. Do I have one? Is it journalism? Is it writing books? Is it producing documentaries about people doing good for the world like the doctor my friend was telling me about? Is my calling to gather people to connect with one another and change the world? Am I supposed to be singularly focused on trying to find a cure for Alzheimer's? Is my calling motherhood? Am I here to raise children who feel happy and loved?

In my morning meditation the other day I focused on this question: What am I called upon to do with my life? The response I got startled me. 'You are,' my little voice responded, 'called upon to love. Love yourself wholly and completely, the good and the bad. You are called upon to love others. Not for what they do but for who they are.'

'Wait a minute, that can't be,' I thought. 'I've got to do something big in the world. For the world. That's the way I was raised. I've got to get going and get doing.' But that voice, I realized, was an old voice. A critical voice. A false voice. One that is never satisfied. It's a voice that no longer belongs to me.

The man my friend wants to introduce to the world feels he is being called upon to heal the sick and the poor. He is being called to love those who are invisible to the larger world. But, they are not invisible to him.

Continued on page 8

Announcements

Nancy McCrickard is in need of **20 white button-up shirts** in smaller sizes so she can have them cut them off and use them in the Head-Start program as lab coats. Please bring shirts to Nancy or the church office.

Due to the fact that their closing date has been pushed back to the end of June, **Carol Cormany** will be staying on with us as our Administrative Secretary until June 12.

The **Common Ground** course description booklets are now available on the computer desk in the library.

Do you have a favorite song, anthem, or musical piece? Please consider sharing it with us through special music during the summer. We would like to hear singing, instrumentals, videos (musical) from anyone willing to share their passion with us. Musical selections may be new to us or old favorites. Contact Judy Braune (jmbezon@gmail.com or 410 596-8697) to let her know what you'd like to present and which Sunday you'd like to share it. If we're lucky, we may have multiple special music selections shared on a given Sunday. Dates available: June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and September 6.

If you are interested in things concerning the **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**, please meet with Mark and Jeanne for about 10 minutes in the parlor immediately after church on June 7.

On June 13, the Senior High Youth will be having a **Yard Sale Fundraiser**. As you're doing your spring cleaning, please be sure to save items that can be donated to the Yard Sale. Items can be brought to the Church at any time. If you need us to, we'll even come pick up your donated items. Your support is greatly appreciated!

The **Shepherd's Spring Golf** outing to raise funds for Camp Scholarships is coming up on June 15. This year our golfers will be John Graybeal, Tom Haff, Ted Burnett, & Jim Hoover who are again asking for support with a pledge for each birdie, or a flat amount as some chose to do last year. There is a sponsor sheet in the library or you may speak to John Graybeal.

All men of the church (and their male guests) are invited to attend the **Celebration of Men Events** on Sunday, June 21. Events will include the Worship Service at 9:30am, followed by an all-you-can-eat-southern-style brunch. On Saturday, June 20, men are also invited to participate for a few hours in a men-only service project here at the church at 8:00am. Please sign up in the church library if you plan to attend (men only).

In preparation for our Celebration of Men Events, everyone is invited to submit **photos** (with names) in either digital or hard-copy format of men **who have shaped your life** (alive or deceased). Please submit photos to the church office by June 5. They will be shown during the Sunday morning worship service.

Interested in providing food for the upcoming **Celebration of Men Brunch** on June 21? Needed items are egg casseroles, fresh fruit trays, hash browns, grits, homemade breakfast pastries, juice & milk. Please let Nancy McCrickard know if you can help out with this event by providing food or helping to serve the men and boys.

The Mid-Atlantic District will be hosting a "Welcome" banquet for the **Nigerian Women's Choir** in the Ziegler Hall at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Maryland on June 22 at 7:00pm. Please help us welcome our guests. The meal will be a buffet style and cost \$13.00 per person. If you will join in helping to welcome these talented ladies to the U.S. please contact the District Office at 410-635-8790 or email aamad@brethren.org to reserve tickets.

On Saturday, August 15 at the Shepherds Spring Summer Festival, Mutual Kumquat will be performing two half-hour concerts.

On Sunday, August 16, Mutual Kumquat will be participating in our morning worship service as well as performing an afternoon concert here at the church. Additional activities (including another Inglenook Potluck lunch, a visit from A. Mack and an ice cream social) are also planned for that day - logistical details are forthcoming. But mark your calendar now and plan to attend - and invite your friends and neighbors to attend. Westminster Church of the Brethren is the sponsor for the involvement of Mutual Kumquat at both of these weekend events through the support of a donor.

Camping

It's time to start thinking about camping! Camping at **Friendship Village** in Bedford, PA will be July 15-20. If you are planning on going, please send your deposit of \$47 (with checks made out to Friendship Village) to Sandy Tenney, 7 N. Church Street, Westminster, MD 21157. Please write your arrival and departure dates in the "Memo" area of your check.



Camp sites - for both full hook up & tent sites - still remain for the Westminster Church of the Brethren camping weekend at **Old Mill Stream Campground June 26-28**. If you haven't signed up yet, but are interested in attending - please see Nancy McCrickard. It's sure to be a fun weekend with vespers, potluck meals, a book discussion (Amish Grace), walking with Nancy at 5:30am & more!

Thoughts from our Community Spirit Coordinator (Con't from page 6)

I do believe we all have a so-called "calling." I hope today, or this week, you can pause and quiet yourself. Ask yourself, "What am I here to experience? What am I here to do? What is my calling?"

If at first you hear nothing, keep trying. Keep pausing, keep listening. The answer is there. It may not be to travel halfway around the world and live and work in a dangerous area caring for the sick and the poor. It may be right in your own home, in your own heart.

In fact when someone once said to Mother Teresa, "Should I come here and work with you in Calcutta?" she said, "Go find your own Calcutta."

Find your own Calcutta.

You might not have to go far to find it. It may be in your own neighborhood. It may actually even be within you.

Think about that for a moment: Your Calcutta may be within you.

All that poverty and abandonment might actually be within you. So trying to love your broken, impoverished, abandoned self is a monumental task. For some of us, trying to do that is like trying to climb Mount Everest.

After all I have learned, after all of the people I have met, after all of the books I have read, I have come to realize that our worldly callings are empty if we can't each begin with the hardest challenge of all: To love ourselves and love others for no reason at all other than the fact that it's what we all need. Love. Unconditional love. That is a huge calling.

I'll never forget, when in the midst of my dad's Alzheimer's, when he couldn't remember my name, he looked me dead in the eye and said to me, "You gotta go internal before you can go external. That's the only way to go eternal." I was stunned, but he was oh so right.

Go internal. Find your calling. And work out from there.

Best wishes to everyone as we each ponder "what's next" in our lives!

~Nancy McCrickard

Seven Tips for a Christian Father

1. Love your wife
2. Be a role model
3. Respect your children
4. Talk with your children
5. Take your children to church
6. Realize each child is different
7. Let your children be children

The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him! **Proverbs 20:7**

Hold These in Your Prayers

Church Family

Resides at Home & Nursing Home
Extended Family

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the families of....

Thank You



Thank you to the Matthew 25:34-40 friend who left the generous donation to our church.

Allow me, on behalf of Hospice of the Panhandle (West Virginia) and our patients, to personally thank you for the donation of Lap Quilts. Our patients absolutely love to receive these types of gifts. It warms them body and soul. Our clinical staff will assure that these will be handed out to those in need of them. Thank you again for your kindness and love, it is very much appreciated.

~Tricia Lawrence, Volunteer Coordinator

On behalf of our family of residents, their families, associates, volunteers, and Board of Directors, thank you very much for your generous donation. Your kindness will assist us in fostering our mission, *"We are committed to enriching the lives of seniors."* We value your commitment of our mission with your gift.

**~Karen H. Pelton, VP of Fund &
Business Development, Fahrney-Keedy**

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00pm Bible Study	4 6:30pm Westminster Ringers 6:30pm Kid's Bell Practice @ St. Paul's UCC 7pm Bell Practice @ St. Paul's	5	6 11am-1pm Organ Rehearsal 12pm Loaves & Fishes
7 9:30am Worship 10:30am Morning Mingle 11am Sunday School	8 6:30pm Accelerando Practice	9 1:00pm XYZ Planning Meeting	10 6:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm SOJ 7:45pm Sr. Choir 7:00pm Education Ministry Team	11 6:30pm Westminster Ringers 6:30pm Kid's Bell Practice @ St. Paul's UCC 7pm Bell Practice @ St. Paul's	12  Last day of school for CCPS	13 8:00am Sr. High Youth Yard Sale 11am-1pm Organ Rehearsal 12pm Loaves & Fishes
14 9:30am Worship 10:30am Morning Mingle 11am Sunday School 12:00pm Deacons Meeting	15  7:30am Shepherd's Spring Golf Tournament 6:30pm Accelerando Practice	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Beacon Heights CoB youth using our facility	17 6:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm SOJ 7:45pm Sr. Choir	18 6:30pm Westminster Ringers 6:30pm Kid's Bell Practice @ St. Paul's UCC 7pm Bell Practice @ St. Paul's	19	20 11am-1pm Organ Rehearsal 12pm Loaves & Fishes
21 Father's Day 9:30am Worship 10:30am Morning Mingle 10:30am Men's brunch (men & boys only)	22 6:30pm Accelerando Practice	23 12:30pm XYZ Luncheon	24 6:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm SOJ 7:45pm Sr. Choir	25 6:30pm Westminster Ringers 6:30pm Kid's Bell Practice @ St. Paul's UCC 7pm Bell Practice @ St. Paul's	26 Camping at Old Mill Stream	27 11am-1pm Organ Rehearsal 12pm Loaves & Fishes
28/31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Morning Mingle 11am Summer Service Opportunity	29	30 8:30am XYZ to SERRV				

June Worship

June 7

Theme: I Wait for the Lord
Scripture: Psalm 130
Preacher: Glenn McCrickard
9:30am Service
Worship Leader: Don Rowe
Children's Time: Liz Haff
Music: Senior Choir & Streams of Joy
10:30am Morning Mingle
11:00am Sunday School

June 14

Theme: There is a New Creation
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
Speaker: Glenn McCrickard
9:30am Service
Worship Leader: Jennifer & Adam Hollenberg
Children's Time: Liz Haff
Music: Senior Choir
10:30am Morning Mingle
11:00am Sunday School

June 21

Theme: Even the Wind and the Sea Obey Him
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41
Preacher: Glenn McCrickard
9:30am Service
Worship Leader: Nancy McCrickard
Children's Time: Liz Haff
Music: Senior Choir
10:30am Morning Mingle
11:00am Sunday School

June 28

Theme: Joy Comes with the Morning
Scripture: Psalm 30
Preacher: Glenn McCrickard
9:30am Service
Worship Leader: Jeanne Dussault
Children's Time: Liz Haff
Special Music: Belle Grove Legato
10:30am Morning Mingle
11:00am Sunday School



*We are a biblically grounded community committed to
continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.
By:
~creatively worshipping God
with a unified Spirit;

~expansively studying what it means
to be Christian;

~willingly reaching out to others in
service, locally and globally;

~intentionally supporting each other; and

~honoring Christ's call to be
peacemakers*

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