

First Light Newsletter



FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



Volume II,ISSUE 12

September 2009

Return to Normal Worship and Fall Schedule!

First Church Schedule Change



On Sunday, September 20th, we return to our normal schedule.

Prayer Time will begin at 9:00 A.M., followed by Sunday School at 9:45.

The Morning Worship Service will revert to its pre-summer time of 11:00 A.M.

The Rally Day Breakfast will be held the following Sunday, September 27, at 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Wednesday Bible Study will begin on September 23rd, at 7:00 P.M.

Special Congregational Business Meeting
Sunday, September 27
After the morning Worship Service

The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the report of the Church Board Nominating Committee

September 2009

- 1 Aid for Friends Cook-In
9:30 A.M.
- 6 Pastoral Committee Meeting after Worship
- 7 Labor Day
NOAC, September 7-11,
Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- 13 Church Board Meeting after Worship
- 20 Return to regular
Worship Schedule
Prayer Time: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:45
A.M.
Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Deacon's Meeting after
Worship
- 21 International Day of
Peace
- 22 First Day of Fall
- 23 Bible Study resumes at
7:00 P.M.
- 25-26 33rd Atlantic North
east District Disaster
Relief Auction, Lebanon
Area Fairgrounds
- 27 Rally Day Breakfast
9:00 A.M.
Special Congregational
Business Meeting after
Worship

Love Feast and
Communion
Sunday, October 4
During the Morning
Worship Service



Aid for Friends
Cook-In
Tuesday, September 1
9:30 A.M.

Everyone is welcome to help fill the trays and spend time socializing!



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

"The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you."

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Aid for Friends Cook-In 9:30 am 	2	3 Top of the Hill Inservice Day 	4 Top of the Hill Inservice Day	5
6 Pastoral Committee Meeting after Worship 	7 Labor Day  NOAC, September 7-11, Lake Junaluska, N.C.	8	9	10	11	12
13 Church Board Meeting after Worship 	14	15 Day Care Board Meeting 7:30 pm 	16	17	18	19
20 Return to Normal Schedule Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Deacons Meeting after	21 International Day of Peace 	22 First Day of Fall 	23  Bible Study Resumes 7:00 pm	24	25 Atlantic Northeast District Disaster Relief Auction September 25-26, at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds 	26 
27 Rally Day Breakfast 9:00 am Special Congregational Business Meeting after Worship	28	29	30  Bible Study 7:00 P.M.			

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Birthday List

September Birthdays

3 Kevin Broderick Derr

6 Angela Finet

9 Luke Finet

14 Joan Reese

29 Jamie Cooper



District Conference 2009

43rd Annual
Church of the Brethren
District Conference
October 9 and 10
Elizabethtown College

Our First Church District Conference Delegates are; Kevin Derr, Walter Eckenrode and Tom Riethof

Change

Change keeps occurring throughout all of life. Sometimes it brings joy, and sometimes it brings strife. Change what you should; but you still have a voice- How you accept every change is your choice.

-Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems

Observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace September 21, 2009

The Church of the Brethren has a long history of making peace. Yet the work has not been finished; God's vision of a peaceful and just world is still not a reality.

Wars continue to rage in dozens of countries. Some 20 million children have been killed, wounded or displaced by war in the past 10 years

alone. Closer to home, one-quarter of all young women will face physical or psychological violence in a dating relationship, and one in 25 children misses a day of school a month for fear of being bullied. Meantime, the US government spends 100 times more on its military than it does on aiding the world's poor, 1.5 billion of whom live on less that \$1 a day.

The Church of the Brethren's peace conviction is firmly rooted in the New Testament, and more specifically in Jesus' teaching on loving our enemies (Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27) and Paul's admonition that Christians seek to live peaceably with all and that they strive to "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:2.) The Church of the Brethren respond to the call to peacemaking in many ways.

- The church continues to counsel conscientious objection to war instead of participation in the military.
- Faith Expeditions provide opportunities to visit war-torn areas or places where justice is denied God's children.
- The Youth Peace Travel Team visits Brethren summer camps, where the team of 4 young adults inspires their peers to make peace.
- Christian Citizenship Seminar provides high school age students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue.
- Economic injustices are often the cause of conflict. One of the ways Brethren express their commitment to economic justice is through the Global Food Crisis Fund, which works to assure that God's people everywhere have the opportunity to live the full life that God intends.
- Advocacy Action Alerts educate readers about current events and issues, inviting readers to express their spiritual beliefs through tangible action.

For more information go to:
www.brethren.org



September 2009 Preaching Schedule

September 6: "Letters and Parting"
Acts 15:22-41

September 13: "Paul, Timothy, and Silas"
Acts 16:1-15

September 20: "Jailhouse Rock"
Acts 16:16-40

September 27: "Among the Greeks"
Acts 17: 1-34

Congratulations to Craig Bracy

A licensing service was held for Craig Bracy on Sunday, August 16. The service was conducted by Craig Smith, the District Executive of the Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren. A reception was held for Craig following the service. All of us at First Church are happy to have this opportunity to support Craig, and we hope that this will open up many rewarding experiences.

First Church Facts Worship Attendance for

July & August:40



An Autumn Greeting



“Come,” said the Wind to the
Leaves one day.
“Come over the meadow and we
will play.
Put on your dresses of red and
gold.
For summer is gone and the days
grow cold.”



Contact
Information

Telephone: 215-836-5175
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Director: Susan Devitt

Hours: Monday through Friday
7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.



September Events

- 3-4 Teacher Inservice Days
- 7 Labor Day
- 8 Beginning of the new school
Year
- 7-11 “I Am Special Week”
- 14-18 “Apple Week”
- 21-25 “Signs of Fall Week”
- 28- “Day Care Friends Week”
- 10/2



September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Read Psalm 47 & spend time giving thanks to God	2 Read Psalm 48 & contemplate the rich blessings we have received from God	3 Read Psalm 49 & seek to point people to God by the manner in which you live	4 Read Psalm 50 & know that God has called you to this day with purpose and hope	5 Read Psalm 51 & in God's mercy seek forgiveness for yourself and your people
6 Read Acts 15:22-41 & ask God to fill his church with faithful people	7 Read Psalm 52 & meditate on your place before God	8 Read Psalm 53 & ask God to give you a deep sense of God's wisdom	9 Read Psalm 54 & give God thanks for your salvation	10 Read Psalm 55 & pour out your heart to God, give voice to your deepest concerns	11 Read Psalm 56 & ask God to be with those who feel the persecution of foes	12 Read Psalm 57 & rejoice in the refuge of our God
13 Read Acts 16:1-15 & ask God to bless our time of worship	14 Read Psalm 58 & ask God to bring his justice to those who abuse the righteous	15 Read Psalm 59 & ask God for his protection, his mercy and grace	16 Read Psalm 60 & ask God to renew his church and his people	17 Read Psalm 61 & renew your knowledge of God as a place of refuge and strength	18 Read Psalm 62 & draw close to God that he might be your rock and strength	19 Read Psalm 63 & with your whole self seek a deeper relationship with God
20 Read Acts 16:16-40 & ask God to enliven us with his Spirit	21 Read Psalm 64 & begin to see God as your source of security and safety	22 Read Psalm 65 & rejoice that God is our source of forgiveness and life	23 Read Psalm 66 & let your voice give praise to God for he alone is good	24 Read Psalm 67 & let your life be a blessing of God to all whom you encounter	25 Read Psalm 68 & know that God the righteous Judge is coming and brings justice	26 Read Psalm 69 & ask God to give help to those in desperate situations
27 Read Acts 17:1-34 & ask God fill us with joy as we worship and serve	28 Read Psalm 70 & give thanks to God for his help in trouble and difficulty	29 Read Psalm 71 & pray for God's help in any difficulty	30 Read Psalm 72 & pray that our leaders and rulers will know righteousness and justice			

COBNews: Hoslers to serve in Nigeria

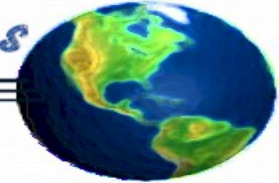
Nathan and Jennifer Hosler of Elizabethtown, Pa., will begin serving in two new peace and reconciliation

positions with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), working through the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships. The Hoslers are members of Chiques Church of the Brethren in Manheim, Pa.

The Hoslers will fill joint positions as teacher of peace and reconciliation at Kulp Bible College and peace and reconciliation worker with EYN. Start date for their work was Aug. 16, with plans to travel to Nigeria in September. Jennifer Hosler has been a tutor of ESL (English as a Second Language) with World Relief and with AMF International, and has worked at the Naaman Center, a Christian nonprofit substance abuse treatment center in Elizabethtown. She holds a bachelor of arts in Biblical Language from Moody Bible Institute and a master's degree in Community Psychology and Social Change from Penn State Harrisburg. She has participated in short-term mission trips to Kenya, Ethiopia, and Guatemala.



Reflections and Ramblings



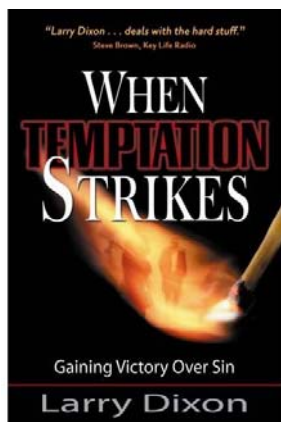
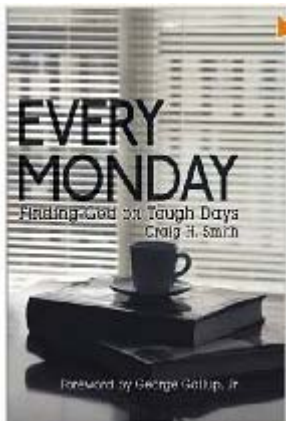
Pondering Jesus, life and the church



Something to Read

I have two books for you this month. One comes from our District Executive Craig Smith. It's called *Every Monday: Finding God on Tough Days*. Craig's book is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Nobel's, and Target Books, as well at Brethren Press. If you would like a signed copy you can contact Craig directly by emailing Craig at: CraigSmith.Everymonday@gmail.com.

The second is another with Brethren roots, and has a local connection. It is published by CLC in Fort Washington, PA. Larry Dixon comes to us highly recommended by the publisher. I'm sure that you will enjoy both books. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.
Kevin



Today I read an article that gives me pause. It is not so much the current project mentioned in this article, but rather where this line of research will lead. To give you some of the flavor of this brief article, let me share a portion of it with you. "On Friday, controversial biologist Dr Craig Venter said that the creation of artificial life was mere months from taking place." Creation of artificial life, what does that mean? In this case it is the manipulation of the genetic material of bacteria and yeast. And while that in and of itself is not what disturbs me, it is what will come of this in the future. Today we create a new species of yeast with genetic material from a bacteria. When will this lead to new forms of synthetic life?

Technology impacts our lives and the environment of our world in ways we do not always anticipate or plan. How many of us would have anticipated that the internet would become the new Sears Catalogue? This tool for research and communication has become a new retail machine, (Amazon, for example) along with a large number of on-line retailers. It has also created a huge boom in the pornography industry, as well as facilitating communications of terrorist organizations and various criminal elements.

But, what is the impact of this on our lives? One impact is an increased amount of screen time. By that I mean time we spend in front of screens, be they TV's or computer monitors. What does this do to our personal lives, our relationships and our families? In a time when we should be developing deeper levels of intimacy and connectedness, we continue to see that people are lonely. Facebook has allowed me to reconnect with friends from high school and college, and to the extent that they post what is going on in their lives, I can follow their daily tale. But, you see the problem is that amidst all the photos, videos and text, I haven't really talked to them. And unless we take time to talk, in some fashion, their lives essentially become a long running daily story, a form of entertainment, not unlike TV shows. So, while we can blog our devotions and post our daily stories, it is not living in community. It is not living and developing a deep and lasting level of intimate communication that binds us to one another.

This is one of the points where our faith must come into contact with our technology. Technology is not the problem. The problem begins when we allow our lives to become compartmentalized. When our lives reach the point of compartments, each section sealed off from the other, it develops within us a fractured life, one without integrity. Our faith needs to be blended into all that we do, from how we interact with the clerk at the grocery to how we drive our cars and how we treat our neighbors. When faith is reduced to an activity on Sunday mornings it becomes useless and meaningless.

So, how does our faith interact with the creation of artificial life? We should be asking how will this artificial life impact the world? What will its effect be on people, on the environment and so forth? Does it end there? Is there more that we need to ask? If such a venture would lead to crating intelligent artificial life, does that life deserve the protection of our laws, our religious traditions and our heritage?

Our faith needs to interact and inform all of our living. Christ needs to be Lord of all that we do, not only for a few hours on Sunday morning. Anything less is really pointless. Claiming Jesus as Lord and not being subject to the Lord is a falsehood of the greatest kind.

Blessings, Kevin