

# First Light

## July and August 2011 FIRST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

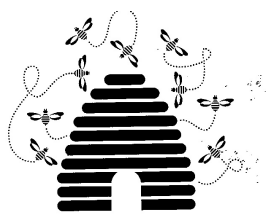


### Top of the Hill Day Care News

Both teachers and children are enjoying their summer routines and activities at Top of the Hill. There is a more relaxed schedule and a lot of outdoor fun including picnics and water play when the weather permits.

Our annual Teacher Inservice Days will be held on September 1 and 2, so the center will be closed.

Top of the Hill wishes everyone a safe and fun summer season.  
Beehive



This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied "workers." A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23.)

### July 2011

- 2-6 Annual Conference  
Grand Rapids, MI
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Aid for Friends Cook-In
- 14 Bastille Day
- 20 Christopher Hall  
Seminar at Drexel Hill  
Church of the Brethren  
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon

### August 2011

- 2 Aid for Friends Cook-In  
9:30 A.M.
- 7 Church Board Meeting  
after Morning Worship
- 21 Pastoral Committee  
after Morning Worship

First Church Facts  
Average Weekly Worship  
Attendance for June: 27



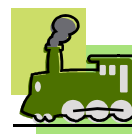
### Church Board Meeting

The next Church Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 7, after the Morning Worship Service.



### July Birthdays

- 6- Eric Finet
- 7- Kaitlyn Engle
- 14- Christopher Johnston
- 15- Brian Eckenrode
- 19- Kevin Derr
- 19- John Quinn
- 20- Naomi Hall
- 22- Shirley Zimmerman
- 29- Carl Baskin
- 29- Tom Riethof
- 31- Tina Brennan
- 31- Bud Quay



### August Birthdays

- 1- Jean Coleman
- 16- David Cooper
- 16- Carol Johnston
- 16- Gail McFarland
- 19- Tim Bisset
- 28- Edie Brown

### Aid for Friends Cook-In

Tuesday, July 5 and August 2  
9:30 A.M.

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



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First Church is going to the  
BBQ Choo Choo  
Saturday, September 17  
6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

A spring/summer favorite!  
West Chester Railroad the Pig  
Out BBQ Pit in Glen Mills  
continue to partner together to  
operate the BBQ Choo Choo.  
Enjoy a train ride on a beautiful  
evening and have a delicious  
BBQ dinner from one of the  
area's best BBQ restaurants.  
The train will depart Market  
Street station and the BBQ  
will be held in the Glen Mills  
picnic grove right next to the  
Chester Creek.

The menu includes the Pig Out  
BBQ Pit's specialties: pulled  
pork BBQ, baby back ribs,  
homemade sides, pulled  
chicken BBQ and corn dogs.  
The menu is subject to change  
without notice. Seating is  
limited.

For both the train ride and the  
BBQ the price for adults is  
\$20.00 and for children \$15.00.  
More information will follow.



# July 2011

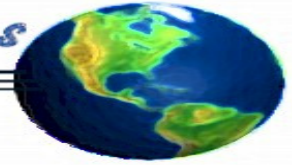
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 2-6 Grand Rapids, MI 
3	4 Independence Day 	5 Aid for Friends Cook-In 9:30 am 	6 Top of the Hill Picnic in the Social Hall 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Bastille Day 	15	16
17	18	19	20 Christopher Hall Seminar at Drexel Hill Church of the Brethren 9:00 am to 12:00 noon 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Aid for Friends Cook-In 9:30 am 	3	4	5	6
7 Church Board Meeting after Morning Wor- ship 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Pastoral Com- mittee after Morning Wor- ship 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Reflectoins and Ramblings

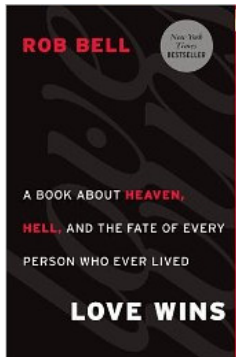
Pondering Jesus, life and the church



## Something to Read

I haven't read this book yet, and to be honest I don't know that I will. I've read some of Rob Bell's work in the past. He is a good story teller and creates wonderful images via words. His present book is creating a bit of a storm in the world of the church these days. Some enjoying the work, some suggesting it is from the devil. That may give you a sense for the kind of fuss that surrounds Bell's most recent book.

If you'd like to read the book that has generated the current storm cloud, here it is. It has received both good reviews and bad ones, rarely anything in between.



## Kevin's Ramblings

As we come to the time where we celebrate the birth of our nation, a nation that has allowed us to enjoy prosperity, freedom and the ability to worship God without fear, we should be thankful for where we live. God has blessed us in this regard. On the other hand, we should not assume that it is the nation that has given us these blessings, nor should we assume that we owe our lives and our allegiance to the nation state. This is not to say that we should not live as responsible citizens, we are told to do so in the scriptures. At the same time, we need to be cautious that we do not begin to equate the kingdom of God with the United States of America.

In truth, the church, the Kingdom of God was here before the nation state existed, and will likely be here after it is gone, no nation lasts forever. If Christians in Rome had pinned their hopes for life, and all that is necessary for living on the empire, the fall of that empire would have doomed them to a loss of unimaginable proportions. Yet, what happened when the state could not provide for and protect the people of Rome? The church did. The church became the place where learning, culture and industry were kept alive. The state was ultimately unable to continue to provide the basis for security. Where the state failed, the church moved forward.

The church at points became a state, or functioned like one. It is a reasonable question to ask if it ceased to be part of the Kingdom of God when that happened. It is a question that I am unable to answer. Clearly there have been abuses by the church because of the accumulation of power and wealth, much as states have done. We will leave that discussion for another day.

For the present, it is good for the followers of Jesus to be good citizens, at least until there is a clash of conscience between the demands of following Jesus and the demands of following the mandates of being a good citizen. We should be thankful for the state in which we live, we should pray for its leadership and the role that our state plays in the world. We should be thankful and respectful, but our allegiance should be reserved for Jesus alone. Baring the end of the world, it would seem likely that that the church will be here long after the current nation-state is gone, like Rome of old. In the present we will continue to follow Jesus together, even if that puts us at odds with the popular and the powerful.

Blessings, Kevin