



The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Celebrating Friendship

by Pastor Len Smith

On October 20, 2013 our congregation will celebrate Friendship Sunday. I am praying that we will break our previous Friendship Sunday record attendance of 211. I encourage you to come and invite your friends to attend any or all of our special revival services as well as our fellowship meal.

Perhaps some of you are wondering, why should any congregation celebrate friendship? The American College Dictionary defines the word "friend" several different ways. One attached to another by feelings of personal regard or a well-wisher, patron, or supporter. A friend is one who is on good terms with another, one not hostile. A friend can also be a companion. I am very aware that some of the readers of this article have many friends, but some also have few friends. But everyone has at least one friendship to celebrate.

There are many references to friends or friendship in the Bible. In fact in the NIV you can find 172 references to the concept of friend or friendship. I would like to share with you some significant references and ask you to evaluate the quality of the friendship you offer.

Job 16:20-21 – *My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.*

◆Do you take time to show empathy to your friends?

Psalms 119:63 – *I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.*

◆How often do you associate with individuals who respect the Lord and follow his commandments?

Proverbs 17:17 – *A friend loves at all times ...*

◆Do you only love your friends when they agree with you?

Proverbs 27:10 – *Do not forsake your friend ...*

◆Do you ignore your friends when it is convenient for you?

Ecclesiastes 4:10 – *If one falls down, his friend can help him up ...*

◆How do you encourage your friends when they are feeling discouraged?

Job 29:4 – *Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house ...*

◆Do you testify about how the Lord has blessed you to your friends?

Job 42:10 – *After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.*

◆Do you pray for your friends, even when they have hurt you?

Romans 12:19 – *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

◆Do you ever try to get even with your friends?

II Corinthians 7:1 – *Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

◆Do we demonstrate a godly, set apart life for the Lord to our friends?

II Corinthians 12:19 – *... everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.*

◆How often do we try to further develop our friendships or make new friends?

I John 4:7 – *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

◆How well do we demonstrate God's love to our friends?

Jude 20 – *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

◆How much time do we spend in prayer for our friends and in Bible study?

John 15:13-14 – *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.*

◆How many of us desire to be openly known as a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Reflections from the Spring

Welcoming even more

Our pool is now ADA* compliant! Thanks to the West Virginia congregations who donated their Lenten services offerings—it is also paid for! Our \$5,500 pool lift is able to lower someone into the pool and raise them out of the water, making yet another area of our facility fully handicap accessible.

Over the years, Shepherd's Spring has opened its doors (and outdoors) to more and more people. What started out as a Church of the Brethren Summer Camp and Conference Center now welcomes a diverse cross section of people, including school groups and college groups, preschoolers to senior citizens, and local Marylanders to foreign visitors.

We have been entrusted with the wonders of this place called Shepherd's Spring. Isn't it great that we are able to offer hospitality to so many people?

*Americans with Disabilities Act

—Ann Cornell, Administrator of Shepherd's Spring

Book your group retreat or Heifer Global Village experience today

Shepherd's Spring does not shut down once the last summer camper leaves. Many groups use our facilities for conferences, retreats, meetings, and events year-round. The Dining Hall, conference rooms, small-group spaces, the Oasis Room, Lodge Rooms, the seasonal Poplar Village and Pavilion, and the surrounding trails and meadows might be just what your group needs. Call the office to find out if we can host your event.

Get your cool Shepherd's Spring volunteer T-shirt

This comfortable, attractive, and limited edition T-shirt can be yours for only 3.59 hours of your time. Not available in stores! But wait, there's more... for volunteering, you not only get this desirable T-shirt, you get to meet new people, learn new skills, and know that you are making a positive difference in people's lives. Call now to reserve your volunteer spot and your beautiful T-shirt.

12-12-13 Christmas Meals—Noon and 6:30 p.m.

The Twelve Days of Christmas "luncheon" has expanded to include your choice of Noon or 6:30 p.m. seatings. In keeping with the "12" theme, we will use 12-12 as the date, celebrate 12 Carols of Christmas in a short program and offer another amazing 12-layered dessert! \$12 per person. Reserve a table of 8 today and bring friends. Call 301-223-8193!

Shepherd's Spring is also available to host other holiday gatherings for family and other groups.

They came, they played, they got kids to camp— The golfers!

Sixty-eight golfers enjoyed a beautiful day of fun and fellowship, and in the process, raised more than \$7,000 in Summer Camp Scholarship dollars! The Westminster congregation supported their golfers with pledges for each birdie hole—raising \$2,000.

For Summer Camp 2013, nearly \$13,000 in camper scholarships were awarded and included discounts for Early Registration, Bring a Friend, Sibling Attendance, Work Campers, and need-based requests. 95% of our campers received scholarship assistance of some kind from Shepherd's Spring in addition to the scholarships being provided by local congregations! Thanks for making camp possible for so many!

Special thanks go to tournament Directors Lerry Fogle and David Rogers.

—*Reflections from the Spring*, Summer 2013
Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center

Fahrney-Keedy receives high scores in state satisfaction survey

Families with loved ones at Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village give the facility higher ratings for its quality of care than do families for other nursing homes, a 2013 state survey determined. The annual polling of families affiliated with 222 Maryland nursing homes again has given the Boonsboro facility other top marks as well.

On a scale of 1-to-10, with 10 the best possible rating, Fahrney-Keedy residents' families and caregivers gave the facility an 8.9 on quality of care, while those at other homes gave them ratings averaging 8.3.

"This survey, in our view, is a critical tool for us, as it measures the experience and satisfaction of family members and designated responsible parties, as well as provides comparisons to other nursing communities in the State and comparisons with peer groups," said William G. Boyer, Jr., Vice President of Health Services at Fahrney-Keedy. "It is a very representative survey of how well we do."

Seventy-six surveys were sent to families or primary care-givers of Fahrney-Keedy residents. Respondents sent back 58 surveys, for a return rate of 76%. State-wide, only 59% of families or primarily responsible persons surveyed at other nursing homes did so.

—*Together on the Journey*, September 2013,
Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren
Newsletter



Global Food Crisis Fund Grants

Potatoes in Rwanda, cassava and bananas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, chickens in Nigeria, and pigs in Honduras - each of these projects is now underway thanks to generous giving to the GFCF.

Honduras: Building upon an established partnership with Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG—Project Global Village), the GFCF will be providing \$60,000 over two years to PAG for work among the Lenca Indians, who live on the edges of a national park and have few options for supporting themselves. PAG predicts that this project will directly impact over 800 people.

Rwanda: For the third year, the GFCF is partnering with Evangelistic and Outreach Ministries of Rwanda (ETOMR) as it reaches out to the Batwa people. The Batwa are pygmies who can no longer survive through their traditional means of hunting and gathering due to being misplaced by loss of forests, violence, and most remaining forests being managed as national reserves. This present grant of \$5,000 will support 97 people working together on a potato growing project.

Nigeria: A grant of \$40,000 over two years was approved for the Rural Development Program (RDP) of Ekkesiyar Yanluwa a Nigeria (EYN—Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). After a review of RDP activities, a

panel of agricultural and business experts presented a strategic plan to EYN leaders in December, 2012. This plan calls for developing church run agri-businesses which will be able to sustain the work of the RDP. The funds provided will be used for animal raising operations on land owned by EYN. Other parts of the plan recommend increasing locations for sale of improved seeds and fertilizers, and a return of the popular soybean women's project of the 1990s.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): A grant of \$5,000 was sent to support the work of Shalom Ministry and Reconciliation in Development (SHAMIREDE). This work is also with Batwa people on the opposite side of the DRC-Rwanda border. Representatives of 100 families are learning to cultivate different crops. SHAMIREDE includes members of a church calling itself Eglise des Freres de Congo (Church of the Brethren in Congo). DRC Brethren are working to encourage development as a way of bringing peace to tribes in conflict over land and resources. This is the second grant provided for this project—the first was for \$2,500 in 2011.

—E-news of the Global Food Crisis Fund, Summer 2013

Is your debt standing in the way of your dreams?

Ensuring that your retirement income helps you maintain your standard of living is a difficult enough challenge on its own. But how do you do that when you retire with significant debt? A February report by the Employee Benefits Research Institute revealed that American families headed by individuals age 75 or older had significant increases in the incidence of debt, the average amount of debt held, and the percentage with debt payments greater than 40 percent of their income in 2007-2010. Is that how you want to spend your retirement income? But paying off a mortgage, student loans, credit cards, and other important—but potentially detrimental—debt can get in the way of your retirement saving. How can you work toward minimizing your debt while maximizing your retirement savings?

Build a budget. In order to know the best path to reducing your debt, you need to take a look at where your money's going each month. Building a budget — *and sticking to it* — is the first step on a path toward making wise spending and saving choices. Taking a look at

your spending can help you assess what expenses can be reduced or eliminated — which will leave you with the financial resources you need to pay off debt faster. A financial adviser can help guide you through the process and serve as a voice of reason as you're rethinking your finances.



Priorities, priorities. All loans are not built the same—some of your debt may be set at a lower interest rate than others. If you have credit card debt, for example, it is likely that the interest you're paying on those cards is much higher than your mortgage or student loan debt. By focusing your attention on high-interest-rate debt and paying it down more quickly while making standard payments to your less costly debts, you can reduce the amount of money you're paying in interest.

Remember: You only get to plan for your retirement once; your decisions about debt and savings today can have serious impacts on your lifestyle down the road.



Church of the Brethren

Haitian Church of the Brethren holds its first annual conference

The first official Annual Conference of Eglise des Freres Haitiens (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) was held from August 12-14 in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti, at the Brethren Ministry Center campus. Approximately 60 delegates represented more than 20 churches and preaching points.

On Monday the 12th, each delegate received a copy of the constitution of Eglise des Freres. This constitution was put together by a committee of Haitian Brethren leaders, led by pastor Freny Elie of Cape Haitian, along with the participation of US field staff Ilxene Alphonse. The document combined articles found in the constitution of Iglesia de los Hermanos in the Dominican Republic and the constitution of Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren.

During worship that night, the message was delivered by Onleys Rivas, a pastor in the Dominican Republic and president of the Junta of Iglesia de los Hermanos. The theme of his message was "Discerning the Winds of God." His main text came from Acts 2:1-4 and he preached on the unifying presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

On Tuesday, August 13, after a time of reflection and questions, the delegates were asked to vote on each of the 50 plus articles in the constitution. The document was accepted, with a few amendments, by a unanimous vote. The message on Tuesday night was brought by Ariel Rosario, also a pastor in the Dominican Republic and moderator of Iglesia de los Hermanos, using the story of Jairus' daughter found in Mark 5:21-43 to encourage the delegates to follow the example of Jairus when confronting difficult situations in life.

On Wednesday, delegates from each of the represented worshiping bodies presented reports of membership, offerings, and other statistics to the larger assembly. Also on Wednesday, an election was held for the position of moderator-elect in which Samson Dieufait, pastor of the New Jerusalem Fellowship in Canaan (just outside of Port-au-Prince) was elected. Yves Jean has served as moderator of the National Committee of Eglise des Freres for the past five years and will be the presiding moderator for the 2014 Annual Conference.

The conference concluded with a special ordination ceremony for six pastors. Volunteer mission coordinator Ludovic St. Fleu, pastor of Eglise des Freres in Miami, Fla., joined Jean and Alphonse in the laying on of hands for these newly ordained church leaders.

St. Fleu shared a teaching message on what it means to be "called" in the Brethren tradition. A choir of more than 30 members from the Marin congregation sang at the closing service. A special reception for the newly ordained pastors and all the delegates, complete with a cake frosted with the symbol of the Church of the Brethren, followed the service.

—Church of the Brethren Newsline, September 12, 2013

Baldwins make career change

Memorial Day weekend found the three of us settling back in Indiana, after finishing the work we had set out to do in Rwanda. After 4 1/2 years the Lord showed us it was time to leave. Chuck had his Evangelism Explosion leaders in place in all three countries. Debby was struggling with being able to really help in areas her heart cried to do. Jean-Luc was looking forward to experiencing an American high school, and half of his class of 10 in Kigali were leaving as well.

So what's next? We too are asking that question. And honestly, we don't have an answer. Our entire lives have been geared for working in French-speaking Africa. Now we open a new chapter in our lives, a chapter yet to be written. Thank you for praying with us for this unseen path.

Love in Jesus,
Chuck and Debby and Jean-Luc

The Cearfoss Drama Club

The Cearfoss Drama Club has just started its program year. This is a new addition to our church and open to all age groups.



Drama can be used to instill confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of responsibility. We look forward to presenting four Bible-based Christian performances this year. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to participate and learn.

We meet at the church on Wednesday evenings from 6:45—8:00 p.m.

—Patrick Wildeson
Christian Education Commission

Grant of \$100,000 will aid Syrian refugees



A grant of \$100,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund is being prepared by Brethren Disaster Ministries, to go to the ACT Alliance for the humanitarian crisis in and around Syria.

“As the civil war in Syria extends into its third year, the resulting humanitarian crisis has resulted in more than 4,000,000 internally displaced people in Syria and nearly 2,000,000 refugees that have fled to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and northern Africa countries,” writes Roy Winter, associate executive director of Brethren Disaster Ministries and Global Mission and Service.

“Those trying to live inside Syria have been displaced multiple times as they flee the violence. Those traveling to other countries are experiencing a growing intolerance and resentment from their host countries. Recent developments including use of chemical weapons are one of several indicators of an increasing severity of the conflict. The result is a humanitarian crisis that ACT Alliance defines as both a mega and protracted emergency.”

The ACT Alliance has been helping coordinate humanitarian aid since the Syrian civil conflict began. Implementing partners include the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Lutheran World Federation, Finn Church Aid, the Middle East Council of Churches, and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (the Evangelical Church in Germany). Brethren Disaster Ministries intends half of this initial grant of \$100,000 to support the IOCC work in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, with half designated to be applied where it may be needed most.

The ACT Alliance response prioritizes food, water, safe sanitation, shelter, household supplies, education, and psychosocial interventions. The Brethren grant will help provide aid to 55,700 people displaced in Syria, 326,205 Syrian refugees in Jordan, 9,200 refugees in Turkey, and 40,966 refugees in Lebanon. Goals include providing direct aid to more than 432,000 Syrian people throughout the next year.

—*Church of the Brethren Newslines*, September 13, 2013

Did you know?

On our official website at

www.thebroadfordingcobfellowship.org

the activities and ministries of our church are updated weekly. This information originates from our administrative offices and is not copied from or distributed to any other website.

The availability of Pastor Len's sermons found under “**Audio Sermons**” provides the opportunity for anyone with internet capabilities to listen to his Biblical and timely messages.

We are experiencing gains in the number of visits to our website! The statistics reveal repeated interest coming from communities throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as distant areas. It is our prayer that we continue to be a truthful and faithful witness for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Also from our official website you will find a link that will open up our official **Facebook** page. Devotionals are posted by Pastor Len, and events, announcements, pictures, daily scriptures, and more are added regularly giving you the opportunity to “Like” what is posted and even comment or post something yourself.

Our Facebook page is likewise growing in popularity as we continue to proclaim God's Good News using the doors He has opened up for us here at Broadfording!

2007 Addition Debt Reduction Update

by Pastor Len

Did you know that the original debt on our community ministry center that was dedicated on August 19, 2007, was \$367,700.00? Through sacrificial giving to our building fund, through bequests, and through fundraisers such as auctions, yard sales, spaghetti suppers, and the purchase of Martin's gift cards, as of September 9, 2013, our loan balance is \$19,274.64.



Our mortgage balance is now less than \$20,000!

On March 3, 2011, the church board approved an interest rate reduction that enabled us to pay more on the mortgage principal every month. We want to thank each one of you that has participated and continues in any way to support our debt reduction efforts.

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever.

Revelation 7:12

2013 FALL FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY AND REVIVAL / RENEWAL SERVICES



Sunday, October 20—Wednesday, October 23

Sunday Morning Worship Service—10:30 a.m.
followed by a fellowship meal in our community ministry center

Evening Services—7:00 p.m.

Celebrate friendships by inviting your friends!

If we break our Friendship Sunday attendance record of 211, the person with the most guests present will be treated to a meal and music for four by Pastor Len and Teresa. Start inviting your friends now!

Speaker: Rev. Lee Smith
Pastor, Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Lee grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia as a resident of Harrisonburg. He studied philosophy and religion at Bridgewater College earning his B.A. degree in 2007. He went on to complete his Master's of Divinity at Capital Bible Seminary in 2010.

Lee served at Wakeman's Grove Church of the Brethren in Edinburg, Va. as their interim pastor for one year. He has been blessed to serve as pastor at the Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren in Westmoreland County, Pa. for more than two years.

Lee's goal is to glorify God by preaching and teaching His Word so that others may learn more about who He is and how He saves through the death and resurrection of His Son by His Spirit.

Sermon Topics

Sunday	10:30 a.m.	"The Mission, Means, and Marks of a Great Revival" (Jonah 3:1-10)
Sunday	7:00 p.m.	"The Danger of Forgetting the Holiness of God" (2 Samuel 6:1-11)
Monday	7:00 p.m.	"Live As You Are, Not As You Were" (Ephesians 4:17-24)
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	"The Great Commission, Not Omission" (Matthew 28:16-20)
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	"Justification Through Faith" (Romans 3:21-26)

Special music at all services. Childcare provided.

*Rev. Lee Smith will be staying with Pastor Len and Teresa during these revival meetings.
Oh, by the way, Pastor Lee Smith and Pastor Len Smith are not related!*