

## The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

14010 Greencastle Pike, Hagerstown, MD 21740



Len Smith, Pastor

301-791-5432 (Church Office) 717-328-4496 (Residence)

Pastor's home email address: [lensmith@tkimail.com](mailto:lensmith@tkimail.com)

Church's email: [broadfordingcob@verizon.net](mailto:broadfordingcob@verizon.net)

Official church website:

[www.thebroadfordingcobfellowship.org](http://www.thebroadfordingcobfellowship.org)

Official Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/thebroadfordingcobfellowship](http://www.facebook.com/thebroadfordingcobfellowship)

## Celebration Part II

by Pastor Len Smith

### The Spirit of Carefree Celebration

Phil. 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* Phil. 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, ...*

Christians are called to be free of care. We shout to our children or grandchildren as they run to the school bus, "Be careful," i.e., be full of care. We will never have a carefree indifference to things until we totally trust God.

God has established a created order full of excellent and good things, and it follows naturally that if we think on those things we will be happy. That is God's way to joy. When we fill our lives with simple good things and constantly thank God for them, we will experience real joy.

Our decision to set our minds on the higher thoughts as outlined in Phil 4:8 is an act of the will. That is why celebration is a discipline. It is the result of a consciously chosen way of thinking and living that will result in joy.

### The Benefits of Celebration

1. The most important benefit of celebration is that it can save us from taking ourselves too seriously. Celebration helps us to forget about ourselves, relax, and enjoy the good things of the earth God has given for us to enjoy.

2. Celebration can be an effective antidote for the periodic sense of sadness that can constrict or oppress our emotions. Good conversation can be encouraging conversation.

3. Celebration can give us perspective. In celebration the high and mighty can regain their balance and the lowly and weak achieve a new status. Everyone regardless of their socio-economic background can celebrate the glory and wonder of God.

4. When we free ourselves from an inflated view of our own importance, we can also free ourselves from a judgmental spirit. We are free to share our common joys.

An interesting characteristic of celebration is that it promotes even more celebration.

### The Practice of Celebration

Modern individuals have become so programmed that we have snuffed out nearly every experience of spontaneous joy. Our experiences of celebration have become too artificial and predictable.

Psalm 24 and Psalm 150 erupt with worship, praise, and adoration. What do little children do when they celebrate? They make noise, lots of noise. Think about it. There is not a thing wrong with noise at the proper time, just as there is nothing wrong with silence when it is appropriate.

Just how free are we to celebrate the goodness of God? One way to cultivate the art of celebration is to accent our creative gifts.

In Acts 2:17 a quotation from the book of Joel reminds us "in the last days ... your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." The imagination can release a flood of creative ideas and exercising our imaginations can be lots of fun.

We can begin to make more family events such as birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations into times of celebration and thanksgiving.

We can think of creative ways to celebrate the festivals of Christmas, Resurrection Day, and Thanksgiving or national holidays like Labor Day. We can celebrate the changing of the seasons as we rejoice in their beauty and variety.

We do not need to limit ourselves to established festivals. We can develop our own. How about a teacher appreciation night? How about celebrating children, youth, young people, or "seasoned" citizens on a particular Saturday or

**Celebration Part II**, continued on next page

### Final Comments

I wish to close with some comments Richard Foster wrote in his book, Celebration of Discipline on page 171.

We have seen how meditation heightens our spiritual sensitivity, which in turn leads us into prayer. Very soon we discover that prayer involves fasting as an accompanying means. Informed by these three Disciplines we can effectively move into study which gives us discernment about ourselves and the world in which we live.

Through simplicity we live with others in integrity. *Solitude* allows us to be genuinely present to people when we are with them. Through submission we live with others without manipulation, and through service we are a blessing to them.

Confession frees us from ourselves and releases us to worship. Worship opens the door to guidance. All of the Disciplines freely exercised bring forth the doxology of celebration.

At times we may become discouraged on our journey. The peaks, where we would like to be, look so distant. We are painfully aware of our seemingly endless wanderings in the foothills. But when we look back we see that progress has been made and in that we rejoice.

The apostle Paul knew that he had many heights yet to conquer. Rather than being discouraged, however, he was challenged to "... press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

May Psalm 145:7 become our congregational theme verse for 2014.

***"They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness."***



## Brethren programs and grants help with disaster and hunger relief

Several areas of the world are benefiting from disaster and hunger relief work by Brethren Disaster Ministries, Global Mission and Service, and Global Food Crisis Fund—three Church of the Brethren programs that also direct grants to aid people in need.

**Philippines:** A trip to the Philippines by Roy Winter, associate executive of Global Mission and Service and director of Brethren Disaster Ministries, has helped evaluate Typhoon Haiyan response. A \$5,000 Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) allocation supported Winter's evaluation of the situation and the Church World Service (CWS) response, and meetings with potential partners for a broader Brethren Disaster Ministries response that will focus resources on areas of greatest need by partnering with organizations already active in the Philippines. More EDF grants are expected as partnerships develop. An allocation of \$35,000 last November is helping fund the CWS response.

**Honduras:** In Honduras, Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed an EDF grant of \$10,000 to aid people threatened by food insecurity after Honduras suffered its worst Coffee Rust plague since 1976. The grant will help assist 200 families at very high risk, providing vegetable seeds, plantain trees, aquaculture, chicken coops, as well as other aid.

**South Sudan:** A grant of \$15,000 from Brethren Disaster Ministries and the EDF responds to an appeal from ACT Alliance following heavy fighting that began in South Sudan in December, linked to a coup attempt. Up to 194,000 people were displaced. The grant is helping provide food, water, sanitation, and household supplies. Many of the displaced are in the Torit area of the Eastern Equatorial State, where the Church of the Brethren has mission workers and Global Mission and Service has partnerships. Mission worker Athanasus Ungang remained in S. Sudan after violence broke out and led an effort to purchase and distribute supplies to refugees in Torit, with \$5,000 provided by Global Mission and Service staff.

**Haiti:** The Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) gave \$50,000 for continuation of an agriculture development program in 18 communities where L'Eglise des Freres in Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) is present. The program provides training in appropriate agriculture practices and small grants to families to initiate small enterprises.

### —*Tapstry*

News from the Church of the Brethren  
March 2014, Volume 12, Issue 2

## Ministering in the Far North



Dear Friends at Broadfording,

How would you sum up your 2013? What lessons did you learn?

For Laura and me it held unexpected trials and opportunities to trust God in more profound ways. Laura and her mom were very close so it was hard to say goodbye with such short notice. Thanks for your prayers. Laura is doing well as she walks through the grieving process. This trial has helped us appreciate even more all the people that have been a part of our lives. I am glad that you are in that group!

Over the years you have contributed \$11,975 to our ministry through SEND International. It really encourages me that you, like so many others, would give to partner with God through us. It truly is a fragrant offering to the Lord. I love to see the body functioning well. Thank you so very much for your partnership!! I wish you would have heard me say that more often, but I really couldn't have said it enough!

Losing a close family member also causes one to reflect back on life. We are coming around on our 12th year with SEND International. It has been one unexpected journey for us. Some missionaries set out with a clear location or people group in mind and stay in one place for most of

their careers. Our goal has always been to faithfully do whatever God has set before us to do. For us that has resulted in moving our family 11 times in our 11 years of marriage. We have also had many potential ministries that never materialized resulting in leaps of faith and times of doubt. Through it all God has been faithful and has led us to this beautiful place.

SEND North is expanding its outreach in the Far North and is now at the point of really needing a dedicated Communications Specialist. They need the marketing focus to bring in more resources for vital projects. Remote missionaries need help keeping relevant and impactful in their communication. I will be filling this vital role. I have also found many ways to share my faith using social media. We are living in a changing world.

Thanks again friends at Broadfording Church of the Brethren. Your prayers and support truly do mean a lot to us.

Warmly,  
Daryl Carlson —Email dated March 14, 2014

Broadfording's outreach budget has helped since 2002 to support the Carlson's ministry with SEND International. Daryl, Laura, and their three children were our guests at the morning worship service on March 2, 2014.

### Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren Disaster Response Auction

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
Westminster, Md.

Crafters, artists, woodworkers, handiwork persons, and green thumbs: Please share your gifts and talents.

**More craft items are needed.**

Other donations needed:

**Nursery plants, trees,  
bedding plants—flowers/herbs & vegetables,  
seedlings, house plants, bulbs, shrubs.**

**Items for white elephant table including  
new and used books.**

**Baked goods and treats.**

**Theme baskets.**

This year the auction committee would like to triple the number of gift basket donations.

For information or questions, please contact Alice Houck at [abhouch@verizon.net](mailto:abhouch@verizon.net) or call 301-898-9556.

### Upcoming events at Broadfording:

**Saturday, May 10**  
6:00 p.m.



### 14th Annual Church Yard Sale

**Friday, May 30**  
7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 31**  
7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Indoors—Rain or Shine



We need **many volunteers** to help; also, donations of good saleable household items, clothing, antiques, toys, glassware, furniture, etc.

For more information, see or call  
Sam Hawbaker (301-739-7598) or  
Millie Lowman (301-223-9145).

# *Together on the Journey* with your District Executive Minister . . .

**February 2014**

The January 29 *NBC Evening News with Brian Williams* had an arresting report on the effect of smart phones on Americans' health and quality of life.

The report said that smart phones have fueled what is being called "The Great American Speed-up." Just 35 years ago, in 1979, Americans worked 8-9 hours a day, were home for dinner, and had weekends with the family. Today we're on call 24/7 and are expected to answer phone calls and emails in the dead of night, on weekends, even while vacationing. When work calls at 11 p.m., it expects an answer. "The office" is wherever we carry our smart phone, and that's everywhere -- there's no escape.

One of the persons who appeared on the NBC report was Bob Sullivan, an expert on work trends. He commented that it took unions 200 years to get us a 40-hour work week, and it took smart phones about 5 years to completely take it away.

The result of all this is that Americans work 5 weeks more a year than we did in 1979. Gone are family meals, kids' sporting events, and simple down time. Thirty-five percent of Americans work on weekends. One-third of adults get 6 hours of sleep or less a night. The report referenced a recent study that revealed that persons who consistently work 11 hours a day or more are at a 67% greater risk of having a heart attack. Cardiologist Dr. Allen Taylor stated that one-third of heart disease can be related to stress, and

The report concluded that it's more important than ever to set limits, to decide when to turn off the email and cell phones, to carve out personal and family time.

My observation is that many of us are experiencing "The Great American Speed-up," with all the attendant unhealthy effects. I know some people are upset with me when I don't respond to 9:30 p.m. cell calls that could have easily waited until office hours, or fail to promptly reply to middle of the night emails. It takes a toll. I think NBC's exactly right in their conclusions. It is more important than ever to set limits. I'd also point to one additional resource that we have as Christians: the neglected practice of Sabbath. One bright miniature Easter day a week to withdraw from the rat race and be a "human being rather than a 'human doing'"—an expression I once heard Dr. Scott Peck use—worship and witness to the world that our worth is in God and what God has done for us in Christ, not in what we can do and produce. Ethicist Marie Fortune suggests a "cell phone Sabbath," a day to turn off our smart phones and lap-tops, or to be much more intentional and selective in our use of technology. Maybe the church could instigate "The Great American Slow-Down." Might just save our lives . . .

Praying Health and Peace for you, my friends,

Gene Hagenberger  
Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister

**March 2014**

Friends, this month I'm asking you to sow seeds of prayer. Please pray for the congregations and search committees that are in a pastoral search process. Those congregations are Bush Creek, Dranesville, First Church Baltimore, Frederick (Youth and Young Adult Pastor), Hagerstown, Manassas, Monocacy, Nokesville, and Thurmont. In addition to what you feel led to pray for, please pray for patience and discernment for these congregations and their committees, and that God will lead them to a good and fruitful match.

Please pray for our district leadership team: Chris Stockslager (Chair), Gretchen Zience (Vice-Chair), Craig Gaunt, Teresa Albright, Everett Fisher, Luke Croushorn, Rolland Kiracofe, Harry Swope, Brenda Hall, Kaye Horr, Mike Kenney, Ray Donaldson, and Jessica Syms. Ex-officio members are Moderator Craig Stutzman, Moderator-Elect Glenn McCrickard, Senior Standing Committee representative Jim Benedict, Treasurer Barb Watt, Recorder Anna Poole, and myself. Please pray for our District Moderator Craig Stutzman, Moderator-Elect Glenn McCrickard, and the members of our District Conference Program and Arrangements Team as they plan

for upcoming District Conference to be held this year in Manassas on October 10-11. Please pray for the wide and committed participation of all of our congregations in district conference, and that God will bless it to the strengthening of our congregations and ministries. Please pray for all of our District Ministry Teams and Task Teams. A team that I feel especially needs our prayers for new members and vision is our Outreach and Service Ministry Team.

Please pray for me. I'm feeling the pressure of a lot of ongoing search processes, various congregational concerns and urgent problems that need thoughtful response and attention. And we're working to be responsive with less support staff time and declining overall congregational financial support and appreciation for the value and importance of district ministry. There is also a tremendous amount of travel and late nights on the road. I need your prayers.

Thank you in advance for your prayers,

Gene Hagenberger  
Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister

## Shepherd's Spring has openings for internship and summer staff positions

Put your **faith** into **action** with an **internship** and other **opportunities** at Shepherd's Spring!

Candidates are needed for internship positions with the Heifer International Global Village program at Shepherd's Spring. Our internships provide a great opportunity to serve others, learn new skills, and get rewarded for doing it. Candidates may apply for any of the three following positions:

- Heifer Global Village Program Specialist
- International Issues Educator and Researcher
- Gardening and Livestock Educator and Caretaker

Start and end dates for the internship are open to negotiation, but the start date would need to be in the month of April, May, or June. Training, stipend, room, and board provided at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center. Interested candidates should contact Steward Lentz by calling 301-223-8193 or by emailing [slentz@shepherds-spring.org](mailto:slentz@shepherds-spring.org) to inquire further about the position and apply.

Shepherd's Spring is currently seeking individuals for summer staff positions for the 2014 summer camp program. These positions provide a great opportunity to serve others, make new friends, learn new leadership skills, and get rewarded for doing it. Candidates may visit us at [www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org) for more detail concerning the positions. Training, stipend, room, and board provided at Shepherd's Spring. Interested candidates should contact Geneva Granda by calling 301-223-8193 or by emailing [ggranda@shepherdsspring.org](mailto:ggranda@shepherdsspring.org) to inquire

## Shepherd's Spring announces 2014 summer camp schedule

**Theme: GET REAL—Finding your true self in Jesus**

### Traditional Camps:

Mini Camp: 2nd-3rd Grades	June 18-20
Junior: 3rd-5th Grades	June 22-27
Middler: 6th-8th Grades	July 7-11
Youth: 9th-12th Grades	August 3-8

### Adventure & Specialty Camps:

Junior Wild: 5th-6th Grades	July 13-18
How Does Your Garden Grow: 4th-6th Grades	July 13-18
Down on the Farm: 6th-8th Grades	July 20-25
Around the World with Jesus: 5th-6th Grades	July 27-August 1
Outdoor Adventure: 7th-11th Grades	August 10-15

### Intergenerational Camps:

Big and Small: K-2nd Grades	June 29-30
Grand A: 6-10 years old	July 27-29
Grand B: 6-10 years old	July 30-August 1
Family Camp: Any age	August 15-16
Celebrate Summer Festival	August 16



## Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center Golf Tournament

**Monday, June 9, 2014**  
**Beaver Creek Country Club**  
**Hagerstown, Md.**

Proceeds to help underwrite the  
Summer Campers Scholarship Fund

**For more information:**

**[www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org)**  
**Shepherd's Spring 301-223-8193**

***Recruit your foursome now !!!***

## What's next for shoebox recipients?

Thank you for partnering with us to provide 9,985,210 gift-filled shoeboxes in 2013. These gifts, lovingly packed by people like you, will give Operation Christmas Child ministry partners the opportunity to share God's love and the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ with children around the world. In many countries, the shoebox is only the beginning of a child's incredible journey of faith.

Children in nearly 100 nations who received a shoebox have enrolled in The Greatest Journey, the follow-up discipleship program offered by Samaritan's Purse. The lessons—taught by trained local believers—reinforce the truth of the Gospel and help children grow in their faith. Praise God, more than 1.1 million boys and girls have prayed to receive Christ as their Savior through this ministry.

—Email from Samaritan's Purse, March 6, 2014



*Join us as we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*

**April 13 - Palm Sunday**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service with a sermon by Pastor Len and music by the chime choir and handbell choir.

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

**April 17 - Maundy Thursday Love Feast and Communion Service**

7:00 p.m.

*"Do this in remembrance of me."*

**April 18 - Good Friday Service**

7:00 p.m.

*"Jesus said, 'It is finished.'*

*With that He bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

**April 19 - Children's Saturday Happening**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Lunch will be provided.)

*"Let the little children come to me."*

**April 20 - Resurrection Day Celebration**

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service. (Breakfast will follow.)

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.

10:15 a.m. - Worship Service with a sermon by Pastor Len and a drama/children's program.

6:00 p.m. - Praise & Worship Service. (Pizza will follow.)

*"He is not here; he has risen!"*

**SPRING FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY**

**April 27**

**Worship Service**

10:30 a.m.

**Celebrate friendships by inviting your friends!**

*If we break our old Friendship Sunday attendance record of 211, **Pastor Len will wear his clothes inside out** during the fellowship meal immediately following the worship service.*



**This will happen only if you get busy and invite friends!**



**Festival of Music and Hymn Sing**

7:00 p.m.

to benefit  
Shepherd's Spring  
Summer Camp Scholarships

- ♪ Music by area Church of the Brethren congregations
- ♪ Entire offering for summer camp scholarships
- ♪ Refreshments and fellowship

**Our congregation's 35th anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, July 27, 2014.**

**Please mark this date on your calendar and join us in thanking God for 35 years of blessings!**