

Champaign Church of the Brethren
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Pastor
Cynthia Taylor

December 2009



Pastor Cynthia's Corner

Perhaps you have been by the church and notices our new sign. We can put all the events of the congregation on that sign and I'm sure it will be a great addition to our ministry.

We have been doing a study during our Sunday School hour about the direction of our future. The first decision we made was that we are viable for the future. For the next 3 years or so, we decided to concentrate our efforts first to get our building so it is welcoming, do some rearranging and updating for the main floor to lighten up our narthex and become more inviting. When we look at that area through new eyes, rather than it's always looked like this, we see that we have work to do. Some of the problems are inherent with the architecture, but some are from neglect. So, we are going to embark on a time to really look at our building and make it more inviting. Once someone gets to the sanctuary, they have to be impressed, but we need to be more diligent at keeping the building spiffy.

We also decided we wanted to continue and double our efforts of working with the police in the community. So far, our reception has not been what we want so we are going to continue our prayers for them as well as go to them with specific plans for programs in which we want their participation.

Then, we decided to work with the peace movement in the community. Because of our location, because we have a food pantry, we will continue to be involved with social justice. However, we have not done anything with the peace aspect of our mandate as members of the Church of the Brethren. We decided this is an area in which we could and wanted to become involved. We also addressed our congregational mission statement and decided to leave it largely the same.

There were some punctuation changes and we added "Peace and social justice will be practiced here."

So, we have been busy with our time and planning for our future. We are excited by those decisions and find it hard to wait for opportunities to come to us. We are ready to seek out ministry in those areas. It's an exciting time for us.

I want to again thank everyone for their prayers, presence, and thoughts during my father's illness and death. It has been a difficult time for my family and especially my mom. My parents were absolutely inseparable and dad's death has taken its toll on mom. She likes to go, go and go some more and they, my parents, always did that together. Now, I am the one who is to do it with her and I find that I have trouble keeping up with everything. We are learning from each other what the limits are for us. I am learning what her limits are about staying home and she is learning from me my limits of how often and for how long I like to be gone. We are getting there.

There was a Webinar (seminar on the computer) last week sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary. It was great and was about why visitors don't stay, don't continue to come. First the reason people come to church the first time is that they are invited by a friend or relative. The average number of contacts active members had before joining was 6.



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

Just a Note

"57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Cor. 15:57-58

After reading these Bible verses I want to congratulate our Church Board, Ex-committee, Pastor Cynthia and all those who work diligently, continuously and faithfully in carrying on the work of the church. Keeping visible in the community-food pantry-new church sign and Peace and Justice to name a few. We invite others to attend meetings giving input to their desires of the church. Together we'll continue to make progress in the work of the Lord. Thanks and deep appreciation to all and ever grateful to God our Savior.

Love and Care
Virginia L Witt

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Pastor Cynthia's Corner cont'd

The average number of contacts dropouts had was 2. That's meaningful contacts with members trying to learn about those new people.

Then, about churches who are successful, they have 8.6 outreach events a year. That is events for the entire congregation in which potential members can participate. The plateaued churches, those who are holding their own membership wise, hold 6.5 outreach events a year. Those declining churches hold 3.3 events a year. Those are pretty eye-opening statistics. I was amazed.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year: I hope both are blessed for you.

Pastor Cynthia

Clean-up Day in October

On October 2 of this year our church was blessed by having 22 students from I-Help at the University of Illinois once again. These 22 students assisted our congregation in removing old worn out items from our building, spreading new gravel in our parking lot and closing down the garden for Culture Club.

After the work was done we were happy to provide the students with sandwiches of Sloppy Joes, chips and homemade cookies.

We are grateful for their help and it was a joy to have them with us.

**Favorite Recipes****Pumpkin Roll**

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup pumpkin
1 tsp lemon juice
3/4 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 cup chopped walnuts
Powdered sugar



Beat eggs 5 minutes. Add sugar and stir in pumpkin and lemon juice. Stir remaining ingredients together (except nuts and powdered sugar). Fold into pumpkin mixture. Spread on a greased and floured jelly roll pan. Top with 1 cup chopped walnuts. Bake 15 minutes at 375 degrees. Turn out on to powdered sugar on a tea towel and roll. Cool. Unroll and spread with filling and chill.

Filling

4 tbs margarine (softened)
8 oz cream cheese (room temperature)
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla
Mix well and spread on cake roll.

Submitted by
Rose Redmon

The editorial staff of the church newsletter hopes that everyone enjoys what is found inside. We try to put all of the news of our church in our newsletter.

If you have suggestion or something you would like to see let us know.

Thank you

Recall Notice from GOD.

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as SIN, as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is:

P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

- 1 Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the BIBLE (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

(Continued next column)

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

GOD

P. S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee Mail'!

Received by email

Submitted by

Pastor Cynthia

News from Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All women that are members or friends of the church are invited to attend. Our next meeting will be December 9 at the home of Virginia Witt. We have a short business meeting, a program on various subjects, just get to know each other better, and have coffee and refreshments. I hope many of you will plan to attend on the 9th. If you need a ride, give one of us a call.

Virginia McColl

From the Church Treasurer

Thanks you for your continued financial support of the Church. As the end of this year approaches, I would like to meet our Outreach obligations for the year. We are within a few hundred dollars of reaching this goal. If we could each give a little extra during the next few weeks, we will be able to meet all our obligations.

Virginia McColl

Treasurer

Inter-Faith community Pot Luck

By Dawn Blackman

Brethren, Muslims, Mennonites and Apostolic faith communities members meet monthly on the 4th Sunday to serve a pot luck meal for the needy here in Champaign. In response to the loss of a free Sunday Dinner previously served by "The Catholic Worker House" members of Champaign's faith communities have stepped in to fill the gap by providing a Sunday Pot Luck. Champaign Church of the Brethren hosts this meal on the 4th Sunday of each month. Members of each Faith Community participate by bringing and serving the meal to all who come to the church.

Since August nearly 200 meals have been provided. The kitchen of our church rings with the voices of the men and women who have answered the call to work in this important ministry.

Champaign Church of the Brethren member Virginia Witt is the matriarch of the group. Our youngest volunteers have been 8 and 10 year old Culture Club Members William and Dominic Richmond along with their mom Naoshi. Royale Dillard age 9, and his mom Sonya have been with us also.

Looking across the kitchen and church hall I see a great representation of God's children this work has brought together. Those who serve and those who receive present a multi-ethnic multi-faith face. Most of those who come to share in the meal are women and children. Sometimes the money for food runs out before the month is over and a hot healthy meal is greatly appreciated. In today's economy many families that have never needed help before find that they are unable to stretch their budget another inch. Many have lost their jobs and are in need of help for the first time.

God's blessings are shared with those in need here. Our children are learning to give back to their community here. It is a blessing to be able to serve.

Thanksgiving 2009

Once again we shared our blessings with Cornerstone.

On November 2009 the Champaign Church of the Brethren congregation invited Cornerstone Church to worship with us and to share in our Thanksgiving Potluck.

Both Pastor Cynthia and Pastor McCoy (Cornerstone Church) brought the message to the joint congregations. What a wonderful message it was.

After worship we all, both congregations retired to the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the church and shared a Thanksgiving meal.

Thank you to all that provided parts of the meal and for the wonder fellowship.







December 2009



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Friendship Circle 7:00pm	10	11 Happy Birthday Reba Bates	12 
13 Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 6:00 pm Candlelight Service  Happy Birthday Corinne Kohler 	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Happy Birthday, Jesus 	26
27	28	29	30	31 6:00 pm Kwanza Service New Year's Eve Happy Birthday Peter Kohler 		