



Champaign Church of the Brethren
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**Pastor
 Cynthia Taylor**

March 2010

Pastor Cynthia's Corner

As I write we haven't started Lent yet, but as you read, we are in the middle of it. We are doing Lenten study in Sunday School, *A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent*, by Sarah Parsons. The first lesson brings out some points about Lent which emphasize its importance. First, Lent originated in the 4th Century targeted toward those who were going to join the church. I know, when I was a kid and still today in some denominations, Palm Sunday was the day to join the church. The length of the season, 40 days, gave them time to consider their decisions, since it meant new life and a change in their lives.

"Not Lent offers us the same gift—a long time to examine where we have been and where we want to go in our spiritual lives. We don't have to make any snap decisions. We are free to think about options in the privacy of our own relations to God and to choose how we'll move forward. Lent affords a little time to calm down, breathe deeply, and then make some considered choices." (pg19) We will face temptations in our wilderness not unlike Jesus did, but different temptations that he had in the wilderness. Our wilderness might be filled with things we want to do, or things we have not done, but it might also be filled with wanting to control our own destiny. While we are in the wilderness, we might learn to hand that control over to God and let God lead us where God wants us to go.

This wilderness time is meant to bring us closer to God and to help us be more able to listen to God's direction in our lives. We can only get that direction if we are listening for it. It's hard to do, to sit quietly and listened for God. The voices of busyness keep coming into play as we sit quietly, but eventually, God will come too. It's a wonderful opportunity to deepen our spirituality and our relationship with God. One of the best places or ways to sit quietly with God is at our Taize services on Wednesday evenings. They are designed to run for 30 minutes and then are re-run, but since it is taped, anyone can come and stay as long as they want. It's a busy time for everyone so if you only have time for 15 minutes, come for 15 minutes.

Pastor Cynthia

In the coming months you may see a change in our newsletter.

The writing staff for the Champaign Church of the Brethren will be including reports from the Chairmen serving on our Church Board.

We are interested in letting you know what we are doing and encourage any input from our members and friends.

Thank you,

The Editorial Staff



Thought for the Day

1. At Christ's table we are one.
2. Christ asks each of us, "Who do you say that I am?"
3. Trust God's ways; they work.
4. Regular spiritual nourishment gives us a fuller life in Christ.
5. "Where do I need to do better temple maintenance"?



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

LENTEN VESPER SERVICES – 2010

- March 7 - Cerro Gordo Church of the Brethren
Speaker Tim Davis
- March 14 - Oakley Brick Church of the Brethren
Speaker Cynthia Taylor
- March 21 - Champaign Church of the Brethren
Speaker Russell Betz



All services begin at 4:00 o'clock pm followed by a time of food and fellowship immediately after worship.

Favorite Recipes

California Egg Bake

- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1 green onion sliced
- 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In a small bowl, beat the eggs, sour cream and salt; stir in the tomato, onion and cheese. Pour into a greased 2 cup baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350degrees for 25-30 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Yield: 2 servings, Good Breakfast!

Reminisce Magazine
Submitted by
Virginia Witt



Beatitudes For Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away when coffee spilled at the table today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that story twice today".

Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss to find the strength to carry the Cross.

Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey Home in loving ways.

By Unknown
Submitted by Virginia Witt