



Our Worship in February

The month of February holds a variety of worship experiences for us. We will begin the month with a Service of Bread and Cup Communion. The second Sunday is an opportunity to hear about the Faith Expedition to Vietnam (details elsewhere in this newsletter). The season of Lent begins on February 21. An informal time of worship will be held at 6:30 pm on that day. Here is a brief outline for the month.

- Feb. 4: Bread and Cup Communion
Luke 5: 1-11 (Jesus calls the first disciples)
"Who Is Worthy?"
- Feb. 11: Faith Expedition to Vietnam
Fletcher Farrar, Van Metzger and Dennis Metzger
A potluck lunch will follow worship.
- Feb. 18: Transfiguration Sunday
Jane Carruthers to preach.
- Feb. 21: Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins
Matthew 6: 1-6; 16-21
An informal worship will be held in the church basement.
- Feb. 25: First Sunday of Lent
Luke 4: 1-13 (The temptation of Jesus)
Confronted Daily with Temptations

Anniversary Devotions

A devotional book, *Fresh from the Word*, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren may now be ordered. The book contains 366 devotions, one for each day of the anniversary year 2008. More than 100 writers, including Rebecca Lipscomb, are drawn from all six of the Brethren groups and from some of the countries beyond the US where Brethren are following Christ today. The devotions are "perpetually dated," and are not linked to the day of the week, so that the book can be reused in years to come. The volume is in hardcover, with a ribbon bookmark, and includes indexes of the writers and scriptures, and a family tree of the Brethren movement.

A pre-publication cost of \$12 (a 40% discount) is available on orders of 10 or more copies by March 15. Those interested in a copy are invited to sign-up at the church meetinghouse. No payment will be due until the books are received later in the year.



Reflections on Vietnam

On Sunday, February 11th, Dennis & Van Metzger and Fletcher Farrar will share during morning worship about their recent trip to Vietnam. A potluck lunch will follow the service and we hope to have Mary Jessup joining us. These four were in Vietnam from December 31 until January 12 as a part of a Church of the Brethren Witness/Washington Office sponsored Faith Expedition. They were able to visit several Church World Service projects and see firsthand some of the work being done, as well as participate in worship with Vietnamese Christians.

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The trip to Vietnam was Van Metzger's first opportunity to return to the place of her birth since she left in 1974. Some of the other participants included Dennis and Van's daughter Madalyn and two of Dennis' sisters.

Please join us on February 11. You are invited to bring a lunch-dish to share. Drink will be provided.

Terry is Trim-ming Up!

Terry Link has been accepted into the Training in Ministry (TRIM) program of the Church of the Brethren. He will be preparing to attend a TRIM orientation at Bethany Theological Seminary later next month. Let's continue to lift this brother up in all of our thoughts and prayers.

2007 Church Board

On December 18th the church board met to organize for 2007. At that meeting, Joe Dunn was called to chair board. Diana Rokosz was selected to chair the Stewards Commission. She is joined on the Stewards by Susan Thurman and Asfaha Gelaidos. Roger Ruth was selected as chair of the Witness Commission. He is joined by Dennis Metzger and Angie Gum. The chair of the Nurture Commission is Evelyn Taylor. Other Nurture members are Mary Bushnell and Tom Martin.

The 2007 church board plans to meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Any exceptions to that schedule will be shared with the congregation in advance. Please keep these individuals in your

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Mat 6:21)

“So when they brought the boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.”

(Luk 5:11)

Kessler Begins Service to District

Kevin Kessler, pastor of the Canton Church of the Brethren for fourteen years, began serving the Illinois & Wisconsin District as District Executive/Minister on January 1, 2007. Kevin will serve as executive on a half-time basis, while continuing to serve the Canton congregation half-time. His executive/minister duties include, among other things, working with the District Leadership Team in administering various district ministries, assisting congregations with pastoral placement, providing oversight to the district office (which is still located in Lombard, IL), etc. Kevin will work from his office in Canton. For more information see the Illinois and Wisconsin District Newsletter which is available at the rear of the sanctuary.

Pastor Kres Receives Grant

Pastor Kres, along with four other Illinois & Wisconsin District pastors, received a grant to enter into the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program sponsored by the Brethren Academy and funded by the Lily Foundation. Each of the five pastors received nearly \$5000 which will be used over a period of 18 months. Pastor Kres will join pastors Christy Walterdorff (York Center), Joel Kline (Highland Avenue, Elgin), Dennis Webb (Naperville), and Orlando Redekopp (Chicago, First) in an immersion retreat in San Francisco, CA., from March 5-14. During the retreat they will be meeting with San Francisco-area church leaders and resource people from the Pacific School of Religion.

The grant will cover immersion retreat expenses, technology, resources and travel for the eighteen months. Together they will explore ways to become more intentional in promoting joyous worship, active peacemaking, passionate faith, and spiritual maturity. In 2008 the five will be invited to share learnings and experiences with other pastors of different denominations in a national retreat.

A copy of the grant proposal is available.



Bonhoeffer's Life Together

You are invited to participate in a four-week discussion of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, Life Together. The book is Bonhoeffer's reflections and experience of Christian community as a part of the underground church movement during the Nazi years in Germany. In this brief book, Bonhoeffer explores what it means to live in community,

the importance of Christian service, the place for silence and meditation, etc.

Our discussions of the book will take place on four Tuesdays: February 6, 20, 27 and March 6. We will gather in the basement of the church meetinghouse at 7 pm.