

# THE BEACON NEWSLETTER

March 1, 2009

Volume 51, No. 8

## LOOKING AHEAD

March	10	8:00 a.m.	Retirees' Breakfast
		6:30 p.m.	Witness Commission
		7:00 p.m.	Education Commission
		7:00 p.m.	Worship Teams
	11	12:30 p.m.	Ladies Birthday Luncheon
		6:00 pm.	Simple Supper and Story
		6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
		7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	12	12:30 p.m.	Spirit Journey Women
		6:30 p.m.	Staff Relations Committee
	13-14		District Youth Conference-Middlebury CoB
	15		<b>Scrip Orders Due</b>
		2:30 p.m.	Building Connections Hymn Fest
	16	5:30 p.m.	Adult Education Committee
		7:00 p.m.	Board Executive Committee
	17	6:30 a.m.	Early Breakfast Group
	18	6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	22	12:15 p.m.	<b>Council Lunch</b>
		1:00 p.m.	<b>Council</b>
	25	6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	26	12:30 p.m.	Spirit Journey Women
	29		IHN Week at New Facility
	30	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	31	6:30 a.m.	Early Breakfast Group

## *SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE*

Adult and Children's Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

### *Next Week*

**9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Worship**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**"God...human...covenant"**

**"Getting the best of God"**

Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking about the "Old Testament" God as a God of wrath and power who overwhelms human opponents through sheer force. (And why shouldn't "He"?) Tender images from the Hebrew Bible of God as lover and nurturer belie that image. So too does the story of Jacob wrestling with God face to face, and, ultimately, "*prevailing.*" Moreover, Jacob is not the only figure in the Hebrew Bible who challenges God. And he is not the only challenger who in the end gets the best of God. (Double entendre intended!) How do these stories shed light on our own personal stories with God, a God who comes to us in Jesus of Nazareth?

Steve Crain will preach the message for this Sunday. You are invited to read Exodus 32: 22-32 in preparation for this worship.

**Daylight Savings Time Resumes next Sunday.**  
**Set your clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m.**

## **PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR MARCH 1-7 DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY TRIP**

Remember to be in prayer for those participating in the Disaster Relief Trip to Chalmette, Louisiana this week:

Tom Bosserman  
Steve Keim  
Joe Long  
John Long

Jan Lung  
Maurie Sperry  
John Wagoner  
Ann Waters

Chris Wright  
Marcia Wright  
Marilyn Wright  
Dave Young

If you have questions regarding Beacon information, please contact the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

# THIS WEEK AT BEACON HEIGHTS

## Today

Disaster Relief Team Leaves at 3 a.m.

## Monday

6:30 p.m. Nurture Commission

## Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

## Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Bell Choir

7:00 p.m. Choir

8:00 p.m. Stewards Commission

## Saturday

Disaster Relief Team Returns

## Sunday

### Daylight Savings Time Resumes

12:15 p.m. HS Youth Cabinet

## Food Bank

Mary Bosserman

Mim Robbins

Ben Sollenberger

## Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Melissa is on vacation through March 1. Pastor John is leading the Disaster Relief Team working in Louisiana this week.

### STATISTICS

Sunday February 22, 2009

9:00 Worship	65
10:00 Sunday School	76
11:15 Worship	93
Adult Offerings	\$7,740.00
Children's Offering	\$2.00
Weekly Budget	\$6,939.37

Beacon Heights Church believes everyone is a child of God. We welcome all people, of any age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family status, socio-economic status, physical ability, mental ability, or place along their faith journey.

## THE BEACON

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**Annual Conference Information Packets available online. Registration begins February 21.**

### WANTED: Registrations for Camp Mack

It's time to register for summer camp at Camp Mack! The discount deadline has been moved up, so camp registrations must be turned in to Bill Hollenberg by Sunday, March 15 along with a check for 2/3 of the cost (payable to the church). Beacon Heights will cover the remaining 1/3 of the cost. Check with Bill if you have any questions.



### Hymn Fest March 15 at Beacon Heights

Join with folks from other Fort Wayne area Churches of the Brethren (Agape and Lincolnshire) to blend our voices in songs of praise. Sunday, March 15 at 2:30 p.m. right here at Beacon Heights. Following a time of praise and song will be a time for getting acquainted with our guests as we enjoy treats provided by folks from the Agape congregation.

### Getting More Green

In an effort to be more "green," we will no longer provide disposable cups for the coffee/tea/hot chocolate. There will be reusable cups available. After you have enjoyed your drink, please place the cup you used in the sink in the kitchen. Anyone who would like to bring their own cup, may do so. A permanent marker will be available to write your name on it if you like. If you already have a cup in the cupboard but have not put your name on it, please do so. After March 15, any cups without a name on the bottom will be offered as a reusable cup. If you have any thoughts or questions, see Dave or Sandy Kiracofe. (The coffee project is sponsored by Nurture Commission.)

## Wellspring Interfaith Social Services

### You can help!

Frank Zirille of Wellspring Interfaith Social Services shared about Well-spring's mission and programs in church several weeks ago. Wellspring has daily programs for older adults and students, a food bank, and summer day camps for children. Todd and Lisa Steele have served on the board and Kyla Zehr is our congregational liaison with Wellspring.

There are opportunities for Beacon Heights to help this inner city ministry. Individuals could share talents like music or art at the older adult or student programs. A group could sponsor a meal at the center, or a student at summer camp.

If anyone wishes to make a difference in Fort Wayne's inner city through Wellspring, contact Kyla Zehr at [kdzehr@yahoo.com](mailto:kdzehr@yahoo.com) or 637-1907.

### Heartfelt thanks

We are once again reminded vividly of the warm and gracious caring of this congregation as you supported us through these initial weeks of transition, sorrow, and celebration. Your cards, calls, and hugs have been deeply appreciated as we walk the journey of grief in new ways following the death of John's father and Jan's mother.

Thank you! Pastor John and Pastor Jan

### For Earth's sake - A Carbon Diet for Lent

"For Lent, Laila Thompson usually gives up chocolate or other indulgent sweets. But after talking with her religious leader this year, she decided to slim down something different: her carbon footprint." (Daniel Stone article in *Newsweek*, March 17, 2008) For the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday last year, Thompson did without plastic bags, wasted electricity or excess driving.

Tearfund, a UK Christian relief and development agency, works with a global network of local churches to help eradicate poverty, transform lives and bring justice. Recognizing that it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable persons who are hit hardest by the impacts of climate change, Tearfund is sponsoring Carbon Fast 2009 during Lent.

On the table in the South entry, by the Peace and Witness bulletin board, you can find more information and a listing of suggested actions to help you observe Lent using the Carbon Fast model. Further information is also available at [www.tearfund.org/carbonfast](http://www.tearfund.org/carbonfast)

As God loves all humans and shares the magnificence of creation with us, may we also love one another and live in ways that protect and share the gifts of creation with others.

## Church of the Brethren Hunger Initiative Donations taken TODAY

Two agencies of our denomination, the Global Food Crisis Fund and the Emergency Disaster Fund, are offering a matching grant (the Domestic Hunger Matching Grant) to encourage Church of the Brethren congregations to raise new funds to help keep local food banks and soup kitchens supplied with food in these difficult times. This matching grant is available for a limited time and is designed to encourage congregations to reach out beyond their walls to help food banks and soup kitchens meet the urgent needs of hungry people in their neighborhoods, towns, and cities. (Note: A restriction in this grant program prevents us from giving the funds we raise or the associated matching funds directly to the Beacon Heights food bank.)

The Witness Commission and the Church Board have approved the idea of giving individuals and families in our congregation the opportunity to support the Associated Churches Food Bank System and take advantage of the matching grant. (Our food bank is one of 26 food banks in this system.) The funds that we raise will be matched (up to \$500) by the Domestic Hunger Matching Grant. If we would raise \$420 for the Associated Churches Food Bank System, then an additional \$420\* would be donated from the Domestic Hunger Matching Grant - for a total of \$840. If we would raise \$630, then an additional \$500 \* would be donated from the Domestic Hunger Matching Grant - for a total of \$1,130.

This matching grant is only available for a limited time. Today is the last opportunity to donate.

**If you donate by check, please make Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren the payee and write "hunger matching grant" on the memo line of the check. If you donate cash, please place it in an envelope and write "hunger matching grant" on it.**

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Kilgore, Witness Chairperson, at 484-4741.

\* This assumes that matching funds are still available.

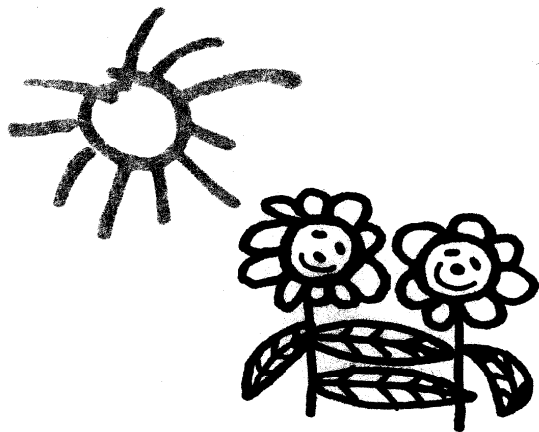
## Preschool Taking Registrations

Beginning today, registration will be open to the general public. We have had many inquiries about enrollment for the Fall. Forms are available on the bulletin board in the north entry. Feel free to take extras for family or friends.

# Beacon Heights Preschool

Ages 1 to 5

Nationally accredited by the NAEYC



2810 Beacon Street • Fort Wayne, Indiana  
46805 • (260) 483-7244

was in a serious car accident yesterday but thankfully only received minor injuries.

- Paula Crill asked for prayers for a friend and family who recently commemorated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of their child. Yesterday they had a car accident and their five year old child was killed. Please remember this family in prayer.
- Pastor Melissa shared the rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Grace Makenzie to Lauren (Depena) and Dave Hale. Karen Kiracofe and Cress Hanenkratt are proud grandparents.
- Terry Dougherty asked for continued prayers for the Afghan YES Students as Afghanistan continues to struggle with very difficult issues.
- Sal Lehman has been attending Open Arms Ministry for four months but has missed Beacon Heights and continues to feel support here, for which she is grateful.

### Is Your New Directory Missing Pages?

It has come to office staff's attention that some of the new directories are missing pages 13-20. If you have already picked up your copies, you may want to check to be sure it has all its pages, numbered 1-32. Copies are still available and more can be printed. Thanks to Fred, the Xerox Service rep, it will now print, fold, and staple them perfectly. A happy copier/human relationship restored!

### Community Garden Project to Begin Second Year

It's that wonderful time of year when we start thinking about the Community Gardening Project. Last year was a huge success and Nurture Commission is looking forward to another wonderful year of great plantings, harvests, gardening, and church overall experience.

#### There are several options for participation:

1. Be a grower (pick 3 crops to grow totaling at least \$150.00 in produce);
2. Be a buyer (you pay a one-time fee of \$150.00 for a season of fresh produce.

I also need at least 4-6 helpers to distribute on harvest days. Please E-mail Scott Dercks at [scdercks01@hotmail.com](mailto:scdercks01@hotmail.com) to participate and help.

### **Joy and Concerns from February 22, 2009**

- Todd Steele's father-in-law moved out of intensive care yesterday and the family is encouraged by his progress.
- Verlena Driver is glad to have her sister and brother-in-law from Kentucky visiting.
- Kathy Fry-Miller shared Paul is with their daughter Carrie this weekend and will go with her to her hematology appointment on Tuesday.
- Ruth Ann Bever received a Lilly grant to go to an island in Vancouver and work on writing a children's book this summer. She had applied for a Lilly grant five times, and now has received one, a testament to perseverance.
- Terry Fonner asked for prayers for neighbors Fred and Odetta Bender. Fred is in the last stages of leukemia and on a ventilator. He is not expected to live much longer.
- Pastor Melissa Bennett shared Pastors Jan and John Long will return this evening after being away for Jan's mother's memorial service. Pastor Brian and his wife Kimberly are on their way back from vacation.
- Don Jordan is recovering from surgery and is to have his catheter removed and receive his pathology report on Tuesday. Melissa also gave thanks for Vincent Harding, whose writings helped inspire her sermon. Vincent and her husband Dean are friends.
- Bill Kilgore shared about the denomination's matching funds program for food bank dollars given for food banks outside of our church. If you donate by check, please make Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren the payee and write "hunger matching grant" on the memo line of the check.
- Jessica Creath asked for prayers for a co-worker who has been in and out of the hospital for two months and has just returned to work. On her return to work she lost a niece to an overdose and her nephew is also in the hospital due to an overdose.
- Kris Bohnstedt received a denial from her health insurance company for a hearing device she needs. Her daughter-in-law

### **Update from the Treasurer**

The Stewards Commission has chosen Pro Fed Credit Union for Beacon Heights' primary financial transactions. ProFed offers reduced fees and several on-line advantages. Payroll can now be done on-line with direct deposit to employee accounts. Bills can also be paid on-line. Checks will be mailed directly from ProFed to payees – including individuals. This will be the preferred way I will handle distributions. It saves preparation time, check and postage costs and time to mail the payments. We can still write checks as needed.

Since Beacon Heights is a member at the ProFed, anyone in our congregation is welcome to open an individual account. Several at Beacon Heights are already members and highly recommend Pro Fed. The February newsletter from Pro Fed is available in the church office.

If you have questions or suggestion regarding the church's financial process or the treasurer's report, feel welcome to contact me.

Mary Wysong (484-4740, wysong81@gmail.com)

**The LADIES' BIRTHDAY LUNCH** will be at Hall's Triangle Park Restaurant on Wednesday, March 11, at 12:30 p.m. Please call Lois Guess (485,7472) preferably by Monday, March 9, if you plan to attend.

### **Thank you!**

Thank you for your support expressed through emails, cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers. On Tuesday, Don received a good report from the doctor, indicating the cancer had not spread beyond the prostate. Don continues to improve and feels better each day.

Don and Joyce Jordan

# YOUTH

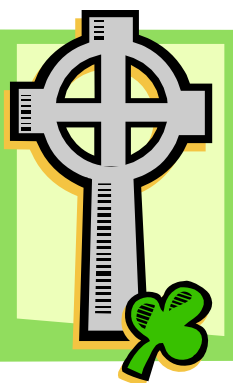
## High School

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 8  
Cabinet Meeting



March 13-15  
District Youth Conference  
Register by March 1 (TODAY) at  
<http://nidcob.googlepages.com/youth>



Tuesday, March 17  
St. Patrick's Day celebration

Sunday, April 5  
Pizza and a Movie

THURSDAY, APRIL 9  
LOVE FEAST

# NEWS

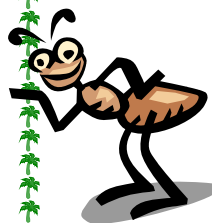
## Middle School

Mark Your Calendars  
For upcoming Middle School Youth events



Friday, March 13  
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Event at the Church

Sunday, April 12  
Easter Sunday  
Breakfast Fundraiser  
This may include Saturday prep.



Saturday, May 30  
10:00a.m. — 1:00 p.m.  
Games & Picnic at Shoaff Park

Watch the Beacon for more details!