

THE BEACON NEWSLETTER

May 3, 2009

Volume 51, No. 18

LOOKING AHEAD

May	11		Postage increases to .44/oz.
	12	6:30 a.m.	Early Breakfast Group
		8:00 a.m.	Retirees' Breakfast
		6:30 p.m.	Witness Commission
		7:00 p.m.	Education Commission
	14	12:30 p.m.	Spirit Journey Women
	15		HS Youth Lock-in
	17		Last day of Spring Sunday School classes SCRIP ORDERS DUE
	18	6:00 p.m.	Adult Education Committee
		7:00 p.m.	Board (Full)
	20	5:30 p.m.	HS Youth Advisors
	21		Preschool Carnival
	24		SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS
		9 a.m.	Sunday School
		10 a.m.	Worship—Membership Sunday
	26	6:30 a.m.	Early Breakfast Group
	30		HS Youth Event
	31		HS Youth Sunday IHN Week at new facility

Turn the Rainwater Runoff in Your Garden into a Beautiful Rain Garden.

The city of Fort Wayne is offering free "how to" workshops on building a rain garden. Visit www.catchingrainfw.org for detailed info on where and when the workshops are held over the next month. There is an incentive program for those within city limits involving direct payment or matching plant program. A rain garden is a landscaped area planted with native plants and flowers that soak up rainwater. Compared with a grassed lawn, a rain garden may allow 30% more water to be absorbed. Native plants are suggested because of their deep roots, water uptake and ability to tolerate local conditions. Fort Wayne's Goal -- 1,000 Rain Gardens! A copy of native plants allowed in the program in on the office counter.

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

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

Next Week

9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Worship

"Soul's Longing"

As a member of "Generation X," my mantra has often been one of independence and self-sufficiency. I feel crowded when someone needs me too much and I feel guilty if I cannot take care of all parts of my life on my own. As a woman and a mother, I feel a constant challenge to that mantra. And I sometimes wonder how God feels about independence...does she celebrate our self-sufficiency, our ability to take care of most of our daily needs on our own? Or does God long for us to rely on him more, wanting us to NOT be so independent? Often we express a need for God when things are not going well in our lives but what about when things are well? Do we still need God? It feels vulnerable, maybe even weak, to need something. But Psalm 42 says, "Like a stag, a doe, longing for streams of cool water, my whole being longs for you, my God."

Next Sunday, as we celebrate all women for Mother's Day, we'll explore how our need for God might help our independence and self-sufficiency flourish both as individuals and a congregation. You are invited to read Psalm 42 in preparation for this worship service.

The 9:00 service will include a clown drama and the 11:15 service will include a clown skit and a choral reading.

Pastor Melissa

THIS WEEK AT BEACON HEIGHTS

Today

12:15 High School Cabinet

Monday

4:15 p.m. Nominating Committee

6:30 p.m. Nurture Commission

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Timbercrest Breakfast

5:30 p.m. Staff Relations Committee

7:30 p.m. Stephen Leaders

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Ladies Birthday Luncheon

8:00 p.m. Stewards Commission

Saturday

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Church Clean Up

10 a.m.. to 5 p.m. Clown Workshop

Food Bank

Mary Whitehead

Joan Thompson

Barb Thorn

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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STATISTICS

Sunday April 26, 2009

9:00 Worship	66
10:00 Sunday School	79
11:15 Worship	75
Adult Offerings	\$9,351.00
Children's Offering	\$2.00
Matching Grant	\$151.00
Weekly Budget	\$7,277.00

Annual Conference Information

Questions about this year's business?

The delegates to this summer's denominational Annual Conference, Dave Wysong and Carla Kilgore, would like to hear your thoughts, ideas, and concerns regarding the business coming to this year's Conference. They will be available after church on June 7, or feel free to contact them anytime. The new business for conference is listed at:

<http://www.cobannualconference.org/sandiego/business.html>.

Online Conference Schedule

The Annual Conference schedule for San Diego is online at <http://www.cobannualconference.org/sandiego/schedule.html>.

To find out about meal events, insight sessions, worship and more, just type the link above into your browser. Please do not hesitate to call the Annual Conference office if you have other questions (800-688-5186).

Safe Schools; Proposal Support

Today in the fellowship hall, you are invited to sign a proposal to create a "safe schools" program within the FWCS district and to add sexual orientation to their non-discrimination policy. Please talk with one of the pastors if you have any questions.

Next IHN Week

Our 2nd IHN week will begin May 31. This time St. Jude Catholic Church will take care of the first 3 evenings. Beacon Heights' volunteers are needed for suppers and activities on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of that week. The sign-up poster will be at the table in the fellowship hall after all services on Sundays and will be posted near the drinking fountain in the north narthex. God bless you as you help. Questions? Call Ethel Klopfenstein or Kyla Zehr.

COMMUNITY GARDENING PROJECT UPDATE

Good news! Beacon's Community Gardening Project 2009 currently has 26 units participating. This year, due to the balance between growers, helpers, and buyers, our plan is to use some funds to participate as a group in a Community Supported Agriculture program. That produce will be picked up at the farm on Sunday mornings by a Garden Project helper and distributed along with produce from our own growers. We believe this will enhance our harvest distributions for all.

The Garden Project welcomes additional participants to sign up as growers or buyers through May 10. Harvest Sundays will begin in June. Each participating unit will receive harvest distribution every other Sunday as in last year's project. However, the total group will be divided so that some receive on 1st & 3rd Sundays and others on 2nd & 4th Sundays. This will allow growers to provide produce at its prime and all participants to arrange in advance a trade with someone from the other rotation in event of absence.

Questions about these or other refinements of our Community Gardening Project? See Pastor Jan or Scott Dercks.

Ladies Birthday Luncheon

Please join us for the luncheon on Wed., May 13 @ 12:30 pm. Phyllis Hall is hosting it at the clubhouse of the complex where she lives, Brookside Lakes Condos, 7100 Stellan Rd. Please bring a salad or dessert to share (ladies with May birthdays do not need to bring anything). Main course and drinks will be provided. RSVP to Phyllis by Monday, May 11.

Stephen Ministry



The *Stephen Ministry* provides churches with the structure, training, and resources to set up and administer a complete system for a confidential lay caring-ministry in the congregation. In Stephen Ministry congregations, lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministry helps pastors and congregations provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

Steve Eikenberry, Connie McGowin, and Deb Romary are lay Stephen Leaders who have attended a fifty hour, week long Stephen Series Leader's Training Course, and now direct our congregation's Stephen Ministry with strong support from Stephen Series trained Pastors Jan and John Long. These Stephen Leaders will train and supervise lay care-givers to form a team of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one confidential Christian care to hurting people both inside and outside of our congregation.

STAY TUNED! Every week you'll read new information about Beacon Heights' Stephen Ministry right here!

Membership Sunday May 24

Join us on Sunday, May 24 as we welcome new members through transfer of letter and baptism. If you are interested in or would like more information about membership at Beacon Heights, please talk to Pastors Jan or John Long.

Would you believe it's that time again?

Messenger Subscriptions Due May 31

Messenger is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren published 11 times yearly by Brethren Press. (If you're not familiar with *Messenger*, look over a past copy on the oval table in the entry or in the church library.) New subscriptions are \$7.25, all others are \$14.50. You can also purchase a two-year subscription for 27.00 Forms are available on the counter in the church office. Please make checks payable to Beacon Heights Church.

Turn in your form and check to the office or put it in Anne Ott's mailbox by May 31.



Timbercrest Breakfast at Beacon Heights Tuesday, May 5

YOU ARE INVITED for a continental breakfast and fellowship time with folks from Timbercrest Retirement Community on Tuesday morning, May 5, from 8 am to 9:20 am. A group of about 25-30 residents will take a Fort Wayne church tour with the first stop to be at Beacon Heights for a continental breakfast, a brief tour of our church, and a time of fellowship.



Matching Grant Fundraiser Update

'Tis the season for trees to turn green with leaves. Our own matching grant tree has 32 leaves which represent the \$3200

raised so far. We have \$2800 more to go to reach our goal. Please consider a gift to this project to support both care giving and environmental awareness at Beacon Heights. You may donate by check, just write "grant match" in the memo line. I continue to be grateful for the generous spirit here at Beacon Heights. Dave Wysong, Board Chair



CLOWNING WORKSHOP (07) CLOWNS AND CLOWN WANNABE'S

**Saturday, May 9
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



Led by Carol Bowman who has led clowning workshops for NOAC, Annual Conference, and other denominational groups.

10 - Noon Clowning Basics for Beginners (including make-up and building a costume)

1 - 3 p.m. For Experienced Clowns (new tips and ideas for clown ministry)

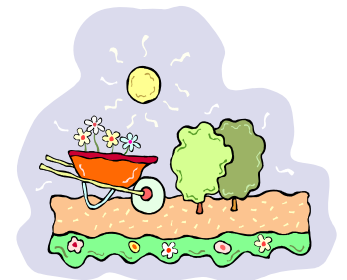
3:30 - 5 p.m. Working session for May 10 worship service skits

Come for part or all of the workshop!

Snacks provided but not lunch. Questions? Contact **Megan Feters** or **Pastor Brian Flory**.

The Landscape and Beautification Team can still use volunteers.

This is a team to be made up of people who like to do various kinds of lawn and/or landscaping work, and those who would be happy to pull some weeds, plant some flowers, do some mulching, but can't always make it when there is a stated event. You could even declare a certain area of shrubs will be yours to attend to (maybe even one particular tree or bush!).



Contact Leland Harding or Phil Wright if interested.

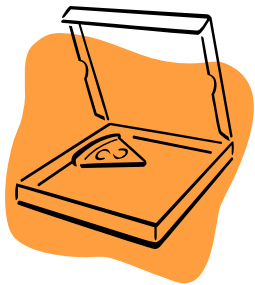
YOUTH

High School

Lock-in at the church!



7 p.m. May 15
through
8:30 a.m. May 16



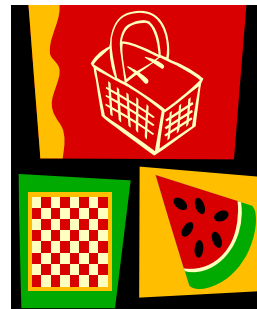
Bring: \$5 for bowling
and pizza
Games and Movies
Sleeping stuff

NEWS

Middle School

Saturday, May 30

Lunch and Games at Shoaff Park



10a.m. - 2p.m.
(drop off and pick up
directly at park)

Invite mentors, friends, or family!

Bring: a yummy sack lunch
your best kickball leg and
frisbee throwing arm!



In case of rain, go to the church.