



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

February 2020 Issue

Blessings Brothers & Sisters

Before we go forward, can you please take a moment and read Luke 14:28-30. Come back when you are done.

I want to tell you a story. Around 1 BC (Before Children) Ashley and I were living in a small “starter-house” that we were renting while I was continuing my education at Bethany. Our landlords were very nice, but they had just moved from Richmond to Maine, so if there were any issues that a landlord would normally address, they would ask me to take care of it, and they would cover the cost. The set up worked pretty well for us.

Now the house was built back in the 40’s and was built quickly, not necessarily well. The back door, possibly the original door had swelled and contracted for years and was causing an issue that appeared could be remedied with replacing the door knob. Simple job: a few screws and it would be done. Ashley and I went to Lowes, bought the doorknob, and went back home with the plan that I would work on the door the next day, because I didn’t have class until the afternoon.

The next morning, Ashley goes to work, I get up, have some breakfast and decide to just get the door repair done so it is done. I figure if I take my time and double check to make sure things are as they should, this project should only take about 30 minutes from start to finish. The estimate of time needed and the final time actually needed to complete the task was a

lot more, and Ashley would argue that the timer is still going because I didn’t actually do it right.

“...to follow Jesus’ teaching and ways would require a radical rejection of the standards of division and religiosity that had been used for so long to define the culture surrounding Jesus.”

In Luke 14, Jesus is engaged in conversation and teaching, seeking to shift the perspective that people have about what they should do. He challenges the people to care for one another no matter the day, and to not assume that they have a position of importance in the world. He uses these teaching points to get to a larger

point--that to follow Jesus’ teaching and ways would require a radical rejection of the standards of division and religiosity that had been used for so long to define the culture surrounding Jesus.

He uses the analogy of building a tower, a great and mighty task, to highlight the wisdom is taking time to stop and estimate, as best as the person can, what the cost will be to finish the task, and if they have the ability to do it, lest they be unable to finish what they start and be shamed for it. It is worth noting that the cost of completing the tower, in this mini-parable, includes not only the cost for the material and labor, but also the time. Time is one the variables that is often not accounted for.

Continued next page

Pastor's Note Continued

Time is a precious commodity and it is interesting how we view time. Kids could sit around all day, do nothing and proclaim with righteous anger that they were bored. They hadn't done anything all day and they would be despondent, angered, and punchy. However, if an adult is given the same situation, they are likely to experience a different set of emotions with the same passage of time. They may feel frustrated because the list of things to get done always grows. Or they may feel elated that they were able to just sit there and do nothing.

“Time is a precious commodity and it is interesting how we view time.”

Then there is the reality of the egg. Eggs are laid whole. However, even though it looks like nothing is happening, there is life growing inside the egg and the process of growing life within the egg cannot be rushed. It must take as long as it does to assure that the young, new life, has the best chance to flourish in its life. When Jesus is teaching the people to view any project as something that requires a serious accounting of what is known to be required for the project's completion and the other reality that the project may take longer than expected. It is the same as saying, “Measure twice, cut once.”

Back to the door. As I struggled with the door for hours, missing class and being thoroughly defeated by what was supposed to be a simple project, I was faced with a problem and a wide range of solutions: walk away from the problem and wait until Ashley gets home for her to do it, walk away and wait for Ashley to come home to ask her what she thinks I should do, call a buddy and ask them for help, keep trying, or something else. Well I was young and dumb and my youthful pride would not allow asking for help, so I did something else. Here is what I did.

I glued the doorknob in. There was a deadbolt, so the door would be secure, but the doorknob that was supposed to be able to move and have movement to open and close the door was now a handle. I was pretty proud of my solution. It wasn't ideal, but the house was old, I wasn't that great at home repair projects, (FYI, since then I have gotten much better and am actually serviceable as a home repairman), and the door shut and secured. I felt that I had spent 7 hours on a project that should have only taken 30 minutes, so though it wasn't the greatest solution, it was a solution. And I was proud of myself: my pride was intact, and the door job was...done.

Upon coming home, surveying my work and hearing my plight, Ashley assessed all of this and said that I didn't do the job right. In fact, as a consequence of my poor workmanship, I was banned from using the very powerful adhesive E-6000. It is important to remember that when anything is being done, it takes time for it to be done right. We are an instant culture and we are uncomfortable with waiting. But sometimes, waiting is the best thing to do. AMEN.

Blessings,
Pastor Lee Saylor

Those Serving in February

Greeters: February 2—Jane E. & Joy M., February 9—Carla D. & Diana H.,
February 16—Doris S. & Sue W., February 23—Gary & Dawn S.

Acolytes: TBD

Ushers: Tom W., Jr., Randy S., Taco C., Brain P.

Worship Leaders: February 2—Jane E. & Joy M., February 9—Carla D. & Diana H.,
February 16—Doris S. & Sue W., February 23—Gary & Dawn S.

Mark Your Calendars

Deadlines

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, February 16, 2020
Bulletin Articles: Thursday, 10:00am

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 7:00pm
Shepherding Prayer Group
Tuesday, February 18, 7:00pm

email: salemcob@gmail.com

Lee Saylor, Pastor

Office Hours 9:30am-12:00noon, Tues.-Fri.

937-540-4533; iamleebob@gmail.com

Carrie Smith, Administrative Assistant

Office Hours 9:00am-12:00noon, M-F

Karen Dillon, Director of Christian Ed.

February Birthdays-*Happy Birthday!!*

1-Kayla A.
1-Tony G.
2-Norma J.
7-Brad S.
7-Doris S.
7-Shane S.
13-Tonya G.
19-Jean K.



Sermons

February 2 *from Acts 6:1-7*
February 9 *from Matthew 5:13-20*
February 16 *from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9*
February 23 *from Matthew 17:1-9*



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00am Adult, Young Adult, and High School Sunday
School with Childcare
10:00am Morning Worship
10:15am Children's Sunday School
Nursery (ages 2 and under)

Wednesday Meal & Activities

6:00pm

In Our Prayers



Barbara C., Shirley C., Janet H., Leon & Waneta M., Earl M.

Long Term Needs: Elois C., Aaron M., Sam P., Chad P., Reta S.

Churches and more: Our district churches, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Godiya Bitrus), Bethany Theological Seminary

This & That



Sew What is at 9:00am on Wednesdays. No experience needed! Just come and tie, sew, and press, blankets and quilts to be donated to people around the world. Bring a packed lunch. See Carol Shroyer with any questions.

Wednesday Meal & Activities-6:00pm. Come enjoy a meal and activities for the kids.

The next **Shepherding Prayer Group** meeting is Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00pm in the parlor. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Does Carrie in the office have your updated email address? **Email her at salemcob@gmail.com to stay informed.**

Did you know?? The District sends a monthly newsletter via email. You can sign up at sod-cob.org or pick up a hard copy on the narthex table (or call Carrie in the office).

The Church of the Brethren sends out news and such via email. You can sign up for a number of communications by going to brethren.org.



Keep up to date with various information by having your number added to our **One Call system**. Announcements, meetings, and special events are communicated through One Call. Contact Carrie in the office at 836-6145, if you'd like to be added.



If you have a **prayer request** you'd like to go through the prayer chain One Call, please call Randy Schaurer at 231-7627. If he cannot be reached, please call Pastor Lee at 836-6145. If you'd like to get prayer requests, please let Carrie in the office know.

I would like to **thank everyone** for all the prayers that were given for my son Ron. It has been a trying 6 months, but he is recuperating quite well now. Thanks for the Christmas cards and poinsettia. God is Good! -Phyllis Bowman

District News

Some articles adapted/taken from the district newsletter. You can email sodcob@brethren.org to receive the district newsletter. There are also hard copies available on the narthex table.

Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

On Saturday, February 22, there will be a **Sewing Bee** at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Come at 9:00 AM to sew school bags for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine,

Can we talk? Conversations for Change through Story and Song

We are excited to welcome the Ted Swartz and Ken Medema "Can We Talk?" tour to the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. "Can we talk?" is a rollicking 90 minutes of story, song, laughter and moments of serious reflection around listening and conversation, especially when there is seemingly so much disagreement on issues in the church and society. The show includes classic and new material from Ted Swartz and Ken Medema. You will never be more than a few minutes from a laugh or a moment that makes you hold your breath.

Don't miss this opportunity.

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Northmont High School Auditorium

4916 National Rd

Clayton, OH 45315

Admission is free. A donation will be collected to benefit Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Disaster Ministry Local Response to support their work with victims of the 2019 Memorial Day Tornadoes. The event is sponsored by congregations of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. More information can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.

Young Adult Gathering

The next Young Adult Gathering will be on February 22, 2020. We plan to go bowling at the Poelking Woodman Lanes in Kettering beginning at 7:30. All young adults ages high school graduates through 39 are welcome. Contact Laura Brown at 937-267-0965 if you have any questions.

Day Of Caring 365-Salem Church of the Brethren Pancake Breakfast

The last Sunday of February has been the Day of Caring 365 for organizations to host a pancake breakfast that raises money for feeding homeless and other people in need. This all started 30 years ago when some people said they wanted to do something to support organizations that fed hungry people. They came up with the idea of inviting their church families to eat together after church with a simple meal of pancakes and sausages. Donations from the meal would go to homeless shelters and food banks. That is how it began. Now more than 29 sites are sharing this concept with local communities. All money raised stays in our area. Corporate sponsors pay for the food and supplies which allows all the money received from people attending the breakfasts to go to the neighborhood shelters and food banks. Salem Church of the Brethren is one of the sites and invites you to come for a pancake breakfast on February 23, 2020, from 11:30 to 2:00. The fellowship hall will be filled with delicious food and warm welcome. In the relaxed setting you can chat with new and old friends as you enjoy the breakfast, knowing you are supporting a great cause. Salem Church of the Brethren 6037 Phillipsburg Road Englewood, Ohio 937-836 6145.

Climate Justice Task Force Meeting- All are invited to the next meeting of the SOK District Climate Justice Task Force which will be held at Salem Church of the Brethren, on Wednesday, February 9 from 7-9pm. Please be in touch with Mark Lancaster at 510-809-6721 or marklancaster116@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

District News Continued

Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

Simple Living Weekend-March 27-28, 2020 at Cricket Holler

A simple lifestyle is one of the faith markers for the Church of the Brethren. It is part of our heritage and future. But how do we lead a simple life? The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren, through the Camping and Retreat Ministries, is hosting a weekend event to help us see the vision of a simple life. Everyone is invited to Cricket Holler for this event. All ages will have opportunities to learn, participate, and share ideas of simple living. Guest speakers, skilled believers in simple living, and community leaders will be offering workshops and discussions to help all of us live more simply. Topic will include: Zero Waste Living, Screen Sabbaths, Solar Cooking and Dehydrating, Global Warming, Making Washable Sandwich Bags, Bread Baking, Urban Gardening, and more. Some of the leaders are Dan Royer-Miller, Barb Saylor, Mark Lancaster, Katie Heishman, Tim Heishman, Susan Wible, and Karen Dillon. The schedule will be simple: Friday Gather in the evening around 6:00 pm Campfire with worship, singing, stories, sharing Snacks Head to cabins for those spending the night Saturday Breakfast 8:00 am Singing, gathering, short worship 9:00 Session 1 9:30 - 10:30 Break Session 2 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch!! Singing Session 3 1:00 - 2:00 Break Session 4 2:30 - 3:30 Closing People can come to spend the night in the cabins that have already been reserved. Simple meals will be prepared and shared. Some tasks like setting tables and dishwashing will need volunteers. The costs are also simple, thanks to the Cookie Camp profits. Complete retreat: \$25 per person Saturday only: \$15 If anyone is interested in being a presenter, please contact Karen Dillon, 937-238-6909, crimdill@aol.com

Denominational News

Some articles adapted/taken from Church of the Brethren Newslines.

You can sign up online to receive these newsletters and other communications at brethren.org .

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Lawan Andimi was executed by Boko Haram on Jan. 20. He was an ordained minister in Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), served as EYN district secretary for the Michika area, and was chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) for the Michika area. EYN staff sent confirmation of his death to Brethren Disaster Ministries associate executive Roy Winter early this morning. For the full story and article in *Christianity Today* go to www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/january/nigeria-boko-haram-kidnapped-pastor-hostage-video-testimony.html .

The Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) and the Global Food Initiative Fund (GFI) have announced first grants for the year 2020. Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed EDF grants to a rebuilding project in Florida following Hurricane Irma; new work of the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) under the direction of Church World Service (CWS); and flood relief in Kenya. The GFI grants support a corn- and bean-growing initiative of the Brethren in Venezuela and evaluation of an agriculture project in Haiti being supported through a grant from Growing Hope Globally. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/church-of-the-brethren-funds-first-grants-2020.html