

Branching Out



Volume 28 Number 6 May 12, 2011

Support Li'l Sprouts Sale

The second annual Li'l Sprouts Consignment Sale will be held in Beech Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the benefit of Shepherd's Gate, (SGCC). Last year's event netted over \$4000.

All items relate to children and young mothers: gently used children's clothing - shoes and accessories from newborn to teen sizes as well as maternity clothing will be available, sized on racks like in a department store. There will also be children's furniture, strollers, toys, games and books available.

Differing from previous rummage sales benefitting SGCC, those who donate items may earn up to 70% with a minimum of 30% of proceeds going to the childcare center.

Shepherd's Gate staff and Board members will serve breakfast and lunch items. There will also be a bake sale. The always popular plant and flower sale will be conducted outside. Gale Sommers will also sell Mary Kay products and her fabric purses and kitchen items.

Set up for sellers will be Thursday and Friday evening. Anyone wishing to help with set up before, work during the sale or help with cleanup after, please contact Jen Hartzler: jenhartzler2@gmail.com for details.

Vacation Bible School

Beech Church's annual Vacation Bible School will be held June 12-16, Sunday-Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the church. This year's theme is "Taste and See: God is Good". If you are interested in helping, contact Stephanie Miller or Ann Leaman.

Have a Blessed

Mother's Day



Mission notes

Beech MWS all-day May meeting was postponed until this **Wednesday, May 11**. **Items for Hammer & Nails** are still being accepted, as well as gift cards and money. Please place items in the box in Narthex. Please check the list on the Missions and Service bulletin board by secretary's office for needed items.

Two work days are being planned in June. On **Sat., June 4**, a county-wide crew (COOL) is doing a clean-up in SE Canton. See Jen for details. Cookie bakers are needed on Thurs. evening June 2 for this project. Join the MYF at 7 p.m. in the church kitchen. Please sign up on the Missions bulletin board if you can be part of a Beech crew led by Arden Schmucker on **Sat., June 11** at a Canton area **Hammer & Nails** home renovation site. Melanie Black has paperwork for this project. Early registrations is requested for these days. Thank you for all your generous help!

Spring Missions speaker

Sarah (Witmer) Leaman as our Spring Missions speaker on Sunday, May 22, will present the story of Lifebridge Church in Dover, Ohio. Sarah, daughter of Jim and Rachel Witmer, grew up in Beech Church, but has lived in Dover with her husband, Joel, and their three daughters for the past 14 years.

Sarah and Joel have been involved in Lifebridge from its inception. In 2007, Dover residents, Chet and Holly Miller-Eshleman, held the first services in their home. With Chet as pastor, the group grew, moving into a Dover Comfort Inn conference room. Later, the congregation met in an unused Dover-area store.

By December, 2008, a historic building on the square in Dover, built as a United Methodist Church in the late 1800's and later used by Salvation Army as a multi-purpose thrift store/ meeting place, was purchased by LifeBridge

The congregation presently averages about 90 people each Sunday and has a significant group of small children. A distinctive feature of the church is the service being translated from English to Spanish by Mike and Mattie Marie Mast for the many Hispanic attendees.

Some of the LifeBridge members previously had negative church experiences. Also many members can walk to its urban location, which appeals to those who do not have transportation. The manner of service and style of dress is also casual.

Dover has many churches, but the
(continued on page 2)

Corner

Just as Barnabas encouraged others in the New Testament church, let us encourage others here at Beech Church. If you would like to thank someone for a job well done, place your item for "Barnabas' Corner" in Deanna Slater or Rachel Witmer's mailbox

from the editor's desk

Following Daniel

I was swept up into watching the recent "Royal wedding," but it was a sidebar story that is the basis for this editorial. I was intrigued by the magnificent horses who pulled the carriages and moved so elegantly. The horses who have lived on our farm have displayed their intellect and independent spirit, as well as being sensitive to changes in routine and, not always, predictably. So I was intrigued to hear a discussion of how these animals were managed and performed so uniformly and safely.

The comments centered on a horse named "Daniel" who functioned as leader of the horses assigned to the carriages. The commentator stated that when Daniel was lead horse, the other horses would follow his disciplined performance regardless of distractions by crowds, bands and unusual sights and sounds.

I was intrigued by this thought – when our world is presenting all manner of distractions, perhaps each of us should consider being a "Daniel". If we present a model of discipline that can always be counted on, who can imagine the behavior that might be influenced. Animals need to be trained and directed by skilled managers. But we, created in the image of God and followers of Jesus, can strive to be leaders who truly model the Christian life. rw

Branching Out is the newsletter of Beech Mennonite Church. Its purpose is to keep the members and regular attendees informed of coming events and of the church organizations' activities.

The publication date is the first Sunday of every month. The submission deadline is the last Sunday of the preceding month.

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Spring Missions (continued from pg. 1)

attend church regularly is low. The grace of God, the leading of the Holy Spirit, assistance of fellow churches and a vision of a bridge reaching out to those who have a different concept of doing church has led to Life-bridge.

Our entire offering will be given to international, national and local missions.

Letter from the Philippines

Dear Ministry Partners

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mat 16:24)

With this same invitation, the Lord Jesus Christ challenged the Isnags who come to our small group Bible study on Good Friday morning. In response, an old woman said, *"I have been a believer for many years, but I only realized now that I was heavy on one side in my walk with the Lord."* She was referring to the fact that she has been following the Lord, but not practicing self denial and she had not been taking up her cross. Several... others echoed the same conviction. I am sure this was not the first time they heard it. *"Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."* (Luke 24:4) This is an answer to your prayers.

In our sharing time, another older woman..said, *"Many times I have felt discouraged and defeated in my problems, but I realized from our Bible Study that Lord Jesus..is within us, and He is my strength."* I did not give a message in our Easter service. I felt the Lord wanted me to have a congregational Bible study and it proved effective in getting the significance of the resurrection of our Lord across to them...

...more comments from people..."I am thankful for Holy Week celebrations because the Lord used it to 'wake me up' because often it's like I am asleep in my faith."

This year we broke our tradition of serving lunch on Good Friday (because) many believed in previous years some people came only for lunch..We were encouraged to know that more people come to worship the Lord than for other reasons. The church was full..about 300 people.

However as I watched people leave..I felt sorry for them. Many had to hike 40 minutes to an hour..under intense heat..so we decided to serve lunch on Easter... It was such a joy to see the whole church eating together and enjoying the fellowship.

... Our expat guests said, *"In our four days there, we witnessed the power of the translated word and effect it has had on the Isnag people... We saw the fruit and it was plentiful. God's Word is active and powerful."*

..God answered your prayers for our traveling mercies... Again it was a blessing to serve God among the Isnag people..

Joyfully serving the Lord in partnership with you,

Rudy

Transferred to Heaven.....

During the past month, Beech has lost two of our most faithful members, **Garrison Hostetler** and **Mildred Schmucker**.

Garrison, Beech's congenial 'elder states-man,' passed away April 8, 2011 after a brief stay at Bethany Home in Canton. Born in Nimishillen Twp., September 19, 1920, to the late Alvin and Mary (Schloneger) Hostetler, he lived in the area until moving to North Canton with his daughter in his latter years. He taught Sunday School classes here for 40 years and faithfully attended, missing just two Sundays prior to his passing. He had worked at Old King Cole/Trilogy Plastics for 50 years. Garrison enjoyed gardening, reading, traveling here and abroad with his daughter and walking his dog.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Arline (Conrad), to whom he was married for 54 years. Garrison was the loving father of a daughter and Beech Church member, Sheila Hostetler of North Canton and a son and daughter-in-law, Ted and Sue Hostetler of Lynchburg, VA; three grandchildren, Libby Hostetler of Roselle Park, NJ, Daniel Hostetler of Charlottesville, VA and Tim (Tasha) Hostetler and his only great-grandson, Trent of Colorado Springs, CO. He is also survived by a sister, and Beech member, Grace, of Louisville, and two brothers, Vernon (Barbara) Hostetler of North Canton and Robert (JoAnn) Hostetler of Condon, MT. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Chauncey, Roy and Lloyd and two sisters, Ida and Vesta. Pastor Dan King conducted a celebration of life service on April 12 with Garrison's daughter as organist and his granddaughter, pianist. His interment is in Beech Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Beech Church Library or MCC.

Mildred (Sommers) Schmucker of Louisville had her triumphant home-going from St. Joseph Care Center after years of ill health. Born 1919 to the late John and Bertha (Taylor) Sommers, Mildred was a graduate of Louisville H.S. and an active member of Beech Mennonite Church throughout her life, serving as a Sunday School and Summer Bible School teacher for many years and a WMS leader. She had worked in the Washington E.S. cafeteria and was a member of Louisville Sweet Adelines.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Elden Schmucker in 2003 and two siblings, Maxine Martin Brooks and Arline Schmucker of Beech. She is survived by four loving daughters and spouses, Ruth Anne and Edwin Bonetreger of Fair Oaks, IN, Marcia and John

Miller of Farmington Hills, MI, Eunice and Ted Miller of Lake Milton, OH and Elva and Edward Miller of Lake Milton, OH, as well as eight grandchildren and twenty great-grand-children. Also surviving are three sisters, Lucille Schmucker and Lavera Helmuth of Beech and Gladys Gingerich and four brothers, Earl of Beech, Owen, Elvin and Merle Sommers.

Pastor Dan King conducted her memorial service with participation of her daughters and sister, Lavera. Mildred's interment is in Beech Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Adriel Foundation, West Liberty, OH or to the Beech Mennonite Church Memorial Fund.

Dates to remember

Today – Happy Mother's Day!

Mon. – 7 p.m. – Shepherd's Gate Board mtg.

**Tues. – 6:15 p.m. Bible Study – Church
6:30 – Elders mtg. at Nancy's**

Thur. – 9:30 a.m. – Bible Study at Lavera's

Sunday – May 15 – Baptism – 10:30 a.m.

MYF pizza orders due in Narthex

Thur. – May 19 – 7 P.m. – Church Council mtg.

**Sat. – May 21 – Li'l Sprouts Consignment Sale- 8-2
Plants and bake sale, breakfast & lunch served**

**Sunday – May 22 – Spring Missions – speaker
Sarah Witmer Lehman, Lifebridge, Dover**

Thurs. eve. – June 2 – Baking for COOL on Sat.

Sat., June 4 – COOL work day – see Tanya

Sat., June 11 – Hammer & Nails – Canton workday

**Sunday – Th – June 12-16 – 6:30 -8:30 p.m. – VBS
at Beech, applications available online now**

Did you know...

....Beech MYFers invite others to join them in the church kitchen Thurs. eve., June 2 to help bake cookies needed for the Sat., June 4 workday in Canton?

....that Lloyd Schmucker and Roger Slater were heard comparing pie baking methods and ingredients? Is a pie bakeoff in the works? (Did you know that Lloyd wooed his future wife Friedegund in Nepal by baking an apple pie?)

Estate Tag Sale

Collin Miller will sell belongings of the late Eileen Schmucker on Thursday-Saturday, May 19-21 at her home on 1104 Wellman, Louisville. (Directions: North on Pennsylvania off West Main Street) Sale items include some antiques, furniture, clothing and a 2001 Ford Focus – 4 door, automatic. Her house also will be for sale.

Pastor's Corner

Looking for the Sun

It has been a most dreary spring thus far by all counts. Even many in these parts who normally don't struggle with SAD (seasonal affective disorder) have been commenting on our unusually cold, wet and cloudy spring. I was surprised to read in the paper that it was not the rainiest April on record. In fact, it came in as #11 in terms of rainfall totals for Stark County. There were, however, only 2-3 days in the month that weren't considered cloudy.

By the time Easter rolled around, I was in desperate need of some sunshine! Jeanette and I had planned to spend the next week at my brother's place in Hickory, NC. But as we pulled out of our garage early Monday morning, we told ourselves (quite seriously, I believe) that if there was no sun in NC, we would keep on driving south until we found it! About 2 ½ hours later, around Charleston, W VA, there it was! Big, yellow, and warm. And with every additional mile, more flowers in bloom and more trees with expanding leaf cover.

About a year ago, several of my sisters-in-law, country music lovers that they are, introduced Jeanette (and me) to the song "*Some Beach*" by Blake Shelton. A sampling of the lyrics: "*Some beach somewhere...there's a big umbrella casting shade over an empty chair...palm trees are growin' and a warm breeze's blowing...I picture myself right there...on some beach, somewhere.*" It wasn't Shelton's tropical beach, but at least my brother's place on the outskirts of Hickory was lakefront property. It didn't take us long, after arriving, to don sleeveless tops and shorts and head down the steep hill to the boathouse. First, the ecstasy of soaking up the sun while reading a good book. Then a canoe ride together. Later I jumped in for a brief swim; Jeanette said the water was still too cold. More basking in the sun at the water's edge while browsing through several magazines on beekeeping. On Tuesday we took a side trip to my nephew's place in Chapel Hill for an evening meal and overnight, then headed leisurely back toward Hickory the next morning, exploring a few interesting shops along the way. The rest of the week the Toyota stayed parked as we enjoyed more sunshine, more reading, another canoe ride, and lots of visiting with brother Walter and his wife Miriam.

There was a little rain and some clouds midweek, but sun and warm temps most of the time. Heading back home on Friday, we were amused to see the beginnings of cloud cover once again as we approached Charleston. We thought about Rich Linder's insightful words at our Easter sunrise service, about the certainty that the sun is shining somewhere above the clouds. It will eventually break through. Hang in there. Summer will come.

Addendum: The bulk of my reading on vacation was "*The Sheer Ecstasy of being a Lunatic Farmer*" by Joel Salatin. I would recommend it to everyone at Beech. It certainly got me even more excited about plunging my fingers into garden soil (whenever it chooses to dry out!) and getting those delicious, nutritious veggies growing!

Dan King