

2012—A New Year!!

By Pastor John Layman

Hempfield Church of the Brethren---what an incredible family of faith!! What an awesome joy and privilege it is to worship, serve, grow and fellowship with you! Peggie and I have been so blessed in our time of ministry with you! Our joy in ministry has never been greater!!

But...there comes a time... this year my tenure as Senior Pastor will come to an end as I move into a new chapter of life called retirement. And as I transition out as Senior Pastor I know God has just the right person to transition in. My prayer is that the pastoral transition will be smooth as silk! And why wouldn't it be? Who wouldn't be excited and motivated to be the lead pastor of a group as vibrant, faithful, and loving as you?

Well, in looking back to last year, 2011 was an exciting, joy filled, and stretching year for ministry at the Hempfield Church of the Brethren!! We were incredibly active and energetic in embracing our call to be the body of Christ on earth! The hands and feet of Christ at Hempfield have some wear and tear on them as we shared in significant ministries with Christ this past year. Worship was vibrant, personal growth was embraced, and ministries within and beyond the local church were expansive.

In 2011, our financial stewardship was stretched as well. In addition to our general 2011 ministry budget of almost \$500,000, and all the lives and communities touched through that!!!!, we were presented with and responded to significant additional ministry challenges as well.

As a congregation we responded to the challenge of being a lead sponsor for a Habitat Home in Lancaster, we responded with overwhelmingly generous support for a capital funds project for new heating/cooling units for our church building, we participated in a project for clean up buckets for emergency disaster relief, and shortly thereafter responded with great generosity to our own local disaster relief efforts!!

What a year of ministry!! Thank You for many who went well over and above your normal giving to make sure our commitments to Jesus were fulfilled!! Lives have been deeply impacted and blessed and God smiles on you with His affirming warmth! Thanks You!!

Now on to a new year-2012!! I am so excited about our preaching/study theme, "Christ lives through me! Christ lives through us!" I can't wait to start the journey. This is going to be a GREAT year!! Hold on, the journey begins!

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Grains of Rice

By Pastor Kent Rice

The Sweet Spot

If you've ever struck a ball with an object such as a bat, racquet, or club, you may have experienced something called "the sweet spot." It's that exact spot on your implement of choice that gives you the maximum impact and the feeling of *really* connecting. Whack! The ball just takes off and you feel like a million bucks. The sporting enthusiast lives for those moments—they make all the other moments worthwhile.

Think about where your "sweet spot" is in your spiritual life this year. Is there a passion, an environment, a circumstance that gives you that feeling? Maybe it's time alone in prayer. Maybe it's serving a meal at a soup kitchen. Maybe it's adding your voice to the other voices in the choir. Everybody has a sweet spot.

Seek out your sweet spot. Crave it. Pick up a bat and continually put yourself in a position where you might connect. Could you hit a game-winning home run if you didn't even suit up? Could you score an eagle on the golf course if you weren't out there banging away with your clubs? Could you stroke a volley down the line if you never picked up your racquet?

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, you *won't* hit your sweet spot. You might even swing and miss! That's okay. Keep hungering after it. When you've experienced that feeling of intimacy with God—that feeling of connectedness—you'll know that nothing else in the world comes close. If you don't know where to start looking, ask God to search your heart.

Find your sweet spot in Christ this year!

*You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.*

*You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

*Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely – Psalm 139:1-4*

Messages in January

January 1



Loving the Garbage Collector!—Psalm 103:1-12

Pastor John Layman preaching

Let's think together about beginning a new year and how to live fully for Jesus. What ministries has Jesus put on your heart for this year? How can you maximize Jesus' living through you? Come and see!

January 8



Fools for Christ—1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5 (Selected Verses)

Pastor John Layman preaching

No one likes to look foolish. There is something in all of us that simply wants to fit in. But to be a follower of Christ means that we will often be out of step with the world and sometimes look foolish! Are you willing to identify yourself with the fellowship of fools as Christ lives through you?

January 15



So-So Sowers—Mark 4:3-20

Pastor Kent Rice preaching

The parable of the sower is a very familiar one--perhaps *too* familiar. Today we will examine this teaching of Jesus from a different perspective. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear!

January 22



Remembrance Service—Calling the Roll Down Here

Romans 16:1-16—Pastor John Layman

Today we remember loved ones, brothers and sisters in Christ, who died in the year 2011. We come to remember their lives and hear the promises of God. We also come to remember that the gift of people who bless our lives is one of God's great gifts. Let us come and remember and praise God!

January 29



Mission Impossible? —Luke 10:1-20

Pastor Geoff Davis preaching

Imagine you're told to go on a trip to several towns to do some important work and you're given these instructions: "Travel light. Comb and toothbrush and no extra luggage. Don't loiter and make small talk with everyone you meet along the way. When you enter a home, greet the family, 'Peace.' Stay at one home, taking your meals there. Don't move from house to house. When you enter a town and are received, eat what they set before you, heal anyone who is sick, and tell them, 'God's kingdom is right on your doorstep.'" [from *The Message*] You'd think that it's impossible, but when we allow Christ to live through us, what is seemingly impossible is very possible.

January Ministry Schedules

January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL

Billie Besser & Kelly Moore
Billie Besser & Sue Hostetter
Billie Besser & Gerry Shuman
Billie Besser & Lois Killian
Billie Besser & Jody Kettering

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle & Betty Lull
Marg Zurin & Peggie Layman
Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller
Betty Cox & Lydia/Sarah Fisher
Jaynelle Troxell & Marg Zurin



January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Rich & Jamie Bushong
Matt Markey
Dave Schott
No 8:00 Service
Rich & Jamie Bushong

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Jaynelle Troxell
Rich Bushong & Jaynelle Troxell
Mike & Donna Denlinger
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Rich & Jamie Bushong



January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Kent Rice
Janice Haldeman
Tom Fritz
No 8:00 Service
Pete Cope

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBA
Jerry & Sarah Barger, Daphne & Janelle Witmer
Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Doug Howard
Alex Troxell
Dave Bendit
Derek Witmer

January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

DEACON GREETERS

Doris Wright
Wes Bowers
Carl Haas
Ruth Johnson
Tom Connelly

OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Sylvia Heffley

HCOB Adult Sunday School

‡ **THE EXPLORERS OF THE WORD** class is located upstairs. For the month of January we will be studying the culture and background of the Jewish people in Biblical times. The contact person is Lois Dewar.

‡ **THE CHRISTIAN PATHFINDERS** class meets in the room across from the nursery, just outside the side door to the sanctuary. We study the International lesson. We have three or four regular teachers who each teach about one Sunday a month. We have several socials a year with the majority of our class participating. Our offerings are used for special needs within our congregation or community. The contact person is Ruth Johnson.

January 1	Joseph Shows Character	Teacher: Denny Bushong
January 8	Joseph Finds Favor	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
January 15	God Preserves a Remnant	Teacher: Jim Kettering
January 22	Joseph Transmits Abraham's Promise	Teacher: Bob Heffley
January 29	Israel Is Delivered from Egypt	Teacher: Tom Fritz

‡ **THE HOME BUILDERS** class meets in the library. We study the International Lesson each quarter. Millie Hoffman is the contact person.

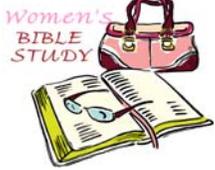
January 1	Joseph Shows Character	Teacher: Jim Kettering
January 8	Joseph Finds Favor	Teacher: Denny Bushong
January 15	God Preserves a Remnant	Teacher: Anthony Jarrett
January 22	Joseph Transmits Abraham's Promise	Teacher: Ray Hutchison
January 29	Israel Is Delivered from Egypt	Teacher: Todd Basom

‡ **THE SEEKERS** class is currently meeting upstairs. Join us for a study of the book of 1 Thessalonians. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

January 1	TBD	
January 8	1 Thess. 5:12-15 (Gifts to Give the Family)	Teacher: Pete Cope
January 15	1 Thess. 5:16-22 (Germs that Make Us Contagious)	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
January 22	1 Thess. 5:22-28 (What a Way to Say Good-bye)	Teacher: Tom Fritz
January 29	Starting New Testament Book of Colossians	Teacher: Todd Basom

‡ **CONVERSATIONS--** Conversations Class meets every Sunday in Chapel Hall. In January, we'll begin examining the exhaustive work that Randy Alcorn has done on the most fascinating aspect of our Christian beliefs – Heaven. We'll be studying scripture, watching a video series by Alcorn, and using some of his writing to get a personal, deeper understanding of the new heavens and the New Earth. As Alcorn writes, "If you've always thought of Heaven as a realm of clouds, disembodied spirits, and eternal harp strumming, you're in for a wonderful surprise." Geoff Davis teaching.

HCOB Family News



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will be doing a series this winter by Priscilla Shirer called "He Speaks to Me." We will study how God spoke to Samuel and how He desires to speak to us personally today. The Bible study will be held at Ruth Johnson's home from 9:15-11:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays starting January 19th and will meet for 6 sessions. If you are interested in participating in this study please contact Jamie Bushong or Ruth Johnson.

Service of Remembrance 2012 *January 22, 2012—10:15 AM*

On Sunday morning, January 22, we will be holding **one service at 10:15 AM** to remember and honor our loved ones who have died in 2011. We will **not be having our normal 8:00 AM service** on that day.

If you would like to remember a loved one who has died in the past year, please complete the Name & Photo Submission Form on the next page. The form is also available on the narthex table at church or on our church website (www.hempfieldcob.org). Names and pictures will be displayed on the projection screen during the service. If you do not wish to submit a picture, your loved one's name will be displayed on the screen when his or her name is read. **All forms and pictures must be submitted to the church office by Sunday, January 8th.** We also invite you or a member of your family to come forward during the service to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If no one from your family can be present or you would prefer not to come forward, someone else will light the candle for you. You will also receive the candle and a white carnation as a gift from the church at the end of the service. Thank you in advance for your help as we prepare for this special service.



AN EDUCATION GRANT was established by Hempfield Church of the Brethren to aid members and children of members in their education. The guidelines state that it is for those who "are enrolled in a full time or part time program at a college which indicates in their mission statement that it is a Christian college and/or a student who is enrolled in a part-time specialized ministerial/student Christian training program or missions project." Applications for this grant must be completed and returned to the Education Team by May 1, 2012. For an application and/or the complete guidelines, please contact the church office or Sally Davis (569-6284).



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR COOKIE BAKERS who contributed to the Brethren Village Auxiliary Cookie Sale on December 2. It was a very successful fundraiser with sales of \$1,521.00. --Gerrie Hurst & Lois Killian

Remembrance Sunday
January 22, 2012
Name & Photo Submission Form

*Please complete the information below to submit a name for the Remembrance Sunday and return this form to the church office by **Sunday, January 8th**. Thank you for participating in our Service of Remembrance and helping us prepare a very special service.*

Your name: _____ **Your phone number:** _____

Name of person you want to remember: _____
(Please print name as you want it to appear on the screen)

Your relationship to this person: (i.e. mother/friend etc.) _____

Will you be present at the service to receive the carnation and the candle?

- Yes
- No, but someone else will pick up the carnation and candle in my place
- No, the church may do as they wish with the carnation and candle

Who wishes to light the candle during the service?

- You
- Another relation (please write in relation's name) _____
- I would like a church representative to light the candle

Would you like to submit a photo of your loved one? (The photo will be displayed during the service.)

- Yes *(please observe the requirements below and complete the remainder of the form)*
- No *(please ignore the remainder of the form)*

Requirements for photos:

(If the photo you have does not meet these requirements, please attach it and Amy will see what she can do.)

- The photo should be a good quality, well-lit, color photo (not black and white)
- The individual's face should be clearly away from other objects
- The individual's face should be at least one inch in diameter
- Digital pictures should be at least 2000 x 1500 pixels

Printed Photo

- Please enclose photo in an envelope with your name and the name of the person you wish to be remembered written on it.
- Do you want the office to return your photo? Yes No
(If "yes" please include a self-addressed envelope)

Digital Photo

- The photo is attached on a CD or other digital media
- I will e-mail the photo to office@hempfieldcob.org

*If you have questions, please contact Amy Smith at the church office at 898-0181 or office@hempfieldcob.org.
May the peace of God fill your heart as you remember the life of your loved one.*

Praying Attention

Many years ago I managed a gym. January was always the busiest month, both in membership sales and attendance? Why? Because of the “New Year’s Resolution Crowd.”

You see, every January people would resolve to “get back into shape” or “lose some weight” or “be more active” and so, come early January, the regulars would find their workouts interrupted by having to wait their turn for equipment. On those occasions when they would get frustrated, I would remind them, “don’t worry—the ‘New Year’s Resolution Crowd’ will be gone in a few weeks.” And sure enough, by the third or fourth week of January things were back to normal—the regulars didn’t have to wait any more. Some people would even pay in full for the whole year and only come four or five times.

There are probably some people in historical record who have made and kept a New Year’s Resolution but probably not many. I learned that if something is *really* important, don’t make a Resolution about it—just do it. Because if something is really important today, it’s probably important *tomorrow*, too.

Prayer is important.

Please don’t make a resolution about prayer this year. Just start praying, because even well-intentioned goals like reading the Bible in a year feel like failure when they’re not met. If you find yourself falling asleep and think, “Wow, I didn’t feel so good about my prayer life today,” guess what? Tomorrow is chock full of opportunities. Maybe God will put a burden on your heart. Maybe Scripture will open something up. Maybe you’ll interact with someone and feel led to pray for them. Or maybe you’ll mess up something so badly that you’ll come begging to God for help!

The regulars at the gym were in pretty good shape for the most part. Why? Because they consistently showed up and made fitness a part of their life all week long. They just didn’t feel right if they didn’t. Prayer can become like that too! You can get yourself to the point at which you physically cannot fall asleep unless you’ve prayed. As your relationship with God deepens through prayer, it becomes more and more natural. There are peaks and valleys—that’s ok. Just keep showing up.

Show up in prayer this year. You might find that something that used to feel forced and unnatural is becoming the most natural thing in the world.

HCOB Youth News

Youth Events: January-August 2012

Jan 13-14: Lock-in
Jan 29: Missions Lunch Fundraiser
Feb 5: Souperbowl with Lancaster COB Youth
Feb 17-20: Winter Retreat
Feb 26: Missions Breakfast Fundraiser
March 16-17: District Senior High Lock-in at Skippack COB
Mar 25: Missions Lunch Fundraiser
April 22: Bring a Friend Sunday at HCOB!
May 13: Youth Sunday
Summer TBD: International Missions Trip
June 26-July 1: Creation Festival

How Can I Help Our Youth?

1. Pray for them--school and modern culture are minefields!
2. Contribute to missions events
3. Get to know our youth—send a card, say hi!
4. Offer to help organize a fundraiser, especially a new idea
5. Be patient as they grow, learn and make mistakes...nobody’s perfect

HCOB Calendar

Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

for a full calendar of events.

**Toon of
The Month**



**Toon of
The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
East Petersburg, PA 17520

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



JANUARY