

New Life!

By Pastor John Layman

As the winter disappears (warm as it was) and buds and flowers emerge, so the sorrowful season of Lent gives way to the joyous celebration of Easter life.

Jesus, our glorious Redeemer, through the cross and the resurrection, defeats the powers of sin and death, and offers **new life**, resurrection life, eternal life to us through Him. Jesus says to His followers, "Because I live, you too shall live!" Jesus says, I go to prepare a place for you...so where I am you may be also." Jesus says "I am the Resurrection and the life...whoever believes in Me will never die."

Therefore, Paul says "those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." New life in Christ. Living for the One who lived and died for you!

My prayer for us as a church is that the joy filled resurrection life may blossom more and more fully among us with Christ's resurrected Spirit saturating us as a people. As we blossom in the Christ-life, increasingly others will know we are His followers by our love, our care, and our grace. Others will see how we cherish one another as we worship and serve together. They will see that oneness, that unity, that Jesus so yearned for among His followers that He prayed about in John 17.

My prayer is that we may be more and more passionately alive in Christ in all that we are and do!

Followers of Christ! Another way of living- resurrection living! Be looking around our community of faith and when you see new blooms, new Christ life, praise God and affirm the action! Let's commit to continue dying to the old (self centered ways), and living as resurrection people, raised to new life in Christ!

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Grains of Rice

By Pastor Kent Rice

Why Are We Here?

Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! -- John 13:37-38

It’s amazing that we’re still here.

Who is “we,” you ask? Us. The Christian Church.

Being the cultured sort of gentleman that I am, I found myself recently in the Bank of America Lounge at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore after having enjoyed a splendid musical recital. While eating a few dozen cookies, I looked at the plaster art replicas that adorned the walls. I noticed that Luke had the biggest forearms of the Four Evangelists and wondered if it was from chiseling all those prescriptions! But I also noticed many pieces that featured famous well-dressed church leaders riding around in lavish chariots, holding huge crosses that looked more like weapons while (according to the captions) “blessing” the multitudes. They stuck me as being about as different from Jesus as one could get.

I thought about the Crusades—a time in which zealots forced people to convert to Christianity at the point of a sword.

Then there’s good old Peter. He was one of the “big three” among the disciples—allowed to experience moments of greater intimacy with Christ than the others. But the times when he “didn’t get it” seem to outnumber the times when he did. Notice in John 13 that Christ does not tell Peter about the upcoming denial *until* Peter boasts that he would “lay down his life” for Jesus.

“Oh, really...” Jesus replies. Even at the end, Peter the Fisherman lops off a guard’s ear and Christ gently reminds him that once again, he doesn’t get it.

So how is it that after twenty centuries of ignorance, coerced conversions, holier-than-thou dispositions and every possible abuse suffered at the hands of clergy and laypeople alike we are still *here*? How are people still boldly proclaiming the name of Christ after the world has given us every reason not to?

Simple. It’s God’s will that we’re still here. What other reason can there be? Faith, hope and love still find their way in through the cracks because God wants them to. Roses still bloom even though we’ve sown little but drywall screws into the ground. We’re here because we’re *supposed* to be here. And why are we supposed to be here? The answer is found in 1 John 3:23:

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

Love someone today--*that’s* why you’re here!

Messages in April

April 1



The Lord Has Need of YOU!—Luke 19:28-40

Pastor John Layman preaching

Today we remember Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem on His way to the cross. Let's relive the events of that day and hear what Jesus has to say to us!

April 8



Risen to New Life!—John 20:1-18

Pastor John Layman preaching

Join us on this festive Easter day! Remember that because He lives, "we too shall live." Come and celebrate with us the promise of life eternal!

April 15



Walking with Jesus—Luke 24:13-35

Pastor John Layman preaching

In today's text we encounter two disciples who meet the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Let's learn from their experience about walking with Jesus!

April 22



I'm a Mess!—Matthew 9:11-13

Pastor Kent Rice

Join us for worship on Bring a Friend Sunday. And bring a friend!

April 29



Teachers, Preachers & Healers—Matthew 9:35-38

Pastor Geoff Davis

If Christ lives through us, our work has to include the three, main tasks that he performed during his earthly ministry. "But I don't have those gifts," you might say. You'd be surprised what Christ can and does do through you and us.

April Ministry Schedules

April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
 Jen Hinton & Sue Musser
 Jen Hinton & Carolyn Fritz
 Sue Musser & Jody Kettering
 Linda Carper & Doris Wright

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle & Betty Lull
 Marg Zurin & Peggie Layman
 Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller
 Betty Cox & Lydia/Sarah Fisher
 Carol Koser & Julie Myer



April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Rich & Jamie Bushong
 Matt Markey
 Dave Schott
 Rich & Jamie Bushong
 Matt Markey

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

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



April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Kent Rice
 Pete Cope
 Ray O'Boyle
 Randy Ziegler
 Janice Haldeman

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
 TBA
 Ashley Kern
 TBA
 TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
 Sanctuary Choir
 Barger Family
 TBA
 Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
 Dave Bendit
 Derek Witmer
 Alex Troxell
 Dave Bendit

April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

DEACON GREETERS

Paula Connelly
 Pete Moore
 Mary Ann Fisher
 Doris Wright
 Wes Bowers

OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Bev Moyer

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **THE EXPLORERS OF THE WORD** class is located upstairs. For the month of April we will be doing a study on the book of Ephesians. 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.

April 1	Jesus Testifies to the Truth	Teacher: Dennis Bushong
April 8	Jesus Lives	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
April 15	Discussion re: The Future of HCOB Sunday School	
April 22	Samaritan Woman Finds Living Water	Teacher: Bob Heffley
April 29	Blind Man Receives Sight	Teacher: Tom Fritz

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

April 1	Jesus Testifies to the Truth	Teacher: Anthony Jarrett
April 8	Jesus Lives	Teacher: Dennis Bushong
April 15	Discussion re: The Future of HCOB Sunday School	
April 22	Samaritan Woman Finds Living Water	Teacher: Suzanne Brubaker
April 29	Blind Man Receives Sight	Teacher: Pete Cope

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

April 1	The Hole in Our Gospel	Teacher: Todd Basom
April 8	Easter Sunday	Teacher: Rich Bushong
April 15	Discussion re: The Future of HCOB Sunday School	
April 22	The Hole In Our Gospel	Teacher: Pete Cope
April 29	The Hole in Our Gospel	Teacher: Tom Connelly

† **CONVERSATIONS--**Conversations Class will be continuing its study of Randy Alcorn's research and resources on heaven. We'll be using Donald Miller's series, 'Convergence' and viewing and discussing "Heaven: Understanding God's Plan and Our Hope". This series will frame questions for our conversation around: What does the Bible say about Heaven? What's God's plan for us today and in Heaven? What does my life today have to do with my life in Heaven? We meet every Sunday in Chapel Hall. Geoff Davis facilitates.

Easter Season @ HCOB



Good Friday Breakfast—April 6, 6:00 AM

Join with other Christians in our community for breakfast, a devotional message by our own Pastor Kent Rice, special music and meditation on the significance of this special day.

Good Friday Evening Service—April 6, 7:00 PM

Make this special service of meditation on the sacrificial death of Christ part of your Holy Week observances. Pastor John will share an evening meditation with Good Friday special music.

Community Easter Egg Hunt—April 7, 10:00 AM

Join for a morning of family fun! There will be age-leveled Easter Egg Hunts for kids up to and including Grade 5, entertainment, and yummy refreshments. Come join us in hunting for the prize eggs! Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends! We hope to see you there!



Easter Services—April 8, 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Pastor John Layman preaching

Join us on this festive Easter day! Remember that because He lives, “we too shall live.” Come and celebrate with us the promise of life eternal! Sing Easter hymns, join in the joy of special music, and shout and celebrate Eternal life offered through Jesus!

What’s In a Name?

Joyful
Outgoing
Hugger
Nurturing

Loving
Attentive
Young at heart
Magnanimous
Adventurous
Non judgmental

HCOB Family News



COOKIE BAKERS!! We need you to help us make the Community Egg Hunt yummy! If you are willing to bake cookies for the kids and the families who come to our Egg Hunt on April 7th, please sign up in the narthex. Cookies should be delivered to the church kitchen no later than 5:00 on Friday, April 6th. THANK YOU!!!

FRIENDS TOGETHER WEEK—Friendship Community’s Camp for persons with disabilities will be held at Hempfield June 11-15 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We are looking for persons to serve one on one with a camper for the week, day or whatever time your schedule allows. Please contact Betty Cox, Gladys Ulmer or Jean Caldwell to help.



THE EDUCATION TEAM WILL PAY 75% of the cost for any child to attend **CAMP SWATARA** one time over the summer. Good-As-Gold Certificates are available on the bulletin board in the church office.

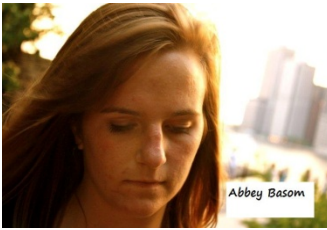
IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-35, please consider joining us for the National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) in Knoxville, TN. The dates for the retreat-like conference are June 18-22, 2012. It will be a time of community and fellowship, worship, Bible study, workshops, and plenty of fun. Please talk to Ashley Kern or Jason Haldeman if you are interested!



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).

HCOB Youth News

Become a Mission Partner



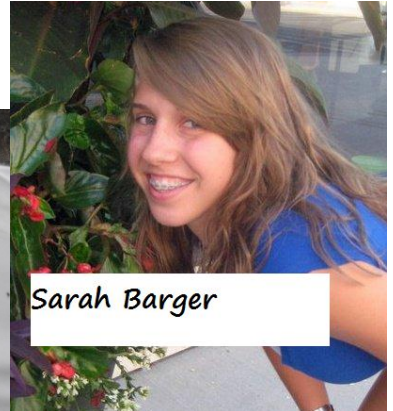
Abbey Basom



Alex Troxell



Arielle Rudig



Sarah Barger



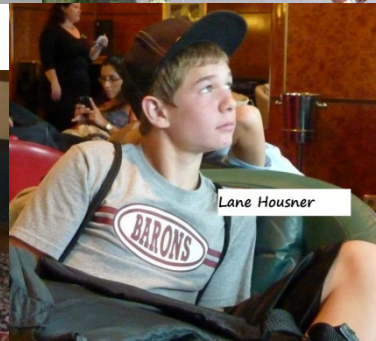
Connor Lutter



Derek Witmer



Kelly Moore



Lane Housner



Laura Myer



Lauren Miller



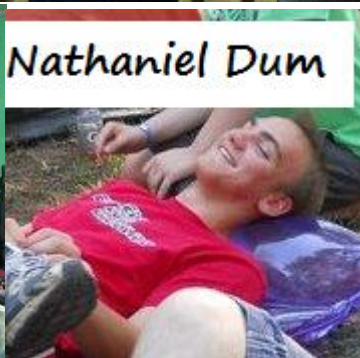
Libby Myers



Lydia Fisher



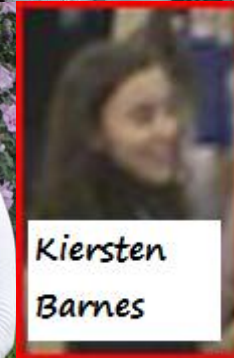
Molly Snavelly



Nathaniel Dum



Morgan Rice



Kiersten Barnes

A Mission Partner is someone who commits to pray for and support a youth as he or she prepares for and participates in an international youth mission trip with Hempfield Church of the Brethren. To become a Mission Partner, you must commit to the following:

- **Meeting with your youth partner before the trip to get to know each other better, share any prayer concerns, and offer any wisdom about serving others. (This could be just once or as often as suits both of you.)**
- **Praying for your youth during the trip (July 8-15)**
- **Meeting after the trip to debrief, share the experience, look at pictures, etc.**
- **Supporting your youth with a sponsorship of \$100 or more toward airfare and project costs.**

If you are interested in becoming a Mission Partner to the youth pictured above, please contact Pastor Kent. Each youth will have only *one* Mission Partner, so if there is a youth with whom you are especially interested in partnering, don't wait to sign up!

How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver! – Prov 16:16

Praying Attention

TOO BUSY TO PRAY?

In our High Speed Internet/ Microwave culture, when we ask someone how they are, we often get a one word answer... busy. It doesn't seem to matter the age, there always seems to be a great demand on our time. Whether we're a student, a parent, an employee, etc. the list goes on and on. There just never seems to be enough time in the day to get done what we "think" we should.

Have you ever wondered why in our high tech age, the more we discover faster & more efficient ways of doing things, there still seems to be no end to the "to do" list? I mean, doesn't technology itself seem to consume much of our time in so many ways?

Maybe we're even "doing" a lot of good things for God and His people. When we find ourselves overwhelmed with our list, we often cut out the very lifeline that can help us in these challenging times such as reading the Bible and praying.

Why is it so important to find time for these things?

1. First and foremost, God likes it.....a lot!! And after all, what if He were too busy for us?
2. We gain an intimacy with our Father that is an invaluable treasure.
3. Through reading the Word and praying, God helps us sort out the things on our to do list that are "really" important.
4. When we seek Him, He will give us power beyond what we can think or imagine and make a way where there seems to be no way to get done what we need to.
5. Only when we "feed" on Him can we effectively serve others with a Christlike attitude.
6. And probably, following #1 and #2, the most important thing it does is give us peace...and that is priceless!!

So the question really should be, aren't you "TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY"?

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

