

## Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

### Moments

I think it's fair to say that it's the "moments" that keep me energized for ministry. At various times today, I've given some time and thought to tonight's Vacation Bible School, my family, the summer Missions Trip, Creation Festival, a Christian-based home health care organization, next Sunday's worship and some ailing people in our congregation. If I were to make a pie chart out of my thoughts, there would be lots of differently-colored wedges and they would grow or shrink at any given time.

When I was a purchasing agent, we grouped our daily tasks into "A", "B" or "C" priorities. The goal was to take care of the "A" stuff first because it's easy to spend way too much time on the "C" things. But you can't really approach ministry that way because it's all "A" stuff to God! Focus too intently on a goal or program and it's easy to miss the hurting person next to you (Luke 10:30-37). Focus too intently on meeting every immediate need yourself and you can burn out or become ineffective in leadership (Exodus 18:17-23). But prioritizing things in ministry is not easy because we lack God's vision of the whole. Like the five blind men, we each touch the elephant and come away with different interpretations of what's in front of us then act accordingly.

And so I look for "moments" along the way, even if I'm not sure where I'm going: The smile of a kid at VBS; the excitement of two students as they talk about a missions trip; the quiet and all-too-infrequent times when the "peace that surpasses all understanding" is within reach; or the note from someone expressing their appreciation for a "C" thing that you did for them recently.

Moments are everywhere. Some are enduring and some are fleeting. But the moment you stop looking for them is the moment when life becomes ordinary. And there's way too much ordinary already, don't you think?

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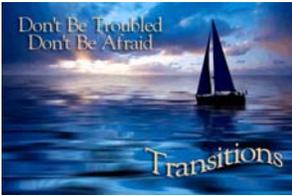
*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* – Isaiah 43:19

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# Messages in July

July 1



## ***Don't Be Troubled; Don't Be Afraid—John 14:1, 27*** ***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

John's gospel (Chapters 13-17) describes how Jesus taught his disciples many important concepts that would help them prepare for his leaving his earthly ministry. Over the next several weeks, we'll be looking at some of the most important things he told the disciples that have relevance to each of us as we go through our own transition here at Hempfield. Today, we'll look at two familiar verses with some very appropriate and useful reminders of how we should approach transitions.

July 8



## ***Obey What I Command—John 14:15; 15:1-8*** ***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

As we continue examining Jesus' preparation of his disciples for his departure, he reminds them that they must do one thing to continue to grow in him and fulfill their purpose – obey. When we remember that Christ is the head of the church, we're to be in unity, and we're not to be troubled or afraid, we're in shape to focus on obeying his commands and doing the important, life-changing work he desires.

July 15



## ***Prepared and Equipped—John 14:10-14, 16-17, 25-26; 16:12-13*** ***Pastor Geoff Davis preaching***

Most of us look at Jesus' commands and think, 'How can I possibly do that and live that way?' In today's examination of Jesus' graduate class for his disciples we see his answer: We don't do it alone. He promises to give us a helper who will speak for him and will guide us through everything. A Body, headed by Christ, in unity, not troubled or afraid, doing what it's been taught to do, will have the help it needs to do what Christ commanded. That way, it's easy. OK, maybe easier.

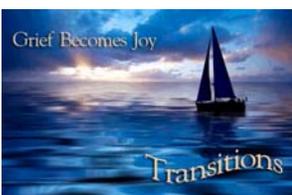
July 22



## ***Costa Rica Reflections—Numbers 13:26-33*** ***Pastor Kent Rice Preaching***

As the Senior High Youth share about their missions trip to Costa Rica, let's remind ourselves of the benefits of "thinking big." The Israelites assumed that the residents of the Promised Land saw them as nothing but little grasshoppers. Had the Israelites fully believed in the power of the God who took care of them, the Canaanites, Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites would have been seen something very different indeed. You will fill out whatever size exoskeleton you believe yourself to inhabit--tiny or huge. You can stride boldly into a foreign land or get stepped on. It's up to you!

July 29



## ***Grief Becomes Joy—John 16:17-22*** ***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

In Jesus' final teaching to his disciples – the point where they finally get it – he gives them a promise – that while they will grieve while the world rejoices, their grief will turn to joy. As a Body of believers, firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ, with Christ as our leader, in unity, not troubled or afraid, doing what we've been taught, with the Holy Spirit helping us, we joyfully prepare to enter a new land, preparing to welcome our new pastor and enter the next exciting chapter of becoming a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world.

# July Ministry Schedules

July 1  
July 8  
July 15  
July 22  
July 29

## NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy  
Gerry Shuman & Carolyn Gingrich  
Kelly Moore & Colette Root  
Sarah Fisher & Lois Killian  
Linda Carper & Steph Moyer

## NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle & Betty Lull  
Kelly Moore & Colette Root  
Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller  
Betty Cox & Lydia/Sarah Fisher  
Marg Zurin & Jaynelle Troxell



July 1  
July 8  
July 15  
July 22  
July 29

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

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

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Jaynelle Troxell  
Rich Bushong & Jaynelle Troxell  
Rich & Jamie Bushong  
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong  
Rich & Jamie Bushong



July 1  
July 8  
July 15  
July 22  
July 29

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pete Cope  
Tom Fritz  
Pete Cope  
Cindy Harnish  
Janice Haldeman

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Del Kautz  
Rich & Jamie Bushong  
Del Kautz  
TBA  
Shawn Smith

### SPECIAL MUSIC



July 1  
July 8  
July 15  
July 22  
July 29

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Michelle Bendit & Maria McQuitty  
Corinne Nissley  
TBA  
TBA  
Otis Kitchen & Geoff Davis

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit  
Doug Howard  
Doug Howard  
Derek Witmer  
Alex Troxell

July 1  
July 8  
July 15  
July 22  
July 29

## DEACON GREETERS

Faye Rohrer  
Jan Moore  
Gladys Metzler  
Paula Connelly  
Pete Moore

## OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Faye Rohrer

# HCOB Adult Summer Sunday School

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*Christ Lives Through Me  
Christ Lives Through Us  
Christ Lives Through Our Ministries*

The Summer Sunday School Series will feature presentations by outreach ministries we support. This informative series will assist us in understanding the many ways Christ is presented through local and international ministries endorsed by the Hempfield Congregation.

**July 1—Alpha and Omega Family Life Center**

Outreach ministry of the Alpha & Omega Church of the Brethren to the Hispanic community of Lancaster

**July 8—Ray and Jayne Hutchison**

Regional Director for Serving in Mission

**July 15—A Prodigal's Return and a Father's Response**

Jeff Brumbaugh's journey from drugs and gangs

**July 22—Youth Mission Trip Report**

Hear about our youth's trip to Roblealto Ministries in Costa Rica

**July 29—Center for Community Peacemaking**

A ministry of reconciliation between victims and offenders

**August 5—Annual Conference Report by Mike & Kathy Keeney**

**August 12—Friendship Community**

Ministry with Special Needs Individuals

**August 19—Millersville International House**

Ministry to International Students in Millersville, PA

**August 26—Hope International**

Micro-financing in Third World Countries

**September 2—Brethren World Mission**

Assisting the Church of the Brethren's Mission Outreach

# HCOB Family News

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**DONATIONS NEEDED!** The Brethren Disaster Relief Auction will be held on September 21 & 22, 2012. The expenses to provide food for this even are approximately \$11,000. The Auction Food Committee is asking for donations to defer these expenses. We also know that many of you already donate your time and food; however, we would appreciate any monetary donation you can give. All income goes to the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction. Please make checks payable to: "Brethren Disaster Relief Auction" with "Food Committee" in the memo line. Send to the following address: David Lennon, 210 A West Newport Road, Lititz PA 17542.

**WHEELCHAIR WALKS AT BRETHERN VILLAGE** July 26, August 23, and September 20. Please meet at receptionist area in the Courtyards nursing center at 10:00. Residents look forward to these walks that take them outside weather permitting. Please call Gerrie Hurst or Lois Killian if you can help. Thank you.

## Praying Attention

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### Prayer Blockers

We have the wonderful privilege of communicating with the Infinite God through prayer. The access each believer in the Lord Jesus has to the God of the universe is one of the greatest blessings we have as God's children.

However there are factors that hinder our communication with the Lord. This issue of Praying Attention will focus on some of those things which stand as roadblocks to our prayer lives.

- Sin - Isaiah 59:2 states, *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.* Simply stated, our willful sin builds a communication barrier between us and God. Living right lives serves to keep our spiritual communication lines open.
- Hypocrisy - In Matthew 6:5 Jesus said, *And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.* His words remind us that living inconsistent lives by saying one thing and doing another hinders our ability to communicate with the Lord. Since God knows our thoughts and sees our actions He knows when our thoughts and words are not matching our actions. Truth in living is very important in maintaining an unhindered prayer life.
- Refusal to trust God - The first two prayer blockers are self-evident but this hindrance to prayer is every bit as detrimental to our ability to converse with the Lord. In the first chapter of the book of Deuteronomy Moses said, *In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God,* (v. 32) and then in v. 45 he continued, *You came back and wept before the Lord, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you.* Unbelief was the culprit that stood as an impediment to answered prayer. God values our willingness to trust Him even when we have some doubts and fears. When we press on by faith in our living and in prayer we discover that not only does God hear our prayers but that He is also willing to demonstrate that *all things are possible to him who believes.* (Mark 9:23).

Prayer is not only a wonderful privilege but it is also a vital discipline for each child of God. Let us be sure to avoid those things which would block our communication pathway to our Lord and Savior. Strive to strengthen your prayer life by living righteous, genuine and trusting lives. Ask him to teach you to pray – and He will.

# Our Church Teams

*Each month we will highlight the work of a different team. This month we are featuring the Evangelism Team.*

## **Who we are and what we do:**

The members of the Evangelism team are: Lois Dewar, Jason Haldeman, Dennis Hughes, Ashley Kern, Karma Witmer and Kent Rice (filling in for John Layman)

Our team looks for Ministries our church can support through financial giving, prayer, service, or all of the above.

Since we have a budget of \$118,800 for 2012, it would be difficult to name all of the ministries that we support but I will highlight the ones that our team has been very active in year to date. Many of the organizations we support are either Peace initiatives or encourage peaceful outcomes within the ministries.

- † **Alpha & Omega** – HCOB has partnered with the Alpha & Omega Church in efforts to support the A & O Community Life Center in Lancaster. The Community Center provides education and services to assist the Latino community. Dennis Hughes serves as board member for the Life Center. HCOB hosted a banquet April 18<sup>th</sup> to support this initiative; additionally, on June 24<sup>th</sup> Geoff Davis and other tubists held a concert to benefit the Center.
- † **Camp Swatara** - is dedicated to God and the purpose of meeting spiritual, social, physical, and mental needs of all who use these facilities by providing a quiet place in the beauty of God's creation for renewal and enjoyment. Jason Haldeman serves as a Director of Programs and a Camp counselor at the Camp.
- † **Lancaster County Council of Churches** – This organization provides food and clothing in emergency situations. We held clothing drive in the spring in which many bags of clothing were collected and delivered to the organization.
- † **National Young Adult Conference** – Ashley Kern serves on the Steering Committee for NYAC and she and Jason Haldeman attended the conference at the University of Tennessee held in June. NYAC offers a line-up of speakers as well as the opportunity for daily worship, Bible studies, service projects and fun activities, etc.
- † **New Visitor Pads** – Karma Witmer revised the information for the visitor pads and replaced the old pads with new ones.
- † **Prayer Initiatives** – The Prayer Team was developed as a joint effort of the Pastoral Team and the Evangelism Team. The team members are Ray and Jayne Hutchison, Claire Lincoln, Kent and Karen Rice and Lois Dewar. They lead the Prayer Experiences on the first Thurs. of the month as well as write the Praying Attention articles for the Herald and look for ways to encourage the growth of prayer for the congregation.
- † **Roblealto** - is a Christian child advocacy ministry in Costa Rica that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible Christian adults. We provided funds for Ashley Kern's mission trip there as well as funds for the Los Guido housing project. Kent, along with our youth chose this ministry for their missions trip in July as well.
- † **Youth Cell Group** – Karma and Keith Witmer are leaders of the Jr. High Youth Cell Group and have been instrumental in providing the Youth opportunities to serve some of these ministries.
- † **SIM** - is an international mission organization with more than 1,600 active missionaries serving in more than 50 countries. SIM members serve God among many diverse people groups in Africa, Asia, and South America. Ray and Jayne Hutchison are very active participants in this outreach.
- † **Tabor Community Services** – which include:
  - **VVH/TLC – Veteran's Victory House and Transitional Living Center** – this is a ministry to the homeless in Lancaster. They provide the tools necessary for individuals to obtain sustainable housing. So far this year the youth at HCOB made cards for Valentine's Day and provided bags of candy. The youth also provided cards for the Vets on Memorial Day and the Evangelism Team, through their budget, presented the Vets with \$25.00 Walmart gift cards.

- **Beth Shalom** – a ministry to women leaving prison and reuniting them with their children. Our youth also provided handmade Valentine cards & candy to the children in the Beth Shalom program. The team presented an opportunity to our congregation to attend their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser dinner.

✠ **Website** - Shawn Smith has done an excellent job of maintaining HCOB's website which is supported through the Evangelism Team's budget.

When the Evangelism Team started, we had no idea what God had in store for the team and for the congregation. I personally want to thank Ray O'Boyle, the Chairperson up until 2011, who through his strong leadership, kept us on track in pursuit of ministries we were passionate about. As a congregation, you can be proud of what Christ living through you has accomplished and will continue to accomplish through these ministries. To God be the Glory!!

Submitted by Lois Dewar (Chair)

## Youth News

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On June 10, Sarah Parcell from Indian Creek Church of the Brethren (Souderton, PA) spoke to our youth group about her experiences in missions and how God uses her experiences to help her become more like Christ. Sarah shared honestly and openly about her journeys of faith and has a world view very unique for an 18 year-old.

- While in Iceland, Sarah saw God open doors as her group waited on God's direction to share the gospel.
- While in Sudan, Sarah saw faith so strong that people would forsake a day's wages (\$1) to walk three hours one way to hear the gospel
- While in Nepal, Sarah was taught that God supplies her needs and was prompted to "carry her cross" on a mountain excursion

Sarah plans to continue in missions and live a life surrendered to Jesus Christ. We thank her for encouraging us to trust God, to rise above the drama that pulls us down and to put God first in our lives.

## HCOB Calendar

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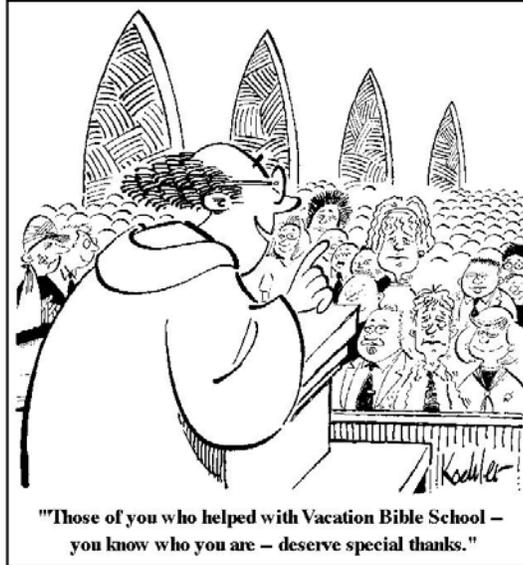
Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

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

for a full calendar of events.

**Toon of  
The Month**



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The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 246  
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**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

