

What's Your Goal?

Pastor Pete Kontra

Philip Yancey writes:

"We find it difficult to maintain a commitment to both this world and the next, to this life and the next.

"A friend of mine uses the analogy of a busload of tourists en route to the Grand Canyon. On the long journey across the wheat fields of Kansas and through the glorious mountains of Colorado, the travelers inexplicably keep the shades down. Intent on the ultimate destination, they never even bother to look outside.

"As a result, they spend their time arguing over such matters as who has the best seat and who's taking too much time in the bathroom.

"The church can resemble such a bus, says my friend. We should remember that the Bible has far more to say about how to live during the journey than about the ultimate destination.

"Some people of faith tend to be either/or. ...

"[But] the world does not need either/or people.... Rather, we need both/and Christians, people devoted to God's creatures and God's children as well as to God, and as committed to this life as to the afterlife, to this city as to the heavenly city."

Philip Yancey, "On the Grand Canyon Bus," Christianity Today (September 2008), p. 102

In Philippians 1:12-14, Paul speaks of his imprisonment as a positive situation, in that it has helped him to share the Gospel even more, and empowered others to do more as well.

So often in life we live for one destination or another. We say, "When I finish school, then I will be fulfilled." "When I get a good job, then I will be secure." "When I get married, then I will be happy." "When I retire, then I can do more for the church."

God calls us to live life to its fullest now. Look at what God is doing now. What is God calling you to do now?

There is so much life to be lived, and so many who need you now. Yes, the journey can be bumpy—sometimes we stall and break down. But God will never leave us stranded. Use all your resources, talents, and time to serve God now.

Draw up the shades. Take a look around. There's a lot going by. Blessings. God's creative power is still at work in the world, perhaps in unexpected ways, but He is still at work. I am living proof. You are living proof—a new beginning for you in your life, and a new beginning for us at Hempfield.

God bless you! -Pastor Pete

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Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

Afraid to Try

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged –Deut 31:8

One of the most pervasive and limiting things I see within and around me as I minister is the Fear of Failure. Rarely does a day go by in which I encounter someone—including myself—who could be used for a Kingdom purpose but is afraid that they'll "do it wrong," or "make a mistake." So what usually happens is...nothing.

One of my Christian brothers is fond of saying, "Did you make the best decision you could at the time with the information you had available to you? If so, then move on." Good advice. You see, we often fear not only making a poor decision *today*, we fear that it might not be the best decision five, ten, or twenty years from now!

Is our God so small? Can He not take even a well-intentioned but myopic act and turn it into something glorious?

In one of my favorite *SpongeBob Squarepants* episodes, SpongeBob panics and shrinks everyone in town to about 1/100th of their size with a superhero's utility belt that he has appropriated. The townspeople are understandably upset—they are not big enough to get into their own homes, drive their boatmobiles, or do much of anything. Then SpongeBob has an idea: shrink the entire town down to size. The town is now tiny, but they are tinier still and so it works. "This is ok. Yeah, what's the difference?" they say as they return to their normal, tiny lives.

Let's not make ourselves or our God so small that we are afraid of trying. When there is a need, when you have a burden on your heart for someone or something, start by praying. Seek counsel from godly people if you need to. Pray some more. Then, with the knowledge that God himself goes before you and is with you, *do something*. It won't be perfect, because nothing is perfect except our God. But while a seat on the Christian bench might be comfortable, it might also provide a devastating vantage point to a loss that could have been avoided had you been in the game.

Spurgeon writes: Remember that the true war-cry of the Church is Gideon's watchword, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon!" God must do it, it is his own work. But we are not to be idle; instrumentality is to be used--"The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon!" If we only cry, "The sword of the Lord!" we shall be guilty of an idle presumption; and if we shout, "The sword of Gideon!" alone, we shall manifest idolatrous reliance on an arm of flesh: we must blend the two in practical harmony, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon!"

Don't be afraid to get in the game. And when things don't work out, let's not leap to judgment—remember, God's timeline is very different from ours. He is certainly capable of using our best *and* our worst. But He can't use us if we don't let Him!

Messages in October

October 7

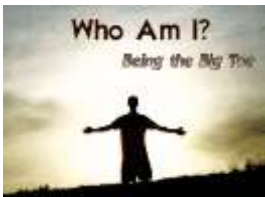


And So It Begins—*John 3:1-5*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

In this passage, Nicodemus wonders what Christ means when he says we must be "born again." This learned teacher correctly defends the position that "you can't go home again" but doesn't understand what Jesus is suggesting. As our "Who Am I?" series begins, let's begin the search for identity with the concept of the conception that God conceived!

October 14



Being the Big Toe—*1 Corinthians 12:27*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

We are born anew in Christ, and now are part of Him, His Body, the Church. We all have a vital role for the Body's functioning. We are strongest when we are balanced, fully living into our place within the Body of Christ and helping each other bear the load of it all together.

October 21



Different But Godly—*Luke 7:31-35*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Who we are in Christ is different – different talents, different worship styles, different levels of spiritual maturity, different preferences. We choose to react to these differences in two ways – Jesus tells us that we can act like children and throw a temper tantrum or we can be spiritually wise, living a faith and life that pleases God. What does it take for us to fully embrace this ability to discern differences and respect those that are still God-honoring?

October 28



The Meek: Wimps of the World?—*Matthew 5:5; 1 Peter 3:8-9*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

In our world of competition, where people strive to win and always be right, being meek seems pretty weak. But through Christ it is power—to heal, to break to the stronghold of evil, so that all may truly be winners.

October Ministry Schedules

October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28

NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL

Karma & Keith Witmer
 Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
 Steph Moyer & Karen Rice
 Steph Moyer & Jody Kettering

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle & Betty Lull
 Carol Koser & Ivy & Brooke Davis
 Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller
 Betty Cox & Lydia/Sarah Fisher



October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

No 8:00 service
 Matt Markey
 Dave Schott
 Matt Markey

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

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



October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

No 8:00 service
 Ray O'Boyle
 Dennis Hughes
 Cindy Harnish

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
 TBA
 Dennis Bushong
 TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
 TBA
 Sanctuary Choir
 TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
 Derek Witmer
 Alex Troxell
 Dave Bendit

October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28

DEACON GREETERS

Dave Fisher
 Nancy Haas
 Faye Rohrer
 Jan Moore

OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Doris Wright

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **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.

October 7	Stephen Defends His Faith	Teacher: Denny Bushong
October 14	Stephen Is Faithful to Death	Teacher: Denny Bushong
October 21	Simon Wants to Buy Power	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
October 28	Philip Baptizes a Man from Ethiopia	Teacher: Bob Heffley

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

October 7	Stephen Defends His Faith	Teacher: Pete Cope
October 14	Stephen Is Faithful to Death	Teacher: James Kettering
October 21	Simon Wants to Buy Power	Teacher: Pete Cope
October 28	Philip Baptizes a Man from Ethiopia	Teacher: Thomas Connelly

† **THE SEEKERS** class is currently meeting upstairs. Starting September 16, join us for a 6 week study of the book: *Can I Really Trust the Bible-Evidence for the Authenticity of God's Word*. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

October 7	The Bible's Protected Text	Teacher: Tom Connelly
October 14	The Bible's Proven Accuracy	Teacher: Ray Hutchison
October 21	The Bible's Profound Impact	Teacher: Tom Fritz
October 28	How We Got the Bible	Teacher: Ray O'Boyle

† **CONVERSATIONS**— Conversations class meets in Chapel Hall weekly. We will continue our examination of Donald Miller's 'Convergence' series: "Frustrations and False Gods: Living in a Fallen World". We'll continue looking at three video conversations and then having our own conversations about what we've seen and what the Bible has to say. And, as always, we'll be examining the questions that you bring to class. Geoff Davis facilitates.

HCOB Family News



LOVE FEAST will be held on October 7 during the 10:15 service. Communion will be served in the Sanctuary and foot washing will be available in John Naas Hall for those who would like to participate. There will not be a meal afterwards. There will be no 8:00 service that morning.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX PROJECT--Once again this year, the Social Service Committee is teaming up with My Brother's Keeper to send Christmas shoe boxes across the Atlantic Ocean to Romania. Last year the congregation provided 64 shoe boxes. They were very appreciative for the strong support of our congregation. The shoe boxes are given to children in need in the village of Stroiesti, Cighid Orphanage and Children's Hospital in Oradea. The shoe boxes can be filled with items such as small toys, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene items. The boxes are collected early in October due to the process of shipping them by boat.



ANNUAL BROTHERS VILLAGE AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE- Suggested membership fees are \$5, \$10, \$50 and other. Your response will be greatly appreciated and will help with the many programs that the Auxiliary provides for the Village. Look for your representatives in the narthex October 7, 14 & 21. —Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

ANE DISTRICT ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT will be held on Wednesday, October 17 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at Conestoga COB. This year's theme is: "How Do We Respond to the Big Events in Life?" The speaker is Pastor Bob DiSalvio. Lunch and child care is provided. More information is on the bulletin board in the outer office. Please call Conestoga COB at 656-2493 or Candy Myer at 354-0179 for more information or to register.



Youth News

Upcoming Events!

Mondays 6:30 - 8:00 Sr. High Cell Group at Fisher's
Monday 6:45 - 8:15 Younger Youth Cell Group at Hoffman's
Oct 6-- Weenie Hunt at Eastland Alpaca! Contact Kent or check Facebook for details. Hiders arrive 6:30, Hunters 6:45
Oct 20th - District Sr. High Barn Blast at Longecker's Farm, 1267 Risser Mill Rd., Mt. Joy
Oct 26-28 - District Jr. High Retreat at Camp Swatara
Oct 28 - Mission lunch fundraiser
Nov 3, 4 - Fundraiser at Eastland Alpacas
Nov 9 -11 - Senior High DC Missions Trip
Nov 10,11 - Fundraiser at Eastland Alpacas
Weenie Hunt: Working on date and location, stay tuned!

Many thanks to the youth for helping with Connections!

Praying Attention



A Daily Prayer for Freedom

By John Eldredge

My dear Lord Jesus, I come to you now to be restored in you—to renew my place in you, my allegiance to you, and to receive from you all the grace and mercy I so desperately need this day. I honor you as my sovereign Lord, and I surrender every aspect of my life totally and completely to you. I give you my body as a living sacrifice; I give you my heart, soul, mind, and strength; and I give you my spirit as well.

I cover myself with your blood—my spirit, my soul, and my body. And I ask your Holy Spirit to restore my union with you, seal me in you, and guide me in this time of prayer. In all that I now pray, I include (my spouse, and/or my children, by name). Acting as their head, I bring them under my authority and covering, and I come under your authority and covering. Holy Spirit, apply to them all that I now pray on their behalf.

Dear God, holy and victorious Trinity, you alone are worthy of all my worship, my heart's devotion, all my praise and all my trust and all the glory of my life. I worship you, bow to you, and give myself over to you in my heart's search for life. You alone are Life, and you have become my life. I renounce all other gods, all idols, and I give you the place in my heart and in my life that you truly deserve. I confess here and now that it is all about you, God, and not about me. You are the Hero of this story, and I belong to you. Forgive me, God, for my every sin. Search me and know me and reveal to me any aspect of my life that is not pleasing to you, expose any agreements I have made, and grant me the grace of a deep and true repentance.

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and choosing me before you made the world. You are my true Father—my Creator, my Redeemer, my Sustainer, and the true end of all things, including my life. I love you; I trust you; I worship you. Thank you for proving your love for me by sending your only Son, Jesus, to be my substitute and representative. I receive him and all his life and all his work, which you ordained for me. Thank you for including me in Christ, for forgiving me my sins, for granting me his righteousness, for making me complete in him. Thank you for making me alive with Christ, raising me with him, seating me with him at your right hand, granting me his authority, and anointing me with your Holy Spirit. I receive it all with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Jesus, thank you for coming for me, for ransoming me with your own life. I honor you as my Lord; I love you, worship you, trust you. I sincerely receive you as my redemption, and I receive all the work and triumph of your crucifixion, whereby I am cleansed from all my sin through your shed blood, my old nature is removed, my heart is circumcised unto God, and every claim being made against me is disarmed. I take my place in your cross and death, whereby I have died with you to sin and to my flesh, to the world, and to the Evil One. I am crucified with Christ, and I have crucified my flesh with all its passions and desires. I take up my cross and crucify my flesh with all its pride, unbelief, and idolatry. I put off the old man. I now bring the cross of Christ between me and all people, all spirits, all things. Holy Spirit, apply to me (my spouse and/or children) the fullness of the work of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim to my life. Jesus, I also sincerely receive you as my new life, my holiness and sanctification, and I receive all the work and triumph of your resurrection, whereby I have been raised with you to a new life, to walk in newness of life, dead to sin and alive to God. I am crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. I now take my place in your resurrection, whereby I have been made alive with you, I reign in life through you. I now put on the new man in all holiness and humility, in all righteousness and purity and truth. Christ is now my life, the one who strengthens me. Holy Spirit, apply to me (my spouse and/or my children) the fullness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Jesus, I also sincerely receive you as my authority and rule, my ever-lasting victory over Satan and his kingdom, and I receive all the work and triumph of your ascension, whereby Satan has been judged and cast down, his rulers and authorities disarmed, all authority in heaven and on earth given to you, Jesus, and I have been given fullness in you, the Head over all. I take my place in your ascension, whereby I have been raised with you to the right hand of the Father and established with you in all authority. I bring your authority and your kingdom rule over my life, my family, my household, and my domain.

And now I bring the fullness of your work—your cross, resurrection, and ascension—against Satan, against his kingdom, and against all his emissaries and all their work warring against me and my domain. Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the

world. Christ has given me authority to overcome all the power of the Evil One, and I claim that authority now over and against every enemy, and I banish them in the name of Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit, apply to me (my spouse and my children) the fullness of the work of the ascension of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Holy Spirit, I sincerely receive you as my Counselor, my Comforter, my Strength, and my Guide. Thank you for sealing me in Christ. I honor you as my Lord, and I ask you to lead me into all truth, to anoint me for all of my life and walk and calling, and to lead me deeper into Jesus today. I fully open my life to you in every dimension and aspect—my body, my soul, and my spirit—choosing to be filled with you, to walk in step with you in all things. Apply to me, blessed Holy Spirit, all of the work and all of the gifts in Pentecost. Fill me afresh, blessed Holy Spirit. I receive you with thanks and give you total claim to my life (and my spouse and/or children).

Heavenly Father, thank you for granting to me every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.

I receive those blessings into my life today, and I ask the Holy Spirit to bring all those blessings into my life this day. Thank you for the blood of Jesus. Wash me once more with his blood from every sin and stain and evil device. I put on your armor—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the readiness of the gospel of peace, the helmet of salvation. I take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and I wield these weapons against the Evil One in the power of God. I choose to pray at all times in the Spirit, to be strong in you, Lord, and in your might.

Father, thank you for your angels. Thank you also for those who pray for me; I confess I need their prayers, and I ask you to send forth your Spirit and rouse them, unite them, raising up the full canopy of prayer and intercession for me. I call forth the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ this day throughout my home, my family, my life, and my domain. I pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, with all glory and honor and thanks to him. AMEN

Our Church Teams

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

We'd like to take the opportunity to introduce you to the Property Team.

The purpose of the property team is to supervise the care maintenance and development of Church property. They are the legal trustees of the congregation with the responsibility for acquiring, holding, and conveying property in accordance with the decisions of the leadership team and/or Church Gathering.

In reality the Property team is made up of 4 extremely talented and knowledgeable men, Rich Lull, Jim Stauffer, Dustin Musser, Jim Kettering and myself Charlotte Hess. The team, while busy with their own lives (farming, transport and construction) have accomplished many improvements within and around the Church Property, This year Rich installed new Kitchen counters. The team has trimmed and taken down diseased trees, grassed over the ball field, supervised the mulching of the playground (thanks to the youth for your help.) and changed locks on all the doors. We are beginning to see the benefits of the new heating and air-conditioning units on the roof, and have continued working on plans for new lighting in the lobby areas, and renovation of Kent's office.

The specific responsibilities include:

1. The care for and improvement of, the physical property of the Church.
2. Providing adequate Insurance Coverage.
3. Titles and deeds.
4. Inspecting all properties of the congregation and reporting status to the congregation.
5. Maintaining a close working relationship with the church custodian(s)

The team is on a staggered three year term. If you are interested in joining us on the team, finding out more about what we do, have questions or proposals to share with us, feel free to contact any of the team members or visit us at our meetings on the second Monday of each month.

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

