

Thoughts for a New Year

Pastor Pete Kontra

It's a new year! Of course that means we who live on this beautiful earth have floated around the sun one more time. And we have no idea what this next trip around will bring by its completion.

It's that feeling we sometimes have of being "in limbo." We're not where we were, but don't know exactly where we are heading. Of course, I guess that's life everyday if you think about it. What has happened this past year? What will happen in 2014?

It reminds me of an image from summer. I was sitting on our deck enjoying a sunny afternoon when along came a spider. It didn't sit down beside me, but was hanging, dangling in what looked like mid-air. As I looked closer, I could see that the spider was attached to two lines which were attached to two different walls of the house. It was dangling there, slowly making its way from one side of the house to the other.

And I thought, Yes, that's often how it feels in life. We're in limbo, leaving behind where we were, yet not quite where we want to be. The old year is gone—the new has come. So now what? How do we figure all this out? We're just out here dangling on this terrestrial ball.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

As you begin to take steps into this new year, trust God that His line is there, holding you up and leading the way to new life. If you try and do it all yourself you're going to take a long, windy and confusing path through this world.

May that be our prayer for Hempfield as well. God is going to do new things with us and through us and we need not fear, but trust in His power to lead us in His paths.

God will make our paths straight. God is good and worthy of all praise!

—Pastor Pete

In This Issue...

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| † Page 2—Grains of Rice | † Page 6—Remembrance Sunday Form |
| † Page 3—Messages in January | † Page 7—Youth News |
| † Page 4—Adult Sunday School | † Page 7—HCOB Kids News |
| † Page 4—Praying Attention | † Page 8—HCOB Calendar |
| † Page 5—HCOB Family News | † Back Cover—'Toon of the Month |

Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

Replacements

I am here to lobby for the word “replacement”—it’s not a bad word! We have given it all kinds of negative connotations, like “replacement parts” which are not as good as the original and replacement referees who are hired because the experienced ones are on strike.

But it’s not always bad to replace something. When I managed a gym, people would constantly tell me they were trying to stop smoking or drinking or eating too much sugar. I would counsel them that if they were eliminating a chemical from their body on which they had become dependent, they must replace that substance (or sometimes addiction) with something else. Something *better*. And although I would sometimes espouse the benefits of prayer and meditation, I would usually recommend replacing the “buzz” from a cigarette with the great feeling you get after a workout. I would tell the stressed lawyer that he or she could get rid of some tension by releasing adrenaline through vigorous exercise.

My advice wasn’t scientific but it was good advice nonetheless.

Let’s imagine our spiritual life as a cupboard full of drinking glasses. Some of them are old, chipped and stained but if you throw them away, there might not be a glass there to use the next time you’re thirsty. They need to be *replaced*.

Many of us have filled our cupboards with lies. There are a whole bunch of them, clanking around and saying things like, “you’re not good enough,” or “he doesn’t really love you,” or “you don’t deserve to be happy.” These lies—like the old glasses—need to be replaced. The Kendrick brothers give us some good advice on how to start this process:

Begin by asking God to reveal the lies you have believed in the past and help you replace each one with His truth. (The Resolution for Men, page 47)

Ask God for help. You need it. And then, like the smoker, replace the lies with something better. You might reject the lies (which is good) but then your cupboard is empty. Ask God to fill it with *truth*—beautiful, unbreakable, crystal-clear truth. Truth like “I love you,” and “You are precious to me.”

The water will taste so much better.

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32

Messages in January

January 5



From the Manger and into the World—*Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 2:41-52*
Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

As we leave the manger and go into the world, there are many things that can crowd Him out and distract us from Him, which only causes anxiety and disharmony. We must keep Jesus close to our hearts and never let Him out of our sight, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit. How do we know when we are united in Christ? We have Peace and experience the Spirit's Power as we live out Jesus' Purpose.

January 12



Prepared and Useful—*2 Timothy 2:20-21*
Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

God is calling us to incredible things in 2014! And it starts with us as individuals. For a vessel to be useful to the Master, it must be set apart, submissive to His will, prepared, eager to be used and not dirty on the inside. What can God do *with* you and *through* you this year? And what can God do *with us* and *through us*?

January 19



Digging with God's Shovel—*Ephesians 4:11-13; Isaiah 58:6-9*
Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

As disciples of Christ we are called to serve others—giving, helping, meeting their needs. But as we dig in the dirt, God calls us to dig deep to get to the root of what is causing a person to hurt and be in need in the first place. By the power of Christ, Loose the chains, untie the cords, break every yoke, set the oppressed free. It's true transformation of the world, a life at a time.

January 26



Breaking Barriers—*Ephesians 4:17-32*
Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Have you checked out the world lately? The pursuit of more, the loss of purpose, the emptiness of shallow relationships, the longing for significance and meaningful contribution, the overwhelm of work that leaves little time for reflection and deep relationships, and the constant anxiety that bombards us daily makes us question, "What's the point?" But we have been given a different way to live and have been tasked with taking a radical, life-changing message to our neighbors. We are the offer of hope that Jesus gave to the world. What's getting in the way of others accepting Christ's offer? What do we need to learn and remember?

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **THE CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS** classes will meet in the library. 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 5	Honoring the Sabbath	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
January 12	How to Live as God's People	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
January 19	Jesus Teaches About Relationships	Teacher: Jim Kettering
January 26	Jesus Teaches Compassion for the Poor	Teacher: Dennis Bushong

† **THE SEEKERS**—Seekers Class will begin study in the book of Revelation in January. Please feel free to join us in this study of this prophetic book of the Bible. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

January 5	Revelation—Introduction—Rich Bushong	Teacher: Rich Bushong
January 12	Revelation 1	Teacher: Pete Cope
January 19	Revelation 2	Teacher: Ray Hutchison
January 26	Revelation 3	Teacher: Tom Connelly

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class will be exploring the Discipleship Team's vision for HCOB: *Learn His Way – Live His Way – Grow His Way – and Go His Way*. We'll be examining some of the basic commands that Jesus gave to his disciples – commands that apply to us all – and how we could put these into action, grow in our love and knowledge of God, and go into all the world and make disciples. Geoff Davis is the facilitator.

Praying Attention



“Intercessory Prayer is exceeding prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren.” C.H.Spurgeon

R.A. Torrey from *How to Obtain Fullness of Power*

HCOB Family News



COOKIE BAKERS YOU ARE SUCH A BLESSING! Thank you so much for the dozens of cookies that were provided for the Brethren Village Auxiliary Cookie Sale. \$1,641.75 was raised to be spent on items to enhance the lives of the residents! Thank you to our members that shopped there as well.- Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

Pouring Life into Ministry *A Conference for All Who Serve the Church* *February 22, 2014 at Ephrata COB*

Everyone is invited to attend an exciting conference being planned by the Nurture Commission of the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren. The conference will take place on Saturday, February 22 from 9 am – 3 pm at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. Keynote speaker is Dr. Steve Musser, author, pastoral leader and passionate communicator about empowering those who serve in local church ministries.

Dean Sensenig and the Ephrata COB's Worship Team will lead us in praise and worship. In addition to Dr. Musser's presentations in the morning and in the afternoon, there will be six Insight Sessions on topics ranging from "Bridging the Generation Gap" to "Back to the Center," focusing on prayer ministry.

The cost to attend the *Pouring Life into Ministry* conference is only \$15 which includes a warm lunch. Registration deadline is February 1. Send your name and a check of \$15 to ANE Commission on Nurture, 500 E. Cedar St., Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Service of Remembrance 2014 *January 19—10:15 AM*



SERVICE OF *Remembrance*

On Sunday morning, January 19, we will be holding **one service at 10:15 AM** to remember and honor our loved ones who have died in 2013. 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 that is available on the next page and on the narthex table at church. 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 5th.**

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.

Remembrance Sunday
January 19, 2014
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 5th**. 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:

- The individual's face should be clearly away from other objects
- The individual's face should be at least one inch in diameter
- Printed pictures: The photo should be good quality (an actual photo printed on photo paper-**not** printed on a home computer), well-lit, color photo (not black and white)
- Digital pictures: 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.*

Youth News



HCOB Youth serving with St. Stephens Baptist church in Temple Hills, MD

HCOB Kids News



Welcome 2014!

How exciting! A new year full of so many unexpected adventures! HCOB Kids are ready to jump right in and get on with the show. We are so thankful for all that 2013 brought to us...new classes, new teachers, 16 turkeys! 2014 will be even more exciting!

We welcome all adults to come up and visit us. See what we are up to. Check out our information table and our Kids Library Station in the hall. Lots of things to investigate and learn about.

God is GOOD!

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Church Administrator on Vacation Office Closed	2 Church Administrator on Vacation 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	3 Church Administrator on Vacation 7:00 PM WORDD Worship	4
5 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship	6 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group 6:45 PM Younger Youth Cell Group	7 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	8	9	10 Leadership Team Retreat	11 Leadership Team Retreat
12 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship	13 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group 6:45 PM Younger Youth Cell Group	14 7:00 PM Worship Team	15 HERALD DEADLINE	16	17 Sr. High District Retreat	18 Sr. High District Retreat
19 Sr. High District Retreat 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship	20 6:45 PM Younger Youth Cell Group	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Youth "Grab 'N Go" Lunch NYC Fundraiser	27 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group 6:45 PM Younger Youth Cell Group	28 7:00 PM Leadership Team	29	30	31	1

**Toon of
The Month**



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The Month**

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

JANUARY