



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 4:3

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

SEPTEMBER 2015

Ministry through Faith,
Vision, and Action

From Pastor Randy's Desk



How Precious Are You?

Exodus 30:11 - 13

11 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, **12** When you take the sum (census) of the Children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when you number them; that there be no plague among them, when you number them. **13** This they shall give, everyone who passes among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the Offering of the LORD

Do you count? Do you matter? Well God says Yes!, yes you do! You see when Israel would take a "census," it was important, because they belonged to God and everyone counted. It is the same for you and me, through our Faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done, on the Cross. Our Faith in the Cross, makes us belong to God and you count. **Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3.**

Whenever the people of Israel were numbered, every person from 20 years old and above had to give a half shekel. The "shekel" being made of silver was a symbol of Redemption, in the Old Testament. And the Scripture says that everyone, rich or poor, had to give the same amount. This was to show that Redemption, is the same for all.

It seems when David numbered the people, he ignored this "ransom" of a "half shekel," an Offering of the LORD, and this caused LORD to be angry with David. He was ignoring the foundation of Israel's Redemption, a "type" of Christ.

However, we see David's repentant heart, when he purchases the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite to offer up a Sacrifice, unto the LORD. Araunah the Jebusite, offered it to David for nothing, but this time, David remembered the cost of Salvation. David said, **"No; but I will surely buy it of you at a price: neither will I offer up Burnt Offerings unto the LORD my God of that which does cost me nothing" 2 Sam. 24:24.**

We are bought with a price, and that price is the Shed Blood of Jesus Christ, which gives us eternal life and that makes us precious.

God Bless
Pastor Randy

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for July 1 – July 31, 2015

Sunday School – 39
Worship Service – 199

Beginning Checkbook Balance – General Fund		\$81,345.27
Income		\$28,336.11
Expenses		\$26,598.88
Voided Check		\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance		\$83,082.50
Beginning Checkbook Balance – Building Fund		\$12,503.15
Income		\$ 5,600.70
Expenses		\$ 5,859.65
Ending Checkbook Balance	0.00%	\$12,244.20
Music Fund CD	8/14/15	\$15,579.60

Attention all Quilters

On Tuesday mornings we are quilting and knotting in the ladies aid room at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to come and help.

Please remember these people in your prayers

Betty Jane Berger, Bud Brubaker, Mary Ann Gibble, Lois Romberger, Bill Yoh, Sr., Mark Ziegler

Pizza Hut

We are still continuing to have Pizza Hut Day the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Look for the paper in your newsletter or on the bulletin board.

Home Care

Let's remember in thought and prayer those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: Clara Miller, Mary Lineweaver, Nancy Moyer, June Swisher, Arlene Crouse, Joanne Ealy, Orpha Doutrich, Iris Liskey, Neal Dohner

LVBH Volunteers

The LVBH is in need of volunteers in the following areas...people who are willing to visit with our residents, read to the residents, offer wheelchair rides, or just sit and talk with the residents. They also need people who would like to fill water mugs in the Alpha and Leffler units. If you are able to give just one hour or more of your time each week, call Mary Lee Harpel at 838-5406, ext. 3186.

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Gift Cards

The gift card order is always the first Sunday of the month. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. If there is a business that you would like to know about, call the church office at 866-5517 to see if those cards would be available. How many cards do you think you can use in a month's time? You don't have to give the card as a gift, you can use them yourself.

The Christian Education Commission is praying for our congregation. Has God placed a calling on your heart to work with our youth? Our church is currently in the need for Youth leaders and Sunday School teachers. Please include this need in your prayers. If God opens your heart to this opportunity, contact any of the Christian Education members.

Choir Practices to Resume

Senior Choir will resume practice Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 7:30 p.m. We are also looking for some new faces.

Bell Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6:15 p.m.

Praise Team will resume practice on Monday, Aug. 31st at 7:30 p.m.

Junior Choir will resume practice on Monday, Aug. 31st at 6:30 p.m. It is not too late for anyone in kindergarten through 5th grade to come and join in the choir.

Bazaar News

Our annual bazaar is Saturday, November 21st, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Mark your calendar now to keep the date open! Tables will be available to rent for \$10 for your crafts, etc. If you have items for the "White Elephant" tables, they can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area until the bazaar. More details later. See Anna Mae Snyder, Dottie Nagle or Jean Bomberger with questions.

Youth Clothing Exchange

The Youth Group Clothing Exchange is quickly approaching! We have been getting many donations thus far. Thank you to everyone who has been dropping items off! We really want this to be a huge success! We are still in need of additional items. Especially school aged children's clothing! Please let everyone you know that we are doing this and willing to take items. Please contact Andy or Christa Bender with any questions.

Chime Choir

Chime choir starts Sunday, September 13th from 8:30-9am. Chime choir is for students in 1st grade and up. We perform 4-5 times a year during the church service. Please contact Jennifer Zimmerman if your child would like to join or you have any questions.

Disaster Relief Auction

Mark your calendar now for the 35th Annual Brethren Disaster Relief Auction to be held Sept. 25th and 26th. There are many activities during this 2-day period. Come and eat or just come for the fellowship.

Love Feast

Sunday, Oct. 4th at 6:30 p.m. is Love Feast and Communion.

SANCTUARY AIR CONDITIONING

Thanks to those who have already donated, but we still need approximately \$10,000.00 to avoid borrowing money to pay for the new air conditioning for the sanctuary. We are asking the congregation for a Special Offering on Sunday, Sept. 13th in addition to your normal giving to help meet this need. Any amount is appreciated, just mark your envelope "Air Conditioner". WE CAN DO THIS IF WE ALL HELP A LITTLE!

ATTENTION....ATTENTION.....ATTENTION

School bells are ringing, football and soccer practices are starting... you know what that means. PUMPKIN ROLL MAKING TIME!!!!!!

We could use everyone's help please. We will be starting Monday, September 14th and continue every Monday for 6 weeks.

Baking starts at 8 AM and filing at 5:30 PM. Please, please, please come out to help support this awesome mission of the women of the Church.

It's a great time! Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, contact Sharon Seldomridge, Susie Auman or Sylvia Beamesderfer.

September Wedding Anniversaries

2 nd	Tim & Deb Frederick	15 th	Rob & Ashley Dubble
4 th	Jason & Carey Krall Danny & Courtney Dubble	17 th	LaMar & Joane Fahnestock Dale & JoAnn Houtz
6 th	Jason & Sara Schwalm	18 th	Bill & Kathy Dubble Dennis & Carol Dieffenbach Brian & Kerri Penrose Craig & Stacey Dieffenbach
7 th	Glenn & Laurie Rambler Seth & Sara Gantz	19 th	Bob & Sheila Messersmith Bob & Kathryn Gibble
9 th	Jay & Brenda Lentz	21 st	George & Dottie Nagle
11 th	Bill & Marcie Yoh	26 th	Brad & Sarah Liskey
12 th	Dave & Nancy Hibshman Frank & Doreen DiScullo	27 th	Brian & Kahly Smith
14 th	Nick & Kristi Achey	29 th	Donald & Maggie Reichard

Meeting was called to order @ 8:04 p.m. by Chairperson – Robert Biddle

Present were: Treasurer – Robert Dubble

Present were: Secretary-Robert NollPrayer by: Pastor Randy

Secretary's Report of June 16, 2015 - Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of August 14, 2015 - Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Kenneth Wagner, Lori Martin,
Kathy Dubble, Allison Kline, Steve Krick

Ken led us in prayer.

Rob Dubble joined the group to discuss money needed for refurbishing of the church bells, a bill of \$3,323. We discussed reallocation of budget items. Another option is to consider using some of the Music CD for this purpose. Allison Kline will speak to the donor and report back to the treasurer.

The money for the DVD system has been allocated and will be installed later this year.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Co-Chairpersons – JoAnn Houtz, Janet Dubble

Susie Dundore, Crystal Liskey, Megan Hibshman

Youth mission trip to New York, first weekend of November. The trip is approved by the Missions and Fellowship Commission. Members of the commission will make contact with the youth leaders to see how we can help with this endeavor (money, etc.)

We discussed a planned mission trip to Dominican Republic July 23 – July 30, 2016. The goal is to finish the bathroom project that was started this year. The cost will be \$2,000. Per person cost is \$1,400. Six people have already committed. Members of this commission will reach out to this group to offer support and assistance.

Prayer Walk this Saturday, August 22nd from 11:00 – 12:00 at ELCO Middle School. Some members of this commission will participate as well as any other congregation members that choose to come.

Rally Day is September 13th. Request congregation to bring a carry-in dish (hot dish, cold dish, or dessert). This commission will provide coffee, water and other beverages. We will set up on Saturday, September 12th. JoAnn will put details in the bulletin.

Knoebels Picnic for 2016 will be June 11th. Janet will reserve the pavilion.

Pictorial Directory – We need to schedule hosts/hostesses for September photo sessions. JoAnn will contact people to request their assistance and schedule them.

Operation Christmas Child – Megan will again coordinate this project in the fall. We discussed the possibility of planning a group trip to one of the packaging sites in Baltimore. Megan is gathering information on this.

November 16th is the deadline for collecting the packages.

Christian Education Commission: Co-Chairpersons – Linda Zimmerman

Lisa Maurer, Jen Murray, Grace Ziegler

September 13th is Rally Day/Fun Day Sunday. Pastor Randy will be the speaker. A carry-in luncheon will be offered and our commission will take care of the games with the help of the youth.

Bibles will be ordered for 2nd and 7th graders and will be handed out on September 13th at Rally Day. We will also have teacher recognition on Rally Day.

Since Promotion Sunday is normally held on August 30, only 2 weeks prior to Rally Day, our commission decided to combine the 2 activities this year.

Jen Zimmerman presented to our commission a request to have Vacation Bible School's budget be increased for 2016. She also offered to be in charge of the Children's Christmas Program.

As of today, we have had no volunteers come forth to serve as youth advisors and we still could use Sunday School teachers for 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade and youth classes.

Trustee and Property Commission: Chairperson - George Nagle, Dale Houtz

Duey Peiffer, Charles Krall

We are going to have Hackman Fire Extinguisher do the regular maintenance on the fire extinguishers throughout the church.

Update on air condition installation for the sanctuary: Triangle has moved and reconnected the 2 units on the roof to make room for the new one. The air handler has been shut down and work has begun on the new system. The old roof unit has been removed and the new steel support beams have been installed to support the new unit. We are currently about \$10,000 short and are asking for board approval to designate Sunday, September 13th as a special Sunday for giving toward the air conditioning project up and above regular giving. We will place something in the bulletin and make a verbal announcement from the pulpit.

There was a motion and second to approve the request from the Trustee & Property Commission to designate Sunday, September 13, 2015 as a special Sunday for giving toward the new air conditioning project.

The motion was approved by an aye vote

Finance and Stewardship Commission: Mark Bomberger, Ryan Liskey, Andrew Heisey,

Tom Hoffman

July 31, 2015

Year to Date Budgeted to General Fund \$165,389

Year to Date Actual to General Fund 141,719

Difference -\$ 23,670

Year to Date Budgeted to Building Fund \$ 41,017

Year to Date Actual to Building Fund 39,787

Difference -\$ 1,230

Mortgage Balance \$379,641

Sharing Cupboard Savings Account \$ 9,694

Building Fund Balance \$ 10,092

Music Fund CD Balance \$ 15,579

We reviewed Treasurer's Report as noted above, there is a shortfall on General and Building Fund. There has been considerable building repair expense this year. Most repair and replacements will save on utility costs for many years.

Pastor Devor's Report

The Church is a very busy place. Many things have been accomplished over the past two months. We have had a Baby Dedication. We have had a young family, commit to joining the Church, This was brought about by Church Secretary Toni, informing Pastor Randy about them and simply contacting them. We became aware that they were not involved in Church, she was pregnant, and Pastor Randy visited and pray for the mom and baby in the hospital. With subsequent visits and calls, at first just the Wife and her Mother, began to come, then finally the Husband; and now all three are committing to coming to Church and possibly transferring their memberships here!

There are other families that had just stopped attending. The Church Secretary would inform me and I would call on them. We have been very successful and getting families back into the Church. One such family, where the wife once again was Pregnant and the Baby was delivered in July. The Church Secretary Toni and Pastor Randy began to make contact. They had been coming but had drifted away seemingly un-noticed. Through visits, calls and prayer they are now once again committed fully back to the Church. Then there is yet another Couple, who had a son, just born last week, on August 12, 2015. Their grandmother, who is a member called Pastor Randy to inform me of the birth of her great grandson. The parents are in our Directory, but are not attenders or members. This new born baby then precipitated the reason for visiting and perhaps building a relationship and getting them into Church.

We have had those who have had Surgery or procedures: 9 different people, having more than 14 different trips in and out of the Hospital. I have been there for 7, of the people, not finding out about the other 2 until after the fact, but still praying and ministering to them when I was made aware.

I am trying to get an understanding, of the functioning of the various Departments such as Music, the Various Choirs, Sunday School, Children's Church and the Youth Group. I am trying to understand the reason, purpose, goals and hearts of those who are either the Leaders, in these various functions; as well as those involved and not involved in these things.

This has caused some to be alarmed, feel insecure; however the reason for doing this is pure of heart, in that we are all in this together for the Glory for the LORD! My motives are above reproach, I want to know what they think is working; What they think are the problem areas; What they believe to be the solutions; How can I or how can we, the Congregation, better help them? What do they need?

I am systematically doing Visitation. In the beginning I concentrated on the elder members 45 plus, mixing in some of the younger families, 25–45. I have started to now focus more on the 25-45 group, and sprinkling in the 45 plus group, and attending the Young Adults Sunday School Class to just to get to know them and build report. I went to the Knoebels Church Picnic.

I have officiated one Funeral. I am currently doing post Marriage, Marriage Counseling. I have led one Member of the Congregation in a Re-Dedication or Re-Affirmation of Salvation and am currently counseling

another who fears that they have never really accepted Christ. I really want everyone here tonight to hear this. We have had two people, who have attended this Church for a long period of time unsure of their Salvation. Let us consider what we are doing.

How do things look?

I believe the future of the Church is bright. I believe we can expect good things. Oh there will be problems, and we have them. There will be rumors and gossip, and there is. We can expect that! It is the Devil, using us, dividing us to stop what God is doing. We must Stop It! We must Pray, we must look for the good in each other and not the bad, we must lay aside suspicion by going to the source before we rush to judgements. We must trust each other; stand by each other, stand up for each other, and use the Bible as our standard for our thinking, words and our actions. Anyone can complain, murmur, gossip or speak ill of another, but it takes a Real Christian to put such things to rest. And that is what we all must do.

Let us remember Philipians 4:8–9

Finally, Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, (The Apostle Paul), do: and the God of Peace shall be with you.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

It was suggested by our treasurer, Rob Dubble, that the church look into opening up a line of credit with the bank. This would allow the church in an emergency for additional money at a lower cost interest than maybe another option.

There was a motion and second to recommend to Council to look into and open a line of credit with the bank.

The motion was approved by an aye vote

This recommendation will be discussed and action taken at the Council meeting to be held in November.

Interests & Concerns

Bob Biddle reported that he will be preparing the meal for the Contributors Dinner at Camp Swatara to be held on November 6, 2015 and also will be overseeing the kitchen for the Disaster Relief Auction being held in September 2015. He asked that if anyone would like to help serve the meal at Camp Swatara or work in the kitchen for the Relief Auction to let him know. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Adjournment

~ September 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Senior Choir 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am COBYS Bike & Hike	7 Labor Day	8 Music Mtg. 7:00 pm PIZZA HUT DAY	9 Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10-1	11 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	12
13 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Rally Day	14 Pumpkin Roll Baking 8:00 am Pumpkin Roll Filling 5:30 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	15 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	16 Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	17 Pictures for Pictorial Directory	18 Pictures for Pictorial Directory	19 Pictures for Pictorial Directory
20 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	21 Pumpkin Roll Baking 8:00 am Pumpkin Roll Filling 5:30 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	22	23 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	24 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	25 Sharing Cupboard 3-6 Disaster Relief Auction	26 Disaster Relief Auction
27 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	28 Pumpkin Roll Baking 8:00 am Pumpkin Roll Filling 5:30 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	29	30 LVBH Service 7:00 pm	Notes:		