

Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren

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Littleton CO 80120
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The Chimes February 2012

Heifer International

In England a traditional Christmas carol was written: "I Saw Three Ships (Come Sailing In)". Here, at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Littleton, Colorado, we were able to send one **Heifer Project Ark**, filled with opportunity, sailing **out**, this Christmas time. The challenge to fill the ark was given Thanksgiving Day and an anonymous donation of \$1,000 was immediately given to start the process of filling our ark. \$600 was available from our tube of quarters, and over a thousand dollars was given in honor of Dean & Julia Farringer's 75th Wedding Anniversary. Then, came Christmas gifts to honor our loved ones:

David Roy and David Thomas Clapper (Wilodyne's husband and grandson)

Ruth Coulter's love of children

Miriam Cunningham (Larry Cunningham's mom)

Elmer Frantz, who worked tirelessly for the Heifer Project in his lifetime and was the next-to-last honoree, nearly bringing the last animal on deck!

Jay & Wadine Gibbons (Wade & Maxine's son and daughter)

Ralph Kreitzer (Susie Frey's dad)

Ruth Neuman (Judi Neuman-Lee's mom, and Jeff Neuman-Lee's mother-in-law)

John Shepherd (Don & Bitsy's son, Stephen, Elizabeth, & Andrew's brother)

Doug, Kurt, & Laurelee Duncan (Howard & Jan Duncan's children)

By January 6th, the Epiphany, our ark was filled and ready to leave port. Our little church, filled with people of generous hearts, responded to God's call, served, and continues to serve. Praise God!

Treasurer's Report

By Vivian Sherred

Thanks to each of you for giving to Prince of Peace Church time, energy, prayers, and finances. Thank you to Margie Russ for being treasurer this last year till the middle of November. On December 31, 2011, the church has \$86,114.53 in the modified endowment in Brethren Foundation, which declined by about 1% last year. The Savings account of \$150,375.33 earned \$424.16 in interest. The checking account is \$21,736.82. The three accounts total \$258,226.68. Total income in 2011 was \$80,674.39. General Giving was \$57,671.52, Christmas Offering was \$435.00, Cell Tower \$12,000.00, Resolution Works \$2,400.00, and miscellaneous \$332.41. Designated Gifts totaled \$7,835.46. Pass Through of Designated Giving was \$4,410.58. Budgeted Giving was \$72,838.93 and Budgeted Expenses were \$60,911.67.

***Since, then,
you have
been raised
in Christ, set
your hearts
on things
above,
where Christ
is seated at
the right
hand of God.***

Colossians 3: 1

Among Our People

Go to www.wpcob.org for a calendar and more information on **District activities**. Remember The Gathering (October 28th to 30th—call Jeff if you need a ride) in addition to NOAC and camp activities.

Mark your calendars for **District Women's Retreat** at Allenspark, Colorado April 20th through 22nd this year. For additional registration information, contact Sandy Sanborn at 303-464-9856. Additional information will be available in the March Chimes.

Also, at www.brethren.org, you can view many articles, newsletters, etc. about the **Church of the Brethren**. We have included the January/February issue of the Tapestry with The Chimes this month.

Jeff is leading a **Bible study** of the book of Galatians on Monday mornings at 11AM during Women's Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoy a BYO lunch after class. Please join us!

Wilodyne Clapper sends "thanks" for all the prayers for her son, David. He is much better and has returned to work. Wilodyne also reports her Grandson, Ethan, is feeling much better.

Update **your directory**: Rochelle Brogan has a new address and phone:
3850 Perry Street
Denver CO 80212
303-455- 9890

Congratulations to **Maxine Meunier** who was named Valient Woman for 2012 by Church Women United, South East/South Suburban. She was honored at the January meeting with a plaque and a pin. Maxine was honored for her service as Recording Secretary to CWU for the past six years (following Lucille Clannin). Future CWU meetings will be announced in The Chimes—all would be welcome to join the group.



Peacefully. Simply. Together.

WFFF

We will meet the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of February from 9 AM to 2 PM. Please join us for Food, Fun, and Fellowship. Bring your own project to work on and your lunch.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet February 1st from 1-3PM. Please come and share in this important ministry. We have supplies and would love to teach you how to knit or crochet.

Brunch Bunch

Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, February 11th, at Denny's on Hampden, just west of Broadway at 9AM. Please let Maxine Meunier know if you will be there—she needs to make reservations (303-973-4727). Join us for fellowship!

Prayer Requests

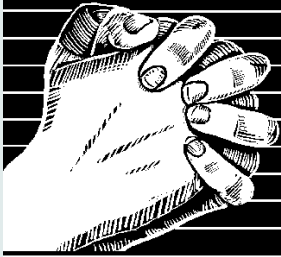
Prince of Peace has procedures for a prayer chain email that can go out in a timely manner when a prayer concern arises. Maxine is the one who sends the prayer chain email out and for this we thank her so much for her faithful work. If you send an email with a prayer concern to be emailed as a prayer chain request, please put "Prayer Chain" in the subject line of your email. If you do not want your prayer concern to be emailed to everyone and would only like the deacons and pastor to be notified of your prayer concern, please put "Deacons Prayer" in the subject line.

Board Report

By Ruth Coulter

Our spirit-inspired church board continues to work for Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren. We work for you and appreciate your shared thoughts and ideas. We pray that the "fruits" are evident through our worship and all the committees. We have a feedback session after worship during fellowship time to continue the dialogue that has begun during worship with the speakers. We desire this time to be informative and open along with the other opportunities available to each of us to continue sharing. Please feel open to continue sharing your thoughts and ideas with our board so we are able to live our mission: "to worship God, Become disciples, and serve others; Continuing the work of Jesus Peacefully, Simply, Together". Feel free to join us next board meeting February 14th at 7:15.

PRAYER

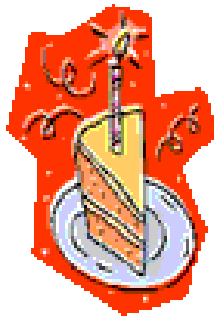


REQUESTS

Our denomination, members, ministers, and executives . . . our elected officials at all levels of government . . . Mary Farringer Wiens . . . Jan Duncan . . . the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria . . . Stephen Bechtel . . . Tristen Dinkle . . . Betty Heisler . . . Algetha Brown . . . Valery Goff . . . Sharon Partridge . . . Charlie Frew . . . William Kentopp . . . Ira Wolfson's father . . . Jennifer Teets . . . Ruth Anderson . . . Mario Rangel . . . Connie Isaac . . . Bonnie Stinnette . . . Bob Vanick . . . Linda Eggers . . . Curt Krantz . . . Herman Rummel . . . Dean and Julia Farringer . . . Marie Teets . . . Helga Steinmann . . . Neil Lundquist . . . Therlander Harris . . . Whittier Community Church . . . the Stinnette Family . . . Danny Doeden . . . Deanna Kindsfather . . . Bob and Maxine Meunier . . . Steve Coulter . . . Darin Gast . . . Dave Valeta's mother . . . Becky Copenhagen . . . Marge Deveny . . . and Robert Covalt.

February Birthdays

- 1st: Mort Stinnette
- 4th: Will Classen
- 5th: Dick Beuthel
Leona Stauffer
- 9th: Glen Funk
- 11th: Marcia Patterson
- 15th: Lori Newman-Lee
- 16th: Jeremy Samland
- 19th: Olivia Grosbach
Clayton Brown
Joan Metsker
- 20th: Jacob Brown
Jeff Newman-Lee
- 23rd: Morris Gump
- 24th: Lyall Sherred
- 26th: Sheila Chapman
Judy Gump
- 29th: Maxine Gibbons



Many happy returns to the day of your birth!
May sunshine and joy be given! And may your Dear Father prepare you on earth for a beautiful birthday in Heaven!

February 2012 Calendar

- 1st: Prayer Shawl
- 2nd: Outreach Service Mission, 9:30AM
- 5th: First Sunday Potluck
- 6th: WFFF, 9AM to 2PM
- 7th: Republican Caucus, 6-9PM
- 11th: Brunch Bunch, 9AM
Movie Night, 6:30PM
- 13th: WFFF, 9AM to 2PM
- 14th: Board Meeting, 7:15PM
- 17th: Sacred Grounds, 6:30PM
- 20th: The Chimes Deadline
WFFF, 9AM to 2PM
Deacons & Caregivers, 2PM
- 27th: WFFF, 9AM to 2PM
TACA, 6:30-8:30PM (first week of a six week class)

Board Member Contacts

- Howard Duncan, Vice-Chair, 303-674-3916
- Ruth Coulter, Church Clerk, 303-922-2942
- Vivian Sherred, Financial Secretary, 303-778-7199
- Jeff Neuman-Lee, Pastor, 303-945-5632
- Gail Erisman Valeta, Moderator, 303-394-0088
- Vivian Sherred, Treasurer, 303-778-7199
- Bitsy Shepherd, Christian Ed, 303-670-9829
- Ellen Anderson, Deacons & Caregivers, 303-973-5420
- Rochelle Brogan, Evangelism, 303-437-8587
- Dave Isaac, Finance
- Barb Rohrer, Outreach/Service, 303-668-5027
- George Junkermeier, Property, 303-584-9051
- Carolyn Gong, Small Groups, 303-880-8147
- Lyle Gump, Worship & Arts, 303-797-1536

**To worship God,
become disciples,
and serve others.**

Necessary Conversation

Jeff Neuman-Lee

On my way to a neighborhood meeting I encountered a black friend the other day, a preacher who works with the kids over at the high school as a baseball coach. We were talking about cultural differences between my white middle class suburban upbringing and his upbringing here in the Whittier Neighborhood. He's the associate pastor over at Antioch Baptist, where in the past I've gone to pray with other neighborhood pastors. Just recently, the senior pastor was caught in an affair and is now gone. I told Herb how sorry I was. And he didn't quite get what I was saying. In our denomination the track record for churches where a senior pastor was caught in an affair is grim. It simply kills the vitality of the congregation, to say nothing of the pain it causes families and marriages. If we Brethren preachers have affairs, we lose our ordinations. Herb's senior pastor just went off and started another church. It is kind of astounding, really.

But, also, amazingly, Herb had no concern that this incident would severely damage the life of his congregation. They have found another man who they know well and he is stepping in for a while. And, Herb admitted, the black church is too used to such things, too ready to forgive without real repentance and forgiveness. They have a blind-spot, really. A cultural blind-spot, where the problem is so common that it isn't seen as much of a problem. I count Herb as a great pastor and a fine Christian. I've seen him work with his teams, I've prayed with him for people he really cares about, we've sat and talked about this and that and Herb is very aware of what's happening. As a pastor, he has a sense of his own blind-spots as well as a deep sadness for the blind-spots of his own congregation. God is using him.

And cultural blind-spots are, well, blind-spots. We don't see the problems because we don't see them. In the movie *The Thin Red Line* a platoon of G.I.'s is moving through the jungle of Guadalcanal Island and a native walks by them. The islander just doesn't see them, they may as well have been trees or the waving grass. This is a phenomenon which has been studied: we people tend to see only what we expect to see and when we see something unexpected, we will tell ourselves that it fits into our expectations, even when it doesn't. You know the gorilla test where people are told to watch someone carefully. Then a gorilla walks by in the background. An astounding number of the people never see the gorilla. They are blinded by their expectations.

So, the other day, a good friend asked me to clarify something I'd said. He realized that he didn't understand something and instead of taking it personally, which, in retrospect, I see how he could have done, he took the time to have a conversation with me. Of course, his asking me about it helped me to reflect on the choice of words I'd made. I really was not clear. Then Sister Maxine asked me to clarify something I'd said. Again, what a relief to have people who can just ask and then we can figure it out together. I used the word "fundamentalists" and she thought I was referring to a denomination while I was referring to a way of thinking. Well, now that I stop to think about it, of course she might have thought I was talking about a denomination. So I needed the conversation to help me choose my words better. Ack! These blind spots! I keep bumping into them like walking into walls. I mean well, but my poor vision (to be clear— metaphorically speaking) gets me in all sorts of trouble.

It goes the same with our reading the Bible. We are a Biblical people. We are also a people who have learned that we need to talk about what we read. We don't just take the standard answers. We don't just listen to the pastor (yes, some people in other denominations actually do listen to their pastors). We do believe that God is working in every person who comes to the Bible aware that God does have something new to teach. We understand that we can be blind to the message, to the parts we just don't know, or parts that are too hard to imagine. But if we talk about it, if we work with each other to understand each other and then ourselves, if we gather prayerfully around the scripture, then the conversation may find God's Spirit teaching us something new, something that was there, but we just couldn't see it.

And with new vision comes blessings.