

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH, 2019

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”



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Have you ever embarked on an effort to “get in better shape”? People do it all the time—sometimes for a New Year’s resolution, sometimes as beach season is approaching, sometimes because they read an article, or sometimes because a doctor tells them to.



The approaches to such a campaign can vary and are often multi-faceted. The two bedrocks we usually hear about are diet and exercise: eating better and making sure we get enough physical activity. If we can get in a habit of doing those things, we generally feel better physically, feel better about ourselves, and carry renewed focus and energy into other tasks.

What’s good for our body is also good for our souls. Our spiritual selves also have to work intentionally to maintain good health. Rather than running or lifting weights, though, we hone our faith through what we often call spiritual practices or disciplines, kind of like spiritual sit-ups. The lists of these practices vary, but they include more basic things like prayer, Bible study, worship, and stewardship, as well as fasting, taking sabbath rest, spiritual pilgrimage, and observing the ordinances of the church.

One of the best known books on this topic is Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. It was required reading for one of my seminary classes, and it helped me to think more about the intentionality of these practices. In one passage, Foster writes:

“A farmer is helpless to grow grain; all he can do is provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. He cultivates the ground, he plants the seed, he waters the plants, and then the natural forces of the earth take over and up comes the grain. ... This is the way it is with the Spiritual Disciplines—they are a way of sowing to the Spirit. ... By themselves the Spiritual Disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done.”

In other words, these practices and disciplines prepare and nourish our souls to better allow God to work in us. As we journey through the Lenten season this year, I’ll be sharing about one of these practices each Sunday in worship. You’ll also have a chance to delve into scripture through a Bible study that Wanda Baynard will be leading on Wednesday mornings, helping us to become better acquainted with our Bibles.

I hope the various discussions spur you to delve deeper into some of these practices, too. As with physical fitness, some people will find it easier than others, and you might discover that some resonate with you while others do not. I encourage you, though, to find at least one that you might focus on this year as a means of deepening your faith and making it a more vital and meaningful part of your life.

Who’s ready for a workout?

--Pastor Walt

NOTE: Pastor Walt will be attending a continuing education seminar at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta March 13-16.



- 1 Martina Towers
- 3 Jalen Jones, Kellee Kinsey
- 4 Leslie Schwaninger
- 5 Diane Laukenmann, Brendan Faw
- 7 Marjorie Walbridge
- 8 Cheryl Heckard
- 10 Cindy Townsend, Darlena Roesti-Butler
- 14 Kristi Booze
- 15 Corey Edsall, Matthew Faulkner,
Katie Pederson
- 16 Joanna Williams
- 17 Patti Ball
- 18 Kevin Schwaninger, Rebecca Russ,
Paul Turkington
- 20 Sandy Faw
- 21 Gene Lednum, Robert Milburn, Joy Phelps,
Albert Pete
- 22 Steven Mullikin
- 23 Trevor Ball
- 24 Randy Walbridge
- 25 Paula Ulrich
- 27 David Allen, David Ireland
- 28 Nancy Scheffler
- 29 Michael Correa, Kathy Ebling
- 30 Randy Bachand
- 31 Jennifer Fox



- 9 Ted & Patty Schwaninger
- 11 David & Jo Ann Fike
- 14 Ken & Sue Ann Russ
- David & Cindy Allen
- 25 Allen & Cheryl Heckard

Leadership Team Retreat

Our next Leadership Team meeting
will be Monday, March 4 at 1:00 p.m.



Highlights of the February 4 Leadership Team Meeting

- Reflections from the Board Retreat were highlighted.
- Jonathan Shively will conduct a music workshop at the church, then be a part of the 150 years of the Brethren on the Eastern Shore celebration at Camp Mardela on May 19.
- A line item for Ridgeway House was requested.
- Ministry Teams gave brief reports.

An Evening with Samuel & Rebecca Dali

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Denton Church of the Brethren,
108 S 7th Street, Denton, MD

5:00-6:30 p.m. - Carry-in meal
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Worship and sharing
7:30-8:00 p.m. - Fellowship and Desserts

Serving as president of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) from 2011 to 2016 – the period when the church was most severely affected by violence from Boko Haram, Samuel Dali is known for his work in peacebuilding and advocacy with ecumenical, interfaith, and political groups in northeastern Nigeria.

Founder of the Center for Caring Empowerment and Peace Initiative, Rebecca Dali has received international recognition for her humanitarian work with the oppressed in Nigeria. Most recently, Rebecca was awarded the 2017 Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation award in honor of her courageous efforts to promote the reintegration of women abducted by Boko Haram back into their local communities.

LAST EPIPHANY WORSHIP THEME

March 3 A Healthy Glow

Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36,
2 Cor. 3:12-15?



LENTEN SEASON 2019 THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

March 10 First Sunday of Lent

Making Space: The Discipline of Fasting
Isa. 58:1-12, Matthews 6:16-18, Luke 4:1-4

March 17 Second Sunday of Lent

Time out: The Discipline of Sabbath Rest
Exodus 20:8-11, Isa. 58:13-14, Matthew 12:1-14

March 24 Third Sunday of Lent

A Day to Pray: The Discipline of Prayer
Psalm 92 and 119:161-168, Luke 11:1-13

March 31 Fourth Sunday of Lent

110 Percent: The Discipline of Giving Back
Deut. 26:1-11, Matt. 6:19-21

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to collect the box tops for education found on a variety of food items we purchase. The box tops will enable us in some small way help the school children of Talbot County. Thank you for your participation.



Your Witness Team
Diane Shores & Anne Harvey

"FIFTH SUNDAY" CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, March 31, prepare to go down--down the steps to the fellowship hall! We're going to try occasional "Fifth Sunday" worship services downstairs to provide a different flavor and feel for worship. We hope it will provide a different way of interacting and being together and perhaps allow for some other creative possibilities. See you "Down Under" on the 31st!

"A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"

Following up on our kickoff event with David Radcliff of New Community Project in February, we hope to provide a series of other events to help us focus on creation care issues and eco-theology through the year. Some of those include:

--In March, the Eastern Shore Climate Conference will take place in Oxford, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$25. To register or for more information, visit www.eslc.org/events.

--This spring the Pathfinders Christian education class is using a curriculum titled "Keeping the Garden: A Faith Response to God's Creation."

--We're working on an excursion to the New Community Project Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, Va. (as well as some other sites in the area) for sometime in late spring or early fall. Some more local outings are also being explored.

--A film night for the congregation is also in the works.

Watch for more details as plans and opportunities develop!

"Thank you" from Ellen Walbridge for her birthday celebration.

As much as Ellen would like to write a note to each of you who expressed your love to her at her 100th birthday celebration, that would be an overwhelming task. Please know that in her heart she appreciates each church member who sent cards and gave her such affirming greetings.



Sincere thanks from Ellen and her family to those who cooked, washed dishes, set up and took down tables and provided the bouquet of flowers.

"Ellen Walbridge Centennial Sunday" will long be remembered. Pastor Walt's tribute was wonderful, warm and witty.

- Ellen Walbridge and family

Attendance & Offering for February

	Attendance	50	39	38	92	219
	2/3/19	2/10/19	2/17/19	2/24/19	Totals	
<u>Distributions</u>						
General (06)						
Envelopes	3,519.00	450.00	2,235.00	1,762.00	7,966.00	
Loose Change/Cash	48.00	30.00	0.00	162.00	240.00	
Total Before Prepaid Tithes	3,567.00	480.00	2,235.00	1,924.00	8,206.00	
Prepaid Tithes Weekly	288.46	288.46	288.46	288.46	1,153.84	
Subtotal	3,855.46	768.46	2,523.46	2,212.46	9,359.84	
Income (06)						
Building Use						
Wednesday Night Beginners	180.00				180.00	
Bells of the Bay			500.00		500.00	
Dutchmans Lane Rent		1,155.00			1,155.00	
Harrison St. Rent		255.00			255.00	
Late Fees on Harrison St Rent		50.00			50.00	
Totals	4,035.46	2,228.46	3,023.46	2,212.46	11,499.84	
Special Offerings (07)						
Deacon Fund	800.00				800.00	
In Kind						
In & Out						
Poinsettia		20.00			20.00	
MADD Auction Ads	60.00	25.00	85.00		170.00	
Music	100.00			100.00	200.00	
Totals	960.00	45.00	85.00	100.00	1,190.00	
Totals	4,995.46	2,273.46	3,108.46	2,312.46	12,689.84	

With Deepest Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Rose Taylor. Rose passed away on Friday, February 15. She was 91 years old. A graveside service was held on Monday, February 25 at the Maryland Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock.

We pray Christ presence and love to her family.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2019 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. Our next date is March 19, 2019.

Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in serving as a worship leader or doing the children's time? We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

Easton Elementary School

EES is in need of volunteers to do various tasks throughout the school. Please contact Christen at 410-822-0686 and tell her what hours/days you are available and the kind of things you are willing to do.



NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **There is a container in the narthex to put your non-perishable items.**



Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Contact Loretta Lohr (410-822-3094). Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, Barbara Seese, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Steve Webb, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, Debby Jackson, John Nalley, John Eason, Jeff Parks, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Virginia, friend of Sallie Myer, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Reginia Hutchison, Audrey O'Brien, Doug Edsall, Lois Schall, Meredith Kelly, Natalee Jones, Doris Walbridge, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Mary Fike, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geib, Leo Truban, Rose Taylor, Emerson Fike, John Antes, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list. In order to keep the list up-to-date, we will remove persons the end of each month unless we are asked to continue them on the list.





Volunteers for March



	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Preaching	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Jane Marshall	Sharon Miller	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard
Head Usher/ Sound	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch
Ushers	Robert & Judy Musch	Terri Tarr & Marlena Groves	Robert & Judy Musch	Terri Tarr & Marlena Groves	Robert & Judy Musch
Greeters	Barbara Saulsbury & Liz Wildasin	Diane Walbridge & Ellen Walbridge	Misti Green	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller
Deacons on call	Les & Marlena Groves	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax
Special Music	Ellen Wile	Choir	Choir		Free Range
Flowers				Kevin & Ellen Wile	

Lenten Bible Study at Camp Mardela

Beginning on Tuesday, March 19, 2019

10:30 a.m.

“HE CHOSE THE NAILS”

Every gift from God reveals His love, but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts came not wrapped in paper, but in passion. They were not placed around a tree, but around a cross. They were not covered with ribbons, but sprinkled with the blood that Christ shed on our behalf.

Titles are:

- He chose to be one of us.
- He chose to forgive us.
- He chose to invite us into His presence.
- He chose to love us forever.
- He chose to give us victory.



Please let Bob Musch, our Camp Rep, know if you are interested in attending or you may call Camp at 410-479-2861.

Lenten Bible Study at Easton CoB

Led by: Wanda Baynard

Beginning on Wednesday, March 13 through

April 17, 2019 9:30-10:30 a.m.

“GETTING INTO THE BIBLE”

We talked about the bible a lot in church, but many of us aren't familiar with much beyond the very basics. Join us this Lenten season as we plunge deeper into the pages of scripture to learn more about this book that sits at the center of our faith. All are welcome. Please sign-up in the narthex to assist our planning.



Topics will include:

- 3/13: AN introduction: Getting to know you.
- 3/20: Beginning to know the Bible.
- 3/27: Introduction to the Old Testament.
- 4/3: Introduction to the New Testament.
- 4/10: Getting to know :The Story”: A deeper exploration.
- 4/17: Getting to know “The Story,” continued.

LENTEN LEARNINGS

The season of Lent begins on March 6 (Ash Wednesday) this year. Test your knowledge of this period of reflection in the Christian church that leads us to Good Friday and Easter:

1. How many days are officially part of the season of Lent?
a. 36 b. 40 c. 50 d. 62
2. In about what year did the Catholic Church begin the observance of Lent?
325 b. 550 c. 1000 d. 1500 e. 1919
3. The word "Lent" comes from a Middle English word that meant what?
Ashes b. Quiet c. Ritual d. Springtime
4. "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras" came about as a final celebration before the period of fasting began. New Orleans holds the largest Mardi Gras celebration in the US. Which US city holds the second-largest Mardi Gras festival?
a. Mobile, Alabama b. Atlanta c. Easton, Maryland d. Boston
5. What is the liturgical color for the season of Lent?
a. Orange b. Green c. Yellow d. Violet
6. In a 2014 study, what percentage of adults surveyed said they were giving up something for Lent?
a. 5 b. 43 c. 88 d. 99

ANSWERS:

1. b. While the season spans 46 days, Sundays are not included in the count. Lent was 36 days when it first started as an observance, but was later lengthened to include Ash Wednesday.
2. a. The observance of Lent was inaugurated during the Council of Nicaea. It has since spread to many church traditions.
3. d. It derived from the Middle English word "lente."
4. a. Mobile, Alabama, holds the nation's second-largest Mardi Gras event. It was also the first in the nation to hold such a celebration, going back to 1703.
5. d. Violet/Purple is the official liturgical color for the Lenten season. It's also the traditional color for Advent, another season of preparation and reflection.
6. c. 88 percent of those surveyed said they were giving up some item of food for Lent. The No. 1 thing being given up: Chocolate.

Source: *The Fact Site*, Andrew Krehbiel; and church sources.

It's A Girl

Congratulations to J.R. & Catherine Stichberry on the birth of Aubrie Lea. Aubrie was born on Wednesday, February 13 at 5:45 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19 inches long. Aubrie is welcomed home by big sister, Ember Mae, proud grandparents, John and Dorothy Stichberry and Renee' Pearson and great-grandmother, Ellen Sherwood.



150 YEARS OF THE BRETHREN ON THE EASTERN SHORE

**SPRING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
FEATURING JONATHAN SHIVELY**

**May 19, 4 p.m.
Camp Mardela, Denton**

SUMMER VESPERS

**Aug. 21, 7 p.m.
Historic Round Top
meeting house, Easton**

FALL LOVE FEAST

Details TBA

**A Brethren heritage-flavored
remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper**

WATCH FOR E-MAILS AND OTHER UPDATES!



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ 1869: First Brethren move to Eastern Shore, Caroline County
- ♦ 1880: First meeting house constructed in Easton, Talbot County
- ♦ 1881: First Brethren congregation formally organizes
- ♦ 1948-1949: First camps held at Camp Mardela, Denton

PRESENT-DAY CONGREGATIONS

Bethany
Community of Joy
Denton
Easton
Fairview
Green Hill
Ridgely



Church of the Brethren

Jonathan Shively--former director of Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren and an accomplished musician--will be with us the weekend of May 18-19 to lead a choir/music workshop, provide some leadership in worship, and to share at a special 150th anniversary Eastern Shore worship and concert time at Camp Mardela (see flier above) Sunday afternoon. Watch for more details!



Sunday, March 17

1-2:30 p.m.

ARTS FEST 2019

Puppetry

Write your own psalms

Clowning ☀ Coloring mandalas

Visualizing Scripture through painting

Music 🎵 Reader's theater/drama

Making banners ♦ And more!

(Carry-in lunch starts the fun at 12 p.m.!)



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CAMP MARDELA FUNDRAISING EVENT

GROTTA PIZZA COMMUNITY
PIZZA NIGHT

Seaford-Sussex Highway

MARCH 18, 2019 - 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Vouchers are needed for this event and are found on the table in the narthex.



March 10, 2019



"More Than We Can Imagine"

Imagine the potential of one seed, one volunteer, one conference. Consider how God



could use each of these to change the world. Though we may not always notice it, God is always behind the scenes making incredible

and wonderful things happen.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you participate in the great vision that God has for our communities and for our world. Your gifts to this special offering directly support Global Mission and Service, Discipleship Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and the Global Food Initiative. Through your gifts and the dedication of faithful volunteers, God is accomplishing far more than we could ever imagine.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be on March 17, 2019.

Vesper's Service

Vespers this month will be held at Roundtop



Church (weather permitting) on Wednesday, March 6, beginning at 7:00 p.m.



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