

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

SEPTEMBER, 2019

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

Website: www.eastonbrethren.org

Last month I was able to do one of my favorite things in ministry: officiate a wedding. All weddings are fun, if a bit nerve-wracking, but ones for friends or family members are particularly meaningful. In this case, the ceremony was for a long-time friend from Illinois and his bride, whom he met while attending the University of Minnesota, so it was a special one.



And the setting was spectacular: A late-19th century mansion complete with a sweeping foyer, wine grotto, and third-floor ballroom overlooking the city. Amid all the grandeur, though, it struck me how the focus remained as it does at any wedding: on the couple and their love and their promises to one another.

One of the passages I often include when doing a ceremony is a quote by one of my favorite authors, Robert Fulghum: “From (those first) moments (of meeting) to this moment, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or on long walks, all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and “continued with “I will and you will and we will”—those late-night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe”—and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of wedding.”

It’s a reminder that all the pomp and circumstance of the day is just the culmination of something much bigger, an exclamation point in the midst of an energetic run-on sentence. It underscores that marriage is not a one-day event but a commitment to a long-term journey, one that holds the needs and desires of the other person alongside our own.

Beyond the context of marriage, it can also prompt all of us to reflect on the promises we make, whether to our family members, our friends, or complete strangers. How well do we keep them? Brethren musician Andy Murray once wrote a song about a Brethren man whose word was so respected that they didn’t even weigh his grain at the scales. If he said it was 20.3 pounds, it was 20.3 pounds. Is our word that trustworthy?

We make promises to each other and God as a church community, too, in our baptismal vows: promises to follow Christ and live by his example, to turn away from sin, and to be a faithful and supportive member of the church community. Like wedding vows, they are not one-time words, but promises meant to weave through a life-long relationship. Are those vows still an important part of who you are today? Can you still say, “I do”?

—Pastor Walt

Sermons & Scriptures for late summer/early fall

Sept. 1

Family Camp Worship at Camp Mardela

Sept. 8

70th Anniversary of Cornerstone Laying
Building Blocks

Luke 14:25-33, Psalm 118:19-25, Ps. 1,
Deut. 30:15-20

Sept. 15 Celebration Sunday / Teacher
Recognition

Lost

Luke 15:1-10, 1 Tim. 1:12-17, Exod. 32:7-
14

Sept. 22

Friends in Low Places

Luke 16:1-13, Psalm 113, Amos 8:4-7, Luke
16:19-31

Sept. 29

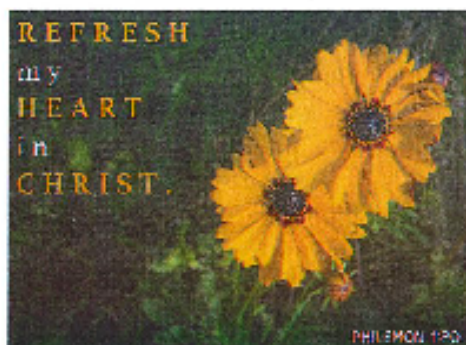
Security

1 Tim. 6:6-19, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

Oct. 6 World Communion Sunday / Love
Feast

A Seed of Hope

Luke 17:5-10, Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 2:1-4,
Lamentations 3:19-26, Psalm 137:1-6



Leadership Team Meeting



Our next Leadership Team meeting
will be Monday, September 9 at 1:00
p.m.

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: to the family of Mary Fike, to the family of Regenia Hutchison, to the family of Donnie Hutchison, to the family of Anthony Jones, to the family of Alice Maloney, Pat Saathoff, Paul & Ginny Turkington, Pat Lewis, Donna Muir, JR & Bonnie Wooters, Bob Fletcher, Ellen Walbridge, Pete Haynes, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, Barbara Seese, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Steve Webb, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, 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, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geih, Leo Truhan, Emerson Fike, 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.



CAMP MARDELA

“Benefit Pig Roast”

WHEN:

**September 14
2pm – 6pm**

WHERE:

**Trax Farm
8571 Black Dog Alley, Easton**

FEATURING: FREE RANGE BAND

**Open to Brethren
members & friends.**

**Purchase your tickets no later
than 9/7/19**

**Limited to 100 tickets! Checks
payable to Easton CoB.**

**ALL
PROCEEDS GO
TO CAMP
MARDELA**

TICKETS:

**\$15. Please bring a
side dish, salad or
dessert.**

CONTACT:

**LEE ANN FOX
AND
SPONSORS FOR
TICKETS**

SPONSORS:

**Robert & Judy Musch
Jim & Loretta Lohr
John & Norma Trax**

BENEFITING:

**Camp Mardela
Programs and
Operations**

National Older Adult Conference September 2-6, 2019

held at

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center
in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Those attending NOAC from Easton CoB are: Pastor Walt, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Dale Fike and Barbara Saulsbury.

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to collect the box tops for education during this upcoming school year. The box tops are 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



Vespers Service will be held on
Wednesday evening,
September 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Roundtop Church



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 September 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.

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.

Attendance & Offering for August

<u>Attendance</u>	53	28		45	34	160
	8/4/19	8/11/19	8/14/19	8/18/19	8/25/19	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>						
<i>General (06)</i>						
Envelopes	3,530.00	420.00		2,155.00	956.00	7,061.00
Loose Change/Cash	58.00	52.00		55.50	24.00	189.50
Subtotal	3,588.00	472.00	0.00	2,210.50	980.00	7,250.50
06 Income						
Building Use						
Safe Haven	30.00					30.00
Dutchmans Lane Rent		1,155.00				1,155.00
Harrison St. Rent		1,155.00				1,155.00
Subtotal of Income	30.00	2,310.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,340.00
Totals	3,618.00	2,782.00	0.00	2,210.50	980.00	9,590.50
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>						
Deacon Fund		800.00				800.00
Bldg/Memorial Fund - M. Fike					100.00	100.00
In Kind						
In & Out						
Men & Women's Banquet	44.00	118.00	367.00	154.00	176.00	859.00
Eco Cruise	40.00	40.00				80.00
Pig Roast Fundraiser	45.00	74.00	15.00	180.00	75.00	389.00
Pig Roast Fundraiser Donation					10.00	10.00
Music	100.00					100.00
Totals	229.00	1,032.00	382.00	334.00	361.00	2,338.00
Totals	3,847.00	3,814.00	382.00	2,544.50	1,341.00	11,928.50

I came across this article posted by Jonathan Shively on Facebook and was inspired to share it with my church family. I am one grateful church music director! I have a dedicated choir, to which new members are constantly welcomed. :) I am a member of a congregation and pastorate who value greatly the musical gifts and talents in the body and are tremendously supportive, and joyful in that support and love! God loves a cheerful giver and therefore the Easton Church of the Brethren family is adored by God! Thank you all and I look forward to this coming season of singing and ringing! **-Ellen Wile**

9 Reasons to Keep the Church Choir Alive **SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 BY JONATHAN AIGNER**

- 1. Choirs support good congregational singing.** A solo leader singing into a microphone sends a message to the congregation that its role is similar to that of an audience at a rock concert: "Sing along if you please, as obnoxiously as you please, as sloppily as you please." If you've been to church recently, especially in churches that use only commercial Christian music, you may have noticed that most often, congregants choose not to sing at all. The amplification puts up a barrier to singing, rather than establishing a musical current to help the congregation. On the other hand, a choir demonstrates that the voice of the congregation is primary, not secondary. It encourages them to join in by lifting their voices, without overpowering them with a wall of amplification.
- 2. Their visual presence is an encouragement to the congregation.** I can't tell you how many times I've heard a worship leader admonish congregants "to get alone with God," and pretend that there is no one else around. There is a time and place for that, but worship gatherings are neither the time nor the place. We are there to be together, to worship God with each other, to be community. When there are only a few leading, it's easy to forget this, to feel alone. But when we look up and see a mini-congregation of faces looking back at us, we're reminded that we're not alone, that we're there to be part of a very special communion. And, of course, it's all in practice for when we join that great heavenly chorus around the very throne of our Creator/Redeemer God, the Object of our worship.
- 3. Choirs make a broader repertoire available for a worship service.** With a good arrangement, choirs can sing selections from practically any genre, from classical, to folk, to world music, to contemporary/popular music, something that just isn't possible for a "worship leader" and a praise band.
- 4. They can offer more difficult and complex music than is possible for the greater congregation.** Besides leading in times of corporate singing, since choirs have the benefit of outside rehearsal time, they can offer up musical praises on behalf of the congregation that would otherwise not be possible. In this sense, a choir can be a preaching and praying group, proclaiming God's self-revelation, to which the congregation can listen, meditate, and respond worshipfully in their hearts.
- 5. Choirs help singers develop and improve their musical gifts.** Christians are a singing people. This is not only biblical, but is a tradition older than the faith itself. Church choirs provide a free musical education, and help to refine the abilities of amateur musicians who might not otherwise have the opportunity. And while in the Grossman article, Pastor Merritt claims that "the younger generation doesn't gravitate toward choirs," that perspective is short-sighted. Much of the general population has had experience singing in choir at some point in their formal education, while many others have had other exposure to applied musical arts through band or orchestra. This is a huge population that is ready to either sing in a choir, or to appreciate and be encouraged by well-crafted and executed choral music. Giving children opportunities for choral education in the local church setting further primes congregations to be accepting and supportive of choral music.

6. Participation in choir ministry can be an avenue for introducing outsiders to the church and the Christian faith. I've known many, many people who have come into a church by way of a choral ensemble, have heard the gospel, and have responded with committing their life to Christ. Or, as was the case in my life, choirs can help keep people connected to the faith. I was all but ready to leave the organized church as a teenager, but a move to a new congregation and finding love and acceptance in the choir loft kept me engaged, and ultimately set the stage for me to recognize my calling into vocational church work.

7. The choral process reflects the mission of the universal church. Participating in a church choir teaches Christians how to work together sacrificially for the common good of the group, just as the church is to follow the model of our Servant-Savior and give sacrificially for the good of Christ's kingdom.

8. A church choir is an open, welcoming, and diverse group. Seriously, there seems to be a trend in contemporary worship culture that says unless you look a certain way, dress a certain way, have the right personality, fit into the targeted age bracket, or meet some other predetermined "coolness" factor, you cannot lead in corporate worship. This is wrong. Worship leadership should resemble the radical diversity of Christ's Kingdom, and a choir facilitates this quite well.

9. They add creative artistry and beauty to a worship service. The profound poverty of artistry and imagination found in our culture's popular musical output is staggering, as is our willingness to fill our worship gatherings with christianized versions of this stuff. Michael Raiter refers to this phenomenon as the "Hillsongization" of Christian gathered worship, where everywhere "the singing in the church – both the songs that are sung and the style of music is just the same. Oh, the words of the songs might differ, but it's the same music team singing the same way. There's the obligatory leader with the obligatory two or three singers accompanying her, the obligatory drummer, the obligatory keyboard player and the obligatory two guitarists. You're allowed some freedom in your choice of a sax or flute, depending on the resources available, but it's all exactly the same for every song in every place." It's as if every church has its own cover band, and the quality of the worship (or, rather, "music") is determined chiefly by whose cover band is the best. As our fragile and fleeting human ability to create beautiful artistic expression is such a striking example of our divine Creator's image in us, I don't think the church can denounce this trend strongly enough. Oh, to be sure, having a choir doesn't automatically mean your church's music won't become "Hillsongized," but it gives you a greater organic palate for exploring the full capability of the human voice.

In closing, we need to stop and think about all we are giving up when we lose a choral presence in corporate worship. I think decreased emphasis on choral music in church is costing us dearly in our ability to follow the New Testament admonishment to sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord.





Volunteers for September



	Family Camp- 9/1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29
Preaching	Service at Camp, beginning at 10:30am	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader		Sharon Miller	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/ Sound		Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller
Ushers		Rick & Jane Marshall	Seth & Lee Willis	Rick & Jane Marshall	Seth & Lee Willis
Greeters		Debbie Urry & Ginny Turkington	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	Robert & Judy Musch
Deacons on call	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller
Special Music		Choir	Amy Bachand	Choir	
Flowers				Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	

SCRAMBLE DRILL

September brings the start of football season! Can you unscramble these 10 football-related terms? Answers are below.

STIRF DWN0
PETECOINTRIN
NED NOZE
TEAMLI FH
BLUEFM
BAKECATQURR
CHOWDONUT
VERICERE
DLIFE LOGA
TEANPLY



ANSWERS: 1. FIRST DOWN; 2. INTERCEPTION; 3. END ZONE; 4. HALFTIME; 5. FUMBLE; 6. QUARTERBACK; 7. TOUCHDOWN; 8. RECEIVER; 9. FIELD GOAL; 10. PENALTY.



- 1 Sallie Griswold
- 2 Alex Malaney,
Janet Golt, Billy Loscomb
Chris Lyons
- 4 Amie Lednum Sharp
- 6 John Trax, Kai Kelly
- 7 Gary Faulkner
- 8 Ellen Sherwood, Zachary Kinsey
- 9 Chuck Davis, Betty Sanger
- 10 Mat Baynard, Jane Marshall
- 11 Dylan Faulkner
- 13 Brandt Wooters
- 14 Joel Lohr
- 16 Charles Schwaninger
- 17 Jim Lohr
- 18 Bill Schuyler
- 20 Robyn Glass
- 21 Makayla Mullikin, Katelynn Miles
- 22 Jamie Crannell
- 23 Eric Harvey, Sarah Price
- 24 Kip Wood, Darin Jones
- 25 Sarah Scaglione
- 26 Kelsey Basel, Greg Mullikin
- 28 Josie Mae Berkey, Tammy Haddaway
- 29 Cameron Edsall, Ladainian Jones



- 2 Randy & Susan Walbridge
- 6 David & Joy Phelps
- 9 Bill & Laurie Schnaitman
- 19 Mark & Tammy Miller
- 20 Les & Marlena Groves
- 24 Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
- 26 Tom & Janet Golt
- 27 Emerson & Karen Tarr
- Adam & Julie Schwaninger
- 30 James & Sallie Griswold
Walt & Cheryl Hoevenaars

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Mary Fike. Mary passed away on July 25, 2019. A celebration of Mary's life will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. here at the Church, where friends may call one-hour prior from 10–11:00 a.m. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. at Fairview Church of the Brethren Cemetery in Cordova.



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Regenia Hutchison. Regenia passed away on July 26, 2019. Services were held on July 29 at Fairview CoB.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Donnie Hutchison. Donnie passed away on August 6, 2019. A celebration of life memorial service was held on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 12:00 p.m., at the Bethlehem Wesleyan Church in Preston, MD.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Anthony Jones. Anthony passes away on August 21, 2019. Funeral services were held on August 29 at the First Baptist Church, Easton, MD.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Diane Walbridge in the passing of their mother Alice Maloney. Mrs. Maloney passed away on August 25. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, August 31, at 11:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 508 High St. Chestertown, MD. Burial will follow in Chester Cemetery, Chestertown, MD.

We pray Christ love and presence to the families of our deceased members and friends.



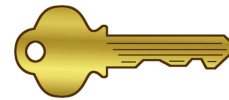
You are invited

To an ice cream social and Blessing of the Pets event on Oct. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. Folks just need to bring their pets and their appetites!



Due to some issues with the church building this past year, as well as a proliferation of unaccounted-for keys, the Leadership Team at its Aug. 5 meeting approved changing the locks on the exterior doors of the church. New keys have been distributed to all church officers, ministry team chairs, staff, and rental groups that use the building. If you did not receive a key but have regular need of one, please contact the church office with your name and the need, and the Stewards team will process those requests. Keys can also be loaned out when needed for special events by contacting the church office.

Thank you!



The 53rd Annual Mid-Atlantic District Conference will be held on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.

Friday night worship will begin at 7:30 p.m.



PEACE STRENGTH COURAGE
DANIEL 10:19

Deadline to signup for delegates and non-delegates is September 20.

This year's delegates are Norma Trax and Susan Walbridge.

Camp Mardela Annual Supper - 301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD

Saturday, September 21, 2019 - 4:00-7:00 p.m.



Easton CoB is responsible for:
Parking, Gold Carts, 5 dozen rolls, 4 sheets cakes
or 5 dozen cupcakes.

Please see Robert Musch, Camp Rep.,
if you are able to volunteer.



Address Service Requested

Easton Church of the Brethren
Peach Blossom Press
412 S. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Easton, MD
Permit 226