



Our Sunday Worship

- March 9: 5th Sunday in Lent
Text: John 11: 1-45
Message: "Un-Bound"
- March 16: 6th Sunday in Lent
Text: Luke 19: 29-40
Message: Talking Stones
- March 23: Easter Sunday
Texts: John 20: 1-18 & Matthew 28: 1-10
Message: Life: The Last Word
- March 30: 2nd Sunday of Easter
Terry Link will be preaching. Pastor Kres will be at Bethany Theological Seminary attending a professional Growth event.

Receiving One Great Hour Gifts

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering for 2008 will be collected on March 9. "Sharing Resources, Changing Lives" is this year's theme.

For years, Brethren have participated in this special appeal. In fact, it is so firmly established in many congregations that its unique history and role in the Church of the Brethren ministries is sometimes forgotten.

According to the One Great Hour of Sharing website (www.onegreathourofsharing.org): "Following World War II, US Protestant churches appealed for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by war. In 1949, several denominations formed a committee to appeal for support of the separate campaigns of their churches. Their joint statement remains remarkably contemporary: 'This nationwide, united effort by America's Christians has an importance far beyond the practical goal of fundraising. This great joint program will not only strengthen the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of churches overseas, but it will also prove to all the world how great is the power generated when Christians unite in a common cause.'

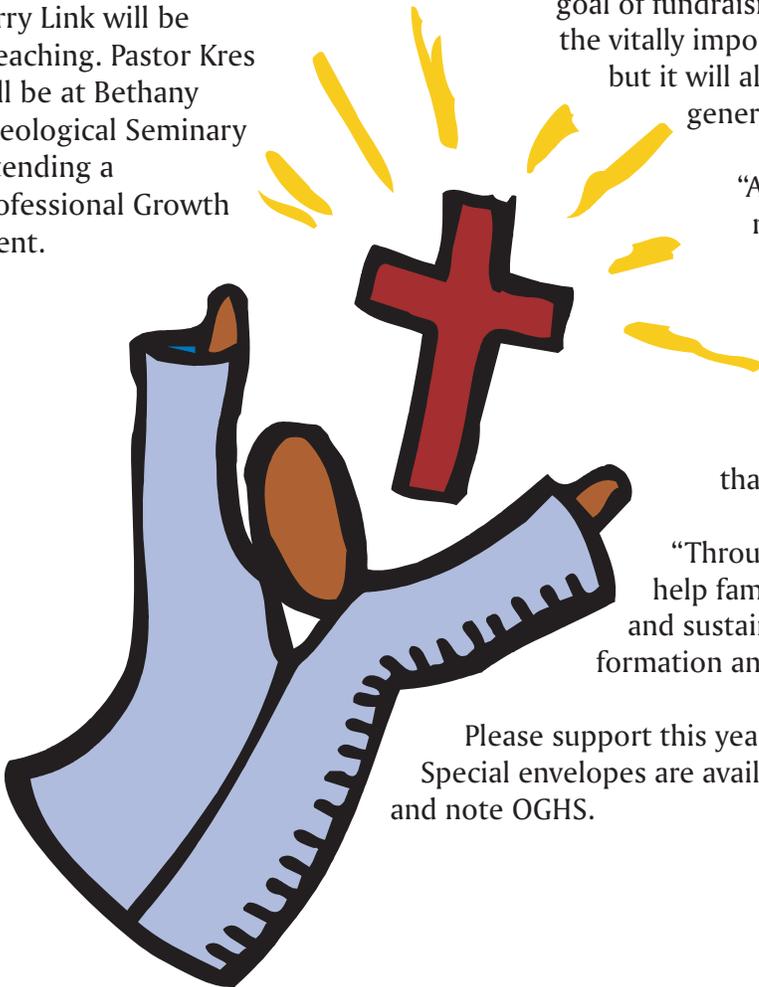
"A program called One Great Hour was broadcast over the radio on March 26, 1949. The broadcast closed by requesting that listeners attend their local church the next morning and make a contribution.

"An estimated 75,000 churches participated. By 1954, the goal for all giving to OGHS was \$8 million. Today, projects supported by OGHS are under way in more than 100 countries.

"Through General Board ministries, Brethren gifts to OGHS help families around the world build lives that are healthy, safe, and sustainable," said Carol Bowman, coordinator of stewardship formation and education."

Please support this year's One Great Hour Sharing with a gift on March 9. Special envelopes are available. Make your checks out to our local congregation and note OGHS.

(reprinted from TAPESTRY, a newsletter highlighting the ministries and mission of the Church of the Brethren)



Holy Thursday – Love Feast Service (March 20)

Our annual Holy Thursday Love Feast service will be held on March 20 beginning at 7 pm. We will begin our time together in the sanctuary with song, scripture, and prayer. Following these opening moments, our service will move downstairs to the fellowship room where we will share in the service of feet washing (a hand washing option will be offered); a simple meal; and the service of bread and cup communion.

For Brethren, the traditional love feast remains the profound central act and symbol of the church's life. It is an examination of our faith walk and a time of worship, service, and fellowship with our sisters and brothers.

Easter Breakfast

An Easter morning breakfast will be held on March 23 prior to our Easter Sunday worship. As in past years, the breakfast will be a potluck. You are invited to bring a dish to pass (casserole, rolls, muffins, or other breakfast dishes). Coffee and juice will be provided. The breakfast gathering will begin at 9:15 am.

P.O.R.A.'s 4th Annual Dinner & Auction

P.O.R.A. (Positive Options, Referrals & Alternatives) will hold their 4th annual dinner and auction on Saturday, March 29, at the K of C Hall at 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road. The cost is \$30 per person. The doors will open at 5 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening and a live auction will be held after dinner. A reservation is required. Forms can be picked up at the church or you can call 522-3922 to make a reservation.

P.O.R.A. operates a recovery home for women at 930 S. 11th St. in Springfield, IL. Since the shelter opened in 1997, they have provided safe housing and hope to over 120 women. During the past year, PORA's Outreach Program provided food, clothing, free HIV testing, and other assistance to over 2000 men and women who are homeless, incarcerated, HIV+, trafficking victims, or dealing with or recovering from addiction.

Cross Cultural Celebration in April

We are invited to attend the 10th consecutive Cross Cultural Consultation and Celebration in Elgin, IL., April 24-27. During the 300th anniversary year it was decided to meet in Elgin, the home of the General Offices. Participants will have an opportunity to visit the offices of several Brethren agencies and to meet denominational staff. We will also visit congregations in the greater Chicago area as they host for meals and worship. The gatherings for prayer and worship will be in the spirit of the Kingdom's vision expressed in Revelation 7: 9, which reads: "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands."

There will be no set fee for meals or registration cost. It is hoped that participants will contribute through free will offerings and offerings collected during the worship service each evening. Go to www.brethren.org for more information about this event. The registration deadline is March 31.

The Mission Statement of the Cross Cultural Ministry Team is: "We are called to enrich and strengthen the Church of the Brethren by our unity as people of color, modeling for the larger church the blessings of being one as God's people."

Open House for Avis

The family of Avis Dadisman is inviting us to help Avis celebrate her 90th birthday. An open house will be held at Pleasant Hill Village on Saturday, April 5th, from 2:00-4:00 pm. We are asked to RSVP by March 23 to Wimer and Darlene Kern at 601 Jetty Drive, Chatham, IL 62629. You may also call (217-483-3029) or use the email form at <http://1stcob.net/contacts.html> to pass on your attendance.

Talking Stones

"...the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. 39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."
Luke 19:37-40 (KJV)