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Boulevard News

April, 2011
Kreston Lipscomb, Pastor

First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Blvd. Springfield, IL 62703
www.1stcob.net pastor@1stcob.net 217-523-5212 "A Welcoming Church"

Health Kits for Japan

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The Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham has received a call to help send relief to Japan. The first shipment goal is 17,000 health kits. Our Witness Commission is asking us to assist with the collecting of items for the kits. The items needed to fulfill each kit are listed below. Please note the specifications that follow certain items. If you are unable to donate items and wish to contribute in another way, monetary donations are also welcome to aid in purchase. Health kit items include the following:

- 1 Hand Towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27" (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Comb (large & sturdy, not pocket size or pic)
- 1 Nail File or Fingernail Clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers (continued on page 2)

Brethren Provide Grant for Relief

Designated gifts to Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF)- Japan Relief will be forwarded to our national office.

An initial grant of \$25,000 from the Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund is being given in support of disaster relief work in Japan following the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit the island nation on March 11. The grant will support work by Church World Service (CWS) and local partner organizations.

This initial grant from the Brethren fund will provide emergency relief supplies at evacuation sites where basic food, water, sanitation, electricity, and fuel needs are not being met. CWS is coordinating the response by working with partners such as the Japan Platform and the national Council of Churches in Japan.

(The above information comes from the COB Newline. Please visit www.brethren.org for more information.)

Other Activities, Events & News to Note!

These are a sampling of activities, news and notes we want you to know about. Your support is appreciated!

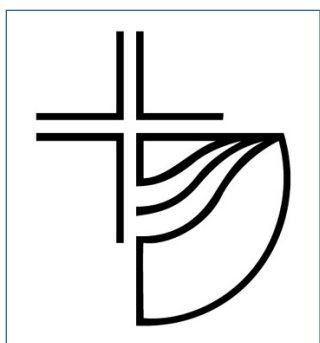
Camp Emmanuel News. Camp Emmanuel has announced an upcoming work day and work week. The work day will be Saturday, April 16. It will begin at 8 am. The work will include cleaning the buildings, picking up the grounds, and beginning the rebuilding of the suspension and land bridges. The work week will continue through Friday, April 22. We are invited to come for any part of the week. You can let the camp know which day(s) you are coming by emailing campemmanuel.cob@gmail.com or by telephoning 1-309-328-2291.

National Older Adult Conference. *“Passion and Purpose in a Changing World”* is the theme for the 2011 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC). The conference will be held September 5-9 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. NOAC is a Church of the Brethren conference offering inspiration, renewal and community for adults age 50 and older. Registration forms for housing and meals have arrived. Ask Pastor Kres for the information.

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. A total of slightly more than \$3000 was raised at our March 5 Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Thanks to all who assisted and participated in this event.

New Members. We welcomed Colleen and Bob Smith into the membership of our congregation on March 20. Colleen works as a Human Resources Assistant and Bob is a retired minister in our

More news and notes on page 4



Health Kits (continued from page 1)

- 1 Bath-size Bar of Soap (3 oz. or larger in original wrapper)
- 1 Toothbrush (6.4 oz. or larger. Check expiration dates must be at least ONE YEAR ahead)
- 6 Adhesive Plastic Strip Sterile Bandages (regular size and wrapped in a rubber band)

Wrap the items in the hand towel. Place items in a new one gallon plastic zip closure bags. Items of incorrect size cannot be used.

Following church on March 27 and April 3, those willing and able to help package kits may do so in the church basement.

Children Caring for Creation

We are excited to announce this year's Vacation Bible School theme, "Children Caring for Creation." Once again, Heartland Metropolitan Community Church will partner with us for the 5-day program. The dates for VBS are Sunday through Thursday June 26-30. The times are 6 pm until 7:30 pm.

Each evening session will begin with singing and a brief opening. Children will then move into age appropriate groups (elementary, middle school, and junior and senior high) for evening lessons. There will also be time for refreshments and crafts each session.

David Radcliff, executive director of New Community Project (www.newcommunityproject.org) will be our featured guest on Sunday evening, June 26. David has traveled extensively leading faith expeditions to places like Central and South America, parts of Africa, and Alaska. To learn more about New Community Project and their work, please visit their website noted above.

We are excited to sponsor this program. This world of ours needs to be cared for today and for generations to come. Please invite the children of your life and neighborhood to participate.



From Pastor Kres

Noelle Damico is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. In her sermon on John 13 "Foot Washing: A Sacrament of Equality", published in the 2008-2009 "The Minister's Annual Manuel", she tells the story of a congregation in Cuba where the women of the congregation believed there was a lack of equality for women at the communion table. They wanted their congregation to change. So, the women sought a sacrament of equality before coming to the communion table. The sacrament they suggested was foot washing. The women said to their pastors, according to Rev. Damico, "we must have a sacrament of equality before coming to the table. We must have foot washing first, then you may celebrate communion." Their reasoning was that the act of foot washing was an act "where the distinction between clergy and laity was itself undone as part of what it means to truly be equals in Christ's body," according to Rev. Damico.

From time to time "other" traditions lift up the importance of the towel and tub, reminding this Brethren pastor what a powerful act it is to do what Jesus did: to kneel and to wash another's feet. Over the years my feet have been washed by brothers and sisters. I, too, have washed the feet of sisters and brothers. What a blessing and challenge this Brethren ordinance has been.

Plan to attend Love Feast on April 21. It may be your first time or one of many times to attend. There will be sisters and brothers to welcome you.

*News and Notes continued
from page 2.*

district. They live in Peoria, IL.

Mark Your Calendars. First Church is scheduled to lead worship on August 28 at Pleasant Hill Village. We are hoping that many of you will come and participate. Chaplain Terry Link will provide some “touring” of the facility. More details to come.

Worship in April

Here are a few notes about up-coming worship services. You are invited to read and contemplate the selected texts that will be focused on. Roger Ruth will be our worship leader for the Sundays in April.

April 3: 4th Sunday in Lent

The primary text will be Psalm 23. Message is titled, “A Challenge to Follow.”

April 10: 5th Sunday in Lent

You are invited to read the story of Jesus’ healing of a blind man in John 9: 1-41. Message is titled, “Seeing the Light.”

April 17: 6th Sunday in Lent

This is Palm/Passion Sunday on the Christian calendar. We will hear Matthew’s version of

Annual Conference Delegate. Rebecca Lipscomb has accepted the church board’s call to serve as our Annual Conference delegate in 2011 and 2012. This year’s conference is in Grand Rapids, MI. The 2012 conference will be in St. Louis, MO.

Commissions & Board. Our next meeting date for Witness, Stewards, Nurture Commissions and Church Board is April 14.

Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem, Matthew 21: 1-13, but the message will explore the events of the week we call “holy.”

April 21: Holy Thursday

Our traditional Love Feast Service will be held at 6:30 pm. We will gather for our service of feet washing, followed by a simple meal and the sharing of bread and cup communion.

April 24: Easter Sunday

We begin our time together with an Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am (no Sunday School scheduled). Then we celebrate the resurrection with worship at our regular time of 10:30 am. This year’s text is Matthew 28: 1-7



Church of the Brethren

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PHV - Annual Work Day

Pleasant Hill Village has planned their Fourth Annual Work Day for Saturday, May 14th with a rain date of May 21st. The work day begins at 8 am. Latecomers are welcome as there is plenty to do. Work includes cleaning flower beds, lots of planting, weeding, re-mulching and some raking. Please bring gloves and garden trowels. A light lunch will be provided along with refreshments and fellowship throughout.