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# Boulevard News

Feb/Mar 2012

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## *District Potluck – April 28th*

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The *District Deacons*, on behalf of the Illinois & Wisconsin District Leadership Team, are sponsoring a one day District Potluck featuring worship, workshops, fellowship, and food. The date for the Potluck is Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 3:25 pm. The Peoria Church of the Brethren, 4714 N. Sheridan Rd. will host the gathering.

Four workshops will be offered: Deacon Training, Memorizing Scripture, Forms of Prayer, and Storytelling. Lunch will be a potluck. Participants are asked to bring a dish to enjoy with others from across the district. Drinks and table service will be provided.

Registration cost is \$5, but no one will be turned away. Those planning to attend the meal are asked to register by April 9. **Come and enjoy time with sisters and brothers from across the district!**

## *Pancake & Sausage Breakfast*

First Church's annual *Pancake & Sausage Breakfast* is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets for the breakfast are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. The hours for serving will be 7:30 am until 11 am.

The Stewards Commission has set a goal of \$3000 for the event. Tickets have been printed and are available to sell. Please pick up as many as you need. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Along with the breakfast there will be a table or two for attendees to purchase baked goods. Items for the bake sale should be at the church by Friday evening or very early Saturday morning.

There is a need for volunteers. We need cooks, cashiers, folks to bus tables, and do dishes. Sign-up sheets are at the church.



## Up-Coming Readings and Worship

Below is a list of readings for the Sundays from February 19 to March 18. You are invited to read, study and pray ahead. Please remember to invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

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*“Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving; and make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise.”*

*Psalm 95:2*

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**February 19 (Transfiguration Sunday):** Readings for this Sunday include 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; and Mark 9: 2-9. The gospel story is Mark’s account of Jesus’ trip up the mountain with a few of his disciples and the rather mysterious appearance of Elijah and Moses.

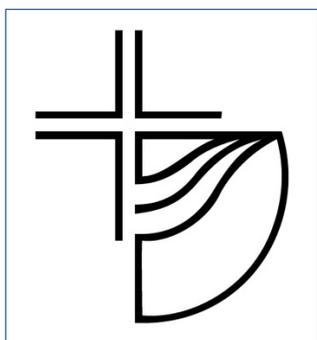
**February 26 (First Sunday in Lent):** Tradition suggests that we remember/recount Jesus’ time and temptations in the wilderness. Sunday readings are Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; and Mark 1: 12-13.

**March 4 (Second Sunday in Lent):** Lent invites us to ready ourselves for the events of Golgotha and Resurrection Sunday. Mark’s gospel, 8:31-38 provides an early peak of what awaits Jesus.

**March 11 (Third Sunday in Lent):** The gospel readings for the next few weeks come from the Gospel of John. This Sunday begins with the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple, Jn. 2:13-22.

**March 18 (Fourth Sunday in Lent):** Many of us memorized John 3:16 at a very early age. We’ll review Nicodemus’ nighttime visit with Jesus and this scripture which is seen at so many sporting events. Reading 3:1-21 is suggested.

**March 25 (Fifth Sunday in Lent):** Readings for the day are Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; and John 12:20-33.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

The theme for the 2012 One Great Hour of Sharing offering continues to be *“Sharing Brings Joy.”* This year’s focus is sharing joy with others. Resources collected from this offering will strengthen partnerships around the world by supporting Church of the Brethren ministries like Global Mission and Service, Brethren Volunteer Service, Workcamp ministry, and many others.

The scripture focus for OGHS is 2 Corinthians 9:8, *“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

**The suggested offering date is March 18.**

## ***Instilling a Love of Service***

*Community Conscious* is a series of service projects for area children and youth helping our children appreciate the benefit of assisting others. Projects are currently held on the third Sunday of every other month from 3-5 pm. In January, the children prepared a meal which was then taken to the primary homeless shelter at the Salvation Army and served for the evening supper.

Community Conscious will meet again on March 18. Children will be painting a spring banner and making bookmarks for the children who use the new Northside Community Children's Library.

These events are free, fun and open to the public. The activities are held in the basement of our church. Laura Lipscomb is our congregation's contact person for the activities. Please help her connect with other children in the community/area who might be interested in participating.

Future service opportunities ahead include making cards & crafts for area veterans and their families (May 20) and making fresh flower arrangements for the women and children at the Sojourn Shelter.

***"It is every [one's] obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what s/he takes out of it."***

-Albert Einstein

## ***You Can Help Feed the Hungry!***

Wondering what you can do to help feed the hungry in Springfield? There are several ways you can assist immediately. On the second Sunday of each month we collect food items for Kumler Outreach Ministries' food pantry and deliver those items the next day. Sharon Brown, director of Kumler Outreach, expresses her appreciation for the faithful collection of food items that we have done for years. Simply bring your food donations to the church and place them in the large food box at the rear of the sanctuary.

Another way to assist is by helping with the preparation and serving of the evening meal at the Springfield Overflow Homeless Shelter (SOS) on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Prepared items, main dish, side dish, dessert and drinks need to be at the shelter by 6:45 pm. The Overflow Shelter ceases operation on April 1 (unless the weather remains cold). March 8<sup>th</sup> will be our congregation's final meal of the winter season for SOS. Approximately 20-25 people from our congregation have helped with this over the past four months. Thank you!




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*"Bread for myself is a material question. Bread for my neighbor is a spiritual one."*

-Nicholas Berdyaev

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## News and Notes

A **Painting Extravaganza** has been scheduled by the Stewardship Commission for the evening of February 24 and the day of February 25. We will be painting the church basement, as well as other areas.

A **Children's Disaster Training** event will be held at the Cerro Gordo Church of the Brethren, 102 E. Durfee St., Cerro Gordo, IL. On Friday and

Saturday, March 23-24. Participants will be trained to care for children whose lives are disrupted by natural and human disasters. Call the national Disaster Response office at 800-451-4407 to register.

St. Louis is the location for the **2012 Annual Conference**, July 7-11. Rebecca Lipscomb is our delegate. Non-delegate registration begins on February 22. Go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) and follow the links to Annual Conference.

## Studying the Scripture Together

I have found *Transforming Bible Study* by Walter Wink to be a helpful resource. Published in 1980, Wink provides guidance for those who are reading and studying the Bible together. Here are a couple of his thoughts.

"The text and not the leader or group is the focus." Wink uses the image of a wheel with spokes. The scripture(s) are at the center and the spokes flow out to the participants.

The insights of everyone are important. We all have questions, insights, thoughts and reactions to a text. Write them down and share them. Don't be afraid to offer you "holy" hunches.

"We are all equal before the text or scripture." Sometimes we are too fascinated or too quick to move to what the experts have to

say. God's inspiration and revelation are available to all. There is an appropriate place for the use of critical thinking, commentaries, and other resources. A lot of the time those insights can keep us from making a text say something that it might not be saying.

Wink also recommends the value of application. Our reading and studying together is not just for our own intellectual enhancement, but should stir us to the new ways God is leading us in our discipleship.

-Pastor Kres



Church of the Brethren

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## District Leadership to Meet

The Illinois & Wisconsin CoB District Leadership Team will meet at our church on **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**. We will provide snacks and a lunch for those attending. It is also a time to sit in and listen to some of the ministries our district is involved with. More information on their schedule will be shared later.