

BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – APRIL 15, 2019

“Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible.”

“God cannot bless what you do not invest.”

“Do not be afraid, God is still guiding the church.”

PASS ON OUR WEBSITE TO A FRIEND! – www.stauntonbrethren.org

When did you last invite someone to Worship with you? Why not now?!

When did you last check on someone whom you’ve been missing at Worship?

*****Help us Welcome Guests on Sunday Mornings by directing them to the NEW WELCOME CENTER in the narthex. The Welcome table is full of helpful information, under the “Welcome” sign, and next to the new monitor that is scrolling information and picture slides.***

IT’S A SECRET!!!!!!

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, WE WILL RECOGNIZE LINDA ABSHIRE FOR HER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE AT DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. SHE DOESN’T KNOW THIS (so far). WE ARE INVITED TO BRING CARDS OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS AS WELL AS GIFT CARDS FOR HER TO USE. WE WILL DO SOME SHARING IN WORSHIP AND AT THE BUSINESS MEETING WITH A SPECIAL CAKE. JOIN US AND HELP KEEP IT A SECRET!!!!!

A Sermon Out-take From Sunday –

“The focus for this morning, though, has to do with the last verse of this section in John. “The Pharisees then said to one another, ‘You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!’” The world has gone after him, or the whole world, or maybe better in context, all the people have gone after him. They certainly didn’t know how the whole world saw Jesus at that moment in time, but they could see that Jesus was a phenomenon. The people were eating this up. With the palm branches, and the shouts of Hosanna, and proclaiming Jesus the King of Israel, not only the Romans had something to be afraid of, but even they, the Jewish leaders, were at risk; they who were the communicators of the faith, the keepers of the law on which their faith was based, the guardians of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses and the prophets. There was a lot on the line here if Jesus were to grab the golden ring the people were offering. And at this moment, it didn’t matter if he did or he didn’t. Either way, he was a threat to them, too, because kings change things, and kings claim authority, and kings punish opponents. In this moment, they didn’t see Jesus for who he was. It didn’t really matter. They saw the people’s reactions, and so they lamented. “All the people have gone after him!”

But had they? If the people really knew what Jesus was about, would they still hail him as king? He was far different than what they knew, a religion based on following a code of laws in order to be faithful. Jesus brought no code to them. He said “Follow me.” “Come to me and I will give you peace.” And what did Jesus do? He proclaimed the kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace, of righteousness and mercy, of holiness and love. He sought out the downtrodden, the lowly, the sick of body, mind and spirit, the lost, the broken, the poor, the frustrated, the hurting. What earthly king does that? Show me a world political leader, a corporation business executive, people with worldly power, who do these things, who truly follow Jesus?

Following Jesus is not about following a set of rules. He freed us from that. We are called to be like him, to follow him, to teach him to the world. But our humanity thrives on rules. Even Paul, the writer of much of the New Testament, got stuck on rules at times. He was a student of Jewish law, and that was how he knew how to communicate, I guess. He made lists of laws that were meant to teach right and wrong, who's in and who's out. But Jesus didn't make lists, and he even broke laws that had been in existence for ages. When asked what was the most important law, what did he say to the lawyer? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." That's the law Jesus lived by. But it was more than a law to him. It wasn't about a legal approach to living. It was and is a matter of the heart.

It's amazing to me that all through history since early Christian days, we keep making laws, referring to laws, amending laws, restoring laws, and making up laws. Every tradition of Christianity has its laws, and in some cases it's what makes each one a little different from the one before. The holy Catholic Church established laws to govern and live by. Luther challenged those laws and their practice. Calvin had his how ideas, as did Wesley, and Menno Simons, and Alexander Mack; the Shakers, the Puritans, the Evangelicals, the Pentecostals, the Revivalists, the Jesuits, the Franciscans, and on and on. So many laws and variations of the laws. Is this the business that Jesus wanted us to be about?"

Read all of my sermons on the webpage at www.stauntonbrethren.org.

CDs are also available for Worship Services. They're on the table in the south lobby.

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This Week

Thursday	<u>6:00 PM LOVE FEAST – FELLOWSHIP HALL</u> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:00 PM Good Friday Worship at Smokey Row Baptist
Saturday	11:00 AM Special Choir Rehearsal for Easter Sunrise

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Next Sunday – April 21 – EASTER SUNDAY

Start a new habit – a good habit – Bring a Friend to Sunday School and Worship!

7:00 AM	EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE IN SANCTUARY Join us as we host "The Community of Churches" and share Communion
8:30 AM	EASTER BREAKFAST Enjoy the Men's pancakes, AND bring something to share
10:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
11:00 AM	EASTER WORSHIP The Worship theme for this Easter Sunday is "Receive the Holy Spirit." The text is John 20:1-18, 19-29. Delmer Botkin is Worship Leader, and I will lead our Children's Time. The Choir and Chorus will sing.

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Remember to Pray –

Pray for Rena Swink, Marguerite Sanger (Bridgewater), Ferne Rohr (The Legacy), Don Markle, Libby Tusing (Waynesboro Manor), Stanley and Brenda Shackelford, Jay and Rosalie McLear, Melba Cline, Judy Collins, Fred Wilkerson Sr., Fred Wilkerson Jr., Cindy Spitzer, Gwendolyn Spitzer, Roy Pilson, Bonnie Cale, Bill Cline, Barbara Mooneyham, Charles Phillips, Mary Huffer, Claude Simmons, Eva Frederick, Logan Shortridge (Nancy Canter's nephew), Dick and Helen Bartenslager, Wanda Morris, George Sullivan, Laura and Chad Houston and new baby Samantha, Bob Weiss.

Continue to pray for the healing and the safety of the Nigerian Brethren, the Chibok girls, and so many others who have had their lives uprooted. Keep praying.

Let us also pray for those who have had their churches burned in Louisiana in the past two weeks.

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Dates to Have on Your Calendar –

April 27 – Chicken Barbecue by Men’s Fellowship and Bake Sale by Seniors

Buy one extra chicken for the Valley Mission – Order yours NOW

April 28 – LUNCH AND CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING – Pick up a packet

May 1 – First Wednesday – Spring Picnic and Vespers – 5:30 PM – Sign up

May 5 – Youth Sunday

May 17 – District Disaster Golf Tourney – Lakeview GC

May 17-18 – District Disaster Auction at Rockingham Fairgrounds

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SCOB OPPORTUNITIES

****On FIRST WEDNESDAY in March, we were given plastic bags and challenged** place one article in the bag for each day of the Lenten season (40 days, 40 items) this year. It could be a piece of clothing or an item of food, something that would be appropriate to donate at Easter to one of the non-profits that SCOB supports. This could be done individually or by a family. The challenge is to bring the **bags back to SCOB on Easter Sunday for collection.**

Childcare is an important and ongoing ministry for our church. We NEED persons to do childcare for Love Feast and for Easter Sunrise. Talk to Debbie Clark about being on the Childcare List for special events, or to Donna Wells about being trained to help on Sunday Mornings.

The Women’s Circles are selling Cookbooks and “Happy Home Favorings” (Vanilla, Lemon, Coconut, Butter, Butter Nut, and Almond). The Flavorings are \$3 each; and the Cookbooks are \$10. Great for your kitchen and for gifts. Cookbooks in the office hallway; Flavorings, see Debbie Landes.

We’ve added an ongoing food collection for students at Shelburne Middle School. Homelessness and poverty are affecting a number of students and school personnel have created a special food pantry. We can contribute: breakfast bars, juice boxes, crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce cups, microwaveable single cup meals, mini-cereal boxes, pudding/Jello cups. There’s a clear bin in the main hallway. It will be there through the school year.

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VISION STATEMENT

“Worshipping Christ with Joy, Living Together in Peace, and Serving the World with Love.”

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THIS IS A MINI-NEWS PAGE FOR WEEKLY UPDATES

GOD BE WITH YOU THIS WEEK! PASTOR SCOTT

(‘LIKE’ us on Facebook and “SHARE” church activities with your “FRIEND” Lists)

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