

# BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – APRIL 29, 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.”*

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PASS ON OUR WEBSITE TO A FRIEND! – [www.stauntonbrethren.org](http://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?*

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**\*\*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.**

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## A Sermon Out-take From Sunday –

“Jesus asks Peter the same question three times: “Do you love me?” (vv. 15-18). It’s not hard to see the parallel here between Peter’s earlier threefold denial of Jesus, which Jesus had predicted (13:38). These three questions act as a kind of restoration of Peter to his standing as a disciple, but also as a commission for a new kind of work that Jesus wanted him and the other disciples to do. Unlike the synoptic gospels (that’s Matthew, Mark, and Luke), there is no indication here in John that Peter is the primary or lead disciple upon which the church will be built. The task Jesus gives him is one that will be given to all of his followers: to feed and tend Jesus’ lambs.

Peter knew what it was to be a fisherman. When things got confusing for him after the resurrection of Jesus, he easily went back to what he knew (v. 3). But Jesus had already shown him that being an expert fisherman wasn’t enough. The story of the miraculous catch of fish (which in itself is sign of the evangelistic task of the disciples) is only possible because Jesus is the one who directs these former fishermen in how to do their work (v. 6). They have learned how to “fish for people” by following Jesus, but what do you do with them once they’ve been caught? This is when Jesus will change the paradigm from fishing to shepherding: two ancient ways of making a living coming together to form a way of life for his disciples.

Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus revealed that he was the Good Shepherd (10:1-21). Now he is creating a team of under-shepherds to carry on the work for generations to come — shepherds who will tend and feed his flock. Notice that Jesus begins his exchange with Peter by calling him by name — a reminder that sheep always respond to the voice of their shepherd.

Likewise, Peter and the other disciples will be given a new commission to call Jesus’ sheep by name and to feed and tend them with love. “I give you a new commandment,” Jesus told them, “that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (13:34-35).

To feed Jesus’ sheep means not merely to gather them together like a net full of fish, but to truly nurture and care for them. One is a momentary haul; the other is a lifetime commitment. In changing the metaphor and by expressing it three times, Jesus hammers home the point: Peter and the other disciples — will be in the shepherding business for the long haul; will experience sacrifice and self-denial; will often find it to be dirty and difficult work; and will need to get up and get out.

The same is true for all of us who follow Jesus today. While the word “pastor” implies that he or she is a shepherd, the truth is that the shepherding task is for all who follow Jesus. All of us have a particular flock that we tend, be it a family, a group of coworkers, or a circle of friends. Feeding them and tending them is a key commission for any Christian.”

Read all of my sermons on the webpage at [www.stauntonbrethren.org](http://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**

Wednesday	5:30 PM FIRST WEDNESDAY Picnic – All Welcome!
Thursday	6:30 PM Contemporary Chorus
	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

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## **Next Sunday – May 5 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY**

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

**10:00 AM      SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**

**Inquirers Class begins for non-member adults in the Parlor.**

**11:00 AM      WORSHIP**

**The National Youth Sunday Worship theme is “Led By Jesus, Not By Temptation.” The text is 1 Corinthians 10:13. The Youth will lead the service, including Children’s time. The Choir and Chorus will sing.**

**“FILL THE CART” FOR THE BLUE RIDGE AREA FOOD BANK – Bring your nonperishables.**

**12:15 PM      Mexico Mission Team Meeting**

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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 Shackleford, Jay and Rosalie McLearn, Melba Cline, Judy Collins, Fred Wilkerson Sr., Fred Wilkerson Jr., Cindy Spitzer, Gwendolyn Spitzer, Bonnie Cale (Kings Daughters), Bill Cline, Barbara Mooneyham, Mary Huffer, Claude Simmons, Eva Frederick, Logan Shortridge (Nancy Canter’s nephew), Dick Bartenslager, George Sullivan, Laura and Chad Houston and new baby Samantha, Bob Weiss, Mary Cline, David MacMillan.

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 –**

- May 5 – INQUIRERS CLASS FOR NON-MEMBERS Begins at 10 AM**
- May 5 – Mexico Team Meeting**
- May 12 – Mother’s Day and Graduate Recognition Sunday**
- May 17 – District Disaster Golf Tourney – Lakeview GC**
- May 17-18 – District Disaster Auction at Rockingham Fairgrounds**

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**SCOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Childcare is an important and ongoing ministry for our church. 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 through May 19.** 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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