

# BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 4, 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](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?***

***\*\*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.***

## **A Sermon Out-take From Sunday –**

“Sure, there was the crucifixion, “the man of sorrows,” and there is the book of Lamentations. We all have sorrow in life. But even in the midst of Lamentations’ trials there is a promise in Lamentations 3:22-23 – “Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Great is your faithfulness.

The early church caught on to this party theme for the most part. Acts 2:46 and following report – “Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. AND day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Yes, because they were happy and they enjoyed a good party, so others were curious and wanted to find out what was going on with these Christians!

Food was often around when Jesus was teaching and healing and ministering, feeding the 5,000 and the 4,000; and then there’s that beatitude about hungering and thirsting for righteousness. My sense is that Jesus was probably never happier than after a good day of preaching, teaching, and serving, and sharing a good meal with those around him. He even cooked breakfast for them on the beach after his resurrection. As Sweet writes it, “Jesus took great delight in giving delight and in delighting in life.... Jesus took great delight in the beauty of God’s existence and loved to celebrate God’s blessings in the company of others. For Jesus, life was all about relationships, especially God’s relationship with his people. Humankind was meant to live an abundant life in relationship with God, who fills us and frees us. So why not enjoy a good party, especially with sinners, so that they can see how Jesus parties. No, he wasn’t a drunkard and a glutton, but he enjoyed the stuff of life, and he loved sharing it with God’s people, whether they knew it yet or not.

“The church above all should be a place of festivities and joy. People should look at the church and think, ‘What joyful people!’ If more of the church shared Jesus’ bad habit of loving to party, it would be the place everyone would want to be. Think about it.

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**

Monday	1:00 PM Stitch and Chat Group – Newcomers
Welcome	
	7:00 PM Worship and Fellowship Commission
	7:00 PM Stewards Commission
Tuesday	7:00 PM Witness Commission
Wednesday	5:30 PM FIRST WEDNESDAY – COME TO
DINNER!	
Thursday	6:30 PM Contemporary Chorus
	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

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**Next Sunday – February 10**

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

**Worship!**

**10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**  
**11:00 AM WORSHIP**

**Worship Theme is “Jesus Hung Out With Bad People”, another in the Bad Habits of Jesus Series. The texts for Sunday are Luke 15:1-2; 7:36. Larry Adams is Worship Leader and Linda Abshire will lead 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), Brenda Shackelford, Jay and Rosalie McLear, Melba Cline, Judy Collins, Fred Wilkerson Sr., Fred Wilkerson Jr., AJ Sandridge Jr., Brad Thorpe, Cindy Spitzer, Sheldon Melton, Gwendolyn Spitzer, Roy Pilson, Bonnie Cale, Bill Cline (Bridgewater Home Rehab), Barbara Mooneyham, Carolyn Curry and the family of John Crawford, Judy Zdinak and the family of Ed Zdinak, Margaret Backe (Darlene Allman’s Mom), Charles Phillips, David Shearer, Mary Huffer (shoulder), Claude Simmons, Eva Frederick

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.

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**Dates to Have on Your Calendar –**

**Compelling Vision District Meetings**

The Shenandoah District has begun a series of sessions to participate in and help shape the Compelling Vision being formulated for the Church of the Brethren. The Rev. Kevin Daggett, pastor of the Dayton Church of the Brethren and a member of the Compelling Vision Process Team, will lead the sessions. All of the sessions are on Sunday afternoons, 3-5 p.m.

Feb. 17 - Bridgewater Retirement Community's multi-purpose room on the third floor of the Huffman Healthcare Center (302 N. Second Street, Bridgewater)

Feb. 24 - New Hope (12768 Frost Road, Dunmore, W.Va.)

March 3 – Wakeman’s Grove COB, Edinburg, Va.

Attendance is not restricted to those in each section. Instead, you are encouraged to choose a session (or more than one) that is conveniently located and aligns with your schedule.

Districts across the brotherhood are holding similar gatherings, hearing from Brethren what they envision for the Church of the Brethren of the future.

**February 17 – All Church Valentines Lunch – Bring Chili’s, Soups, and Desserts**

**March 17 – Mexico Mission Fundraising Lunch and Cake Walk**

**March 30-31 – Spiritual Renewal Weekend with Andy Duffey and Dana Cassell**

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**SCOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*It’s Strawberry time again.** Order forms are at the church and orders are due by **February 17**. Delivery is the week of **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. \$5 a quart; \$15 for 4; \$25 for 8. Also, order pecan halves, 1 pound bag for \$11. Make checks out to SCOB and submit with order or at pick up. Do not put in offering plates.

**\*\*We are doing another MEXICO MISSION TRIP this summer.** Anyone interested in making the trip to Mexico, June 10-15, with Bittersweet Ministries needs to let Pastor Scott know as soon as possible. We are limited to 10 persons this year, but we want to send a full team. We’ll begin fundraising with a **Luncheon and Cake Walk on March 17.**

**Childcare is an important and ongoing ministry for our church. From Nursery and Pre-School on Sunday mornings to special events, like Love Feast. 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.**

We do need additional persons for our **Sound and Video Ministry** for Sunday Morning Worships, both to run the soundboard and run the Powerpoint. Talk to AJ Sandridge or Pastor Scott.

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**VISION STATEMENT**

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

**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)