

# BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – MARCH 25, 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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**WE HAVE 33 PERSONS SIGNED UP FOR THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WEEKEND SATURDAY WORKSHOP SO FAR. CAN WE ADD YOU TO THAT NUMBER? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP THIS WEEK!**

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

“But the God who created the world, also designed us in the womb. “You have made us a little lower than God, and crowned us with glory and honor.” Everyone one of us is unique, and every one of us beloved by our Creator. From the macro to the micro, God is God, and Jesus’ life and ministry was about teaching us that each one of us, every one, is special to God, worthy of the love of God, no matter our physical or emotional or spiritual condition, no matter the good or the bad choices we have made. Jesus was and is our bridge back to God. God doesn’t ever walk away. But we do. We dishonor God with choices that we make every day, and yet we could just as well honor God when we make them a different way.

Jesus' bad habit of focusing on the little things in life were a gift for us, so that we might find our way back to God. Like the prodigal son who demanded his inheritance early and then ran off to enjoy life on his own, but instead he squandered it all and found that he couldn't even stand himself. But the Spirit of God spoke to him, because he mustered up what little courage he had left and headed home to offer himself as a slave on his father's farm. We know how it ended. The father watched for him to return every day, not concerned about the money, but about his son's life, and when he saw him coming, he ran to meet him and treated him like royalty. The lost had been found. The father's love was restored.

Then there's the story where the disciples were in the boat, crossing the sea, having left Jesus behind. Jesus said he would meet them, but they had no idea he meant that he would come to them on the water. Peter saw him and wanted to be with him so much that he got out of the boat and began to walk on the water to Jesus, until he was distracted by the wind and the waves and began to sink like a stone. It was Jesus who reached out to him and pulled him to safety once again. It's a miracle story, but it's not about overthrowing the government, the big picture; it's about learning how to keep our eyes on Jesus and trusting him no matter what choppy seas we find ourselves in.

Jesus was always telling stories that captured the ordinary moments of life.... From fishermen sorting fish, to merchants searching for pearls, to farmers plowing fields and harvesting crops, to day laborers separating wheat from chaff, to lepers begging for food, to shepherds minding flocks, to women mending clothes, to children playing games, and on and on." "And the most common, obvious, plentiful things in life – water, earth, wind, light, trees, people – are the most valuable things."

Stephen Hawking, who died last year, may have been the smartest person alive. He was a theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and director of research at Cambridge. When Hawking considered the vastness of the universe and how humans "are such insignificant creatures on a minor planet of a very average star in the outer suburbs of one of a hundred thousand million galaxies," he concluded, "It is difficult to believe in a God that would care about us." Interestingly enough, the Psalmist makes the same observation in Psalm 8. "When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers – the moon and the stars you set in place – what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?" But the Psalmist's conclusion is the exact opposite of Hawking's. "Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." How extraordinary, given our insignificance, that life should be so full of wonders and great comfort."

[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	7:00 PM Scholarship Committee Meeting
Thursday	6:30 PM Contemporary Chorus

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WEEKEND SCHEDULE

“Biblical Interpretation and Christian Community”

8:30 AM Coffee and Fellowship

9:00 AM Worship and Workshop Morning

12:00 Noon – Lunch Provided (Call Office if not signed up)

12:30 PM Wrap Up

1:00 PM Dismissal

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6:30 PM Home Discussion Groups – Choose One

Bryan and Ferral Quick – Bridgewater

Bob and Mabel Lou Weiss – Staunton

John and Marilyn Garber - Staunton

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**Next Sunday – March 31 – SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SUNDAY**

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

**10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES (Just 30 minutes today)**

**10:45 AM WORSHIP (SPECIAL TIME!)**

**The Worship theme for this Sunday is “From God’s Heart to Our Headache: Welcome to Scripture.” The text is 2 Timothy 3:14-16. Guest Preachers are Dana Cassell and Andy Duffey. The Choir and Chorus will sing.**

**There will be a Special Offering for the Nigeria Crisis Fund.**

**Pick Up a Lenten Devotional Booklet and your 2019 Church Directory.**

**12 Noon ALL CHURCH CARRY IN LUNCHEON – BRING A DISH TO SHARE**

**1:30 PM CONCERT BY THE CRAWFORD BROTHERS – Love Offering will be shared.**

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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, 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.

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 –**

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

**SEE ABOVE**

**April 3 – First Wednesday – All Church Birthday Party w/Magician – SIGN UP!**

**April 6 – All Church Clean Up Day – Give a few hours in the morning! – SIGN UP!**

**We really need a lot of volunteers to get it done in a short time!**

**April 7 – 12:30 PM – Church Board Meeting After Worship**

**April 18 – 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday**

**– Service of Footwashing, Love Feast, Holy Communion**

**April 19 – 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship at Smokey Row Baptist Church**

**April 13, 20 – 11 AM Choir Rehearsals for Easter Sunrise**

**April 21 – HOSTING EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – 7:00 AM w/Community of Churches**

**8:30 AM Breakfast – Bring food items to share**

**10:00 AM Sunday School**

11:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION

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**SCOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*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. Looks like we need one more female. Will be purchasing airline tickets very soon.**

**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.**

**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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