

BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – MARCH 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."

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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?

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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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The Heat is on at that church, but it's not running perfectly yet. Hopefully we won't notice any issues while it's being worked out. Thanks for your support and patience.

We did have a nice warm day in the sanctuary yesterday, even though it was snowing outside.

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A Sermon Out-take From Sunday –

"In Hades, the rich man felt a big regret. He said to Abraham, "I beg you to send [Lazarus] to my father's house -- for I have five brothers -- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment" (Luke 16:27-28). The rich man cared deeply for his brothers; he was not a man without feelings. But Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them" (v. 29). Yes, that's right, the rich man realized. But Moses and the prophets had not been enough for him. "No, father Abraham," he pleaded; "but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent" (v. 30). Surely they will turn their lives around if dead Lazarus comes back to life and warns them!

Shaking his head, Abraham says, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (v. 31). You know that Abraham is talking to us, right along with the rich man and his brothers. Are we convinced? Are we persuaded to change our ways if someone actually rises from the dead? Jesus has risen, but we still have regrets.

Now, let's be clear: None of us is perfect, and we will all come to the end of life feeling that we have made mistakes along the way. There are choices we feel badly about, alongside opportunities we wish we had seized. But what would it mean for us to die with *no big regrets*?

The top regrets of the rich man can teach us the lessons that we -- like his five brothers -- need to learn. We don't want to arrive at our deathbed saying:

I wish that I had cared for the people around me.

I wish that I had listened to Moses, the prophets and Jesus.

I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, in which my actions were in line with my beliefs.

We are not yet in the afterlife, calling out to Father Abraham. We are not stuck in a place of regretting that we did not do enough, that we did not do more, that we did not choose wisely, that we did not have enough time. As long as we are breathing, we can choose to care for the people around us, we can continue to discern the teachings of the Bible, and live a life that is true to our deepest convictions. If we do, we'll have no big regrets."

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	12 Noon – Registration Opens Online for Annual Conference this summer in Greensboro, NC, July 3-7. Go to www.brethren.org/ac to register as a Delegate or Non-Delegate and for the Hotel (there is only one).
		1:00 PM Stitch and Chat in Fellowship Hall
		7:00 PM Worship and Fellowship Commission
		7:00 PM Stewards Commission
Tuesday		7:00 PM Witness Commission
Wednesday		5:30 PM FIRST WEDNESDAY – Call the Office to Sign Up
Thursday		6:30 PM Contemporary Chorus
		7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday Night – Turn Your Clocks Forward One Hour – Spring Ahead

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Next Sunday – March 10 – First Sunday of Lent

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

The Worship theme for this First Sunday of Lent is “Jesus Broke the Rules.” The texts are Matthew 15:10-20, and Mark 2:23-28. Katrina Huerth is the Worship Leader and Julie Sanger will lead Children’s Time. The Choir and Chorus will sing. We’ll also have a special Minute for Mission about EYN – the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria.

Pick Up Your Lenten Devotional Booklet and your 2019 Church Directory.

Sign Up for Spiritual Renewal Weekend Events, and to Donate a Cake for Cake

Walk.

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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 McLearn, 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, Charles Phillips, Mary Huffer, Claude Simmons, Eva Frederick, Chris Washington and family on the death of his father, Teresa Showalter and family on the death of her mother, Roy Reid (John Huerth’s grandfather), Logan Shortridge (Nancy Canter’s nephew)

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 11 – Strawberries and Pecans will be in this week

March 17 – Mexico Mission Fundraising Lunch and Cake Walk

March 17 – Valley Mission – Bring Cereals and Sugar

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

Saturday: 8:30 AM Fellowship and Coffee – SIGN UP FOR THE MORNING

9:00 AM Workshop – Presentation and Conversation
“Biblical Interpretation and Christian Community”
12 Noon – Lunch Together and De-Briefing the Morning
Saturday Evening: 6:30- 8:00 PM Home Groups – SIGN UP FOR A HOME
Choose from three homes. One leader will be at each home.
Sunday: 10:00 AM Sunday School (shortened time)
10:45 AM Worship (special time) – Andy and Dana will preach
12 Noon – All Church Carry In Meal
1:30 PM Concert by the Crawford Brothers in the Sanctuary
March 31 – Special Offering EYN – The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria
April 3 – First Wednesday
April 6 – All Church Clean Up Day – Give a few hours in the morning!

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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. We’ll begin fundraising with a Luncheon and Cake Walk on March 17. If you can donate a cake, please talk to one of the Sangers.**

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.

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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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