

# BRETHREN BRIEFS

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCOTT DUFFEY

MONDAY – MAY 13, 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 Memorial Service for Charles Phillips will be held at the church on Thursday, May 16, at 11:00 AM. A Lunch will follow. Charlie died from a heart attack on Saturday on his way home from fishing in North Carolina. Please be in prayer for Charlie’s family. We all miss him.\*\****

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

“But how exactly does God comfort us? For one, God comforts us through the presence, care and verbal encouragement of other Christians. While there are some Christians who are especially good at that -- who have good listening skills and sensitivity -- encouragement is something all of us can and need to do. One definition of comfort is "to stand alongside to lend support and encouragement when the situation cannot be changed." This is something most of us can do for others. And such "standing alongside" often helps those dealing with that which cannot be changed, to cope with the situation as it is. In many of these moments, the less words spoken, the better. Our presence can be enough. At other times, an encouraging word is needed and gives strength and courage to the other. Still other times, a casserole or a pie is a good idea, a good deed, an act of kindness. We spend far too much time tearing one another down when we need to be doing to others as we want them to do to us.

But, for two, God sometimes comforts us more directly. The psalmist said, "When my anxieties multiply, your comforting calms me down" (94:19, CEB). Interestingly, that verse is from Psalm 94, which bemoans the injustice of life and the arrogance of evildoers who seem to get away with their deeds. But the psalmist finds comfort in the confidence that God reigns and will deal with the inequities and wrongdoers in God's own time. This is why the writer can say: "Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers?"

If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

When I thought, "My foot is slipping," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up." (94:16-18)

How God delivers comfort will vary, but it sometimes comes while we are in prayer. It is sometimes transmitted through a verse or passage that jumps out at us while reading the Bible. Or it might come over us as inner assurance in the midst of grief or trouble. Many of us can remember our mother's comfort. I know I do. On this day, some of us still have mothers we can call or mothers to whom we can send a card or bouquet of flowers. We are grateful for our mothers. We are thankful for their enduring and unconditional love. We are glad that when we were children we had mothers to whom we could run for comfort. Some of us have lost our mothers in body, though never in spirit, and they continue to care for and to teach us as we grow older and wiser.”

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**

Tuesday	7:00 PM Executive Committee
Thursday	6:30 PM Contemporary Chorus
	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Friday/Saturday	Shenandoah District Disaster Auction
	Rockingham County Fairgrounds

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**Next Sunday – May 19**

**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 for non-member adults meeting in the Parlor.**

**11:00 AM WORSHIP**

**This week's theme is "Testing Your DNA," from Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. Marilyn Garber is Worship Leader and I will do the Children's time. The Choir and Chorus will sing. Doug Phillips will be here from Brethren Woods to talk about camp and share a display.**

**Fill the Cart for the Valley Mission this week with paper towels and napkins.**

**Last Day for Food items for Shelburne Middle School Students until the Fall.**

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**Remember to Pray –**

Pray for Rena Swink, Ferne Rohr (The Legacy), Don Markle, Libby Tusing (Waynesboro Manor), Stanley and Brenda Shackelford, Jay and Rosalie McLearn, Melba Cline, Judy Collins, Fred Wilkerson Sr., Fred Wilkerson Jr., Cindy Spitzer, Gwendolyn Spitzer, Bonnie Cale (Kings Daughters), Bill and Mary 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, David MacMillan, the Walsh family on the death of Gwen Walsh, Jimmy Ross, Sue Botkin, the Phillips family in the death of Charlie Phillips.

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 –**

**June 2 – Collections Due for Heifer Project Emphasis**

**June 9 – Holy Communion**

**June 10-15 – Mexico Mission Week**

**June 17-21 – Vacation Bible School – Time to Register!**

**July 3-7 – Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC**

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**SCOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*Are you sponsoring a child in Mexico through Bittersweet Ministries? Our Mission Team invites you to send your child a card and we will take it with us to deliver. Have the cards to the church by June 9.**

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 Flavorings" (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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