



Church of the Brethren

# The Evangel

Volume 8, Issue 5

May, 2010

## Akron Eastwood Church of the Brethren



### MAY: OLDER ADULT MONTH

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 NIV*

Many people view old age as a “desert time” ~ arid and desolate, barren and lonely, monotonous and unwelcoming. Those words paint a pretty bleak picture of the last years of life. With images such as these, it is no wonder this worldly idea of aging is greeted with dread and disdain. With apprehension, people cling to the false hope of a fountain of youth, for who would want to age into a vast wasteland of meaningless years? But this is not what God has in mind for our later years. God’s image of aging and old age is bountiful and beautiful; doing new things, bearing fruit, and striving toward what lies ahead.

#### *Fresh and flourishing. Oasis, not desert.*

The Biblical vision of aging is a time of finding new meaning and purpose in life; God doing new things in the lives of elders. The Bible is full of stories of older adults answering God’s call to be actively involved in God’s work in the world. Moses and Aaron were in their 80s when God chose them to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Daniel was also in his ninth decade when God proved His faithfulness by protecting Daniel from harm in the lions’ den. Abram was 100 and his wife, Sarai, 90, when she bore their son, Isaac, and they experienced the joy of a child in their old age. Zacharias and Elizabeth were both well advanced in years when Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist. Simeon. Anna. Paul. And many others.

#### *Stories of God doing a new thing in one’s later years.*

##### *Stories of new life.*

The last part of life is not like the beginning; it is not a repeat of the first half. The second half is a different adventure—deeper, – richer, fuller—as new things and new opportunities continue to unfold in our lives. Just like the people of the Bible, we can be called to new experiences and ways to serve in our “old age.” We can walk in the newness of life if we are open to hearing the call. *Walk in the newness of life!*



#### **Council Meeting and Carry-In**

**Dinner** The spring council meeting will be Sunday, May 23. A carry-in dinner will precede the meeting. Please bring a large covered dish to share and table service.

#### **Camp Registration due May 2**

See Julie for information. You can register and obtain information from the bulletin board.

**Pancake Breakfasts** Come to our pancake breakfast, Saturday, May 1 from 8-11 am. This is the last breakfast until fall. The men of the church are available to help with tasks around the house you might like help with. Contact Larry C.

**Monday evenings in May** will be church cleanup time (outdoor work). Come and join the crew! A Saturday (date forthcoming) will be used to clean the inside of the church. Contact Larry or Tim.

**Church Picnic** Our church picnic will be held, Monday, May 31 from 1-5 at Echelberry’s. Please bring a large covered dish to share and table service.

**Pictorial Directory** If you did not get your picture taken, please contact Debbie Hajba immediately.

See Pgs 9 & 10 for stories of older adult new life!

# May 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Prayer: 9 am</b> <b>Worship: 9:30 am</b> <b>Sunday School: 11 am</b> <b>Every Sunday!</b>						
Reminder: Bring groceries for the "Food Bin" the First Sunday of each Month! Thanks!						1 Pancake Breakfast, 8-11 am AM Men Helping Others Myers/Carman wedding, 2 pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Camp Registration Deadline!	Mondays In May Clean Up  Leone Gindlesperger, Jennifer Brautigam BD	Hope Konst BD	Quilting, 9-2 Women Weigh Down, 6 pm	Nicole Fuller, Madison Bailey BD David & Leone Gindlesperger Anniv.	Camp Inspiration Hills Cleanup Fri and Sat. Starts 8 am	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mothers Day	Mondays In May Clean Up  Maximus Brautigam BD	Deacon's Meeting, 6:30 pm  Bryan & Jessica Clough Anniv	Quilting, 9-2 Women Weigh Down 6 pm  Calvin & June Nolt Anniv.	Don Shaffer BD Bud & Alice Boganwright Anniv.		Women Bible Study Breakfast, 9 am  Roy Mackey BD
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Mondays In May Clean Up  John David & Donna Tobias Anniv.	Board Meeting, 6:30 pm	Quilting, 9-2 Women Weigh Down, 6 pm	Men's Bible Study 7 pm. Contact: Larry Croston	Deadline for June Evangel  Brenda Krauss BD	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Council Meeting, Carry-in Dinner  Debbie Kovala BD	Mondays In May Clean Up  June Nolt BD		Quilting, 9-2 Women Weigh Down, 6 pm	Karen Sizemore BD	Movie Night, 6 pm	Free Meal, 11:30-12:30  Angela Beaty, David Hajba BD
30	31					
	Church Picnic, Echelberry's, 1-5 pm  					

**Women's Bible study groups** will not meet during the summer months. The group plans to meet for breakfast May 15, 9 am at Fred's, 930 Howe Rd. Contact Deb B. if attending.

**Annual Conference—Pittsburgh, July 3-7** Cathy Richards is delegate. Closing date to advance register is June 7. [cobannualconference.org](http://cobannualconference.org).

**District Conference:** July 30-August 1, Ashland University.

**National Youth Conference,** July 17-22, Colorado State Univ. call 1-800-323-8039 ext. 246.

**Junior High Rally** is April 30 and May 1 at Camp Inspiration Hills. Gary G. is taking three youth to the rally.

**May is Older Adult Month.** Time for young ones to recognize their parents and grandparents as well as the church family that went before them. Also time for seniors to see the possibilities where they may still be of service. Materials are available as PDFs at [brethren.org/OAM](http://brethren.org/OAM).

**Knitting Fun:** Monday evenings at Turners, 7-9 pm. Contact Nora.

**Reserving the Church:** If anyone wishes to use the church facility for an occasion, check with our church secretary, Dottie Jenkins.

**May Wedding** Christina Myers and Vince Carman will be getting married May 1 at 2 pm here at Eastwood. Everyone from church is invited. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP: [www.mywedding.com/christineandvince](http://www.mywedding.com/christineandvince)

**Commision Assistants** The board is looking for people to serve as assistants to the Nuture and the Stewardship Commision. Yes! We are looking at you! Contact Dave H.

**Mortgage burning** Our mortgage will be paid off in May. A special day in

September will be announced to celebrate. We are looking for stories and photos of the time the social hall was only an idea to the present day. Contact Rebecca.

**Sunday School teachers** We need volunteers to be alternate teachers this summer to give our children's Sunday school teachers a break. Contact Gary Griffith.

**New Directory information:**  
**Gene Petry:** [genenep@presto.com](mailto:genenep@presto.com);

**Tim Casto:**  
[draghearse@hotmail.com](mailto:draghearse@hotmail.com);

**Deb Casto:**  
[psalm139\\_23@hotmail.com](mailto:psalm139_23@hotmail.com)

**Carolyn Royer:**  
[royercarolyn@yahoo.com](mailto:royercarolyn@yahoo.com)

**Brenda Krauss:**  
[freespirit572009@live.com](mailto:freespirit572009@live.com)

**Congratulations to Joy and Larry!** They celebrated their 30th anniversary April 19 and are also expecting twin grandsons this fall; parents are Ben and Emily.



**Jina Brighton** Congratulations to Jina, who had the lead role in "Sound of Music" at Field High April 22-24.

**Volleyball** The games are over for this year. We are sorry to report that although it was a fun time for all, we did not come home with the trophy.

**Board Notes:**  
A new mike for Pastor Paul, and monitors for the front of sanctuary have been approved.  
The hot water tank has been replaced as well as a SS cabinet.

The basketball paving (volunteer) project has been postponed for the time because

of cost.

60 people were present for Easter breakfast and 140 for the service. We received a profit of \$232 from the April pancake breakfast.

Alternate youth Sunday school teachers are needed for the summer months.

The choir performances went nicely over Easter; hopefully, with a director, we can have a fall choir.

A day for church cleaning will be announced for a Saturday in May. The purchase of the property in back of the church is underway. We will not be able to have a recycle bin placed outside the church.

Remembrances for Mothers & Father's Day have been purchased.

Church Variety Sale: date has been pushed back till this fall.

**Big thank you to Christine Myers!** We want to give a huge thank you to Christine for all her efforts in playing the piano and helping with the music and worship! On Sunday, April 25, Linda, Pastor Paul and Xinia offered a thank you and flowers to Christine in recognition for her time and talent to our congregation. We will miss you Christine!



**Kairos Prison Ministry** Thanks to Gary, Bill, and Mike for sharing their prison ministry on April 25.

**Thanks to Samantha Markland** who with great poise presented a wonderful sermon on Sunday, April 18 in her father's absence. She interspersed the message of God's continual love of us with music, especially Amazing Grace.

**Thank you** to those willing to share their cardboard testimony on Easter Sunday!

# Witness and Missions: Helping Others

**Free Meal Program** Sam Klingensmith heads up the free meals which are on the last Saturday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30 pm. The community is invited. Donations of food or money, to help with the costs, in addition to helping serve, are welcome.

**Offering A Helping Hand** Need help with the little repairs around your home that you just can't do by yourself? The Men's Bible study group will be available Saturday morning, May 1 to help out. Contact Pastor Paul or Larry Croston about home maintenance and repairs.



**Brethren Disaster Workshop Opportunities**  
7 day workshops scheduled beginning on Sunday's, through May 30. Contact: Hjbrenda@aol.com. 330-682-9123, Mort 330-682-9726.

perishable food donations for our food bin by the bulletin board. Donations are collected on a regular basis to go towards meeting the needs of our congregation as well as to OPEN M and various soup kitchens in our community.

**Disaster Kits for children** are being put together by Joy & Leone. They are requesting volunteers to help! These "kits of comfort" are used in a disaster to help children. Kits contain carefully selected toys that promote imaginative play to help with the healing process. For more information see the bulletin board.

**Volunteer at camp this summer:** Many new volunteer opportunities in the kitchen, maintenance, office and weekend hosts are plentiful and available year round. Currently, volunteers are needed for the four weeks of summer camp from mowing to baking cookies! Contact Shannon Kahler, administrator. Shannon@inspirationhillscamp.org. 888.462.2267



**N. Ohio Camp Cleanup, May 7 & 8** — 4819 W. Easton Rd. Burbank, OH 44214. This is the weekend when all people from throughout the district are invited to come and help revitalize Camp Inspiration Hills for the summer. All talents are welcome. If

you would like to weed flowerbeds or cut wood these are just a few things to be done. (cleaning ditches, replacing crosses, replacing logs on bridge, cleaning windows, wiring, culverts, installing bat boxes, painting, minor repairs) Come anytime after 8 am Fri. We will be working until 3:30 Sat. when dinner is served. All meals and lodging are free. Children need to be 15, unless working with parents. Bring a sleeping bag, along with games/guitar if you like. Also welcome: tools like hammer, paintbrush, saw, shovels, etc. RSVP if coming for meals, one day or both— Contact Hjbrenda@aol.com. 330-682-9123

**Angel Food Ministries** Signature Box, Senior Meals, various meat, vegetable and allergen-free food boxes available. Low cost meals. Contact: The Tallmadge Church of God 330-633-0107/ www.angelfoodministries.com/

**Help Fill our Food Bin** Please bring whatever you can share towards non-



## Earth Day, April 22

Edith Kieffaber and Dorothy Koval would like us to remember to love and preserve this beautiful planet we live on. Edith reminded us that we can recycle plastic bags #1 & #2. She also passed out recycle grocery bags Sunday, April 25 after church service to many in the congregation.



## A note has been received from Gene Nolt:

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Eastwood  
**1 Thess. 1:3** *I continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in Our Lord Jesus Christ.* **Phill. 1:3:** *Grace and peace to you from our Father and Lord Jesus Christ, Love in Jesus Name, Gene Nolt*

# The Deacon's Corner

## Pray for:

- Iva Teck**, Kent Ridge Assisted Living
- Jeanine Gray**, Maison Aine in Stow
- Dorothy Koval**, health concerns
- Jaxon Fuller**, home recovering from brain surgery.
- Jacob Ronca**, paraplegic, Norma Shaffer's grandson
- Judy Turner**, recuperating from surgery
- Ernie Galloway**, Sue Galloway's father, living in WV, recuperating from surgery
- Leone Gindlesperger**, recuperating from surgery
- Dorothy Hayes**, former faithful member of Eastwood, living in WV, recuperating from surgery
- Denny Fox**, Water Street Kent COB pastor, recuperating from surgery
- Jerry Fuller, Jr. & family**; he has a broken foot
- Karen Sizemore**, health concerns
- Merrell Buckles**, hurt foot
- Rosie Poling**, granddaughter of Jean Poling, appendix removed
- Jessica Justice**, niece of Dottie Jenkins, auto accident April 20, extensive injuries to legs and arms; having to undergo many surgeries.
- Pastor Paul** Pastor Paul as he recuperates from back surgery, and as he faithfully continues to minister to us on a daily basis.
- Gary Lorenz**, as he is ministers to the Akron First COB on a part-time basis.
- Angela Beaty** in her work and personal life during her year in S. Korea.
- John Cremeans**, serving in Afghanistan

Continue to pray for those within our church and community going through financial difficulties. Also, continue to pray for our loved ones facing many physical challenges and those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. As you pray for them, let them know that you are thinking of them and praying for them, either through e-mail, visitation, or a card.



## Deepen the Spirit: A Prayer

As we face the consequences of economic uncertainty together, for these we pray:

Some among us are suffering;  
 may the fruit of adversity be compassion.  
 Some among us are facing difficult choices,  
 may the fruit of uncertainty be faith.  
 Some among us are paralyzed;  
 may the fruit of despair be humility.  
 Some among us are blind;  
 Bring light into the darkness of denial.

Help us to help each other.  
 Grant each one hope, wholeness and peace.  
 Amen.

## April Puzzle Answers

J	N	U	O	C		L	O	N	K	S	V	A	V	D
S	V	T	L	V		I	R	I	S	S	R	V	S	E
O	R	C	A	M		N	U	O	N	U	R	U	G	
M	A	I	M	A		S	E	S	A	N	A	T	A	
						W	O						P	
S	H	T	O	S		Y	G	D	E	S	S	E	P	
G	C		T	P		T	E	M	Y	E	R	E	R	
E	A	L	E	P		H	E	T	E	K	E	M	A	
L	A	V	E	V		A	S	E	T	E	I	L	A	
						S	V	A	D	O	N			
						T	A	R	O	N				
E	H	T		M		G	L	O	O	O				
P						N	A	R	Y	E				
E	C	A	M	E		O	R	E	O	R	E	O		
O	D	O				D	O	N	T					

1	λ	ε	η	χ	β	α	φ	δ
α	φ	χ	λ	δ	ε	β	1	η
δ	η	β	1	α	φ	λ	ε	χ
β	1	λ	δ	ε	η	φ	χ	α
χ	ε	η	φ	1	α	δ	β	λ
φ	δ	α	β	λ	χ	1	η	ε
η	α	1	ε	φ	δ	χ	λ	β
λ	β	δ	χ	η	1	ε	α	φ
ε	χ	φ	α	β	λ	η	δ	1



May cryptogram hint:  
 The letter 'E' is encoded  
 'W'.  
 I am the greatest; I said that  
 even before I knew I was.  
 Muhammad Ali!

# Camp Inspiration Hills

4819 West Easton Rd - Burbank, Ohio 44214 - 888.462.2267

<http://www.inspirationhillscamp.org/Info/index.html>

Early registration deadline is May 2nd.

Cost of a full week of camp is \$240



## "Be A Hero, Be Like Jesus"

Summer 2010 at Inspiration Hills promises to be like no other as we explore how "imitating Christ" through acts of love and kindness in our everyday lives can make us real life superheroes to those we meet. Plan to join us this summer



and you may discover that you have had an "inner hero" just waiting to get out; BTW, all capes are welcome!



## Camp Inspiration Hills Schedule

### "Be a Hero... Be Like Jesus"

June 13-18	Staff Training
June 20-25	Sr. High Camp, grades 9-12, at least 14 yr
June 27-July 2	Junior Camp, grades 3-5, at least 8 yr
June 27-July 2	Sr. High Performing Arts Camp
July 11-16	Jr. High, grades 6-8, at least 11 yr
July 11-16	Jr. Performing Arts, grades 3-7, at least 8 yr
July 11-16	Wilderness Camp, grades 8-12, at least 13 yr
July 11-16	Bike Camp, off-site, grades 8-12
July 25-28	3-day camp, grades 1-3, at least 6 yr
July 25-28	Work camp, everyone invited
September 3-6	Labor Day Family Camp, for all families

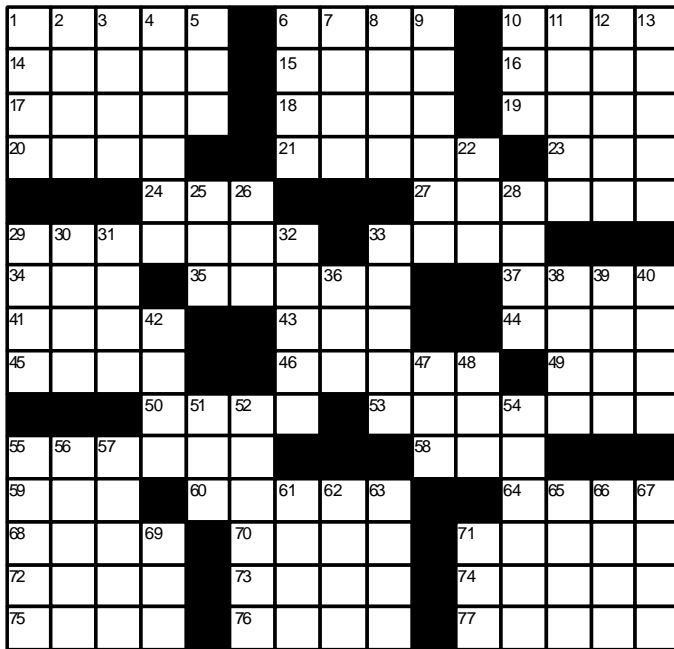
You can download the camp brochure with more information from our web page: [www.eastwoodchurch.net](http://www.eastwoodchurch.net).



- Encourage campers to invite one or more friends to attend camp with them!
- Consider being a camp counselor. This is an incredibly enriching ministry!
- Take advantage of scholarships Eastwood offers to all campers from our church.
- See camp coordinator, Julie Shives, to learn more about our camp program.



# May Puzzles: The Greatest



RL Tumer, May, 2010

- 22 Allow
- 25 Creative work
- 26 Caviar
- 28 Invitation request
- 29 Bivouac
- 30 Winged
- 31 Enjoy
- 32 Fashionable
- 33 Thinks
- 36 That girl
- 38 Every
- 39 Healing plant
- 40 Limbs
- 42 Potato sprouts
- 47 Captured soldier
- 48 Also
- 51 Lair
- 52 Port city in Poland
- 54 Hamburger vegetable
- 55 Leafed through
- 56 Sporty car brand
- 57 Err
- 61 Complain
- 62 European monetary unit
- 63 Annoyance
- 65 Organization concerned with civil liberties
- 66 Persia
- 67 Greatest amount
- 69 Ship initials
- 71 IBM Competitor

**ACROSS**

- 1 Asian nation
- 6 Start of quote
- 10 Aroma
- 14 Part 2 of the quote
- 15 Dunking cookies
- 16 Arrived
- 17 Circumvent
- 18 Not any
- 19 Snare
- 20 Roy's sweetie
- 21 Melancholy
- 23 Part 3 of the quote
- 24 Serving of corn
- 27 Relating to the ankle bone
- 29 Witches pot
- 33 Part 4 of the quote
- 34 Author of the quote
- 35 Badger
- 37 Tender beef
- 41 Part 5 of the quote
- 43 Part 6 of the quote
- 44 Lacking in color
- 45 Game animal
- 46 Entice
- 49 Wheel tooth
- 50 Nervous
- 53 Eases
- 55 Went by

**DOWN**

- 58 Court
- 59 Skit
- 60 Appoints
- 64 Wound seriously
- 68 Sage
- 70 Person, place, or thing
- 71 A sequence of instructions
- 72 Extremely long time periods
- 73 Asian dress
- 74 Map collection
- 75 Part 7 of the quote
- 76 Tangle
- 77 End of the quote
- 1 Chilled
- 2 Star explosion
- 3 Twofold
- 4 Without question
- 5 Dined
- 6 Half of a doorbell sound
- 7 Voiced
- 8 Roman fidler
- 9 Prius maker
- 10 Base 8
- 11 Pub passtime
- 12 City in Nebraska
- 13 Ward off

## May Cryptogram

V XT ZSW CBWXZWUZ; V UXVM ZSXZ WJWP

YWDRBW V GPWI V IXU.

TQSXTTXM XEV



## It's GREEK to me Sudoku

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every symbol in the set:  $\alpha \beta \chi \delta \epsilon \phi \gamma \iota$

	$\delta$	$\eta$						
	$\alpha$		$\iota$	$\eta$	$\chi$	$\delta$		
$\beta$			$\delta$					
$\epsilon$				$\gamma$		$\alpha$	$\delta$	
$\gamma$			$\alpha$		$\phi$			$\chi$
	$\chi$	$\phi$		$\epsilon$				$\beta$
					$\iota$			$\delta$
		$\beta$	$\epsilon$	$\delta$	$\gamma$		$\phi$	
						$\epsilon$	$\gamma$	

## Angels Explained by Children

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.

Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it -Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.

-Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

-Mitchell, age 7

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

-Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! -Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven.. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. Daniel, age 9



Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. -Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.

-Jared, age 8

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. -Ashley ~ age 9

## People saying Thanks!

**Church World Service** sends their thanks for the disaster kits we sent them in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake: 16 baby kits, 49 hygiene kits, and 28 school kits. Our thanks to Alice & Larry for delivering these kits, plus others to



New Windsor! Altogether, CWS provided more than 31,000 hygiene kits, 5,400 baby care kits, and more than 4,000 blankets along with 60 boxes of medical supplies—each box with medicine and supplies for 1000 adults and children for approximately two months in rural clinics.

**Open M** thanks us for going above and beyond in donating \$700 towards the Feinstein Challenge. In addition to these donations, we gave medical supplies and food (through OPEN M) and socks for people in the community, whose finances are challenged and whose resources are dwindling. They write: “Your gift goes a long way to helping us to give beyond what we are able to give to others, and it is our privilege to be in partnership with you. We thank you for your loyalty and commit to you that we will provide needed help to those who come here through your gift.”

**Leone Gindlesperger** thanks the congregation wholeheartedly for their prayers, cards, visits, gestures, calls, etc. while she underwent recent surgery.

**Pastor Paul**, also thanks the congregation wholeheartedly for their thoughts, prayers, gestures, cards, visits, etc. after his surgery and present recuperation.

**Special Thanks** We received a letter and certificate from Inspiration Hills in appreciation for the \$2500 donation to the matching grant fund. Please see the bulletin board.



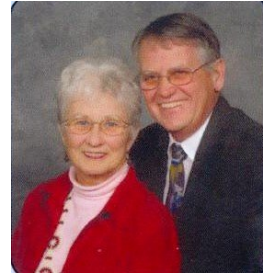
*Walking in the  
Newness of Life*  
the adventure continues...  
2010 Older Adult Month

Personal Reflection  
By Larry and Alice Petry  
BVS Volunteers from  
Eastwood COB

## Volunteering: A Life-changing Experience

A little background to the story:

All our married life, we envied people who could go and volunteer, whether it was for alternative service or a desire to go into the world. Anyway, we had three children and jobs, so it was just a dream until we retired. Then we applied to Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) and prayed for God to send us where He needed us. Well, watch what you pray for – we were asked to go to Japan, to the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima!



We thought we'd go to Japan right away, but God had other plans, and so did Brethren Volunteer Service. We needed some "fine tuning." We were sent for three months to the Washington, D.C. soup kitchen project. Without any overlap or orientation, we started. God did send us Ronnie, a formerly homeless man, to help us along. We needed to learn more compassion for the homeless people; to know that many of them who were mentally ill or destroyed by drugs and alcohol couldn't get a job and had to be cared for.

Then BVS sent us to a disaster project in Albany, Georgia. There we had little orientation and again hit the ground running: "Here are the homes, and this is where you live and cook." Okay, another situation where we had to learn on our own what to do.

After these six months, we finally were off to Japan, a little more ready to accept whatever the circumstances were. And so another placement with little orientation. However, that was 15 years ago, and since then orientation for the projects has improved 100%!

The World Friendship Center (WFC) turned out to be the most wonderful experience anyone could ever have. We moved the Center to a new location soon after we arrived. During this time, we learned to know the people involved in running the WFC. Teaching the conversational English classes was a

joy, and many friends were made. The overnight guests from more than 40 countries kept us up on the world and gave us a chance to spread the peace bridge of friendship.

This experience changed our lives dramatically. Learning such a different culture added to our education and appreciation. We became aware of problems and struggles all over Asia while we lived there.

We've been back to Japan to cover WFC for staff furloughs several times. Class members, members of the "Riji" (board of directors), and staff at WFC have all been to visit in our home. We've had the privilege of helping to train couples going to WFC for their two-year assignment, and serving on the WFC American committee has been another way to keep abreast of the activities and people at WFC, and to help in finding new people to serve there.

We've helped with older adult BVS orientation. We've been back to the soup kitchen in D.C. many times, and have been very active as directors in Brethren Disaster Ministries projects since our return from Japan.

It's a mystery to us why more people don't apply to the older adult BVS program. It is such a life-fulfilling experience and a way to stay young at heart. God bless!

*(Note: During April, Larry and Alice were back in N. Windsor helping direct the present BVS older adult unit.)*

# God's (Unexpected!) Call on Our Lives

By LeRoy Weddle , Member,  
Older Adult Ministry Cabinet, Church of the Brethren

As I reached that time of life when I began thinking about retirement, I had visions about what it would be like:

sleeping in, golf, projects around the house that have been put off, golf, travel (we want to get into all 50 states), golf, volunteering at church and in the community, and enjoying life with Carolyn, my wife – did I mention golf?



While I am still working full time at age 68, these are the visions I have of my retirement years and we had begun working at some of the items on our list, especially the travel. The other thing that Carolyn and I want to do is be open to God's call on our lives, which is a dangerous thing to do as that can take you in many different directions that you may not be prepared for.

Last May that call came in an unexpected way. I was at work when I received a call from my wife asking me to come to the county courthouse, where a hearing was being held for our 17 year-old granddaughter. When I arrived I discovered that our granddaughter, for reasons that will remain private, was being removed from her home by court order and the recommendation of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Our granddaughter was asking if we would accept her as a kinship placement, meaning she would live with us until she turns 18 in 11 months.

We had the space in our home, we had the resources to support her, we had the physical health to cope, and she is our granddaughter. Still, we had been in the same situation two years prior for a few months and found it to be a very trying and stressful time. We were not

eager to get back into the same situation as we knew it would take its toll on our physical and mental health. There is a gap between teenagers and 60-something grandparents, and often they have a hard time understanding each other. What would be our answer? And the court needed our answer immediately; not much time for prayer and discernment. Another consideration was that she was pregnant.

We are just about two months away from our granddaughter's 18th birthday and she is adamant that she is moving out when she turns 18. Our goal is to help prepare her for being on her own and to be a responsible adult. Once she reaches her 18th birthday and moves out, we anticipate our lives returning to a more normal pace, but certainly intend that our granddaughter and great-grandson will always be a part of our family and our lives.

During these past several months, Carolyn and I have talked often about our situation. We have reached the same conclusion that our taking in our granddaughter was what God wanted us to do. We feel that this has been our mission; to love her, to support her, and help prepare her for life after she turns 18. We are convinced that it was in the best interest of our great-grandson to have him in our home given the situation that was not of his doing. Is this what we wanted? No. Is this what we needed to do? Yes. We were called to be available to our granddaughter.

As an older adult we still need to be open to God's call on our lives. We have been blessed through this experience, although at times that was difficult to say. It has been good to feel that when God called we responded. Life goes on and we are still engaged in life, even when it comes to us in unexpected ways.



*For more stories go to:*

[http://www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grow\\_adult\\_ministries\\_older\\_adult\\_month\\_2010](http://www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grow_adult_ministries_older_adult_month_2010)

What is impossible with men is possible with God

Luke 18:27

# A Faithful Response:

An excerpt from the pastoral letter about the ongoing economic crisis

The economic crisis we are experiencing this year continues to demand attention from all levels of the church. Individuals are losing jobs; congregations are struggling with smaller budgets; community social services are being threatened. The economy dominates our life, and it is easy to succumb to a culture of fear.

...We follow a God of abundance and generosity. Our values are not tied to the stock market. Our joy does not come from acquiring more things. Our trust is not in human institutions...

The economy may seem to dominate our lives today, but in a sense it always has. We confess that when the economy was expanding, we as a society were fascinated by the prospect of wealth and the accumulation of material goods. Whenever we stood on the economic ladder, it was more appealing to look up than to look down. This economic crisis is a struggle, but it is also an opportunity to remind ourselves of gospel values.

And it is a time to deepen our own connection to God so that we have the wellness—mental, spiritual, physical, and relational well-being—to endure economic adversity. None of us knows what the future holds for the Church of the Brethren or ourselves. What we do know is that God is with us. The presence and power of the Spirit are available to us. The example and witness of Jesus Christ are set before us. May the ever-generous blessings of this Triune God be with you.

Read the entire letter at [www.brethren.org/site/DocServer/IAF\\_letter-Final\\_with\\_logo.pdf?docID=4861](http://www.brethren.org/site/DocServer/IAF_letter-Final_with_logo.pdf?docID=4861)



Here is a helpful chart we came by (from the Springfield COB newsletter) that resembles those tipping guidelines we see so often, and we thought you might enjoy it.

### May Nursery Schedule

**9:20-10:40 am**

**10:40-12:10 pm**

May 2 Dale B & Debbie B.

Judy M. & Sam M.

May 9 Jen B & Charlotte N.

Jim S. & Julie S.

May 16 Vicki M & Charlotte N.

Roxanne S. & Cliff J.

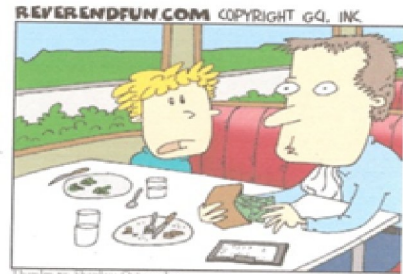
May 23 Deb C. & Leone G.

Ida Gene J. & Xinia T.

May 30 Connie M. & Angela C.

Esther E. & Charlotte N.

### WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE:



Thanks to Steven Hernandez  
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

#### Where do you fit in?

Annual Income	Weekly Income	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
18,000	346	14	21	28	35	42	52
25,000	481	19	29	38	48	58	72
30,000	577	23	35	46	58	69	87
40,000	769	31	46	62	77	92	115
45,000	865	35	52	69	87	104	130
50,000	962	38	58	77	96	115	144
60,000	1,154	46	69	92	115	138	173
75,000	1,442	58	87	115	144	173	216
100,000	1,923	77	115	154	192	231	288

Just a helpful guideline as you consider giving.

### God's Post it Notes

When you get to your wit's end, you will find that God lives there.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

God, himself, doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead, so why should you!

Peace starts with a smile!

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

**Pastor: Paul C. Markland**

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 am**  
**Sunday School at 11:00 am**

Office Hours: 8:30–12:00 Tues, Wed, Fri.  
www.eastwoodchurch.net  
Email: Ewdcob@att.net

Pastor Paul email: Pjas87@yahoo.com;  
Phone: 330-877-7833



### The Purpose of the Eastwood Church

- To lead people into encounters with the living Christ
- To nurture each other in Christ-like love
- To touch others through acts of service



### Eastwood Church of the Brethren

581 Darrow Road, Akron, OH 44305  
330-784-2420



First Class Mail  
Address Correction  
Requested

Happy May Day!