



Forward Look

Issue 5

www.smithvillebrethren.org

May 2024

Inside this Issue

OCC Anniversaries Library Note	2
Element 412 Thank You Notes	3
Associate Pastor	4
Barb Winey (continued) This and That	5
Birthdays Events Calendar	6
Nursery & Jr Church Schedule Financial News	7
Address Change Grad Party Invite Camp Bethany	8

“Don’t know about my God? Well....let me tell you....”

Most of you know me, but some of you may not. I am Barb Winey. On March 22, I experienced a ruptured brain aneurysm. For those of you who aren’t in the medical field, this usually means death or permanent damage. God is good though, as here I sit writing this to you, alive and kicking. But it wasn’t an easy journey to get here....believe me. There was a LOT of pain, a LOT of struggle, and a LOT of worry (trust me, don’t google “brain aneurysm survival”....I did it once but never again). I won’t detail everything, but I will tell you that it was a nightmare being told my survival chances were 15 to 20 percent. With only my husband there at the time (everything was happening so rapidly), I couldn’t bare to say goodbye to him, only tell him how much I loved him. And he had to go through the painful experience of calling each of my kids and my mom so I could tell them that I loved them as well. Unimaginable moments. I remember being wheeled into surgery, staring at the ceiling, and thinking, “This is it. I’m either going to wake up and be with Jesus or wake up and be back with my family.” Many of you might think this is a win-win situation...but for me in that moment, it was a true emotional conflict. Of course, you all know how it turned out. But before being released from the hospital, I went through a LOT.

I remember my worst moment. I was in so much pain and there didn’t seem to be “anything more” that could be given to me. It was the middle of the night and I kept sobbing out the words of Psalm 23, over and over and over. When I didn’t have the energy to recite it one more time, I started sobbing out the words, “Lord have mercy on me” over and over and over again. That was real pain. And guess what? He did have mercy on me that night. God always comes through. God doesn’t promise everything will be easy. And He doesn’t promise that He will make our lives perfect, or that they’ll turn out the way we want them to. He does promise His Presence, His Love, and His Perfect Plan. And He only asks us to trust Him. And I chose this. And I will continue to choose this over any other life I could imagine. I may have some healing to go, but no matter what happens... God will always be my Great Healer, my Great Physician....my Great God.

Were there miracles? Yes, the miracle of a spared earthly life being the biggest. But there was also so much gratitude. I’m grateful to both Pastor Art and Pastor Scott for coming to the hospital, and also to our great and wonderful congregation, whether you came to visit me in or after the hospital, prayed for me, sent a card, or provided a meal. It may have been a small gesture for you, but it meant the world to both Dennis and me. We love you all and are so grateful to be part of such a wonderful church family. I’m also grateful for the witness that I was able to be to so many healthcare individuals while in the hospital. I’m grateful for scripture that both came to mind when I was at my worst and also once I was able to pick up and read my Bible. I’m most grateful to our most Wonderful and Holy God, who showed me His power and awe, which I experienced through uncontrollable emotion (and still do to this date). He is our Great Physician. He is our Great Healer. Don’t ever doubt that.



(Continued on page 5)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Just a reminder that Operation Christmas Child collection goes all year with featured items every month. Note that any item can be donated at any time, especially as you come across good sales. This is just a guideline. Donations can be placed in the box under the OCC table in the entryway.



May	Hygiene Items (no liquids)	Bar soap in original packaging, washcloths, hair-brushes, combs, solid deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.
June	Quality Toys, Wow Gifts	Soccer ball with pump, dolls, jump ropes, musical instruments, fishing gear, tools, sewing supplies, binoculars, etc.
July	Clothing (must be new)	Socks, shoes, shorts, pants, shirts, dresses, underwear, etc.
August	School Supplies (no liquids)	Pencils, crayons, pens, markers, paper, ruler, glue sticks, stickers, coloring books, pencil pouches, scissors, etc.
September	Games	Puzzles, playing cards, handheld/travel games, jacks, marbles, flexible frisbee, tic-tac-toe, etc.
October	Greetings	Letters, photos, and drawings to include in shoeboxes
November	Give	Monetary donations for shipping boxes (\$10 each)
December	Pray	Pray for the journey of each shoebox and the children who will receive them.

A Note from Your Librarian

This month I would like to share 4 new books to our library by author Charles Martin. Charles Martin is the New York Times best selling author of at least 12 books. He and his wife Christy, live in Jacksonville, Florida.

1. "The Dead Don't Dance" by Charles Martin. "A sleepy rural town in South Carolina. The end of summer and a baby about to be born. But in the midst of hope and celebration comes unexpected tragedy."
2. "Chasing Fireflies" by Charles Martin. "They have summer to find what was lost long ago."
3. "When Crickets Cry" by Charles Martin. "A man with a painful past. A child with a doubtful future. And a shared journey toward healing for both their hearts."
4. "Long Way Gone" by Charles Martin. "No matter where you go, no matter whether you succeed or fail, stand or fall, no gone is too far gone. You can always come home."

Look for these New Books on the Library back wall or on the table.

Keep Reading!
Your Librarian,

Rachel Krabill

Quote: "Never apologize for having high standards. People who really want to be in your life will rise up to meet them."
—Ziad K. Abdelnour



MAY Anniversaries

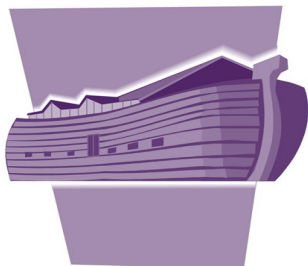
<p>May 4 Andrew & Sarah McGinnis 5th anniversary</p> <p>May 4 Howard & Judy Martin 45th anniversary</p> <p>May 18 Erik & Kelly White 23rd anniversary</p> <p>May 20 Dennis & Debbie Rinehart 52nd anniversary</p>	<p>May 23 Jerry & Sue Ungerer 60th anniversary</p> <p>May 27 Keith & Sharon Hamsher 57th anniversary</p> <p>May 31 Pat & Carolyn Mosier 38th anniversary</p>
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ELEMENT 412 EVENTS
(6TH-12TH GRADE)
Mudding @ Underwoods
May 19th 2-4 p.m.



Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip
June 4th and 5th



Information has been distributed and is also available on the Remind app. Sign up on the church website. Contact Pastor Scott with questions @ 937-206-6986.

Thank You!

To the Smithville Brethren Church Family,

I want to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers, those who sent cards, and the phone calls. It has meant so much during this long time of healing.

God bless you all!
 Virginia Ray

Smithville Brethren Church,

Thank you for your donation. We appreciate you!

God bless!
 Eliana, 4th grade



Smithville Brethren Church,

I realize this is late, but I wanted to express my thanks to you for the generous Christmas gift that you gave me. When I was a Sophomore in high school and I started to play piano for the church services, I had no idea what to expect 27 years later. However, God had a clear plan and I've been blessed and honored to continue to use the talents He has given me for His glory. I am so appreciative

to this congregation for the many years of support and the opportunity to serve. I look forward to many more years of worshipping through music!

Geoffrey Zimmerly

To my church family,

Once again, I thank my church family for all the cards and words of sympathy for the passing of my sister, Gloria Fraser. She did not have a quality of life, and her passing was a relief that she doesn't suffer any more; she is at home with the Lord.

Sincerely,
 Sheila Keener

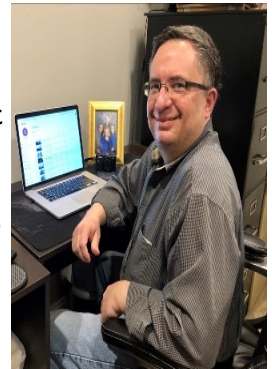
Smithville Brethren Church,

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to all of you for your commitment and love for your new partners in South Africa! Your gift at Christmas will ensure that the movement happening will continue to progress in amazing ways.

YOU ROCK!
 Scott Soden
 Global Partners Coordinator
 The Brethren Church

From the Associate Pastor... Kingdom Wealth Series

Every teenage boy should have the experience of going engagement ring shopping with someone. While women are wired to notice jewelry, this is frequently the first time they have taken a serious look at the options. For starters, what cut of stone does the intended want? And come to mention it, what STONE does she want? Then there are questions of size, quality, what setting to put it in, what kind of metal should the ring be made of, should there be additional stones included. And did the salesclerk actually say diamonds can come in colors? It's bewildering the many choices, and every store seems to specialize in only a few of the options.



When shopping for Wendy's engagement ring, the choices were overwhelming. I begged her to go with me to pick her own ring out (For the record, she refused!) Jewelry stores had so many options when it came to the rings – but they were pretty uniform on how much they thought I should spend. Brace yourself – salesclerk recommend a man spend between two and three months' of income on an engagement ring – and lately you almost always hear three months!

The first time I heard the number, I did a little mental calculation. Had a pretty good idea what ballpark we were talking. But here are a few of the questions I DIDN'T ask the salesclerk:

- Is that pre- or post-tax federal income tax?
- Can I deduct my FICA contributions from the total?
- Does that include my benefits?
- Does that include the contributions my work makes on my behalf to retirement?
Would that include gifts I was given at Christmas? My birthday? My yearly bonus?

The salesclerk was giving a ballpark figure to help me know about what I should do. It was up to me and my free will to decide whether the ring would include or exclude a variety of incomes and expenses I might have in a given year.

When it comes to tithing, we often want to ask the same clarifying questions. My suspicion is the Lord would be less impressed at my asking than if Wendy had stood next to me in the jewelry store as I quizzed the salesclerk. Often, we ask less because we want to do right by the Lord and more because we want to do less for Him. Don't misunderstand: You have every right to ask the questions. We should want to do what God has asked us to do. But we can miss the principle that our giving is a way to express our gratitude and love for the Lord. No woman wants to marry a man who wants to be cheap with her. A man looking to cut corners with his wife is ill-prepared for marriage because the wedding should be the start of a life of giving and serving each other.

Ask the questions, pray for the answers, and live consistent with how the Spirit has informed you. But remember what the Apostle Paul said:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

God loves a cheerful giver, not a chintzy or reluctant one. Same as your husband or wife.

Until next month,

Pastor Scott

(Continued from page 1)

Am I one hundred percent healed? Not quite yet. I have meds I'm trying to wean myself off of, and doctor appointments and tests in my future. Do I still worry? Sure ("Will there be a repeat episode?" "Am I positive there's no brain damage?") But I have a wonderful husband who keeps me calm, I have scripture that reminds me of God's Promises, and I have prayer, where I meet with God Himself.

Now, I realize that there was a great ending to my story (at least, so far). However, if you don't know me, I will tell you that my late husband was killed in a car accident in 2016. It was then that I had to tell my kids that their dad had been killed. Unimaginable moments. One day we were a happy family and the next moment, everything was torn apart. Saying it was tough times doesn't even come close to how awful it was back then. Many of you reading this remembers it well. But guess what? God came through. Because He always does. Again, He doesn't promise everything will be easy, or that our lives will be perfect. But I trusted Him. I chose Him. Because I knew that God would be present, that He would be loving, that He would get me from one day to the next. What I didn't know then that I know now, is that my life has been blessed ten-fold since then. When is your day of "ten-fold"? None of us know – that's for God to know. It might be now, in a month, a year, or a long time from now. That's how life is. It doesn't always turn out the way we think it will (in fact, rarely it does). Some days will be wonderful, and some may be awful, but all will be part of His Wonderful Plan. And when we choose Him? Well, there's no greater thing....I can guarantee this.

Someone asked me what I would advise others, after experiencing what I lived through. My answer? Most importantly....CHOOSE HIM. If you don't know how, ask me....ask Pastor Art or Pastor Scott.....or ask anyone else in this church. We are a wonderful group of believers and we're here for you. Trust me....everyone has been here for me not once, not twice, but three times (I left out the story about my son, but that's for another time). Next... Love each other. Allow for grace. Forgive one another. Make relationships, or improve the ones you have. Again, CHOOSE HIM.

—Barb Winey

THIS AND THAT

Ladies Luncheon: The May gathering will be at The Barn Restaurant on Wednesday, May 15th at 11:30 a.m. All ladies are invited to attend. No need to sign up or RSVP. If you have questions or need a ride, please reach out to Louise Liebhart at 330-347-8544.

Primetime Meal, May 6 at 5 p.m. We are looking forward to a delicious meal followed by a concert by the Ashland University Choir and Chamber Singers Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The Ashland University Choir and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Rowland Blackley, will present a concert at SBC on Monday, May 6th at 7 p.m. Please invite friends and family. A freewill offering will be taken.

Mark your calendar: The dates for 2024 VBS are Monday, July 22nd through Thursday, July 25th.

Crafters/Hobbyists Of All Ages: Our next Craft Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the upper fellowship hall. All ages are welcome; bring a dish to share for lunch. RSVP to Dee Sillman @ 330-466-2287 by May 15th.

June Primetime Meal will be June 10th at noon in the UFH. Hope to see you there! Sign up on the church website, smithvillebrethren.org, or call the church office at 330-669-2267. Deadline to sign up is June 3rd.

Recognition of Graduates will be June 2nd in both services. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the high school and college graduates. **Promotion Sunday** will also be June 2nd. Parents of students moving to a new Sunday school class will be receiving information in the coming weeks.



May 1 Dan Troyer Jim Rowsey	May 12 Dennis Winey Pat Martin	May 17 Geoffrey Zimmerly	May 22 Lloyd Kilmer Linda Dunn
May 4 Greg Bachman	May 13 Katrina Hart Brayden Leach Logan Gasser	May 18 Scott Meech Betty Coleman	May 24 Bridgett Collins
May 5 Virginia Ray	May 14 Winnie Morrison Kiley Underwood	May 19 Cassandra Gasser Don Mason	May 27 Erica Shaffer
May 6 Brian Gasser Beverly Maasz	May 15 Robert Carpenter Linda Mong	May 20 Sylvia King Don Schwartzfigure	May 29 Kylie Norris Harper Shaffer Carolyn Mosier
May 9 Owen Hart	May 16 Greg Mong	May 21 Brayden Bauman Ashley Burns Ron Witmer	May 30 Eric Cuixtla Ted Peplowski
May 10 Ronan Bordwell			May 31 Donna Ru Lon Cad Gard
May 11 Russ King			

May 2024

			1 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir practice	2	3	4 9:00 Bell Choir practice
5 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service	6 5:00 Primetime Meal UFH 7:00 AU Choir Concert Sanctuary	7 Bible Study 10-11:30/6:30-8 UFH/Room 202	8 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir practice	9	10	11
12 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service	13	14 6:30 CE Board Mtg	15 11:30 Ladies Luncheon @ the Barn Restaurant 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir practice	16	17	18 9-4 Craft Day
19 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service 2-4 Element 412 Mudding @ Underwoods	20 6:30 Official Board Mtg	21	22 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir practice	23	24	25
26 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service	27 Memorial Day- Office Closed	28	29 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir practice	30	31	

Nursery/Jr Church Schedule

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
9:00 Nursery Traditional Service	Erica Shaffer	Jennifer Carr Kelly/Ronan White	Jessie Dravenstott Wendy Fetter	Lisa/Nora Zemancik
10:15 Nursery Sunday School	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King
11:30 Nursery Contemporary Service	Bridgett Collins Gwen Zimmerly	Melissa Underwood Julie Hostettler		Lori Cline Cassandra Gasser
9:00 Jr. Church Traditional	Debbie Rinehart Jessie Dravenstott	Emily Chenevey Chin-Chin Frantz	Susan Dilyard Bridgett Collins	Susan Boyes Beth Pearce
11:30 Jr. Church Contemporary	Deb Cline Kim Chittenden	Chet Underwood Kylie Hostettler	Russ King Sarah Bozsik	Cindy Cline Lorah Meech

Ministry Statistics: Attendance & Giving

Date	Attendance			Weekly Giving
	Sunday School	9:00	11:30	
April 7	140	185	76	\$19,530.11
April 14	145	187	74	\$18,358.54
April 21	142	187	61	\$7,818.35
April 28	151	183	81	\$6,973.07

Ministry Statistics: Designated Giving

Ashland University Choir	\$550	Hospitality	\$300
Bus Trip	\$400	Rennecker Memorial	\$280
Camp Bethany	\$1,800	Riverside Christian School	\$600
Element 412	\$200	Salt & Light Ministry	\$531
Flowers	\$160	Wayne County Fair—Matthew West	\$54
Friends' Club	\$200	World Missions	\$50

Graduation Party

Pastor Art and Jennifer invite you to join us for an open house in honor of



Cameron's graduation from Smithville High School. We will be celebrating Monday, May 27th from 1-4pm at the church. Please RSVP by May 19th to 330-234-3360 if you plan to attend.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Jacque McConahay
936 N. Crownhill Rd
Orrville OH 44667

UPCOMING MISSIONS UPDATES:

Andrew and Sarah McGinnis, working with Wycliffe Bible Translation as teachers at Rainforest international School in Cameroon, Africa, will share during both services and the Sunday school hour on Sunday, June 30th. **Sandile Mkhwanazi, Brethren Global Partner in South Africa,** will do the same on Sunday, July 21st. We look forward to hearing what God is doing in their lives and their ministries.

PASTOR: Rev. Art Carr - artcarr@earthlink.net
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH:
Rev. Scott Fetter - sfetter500@msn.com
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER:
Ted Peplowski - tpeplowski@aol.com

2024 SUMMER CAMP @ CAMP BETHANY

The following students will be attending summer camp this year. Please pray for their safety, that they would make life-long Christian friends, and that God would speak to their hearts during this formative time away from parents and extended family. Pray also for the camp counselors and camp administrators as they prepare for the upcoming camping season, that all that is said and done would lead students to a deeper relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

KINDLE CAMPERS - JUNE 7 - 9

Colin Cline, Makayla Dravenstott,
Niko Mahas

GLOW CAMPERS - JUNE 16 - 21

Ethan Dravenstott, Owen Hart,
Corben Mahas, Willow McConahay

IGNITE CAMPERS - JUNE 23 - 29

Kailyn Beichler, James Cuixtla-Mendoza,
Elizabeth Frantz, Kiley Underwood

SPARK CAMPERS - JUNE 30 - JULY 5

Kiley Beichler, Stevie Frantz,
Regan Martinet (friend of Kiley)

FLICKER CAMPERS - JULY 7 -23

Briley Cline, Nina Hart, Averie Mahas,
Aliana Rice (friend of Briley)

Mailing address is:

Camp Bethany
c/o (child's name)
5774 T. R. 212
Lakeville, OH 44638

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:
Wendy Kaufman - sbrethren@earthlink.net
CHURCH/OFFICE PHONE: 330-669-2267
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Mon. - Fri.
CHURCH WEBSITE: www.smithvillebrethren.org