



In This Issue

- 2** A Way of Life
- 3** Library Lines/BWOC
- 4** Compassion Corner/
Special Speaker
- 5** Thank Yous/Congratulations/
Bible Reading Plan
- 6** DLC Update
- 7** Fundraiser/IMPACT
- 8** Looking Ahead/Birthdays
- 9** Strange But Wonderful
- 10-11** Children's Ministry
- 12-13** Youth Ministry

Healthy Loving Relationships

We will build friendly, safe, and caring circles in which people experience the fullness of God's grace.



Love and Respect Conference

There will be a Love and Respect Marriage Video Conference at our church Friday (6:45 pm- 10:15 pm) and Saturday (8:45 am-1:45 pm), February 10-11. "The Love She Most Desires – The Respect He Desperately Needs" – a revolutionary, simple message that works in marriage, based on Ephesians 5:33.

A comment from someone in our church who went through the Love and Respect material: *"This helps you to see things from your spouse's viewpoint. It is not about right or wrong but about different outlooks, views and needs."*

REGISTRATION INFO: You can register in the foyer, gathering area and the second floor hallway of the educational wing. The cost is \$20 per person after Jan. 30th. People from our church who register will receive a rebate of half the cost at the conference. Scholarships are available; please see Mike or Cindy Pyle, Mark or Chris York, or ask at the church office. You can also register by visiting our church web site (nmfbc.org) and following the links, or by going to loveandrespect.com.

A WAY OF LIFE

By Pastor Kurt Stout

GO is not a mission trip or a special project. **GO** is a way of life. It is beginning our day with an expectation and readiness that God has something planned for us. **GO**, as a way of life, does not compartmentalize spirituality into certain areas. **GO** permeates every aspect of our day to day routine and understands God is at work not only in us, but in the lives of people with whom we come in contact.

Try this for a month:

Begin your day with, "Lord, what do You have for me today? I am willing to live Your **GO**, in Your way."

GO is relational, an expression of God's incarnational love. Therefore, we could say "**GO** is patient, **GO** is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **GO** is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **GO** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **GO** always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **GO** never fails." (1 Cor 13:4-8a).

GO treats people as people, not as a project. **GO** views others with authenticity, rather than in a demeaning or substandard way. **GO** watches for opportunities, but does not force a personal or spiritual agenda. **GO** is not manipulated, but is led by the Spirit. **GO** is both near and far, it is lived out wherever we are. **GO** is more than writing a check or boarding a plane. **GO** is more than bringing a canned food item or even delivering it. **GO** is relational. **GO** is going, but it also lingers. It enters into conversations with people so they know God cares and that they matter to

GO is going, but it also lingers.

Him...and to you. **GO** invests time and energy and resources into people and places where the Holy Spirit is prompting us.

GO begins in our own homes. **GO** imitates God's love in a willing and sacrificial way that leaves no doubt that God is real. **GO**, as a way of life, impresses God's truths so He is seen clearly in us.

GO is more than a church theme or some passing topic until the next cool idea comes along. **GO** is more than 2000 years old. It is not new. It wasn't our idea. **GO** is God's idea, lived out in the incarnational life of Jesus, passed along to every generation of Christ-followers, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It was of this way of life that Jesus said, He would be with us "day after day after day." (Matthew 28:18-20)

The area we as a church leadership team (pastors, staff, DLC, ministries) want to help is to better train God's people to **GO**. In fact, this is our calling, "to prepare God's people for works of service" (Eph 4:12) "to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:10). This is discipleship - to lead people into personal growing relationship with Jesus AND to encourage, equip, & empower them to live Christ's **GO** ... His way of life. Remember it was He who said, "As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." (John 20:21). Jesus said **GO**. Now what will we do with that one word?



Snow Removal

The Ministry of Property is looking for someone to

help with snow removal/clearing the sidewalks when the facility coordinator is away and/or plowing the parking lot. If available, contact Carl Petrie, 260-417-2246.

Prayer Cards in Pews

The green prayer cards in the pews are available for any prayer request. A group meets to pray each Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. You may place the card in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

Prayer Service

A prayer service is held each Tuesday, 6:30–7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It consists of guided prayer time and spontaneous scripture reading. Adults, teens & kids welcome.

Esperanza 2012

The dates of the “Esperanza 2012” Peru trip have been changed to June 21-July 3 because of scheduling conflicts.

Deadline to sign-up for the team will be Feb. 15th with a \$200 registration fee. You can pick up an information sheet in the office. If you have questions call Linda Immel, 982-8238 or Sherry Searles, 260-901-9564.



Library Lines

Looking for ways to grow in the area of Love and Respect? The library has the book by Emerson Eggerichs available to check out as well as others that focus on ways to develop healthy relationships. Come take a look at what’s available! Also, we would like to have another library work day to enter more of the recently donated items. If you are able to help out on a Monday morning during February, please let Lisa Rice know. Thanks!

Brethren Way of Christ (BWOC)

Be thinking about attending a BWOC spiritual retreat weekend. The Spring schedule is March 8-11 for men; March 15-18 for women; and March 23-25 for youth.

For more information, contact Pastors Kurt, Ron or Tim (982-6457), or Mike or Cindy Pyle (352-2807).

BLOOD PRESSURE



SCREENINGS will be on the third Sunday this month (Feb. 19th) in

Pastor Ron’s office. They will be held after first and second services. Blood pressure cuffs are available for loan/check-out in the church office.

Compassion Corner

Compassion Corner will be on Sunday, February 5th. Show your Valentine some love this year with a fair trade chocolate gift from Compassion Corner. Special Valentine gift bags are available featuring a variety of gifts and prices. Help send a message this Valentine's Day that you will not contribute to the child-slave labor that goes into 70% of the chocolate that Americans consume every year. Available after each service in the Gathering Area. Fair trade coffee is also available.

Coffee Cups

When you get your fresh cup of hot coffee on Sunday morning in the Gathering Area, you may notice something different. Instead of filling up a styrofoam cup, which costs an average of 1.5 cents per cup, you will find a reusable coffee cup, courtesy of the First Brethren kitchen. The principle cost related to reusable cups is for heating the water to wash them. If using a fully-loaded dishwasher, that comes in at around .05 kilowatts per cup. At 7 cents or so per kilowatt, per-cup cost would be .3 cents per wash. But this isn't just about saving money. It takes about 400 years for styrofoam to decompose in a landfill—a nice little legacy for the next generations. You are welcome to bring your own coffee mug or travel mug with you on Sunday mornings if you choose.

Special Speaker



Special speaker James Kofi Annan will be at the 9:15 service only on February 5th. James comes to us from Challenging Heights, in Ghana, Africa. This is the place where North Manchester resident, Sarah Morbitzer is living and serving for one year.

James Kofi Annan is Founder and Executive Director of Challenging Heights, a non-profit organization in Ghana that rescues, rehabilitates, educates, and protects child victims of forced labor, as well as those at risk of being trafficked. He is uniquely qualified for this position as he himself is a survivor of child slavery.

James is the last and the only educated out of twelve children of his illiterate parents. He worked as a child fisherman in more than 20 villages along Lake Volta from the age of 6 to 13, before finally liberating himself. At 14, James couldn't read or write, but he believed if he could learn English, opportunities would present themselves. He quickly befriended kindergartners so he could use their schoolbooks to learn to read, worked every day to pay for school, and broke records on his standardized exams.

A powerful and inspiring speaker, James has become an internationally-recognized leader against slavery. James is the recipient of the 2008 Free the Slaves Frederick Douglass Award and the 2011 Grinnell Young Innovator for Social Justice Award, presented at 2011 TEDx and has appeared on CNN.

THANK YOU!

Thanks for the meal. Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers during Tom's illness. They were of great comfort. May God bless you all.

Love in His name,
Marieta Steele

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us ... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

The family of Tom Steele

The Cummins family is very thankful for the New Market gift card that we received in the mail. We don't know who sent it, but God does! Thank you so much! The gift was truly appreciated!

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous support of the Learn More Center. Your generosity continues to bless God's people. Improving a student's levels of literacy and education, impacts their lives in so many ways, not the least of which – but the most powerful – is their ability to read and understand God's Word. Thank you so much.

Cynthia Johnson

Honored as Business of the Year

Cottage Creation, owner Mary Ann Swihart, was recently honored by the North Manchester Chamber of Commerce with the 2011 Commerce Award as the Business of the Year. The business has been in downtown North Manchester in the same location for 28 years.

Congratulation Mary Ann!

First Brethren Church Learn From Me ... Matt. 11:29

Reading Plan Bookmark 2012

February

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------|
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11-12 |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13-14 |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15-16 |
| 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17-18 |
| 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19-20 |
| 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21-22 |
| 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23-24 |
| 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25-26 |
| 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27-28 |
| 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 29-30 |
| 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 31-32 |
| 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 33-34 |
| 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 35-36 |

II Chronicles

II Thessalonians

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1-2 |
| 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |

Ezra

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1-2 |
| 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3-4 |
| 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5-6 |

March

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7-8 |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9-10 |

Diaconate Leadership Council (DLC) *Congregational Update*

At the beginning of each year the DLC selects new officers. For 2012 those leaders are as follows:

Moderator.....Phil Zile
Vice Moderator.....Steve Searles
Recording Secretary.....Garen Bushong

Recently we have focused on gaining a better understanding of the Vision and Direction God has for our Church. After having discussions with our Discipleship ministries we recognized the need to update and modernize classroom and ministry spaces. In addition, the Ministry of Property has presented several, large dollar, building repair issues that will require solutions in the next 12-36 months.

In order to make informed decisions on these issues, the DLC and Staff recently met with a Christian-based architectural and design firm (McKnight Group) to discuss their assessment of our facility spaces and how best to utilize them. The McKnight Group has worked with many churches by assisting, planning and designing facilities to best maximize building space, as well as building additions that assist with present and future growth needs. Our first meeting with the McKnight group in early January was at no cost, however, we are considering engaging them for a formal evaluation.

Over the past 12-18 months the Diaconate Leadership Council has been focusing on discipleship and missional living. Presently, we are reading and discussing the content of Hugh Halter and Matt Smay's book titled *AND*. Hugh Halter was the featured speaker at last summer's Brethren Conference. Hugh challenges The Church to Be the Church seven days a week not just on Sunday. How we are called to gather together but also to scatter (GO) and be a light within our community and the world. As we discuss these concepts we are gaining a better understanding of how to live out our calling by IMITATING Gods love every day, having an IMPACT on the world where we live.

Current DLC members include: Garen Bushong, Andy Cook, Myrl Frantz, Mike McLaughlin, Gary Purdy, Mike Pyle, Steve Searles, Pastor Kurt Stout, and Phil Zile. We are appreciative of the commitment and contribution of Warren Garner and Jim Mishler who recently completed their terms on the DLC.

LOOKING AHEAD MARCH

BWOC

Men's Weekend - March 8-11
Women's Weekend - March 15-18
Youth - March 23-25

Daylight Savings

Sunday, March 11

(Turn Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour Saturday Night Before Bed)

ebruary

Birthdays

- 1 - Ralph McBride
Carol Collett
- 2 - Jason McIntyre
Becky Montel
- 3 - Brisa Jones
- 4 - Lila McCann
- 5 - Jordian Wade
Dave McIntyre
- 6 - Joyce Walters
- 7 - Linda Immel
- 8 - Heather Lauer
Elijah Harting
- 9 - Terry Sites
Harrison Nettleton
- 10 - Beletu Stout
Elijah Harting
- 11 - Nicole McKee
- 13 - Randy Moore
Carma Cummins

- 15 - Donna Beaver
- 16 - William Bellinger
Annette Clifton
- 17 - Kent Coble
- 18 - Robin Shepherd
Michael Willmert
- 19 - Kay Bellinger
- 23 - Darren Callaway
- 25 - Cara Blocher
Sophia Cumberland
- 27 - Nancy Benton
- 28 - Myrl Frantz
Olivia Davis
- 29 - Stephen Kennedy

Anniversaries

- 9 - Kim & Marcy Pratt '91
- 13 - Mike & Kelly McKee '88
- 14 - Martin & Rhonda Hernandez '04
- 24 - Matthew & Diana Nettleton '96
- 25 - Shaun & Estella Callaway '12
- 27 - Cary & Laurie Walters '09

Summer Mission Trips Team Fundraisers

This summer we are taking two teams on international mission trips (Puerto Maldonado, Peru and Sosua, Dominican Republic). Almost thirty people from our church feel called to serve in this way, which means there is a lot of fundraising going on.

Each person is responsible to bring in the majority of their funding, but we are also planning multiple team fundraisers. From these team fundraisers, we hope to raise an estimated \$17,000. Some of these team fundraisers will be out in the community, and some will be within our church.

Later this month, we will run a campaign that could raise \$10,000. We are calling it the “Wall O’ Hope.” We are looking for 200 people from our church to partner with us financially and prayerfully by taking an envelope.

There will be two boards filled with different envelopes: one marked with odd numbers in the foyer and one with even numbers in the education wing outside of the sanctuary. Simply take the envelope with the number equal to what you would like to give (#24 = \$24). Please remember any giving should be above your regular tithe or offering.

We will be reserving #1-20 for children and youth who want to participate in this project. These envelopes will be on a separate board located outside the Loft.

Inside each envelope there will be instructions on giving and basic information on both teams and what we will be doing. There will also be the name of a team member inside your envelope, along with a couple ways to specifically pray for that individual.

By taking an envelope you are not only committing to support us financially, but most importantly to pray for us as we seek to IMPACT God’s world with the message of Jesus Christ! We are so glad to be part of a sending church. Thank you for partnering with us in God’s mission.

IMPACT God’s World

VOLUNTEER: Junior High Youth Coaches: Wednesday nights (6:15-7:45 p.m.)

Encourage, shape the life of a teen. Call Pastor Tim.

DELIVER: Pork and Beef: Know someone in crisis or financial strain? Meat is available in the kitchen freezer for you to give away and bless someone. Questions? contact a guy from the 10:30 men’s SS

BAKE: Food Coaches for youth ministry: Sunday nights. Call Pastor Tim.

INVITE: Invite a couple to join you for the Love & Respect marriage video conference February 10-11.

Invite a kid to come to Club RIOT (Wednesday in February)

GO: Esperanza 2012 (Peru) (June 21-July 3) talk to Linda Immel or Sherry Searles soon.

Dominican Republic (June 21 – 28) \$100 deposit due TODAY!.

Riverside, KY (summer) - great for your family to serve together.

PRAY: “Lord, what do You have for me today? I am willing and ready.”

READ: *Tangible Kingdom* or **AND** by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay

APPLY: Fill out a request form for funds to help resource your personal, class, or group outreach project or trip. Forms available in office.

TELL: Share your story of how you have seen God at work in and through you. Email Pastor Kurt. Tell your class or group.

Strange But Wonderful

The more I read the Bible, the more impressed I am with both the strangeness and the wonderfulness of God's ways. His ways are strange and wonderful. For example, in the book of Genesis, God used a man named "heel-grabber," or "deceiver" (that was the meaning of Jacob's name, which accurately described his character) to be the one out of whom the nation of Israel would come. God used a contest of jealousy between Jacob's two wives to produce his twelve sons out of which came the twelve tribes of Israel. God caused one of those sons, Joseph, to be sold into slavery to Egypt in order to keep the whole family alive during a famine, and used the famine to get the family to Egypt so that they could grow to be a great nation. In Exodus God used Pharaoh's enslaving of the Israelites to cause them to call out to God for deliverance; otherwise, they would have been content to stay there. And the list could go on.

The point is, *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."* Isaiah 55:8-9. Our thoughts and ways of doing things simply are not God's thoughts and ways. Would we have thought of God sending His Son to die on a cross as a criminal and be raised from the dead to save us from our sins? That's the gospel, and the apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:23-25, *we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.* God takes what the world thinks is wise and stands it on its head, and He takes what the world thinks is foolish and lifts it up. In the world's eyes Christ crucified is foolish, but in God's plan it is wonderful. God's ways are strange to the world, but wonderful in reality. A more current example would be that of Joni Eareckson Tada. Her paralysis at the age of 17 was strange, but has produced the wonderful ministry that has been her life for over 40 years since.

The next time something happens to you that seems strange, and even evil, remember that God is up to something wonderful. Romans 5:2 says that we stand in God's grace; God's every thought and action toward us is one of mercy and kindness. As Paul writes in Ephesians 3:20, *God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.* (NIV)

Ron Burns

Discipleship Coordinator

Scripture quotes are NASB unless otherwise noted



Children's Ministry

The Armor of God is our theme for Club Riot and KFC this winter! We will take a look at what the different pieces of Armor are and how to use them each day.

Don't forget to join us for Family Night on Wednesday, January 29th

Garden 0-1 We are learning about each day of Creation!

Garden 2's We are learning about how Jesus Calmed the Storm and how he can take care of us from Matthew 8:23-27. Through the week, remind your kids of how He continues to take care of us.

Garden 3-Kindergarteners We are continuing to learn about Jesus and New Testament Stories. In February we are pretending to be in the Wild, Wild, West and then build a great Story Time Fort. Our verse that we are working on memorizing will be Luke 1:37, "Nothing is Impossible with God", to the tune of Skip to my Lou.

LOFT - Our Children's Church Program that focuses on ways we Love, Obey, Follow God and Trust His ways.

This month we will continue to learn how Jesus lived and showed us God's love as we experience the stories of Jesus calming the storm, healing a paralyzed man, and healing a blind man. We will continue to focus on how we can love like Jesus! Parents - feel free to join us any week! We'll keep practicing our memory verses and those who would like to can recite them on Feb. 19th or 26th for a prize.

LOFT Quarter Verse: John 3:16

LOFT Quarter Challenge: I Corinthians 13:4-7.



Club RIOT- Come for a Really, Incredible, Outstanding Time!

Ages 3 – 4th Grade

KFC – 5th & 6th grade Kids for Christ!!



Wednesdays in February, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Parents join us for the
closing session at 7:35.

Family Night –

Wednesday, February 29th 6:30 p.m.

Elementary Sunday School - Meets each week (except the 5th Sunday) at 10:30. This is time for us to read our Bible Story and learn to apply it to our daily lives in a small group setting. Be sure to bring your Bible! Parents please help weave what we are learning into your week by checking out the Family section of your child's Sunday School Paper.

Club de Niños (Kids Club) will start again in March with the return of Pastor Joe and Janice. Listeners are needed with our reading program on Monday and Friday - call the church office if you are available.

Camp Shishewana - Look downstairs on the LOFT door for information about our Brethren Retreat Center's Summer Bible Camps. The theme is: *The Greatest Race!* This is an incredible way for your child to experience God in an awesome way. We will be having our annual Camp Sign-Up Day later this spring.

VBS - Everything is Possible with God - Mark 10:27 is our Vacation Bible School theme. Plan on attending this summer!

FB C YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

CHAOS (7th-8th Grades) meets on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:45pm at *La Casa*.

Ekklesia (9th-12th Grades) meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8pm at *Town Life Center*.

Orange Parents (Parents of Teens) meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 east end of the Fellowship Hall.

Dessert Club

High School Students are invited to the home of Ruth and Andy Ayres one night a week (typically Wed or Thurs) for Dessert and Conversation. Check Facebook or give Ruth your cell number if you want to know when these are.



and Dessert Club JV

Once a month on a Friday night, Junior High Students are invited to Bill and Carol Collett's for Desserts and Games.

Parent-Pastor Conferences:

Parents, you are invited to set up a meeting time with Pastor Tim to have a "conference" to discuss your kids.

We will meet at a time that works best for you. Think of it as a Parent-Teacher Conference with a spiritual twist!



Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 5 @ Tim and Tawn
McLaughlin's

Subs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a snack to share. Party starts at 6 p.m. with some giveaways; ends by 11. Invite your friends!

Winter Retreat @ the BRC

For both JH and HS Students.
February 17-19. Cost is \$75.

Registration and fees must be turned in by February 5.

Leap Year Party

Wednesday, February 29
from 6:15-7:45 in La Casa.

Junior High Students, come for some Leap Year games and birthday cake. Only happens once every four years, so don't miss it!



Faith Quest

If you are 16 or older, would you consider going to Faith Quest? It is one of the most significant things you can do to impact your faith. It's a weekend away (offered twice a year) where everything is taken care of for you; all you have to do is sign up and show up. The next one is Friday, March 23 through Sunday, March 25. Contact Pastor Tim ASAP

if you feel ready to go.

First Brethren Church
407 N. Sycamore Street
North Manchester, IN 46962

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
North Manchester, IN 46962
PERMIT NO. 84

Address Service Requested

