



The Advocate

Thank you Sisters & Brothers

It has been a privilege to live in the midst of the Brethren for a year. One of the many events that stands out in my mind is feetwashing.

I have washed feet that were not my own, *three pairs* during the year, and had my own feet washed three times. The first time was at the Love Feast on the evening of Maundy Thursday.

When my feet were washed it was done in a very worker-like way; rinse, wash be-

tween the toes, rinse, wipe dry, stand for a hug. Done.

When it was my turn to wash feet it wasn't as special as I hoped. Although it was unusual to be washing someone else's feet it had a very normal quality to it. I was surprised at this, having hoped to feel something different at my first feetwashing.

I'm not sure what I was expecting, perhaps a feeling of being more of a Chris-

tian, whatever *that* would feel like. It wasn't until later, in reflecting on the event, that I realized it was a perfect spiritual event.

It was perfect because it is in the "everyday" that we really live; it is there that the divine happens. It is in everyday living that Jesus is served.

Thank you for the gift of being yourselves, sisters and brothers, all.

James A. Bowser

Summary of Church Board Decisions

Church Board Meeting
January 6, 2005 6:30 p.m.

1. The church did not meet all benevolence pledge goals found in the Witness Commission budget for 2004. However, all organizations did

receive some contribution from the congregation. The board chair sent a letter to the organizations impacted explaining why the church was not able to provide the full amount pledged. The letter also indicated the

amount of pledge to the organization for 2005.

2. The Executive Committee received the letters of resignation from Interim Pastor Jim Bowser and Administrative Assis-

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Special points of interest:

- Church of the Brethren continues to help tsunami victims
- Advocate Editor needed
- Pastor Jim's last Sunday, Feb. 6
- Rev. Sara Haldeman-Scarr begins Wednesday, Feb. 9

Summary of Board Decisions (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

tant Roberta Mortimer, and made plans for transition in staff. Jim Bowser was given a big "Thank You" from the board for his service as interim pastor.

3. The Stewards Commission will be replacing the vinyl flooring in the kitchen and is reviewing ways to improve lighting in the sanctuary.

4. Each commission will take a Sunday and supply snacks and serving for fellowship time after worship. Stewards will take the first Sunday, Witness the second, Nurture the third, Deacons the



fourth, and Executive Committee will take the occasional fifth Sunday. When Mary Aeschbacher orders Free Trade Coffee for the church she will put a notice in the bulletin that members can order when she orders for the church.

5. The Witness Commission will set out the Special Offering basket each Sunday in January to raise money for tsunami victim relief. Witness will introduce the concept of collecting used stamps to pass on the Companeros en Ministerio program as a fundraising effort. Thanks were given to Sally Kurzdorfer and Jim Bowser for

their efforts in getting the Advocate on line.

6. The Executive Committee is preparing a policy on church volunteers working with children that will be considered at the February board meeting for approval. The church must have a formal policy to be able to maintain its liability insurance policy.

7. The board discussed what should happen when someone "drops off the radar" in church. The church office will prepare attendance reports and the Deacons will be asked to follow-up.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Messenger cancellations being corrected

Everyone who receives the Messenger may have received a cancellation notices due to a clerical error. The Messenger office never received the check we sent back in November 2004.



We have sent them a new check and this problem should be resolve and you all have been reinstated and will receive your February Messenger.

Thank you for your cooperation with this problem. – Ken Aeschbacher Messenger Representative

Peace Coalition Endorses Department of Peace Event

The San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice (SDCPJ) has endorsed an historic citizen lobbying effort to create a U.S. Department of Peace. A bill (HR 1673) submitted by Congressman Dennis Kucinich will be brought to the House floor on February 12, 2005. It establishes nonviolence as an organizing principle of American society, providing the U.S. President with an array

of peace-building policy options for domestic and international use. The Department (DOP) would focus on peaceful conflict resolutions and promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights. Domestically, the Department would develop policies which address issues such as domestic violence, child abuse, mistreatment of the elderly, and other issues of cultural

violence. Internationally, the Department would the root causes of war and intervene before violence begins. The Southern California DOP Training Day of Saturday, February 12th will be held at the Church of Today, located at 8999 Activity Road, San Diego, CA 92126. Anyone may register for the session by calling (858) 689-6500 or e-mailing christine@beyondsuccess.us.

Simple Living: A Path to Peace/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Simple Living: A Path to Peace

What does the concept of simple living have to do with peace? The members of the Peace Study and Action Group of San Diego (PSAG) believe that war and conflict is often the result of unchecked materialism. They will spend the next month exploring the virtue of simple living, using the Mennonite study plan, Basic Trek. Trek takes its participants on a four-week journey in which they find joy in simplicity, search for what is 'enough', and learn how to stay the course to find enough for all.

To kick off the new study, PSAG will lead the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) Sunday School of January 30th, presenting a program called "Peace through Simplicity". This session will offer prayer, scripture, and an exploration of a quotation by Mahatma Gandhi: "Live simply so that others may simply live."

First Church of Brethren Honors

Martin Luther King

Members and friends of the First Church of the Brethren honored Martin Luther King's legacy by sharing historical notes on his life and by marching in the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Thousands of students, activists, marching band members, and others marched the 1.3 mile route along Harbor Drive on Saturday, January 15th.

About 100 members of the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice carried peace signs, quotations by King, and banners bearing the names of Americans killed in the Iraq war. The colorful contingent featured musicians from the Super Sonic Samba band and dancers in bright costumes. The main float was driven by friend of First COB, Eric Kurzdorfer. Also participating, were Brethren member Sally Kurzdorfer

and Trish Rose, of the Peace Study and Action Group.

At least two floats rolled along the route, blasting King's famous "I have a dream" speech: "When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black

men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual; "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



Sally Kurzdorfer

Church Pitches in to Help Homeless!

In keeping with our annual tradition, members of the First Church of the Brethren will roll up their sleeves and serve the homeless this February at the Interfaith Shelter Network.

The following members and their families will serve complete dinners this year:

February 7: Margi Himes, Sally Kurzdorfer

February 17: Margi Secor, John Davis

February 18: Donna and Richard Pearson

February 19: Cheryl Old, Judy Stout

In addition, our church will contribute funds for breakfasts and lunches, and has offered overnight supervision of the shelter.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church will host the shelter during our term of service.

Announcements Galore!

Church Women United

Friday, February 4, 2005, at 9:30 AM will be our first Forum of this year. "Remember Those Who Ran Before Us" is the theme and speaker Trina Brown will present her mother, Pearl Brigham, as a forerunner in CWU. Registration is at 9:30, program at 10 AM, and lunch (\$5.00) at 12 Noon. Forum this month will be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at the corner of Lincoln and Ohio in North Park. Thank you, Anna Lee Harshbarger

Camp La Verne Annual Banquet

Camp La Verne will be holding its annual banquet on Saturday February 5, 2005, at the Fellowship Hall at La Verne Church of the Brethren. Attendees are invited to enjoy Hors d'oeuvres and participate in a Silent Auction at 5:15 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:00PM and Taps will be sounded at 8:00 PM. A donation to cover the expense or your attendance will be requested at the door. You are also invited to bring quality items for the silent auction. For more information and to RSVP contact Julie Wheeler at (909) 593-9590 or email: jwheelday@hotmail.com.

Companeros en Ministerio and Rain Visit Tijuana

On January 3, 2005, eighteen volunteers braved the cold, windy, rainy weather to make a trip to Tijuana, Mexico. We were people on a mission – Companeros en Ministerio to be exact. Led by Terry and Carolyn Shumaker, our group visited a drug rehabilitation center by the name of Creer, a retirement home called House of Refuge for the Elderly, a self-help organization referred to as Ministry Mall, a bible institute, and a family center named Tres Octubre.

After a stop to purchase food at the open-air market, the volunteers handed out blankets, food, and led a worship service at the drug rehabilitation center. We dropped off donated books to the bible institute and toured the retirement home. At Ministry Mall, people were given the opportunity to learn how to sew. My favorite stop was the family center where we played with the children and handed out toys.

Even though the weather was a detriment, the level of commitment and excitement was high. Companeros en Ministerio is one of the few organizations where volunteers actually go to Tijuana to work and communicate with the people they are trying to help. It is a

"hands-on" organization. The experience made me feel like I made a difference.

Nathan Colbert



Fun at Work Day

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 19. We have some important

workday tasks, and everyone can help. Remember the fun we had with the mulching machine awhile back, chipping up tree trimmings and such? We're going to do this again, and can use extra hands to carry stuff from piles here and there, trim a few more trees, etc.

The 19th is also the day before Palm Sunday, a week before Easter. If you don't want to chip wood, you can walk around doing minor cleanup chores to make church presentable.

Extra bonus treat: If everyone who comes (or most of us, anyway) brings some edible snack-type food to share, we can have a continuous picnic while people come and go. Be there!

John Mortimer

Commissioned or Consumer Christians?

On Sunday, January 16, our interim pastor, Rev. Jim Bowser was unable to be with us, as he was with his aged, ill mother. So we were delighted to have Rev. Terry Shumaker as our speaker for the day. He delivered a powerful thought, provoking message on his work with Companeros en Ministerio (Partners in Ministry) – in Mexico and other places. His wife, Carolyn, was a

greeter at our service and gave out literature on what this mission is all about. The title of his sermon was "Commissioned or Consumer Christian?" These were terms some of us were not familiar with. If we are "Commissioned" by God, it is to spread the Gospel (good news of Christ) by our example of living and love for others in service to them. He mentioned

they had gained the trust of the local Mexican political leaders because of the workers love and service to the people wherever they work. Terry and Carolyn started this work in 1994 and it is in affiliation with the Church of the Brethren.

One of the leaflets she gave us encourages us to sponsor one or more chil-

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“Commissioned” (continued) and a Poem

(Continued from page 4)

dren, if so led. A number of people from our church have gone to Tijuana, Mexico with them. See the article on page 4 written by Nate Colbert about the recent trip.

If anyone is interested in ways to help or sponsor a child, Shumakers will be back to San Diego in March and would be glad to share with you how you can help with this most worthwhile project.

Laura Miller

Lifting And Leaning

There are two kinds of people on earth today,
Just two kinds of people, no more I say

Not the good and the bad, for 'tis well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are

half good.

Not the happy and sad for the swift flying years
Bring each one his laughter and each one his tears

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth
You must first know the state of his conscience and health

Not the humble and proud, for in life's busy span
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man

No! the two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.
Wherever you go you will find the world's masses
Are ever divided in just these two

classes.

And strangely enough you will find too, I ween
There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner who lets other bear
Your portion of worry and labor and care?

--- Ella Wheeler Wilcox
Submitted by Laura Miller

Thank You, Roberta!

January 16 was a day to honor the work of Roberta Mortimer, our Church Administrative Assistant for over 11 years. Roberta has kept our office running smoothly through many changes and upheavals. Whenever a congregant had a problem, or needed an answer to a question, Roberta was a “go to” person we could count on.

Her work never ended with the clock, and she cheerfully took work home, or pitched in with extra time as needed. Roberta plans to leave her post as Administrative Assistant in order to find a position with more work hours and

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therefore higher pay, sufficient to meet her family's needs. She will continue as our Church Treasurer.

We have been blessed with Roberta's faithful service throughout the years. She has been the “glue” that held together the growingly complicated logistics of our church family.

Eleven years ago, when Roberta first started, very little of our church work was computerized. We had no e-mail chain, no website, and no web-calendar to update. There was no

need to communicate with or accommodate the Peace Resource Center, the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Peace Study and Action Group of San Diego, Alcoholics Anonymous, Companeros en Ministe-

rio, the San Diego Friends Center, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association, Military Families Speak Out, and so many other organizations, because they were not meeting on church grounds. Roberta has continually updated her knowledge and expertise to meet the changing circumstances and need of our faith community. In addition, Roberta has served at the “right arm” of the Witness Commission, providing extra services for such events as the “Moving beyond Racism” series and the Military/Conscientious Objection breakfasts. In recognition of her work “above and beyond the call of duty”, the Witness Commission recently presented Roberta with a Special Recognition Award.

Thank you, Roberta, for your generosity in service to the Church in San Diego.

Sally Kurzdorfer

Prayer Requests & World Day of Prayer



Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers the following persons:

Lois Shadley

Rae Stern

Pattie Stern

Carmen Boaz

Delores Delane Weaver

Laura Miller

World Day of Prayer will be observed at 10 AM on Friday, March 4, 2005, at San Diego Church of the Brethren.

This year's program, titled "Let Our Light Shine", was written by the women of Poland. World Day of Prayer is an international event that unites Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian



women in over 170 countries from the first sunrise to the last sunset offering prayers following the sun's path around the globe.

In every continent there will be people praying for each other. Spoken in hundreds of languages, World Day of Prayer strives to bring informed prayer and prayerful action to our communities. For more information, call Pat Perry (619) 216-8630, or Dottie Marsden (619) 262-1272.

Editor Needed

An Editor is needed for our monthly church newsletter, the Advocate. Helpful skills include good computer skills and writing abilities.

The task currently takes 7 to 10 hours at the end of the month. If your interested please contact the Church Office at (619)-262-1988.

-The Advocate Committee

Sign-up Reminder

The plastic tulips are coming! Wading in above ankle grass to get into the sanctuary!

These things could happen if we do not sign up on the sign up sheets in the sanctuary by the mailboxes. Volunteers are needed to do the following: Altar flowers, Mowing the Grass, Hostess/Host for after worship, Supper Club hosts. Thanks - Roberta



Attendance, Offering, and Specials within the Offering

Date	Attendance	Offering
1/2	43	\$4,803.83
1/9	36	\$1,480.00
1/16	36	\$767.34
1/23	40	\$520.03
1/30	Not available at printing	N/A

Tsunami	\$739.00
Tijuana Ministries	\$105.55
Peace Resource Center Recycling	\$35.12

Birthdays

February 2: Patrick Wills
 February 3: Richard Pearson
 February 5: Jeff Glass

Anniversaries

February 1: Sally & Eric Kurzdorfer

Walk Across America Building the Friends Center

Don Vermilyea continues his mission – to walk across America visiting every Church of the Brethren and spreading the message that we must continue the work of Jesus: Peacefully, Simply, Together. On January 23, Don reached Falfurrias, Texas, the farthest point South that he has walked so far. His next scheduled stops are in Louisiana at Churches of the Brethren in Lake Charles and Roanoke. Don has walked 13,225 miles since the start of his journey three years ago. He has picked up \$954.73 along the road and has been given \$2,271.18 by passing motorists without soliciting. Read some of Don's reflections about his walk posted on the church bulletin board.

Ken Aeschbacher Building the Friends Center

Construction work continues on the foundation and floor of the Friends Center building on the North area of the church property.

Steel reinforcing, electrical conduit lines and concrete are now in place for the round foundation of the Friends Meeting Room.

The next steps will be installation of the layers of sand, moisture-barrier plastic, insulation, steel reinforcing, and hot-water tubing and concrete that

make up the floor of the round Meeting Room. Volunteers are still welcome, skilled and unskilled.



This project offers a great opportunity to work with others in building a place for the promotion of peace and justice.

It is also an opportunity to learn some building trade skills that are unique to this environmentally sensitive project.

Ken Aeschbacher

Newsletter News: Reporters needed and the Advocate Electronic

The Advocate staff is looking for church members and friends who will write short articles for publication in the newsletter.

Please submit articles of news, wisdom, humor, etc. to the Advocate mailbox or to the Church secretary by the deadline date posted each month.



Also, please sign your article so that you may receive credit for your writing.

Who knows, you might be considered for a Pulitzer prize? (Well, we can hope!)

Thanks to Sally Kurzdorfer

we are now able to post electronic copies of the Advocate on our website. Therefore the newsletter is now going out over the Internet to a whole host of churches that previously received the Advocate by mail. This saves natural resources, and money, while getting the news out quickly. If readers would like their copy to be sent electronically please contact the Church Office.

Church of the Brethren continues tsunami relief efforts

The Church of the Brethren continues tsunami relief efforts. The Church of the Brethren continues its efforts for the survivors of December's devastating tsunami by supporting Church World Service (CWS), the global humanitarian arm of the National Council of Churches. On Jan. 19 Indonesia

added tens of thousands of the missing to the estimates of the death toll. Brethren relief efforts since the last Newline report included a new grant from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF), more shipments of relief supplies from the Brethren Service Center in

New Windsor, Md., and a call for Gift of the Heart School Kits. Many congregations and districts also have been collecting relief supplies and gathering donations.

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FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
OF SAN DIEGO

3850 Westgate Place
San Diego CA 92105-5113

Phone: (619) 262-1988

Fax: (619) 262-0558

Email: office@sdbrethrenchurch.org



"Continuing the work of Jesus..."

We're on the Web twice!
www.sdbrethrenchurch.org
www.sdpeacechurch.org

Welcome, Sara Haldeman-Scarr, our new Interim Minister!

The Reverend Sara Haldeman-Scarr has accepted the invitation of the Executive Committee to serve as Interim Pastor at the First Church of the Brethren of San Diego beginning Wednesday February 9th.

Sara brings a wealth of active involvement in the Pacific Southwest District and experience as an interim pastor. Sara was very involved in producing this year's highly successful Pacific Southwest District Conference held in Pomona. She has also been on



the staff of the Center for Anabaptist Leadership and brings a strong background in interim ministry issues.

Sara will be in San Diego five days in a row, returning to her home, and husband the Reverend Bill Haldeman-Scarr, in Pomona on Sunday afternoon for two days. Such a "commute" is a common pattern these days and has worked very well in numerous situations.

Sara will be here from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday

afternoon so we will all need to remember that she can be reached on those days.

We are looking for a member of the congregation who has an extra bedroom for Sara when she is in San Diego. If you have one available in your home, please contact the Executive Committee.

Pastor Jim Bowser's last Sunday with us will be February 6th.