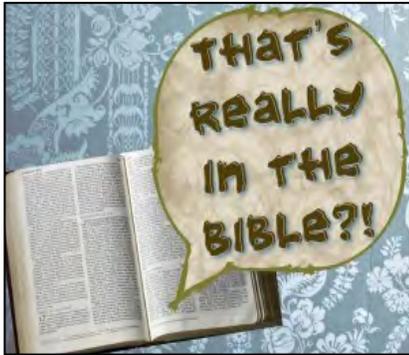


INTERCOM

JULY - AUGUST 2012, Volume 53, No. 7

THE UNSANITIZED BIBLE



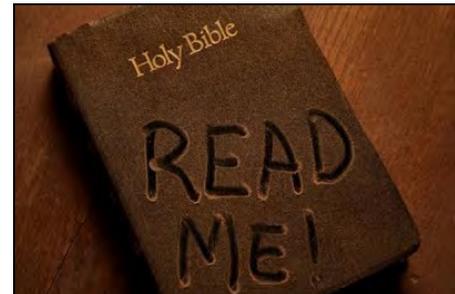
Over the years when someone has told me that they wanted to start at the beginning of the Bible and read all the way through it, I have always been anxious for his or her journey. Genesis and Exodus make for good reading, but what happens when he or she hits Leviticus?

Those of us raised in mainline Christian churches have grown up hearing the stories of the Bible. We can tell you how long Jonah was in the belly of a large fish, and we can sing you a song about Zaccheus. But most of us don't know the stories that aren't part of the lectionary. How many of you know the stories of Huldah and Jephthah?

Last summer I did a short sermon series called: *Is That Really in the Bible?* I had more fun than a pastor should have. This summer I am going to share more Bible stories with you....ones you have never or rarely heard.

You may ask yourself: *Why would she do this?* I have a couple reasons:

1. Many of us have grown up with the sanitized Bible. We only know select parts, and some of those have been shortened to protect our innocence.
2. If you have children, some day they will ask you: *What did Noah's son do that was so wrong?* You should at least know what they are talking about.
3. I have so much fun preaching on texts I have never preached on before.



Many people live in the illusion that the Bible is a moralistic book filled with good citizens. The Bible tells the story of God's people. They are flawed, like all of us. As we read and study our Bibles more, our understanding of grace deepens. Join me this summer as we take a deeper, less-sanitized look at our Bibles.

~Susan Boyer

The La Verne Church of the Brethren continues the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together. We create a Christian community, called by Christ to be inclusive, caring and peace-minded. We affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, faith tradition, or life situation are welcome in our congregation. We believe in compassionate service, stewardship of creation, respect for diversity and nonviolent reconciliation for differences among all people, nations and faith traditions. We claim no creed but the New Testament, as exemplified by the life of Christ. We strive to follow the way of Jesus. Through these efforts, we seek to grow ever closer to the mind and heart of God.

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July - August Calendar

- July 1 New Member Class, 9:15 a.m., Fireside Room
Anne Price & Earl Fike Wedding Celebration, after worship, Reception to Follow
- July 3 Communication Committee, 4:30 p.m., Fireside Room
Summer Series Bible Study with Bob Mullins, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- July 4 Office Closed for Holiday
- July 7-11 Annual Conference in St. Louis
- July 10 Summer Series Bible Study with Bob Mullins, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- July 15 New Member Class, 9:15 a.m., Fireside Room
- July 17 Summer Series Bible Study with Bob Mullins, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- July 19 Movie on the Patio: *Up*, 7:30 p.m., Courtyard
- July 21 Dwight Hanawalt Memorial Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
- July 22 New Member Class, 9:15 a.m., Fireside Room
- July 23-27 Peace Camp, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- July 29 New Member Class, 9:15 a.m., Fireside Room
- August 2 Movie on the Patio: *ET*, 7:30 p.m., Courtyard
- August 3 Office Closed
- August 4 Special Music Concert with Tamer Edlebi
Check the church bulletin for further information
- August 9 Youth Trip to Homeboy Industries, Meet in Fireside Room at 9:00 a.m.
September *Intercom* Article Deadline, 5 p.m.
- August 17 Youth Dive In Theatre, 7:00 p.m., at the Strogon home
- August 19 Sunday School Teacher Training, 11:00 a.m., Social Hall

Summer Worship ~ 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School resumes on September 9

INTERCOM is the monthly newsletter of the La Verne Church of the Brethren

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Production: Kathleen Krecklow

Hillcrest Sunday Chapel Services

Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel – 4 PM

Located at the west end of Maple Court.
All are welcome.

July 2012

- 1 Rev. Kelli Grace Kurtz,
St. John's Episcopal
- 8 Rev. Joe Vecchio,
Administrative Assistant, PSWDCOB
- 15 Rev. Willard Ressler, resident
- 22 Chaplain Tom Hostetler
- 29 Rev. Doris Dunham, Bakersfield COB

August 2012

- 5 Rev. Linda Marshall,
La Verne United Methodist Church
- 12 Rev. Dr. Jerry Garber,
United Church of Christ
- 19 MUSICAL WORSHIP – HYMN SING
- 26 Rev. Vicki Minyard, Salvation Army

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Tom Hostetler**

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cmeek@laverne.edu

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Service chair: Maura Rogers,
iancars69@yahoo.com

Property chair: Tom Evans,
evans2020@gmail.com

Spiritual Life & Nurture chair: Shirley Boyer,
boyerduo@yahoo.com

Stewardship & Finance chair: Mike Wolfson,
mwolfson@aol.com

Church Council Report

Save the Date for our Next Church Council Meeting – October 21

Church Council meeting was held on Sunday, May 20 with 111 people in attendance, out of a membership of 502. We viewed slides and listened to an interesting presentation by the 5 youth who attended Christian Citizenship Seminar in April. An overview of the main business items to be discussed at Annual Conference was shared. We heard a first reading for the Board-approved action to modify Article II of the bylaws – Mission, changing line 19 from “gender” to “gender identity”. Discussion and submission for approval will occur at our October Council meeting. An updated Child Protection Policy was presented, discussed by participants, and approved without additional changes.

Tom Hostetler, Mary Kay Ogden, and Zandra Wagoner described progress in congregational giving to the denomination since the previous January Council meeting. They reported that two congregational meetings were held on April 14 and April 29 to obtain input and feedback from church members in order to enable the Church Board to develop a recommendation. These meetings highlighted the need to have more clearly defined objectives.

The denominational giving schedule was presented. A formal policy recommendation will be presented at the October Church Council meeting. This will give the Board an opportunity to assess the impact of the 2012 Annual Conference, have an appropriate dialog with COB Mission and Ministry leadership, and expand more clearly defined objectives.

Please put the October 21 Church Council meeting on your calendar. We will be discussing the important decision regarding the third quarter portion of our congregational giving to the denomination. We value your input and your vote!

Do You Know Who Attends Church Council Meetings?

In an informal study conducted by Marlin Heckman across 36 years, we have discovered some interesting trends in who attends church council meetings. Although the size of our overall membership has declined, the average number of attendees has increased. Additionally, so has the average age and number of years a person has been a member at LVCOB. What does this mean to you?

Date of Meeting	October 12, 1976		October 2, 1980		May 20, 2012	
Gender Distribution	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Attendance at Council	42	50	29	50	40	56
Average Age	59.9	63.2	57.8	65.6	64.8	70.2
Average Years a Member of Church	23.2	24.6	27.5	18.3	27.8	36.2
Reported Membership	809		786		502	

**Movies and Popcorn on the Patio!
7:30-9:30 p.m.**



Look to the Skies for this
Summer Series:

Thursday, July 19 – *Up*
Thursday, August 2 – *ET*

Bring your lawn chairs
and blankets!

The Gospel of Mark

Summer Series with Bob Mullins

Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Fireside Room

June 26, July 3, 10, 17

Robert A. Mullins, Ph.D. has spent a number of years in Israel. His interests encompass the fields of archaeology, history, geography, and biblical studies in an effort to better understand the world of the Ancient Near East. Mullins has worked on several archaeological excavations, most notably at Beth-Shean (1 Samuel 31:10; 1 Kings 4:12) and Tel Rehov in the Jordan Valley. Bob is an Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at APU and heads the study abroad program to Israel. Bob's passion is to excite students about the world of the Bible. You will not want to miss this summer offering!

May Giving and Attendance Report

Giving Report

YTD Giving 2012	\$249,916
YTD Giving 2011	\$252,389
YTD Expenses 2012	\$257,071

Average Worship Attendance

May 2012	225
May 2011	228



Meeting Dates for Leadership
Summer 2012

Gifts Discernment

July - will meet on July 3, 6pm

August - no meeting

Envisioning

July – will meet on July 3

August – will meet on August 7

Property

July – no meeting

August - will meet on August 7

Service

July – will meet July 25, 7 pm,
at the home of Maura Rogers

August – no meeting

Stewardship & Finance

July – no meeting

August - will meet on August 7.

Christian Education

July - no meeting

August - will meet August 7, 7:30 pm

Peace & Justice

July – no meeting

August – will meet August 7, 7:30 pm

Spiritual Life & Nurture

July – no meeting

August – will meet August 7

Personnel

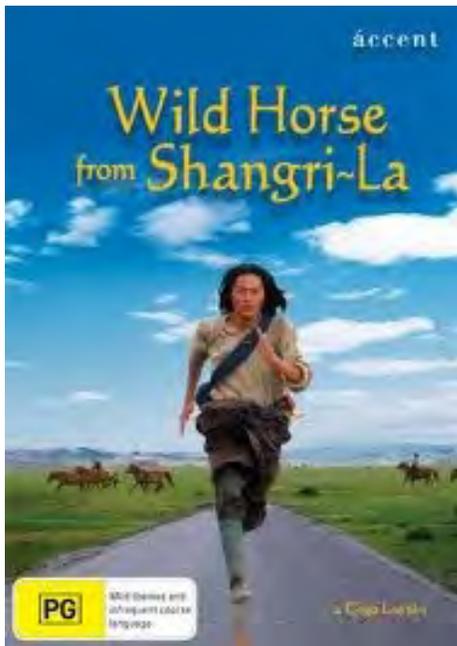
July – no meeting

August – will meet August 14

Board Meeting

July - no meeting

August – will meet August 14



Spiritual Cinema Circle Presents...

Wild Horse from Shangri-la

July 31, 6:30 p.m.

Fireside Room

The Spiritual Cinema Circle for July will present something different: *Wild Horse from Shangri-la*, a Chinese film with English subtitles that has absolutely nothing to do with horses, wild or otherwise. Even if you hate subtitles, we guarantee you'll enjoy this movie. The story begins in a rural village in southwestern China -- more or less in the area we think of as Nepal. A young man learns that his little sister will soon die if money is not raised for an expensive surgery she needs. If he can get to a distant city and win a marathon scheduled there, he will have enough money to save her life. But the catch is he'll have to run for three days to get to the *start* of the marathon. The scenery is beautiful, the characters are handsome and heart-warming, and the story is great, with an ending you will not quite have predicted. Join us Tuesday, July 31, in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. Free admission; luxury loge seating available!

MEET OUR SUMMER PIANISTS

Three keyboardists will be part of our worship this summer: Shawn Kirchner, John West and Janet Noll. Shawn requires no introduction.

Most of you know Janet Noll because she has graced our piano many times in the last several years. For those of you who do not know Janet, she has been vocal/instrumental coach and accompanist at Cal Poly, Pomona since 1982. Her accompanying and coaching experience spans thirty years and includes work in the areas of chamber music, solo, vocal and instrumental duo work, choral ensembles, musical theatre and opera productions, in the professional and amateur community as well as in the university setting. She has been Music Director of Cal Poly Pomona Music Department's Opera Workshop for thirteen years.

John West is an organist who often plays at the Disney Hall. Mr. West's performance credits include solo appearances with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Pasadena Symphony, and with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. He has been a featured artist of the American Guild of Organists Region X Convention, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and has performed at all of the major houses and instruments in Southern California including Walt Disney Concert Hall, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Spreckles Organ Pavilion and the Hollywood Bowl.

We thank these three very talented keyboardists for being part of our worship services this summer.

Spotlight on Family Service Projects...10



If there is one thing Brethren can agree on, it is that following the way of Jesus calls us to service. Read Matthew 25: 31-46, Luke 10:29-37 and John 13:1-17. Sometimes, however, we don't quite know how to serve. We want to give our time, treasure and talents; but we're not sure where to apply them. For instance, with stated restrictions on age and liability for many projects, what is there to do for families with children? Below are some suggestions.

Hillcrest Homes

- Children can bring flowers to residents at Woods Health Services.
- Family pets that are healthy and gentle can be brought to visit residents.
- Assistance is needed to take wheelchair-bound residents to the 4th of July Parade.
- Musical and other performances can be offered for residents' enjoyment.
- Those with good speaking voices are invited to read to residents.

For more ideas or to make arrangements to volunteer, contact **Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Dabney** at (909) 392-4316 or jdabney@livingathillcrest.org

Inland Valley Hope Partners

- Cans for Kids is a monthly food drive held on the 3rd Saturdays at area Albertsons. Volunteers pass out flyers and collect food for Hope Partners' food pantries.
- The Food Pantries invite help from families with older children (ages 9 and up) weekday mornings and afternoons. The Farmers Market can use families with teenage children (14 and up) on Saturdays. All minors must be supervised by an adult.
- Make a treat for the Hope Partners staff to say, "Thank you" for all they do!

To make arrangements with IVHP, contact **Volunteer Coordinator Alicia Castro**, (909) 622-3806 x223, vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

School Kits/Health Kits: http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_main

Two Cent Offering: If you are not already collecting 2 cents per meal for the Global Food Crisis Fund, contact the church office to find out how!

Heifer International Read to Feed: <http://www.heifer.org/getinvolved/read-feed>

Also check out these websites: www.volunteermatch.org; www.allforgood.org; www.idealists.org

Have another idea? Share it! A member of the Service Commission is on the courtyard each Sunday or email: Janet@LaVerneCOB.org.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our Church Library: Quality and Variety for Summer Enjoyment

The Church Library has an amazing number of fine reading materials for adults, including biographies, fiction, Brethren writers, current social issues, as well as many fine devotional, religious, Biblical, theological and meditative works. We also have a great collection of Spiritual DVDs, all available for check-out. There are also reference books and journals to keep you informed and current.

If you are looking for interesting, informative, meaningful **listening** this summer, try some of our many “Brethren Voices” CDs in the library. This is a series of CDs produced by the Portland, Oregon, Peace Church of the Brethren, featuring interviews with, and perspectives of, a variety of Brethren leaders and church members. Each interviewee speaks about issues and programs that have formed and continue to impact the Church of the Brethren. Some of the subjects are: Brethren Volunteer Service, Song and Story Fest, Peace, Annual Conference, World Friendship Center in Japan, Heifer Project, Missions, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and many, many other significant aspects of the Church of the Brethren’s values and practices. Some of our own LaVerne Church of the Brethren people are featured: Chuck Boyer, former pastor; Randy Miller, editor of “Messenger”, the denomination’s monthly journal; Mary Blocher Smeltzer, peace and justice activist; Shawn Kirchner, composer and musician.

NEW BOOKS! NEW BOOKS!

Librarian Jeanne announces two new books for children in the Church Library:

Numbers At Play: A Counting Book, by Charles Sullivan. Teaches children to count through fine arts.

One Wintry Night, by Ruth Bell Graham. Caught in a winter storm, a young mountain boy takes refuge in his grandfather’s cabin and meets an old woman who introduces him to the Christmas story.

The library is open after Sunday worship service during the summer, so come in, browse, stay awhile, and then check out some favorites to take home for quality reading/listening/viewing. You simply can’t go wrong when you enter the wonderful world of our church library! There is something valuable here for everyone!

Child Protection Training **August 19, following worship**

During the May, 2012 Church Council meeting an updated Child Protection Policy was approved. A provision of the new policy is that the Christian Education Commission will provide training for all volunteers working with children and youth on behalf of the La Verne Church of the Brethren.

All 2012/2013 Sunday school teachers (or anyone interested in learning more about how we work to keep the youngest members of our church family safe!) are invited to a potluck luncheon and training session, Sunday, August 19 following worship.

Please RSVP to the church office 909-593-1364 or contact [Dawna Welch](mailto:DawnaWelch@lavernecob.org) Dawna@lavernecob.org or Janet Ober Janet@lavernecob.org for more information.

"PASSPORTS TO PEACE"

Peace Camp on July 23-27
from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.



Peace Camp 2011

Campers will interview "ambassadors" from Nigeria, China, Puerto Rico, and Iraq who are excited to teach us about life in those countries/regions! During our week together campers will learn how to be citizens of the world and will create passports in order to "travel" throughout the Global Village to experience:

- "Olympic Stadium"
- "United Nations Hospitality Tent"
- Crafts inspired from around the globe!

As always we begin our time together in the sanctuary with a short presentation and then we move into rotations from:

- Silk screening and tie-dyeing t-shirts
- Cooking
- Drumming
- Service

The daily schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 - 6:00 pm - Community Gathering
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm - two 20 min rotations through Cooking, Drumming, Service, Athletics
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Global Village featuring crafts or activities campers choose from freely



Back to Fall Sunday

September 9

During the summer months worship moves to 10:00 a.m., and there are no Sunday School classes. On September 9 we return to our Fall schedule. We begin at 9:15 a.m. with an intergenerational *Back to Fall Breakfast* in which we are introduced to the Sunday School line up for the Fall. Worship begins at 10:30 am. Join us for summer worship, and mark your calendar for Back to Fall Sunday.

Summer Youth Calendar

July 15-21	Senior High Camp
July 19	All-Church Movie on the Patio: <i>UP</i>
July 22-28	Junior High Camp
August 2	All-Church Movie on the Patio: <i>ET</i>
August 9	Sr. High Visit to Homeboys Industries
August 17	All Youth Dive-In Theater



Senior High Youth Visit Homeboy Industries

August 9, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

On Thursday, August 9, the Senior High Youth (rising 9th graders thru recent grads) will visit Homeboy Industries for a tour and lunch at Homegirl Café. Homeboy Industries is an L.A.-based ministry that helps at-risk youth and former gang members make new life choices by providing job placement, training, education, and emotional support.

The tour will start with a briefing session at the church at 9:00 a.m., after which we'll carpool into the city. Youth and their chaperones should bring money for lunch (\$20-\$25 is plenty) and dress casually but modestly. Each youth will also need a signed permission slip. One will be mailed or emailed to you at home. If you need extras, email the church office at Office@LaVerneCOB.org.

Corlan Harrison and Janet Ober are organizing this trip. It will help them prepare if youth and chaperones RSVP as soon as possible. The last possible date for RSVP's will be Friday, August 3. Reply: Janet@LaVerneCOB.org or Office@LaVerneCOB.org

To learn more about Homeboy Industries, check out their website <http://homeboys-industries.org> and/or borrow a copy of the book "Tatoos on the Heart" by Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries. See Janet for the book.

Youth Camps at Camp La Verne

NOW is the time to register for summer camp at Camp La Verne! "Early Bird" registrations must be postmarked by July 7. Until that date, the cost of a week of camp is \$250 per camper. After July 7, the cost is \$325.

Applications for La Verne Church of the Brethren Camperships are due July 1, with Campership Hours completed by June 30. Camperships cover ½ the "Early Bird" fee, with full Camperships available by special arrangement. You may turn in your Campership application to Dawna Welch or Janet Ober. Also, please contact Dawna or Janet if you need an extra form.

Dates for Youth Camps:

July 22-28 - Junior High Camp (grades 6-8) directed Ron Hart and Jeff Pence
July 15-21 - Senior High Camp (grades 9-12), directed by Erica and Kevin Schatz.

Registration forms are online at www.camplaverne.org. Please mail completed registration forms and payment to the Camp Registrar at Camp La Verne, Inc., P.O. Box 355, La Verne, CA 91750-0355. They will not be accepted in the church office.

Christian Citizenship Seminar, 2012

Thank You La Verne Church of the Brethren Family!

Riley Evans, Jake Hoover, Ciera Olson, Digby Strogon, and Lukas Willmutz, along with their chaperones, **Dawna Welch and Dena Hoover**, wish to extend a very warm “THANK YOU” for your financial and spiritual support which allowed us to attend Citizenship Seminar in New York City and Washington, DC in April.

This year’s theme “Explore Your Carbon Footprint” provided plenty of fodder for learning about our personal and national relationship with carbon. Tyler Edgar, Assistant Director of Eco-Justice Programs for the National Council of Churches showed a 20-minute cartoon, *The Story of Stuff* by Annie Leonard, about the way we make, use, and throw away stuff. Today, with over 15 million views and counting, ***The Story of Stuff*** is one of the most watched environmental-themed online movies; and it does a great job getting at the heart of how we have come to have such a large national carbon footprint. (www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all-story-of-stuff/).

In Washington, DC we met with the EPA, received legislative training, and lobbied on Capitol Hill. Our group met with aides from Senator Barbara Boxer’s and Representative David Drier’s offices and attended a constituents’ breakfast with Senator Diane Feinstein. Our youth conducted themselves like old pro’s and seemed to genuinely like lobbying. Digby Strogon said, “I liked everything about CCS; but my favorite was being on Capitol Hill and lobbying”.



Dive-In Theater

**Friday, August 17
7:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars! All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join Digby and Ethan Strogon for a swim and movie party on Friday, August 17 at their home, 920 Sweetland St. in Claremont. We’ll swim and watch a film projected poolside. Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share. We’ll start the movie when it gets dark.

FINAL CALL:

PSWD Youth Cabinet

NOW Forming!

Applications Due July 13

What is this and why do I want to be on the cabinet????

Well, who better to plan and provide leadership for youth events and activities than the youth themselves? Who wants to miss out on a great opportunity to have fun and make new friends?

The Youth Cabinet will be comprised of both Middle school and Senior High aged Youth, in grades 7-12 during the 2012/2013 school year, from around the District. They will work with the Youth Advisor to plan, publicize, and carry out the District’s Youth Program for the year. This includes travel within the district, attending cabinet meetings, following through on assignments, and participating in youth events.

Applications are due July 13, 2012 and can be obtained through Janet Ober at Janet@lavernecob.org or 909-593-1364 or by contacting Dawna Welch at 909-267-5477 or youth@pswdcob.org.

Responding to Hunger

On Sunday, June 3, the La Verne Church of the Brethren took a stand against hunger. We raised \$980 for the Summer Lunch Program and mailed 73 letters as part of the Bread for the World Offering of Letters. The Summer Lunch Program provides free, nutritious lunches throughout the season for children who qualify for free and reduced meals during the school year. In addition, the City staff and volunteers lead the children in recreational activities - games, crafts and free play. The Offering of Letters is a cascade of correspondence addressed to governmental leaders urging them to preserve food programs that protect the most vulnerable members of society, including WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children and SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Program. To learn more about the ongoing efforts of Bread for the World, visit www.bread.org. To find out how to help further with the Summer Lunch Program call Chad Peterson at Parks and Community Services, (909) 596-8700.



Volunteers Needed for Peace Camp!

July 23-27, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Please check your calendar and consider volunteering some time at Peace Camp, July 23-27. Opportunities are available for 1 to 4 hour shifts, one time or every evening. Jobs include working in the Global Village helping campers with crafts, story-telling, and tie-dying t-shirts to name a few. All you have to do is show up and have fun! Contact Dawna Welch (dawna@lavernecob.org) for more information.



IVHP WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

Note the Date Change!

The Walk for the Hungry has been moved to the 3rd Sunday of October, October 21, 2012. It was previously scheduled for October 14. Make a note on your calendars!

Interfaith Walk for Peace

Save the Date – September 9

The fourth annual Interfaith Walk for Peace will take place on September 9 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. More details and location will be forthcoming. Last year about 500 people participated in this three-mile walk. The purpose of the walk is to get people from different faiths to realize that they are all part of one family.

Mental Health First Aid

September 29-30, 2012

La Verne Church of the Brethren



Someone you know could experience a mental illness or crisis. You can help them.

Mental Health First Aid teaches participants how to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis. This 12-hour course will be offered this fall at the La Verne Church of the Brethren for any and all who are interested.

Participants will learn:

- The potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including: depression, anxiety/trauma, psychosis, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and self-injury;
- An understanding of the prevalence of various mental health disorders in the U.S. and the need for reduced stigma in their communities;
- A 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources, and knowledge to assess the situation, to select and implement appropriate interventions, and to help the individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional care;
- The evidence-based professional, peer, social, and self-help resources available to help someone with a mental health problem.

Anyone can become a Mental Health First Aider: law enforcement and other first responders, primary care professionals, nursing home staff, school administrators and educators, members of faith communities, employers, policymakers, mental health advocates, volunteers working with the public, and family members. In other words, you. Those who complete the full 12-hours of the course will receive a certificate valid for 3 years.

Look to the September Intercom for hours and registration information. For general information: <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>.



Feeding the Community

Beta Center: Back to Basics

Beta Center, the Pomona-based Food Pantry, one of four run by the Inland Valley Hope Partners, reports a need of the basics during the months of July and August. Staples of peanut butter, tuna, macaroni & cheese, and rice are in the greatest demand. Therefore, the Service Commission invites you to contribute one or more of these items by placing your donations in the pink box located in the narthex. If you wish to donate perishable items – bread, milk, cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables – please contact the Beta Center directly to arrange a time to drop off your donation: 909-622-7278. They are open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Stay Connected to Annual Conference

July 7-11, 2012

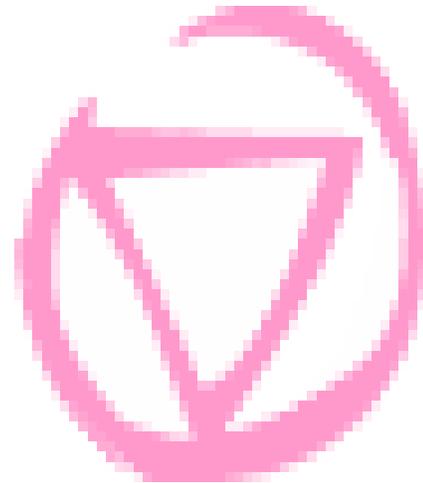
St. Louis, Missouri

The La Verne Church of the Brethren will have around 25 people attending conference this year. **Reba Herder** is working with Ministry of Reconciliation's expanded role to help create space for safe conversations at Annual Conference. **Eric Bishop** serves on the Program and Arrangements Committee. **Marlin Heckman** is the Standing Committee Delegate for the Pacific Southwest District. Our church delegates are **Elizabeth Bay, Chris Meek** and **Mike Wolfsen**. On July 29 our delegates will share with us in worship about the experience of the St. Louis conference.

It has been announced that Annual Conference will be webcast again this year. You can log in for business sessions and worships at: www.brethren.org/webcasts/ac2012.html. If you would like to read the conference daily coverage you can visit: www.brethren.org/news/conferences/ac2012/



Peacefully. Simply. Together.



BMC Responds to Withdrawal of BMC Kaleidoscope position

The Church of the Brethren General Secretary, with approval of the Mission and Ministry Board, has withdrawn the BMC Kaleidoscope Coordinator position as a Brethren Volunteer Service project.

In response, the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) has issued a statement which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.bmclgbt.org/CovenantsMadeandBrokenBMCandBrethrenVolunteerService.shtml>

For further information about this decision, please read the news release:

<http://www.brethren.org/news/2012/general-secretary-announces.html>.

For a current list of members of the Mission and Ministry Board:

<http://www.brethren.org/mmb/>

An Update on Open Table Cooperative

From this day forward, we shall be known as ...

Since the start of our conversations in July 2011, we've used the name "Feast of Love" to describe ourselves. Feast of Love served to connect us with our Church of the Brethren identity, alluding to our practice of Love Feast where all are mutually welcomed, friendship is shared, and service is embodied as we gather around the table of Christ. In the past year, we've instituted a long-term Leadership Board, are preparing for appearances and efforts at National Young Adult Conference and Annual Conference, and we're starting to receive some very helpful financial support. We've come a long way in less than a year.

Today marks another big milestone for us: adopting a new name. Our movement, which began as the Feast of Love, will now be known as the "Open Table Cooperative."

But we're more than just an open table to gather around. Since our beginning we've been a collaborative, participant-driven movement, spread out across the country but seeking to network and connect in many ways. "Cooperative" serves to describe both the way we intend to organize ourselves and the nature of our work together. It reflects our inclusivity, openness, and energy in a way few other words can. The success of the Open Table Cooperative will depend upon the active participation, support, and cooperation of all involved.

As we look toward the future, we will be rolling out some new ways for you and your friends to connect with us and with each other. Our new web address, www.opentablecoop.org, is now online, and our website will soon reflect our new name. We're also working on promotional materials, a larger social media presence, and getting the pieces in place so we can start drawing upon more of your abilities, passions, and ideas.

Together, we are claiming the best of our heritage, creating new opportunities for connection and fellowship, following the Spirit's guidance and grace, and continuing Jesus' work to grow the feast of peace, justice, and love for all.

Thanks for being a part of this exciting movement of God!

Update by Matt McKimmy, pastor of the Richmond (IN) Church of the Brethren. To learn more about Open Table Cooperative, see www.opentablecoop.org or speak with LVCOB member Josih Hostetler, a member of the Open Table Leadership Board.



CONSCIENTIOUS PROJECTOR FOR JULY AND

AUGUST:

Let's Make Money

July 18, 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Forum

566 W. First St., Claremont

Let's Make Money follows the trail of money through the worldwide finance system. What do retirement savings have to do with the property blow-up in Spain. We don't have to buy a home there in order to be involved. As soon as we open an account, we're part of the worldwide finance market.

Programmed to be Fat

August 15, 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Forum

566 W. First St., Claremont

Perhaps being fat isn't simply the result of too much food, too little exercise and genetics. Controversial new science is raising suspicion about chemicals in our environment that may be setting us up for obesity before we're even born.

Messenger Subscription Time

Deadline is August 26!

It is time again for *MESSENGER* subscriptions (new and renewal). Please print out and complete the form below. Return it promptly to the office or to **Rennie Boardman**, so we can get our list sent in on time; do not put your check in the offering plate, as this will slow down the process considerably. Please look at the label of your latest issue of Messenger. If it says "9/13" you need not renew this year. If you are not sure, please contact Rennie at (909) 593-2660.

Subscriptions are \$14.50 for one (1) year and \$27.00 for two (2) years. Make checks payable to La Verne Church of the Brethren and write *Messenger* on the memo line.

THIS IS YOUR NOTICE!

DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012

There will NOT be reminders by phone or mail.



Renewal _____ New Subscription _____

Included is a check for \$ _____

Make checks payable to La Verne Church of the Brethren

Remember to write *Messenger* on the memo line

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift subscription to: _____

Address: _____

The Intercom is provided monthly by the La Verne Church of the Brethren to inform, connect, and share our faith journey with you. If you would like to have information included in the next issue of the Intercom or have suggestions you would like to share, contact the Editor, stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net, or the Church Office, (909) 593-1364. We also invite you to visit our website at www.lavernecob.org