
SEPTEMBER WORSHIP THEMES	4
SEPTEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR.....	5
HILLCREST CHAPEL CALENDAR.....	5
CHURCH LIFE	10-13
Fall Breakfast and Christian Ed Program	10
Chancel Bells	10
Deacon Potluck	10
Sanctuary Choir	10
WABS - Wednesday Afternoon Book Study	10
All Church Work Day	10
All Church Luncheon.....	11
Hospitality Greeters	11
Peace Day at LVCOB	11
Spiritual Cinema Circle.....	11
Young Adult Food Network.....	12
Progressive Brethren Gathering.....	12
Occupy the Bible.....	13
Ministry of Encouragement.....	13
June and July Attendance & Giving	13
SPOTLIGHT - on Peace Camp.....	14
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....	15 - 16
Sunday School	15
Youth and High School Sunday School.....	15
It Takes a Village	15
Sunday Schoolers Study Progressive Tenants.....	15
Library News	16
Headstart Reading Program.....	16
Fireside Conversations	16
From Bitterness to Beyond Bible Study	16
Friendship Class	16

YOUTH ACTIVITIES	17
Walk and Rally for Peace	17
Youth Calendar	17
Youth Sardines	17
Meetin' for Pizza	17
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & SHARE	18 -20
Interfaith Walk for Peace.....	18
Alternative Gift Faire	18
Backpacks and School Supplies for HOPE.....	18
Fellowship Visitors.....	18
Mental Health First Aid Course	19
National Alliance on Mental Illness Classes	19
NAMI Walk	20
Inland Valley Hope Partners - Walk for the Hungry.....	20
Beta Center Donations.....	20
CHURCH AT LARGE	21-23
Reflections on Annual Conference	21
2012 District Confernece	22
Conscientious Projector	22
Supportive Community Network.....	22
Church Women United.....	22
Open Table Cooperative Update	23



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

September Worship Themes

SEPTEMBER 2

More Than a Metaphor

Susan Boyer

In much of Christendom, we have divorced our bodies from our spirituality. When the idea of the body is introduced, it is almost always metaphorical. But what happens to our faith when we remove our bodies from it? Baptism will be part of this service.

John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

We return to our Fall schedule on September 9.

Sunday School begins at 9:15 with worship following at 10:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 9

Getting an Eye Exam

Susan Boyer

How we see the world guides how we behave in it. If the eye is filled with light you will see the world with light. How do you see the world?

Matthew 6:22-23, Matthew 7:3-5

SEPTEMBER 16

Ears to Hear

Susan Boyer

In a Bible Study on Mark this past summer, Bob Mullins called to our attention how many times Jesus is recorded as saying, "If you have ears to hear...." Since the majority of us do have ears to hear it is an interesting saying.

Mark 4:21-25

SEPTEMBER 23

Sacred Sexuality

Janet Ober

Can we talk about sexuality in church without being controversial? One would hope so. Sexuality is part of what it means to be fully human and created in the image of God. To prepare for this Sunday, you are invited to read the Song of Solomon, one of the greatest love poems of all times.

SEPTEMBER 30

Wild Thing

Susan Boyer

The author of the Book of James warns about the wildness of the tongue. We can use it to bless and to curse. It gets us in and out of so much trouble. When we speak of the tongue, we have to talk about taming it.

James 3:1-12



September Calendar

- Sept 3 Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- Sept 4 Commission Night
Support Group, 7 p.m., Library
- Sept 5 Bible Study, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
- Sept 6 Choir Rehearsal Resumes, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept 8 Vern Jahnke Memorial Service and Reception, 10 a.m.
- Sept 9 Back to Fall Breakfast, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School Resumes & 10:30 a.m. Worship Time
Deacon Potluck, after worship, Social Hall
Interfaith Peace Walk, 2 p.m., City of Knowledge
- Sept 11 Personnel & Board Night
Support Group, 7 p.m., Library
- Sept 12 WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study), 4 p.m., Library
Bible Study, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
- Sept 13 Intercom Deadline/October Issue, 5 p.m.
Handbell Rehearsal Resumes, 5:55 p.m.
- Sept 15 All Church Work Day, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Earl Gordon Memorial Service & Reception, 1:30 p.m.
- Sept 16 Back to Fall Luncheon
Youth Sardines, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sept 18 ULV/LVCOB Food Network Dinner, 5-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Support Group, 7 p.m., Library
- Sept 19 Fellowship Visitors, 9 a.m., Library
Bible Study, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
- Sept 21 International Peace Day, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 23 Greeters Breakfast, 8 a.m., Hillcrest
Backpacks for IVHP, after church, Fellowship Hall
Youth Pizza Lunch, after backpacks, Warehouse
- Sept 25 Intercom Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Fireside Room
Spiritual Cinema Circle, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
Support Group, 7 p.m., Library
- Sept 26 Bible Study, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
- Sept 29 Mental Health First Aid, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Social Hall
- Sept 30 Mental Health First Aid continues, 1 -5 p.m., Social Hall
Occupy the Bible, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

**10:30 a.m. Worship Time Resumes
September 9**

Hillcrest Sunday Chapel Services
Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel – 4 PM
Located at the west end of Maple Court.
All are welcome.

September 2012

- 2 Labor Day Weekend – no worship
- 9 Chaplain Tom Hostetler, Communion
- 16 Rev. Susan Boyer, La Verne COB
- 23 Chaplain Tom Hostetler
- 30 Rev. Bill Haldeman-Scarr, Pomona Fellowship COB

La Verne Church of the Brethren
2425 E Street, La Verne, CA 91750

Phone: (909) 593-1364

E-mail: office@lavernecob.org

Website: www.lavernecob.org

**Ministers: Susan Boyer, Janet Ober,
Tom Hostetler**

Board Chair: Mary Kay Ogden,
marykay.ogden@verizon.net

Moderator (vice chair/chair, Personnel): Christine Meek,
cmeek@laverne.edu

Moderator Elect (chair, Gifts Discernment): Julia Wheeler,
jwheeler@laverne.edu

Church Clerk (secretary): Joe Cahill,
km-cahill@verizon.net

Christian Education chair: Dena Gilbert,
dena.gilbert@gmail.com

Envisioning chair: Jack Meek,
jmeek@laverne.edu

Peace & Justice chair: Zandra Wagoner,
zwagoner@laverne.edu

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

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

Editor: Stephanie Juillerat,
stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net

Writers: Staff and contributors

Production: Kathleen Krecklow



**Annual Fall Breakfast
and Christian Education
Program**
**Sunday, September 9
9:15 a.m.**

Come together church family! Enjoy a continental breakfast, share your vacation stories, and learn about the Fall Christian Education offerings for children and adults.

Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students will be excused at 9:45 to tour their classrooms and meet with their teachers.

Chancel Bells Resumes
Beginning September 13

Thursdays, 5:55 – 7:15 p.m., Bell Room

New ringers are always welcome. Directed by **Niké St. Clair**, the bells play about once a month. Experience the joy of making music with this group.

Deacon Potluck

**September 9, after worship,
Social Hall**

Don't forget the Deacon Potluck Meal and Meeting on September 9, after worship, in the Social Hall. The agenda includes planning for October Communion and Thanksgiving Love Feast, matters from other committees, and a training on some aspect of deacon ministry.

Bring your appetites – it's the same day as the Back to Fall Breakfast! Here's the plan:

If your last name starts with letters A through G, bring a salad.

If your last name starts with letters H through R, bring a main dish.

If your last name starts with letters S through Z, bring a desert.

Everyone, bring your own dishes and utensils to be sustainable.

There will be childcare provided. Please notify the church office at 909-593-1364, by September 2, if you need childcare.



**You are Invited to Join
the Sanctuary Choir**

Beginning September 6

Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

East Room of the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Choir has been on a summer break. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 6. New singers, youth through adult, are always welcome to join this incredible group that sings a wide repertoire of sacred and world music. With Niké St. Clair directing and Shawn Kirchner on the keyboard, you can't help but enjoy the experience of singing in this choir. No audition is required. All skill levels are welcome.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Study

September 12, 4:00 p.m.

Church Library

Everyone is welcome to join this book discussion group on Wednesday, September 12, at 4:00 p.m., in the Church Library. We will share ideas about the books we read over the summer: *Believing the Lie*, George; *The Last Story Teller*, Delaney; *Next to Love*, Feldman; and *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, Vreeland. Different stories, different times, different perspectives. For the October 10 meeting we will read *The Dirty Life, a Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love*, by Kristin Kimball. Bring your self and your thoughts about good books.

All-Church Work Day

September 15,

9:00 a.m. to noon

The Property Commission invites everyone to help with the upkeep of the church facility at an all-church work day. This is our last scheduled work day of the year. We will be painting, washing windows and weeding. Please sign up at the Service Table and then join us for a morning filled with fun and fellowship. If you have questions please call the church office at 909-593-1364 or see Tom Evans.



Fall Fiesta All-Church Luncheon

**September 16
after worship**

Please join us for a delicious garden fresh meal of:



**Lime Grilled Chicken
Homemade Pico de Gallo
Pinto Beans and Rice
Garden Fresh Greens
Fresh Tortillas
Assorted Dessert Treats
Sangria Punch (non-alcoholic)**

All proceeds from our luncheon will be donated to **Inland Valley Hope Partners** to help their work in feeding local families in need. Let's help send these kids back to school with the promise of food on their tables and in their refrigerators.

Feel the desire to help out even more? We are looking for those of you interested in helping in the kitchen OR those who have too many tomatoes, onions, and cilantro in your garden. We could use them in our pico de gallo. The sign-up sheet to help is in the kitchen, or give Corlan a call at 909-981-7739. Very special thanks to all of you who attend our lunches and help in the kitchen; in doing so you are helping many.

Hospitality Greeters

September 23, 8:00 a.m.

Hillcrest Dining Room

The Hospitality Greeters, who serve year-round as cheery welcomers to our church campus, will join for breakfast at Hillcrest dining room on Sunday, September 23, at 8:00 a.m. We will schedule assignments for the next few months. (A big thank-you to all you fine greeters!) The commitment is for 3 or so Sundays a quarter, where you give a warm greeting at one of the entrances as people arrive for Sunday School and worship. If anyone would like to be part of this group, please let Julie Kurtz know at 909-593-2793.

Celebrate

Peace Day

**September 21
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Formerly known as International Day of Prayer for Peace,

Peace Day invites community and faith groups to organize events around the theme "Praying for Ceasefire." Here, at the La Verne Church of the Brethren, we will do that in several ways. Gathering on Friday evening, we will begin with a drum circle, calling together the community for advocacy and prayer. (Please feel free to bring your own rhythm instruments.) We will then have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities: creating peace flags to adorn the southeast corner of our property, writing letters to address gun violence in our own country, speaking with a representative of the United Nations Association to learn what is being done to advocate for ceasefire in areas of international conflict, as well as engaging in silent meditation and prayer to end hostilities, wherever they may take place. Our evening will end with a time of reflection as we consider a call to "verbal ceasefire". At a time when heated rhetoric too quickly turns to hate speech, we will commit ourselves to doing no violence with our words, in private or public discourse. Please join us for this meaningful and enjoyable evening.



Spiritual Cinema Circle

September 25, 6:30 p.m.

Fireside Room

For September the Spiritual Cinema Circle presents the thoughtful drama *Fly Away*. A single, working mother struggles to earn a living yet care for her autistic teenage daughter in a poignant story about love and letting go. A sensitive and beautifully made film with terrific acting, particularly by the teen actress portraying the autistic girl. Join us in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m..

Young Adult Food Network Returns

September 18, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Last year, the church, in partnership with the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at the University of La Verne, held monthly dinners for young adults from ULV, the church, and the surrounding community. These dinners were held on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and were served buffet-style to accommodate college students with late afternoon and night classes. Good food, good company, and good conversation came together in the Fellowship Hall for an ever-growing group of regulars as well as new participants every month. It was so much fun, in fact, it will be back for a second year, starting this month! Look for Food Network to return on Tuesday, September 18, starting at 5:00 p.m. Corlan Harrison will be headlining the event again, providing her special form of hospitality in the kitchen and the dining room. Volunteers to help Corlan are both needed and welcome.

To volunteer, email Corlan at www.corathome@verizon.net or call 909-981-7739.

Young Adults who wish to know more about Food Network in general, please contact Janet Ober at Janet@LaVerneCOB.org or 909-593-1364 or Zandra Wagoner at zwagoner@laverne.edu or 909-593-3511 x 4446. See you on the 18th!



Progressive Brethren Gather

October 26-28

La Verne Church of the Brethren

The La Verne Church of the Brethren is privileged to host this year's Progressive Brethren Gathering around the theme, *Holy Work: Becoming the Beloved Community*. The cost of registration is \$125 for adults, \$60 for students, and \$35 for children. There are also partial registration amounts for those registering for only part of the weekend. You can register by coming by the church office or by going to: <http://progressivebrethrengathering.eventbrite.com/>. Registrations after October 10 cost an additional \$25.

The weekend will include a look at social movements, led by Abigail Fuller, Associate Professor of Sociology at Manchester University and Katy Brown Gray, Associate Professor of Philosophy of Peace Studies at Manchester University. There will be a screening of the movie *Two Spirits*, a concert, worship services, and discussion groups. The Progressive Brethren Gathering is always an important weekend in this social movement within our denomination.

John and Jacki Gingrich are our on-site coordinators. We are housing, feeding and registering around 150 people. We are sharing our building and showing our hospitality. We are caring for children and giving the gift of music. We need your help! Over the next couple of months you will hear pleas for your aid. Please consider how you can help this be a successful and beautiful weekend...and don't forget to register to attend!

#Occupy the Bible:

What Jesus Really Said (and Did)

About Money and Power

Dr. Susan B. Thistlethwaite

September 30, 7:00 p.m.

La Verne Church of the Brethren

Susan Thistlethwaite, Ph.D is Professor of Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary and its former President (1998-2008). After ten years as President, she returned to full-time teaching on the seminary faculty. Dr. Thistlethwaite will speak at the La Verne Church of the Brethren as part of a book tour for her newest book, #Occupy the Bible: What Jesus Really Said (and Did) about Money and Power. Thistlethwaite talks about how money and power are deeply biblical issues that shed light on today's political and financial systems. The advent of the #OccupyWallStreet movement, a global phenomenon, has been important to re-read the Bible in this way. "I developed a thesis that Occupy is a sign from God that we have to take this seriously. I hope this book will get progressives to start talking about money in the way we've just begun to talk about human sexuality in justice-making ways. We're not there yet on money," she said. This event is the Envisioning Commission's fall speaker and is sponsored by Progressive Christians Uniting. You can follow Dr. Thistlethwaite's weekly column for the Washington Post online On Faith section at http://www.washingtonpost.com/susan-brooks-thistlethwaite/2011/03/16/ABkdESf_page.html. Follow her on Twitter @sbthistle, and the hashtag #OccupytheBible.

Ministry of Encouragement

Coming in October

9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room

The ministry of encouragement is available the first Sunday of the month October through June in the conference room, 9:15-10:15 a.m., facilitated by Reba Herder. Each month we will start with one art of conversation and then share whatever is on our hearts and minds. Each art is based on one of the nine Enneagram types. Reba has published a short workbook, available in the conference room, entitled "Healthy Conversations: Ancient Wisdom, New Frontier". This workbook supports the conversation but is not needed to participate in the conversation. Our goal is to create a safe space to listen to our boldest, most sensitive, and most eccentric voices.

These conversations are a collaborative effort between Everylight and the La Verne Church of the Brethren deacon ministry. For information about Everylight contact us at: conversations@everylight.org, Reba Herder, director, www.everylight.org. Let's help each other thrive, with no putdowns, no excuses, lots of humor and grace.



June Giving and Attendance Report	
Giving Report	
YTD Giving 2012	\$300,378
YTD Giving 2011	\$297,904
YTD Expenses 2012	\$307,402
Average Worship Attendance	
June 2012	222
June 2011	227

July Giving and Attendance Report	
Giving Report	
YTD Giving 2012	\$354,052
YTD Giving 2011	\$354,111
YTD Expenses 2012	\$360,875
Average Worship Attendance	
July 2012	204
July 2011	195

Spotlight on..... Peace Camp 14

**“Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding”
~ Albert Einstein**

The theme for the 2012 Young Peacemakers camp was decided long before I read this quote. But the concept of understanding permeated the week in both planned activities and spontaneous occurrences.

Our theme, Passports to Peace, allowed campers to explore world culture through music, food, games and crafts. Additionally campers had the opportunity to interview "ambassadors" from Nigeria, China, Puerto Rico and Iraq.



Doris Rhodes shared her experiences as a peacemaker in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Susan Boyer delighted campers with stories and artifacts from Nigeria.

Tom Hostetler entertained campers with stories that created vivid images of life in Puerto Rico; and

Dr. Taif Kaissi of Rancho Cucamonga amazed campers with stories about how Iraqi children are more like us than we would know by watching the news!



We anticipated our campers would gain a better understanding of humanity through hearing about life in other countries. “This camp shows children how they can live with, understand, and appreciate other children, regardless of where they live, what language they speak, what their cultures or religions are,” stated Doris Rhoades to the Daily Bulletin reporter who was visiting Peace Camp. What we could not have anticipated was how these lessons would impact the campers and adult volunteers throughout our week together.

It can sometimes be a challenge, as we begin another season of Peace Camp, to orient first-time campers to the ways of peacemaking. We have to learn how to “do camp” with fresh eyes every year because we are not just working with our own La Verne Church of the Brethren children. The majority of our campers come from all over the Inland Empire, from varying faith backgrounds and family situations. During the week Campers were asked the questions, “Is it peaceful?”, “Is it kind?”, “Does it respect property?”, “Does it feel like the right thing to do?” and though they are important questions, they are just a theory until the experienced campers begin to demonstrate those concepts with their words and their interactions with one another. The children of Peace Camp teach each other (and



adult volunteers) what peace looks like. As Mary Kay Ogden observes, “Peace Camp is an illustration of peace in action.”

To read the Daily Bulletin articles about LVCoB Peace Camp go to:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/pomona/ci_21217728/telling-children-how-make-universal-peace-possible-is and http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_21217726

~Dawna Welch



Sunday School Begins September 9!

Children's Sunday School Meeting Rooms:

Nursery: Downstairs, adjacent to library from 9 am until 12 noon.

Ages 3 - 6: Meet upstairs above the nursery.

Ages 7 - 11: Room 26, upstairs off the patio hallway.

Youth to Study

World Religions

**Starting September 9
9:15 a.m.**

Both the Middle School and High School Youth will be exploring various world religions in Sunday School this fall. Starting with a brief review of Christianity, they will move onto Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and more. Included in this study will be visits to others houses of worship during evening or weekend "field trips". To learn more about what is being planned, youth are encouraged to be present for "Back to Fall Sunday" on September 9. All youth will meet together that day in the Senior High classroom below the Fellowship Hall, also known as the "Rainbow Room".



It Takes A Village

Begins September 16

**Conversation and Discussion for Parents
with Children of ALL Ages**



Looking for a space to explore questions surrounding parenting with other parents? This is your group! Meets in the office across from the library at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Schoolers Study

Progressive Tenants

The blog, A Different Voice, describes a progressive Sunday School ministry as one that embraces life:

- We recognize that life is a gift from God. **We offer thanks to God for our blessings.**
- We rejoice in the life given to all of God's children, regardless of age, skin color, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, ability to sit still, or any other classification that we use to categorize each other. **Our doors are open to all.**
- We affirm the abilities and talents of each person. **We look for the good in each child, youth and adult, recognizing that everyone has something to share.**
- As a Christian community, we celebrate with one another, laugh with one another and grieve with one another. **We are a family, supporting each other always.**
- We accept that we are called to uphold the life of all people, reaching out and ministering to those in need. **We extend our ministry beyond the church walls and work for social justice.**
- We live in the awareness of God's love wherever we are and whatever we are doing. **We look for opportunities to share God's love with others throughout the week, not just on Sunday.**
- We recognize our responsibility as caretakers of God's creation. **We educate ourselves about environmental issues, live as good stewards of God's world and encourage others to do so.**

Our Pre- Kindergarten through 5th grade Sunday schoolers will explore these tenants alternately through the bible, story books, arts, music and cooking.

Library News

New to our library, *Wise Choices Beyond Midlife* by Lucy Scott, Ph.D. This book is about life beyond sixty, specifically for women. More of us than ever before are entering what will be the longest stage of our lives, our sixties, seventies, and eighties. Information and role models are readily available to us through our young adult years and midlife; at this age, guidance becomes elusive and scarce. This material is intended to inform, reassure, inspire, and empower women to live their lives beyond sixty with dignity, courage, and as much joy, satisfaction, and contentment as possible.

You may have heard about our recent trip to Homeboy Industries; we have a copy of Father Gregory's book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. Also, his book *G-Dog and the Homeboys* (part of Janet Ober's collection) has just been made into a movie; we hope to obtain this title for our library in the near future.

Visit the library; peruse the possibilities; check out something meaningful! There is treasure waiting for you there!

Head Start Reading Program

The Head Start school year is in full gear, and that means that the Children's Library Committee will be starting its reading program with the Head Start classes next month. Each class comes to the library for storybook time and to check out books from our Head Start collection. This collection is in need of renewal, as it currently shows much wear and tear. *We appreciate your donations of good-condition, quality picture books which will continue to delight our little ones.*

If you would like to serve on the Children's Library Committee or be a volunteer reader (or both!!!), please let Committee Chair, Rennie Boardman, know of your wishes at 909-593-2660. Thanks!

Fireside Conversations

9:15 – 10:10 a.m.

Join your friends for productive conversation about issues that are important in our community and in society at large. See the schedule below.

September 16

A representative of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of LA (CLUE LA) and a former Pomona College Dining Hall worker will join the class to share their perspective on what is happening in the unionizing effort at Pomona College. This effort for workers' rights has received national attention. Come learn more about this struggle.

September 23 and 30

Mary Kay Ogden - The future of our denomination

From Bitterness to Beyond

**A Bible Study on the Book of Ruth
September 5, 12, 19, 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

Fireside Room

Join Susan Boyer for a Bible Study on the Book of Ruth. Hear the story of two women's journey and the friendship that endured. See where you fit in this story. Bring your own Bible.



Friendship Class Studies Hinduism

9:15-10:10 a.m.

World religions are the source of enlightenment, comfort, and conflict, all at the same time. The Friendship Class continues its exploration of contemporary world religions in September with a look at Hinduism and its 240,000,000 gods and goddesses. Hinduism is less a unified religion than a conglomeration of many beliefs and a few shared practices. It is a faith with epic stories and epic conflicts. It helped unify much divided South Asia, but it helped provoke the division of the British Raj into four modern nation states. And what do caste and sacred cows have to do with it? Through study and discussion, the Friendship Class will aim for a better understanding of this, the oldest of all contemporary world religions.

Youth Calendar

September 9

- 9:15 a.m. Back to Fall Breakfast/
Sunday School
- 1:30 p.m. Walk and Rally for Peace

September 16

- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Youth Sardines

September 23

- Following worship, Pizza Lunch



**4th Annual Interfaith Walk
and Rally for Peace and Service**
An Event to Promote Friendship and
Understanding Among Faiths in the Pomona Valley



Walk and Rally for Peace

Sunday, September 9

The youth of the La Verne Church of the Brethren will join the Interfaith Walk and Rally for Peace on Sunday, September 9. (See page 18 for details.) Carpooling from the church at 1:30 p.m., the youth will join the start of the walk at 2:00 p.m. at the City of Knowledge Islamic School. The walk will continue on to Temple Beth Israel and the Claremont School of Theology. A concluding rally and celebration will take place at the Claremont United Methodist Church. Last year, the youth who participated enjoyed meeting a wide variety of people from many different faith traditions. It's a fun and informal way to create peace in our community and our world. Carpools will return to the church by 5:30 p.m. (Youth not choosing to carpool may also be dropped off at the start of the walk and/or picked up from the end.)

Sardines!

Sunday, September 16

6:30-8 p.m.

It's time for Sardines, that game of hide-and-seek, that ends up with everyone hiding in one tiny space – just like sardines! This is for all youth, grades 6-12, and your friends. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall to get organized, starting at 6:30 p.m. No flashlights, please. Use cell phone lights at your own risk. If you've never played Sardines, please come! It's easy to catch on and you'll be glad you did!

Questions? Janet@LaVerneCOB.org



Meetin' for Pizza

Sunday, September 23 after Backpack Project

All youth are invited to meet together for a pizza lunch on Sunday, September 23 at Warehouse Pizza (corner of Bonita Avenue and D Streets). We'll take time to help build backpacks for Hope Partners, then head for lunch. No agenda. Just for fun. For \$5 a person, we'll order pizza and pitchers for the table. (You may also place a separate order if you wish.) It will help to know you are coming in order to reserve enough tables. Please contact Janet Ober to tell her you'll be there: Janet@LaVerneCOB.org or 909-593-1364.

Interfaith Walk for Peace

September 9, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Begins at City of Knowledge Islamic School
Pomona, CA**

Please join us for the 4th Annual Interfaith Walk and Rally for Peace. This year's theme is "Peace and Service." This is a community-wide event to promote friendship and understanding among faiths in the Pomona Valley. The event will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2012 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the City of Knowledge Islamic School on Foothill Blvd and Garey Ave in Pomona. It will continue to Temple Beth Israel on Towne Ave and conclude at Claremont School of Theology/Claremont Lincoln University (CST/CLU) on Foothill Blvd. At 4:00 p.m. the walkers will move to the lawn of Claremont United Methodist Church (adjacent to CST/CLU) for a Rally for Peace and Service, including live music, booths featuring area service organizations, and refreshments. During the walk, participants will have opportunities to walk and talk with people representing many religious and non-religious traditions. At each stop along the walk, participants will also have an opportunity to interact with the host faith community. For those unable to walk comfortably between locations, you are welcome to drive. Transportation back to Foothill/Garey will be available after the rally. The walk is sponsored by the Claremont Interfaith Working group for Mideast Peace. All are welcome!!



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

The Alternative Gift Faire is Coming!

November 4, 11:30-2:30 p.m.



Backpacks and School Supplies for HOPE

Donations needed by September 16

Our Service Commission will be purchasing backpacks and school supplies to donate to school children whose families are serviced by Inland Valley Hope Partners. Twenty dollars will cover the cost of a backpack and supplies for a school-aged child; all donation amounts will be accepted! Our hope is to purchase 50 backpacks filled with supplies. Donations will be accepted in the office, at the Service Table on the patio after worship, or in an envelope designated for backpacks in the offering plate. We plan to assemble backpacks on Sunday, September 23. Please make your donations by Sunday, September 16.

Fellowship Visitors

September 19, 9:00 a.m.

Church Library

Being part of the Fellowship Visitors team is a wonderful way to share God's love with others. Once a month (the third Wednesday) the group meets in the church library to get the morning visiting assigned. Teams of two are sent out to visit 4 to 6 people, usually those who are convalescing or not able to be in worship with the congregation. Listening, sharing, caring, and being present are the gifts you bring. Laughter, enjoyment, new friendships, gratitude, and blessing are the gifts you receive. You might like to give it a try; you are amply rewarded. The next meeting of the Fellowship Visitors is Wednesday, September 19, at 9:00 a.m. in the library. If you would like to join us, contact Julie Kurtz at 909-593-2793, so a team can be readied.



Mental Health

First Aid Course

September 29,

8:30-5:30 p.m.

September 30,

1:00-5:00 p.m.

LVCOB Social Hall

Mental Health First Aid is a 12-hour, 2-day course which provides basic training in recognizing signs of a mental health crisis and knowledge of the steps to

guide a person toward practical assistance. With instructors from Tri-City Mental Health, this course is designed to be accessible to everyone, but especially helpful for parents, teachers, caregivers, deacons and church leaders, healthcare professionals, human resource professionals, first responders, and anyone training in these fields. Certification, good for 3 years, is provided for those who complete the full 12 hours.

The class is free to participants and includes materials, manuals, and certificates. The schedule will allow for an hour lunch break on Saturday. There are a number of restaurants near the church to choose from. On Sunday, lunch will be provided for course participants following worship. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost.

There is limited space for this course - a maximum of 30 participants. Please contact Janet Ober at (Janet@LaVerneCOB.org or 909-593-1364) for a registration form or pick one up in the church office. Questions? Contact Janet.

This course is brought to you by Tri-City Mental Health. Feel free to invite friends, family members and neighbors who may be interested. For general information:

<http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>

National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI) Upcoming Classes:

Family to Family courses begin Thursday, September 6 through December 6, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.--Free 12 week courses are designed for families with loved ones who have a brain illness. Illnesses addressed in this course are: Bipolar Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, Anxiety Disorders, Major Depression, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Schizophrenia, and co-occurring mental illness and addiction brought on by self-medication. Designed to give you the insight and resources you need to navigate the Mental Health System. Classes are structured to help family members understand and support their ill loved one while maintaining their own well being. The program is taught by a team of specially trained volunteer family members who know what it's like to have a loved one with a mental illness. Preregistration is required. Please call Audrey Sakamoto at 909-621-1262 or email audsak@verizon.net.

Peer to Peer Recovery Course is 10 weeks, and is for those struggling with major depression, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post traumatic stress or dual diagnosis with substance abuse. Subjects covered are trauma, discrimination, relapse prevention, dialectic thinking, story telling, addictions, spirituality, medication, isolation, coping strategies, advance directive for mental health care, relationships and empowerment. Contact Laura Lilley at 909-947-2254 or Peter Richard at 909-532-2459 for information on the next classes.

NAMI Basics is a peer education program for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents displaying difficult behaviors that are or may be symptoms of a brain disorder. Included, but not limited are, ADHD, oppositional-defiant disorder, anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, early onset bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression. For information and registration call Lora Illig at 909-861-1903.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk

October 6

In Memory of Vern Jahnke

You are invited to join NAMI Walk (5K) at the 3rd St Promenade in Santa Monica on October 6, to help erase stigma, celebrate recovery, promote awareness, raise funds for important NAMI programs, but especially to honor the memory of our beloved Vern Jahnke.

Mental illness, such as major depression, is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, and daily functioning. People with these illnesses need a community that supports them, their families and their recovery. Mental illnesses affects everyone, but it directly impacts one in four adults and one in 10 children in the US annually.

Contact Doris Beery for walk details at 909-593-5014 or at dorisbeery@gmail.com. You can sign up for the walk at www.namiwalks.org and choose the L.A. County and the Pomona Valley Chapter. You can either join Doris' team, "Mindful Walkers" or form your own team or someone else's team.

Inland Valley Hope Partners

Walk for the Hungry

Sunday, October 21



The Inland Valley Hope Partners began the Walk for the Hungry in 1973, then known as the Crop Walk. This Walk has evolved into an annual event held in October. Walkers raise money for local hungry residents while also supporting global hunger issues.

This year's Walk has a new date and a new location. It'll be at the Claremont University Consortium (101 S Mills Ave.) on Sunday, October 21. More information will be available in the October *Intercom*.



So Many Ways to Give!

The hidden blessing of great need is that there are so many ways we can be generous! Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP) addresses the growing need of our neighbors and friends who seek shelter and sustenance. As a member church of IVHP, it is on our behalf that they serve the hungry and homeless in our midst.

This month, we can help them by contributing money to the backpack project (see the article on pg. 18), donating food to be distributed through the Beta Center, or donating money to be used to buy more food and meet expenses. Food can be dropped off in the church narthex any Sunday. Ongoing needs are canned fruits and vegetables, meats, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, dried beans and cereal.

Money can be donated online at www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org or by mailing to Inland Valley Hope Partners Administrative Office, 1753 N. Park Ave., Pomona, CA 91768. Every gift is needed. Every gift touches a life.

Reflections on Annual Conference

During the 2012 Annual Conference, there was a strong focus on maintaining unity. Evidence of this was seen by the choices made by staff, Standing Committee, and the moderator, as well as acceptance of the vision statement without modification, sermon selections and the lack of nominations from the floor.



In an effort to reinforce that unity, this year's delegates were seated at round tables, 6 or 7 per table. Each table had one delegate serve as Facilitator. At the end of each business day, each table of delegates was asked to decide if they would stay together the next day. The round table sessions lasted three days. Out of a hundred tables, only four chose not to stay together after the first day of business. In some ways, these tables allowed for more succinct questions during business. On the other hand, they also allowed for more Moderator power in deciding which queries were addressed in round table discussion.

Below are some noteworthy events:

Standing Committee recommended that the Query on Annual Conference Elections, which had originated with the La Verne Church of the Brethren, be respectfully returned. Issues other than gender were considered more relevant in elections.

General Secretary, Stan Noffsinger, gave a heartfelt apology from the floor of Annual Conference in relation to his decision to remove the BMC Brethren Volunteer Service position. He expressed that although he has wanted to allow for the BVS position, he was concerned that doing so put too much strain on the denomination. Stan seems to have turned his focus toward ecumenical work; although the decision to disband the Committee on Interchurch Relations suggests there is also brokenness there.

Eric Bishop represented us well with his workshop on *Bullying Within the Church: Strategies for Ending It*. The need for this kind of discussion within the context of the church was never more apparent.

Questions that seemed relevant during Conference this year were, "What is the moderate voice of the church?" "What is that voice calling for?" and "What is the role and place of power in the Church of the Brethren?" If Moderates are interested in unity - in the church staying together - what does that church look like? If Moderates are the majority, where do they stand?

In the history of the Church of the Brethren, there seems to be a recurring shift in attitude about denominational leadership. At times we trust them. At times we don't. In all of this, it is important to remember that Jesus stood with the powerless.

Final thoughts: To stay engaged with the conversation . . .

- If you have enjoyed being part of VOS and want to stay connected, be sure to check out Open Table Cooperative at <http://opentablecoop.org> .
- To access the new Vision Statement and related resources: <http://www.brethren.org/about/vision.html>
- To review the proposed revisions to the Ministerial Leadership Polity paper: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/documents/nb-ministerial-leadership.pdf>

~Elizabeth Bay

2012 District Conference



**November 9-11
At Hillcrest in
La Verne, California
Moderator Jack Storne
Theme: "People Serving
With Devotion."
Matthew 25:35-40**

For the third year in a row, District Conference will take place at Hillcrest. Our delegates are: **Susan Boyer, Mary Kay Ogden, Barbara Ober, Chuck Cable, Deb Jahnke and Janice Shaw Morgan.** Registration for District Conference is available at: <http://www.pswdcob.org/>. Registration for non-delegate adults is \$60 and \$30 for youth.



Conscientious Projector:

The Dark Side of Chocolate
September 19, 7:00 p.m.
Claremont Forum
566 W. First St., Claremont

The Dark Side of Chocolate is a 2010 documentary film about the exploitation and slavetrading of African children to harvest chocolate, still occurring nearly ten years after the cocoa industry pledged to end it. The film was produced by Danish journalist Miki Mistrati who investigated the use of child labor and trafficked children in chocolate production.

The Supportive Communities Network -
SCN

Why is it important to know what the acronym SCN stands for?

Answers to that question might be:

1. Because SCN is a network of Mennonite and Church of the Brethren communities who welcome and publically affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members.
2. Because the goal of SCN is to offer support, resources and opportunities for dialogue among congregations who welcome lgbt members.
3. Because our church has been a member of SCN since May, 1995.
4. Because we, the LVCOB, are hosting the Progressive Gathering on October 26-28, and many attendees will come from COB SCN member congregations or communities across the nation.
5. Because as you begin to hear the SCN term spoken more frequently, you'll have some background knowledge to draw upon!

For more information about SCN, pick up the brochure in the Church Office

Church Women United

September 7, 9:30 a.m.

Pilgrim Congregational Church

Plan to attend the September 7, 9:30 a.m. meeting of Church Women United, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. The program, "Children of the Night/ Human Trafficking", will give valuable information about this terrible scourge in our society. This is an open Board and Forum meeting. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Call Millie Davis at 909-593-3807 for more information.

Update on the Open Table Cooperative



There is a certain appropriateness that the Annual Conference at which the Open Table Cooperative made its first appearance was also the first Conference in recent history where people gathered around tables for business and worship. Just as those tables provided a healthy and hopeful opportunity for coming together, strengthening relationships, and joining in the work of Jesus, the Open Table Co-op will provide similar opportunities for individuals, groups, and congregations: gathering together in new and inventive ways; strengthening relationships beyond old boundaries; continuing the work of Jesus in a spirit of bold, visionary, inclusive love! If you were not able to come to the working group session on August 26, please stay tuned for more opportunities at the Progressive Brethren Gathering or offer your input online at <http://www.opentablecoop.org>! Give us some feedback about your particular gifts and interests.

Open Table and the Future of VOS

One of the major announcements at Annual Conference was that after ten years of dialogue and relationship-building, organizing and advocacy, fellowship and action, the coordinating council of Voices for an Open Spirit (VOS) has decided that the time is right for VOS to write their final chapter. VOS leadership have been deeply impressed with the vision and energy of the Open Table Co-op, particularly the enthusiasm and drive of our young adults, and took the opportunity at their 10-year anniversary celebration to symbolically "pass the torch" to the Open Table Cooperative.

VOS has been a strong supporter of Open Table since our beginning, including acting as our financial sponsor while we worked on establishing our own 501(c)(3) status. Our Leadership Board intentionally included Ken Kline Smeltzer from the VOS coordinating council, and other VOS leaders have expressed their personal desire to be a part of our new movement.

We celebrate the many accomplishments of Voices for an Open Spirit over the past 10 years, including:

- Creating and promoting a "Statement of Respectful Opposition" to Annual Conference decisions denying LGBT leadership.
- Planning and holding a series of VOS gatherings, a precursor to our current Progressive Brethren Gatherings.
- Sponsoring hospitality rooms, dinners, and other activities at Annual Conference.
- Advocating for BMC's inclusion in the Annual Conference exhibit hall.
- Helping to establish the Progressive Brethren.org website
- Creating and overseeing an active email listserv.

As Open Table Co-op inherits this legacy, there are several of these ongoing projects where we must discern how we might continue the vital ministries VOS has sponsored. Over the next few months we'll be looking for your help and suggestions as VOS wraps up their operations and we pick up where they've left off. You'll also be seeing a refreshed Open Table Co-op website with more content and expanded opportunities for you to help get your friends, neighbors, and congregations involved in our work.

~Josiah Hostetler