

INTERCOM

FEBRUARY 2013, Volume 54, No. 2

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO RELINQUISH?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 13. Growing up in Hutchinson, Kansas in the sixties, the only people I knew who observed Lent were my Catholic friends. They talked about what they were giving up for Lent. We were always served fish in the cafeteria on Fridays out of respect for the Catholic students and teachers. But I wasn't raised with a concept of Lent.

Lent comes from the Middle English word for "spring". It is the forty days prior to Easter, minus the Sundays. In the ancient church, Lent was a time for converts to be instructed before baptism. It was also a time for all Christians to repent.

In our day and age, Lent has become a time for people, religious or non-religious, to give up something: sugar, television, complaining. It has also become a time for the marketplace to try and sell us things.



Nadia Bolz-Weber, founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints and author of the blog, sarcasticlutheran.com writes:

This is not a season of taking up self-denial, it's a season of relinquishment. We let go of all the pretenses and destructive independence from God. We let go of defending ourselves. We let go of our indulgent self-loathing. Like the prodigal son we then begin to see a loving God running with abandon to welcome us home. But we can't begin to see this God until we turn from our arrogance and certainty and cynicism and ambivalence.

I invite you to observe Lent this year by relinquishing whatever it is that separates you from God. Maybe it is your pursuit of power, status, self-sufficiency, money or prestige. Maybe it is television, sugar, or complaining. Relinquish it not because it is the trendy thing to do but because you want to be able to see God running with abandon to welcome you home.

~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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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

February Worship Themes

FEBRUARY 3 *Slow Down; You Move Too Fast* Janet Ober

We sing, "Peace, be still and know that I am God." What would it look like if we took that seriously, not only as people, but as a church? The Slow Church movement considers ways in which our faith has begun to move too fast and invites us into a congregational life that emphasizes an ethic of goodness, community with all creation, and an economy based on hospitality and a celebration of God's abundance.

Philippians 4:11-12

FEBRUARY 10 *Your Car is Not a Dining Room Table* Susan Boyer

In this fast-food-on-every-corner culture, we have lost the significance of the table. Jesus spent an amazing amount of time teaching about table etiquette. But this is not the polite table of warmth. This is the table of revolution and a fierce hope for a redemptive future.

Luke 14:1-14

FEBRUARY 17 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*Temptation, Knowledge and Nakedness:
Where Do We Go From Here?* Carol Wise

The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and Jesus' experience in the wilderness offer interesting perspectives about the dynamics of temptation, power, and the use of knowledge that have implications for our current times. On the first Sunday in Lent, Carol Wise will explore some of these dynamics.

Carol Wise is the Executive Director of Brethren Mennonite Council and will be in La Verne for the Progressive Brethren Council planning meeting.

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7, Luke 4:1-13

FEBRUARY 24 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

We Provide the Water Susan Boyer

In this Lenten series on water we will look at the baptism of Jesus. Three times in the Gospel of John, the author makes sure that we know that John baptized with water but the way Jesus will baptize will be different.

John 1:24-34



February Calendar

- Feb 2 Camp La Verne Banquet, Fellowship Hall, 5:15 p.m.
- Feb 3 New Member Class, Library, 9:15 a.m.
- Feb 5 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.
Commission Night
- Feb 7 Headstart Readers, Library, 9-10:45 a.m.
- Feb 10 New Member Class, Library, 9:15 a.m.
Valentines to Hillcrest, 9:30 a.m.
Love Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, After Worship
- Feb 12 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.
Church Board Meeting, Fireside Room, 7:15 p.m.
- Feb 13 WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study),
Library, 4 p.m.
- Feb 13 Progressive Brethren Council at LVCOB
& 14
- Feb 14 March Intercom articles due, 5 p.m.
- Feb 16 Youth Winter Camp, through Feb 18
- Feb 17 First Sunday of Lent
Lenten Interest Groups Begin
Deacon Potluck, Social Hall, After Worship
- Feb 18 Presidents Day Holiday - Office Closed
- Feb 20 Fellowship Visitors, Library, 9 a.m.
- Feb 24 Family Fun, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 a.m.
Youth - Re-Envisioning Jesus with Tracy
Primozych, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 26 ULV/LVCOB Food Network Dinner, Fellowship
Hall, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Spiritual Cinema Circle, Fireside Room, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 27 Shared Ministries, Fireside Room, 1:30 p.m.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School—10:30 a.m. Worship

February 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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

February 2013

- 3 Hannah Lewis, Chaplain Intern,
Claremont School of Theology
- 10 MUSICAL WORSHIP – HYMN SING
- 17 Barbara Ober, retired COB pastor
- 24 Chaplain Tom Hostetler

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2013 Leadership

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Envisioning chair: Jack Meek, jmeek@laverne.edu

Peace & Justice chair: Beth Snowden-Ifft, b.snowdeniff@mac.com

Service chair: Dot Hess, dothess41@gmail.com

Property chair: Tom Evans, evans2020@gmail.com

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

Stewardship & Finance chair: Tim Nelson, timnelson@gmail.com

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

Editor: Stephanie Juillerat, stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net
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Ministry of Encouragement

February 3, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Conference Room

The Ministry of Encouragement is available Sunday February 3rd beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the conference room. This month we'll begin by talking about the art of comfort. How do you manage competing needs within yourself and within your community? How can we meet competing needs within our world? Our goal is to create a safe space to listen to our boldest, most sensitive, and most eccentric voices. For more information contact Reba Herder at (951) 204-3574.

Family Fun, Games and Picnic

FEBRUARY 24

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All families with children are invited!

We will have craft tables,
a drink & dessert station,

game tables, and lots of room for free play!

You bring a picnic lunch and all your friends!!

Dawna Welch (909) 625-1648

Dawna@lavernecob.org

Shared Ministries

The Shared Ministries team assists the Pastors in visiting with folks in our church family who are dealing with very difficult situations or serious health issues. The Sunday worship bulletin will list each week the Shared Ministry team member who is on call that week. This will enable anyone to contact that member if the need arises. During the year, the Shared Ministry people rotate visitation dates on a six-week rotation and meet regularly with the pastors and visitation coordinator. Being aware of and being present with the needs and situation of our church community takes many compassionate and sensitive people. Our Shared Ministry team fills those requirements.

Love Luncheon

February 10

In the month when we celebrate our love for one another, our All Church Luncheon will be a celebration of our love of **Faith, Friends, and Family**. Please join us as we gather for a shared meal, conversation, and support of Father Gregory's ministry at Homeboy Industries. There is always room in the kitchen for those who want to be involved.

Menu

Lasagna

Steamed Vegetables

Olive Garden Green Salad

Italian Bread Selection

Dessert Bar including Fresh Fruit



Vegan and Gluten Free Options
will also be available

Deacon Potluck

February 17, after worship

The Deacons will be holding their annual potluck and organizational meeting on Sunday, February 17, following worship. Deacons, don't forget to RSVP to the church office. You are invited to bring your own dishes and a food item to share based on the first letter of your last name.

A-F/Dessert G-L/Salad M-W/Main Dish

WABS

February 13, 4:00 p.m.

Church Library

Please join the discussion on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, of our selection for the month: Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, by Susan Cain. "Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, Quiet shows how dramatically we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so" (Publisher). We enjoy talking about the books we've chosen, as well as sharing ideas for more good reading. Everyone is invited. We meet in the Church Library at 4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Hospitality Greeters

The lovely people who welcome us all on Sunday mornings, as we come to Sunday School and/or Worship Service, have recently had their quarterly breakfast meeting and have scheduled the next few months of greeting assignments. We are grateful for their service and their welcome throughout the year. If you wish to be part of this greeting ministry, please call Julie Kurtz at (909) 593-2793 and we will sign you up! The commitment consists of being available to greet about once every 5 weeks or so, with a smile and warm hello, showing hospitality to friend and stranger...to all who enter our church grounds.

Lenten Interest Groups Begin!

The first Sunday of Lent is February 17; and that marks the beginning of the Lenten Interest Groups! Groups meet weekly during the six weeks prior to Easter (March 31) for fellowship, fun, study, and relationship building around their common interests.

In the past, Lenten Interest Groups have formed around themes of environmental and/or social justice concerns, a passion for bird watching, a love of crafting, knitting, writing, cooking, a desire for theological study. Many groups have continued year round!

To sign up for groups through Friday, February 15 check the weekly Sunday bulletin or contact Dawna Welch at (909) 593-1364 or Dawna@lavernecob.org for more information.

Join the Choir on Tour!

June 22-30, Brethren Heritage Tour from Philadelphia, PA to Charlotte, NC

The church choir will be going on tour June 22-30, 2013 to key Brethren churches and heritage sites in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina, ending with a concert at annual conference in Charlotte, NC. If you'd like to join and sing in the choir or just travel as a "fan," please contact Laurie Schreiner at laurie.schreiner@verizon.net or 626-826-6376. Watch for more details in the March Intercom.

Spiritual Cinema Circle: The Lamp

February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Fireside Room

The February Spiritual Cinema Circle presents the independent feature film, *The Lamp*. This Entertaining and heartwarming film seems quite realistic and true to life even though there's a magic lamp in the story. A man cannot cope with the loss of his only child even after two years of grief, and it's finally threatening his marriage. Enter the magic lamp and things begin to change. This is one of those movies that begs for a really happy ending --- and delivers it. Join us in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30, for the film and some interesting discussion afterward.



Going to the Garden

Peace & Carrots earns \$1,000 grant!

Peace & Carrots Community Garden has begun its renovation project and is currently building 28 raised beds out of redwood. This project has been funded by the gardeners, some friends of the garden, and a grant from the Going to the Garden Initiative. This grant program is supported financially by the Global Food Crisis Fund and the Advocacy and Peace Witness office of the Church of the Brethren.

The garden grant was a "matching funds" opportunity that was initially offered to help CoB congregations create gardens to address poverty, food insecurity, and environmental degradation in their communities. Because Peace & Carrots has been a successful venture and was looking for funding to improve, the \$1,000.00 grant was awarded after the application was completed explaining what we do, who we help, and how we have been able to accomplish our Mission.

Young Adult Food Network: Opening the Table to the University *Excerpts from the December 2012 Messenger*



There were only a few dozen at the first one. Word had gone out to students at the University of La Verne that the La Verne Church of the Brethren would be offering a free meal to students one evening. It didn't take long for word about the monthly gatherings to spread.

"For the next one, we thought we might have a few more--maybe 60 or 80," said Corlan Harrison, Kitchen Coordinator for the church, and one of the prime movers behind the meals [along with ULV Chaplain Zandra Wagoner and the church's Associate Pastor, Janet Ober]. "But we were shocked when the entire football team showed up! We had nearly 200! We had to run out and get more food."

With football season over, the number of students attending has dropped to a more manageable number. Still, the dinner has continued to be a popular event, drawing not only students but church members who enjoy interacting with the young people.

"I'm impressed that you all are so accepting, no matter what our backgrounds are," said freshman Wesley Tan. "I'm Asian and Buddhist, but I feel accepted here."

Seated across the table from Tan, freshman Stefan Celeketic added, "I like how friendly everyone is. People are not afraid to talk. It's nice just to come here and meet people. It's a great atmosphere."

The daughter of former ULV football coach Roland Ortmayer, Harrison says she was accustomed to being in a family that had an extended dinner table. "Growing up, my dad couldn't remember a meal that didn't include someone else," she said. "That was true at our house when I was growing up, too. College kids were always over."

"It feels like we're becoming part of the La Verne community," said student Joel Sierra.

Which is the whole idea--providing a place of comfort and community.

If you would like to be part of the Food Network experience, join us February 26. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. To find out how to help in the kitchen or the dining room, contact Corlan, Zandra or Janet.



OUR PASTORS!

After a collective 23 years in ministry at the LVCOB, ten for Susan Boyer and thirteen for Janet Ober, it is time to say a deep and heartfelt thank you.



Thank you for sharing your faith and knowledge of the Bible.

Thank you for well-constructed, thoughtful sermons.

Thank you for turning part of the church office into a store for free trade products.

Thank you for coordinating the work of staff and volunteers.

Thank you for visiting.

Thank you for welcoming new members and folding them into the congregation.

Thank you for working with community agencies, serving on Boards, and offering a helpful hand to those without resources.

Thank you for advocating for mental health.

Thank you for nurturing our young people and always welcoming them home.

Thank you for stories and Bible study.

Thank you for teaching.

Thank you for seeing that our youth attend Christian Citizenship Seminars and National Youth Conferences.

Thank you for always covering for one another, including during sabbaticals.

Thank you for forgiving our failure to thank you often enough and for the many kindnesses you show of which we are unaware.

Thank you for memorial services that celebrate lives well lived, and for weddings, baptisms, and baby dedications.

The average minister stays at a church 4.5 years.

How fortunate we are!



Headstart

Children's Library Committee

Yes, the Children's Library Committee is still reading to the Headstart Classes on Thursday mornings. If you would like to be part of this service, please see **Rennie Boardman**. She will be glad to have your assistance! Also, if you have books in good condition, appropriate for preschoolers ages 3-4, the committee will be glad to take your donations. The Headstart classes check out these books and they get used a lot, so there is always a need for replacement books. Thanks!



A Delivery of Love

February 10, 9:30 a.m.

Our Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade Sunday School students have been busily making Valentines to make sure they have enough for all the residents living at Woods Health Care Services at Hillcrest!

Delivering hand-made Valentines full of love is an important event for our young students who view this as an opportunity to share their joy with the residents.

Cupid's Carpool* will be leaving from the west parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on February 10.

*All students not traveling with an adult need to have a signed permission slip which is available in the church office.

The remainder of the month will be focused on love; God's love for us and how we share that love with others. Friends and visitors welcome!

It Takes A Village

**"Raising Peace-Minded Children
in a World of Conflict"**

This will be a 4-week series that will feature a variety of guests with the common focus of helping our children navigate a complex and sometimes confusing world. For more information: Dawna Welch 909-593-1364; Dawna@lavernecob.org

Friendship Class Continues

Water Work in February

9:10-10:20 a.m.

Stimulated by David Radcliff's presentation and the intractable problems of water in California, the Friendship Class decided to let its study of water spill over into February. In addition to continuing its exploration of underground water, the class will also discuss water reuse, water conservation, and desalination.

Fireside Conversations

Embracing Difference

The Fireside Conversations is a topic based discussion group for adults that meets in the Fireside Room each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. In February **Michelle and Muir Davis** will facilitate conversations around the theme of strengthening open and supportive communities in the following areas:

- Different religions
- Different political beliefs
- Different sexual orientations
- Different ages/generations

Come join the conversation!

Library News

A recent addition to our library, Driving the Birds by **Russell Traugher** (member of LVCOB), is the story of Jabonkah, a young girl who lives in the bush in a remote part of Liberia. "Driving the Birds", which refers to her job of driving off the birds from the harvest of rice, begins when Jabonkah is "eight rice fields" old. She is left-handed, which is considered the sign of being a witch, and is constantly being beaten by her father, John Henry, who finds her useless. Her personal journey involves repeated abuse, heartbreak, and injustice. You will feel her spirit and determination, which carry her on a courageous journey from a small village in Liberia to a life of freedom in America. Jabonkah's memoir is a good read and provides a window to the sufferings of less fortunate women around the world.

Youth Calendar

Saturday, February 2	Camp La Verne Banquet, Youth Servers
Sunday, February 3	Youth Superbowl Party Kremer/Brehmeyer Home
Saturday 2/16 -Monday 2/18	Winter Camp at Camp La Verne
Sunday, February 24	"Re-Envisioning Jesus" with Tracy Primozych

Hold these Dates:

Sunday, March 10	"Chopped": The LVCOB Youth Edition
Saturday 3/17 -Sunday 3/18	Homeless Lockout



Re-Envisioning Jesus

February 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

How we think about Jesus has been shaped by written and visual images across centuries. But what would we see if we look at Jesus with 21st century eyes? What would comfort us? What would challenge us? On Sunday evening, February 24, Tracy Primozych, former youth pastor and Director of Admissions at Bethany Theological Seminary, will lead this conversation with our youth (grades 6-12). Tracy will be in town representing Bethany, and taking time to hang with the LVCOB Youth. The evening will be informal, conversational, and open to friends who might appreciate the discussion. (Senior High Youth can also feel free to pick Tracy's brain about Exploring Your Call, the youth conference to be held at Bethany in June.)

All-Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 3, 3 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Zach and Alex Kremer Brehmeyer, starting at 3 pm on Sunday, February 3rd. Youth are invited to bring a snack and a beverage to share. Hotdogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided.



Winter Camp at Camp La Verne

February 16-18

Register now for Winter Camp at Camp La Verne, February 16-18, 2013 (Saturday thru Monday during President's Day weekend.) Winter Camp is for all 6-12th grade youth in the Pacific Southwest region, whether or not they attend a Church of the Brethren. Returning Directors are the amazing brother/sister team of **Erica and Kevin Schatz!** Registration forms are online now at www.camplaverne.org or in the church office. Cost is \$75 if postmarked by February, \$80 thereafter. There will be no on-site registration. Youth who volunteer at the Camp Banquet pay just \$50 (see the article below). For more information, see the Camp website or talk to **Janet Ober.**



Camp La Verne Banquet

February 2

Youth in grades 6-12, wishing to volunteer at the annual Camp Banquet, will receive a partial scholarship toward their registration fees (\$25 off) for Winter Camp. The Banquet is set for Saturday night, February 2, in the La Verne Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall. Volunteering is fun and a great way to promote winter and summer camps. To volunteer, contact **Kathy Doramus** at (909) 593-8836 or by email at k.doramus@gmail.com. You do not need to be a member of the La Verne Church to volunteer or receive the scholarship. Friends headed to Winter Camp are welcome too!



Opportunity for Denominational Giving

Our first special offering for the work of our denomination will take place on March 17. This offering opportunity is called One Great Hour of Sharing and the theme is *Sharing Brings Joys* based on 2 Corinthians 9:8. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." This One Great Hour of Sharing offering embodies core values like service, sustainability, and mission. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing you are helping to move Jesus into neighborhoods all over the world through projects like medical aid in Haiti, clean water in Nigeria, disaster relief in the US, and feeding the hungry in 32 countries. This all happens because of volunteers and donors like you, who give and serve through the many ministries of Global Mission and Service, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and the Global Food Crisis Fund. We will be using the four special offerings planned by the Mission & Ministry Board as our opportunities to fund our denominational ministries. One Great Hour of Sharing has been an offering opportunity for many years here at the La Verne Church of the Brethren.

Christmas Eve Offering

During the Christmas Eve service a special offering was taken to provide emergency relief within our own community. Over \$1,560 was raised that night, which will now help provide housing services through Inland Valley Hope Partners and purchase food and transportation vouchers for the church's neighbors in need.

Fellowship Visitors

February 20, 9:00 a.m.

Church Library

Fellowship Visitors will meet on Wednesday, February 20, at 9:00 a.m., in the Church Library. This group meets one morning a month to team with a partner in visiting people unable to attend Sunday worship. The 3 to 4 visits in the morning bring blessings to both those visiting and those visited. More visitors who will listen with caring hearts are always needed, as we have many who would like someone to listen to them. So, if you are looking for a situation where you could be of help and make a difference in someone's life, please talk to **Julie Kurtz** (909) 593-2793. Also, if you know of someone who would like a visit, please let Julie know of this. Thank you!

Beta Center Bounty and Ongoing Needs

On January 7, **Paul and Opal Wilkinson** delivered to the Beta Center enough food from our congregation to fill two large bins and then some! It was wonderful to see so much food generously donated during the Christmas season. Thank you to all who gave, both in goods and in financial contributions. Your gifts make a difference to our neighbors in need.

Of course, the need is so great, we cannot stop there. Beta Center reports a continuing shortage of canned beans, dried rice, peanut butter and especially, pop-top, ready-to-eat foods. The latter are necessities for our homeless neighbors for whom a can opener and a stove top are inaccessible.

You may leave your donations in the now-empty bins in the narthex. May there be more than a season of generosity, but a spirit that is alive all year long!



Interfaith Opportunities

Spring, 2013

Tahil Sharma, the ULV student who coordinated the Sikh Langar Meal this fall, is working with the University's Interfaith Student Council to offer two more community experiences this spring. Both will be hosted by the University of La Verne.

●On February 12, there will be a Sikh Prayer Service known as a *Japji Sahib Paath*, held in the Ballrooms of the Campus Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m. This service will be a reading of the first book of the *Guru Granth Sahib*, the holiest scriptures of the Sikh faith. The prayer will be offered in memory of the people who lost their lives in the Oak Creek Gurdwara (Sikh temple) in Wisconsin last year, as well as those who died more recently in Newtown, Connecticut.

●On March 27, there will be a panel discussion: Building Interfaith Cooperation Through Empathy. Held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in one of the Campus Center ballrooms, this discussion will focus on ways our common ties unite us and seek to illuminate the prejudices and ignorance that divide us. This event will include panelists from different faith traditions, a Q & A session, and light refreshments.

Annual Interfaith Festival of Sacred Music

March 2, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting House at Hillcrest

The Cultural Arts Society of La Verne is pleased to announce the return of the popular Interfaith Festival on Saturday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. in The Meeting House at Hillcrest, 2708 Mountain View. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the joy and wonder of the many expressions of faith found in our community.

Tickets can be purchased at The Meeting House prior to the concert or at the door, provided the concert is not sold out. General admission is \$5 and Preferred seating (first four rows) is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at The Meeting House Lobby on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by calling (909) 593-4917, or online at www.livingathillcrest.org.

La Verne Church of the Brethren will be represented this year by **Christine Meek, Rebecca Reagan** and **Heidi Brightbill**, forming a trio of exquisite harmonies. Other participants this year will be storyteller/percussionist, Corey Hill; Korean dancer, Young Park; and Darlton Larney, a singer/pianist from Jamaica. Several choirs have been invited and we hope to have some popular participants from previous years return. One thing for sure, it will be an evening for the whole family to enjoy.

The program is filled with diversity and supports our goal of expanding our understanding of each other, extending peaceful acceptance to all members of our community, and experiencing a wide variety of music, dance and storytelling.

The Cultural Arts Society strives to provide family-friendly, culturally enriching programs for the benefit of the surrounding community. A portion of all proceeds is used to provide new programming and opportunities for students to experience the arts. More questions? Contact **Barbara Smythe**, Chair of the Cultural Arts Society, at blsmythe@earthlink.net

ULV and COB Welcomes Tracy

Stoddard Primozich

During the last week of February, La Verne Church of the Brethren and the University of La Verne will host Tracy Stoddard Primozich, Director of Admissions for Bethany Theological Seminary. Tracy will meet with students at the university, bring greetings in worship, and provide creative leadership for an event with our youth. Tracy is also open to your questions and inquiries about Bethany's graduate school and academy for theological education. For more about Bethany, read on.

Highlights of Bethany's 107th Year

Sixteen graduates received MDiv and MA degrees and Certificates of Achievement in Theological Studies and are now actively ministering in a variety of contexts across the United States and around the world.

*(Three members of the La Verne Church of the Brethren are currently enrolled in training at Bethany: **Dawna Welch, Dylan Haro and Jana Carter.**)*

A capacity crowd attended Bethany's fourth Presidential Forum, "Joy and Suffering in the Body: Turning toward Each Other." Keynote speaker Dr. James Forbes and five academic professionals in medicine, ecclesiology and sexuality, Christian history, religion and psychiatry, and biblical studies led the Forum.

Exploring Your Call was again held in June, a ten-day seminar for high school students to explore faith and vocation through classes, congregational involvement, student projects, and personal and spiritual enrichment.

Faculty and staff had a presence beyond the classroom within the Church of the Brethren, including numerous sermons and other church-related presentations, leadership in workshops and retreats, reports to district conferences, and insight sessions. All faculty also participated in professional conference,



Upcoming Events to

Welcome You to Bethany

A campus visit day with options designed for exploring the Bethany Experience is set for March 1, 2013

The fifth Presidential Forum, "The Bible in Our Bones: Telling and Living the Stories of Our Faith," is set for April 5-6, 2013

Exploring Your Call for rising high school Juniors and Seniors, June 14 - 24, 2013

Ways You Can Partner with Bethany

Nurture and call out persons who show interest in ministry and encourage them to consider a Bethany education;

Pray for our students, faculty, and staff;

Give to Bethany's mission, by check, online, or gifts of property;

Read *Wonder & Word* magazine and visit our website for news, information, and webcasts of Bethany and denominational events:

www.bethanyseminary.edu



Camp La Verne Banquet

Saturday, February 2
LVCOB Fellowship Hall

Auction 5:15 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Every year, friends of Camp La Verne gather for a celebration and fundraiser known as the "Camp Banquet". Beginning with a Silent Auction at 5:15 pm, children, teens, adults, families and assorted others gather for a reunion, good food, and to honor the traditions of Camp. The evening always includes some singing, a video of the previous camping season and the presentation of the "Friend of Camp" award. It is a fun night. And it raises some much-needed money for a place that is special to so many. There are no RSVP's required. Donations are taken at the door. Quality items for the Silent Auction are welcome before 5:15. Any questions about the event can be directed to **Sara Davis** at (818) 952-8972 or **Pete and Linda Costello Harrington** at campmanagers@camplaverne.org.

Youth (grades 6-12) who work the Camp Banquet are eligible for a scholarship to Winter Camp (Feb. 16-18). To volunteer to help with this year's event, please contact **Kathy Doramus** at (909) 593-8836 or k.doramus@gmail.com.

The Enneagram of Healthy Conversations

February 16, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tustin, CA

Ever wonder why some conversations are so wonderful and others are so difficult, especially when you go into both feeling strong and open? Learn more at The Enneagram of Healthy Conversations, a workshop offered by **Reba Herder** through the International Enneagram Association of Southern California. This all-day workshop begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday February 16 at Common Ground in Tustin. Contact Reba at (951) 204-3574 for more information.



Large Cardboard Boxes Needed for Homeless Lockout

On March 16 & 17, the Senior High Youth will participate in a Homeless Lockout, an overnight simulation in homelessness. For this event, large, cardboard boxes are needed, such as the size in which appliances would be delivered. If you have boxes of that size to donate, please contact **Janet Ober** or simply bring them to the church and drop them off in her office. They will be stored in the Youth Room until needed. Thank you!

A Note of Appreciation

On behalf of David and Margaret Youth and Family Services and the residents in our Residential Program, I want to express our sincere gratitude for your generous gift donations, which have allowed the youth under our care to experience the joys of the holidays despite the fact that many of them are away from their families and loved ones during this season.

The holidays are a very difficult time for our residents, but many of them were able to have the best holiday season of their young lives as a result of the generosity of donors like you – which are words that were actually expressed as they unwrapped their gifts at their holiday party. Your donations go a long way during the holiday season, not only ensuring that many of our youth will have their holiday wishes fulfilled, but also providing the hope and reassurance that goes hand-in-hand with the realization that these youth are part of a loving community circle.

We cannot thank you enough for your support – you surely have the real spirit of the holidays. I hope your holiday season [was] full of love, laughter and light.

Jessica Bell,
Associate Director of Development.

Agenda FOR A Prophetic Faith

*It's even worse
Than it looks,
But there is
a way forward*

Lecture 1

Dr. James Hansen, NASA, Author of *Storms of My Grandchildren*

Global Warming is Here, and It is Worse Than We Thought

Sunday, February 24, 2013, 7 p.m.
Claremont United Methodist Church
211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont

Lecture 2

The Reverend Romal Tune
The Dream Act and a Just Immigration Policy

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 7 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona

Lecture 3

Bishop Minerva Carcano
The Problem of Mass Incarceration

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 7 p.m.
Claremont Presbyterian Church
1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont

Lecture 4

Dr. Norman Ornstein, Author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*

It's Even Worse Than It Looks, But There is a Way Out

Sunday, March 17, 2013, 7 p.m.
Claremont United Church of Christ
233 W. Harrison Ave., Claremont

Lecture 5

James Carroll, Author of *Constantine's Sword* and *House of War*

Toward a Civil Society
Sunday, April 7, 2013, 7 p.m.
La Verne Church of the Brethren
2425 E Street, La Verne, CA



Progressive Brethren Council

February 13 and 14

La Verne Church of the Brethren

The Progressive Brethren Council is a 6-member committee that provides oversight for the Progressive Brethren Gathering and encourages the coordination of the work of three organizations: Open Table Cooperative, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, and Womaen's Caucus. Three members of our church serve on the Progressive Brethren Council: **Mary Kay Ogden** (Womaen's Caucus), **Josih Hostetler** (Open Table Cooperative) and **Susan Boyer** (Brethren Mennonite Council). Since three of the six members of the committee live in the same area, the council chooses to meet here in La Verne. We are hosting their next committee meeting on February 13 & 14.

Agenda for a Prophetic Faith is a speaker series sponsored by Progressive Christians Uniting and five host churches, our congregation being one of them. The tickets are \$40 for the whole series and \$10 for a single lecture. Our church has tickets available in the church office or after worship. Make checks out to **Agenda**. You can also buy tickets or get more information online at: agendaforapropheticfaith.com. Low-income and scholarship tickets are available: JForney170@aol.com.

Church Women United:

Building a World Fit for All God's Children

February 1, 9:30 a.m.

Claremont United Church of Christ

The local unit of Church Women United, Church Women United of the Foothills, has chosen as its emphasis this year to support and advocate for "Anti-Human Trafficking." At its February 1, 2013 meeting, Nancy Mintie, Executive Director of UnCommon Good, will be the featured speaker. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Claremont United Church of Christ Congregational, 233 W. Harrison, Claremont, CA.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It brings together women of diverse races, cultures, and traditions in Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian women. Its motto is "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

CWU identifies with the needs of women, children, and families and seeks ways to provide impacting support. Every four years CWU chooses a large issue on which to focus its social justice advocacy and action. CWU's priority this quadrennial is "Building a World Fit for All God's Children."

CWU's national headquarters is in Washington, DC, a unique setting to work for its historic commitments to justice, peace, freedom, gender, and racial equality. Ongoing legislative priorities include public advocacy and action for policies that provide for a society free of violence, with economic justice for all, universal health care, civil rights, arms control, protections for women and children, and support for a strong United Nations.

La Verne COB will host Church Women United on March 1!

The national Church of the Brethren and our local congregation have been members of Church Women United since its inception. On March 1, 2013, La Verne COB will host the monthly first Friday meeting in our Social Hall at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate World Day of Prayer. Everyone is invited to take part.



Conscientious Projector

GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth

February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Forum

566 W. First St., Claremont

**Everything we thought we knew
is wrong!**

Okay, maybe not everything. But what if some of our core beliefs about how the world works turn out to be myths? This documentary flips our world upside down to see what makes it tick, as it explores the most critical question of our time: **How do we become a sustainable civilization?**