



THE HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Members & Friends,

In the last few weeks in both my own devotional readings and preparations for sermons, God has directed me to scripture passages related to the word HEART, and how often that word is found in both the Old and New Testament and how it is used to describe the writer of a particular passage, or the people of Israel, and also God himself. This past Sunday, I shared a sermon that got us all to thinking about how God desires that we come to him with our WHOLE HEART and that as we seek him, and grow in our faith, that God calls us to display an UPRIGHT HEART.



An upright heart is one that displays purity, holiness, and conveys a desire to be blameless before God, our Father. (see Psalm 119: 1-8) Our goal in our walk with Christ is to be righteous not rotten to the core! Our faith walk is a constant growth work; never ending, never complete, because we desire to be stretched some more by what God shares each and every day of our lives!

The prophet Jeremiah shared these words from God with the people of Israel, and they are words we are called to hear as well: "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people." That is indeed God's Valentine message to us! And our Valentine card back to him is to live his law of love with him and with our neighbors. "Since Jesus came into my heart..." Is a phrase we sing, and my challenge question is this: Since he has, now what? What is next? How do we live, love, and act differently now that Christ resides/abides within our hearts?

I read a few days ago in "Mornings with Tozer", this phrase: "Your heart becomes a chamber, a sanctuary, a shrine in which there may be continuous, unbroken fellowship and communion with God." And that got me to thinking about our Lenten season as we prepare our hearts for meditating on Christ's journey towards the cross, and how he modeled for us a deep communion and fellowship with God, his Father.

During this first Lenten season with you, I will be focusing our Sundays on the theme of PRAYER with a 6 week sermon series on the different parts of prayer we use when we talk with God. We will also take a look at The Lord's Prayer one Sunday as well. My overall challenge and reminder for us is this: There is Privilege with praying with our Lord, and there is absolutely Power that comes with having a rich prayer life!

The period of 40 days preceding Easter, not counting Sundays, is called LENT. The word originally came from the Anglo-Saxon "lencten", meaning spring (literally "to lengthen" the days.) For the Christian, from the early church until now, it has been a time to reflect on the suffering of Christ and his ultimate victory over the grave. For many, it includes fasting and prayer, two of the great disciplines of the Christian faith. Lent is a time for Christians to take inventory. It is a time to take spiritual assessment of where we are with God. Do we seek him with our whole heart? Or do we take him for granted, or keep him at arm's length? Is our God a very present help and presence in our day to day lives? Only each of us can answer that for ourselves. God invites us to accept him into our hearts and draw closer and closer to him each day, each week, month, and year of our lives. As we grow in our faith and knowledge of him, we have a strong undergirding Presence that brings us spiritual wholeness and health.

Since I'm so excited about this "heart transplant" that God wants to complete in each of our lives, I'm also inviting each of you to take a 40 DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE---here's how if you are interested:

1) Look for the poster on the back table of the sanctuary; it has Rev. Mark Batterson's book "Draw the Circle: a 40 Day Prayer Challenge" sitting on it. If you would like me to purchase a new or used book for yourself, sign the the clipboard sheet by it. ((New books: \$10.00, Used: \$4.00). I will have a few more copies there on February 26th, and if I need to order more, I will!

2) Read the daily devotions each day of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday reading as Day 1, on March 1st. Do not read on Sundays; those aren't counted in the 40 day countdown. Then after each day's reading, pray the prayer found in the book, and spend some time on your own praying for the needs of our church, neighborhood, communities surrounding us, and our country, and world.

3) If using this book seems too cumbersome for you, use a daily devotional guide of your choosing, and make sure to include Prayer time as part of your devotional time.

I believe that if we all attend to this most important spiritual discipline, the one that the Gospel writers emphasize that Christ included in his life here on earth, then we will experience fully the privilege and power of prayer in our individual lives and our congregational life together!

Please also join us each week for Sunday School at 9:00a.m., and Worship at 10:15 a.m. and see the various worship & program activities that you and your family are invited to participate in during Lent and Easter in this newsletter.

May the Psalmist's prayer be our prayer: "Create in me a pure heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me!" (Psalm 51:10)

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Heidi Silliman

2017 Administrative Board and Committees for

Hebron United Methodist Church

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”(Matthew 5:16)

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Pastor(Ex Officio) Rev. Heidi Silliman 272-8116(church& home) 570-517-1250(cell)

Lay Leader(elected for a 2 year term beginning 2016) Dan Hoover 273-9422

Lay Member to Annual Conference Peg Stohler 272-3520

Alternate Lay Member Carole Wagner 933-4020

Administrative Board Chairperson Russ Swisher 274-0141

Ad Board Secretary/Charge Conference Recorder Cheryl Gibson 383-3459

Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson Anna Mae Gettler 512-2700

Finance Chairperson Nick Taraschi 717-644-1629

Financial Secretary Dawn Fertig 270-0349

Treasurer Lisa Hill 933-1154

Council on Ministries Co-Chairs Carol Wagner 933-4020 & Dan Hoover 273-9422

Trustee Chairperson Gary Gettler 717-673-0116

Young Adult Representative to Ad Board _____

Youth Representative to Ad Board _____

Members at Large:

Class of 2017

Class of 2018

Class of 2019

Sue Breidenstine 274-1320

Bev Bender 272-4259

Nancy Miller 273-6180

Cindy Church 290-0915

Karen Saltzer 273-3164

Elmer Mason 273-7859

Joan Harter 272-5382

Carl Bensing 274-1946

Peg Stohler 272-3520

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership – Pastor Heidi Silliman, and ex Officio Lay Leader, Dan Hoover

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Monica Shepps 272-3556	_____	Bev Bender 272-4258
_____	Sharon Mason 273-7859	_____
Carol Howard 675-7291	Brenda Royer 648-6490	Brenda Fratini 274-0376

Committee on Staff Parish Relations (ex officio: Pastor , and Lay Leader)

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Sharon Mason 272-7859	Monica Shepps 272-3556	Jason Bewley 933-5260
Sue Breidenstine 274-1320	Anna Mae Gettler 512-2700	Brenda Fratini 274-0376
_____	Peg Stohler 272-3520	Jan Kern 865-4757

Board of Trustees (Ex Officio-Pastor, Lay Leader)

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Gary Gettler 673-0116	Tim Miller 610-443-3068	Don Fertig 273-6843
Dan Hoover 273-9422	Nancy Miller 273-6180	Rose Swisher 274-0141
Carl Bensing 274-1946	Elmer Mason 272-7859	Chuck Aurentz 821-6106

Finance Committee (Ex Officio: Pastor & Lay Leader)

Chairperson-Nick Taraschi-644-1629, Treasurer-Lisa Hill 933-1154, SPRC Chair or Rep-to be provided by SPRC when they do their elections in 2017, Financial Secretary: Dawn Fertig 270-0349, Trustee Chair-Gary Gettler 673-0116, Ad Board Chair-Russ Swisher 274-0141, Council on Ministries Co Chair-Carol Wagner 933-4020

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES(Ex Officio-Pastor)

Co-Chairs: Carol Wagner 933-4020 & Dan Hoover 273-9422, Nancy Miller 273-1680, Danielle Gerberich(Secretary) 933-4538, Shelby & Nick Taraschi(youth coordinators) 207-7588 & 644-1629, Chuck & Danielle Gerberich(Adult Coordinators)933-4538, Sue Breidenstine(Beginners)274-1320, Peg Stohler(Children’s Coordinator) 272-3520, _____,(Senior Class Rep), Russ Swisher(Ad Board Chair) 274-0141

OFFICE/SECRETARIAL MINISTRIES:

Bulletin Crew: Sue Breidenstine , Monica Shepps

Newsletter Crew: Barbara Erb, Brenda Fratini

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES, STUDIES & EVENTS

Our Lebanon U. M. Churches Mission Connexion will offer 2 Combined Lenten services; they are---

- 1) ASH WEDNESDAY Service, March 1st, 7:00p.m. at Avon UMC; Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley will be the guest preacher. Ashes will be available.
- 2) GOOD FRIDAY Service, April 14th, 12:00 noon- 1:00p.m. at Covenant UMC; Rev. Paul Steel will be the guest preacher; there will be a time of Praise Music, and Choir anthems.

Two other Connexion events we are invited to participate in if we so choose are:

- 1) Wednesday afternoon Lenten Bible studies at Avon UMC, 2:00p.m.; Rev. Steel will be leading a group on a study of Adam Hamilton's book, "The Creed". Studies begin, March 8th.
- 2) Wednesday evening Lenten Vespers at Trinity UMC.(Rev. Lynn Hackman); gatherings will begin with a light meal of soup and sandwiches at 5:45p.m., then followed by a brief Vesper Service at 6:30p.m. using the French Taize Worship pattern of scripture readings & musical choruses sung. Pastor Heidi will be participating with some of these vespers. Taize is a quieter, more introspective way to worship God that helps us focus on God's goodness, care, and provision for us. The repetition of the choruses are a way to bring comfort to our weary souls, and the candles and muted lights help us block out distractions of our world. Vespers begin March 8th.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 13th, COVERED DISH SUPPER & TABLE COMMUNION

GATHERING; Join us for a Potluck supper at 6:00p.m. downstairs in the basement; followed by Communion around the tables. Bring something to share for our meal together! Questions, ask coordinator Nancy Miller. If you can't make the supper time, feel free to attend the Communion gathering at 7p.m. This time will be very informal & focus upon the fellowship that Christ had with his disciples that evening in the Upper Room.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16th

SUNRISE SERVICE, 6:30a.m. "The Carpenter's Cloth", a visual interactive sermon, plenty of music, and Communion will be observed in the pews.

Followed by EASTER BREAKFAST, around 7:45/8:00a.m.(coordinator: Liz Mertz); a Free Will offering will be collected to cover the costs of breakfast.

Sunday School at 9:00a.m.

SECOND EASTER SERVICE, 10:15 a.m. "At the Garden Tomb", a dramatic monologue shared by Pastor Heidi based on the accounts of Christ's arrest, the courtyard scene, and the day of Resurrection. The woman visiting us will be a servant girl of the High Priest Caiaphas and she will share what she has seen through these days leading up to Christ's Resurrection. There will also be Easter hymns, and Communion will be observed at the altar rails.



EASTER FLOWERS: Watch bulletins for flower inserts so you can participate in sharing flowers in honor and in memory of loved ones as we adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 3:00 PM at South Hills Park. If you are a kid, bring a basket, bag or large pocket to fill with your find. Parents, family and friends are invited too. So hop on out there and have some fun! If you would like to donate **hard boiled eggs** for the Easter Egg hunt, please sign up on the list provided on the table in back of the church by **March 26th**. For more information regarding egg donations, contact Rose Swisher at 274-0141. In case of rain, the hunt will be held in the church basement.



Sunday, March 12th, SCOUTING SUNDAY, join us during morning worship as we will have a few of our Scouts helping with our worship service and also honoring them for their commitment to Scouting!

Thursday evening, March 30th, FACING DARKNESS Movie; watch the back table in the sanctuary for a sign-up sheet to appear for those who would like to go see this movie together. It is sponsored by "Samaritan's Purse Ministries" and is showing in some theaters for one night only. It is based on the true story of faith: Saving Dr. Kent Brantley from Ebola in Africa. Pastor Heidi & Sue Breidenstine will be leading our caravan of cars to the theater. Right now, we think the closest theater it will be playing in is in Lititz. Let's see if we can get a couple carloads together to join Christians from other churches who will also be sending folks that night!

Saturday, April 29th, TOOLS FOR MINISTRY workshops at Lickdale, Trinity UMC. Leaders watch for fliers to appear on back table at church and join the Pastor as we attend this District event together!



"Oh lonely little dogwood tree, abandoned and ignored
For the greatest sin of all, when they crucified our Lord
Its petals bear the marks of nails, its foliage droops upon the moss
As if in repentance for being chosen for the cross.

Strolling down a country lane, I see a little dogwood tree
Growing there with twisted limbs, as if in misery
Legend says it grows in pain, for that ancient memory
When man had come and chosen, the lonely little dogwood tree

Once it was a mighty tree, and grew high in the sky
But man deprived it of its glory when they hanged him there to die
So its limbs are gnarled and bent, in shame for all eternity
Because they took away our Lord, hanged him on the dogwood tree.

But he restores its beauty for every spring it lives
In a gown of petals pink and white to show that He forgives
But the little dogwood tree still grieves for what man had done
And grows on for eternity and mourns the Holy One."

By: Al Shade

New Address for Leonard & Rose Marie Swanger:

**117 Meadowview Drive
Crossville, Tennessee 38558**

We wish Leonard & Rose Marie well in their new home in Tennessee! They have found a new church family with Fairfield Glade United Methodist Church and transferred their membership with them. Feel free to send them cards and letters to the above address. We will miss their presence with us at Hebron! We continue to pray for them as they make their transition to their new home!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help teach the primary children in Sunday School. We have no one to relieve the regular teachers. Please see Sue Breidenstine or Peg Stohler if willing to help. Also needed for Children's message during church service the last Sunday of the month. Signup sheet is on table at back of church.

HOMELESS SHELTER: Mark your calendar...Save the dates...May 8th thru May 22, 2017; and Monday April 24th for a volunteer refresher meeting at 6:00 pm.

We will need your help with check-in for approximately 1 hour (8:30pm till 9:30pm); and 2 people, a male and a female, to stay overnight (9:00pm till 7:00am). **NO** background checks are required. We will also need donations of snacks or cash to purchase snacks and to provide a simple breakfast for the weekends. Look for sign-up sheets, for the check-in and overnight, in the Sunday School Room in mid- March. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to offer a safe, warm place to sleep for the less fortunate children, women, and men of our community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 933-4020. Thanks and may God Bless our efforts. Carole Wagner, Shelter Coordinator.

BIRTHDAYS

March

02 Phyllis Mohn
05 Geri Coon
06 Mary Lou Edwards
Shirley Bensing
07 Evelyn Moyer
08 Evelyn Aurentz
09 Bryce Hoglund
10 Danielle Cogley
11 Lynn Gibson
Darlene Fertig
15 Carole Wagner
16 Nancy Zellers
17 Larry Stohler
20 Steven Wagner
Elizabeth Mertz
Jon Heisey
Lester Bergman, Sr.

22 David Hoover
Steven Bates
23 David Johnston
24 Joan Harter
26 Roberta Greenawalt
28 Justine Bewley
29 Russ Swisher
Geraldine Bensing
31 Samantha Harter

April

02 Edith Kreiser
04 Allen Beamesderfer
06 Donald Fertig
12 Rose Swisher
13 Shane Bewley
14 Jason Bewley
15 Eric Mason
Kelsey Kreiser
16 Betty Miller

19 Monica Shepps
20 Barbara Erb
22 Theresa Kreichbaum
23 Brenda Fratini
Charles Aurentz
26 Rosemary Hess
29 Patty Hess



March:

Head Usher: Allen Beamesderfer

05 Don Fertig
Dawn Fertig
Drew Gerberich
12 Carole Wagner
Jacob Hill
Jason Bewley
19 Nick Taraschi
Nancy Miller
Gary Gettler
26 Bob Hogland
Bill McMichael
John Mertz

April:

Head Usher: Chuck Gerberich

02 Rose Swisher
Gary Gettler
Nancy Miller
09 Russ Aurentz
April Aurentz
Chuck Aurentz
16 Allen Beamesderfer
Bill McMichael
Jason Bewley
23 Carole Wagner
Jacob Hill
John Mertz
30 Don Fertig
Dawn Fertig
Drew Gerberich



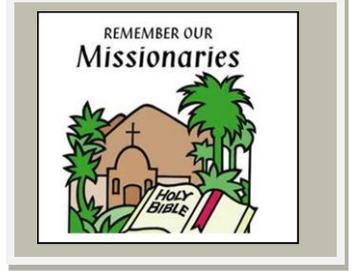
March 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WED.	2	3	4 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
5 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/Communion	6 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	7 9:00am Ladies Sewing	8 7:00 Choir	9	10	11 Turn Clocks Ahead one hour tonight 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
12 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	13 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	14 9:00am Ladies Sewing	15 7:00 Choir	16	17	18 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
19 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	20 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	21 9:00am Ladies Sewing	22 7:00 Choir	23	24	25 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
26 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	27 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	28 9:00am Ladies Sewing	29 7:00 Choir	30	31	Notes:

Pastor Heidi on Vacation from Monday, April 17th through Monday, April 24th. Rev. Bill Thompson, a friend of both Dan Hoover and Pastor Heidi will be our guest preacher on Sunday, April 23rd.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
2 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	3 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	4 9:00am Ladies Sewing 7:00pm SPRC mtg.	5 7:00 Choir	6 7:00pm Trustees mtg.	7	8 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
9 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	10 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	11 9:00am Ladies Sewing	12 7:00 Choir	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
16 EASTER 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	17 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	18 9:00am Ladies Sewing	19 7:00 Choir	20	21	22 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
23 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	24 2:00PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 7:00PM Lebanon Choral Society	25 9:00am Ladies Sewing	26 7:00 Choir	27	28	29 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
30 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	Notes: Deadline for May/June Newsletter is April 15th. Please give information for Newsletter to Barbara Erb or email her at blerb2@comcast.net					

MISSION CORNER



Dear Praying Friends,

It has been a long time since I have written and there is some fun stuff to report.

We have been back now for a month and a half. Life has been full and in some ways it feels like we had not been gone at all. Immediately after our arrival to Prague we headed to some meetings in Germany where we went through training in Lead, Develop, Care (a leader training program). Those meetings were helpful to me as I try to get a better handle on the responsibilities of the country leaders Greg is supervising. It also gave me greater confidence as I entered into the refugee ministry that I am now more involved in.

Selina came for Christmas and was here only a very short time. She was sick most of the time and we were reeling a bit with her from the accident she had on the way to the airport. We are ever so thankful that she was ok physically, but sadly her newly acquired car was totaled. Through another miracle, God provided for her a new car which she needed for her continued service with AmeriCorps.

This month has been full of usual activity for Greg as he meets with his leaders over calls and as he supervises and works through various issues on the various fields.

For me there has been added work with the refugee ministry. Petra, our friend who is pretty much in charge of all the details in getting the Iraqi refugees settled in Prague has invited me in to help her. She wanted to open a “free shop” for the refugees. A place where they could come and get things they need. Petra found a space in the basement of a ministry center of one of the churches in town. The basement is pretty rough but it is very large. The Ministry center is also letting us use the upstairs space for a sort of drop in center once a week. We are now planning to have a drop in time every Tuesday afternoon. This will be a time when the refugee families can come by and eat cake, drink coffee, shop in the free shop and have some Czech tutoring (especially for the children as they need help with homework). We also hope to have a fun activity every week: maybe a craft, haircuts, cooking classes, manicures or possibly a Bible study. This is all still being worked out.

We have had a huge amount of donations and we have been sorting like crazy this week. When I say we, I mean anyone that I can get to come join in the fun. There have been at least 20 people involved in this so far and I plan to get more involved as time goes on. The shop is nearly done and we are nearly ready to open the doors on this coming Tuesday the 17th of January. Please pray for this to be a blessing. In the future we will open it to the other refugees in town and then also to the homeless and other needy people. One step at a time. We are calling the ministry “Dignity”.

I have also been asked to continue teaching my English class to the small business where I had taught before. I was kind of hoping I could get out of it as it takes me too many hours of prep for just one hour of class. However, they really wanted me back. And so I am doing this. Please pray that I either figure out how to prepare quicker or that they may find another teacher. I am conflicted as I really enjoy them and have had some chances to share Christ with them. That is really the only thing that has not let me walk away from this job.

The upcoming months are busy with trips and meetings. I will be gone from home the whole month of February. First I have my course in Chicago. I will only be there for a short time so will not have time to visit as I did this past fall. Greg will be in Sweden during that time ...visiting the ministries there. Then I come back and will join Greg and his leaders in Spain for some meetings. We then go to Wales for a retreat with the English field. I look forward to meeting the various missionaries that Greg has been telling me about and that we have been praying for. May God use us in whatever way He pleases. If any of you know me, I am a home body and this traveling is not always easy on me. Pray for stamina and that my eyes would be wide open as I take in all the needs and respond how God would have me respond. Also please pray for the Dignity drop in center. I need to staff it for the time I will be gone.

Please pray for Greg as he meets with various leaders and ask that God gives him great wisdom as he works through various issues good and difficult.

Thank you for standing with us.

Blessings,

Debbly for Greg too.

Refugee Ministry (Dignity) Update

Dear All

I want to, no I must, report back to you what God is doing.

The refugee ministry Dignity was a hit this past Tuesday.

We gathered at the center and our friends loved the shop and the special foods that we prepared for them.

They were also very excited just to be together in a context that was not "crisis" related.

There is a group of Christian Iraqis and a family and one single who are converted from the Muslim faith. The two groups have had a hard time mingling. This event last Tuesday was one of the, if not THE first time, they were in a room together where they were not required to be there together. We, Petra and I, were just floored at this. We nipped off to a corner and praised God for this wonderful happening. **We pray there will be healing amongst them. We pray that this time on Tuesday will give them strength for their journey. We pray they will find fellowship and blessing in this time.**

We had a group from our kids former school come as well. There were 5 students who came (plus two teachers). More wanted to come but the teachers said only 5 until we can figure out how many we need. These students will not only be helping the refugee children with their Czech but also the adults. This is a desire the refugees have. I am busy trying to get the schedule set so that the Tuesdays will be staffed through the month of February (when I will be away traveling). **Please pray for people to fill in easily and for the right people to be there each week to encourage and help.**

Please also pray for Petra. She is working with 3 others who are involved heavily in the refugee work in Prague (all of them are Czechs). Two of them are ill right now and one slipped on ice yesterday. Petra is left to do all the work for the next few days and is not feeling great herself. I am not able to help with the tasks at hand as they are mostly things with official offices, in Czech etc.

Petra is a kind of woman who moves mountains (with God's great help of course). She has an opportunity on Tuesday to speak to the Senate in Prague. She does not exactly know what is coming at her but it seems there is a need for the Czech government to accept 6000 refugees in the coming 3 years. They are wanting to create a project with a huge budget and are needing a point person. It seems Petra may be asked to be that. We and she are not entirely sure if this is what is coming her way. In any case this is a huge thing and we NEED your prayers. **Please pray that God would move those mountains. Pray for strength for Petra. And please pray for Petra's family.** Her husband is not a believer and her girls are struggling in some ways. I would normally say that she ought to be looking after her family more, but at this point, I do see God has ordained her to this work and ministry to the refugees. Pray that God would figure out all the needs for the people around her and that His mighty hand would prevail and that more people would come to know Him because of this work.

Thank you so very much for standing with us during this time!

God is on the move.

In His love,

Debby

Nancy Zellers Newsletter

Dear Prayer Warriors,

December passed by in a flash. I made two sweet breads to give away to the garage where I service my car and the service station in my neighborhood. I didn't have any time to make cookies! I did enjoy wrapping lots of gifts to give to various friends. I also didn't take the time to put up a tree or get out all the Christmas decorations. I used a few items I had more accessible to give my living room a Christmas touch. I guess I am becoming a minimalist!

On the 24th of December I (with Sweet Pea in tow) went to Lily and family's house for a present exchange. They always open some of the gifts I give them when we are together and save others to open on Christmas. We had a very nice time. The children are growing up fast. Sarai has free music lessons at school this year and had put on a concert a few weeks ago that I was able to attend- I was amazed that these fifth and sixth grade student had memorized about a half hour of songs in English!... Then I slowly made my way down the road to Fafe to have the Christmas Eve meal with my former co-workers and their family. They had invited 10 African students to share the meal too, so we were quite a roomful. Being that it was Christmas, I thought it only right to share something with these fellows, so I had wrapped up some personal hygiene products- and had just enough to go around, as two of the fellows were twins, so I said they could share the one gift! I got to bed about 2am that night, as I still drove back to Porto!

Christmas day I shared my table with an American gal who was just passing through Porto. We connected through a GEM colleague, as they both work in Belarus. Then I was off to take Sweet Pea to Filipe's house and return home to pack. I did my usual thing and got less than three hours sleep the night before my trip. Thankfully I sleep well the time I do have in bed before a trip!

I greatly enjoyed being in the UK for 12 days, spending time with dear friends (all of whom I know from living in Portugal). Highlights included poking in a few charity shops, the seaside and muddy hill walks, eating my first English Christmas dinner (scrumptious savories and sweets!), moments of prayer and seeing a bit more of the island's beauty. It was neat to visit the British *Cornwall*, as we have a *Cornwall* near my hometown in Pennsylvania.

One of the things I took away from my time in the UK was discovering FB Meyer's commentary on the whole Bible or rather a commentary on a verse from every chapter of the Bible. It so happens that friends I was visiting use this book as a daily devotional and I was thinking to myself, 'I think I might have that book in my library...' and indeed I do! Needless to say the book is no longer sitting on a shelf. :)

I did have a bit of a cold while I was in the UK, but praise the Lord I have been well since and haven't gotten the siege of flu that was going around. Having completed the medications for the stomach bacteria, I will soon be able to take the test to see whether that is gone.

Moral classes are going well. The primary group is lots better in terms of behavior. The Lord's hand was evident in giving me the plan to reward them for good behavior with small gifts that they would "purchase" with their points. I gave five smileys for each class if they behaved well.. so the last class in December I had a box "shop" of presents with a different value for each of the different items. *The four* bracelets were a hit! (similar to four spiritual laws). I plan to continue this method of reward at the end of each marking period this school year.

The women in ministry had a gathering last week in a venue in downtown Porto, which was perfect for our group! It was an encouraging time!

The Song of the Turtle Dove retreat center will have an association meeting February 11th and the director asked me to share a devotional thought. Pray for insight as I prepare. Two weeks later, on the 25th a *Teen Day* is being planned. I will have charge of the game time, so pray for my expertise in planning and executing fun games! A Brazilian pastor will be preparing a talk for the teens.

Studies continue with Rebekah and Fatima. Graça hasn't had a free Saturday in January, so we are slated to meet next week. Fatima is quite tired looking after her Mom 24/7. She needs to find some kind of daycare for her Mom to alleviate the full time burden of her care.

I have begun the office organization. Pray that I might stick to the task and continue with organizing my desk, as I did the mess on the floor this week! With a tidier ambience I am keen to begin planning for a women's training course. Pray for clear direction and women willing to make the commitment to be part of the training.

So, in summary thank the Lord for:

The primary age class going along so smoothly

Friends who hosted me in the UK and a very good break from ministry

Discovering an excellent devotional book that I already had in my library

and pray for:

Preparation of classes to challenge and meet students' spiritual needs

Witness to school staff and neighbors

Elderly day care for Fatima's Mom

Opportunities at the Song of the Turtle Dove retreat center

Planning of future events for women workers

Keeping up with my desire to read the Bible through this year

Clear direction in moving ahead with women's training

I do not take for granted the commitment each of you has to support this ministry in prayer or through financial giving. Thank you for re-committing to partner with me in 2017!

In His Great Love,

Nancy



HEBRON CHURCH
MARCH/APRIL
2017 NEWSLETTER