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October 2019

Fairview Church of the Brethren Newsletter

Pumpkin Party

How are those pumpkins you planted looking now? It's almost time for the children's Pumpkin Party which is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Area children will be invited to the church for some fun games, snacks, a written message on how Christians are like pumpkins, and a free pumpkin. You can help with this outreach program with your donations of pumpkins, by assisting with snacks, and by helping with the party the day of. Ideas for pumpkin or fall themed games and activities are also appreciated.



Fairview Float

It was in the Moulton Jamboree Parade and received 1st place. The float was also in the Centerville Pancake Days Parade.



October Birthdays

- 1 Darrell Koehler
- 2 Zachary Mason
- 3 Brettany Sebolt
- 4 Alice Brinegar
- 4 Sheila Selix
- 16 Landon Brinegar
- 20 Kim Lawson
- 24 Stacy Conley

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Fairview, As most of you know, Ronnie has decided to retire – completely – so we have sold our farm and plan to move to Kansas in November. Consequently, I will retire from the Fairview Pastoral Team at the end of this year. Though I am officially retiring and moving from this location, I plan to continue to serve Jesus through the Church of the Brethren and wherever God leads me in whatever opportunities for which He equips me. Serving as a pastor has been both humbling and a joy. I am grateful for your support and patience as I transitioned into this role and learned even more about service. You are each one precious to us and will be dearly remembered!

With love and blessings, *Diane Mason*



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Rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has
given you the autumn rains in righteousness.
He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.
- Joel 2:23



Following Jesus in Anointing – Fairview Newsletter, October 2019

Sometimes while **Following Jesus**, the path becomes especially challenging. In times like this, **anointing** is appropriate.

Anointing with oil was done in both Old and New Testament times. In the Bible we see people anointed before beginning specific tasks like becoming a priest or a king. They were anointed for comfort and strength and cleansing. Even Jesus was anointed in preparation for his death. In the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples to anoint people for healing (Mark 6:12-13).

At some time, every person—even the most devout—may become anxious, despairing, or ill. Following instructions given in the New Testament, the Brethren practice an ordinance called anointing: the prayerful, loving application of oil to the forehead of someone in physical or spiritual need.

Most of the time, members take initiative to request anointing for themselves or for members of their family and other times a pastor or deacon may suggest anointing. People have discovered anointing as a powerful symbol for the full range of renewal and healing. Because “wholeness” is more than physical health, people ask for anointing before surgery or during serious illness, and they also request it in times of decision-making, grief, emotional turmoil, or brokenness in relationships. “Wholeness” includes a peace which makes us willing to accept the will of God in our situation even if we don’t understand it.

The anointing service is often conducted in a home or small-group setting, although it can also be a meaningful part of public worship. Brethren do not believe the oil is magic; instead anointing becomes a visual prayer. It’s an act of obedience to pray together and pray with oil in particularly trying situations.

Before being anointed the person is given an opportunity to confess any sin. The Pastor or Deacon offers assurance of forgiveness from scripture. Then the pastor or other representative of the church applies oil three times to the forehead, symbolizing forgiveness of sin, strengthening of faith, and healing of body, mind, and spirit.

Finally the pastor lays hands on the one who was anointed, sometimes inviting others present to do the same, and prays specifically for this person's expressed concern. The laying on of hands is another way we can pray with our bodies. Touching the person also brings us together. The touch also reminds us of the gentle way Jesus touched people when he helped them.

“Doctors and medical science play an important role in healing, but doctors do not heal. God gives the healing.” (Zunkle, p. 30)

October Verse of the Month: James 5:14-15

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.”