On March 9 and 10, Olympic fervor swept through FCOB halls, as Church of the Brethren Learning Center students went for gold in their very own Olympics. The athletes hop scotched, shot hoops and jumped their way to Olympic glory in the Multipurpose Room “Olympic Arena.”

The COBLC Olympics is an annual fundraiser for the Learning Center which was started four years ago and was inspired by the Winter Olympics, which were taking place at the time. The center wanted to do something different to fundraise than just selling popcorn or cookies, which they had done in the past. The staff came up with the concept to parallel other sport school fundraising events, such as Jump Rope for Heart. Currently, the Olympics is the center’s one and only fundraiser. Approximately $3,000-$5,000 is raised every year, about four times that of previous fundraisers. The raised money goes to such projects as enhancements to the playground, school field trips, and special events like Culler Magic, or The Cosmic Adventures portable planetarium.

The ceremonies began with a “Parade of Nations” and each class “lighting” the Olympic flame, a red, orange and yellow tissue paper, while accompanied by Olympic music. Each class had chosen a country they would represent and also learn about that week. All of the participating countries’ flags hung on the stage during the competition.

Continued on page 10
Spring is here. Let’s get out into the fresh air. It allows us to stretch our legs, do yard work, go to a baseball game, or take a brisk walk. For me it’s time to go fishing again with my friends, my sons and grandchildren. It’s time to exercise our heart muscles. We have been inside for too long. Winter is over! Let’s go outside. It is a tremendous time to explore unfamiliar places and new terrain. It’s time to start over again, where we left last year’s projects undone. It’s time to engage again. It’s time to go fishing again.

The Church of Jesus Christ must always be engaged in advancing the Gospel, lest it be reduced to a building a creed or a ritual. Christianity is a movement, not an organization. Organizational Christianity can too easily attempt to reduce Christianity into an org-chart or a creed. We often forget that the Holy Spirit must be leading Jesus’ Church into unfamiliar places. We must be willing to risk in reaching out to new people with the good news of Jesus Christ. The changes in our vision at FCOB reveal this increased focus to reach out. “We will increase the number of people turning to Jesus Christ by multiplying the number of disciples reaching out to others by expanding the number of opportunities for spiritual growth and biblical outreach.”

Healthy Churches share a common outside focus. They focus on why they are there. They focus on purpose. They are to fish, as Jesus said, “I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17) The problem is when friends don’t fish, they focus on the wrongs thing. Inward focus causes conflict and thwarts the mission of God.

Max Lucado writes (An excerpt from, In the Eye of the Storm)

“When I was in high school, our family used to fish every year during spring break. One year my brother and my mom couldn’t go, so my dad let me invite a friend. We arrived late at night, unfolded the camper, and went to bed—dreaming of tomorrow’s day in the sun. But during the night, an unseasonably strong norther blew in. It got cold fast! The lake was a mountain range of white-topped waves. There was no way we could fish in that weather. ‘No problem,’ we said. ‘We’ll spend the day in the camper. After all, we have Monopoly. We have Reader’s Digest. We all know a few jokes. It’s not what we came to do, but we’ll make the best of it and fish tomorrow.’ So, huddled in the camper with a Coleman stove and a Monopoly board, we three fishermen passed the day-indoors. The hours passed slowly, but they did pass. Night finally came, and we crawled into the sleeping bags dreaming of angling. The next morning it wasn’t the wind that made the door hard to open, it was the ice! We tried to be cheerful but it was obvious that some of the gray had left the sky and entered our camper.

I noticed a few things I hadn’t seen before. I noticed that Mark had a few personality flaws. He was a bit too cocky about his opinions. He was easily irritated and constantly edgy. He couldn’t take any constructive criticism. Even though his socks did stink, he didn’t think it was my business to tell him. And then, I began to see Dad in a different light. When I mentioned to him that the eggs were soggy and the toast was burnt, he invited me to try my hand at the portable stove. Touchy, touchy, I said to myself. Nothing like being cooped up in a camper for four days with someone to help you see his real nature. The next day was even colder. ‘We’re going home’ were my father’s first words. No one objected. I learned a hard lesson that week. Not about fishing, but about people.

When those who are called to fish don’t fish, they fight.
Pastoral Perspective
by Pastor Calvin Park

“WE WASH FEET!”

Recently, a group of our high school students and adult leaders attended Roundtable, an Interdistrict conference for Church of the Brethren youth from up and down the east coast. We spent Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Bridgewater College worshiping God, reflecting in small groups, learning in workshops, eating, playing, and having a wonderful time. Weekend retreats are an amazing way for people to get to know and trust one another, as well as being spurred on in their spiritual journeys. Roundtable was just such a time, and I’m so thankful that we had the opportunity to be a part of it this year—and I hope we’ll have the same opportunity in years to come.

One of the unique aspects of Roundtable is that it is a conference specifically for youth in the Church of the Brethren. As such, we heard about aspects of our heritage that were and are impactful. Tyler Goss gave the message on Saturday afternoon, and in true Brethren style, it was about foot washing. He pointed out that one of the things that holds our church together is the fact that we wash feet. We are a church that, nationally, has widely differing opinions on a whole host of important topics. “How do we get along with people we don’t agree with?” Tyler asked. After a dramatic pause, he answered his own question: “We wash feet!”

It’s an odd practice, washing feet. On the one hand, it is an incredibly humbling experience to bend down and wash someone else’s feet. On the other hand, it is an incredibly humbling experience to allow our feet to be washed. In this ordinance, we remember how Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. How he was willing to wash Peter’s feet—the same Peter who mere hours later would deny that he even knew Jesus. He even washed Judas’ feet—the same Judas who in mere moments would leave the meal to betray Jesus to his death (see John 13.1-30). Washing feet isn’t only about humility, it’s about reconciliation, about binding together a group of disparate people who—if not for Jesus—might not have much in common.

As I write this, we are approaching Easter. On Maundy Thursday, we will celebrate Love Feast. We’ll wash one another’s feet. I can’t think of a practice that is more suited to establishing the odd, familiar community that Jesus intends for his people. We get along because we wash feet. We grow in love for one another because we wash feet. We build community when we wash feet. We humble ourselves when we wash feet. In fact, as we wash feet, an odd thing happens. We become more like Jesus.

Welcome Daniel Darling!

On May 3, 2017, Daniel Darling joined the FCOB Staff, filling the position of “Interim Assistant Director of Worship Arts and Technology.” Daniel brings a heart for supporting worship ministry reflective of his work on Worship Teams in other congregational settings, and his more recent involvement with music for the FCOB 9:45 Contemporary and the 11:15 Basement services. Prior to joining the FCOB Staff, he has spent the past seven years in the private sector working in marketing, financial analytical systems, banking financial services sales and customer relations. Daniel has been trained as a classical violinist and has played with the Washington Philharmonic Orchestra. His long-term goal is to pursue his calling as a Worship Pastor. Daniel’s initial focus will be working with our Pastors and Music Directors in planning weekly worship services and collaborating with members of the Worship Commission, Staff and Volunteer A/V Team for ensuring elements of the communication and technology systems are in place for supporting each service. Daniel is married to Isabella Darling, granddaughter of Janice and Galen Martin. Please welcome Daniel to the FCOB Staff family.
FCOB FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION

by Jennifer Todd

On April 8, 2017, FCOB hosted the Family Easter Celebration in the FCOB Multipurpose Room. We had the support of 22 dedicated volunteers and were blessed to serve 93 children and 40 families. The families navigated their way through seven stations representing the resurrection story. The families started at the Palm Sunday station, where they created donkeys and palm leaf crosses. The next station was the Last Supper, which was sponsored by Shepherd’s Spring. Here, the children completed a table setting relay and received gold fish crackers. The third station was The Cross, where the children painted with water colors to reveal three crosses. At the fourth station children and their families learned of how Jesus’ body was wrapped in a cloth and placed in the tomb. The craft for this was the jelly bean prayer bracelet. The fifth station was an emphasis of the rock being rolled away, and here the children had an egg stacking contest. The empty tomb station followed, where the families participated in an egg transfer game. The seventh and final station was digging for eggs in sand; here the children found candy to represent the “sweet surprise” that Jesus has risen!

When finished with the stations, the children participated in four Easter egg hunts. The hunts were supported with 1,200 eggs stuffed with candy donations from the congregation. The families also enjoyed the cookies donated and prepared by the Guild and families who participated in baking night.

Thank you to everyone involved, with a special thanks to the following: Linda Shultz, Sandy Grove, Patti Grove, Dotty Lucernoni, Lorraine Defries, Kathy Eichelberger, Gerri Lehman, Peggy Waldrep, Ashley Rhea, Margaret Zimmerman, Jill Wallin, Calvin Park, Brandi Guajardo, Maggie Couch, The McGillivray Family, Shepherd’s Spring staff (Britnee Harbaugh), The Glessners, Barbara Eaton, The Flanagans, and Crouses. You made this event a great success! We had the opportunity to provide a Christ-centered Easter event, while still providing outreach to new families.
MEN’S HALF DAY RETREAT

by Tom Stackhouse

Over 25 FCOB men gathered on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for a great half day conference, “Philemon: Grace received, Grace Extended.” The men were taught the book of Philemon by Pastor Peter, Jeremiah Kelly, Marc Anderson and Tom Stackhouse, with breakout sessions that involved deep questions related to the nature of grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. These men took the step forward to go deeper with their FCOB brothers, and become better equipped for greater maturity in Christ, as we continue to serve the Lord in the places He has called us.

Paul’s letter to Philemon is short and packed full of the foundational message of living out the gospel. Here Philemon is challenged by having his faith put into practice to accept back his runaway slave Onesimus. After running away, Onesimus ran into Paul and through Paul’s teachings, fell in love with Jesus. Paul is sending Onesimus back to be reconciled to Philemon as a new brother in Christ! Paul shows us there must be unity among the body of Christ, and that grace is critical to this unity. Philemon, and each one of us who claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, must be willing to provide grace as well as receive grace from each other. Through living out the message of the gospel, we should always be quick to forgive and seek out reconciliation where a wrong has occurred. It is in this place of forgiveness and unity that we can live in true freedom to share agape love, and give others the freedom to do the same.

We, as men of FCOB united together under Christ, are light to a dark world, so in need of this message of Truth.

IN MEMORIAM

The DoveTales staff would like to remember Darl Hinkle, who passed away on April 20, 2017 in Las Vegas. Darl was a longtime DoveTales contributor and FCOB member. Our thoughts and prayers are with Darl’s family.

Participants of the Men’s Half Day Retreat.
(Photo credit: Jeremiah Kelly)

Participants of the Men’s Half Day Retreat.
(Photo credit: Jeremiah Kelly)
The Parents g.group recently welcomed new members at an informal gathering in the Multi-Purpose Room designed to mark the beginning of their new study, “Sticky Faith” by Kara Powell. “Sticky Faith” is a product of extensive research by the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) into the most effective aspects of Christian parenting that will encourage children to have a lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Some of the most influential findings from this research were that children need to see authentic grace and trust in Jesus modeled by an intentional network of believers, whose actions flow out of their identity as a Christ-follower and relationship with Him.

The group was formed to establish an intentional community within FCOB for parents to learn, grow, and encourage each other in their faith and parenting journey. In addition to Sunday morning discussion, the group has multiple flexible opportunities for parents to plug in where they are able, including:

- Quarterly family fellowships at members’ houses that include dinner and simple community service activities for the kids.
- Monthly Saturday night meetings at the church on the first Saturday of the month, as an additional opportunity for intentional family fellowship, children's service project and men's/women's breakout informal discussion.
- A private group on Facebook as a way for members to share resources, encouragement, and upcoming events throughout the week.
- Intentional parent/child and family events throughout the year.

The overarching goal of the group is to reach out to a wide range of families (from parents of small babies, to mentor parents with teenagers or adult children) doing life together within the church.

Interested parents at any stage are welcome to join at any time or through any of the forums. Feel free to contact Chris and Jen Juenger at juengerc@gmail.com for further information or questions.
For years, our high school youth group has gone to Impact, a fast-paced retreat in Ocean City. This year, we decided to try something new and attend Roundtable. Nobody knew quite what to expect at Roundtable. We knew that it was a high school conference for the Brethren denomination at Bridgewater College and beyond that, we were clueless. We were pleasantly surprised to absorb the spiritual revelations, while having fun fellowshipping within our group and with other youth.

The keynote speakers, Tyler and Chelsea Goss, introduced the topic of Love Feast. I had never been to Love Feast before, and I enjoyed learning about it and asking tons of questions to my small group leader during that time. (I did end up attending Love Feast for the first time this past April.) Small groups were a great opportunity to meet new people, because everybody was mixed up with people that didn’t go to the same church, and some weren’t in the same district. I was fortunate to be a part of a supportive and talkative small group that really connected well with each other and that made the retreat all the more enjoyable.

On Saturday evening, we had a time of evening reflections following a traditional service in the chapel. We heard about Kintsugi, a Japanese art form, where one puts back together broken pieces of pottery with glue and the cracks are dusted with a shimmery metallic color. It views the broken pieces and the act of repairing them as a beautiful part of the piece and not something to disguise. They used this as a metaphor to illustrate that our bumps along the way are still part of the journey and one of the reasons why we made it to our destination.

Besides our large group sessions, we had the opportunity to explore different workshops and we had a bit of free time. The band Mutual Kumquat played a concert on Friday night and sang silly songs to keep us entertained. On Saturday night, there was a variety show of sorts. It was all great fun, and even the worst part of the trip—sleeping on hardwood gym floors, was easily remedied by the 12 flavors of ice cream available in the dining hall when we woke up!

God Sightings

It is always amazing to watch God work through our brothers and sisters in Christ. This year we had the opportunity to be led in worship by our students at our Easter Sunrise Service. Students lead praise through music, lead us in prayers, proclaimed the word, and even shared their own poems. God works in some fabulous ways. (Pastor Calvin Park)
Have you ever wondered what spiritual gifts the Lord has given you? Well, it’s time to find out at FCOB’s Gift Discovery Class, taught by Janice Bowman, Director of Lay Ministries, with group leaders Beth Davis-Reinhold and Charles Dalphon.

The Gift Discovery class is a short-term group that examines spiritual gifts and ways to use them in the church and other ministries. Currently, the class takes about four hours, spread over three consecutive Sunday mornings (plans are in the works to hold it on a single Saturday morning several times a year). Either way, it is time well invested in yourself and your ministry.

This class starts by determining your spiritual gifts. You take an assessment: you love this activity, you hate that one, you can take or leave a third. The scores guide you to the spiritual gifts that you use most naturally. Spiritual gifts include preaching and prophecy, of course. They also include other gifts that are less recognized, but no less important, such as mercy and helps (all those behind-the-scenes tasks, without which no church runs smoothly.) As one student put it, “No matter how good the preaching is, no one wants to attend a church with dirty bathrooms.”

In the second class, we explore Heart/Passion. What group of people do you love to work with? What issues are of paramount importance to you? What do you do well and love to do?

Abilities and Personal style are examined in the third session. God has given us abilities to do various things well. Using those abilities for the work of God changes a talent into an opportunity for ministry. God loves variety, and He’ll find a way to use your abilities in a ministry, if you just give Him the chance.

Some of us prefer a lot of structure in our work; some like to wing it. Some folks tend to focus on the job and gather a team to get the job done; others focus on nurturing the team as they accomplish their task. There is no wrong way, except a way that feels wrong for you. However, it’s helpful to be aware of your preferences when choosing an area in which to serve.

When the class is over, participants meet one-on-one with Janice to begin the process of exploring ministries that may fit how God has shaped them.

In the class, a video clip is shown from Chariots of Fire about Eric Liddell, who won several races in the 1924 Olympics. Running was high on his list of priorities, but he knew that his ultimate purpose was to serve God as a missionary to China. At the same time, he could not ignore his abilities and He stated, “When I run, I feel the pleasure of God.” For him, to neglect running was to hold God in contempt. This is one of the challenges presented to the participants in the Gift Discovery class.

What do you do that causes you to feel the pleasure of God? If you aren’t sure, keep your eye on the bulletin and join the next Gifts Discovery Class.
On Easter Monday, April 17, 11 volunteers from FCOB left Frederick at 6:55 a.m. to travel to the Christian Aid Ministries facility in Ephrata, PA. We arrived at 9:00 a.m. When we entered the facility, we all had to don a hair net, white paper gowns, cotton gloves, and plastic gloves. Since the room where the chicken is canned is cool, we all wore a sweatshirt or a sweater under our gowns. When we entered the canning room, the air was cool and the smell of raw chicken was present. Soon we all found a job to do. Kathy Staley and Myrtle Sturtz put salt in the tin cans and made sure all the canners had cans. Troy Burrier and Melvin Shaffer carried tubs of chicken thighs and legs to the canners. Charles and Linda Bruchey, Laurie Dorsey, Kenny Fogle, and Virgil Earp packed the chicken in the cans. The cans of chicken weighed 1.96 - 2.00 pounds and then the can of chicken was put on a conveyor belt to get a lid. Mike Dorsey and Bonnie Staley had to make sure the expiration date was legible and wipe each can around the top outer rim. By 10:00 a.m., we had all the chicken we were supposed to can finished. The people in charge said we did such a good job that we finished early. The cans of chicken were put in huge metal baskets and sent to the processing room. We waited until 10:45 a.m., when we were served a delicious meal of lasagna, salad, bread, and pie and cake. After lunch, we put labels on the cans of chicken. The cans from the metal baskets were put on a roller, and people on both sides of the table grabbed a can and glued a label on each can. The labeled cans were put on an adjacent roller, and then packed in boxes. The cases of chicken will go to Venezuela, and FCOB will receive cases of chicken for the Deacon Pantry for those in need of food. We returned to Frederick around 4:30 p.m.

Kathy Staley and Bonnie Staley volunteered for the first time. Kathy was impressed with the whole process. She said, “Everything was well organized. It’s a great cause, and I didn’t expect lunch. I took a book to read on the way, but didn’t read it, as we all fellowshipped on the way there and back.” Kathy said she would go again.

All 11 of us had a great time and feel blessed, that we could help other people in need. Together with 33 other volunteers, we canned 1200 cans of chicken! FCOB marked 40 years this year in participating in the Meat Canning Project. Please consider being a part of year 41 for FCOB next Easter Monday in 2018. Contact Mike Dorsey to sign up or for more information.
The Olympics were comprised of four sport categories: volleyball, track and field, basketball and gymnastics. The students participated in each sport, rotating to the next after 20 minutes. The Olympics were complete with such details as the Olympic café and spectators—families who came to participate and cheer on the students.

The event reinforced the concept “we’re doing our best and cheering on our friends,” without declaring any individual winners. It also reflected its theme: “Doing Our Best...for God.” During the closing ceremony, each child received a gold medal—not because they had won, or were better than someone else. “Why?” asked the students. The Olympic emcee, COBLC Director, Jenny Shively said, “Because we did our best!” The medals were made out of wood by one of the COBLC dads and spray painted gold.

The Grand Prize for the top fundraising student was a Family Night Out, consisting of a 4-pack movie tickets and a $50 gift card to T.G.I. Friday’s.
IT’S TIME TO GET OUTSIDE (CONT.)

When those who are called to fish don’t fish, they fight.
When energy intended to be used outside is used inside, the result is explosive.
Instead of casting nets, we cast stones.
Instead of extending helping hands, we point accusing fingers.
Instead of being fishers of the lost, we become critics of the saved.
Rather than helping the hurting, we hurt the helpers. The result? Church scrooges. ‘Bah humbug’ spirituality. Beady eyes searching for warts on others while ignoring the warts on the nose below. Crooked fingers that bypass strengths and point out weaknesses.
And, sadly, poor go unfed, confused go uncounseled, and lost go unreached.
When those who are called to fish don’t fish, they fight.
But note the other side of the fish tale: When those who are called to fish, fish—they flourish!”

Let’s get outside; it’s time to fish again!

Growing in Christ, Pastor Gene

OUTDOOR PICNIC & BAPTISM
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

FCOB SNAPSHOTS

2017 Love Feast & Communion.
(Photo credit: Janice Bowman)

Ruth and Daryl Poffenberger showing off their red 1957 Chevrolet at The 6th Annual FCOB & Clustered Spires Car Cruise-in and Food Drive on April 8, 2017. The event, organized by Ed Moss, featured about 40 cars and trucks, raised almost $500 dollars, and collected ten bags of food for the Deacons Pantry and Band of Brothers.
(Photo credit: Katherine Lukaszewicz)
### JUNE

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<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Kindergarten Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>8:30 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>FCOB101 Membership Intensive</td>
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<td>6.5 - 6.30</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>COBLIC Summer Camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.21</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Service of Healing</td>
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<td>6.25</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Outdoor Baptism &amp; Church Picnic</td>
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<td>6.28 - 7.2</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
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### JULY

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<tr>
<td>7.2-7</td>
<td>ALL DAY</td>
<td>YouthWorks! (MS/HS)</td>
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<td>7.16-22</td>
<td>ALL DAY</td>
<td>HS/College BDM Mission Trip</td>
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<td>Vacation Bible School</td>
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<td>7.9-7.13</td>
<td>6:00 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td>Bread &amp; Cup Communion</td>
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### AUGUST

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<td>FCOB101 Membership Intensive</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12:00 - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Picnic in the Park</td>
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<td>8.27</td>
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<td>fcobfamilies Fall Kickoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>11am - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Appreciation Picnic</td>
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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