

Amwell Echoes

Volume 1, Issue III

September 2000

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 ?Deacons:
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 - chairman
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Pastor's Place

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."
 Isaiah 64:4

What a precious promise from the Lord. As I write this from my office at home I am living that promise today. After over twenty years of serving the Lord at Amwell and working a secular profession, to think that God would open the door to solely and exclusively serve Him in ministry is AWESOME.

Thank you for stepping out in faith and resoundingly 'Amening' God's timing by your loving and

enthusiastic support!

Well, now what?

In meeting with many of the church leaders and team members over the past few weeks the consensus is that God is moving in our midst. We can see prayers being answered for healing, employment and restored relationships. On the last day of Vacation Bible School over twenty kids raised their hands to accept Christ as Savior and over the last few weeks we have been privileged to welcome a number of visitors on Sunday morning, some of whom are



Pastor Bob

interested in becoming regular attendees.

Pray for revival! Pray for all of us to be open and enthusiastic about God's plan for Amwell—we haven't even begun to see what God has prepared for us!+

Pastor Bob

Editor's Notes

Welcome to our third issue of the Amwell Echoes newsletter.

Don't forget November 2nd is Election Day. I Peter 2:13a says "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:" God has



established the governments and calls us to be responsible citizens. If you are not registered to vote you can register at your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

For information on the

two main candidates you can look online at their official campaign sites: <http://www.algore2000.com> and <http://www.georgewbush.com>.

Both candidates have their plans for solving the major issues facing the nation on their sites. On Bush's site click on

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Blanche's Corner

How many of you know that we have a library in the church? Well, we do. And it's there for everyone to use and enjoy.

The library contains many different books for research, study and education. There are videotape series on many different topics. There are children's books and the most recent addition, the entire collection of VeggieTale videos.

If you would like to check something out of the library it works in just the same way that the public library used to work before it was computerized. Each book or video has a sleeve with a card in it. Take the card out, write your name and the date you checked it out and deposit it in the silver card holder on the bookshelf.

If you find a book without a sleeve and card notify Blanche Carl, sometimes people have left books in the

library for donation without telling anyone. If you would like to donate books to the library please give them to Blanche so that she can properly catalog and label them for everyone's use.

Many of the books in the library are very old and out of print. Please remember, when you borrow something you must fill out a card.

So check out the library and see if there is anything you would like to check out.+

Stories from the Internet

WHAT ABOUT ABSTINENCE?

by Robert Layton

I was holding a notice from my 13-year-old son's school announcing a meeting to preview the new course in sexuality. Parents could examine the curriculum and take part in an actual lesson presented exactly as it would be given to the students. When I arrived at the school, I was surprised to discover only about a dozen parents there. As we waited for the presentation, I thumbed through page after page of instructions in the prevention of pregnancy or disease. I found abstinence mentioned only in passing. When the teacher arrived with the school nurse, she asked if there were any

questions. I asked why abstinence did not play a noticeable part in the material.

What happened next was shocking. There was a great deal of laughter, and someone suggested that if I thought abstinence had any merit, I should go back to burying my head in the sand. The teacher and the nurse said nothing as I drowned in a sea of embarrassment. My mind had gone blank, and I could think of nothing to say. The teacher explained to me that the job of the school was to teach "facts" and the home was responsible for moral training. I sat in silence for the next 20 minutes as the course was explained. The other parents seemed to give their unqualified support to the materials.

"Donuts at the back," announced the teacher during the break. "I'd like you to put on the name tags we

have prepared. They're right by the donuts and mingle with the other parents." Everyone moved to the back of the room. As I watched them affixing their name tags and shaking hands, I sat deep in thought. I was ashamed that I had not been able to convince them to include a serious discussion of abstinence in the materials. I uttered a silent prayer for guidance. My thoughts were interrupted by the teacher's hand on my shoulder. "Won't you join the others, Mr. Layton?" The nurse smiled sweetly at me. "The donuts are good." "Thank you, no," I replied. "Well, then, how about a name tag? I'm sure the others would like to meet you." "Somehow I doubt that," I replied. "Won't you please join them?" she coaxed. Then I heard a still, small

What about Abstinence (Cont on p. 8)

Congregation News:

Congratulations are in order to the Ferello family. On June 20th, 2000 at 4:40 pm and 4:41 pm two new members entered their family and ours. Sarah Katherine was born at 4:40 pm and weighed 4 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. Maria Rebecca was born at 4:41 pm and weighed 4 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19

inches long. Please join me in welcoming the two little girls and congratulating mom,

Sherry and dad, Joe. And if you have the time to help, I'm sure Sherry and the girls would love a chance to get out of the house and see the world, or at least the mall.

More congratulations to Wayne Emery and Jody Helmlinger on the birth of their daughter Miranda Noelle.

Miranda was born June 25th, at 1:45 am weighing 9 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 21 inches long.

On Tuesday, July 2nd the Lord called home His beloved child James Miller. Funeral services, performed by Pastor Robert DiSalvio, were held on July 7th. Our deepest sympathies to his wife Barbara Miller and their children and grandchildren.

Youth News & Events

Hey Kids! If you enjoyed Vacation Bible School you'll really enjoy the Friday Night Youth Group. Every week there's something to do either at the church, someone's house or a 'field trip'. Exciting things happen all year long so don't miss out.

The kickoff rally is Saturday, September 23 at the church. That's Saturday, not Friday. It starts at 5:00 pm and ends around 7:30 pm.



The church grounds will be transformed into a Carnival. There will be food (read junk food). There will be game booths with games like

balloon darts, ring toss, and relay races. There will be face painting and there will be a music tent where you can listen to people sing solos or join in on praise and chorus songs.

At the end of the evening there will be a get together in the sanctuary to talk about upcoming youth events like Sunday School and the regular Friday meetings.

Come on out for a really fun time and bring some friends.+

Vacation Bible School

We have just completed our 49th year of Vacation Bible School at Amwell Church of the Brethren. This year's theme was 'Road Rally 2000' where each day the children raced down a different road in the Bible. The first day was The Road to the Sea with Moses and the last day was The Road to Heaven. On the last day Pastor Bob gave an invitation to all the children and there were over 20 decisions for Christ

that morning.

There were classes for children from Preschool to High School. And this year we had a one day class for adults, many of whom expressed a desire to have a daily adult class next year. All together we averaged about eighty-five children a day.

Every morning we started the

Every year VBS relies on offerings, donations and volunteers and every year God provides exactly what is needed.

day with singing, a love offering and prayer. The children also enjoyed skits by 'Crash Carson' and 'Lightning Man' and puppet shows with Otto. Then the children would go to their individual classes for a lesson, crafts, a snack and free time for exercise and rest. They also returned to the sanctuary for music time to learn the songs they would perform during the Friday night closing program.

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What We're Doing

School is starting again and so are extracurricular activities. If you participate in sports, music, dance, theatre, 4H or any type of extra-curricular activity let me know and it will end up here. Give me your game schedules and recital dates and people



will know when to show up and support you.

And if you win an award of any kind I'll print it here. But you have to tell me about it. That includes any academic honors you may receive

at school.

This section is for kids of all ages not just high schoolers so let me know what you're up to and I'll let everyone else know too.+



International News

AMERICA:

An illegal pyramid scheme based on religion is being promoted over the telephone. Callers tell prospective members of the pyramid "club" that they can get as much as \$48,000 if they give a gift of \$2,000 and recruit others to do the same, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Recruiters make the false claim in their materials that the club is legal because the money is a gift, the newspaper reported.

...The scam, which has been spreading fast, has a religious aspect, Mike King, police chief in Prairie du Chien, Wis., told the Sentinel. It is being advertised as a Christian 'gifting' club, as if "to bring people

closer to Christianity," he said.

..."We can't put it any clearer: This is an illegal pyramid scheme," Bill Oemichen of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, told the Sentinel.

(source: *Crosswalk.com*)

MIDDLE EAST:

A persecuted Christian will be allowed to leave a Muslim country for New Zealand. Mohammed Omer Haji, a convert to Christianity, and his family were scheduled to leave the Arab Gulf state of Yemen by Aug. 9, according to United Nations officials, Compass Direct reported. But the Yemen

government has put a hold on their exodus claiming it will set a political precedence for others to follow.

...Haji, 27, was jailed twice and put on trial in June on charges of committing heresy, a capital offense under Islamic law. "I hold on to Christianity and I refuse to repent," he said at the trial, according to Compass. He was given a week to recant or face execution, but a subsequent hearing reversed the order and ruled that he should be deported. A prosecutor declared at the hearing that Muslim sharia law allows the freedom to join another religion, but said converts must not teach it to others.

...Haji arrived in Yemen in 1994 as a refugee from Somalia. According to the Yemen Times there is "an increasing wave of attempts to convert the vulnerable sectors of the refugee

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Meet the Members

This issue we meet Steve and Karen Harclerode. They will be attending New Member classes in the fall though Steve has been attending the Brethren church since childhood, which is when he accepted Christ into his life. Karen became a Christian at the age of eight.

Steve and Karen have been married twelve and a half years since March 5th, 1988 and were introduced by

Steve's sister and another church friend. They were married in a Brethren church in Pennsylvania and found our church through the Internet (though not by our website) when they started searching for a Brethren church in New Jersey.

They are also two of our farthest traveling members. They live sixty-five miles away in Jackson, NJ. While Steve works at Lucent Technologies, Karen is retired from the daily grind.

When they're not working, or traveling to be with all of us, Steve and Karen enjoy spending time with their friends, playing board games, reading and working on the computer. Karen also enjoys cooking and playing the trumpet.

If you haven't had the chance to meet them yet, introduce yourself and get to know them better. They are here every Sunday and also come out for Family Night on Wednesdays.+

Missions Corner

The following is a complete listing of missionaries supported by Amwell Church of the Brethren. Please take some time to send them a card or a letter of encouragement. I'm sure that our missionaries would love to know that we think of them and care about how they are doing.

Rev. Leon & Lorraine Dillinger
C/O UFM International
Box 306
Bala-Cynwyd, PA 19004

Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Martinez
C/O OC International
P.O. Box 36900
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Rev. & Mrs. Benjamin Meney
Box 87
Williamsburg, KY 40769

Mrs. Ruby Simek
Box 71
Ferguson, KY 42533

Word of Life
Dave & Jane Van Camp
5144 Lunn Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803

Word of Life
Dave Huizing
401 N. Howell Ave.
Riverhead, NY 11901 +

International News (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

community to Christianity," and refugees convert because of the "financial benefits they are promised." U.S. Rep. Bob Clement of Tennessee questioned that, saying he believes Haji is authentically a Christian, Compass reported. Haji has been "subject to tremendous pressure by police, reportedly including beatings, threats, incarceration, and separation from his family" for several months, Clement wrote in a letter to the United Nations. He said he didn't think Haji would have persisted in proclaiming his faith in Christ when recanting "would relieve his suffering."

(source: Crosswalk.com)

PHILIPPINES:

This story is especially poignant for me. I went to Valley Christian High School in San Jose, CA with the Silvosos' daughter, Marilyn, (when she wasn't living in other countries).

A simple prayer started a church in the Philippines, according to Harvest Evangelism, a San Jose, Calif. based missions organization. Staff members Larry Ihle, Scott Kilber, and Dick Hochreiter accompanied founders Ed and Ruth Silvosos on a recent visit to Manila, the country's

capital. When they arrived at the Hyatt Hotel, the men offered to pray with the general manager, who decided to follow Christ, the ministry said. The manager and another worker then introduced them to 40 other employees. As the men prayed with each of them, several experienced physical healings and 20 became Christians, the ministry said.

...On Sunday morning, they held church in the hotel and seven of the new converts were baptized there in their new congregation. The ministry team also connected the new congregation with a local pastor who will oversee the church. "From now on, anyone checking into the hotel is also checking into a church," the missionaries said.

(source: Crosswalk.com)+

What is Family Night?

Family Night, which will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 13th, is our church's version of Bible Study.

Every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm about twenty to thirty members get together for food, fellowship, prayer and a lesson from Pastor Bob. Last year we started in the book of John and will pick up this

year where we left off.

The lessons are very thorough and add insight to everyone's life.

The meals are generally potluck and you can enjoy everything from hot dogs and beans, to take out, to Bob Hughes special Mexican creations. There are also delicious desserts to taste, especially when the occasional birthday cake appears.

Our choir director, Jean DiSalvio, also tries to have choir practice on

Wednesday nights between dinner and the lesson for any who want to join. We've been learning some really exciting songs.

Babysitting is usually available for the children free of charge.

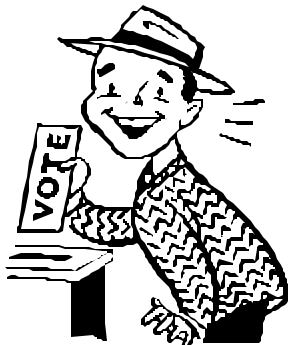
You can either join us at 6:30 pm for dinner or 7:45 pm for prayer and a lesson from Pastor Bob. So bring a tasty dish and join us for a really fun and enriching time.+



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Issues and on Gore's site click on Agenda.

There is also a website run by the Center for Public Integrity where you can find personal, professional and financial information about each candidate and their campaign. Including how



much money each has spent to date. The address is [http://www.](http://www.publicintegrity.org/reports/bop2000/gore-index.htm)

[publicintegrity.org/reports/bop2000/gore-index.htm](http://www.publicintegrity.org/reports/bop2000/gore-index.htm) or [bush-index.htm](http://www.bush-index.htm).

Another website asks you to fill out a short questionnaire about how you would vote on the issues and then tells you which

candidate, of all parties, most closely reflects your views. The address is <http://www.govote.com>.

If anyone would like to contribute original articles, poetry, recipes, book reviews or memories of church events it would be gratefully accepted. As always, if anyone is interested in working on the newsletter in any capacity please contact me.+

Heritage Day

What is Heritage Day? Well, it used to be called Homecoming Day. Homecoming Day, started in 1928, was held once a year and families that had moved out of the area would travel to Amwell to see family and friends for a special Sunday service, guest speaker and luncheon.

Amwell Church of the Brethren has been in existence, originally meeting in member households, since 1733. A permanent church building was erected in 1811 and then rebuilt in 1856.



As the world has gotten busier and people have moved farther away it has become difficult for people to return to Amwell for one Sunday a year. So we have renamed it Heritage Day.

Heritage Day is a time where we remember our church history and the great men and women of God that built this church and kept it growing for Christ for over two centuries! Even when the original

church building was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1950 it was quickly restored by its faithful congregation.

This year we will be taking special time out to remember our dear brothers and sisters in Christ that have gone on to be with the Lord. While we know they are in a better place we still miss them. Sometimes we don't know the effect someone has had on our lives until they are gone. Many of our members will speak on someone close to them that has passed away over the last few years. It will be a special time to remember what they have meant to us and the work that they did for Christ in their lifetime.+

VBS (Continued from page 3)

The closing program started at 7:30 and was attended by moms and dads, aunts and uncles and grandparents. The children performed skits and sang songs about what they had learned throughout the two weeks of VBS. Afterward the parents were invited back to the classrooms to meet the teachers and admire their children's crafts.

The children also donated items for our missions project. This year

\$436.61 was collected through offerings for our two missions projects. Some of the money will go to The Pocket Testament League based in Lititz, PA. The rest of the money will go to the Shoebox Ministry of Samaritan's Purse where items such as crayons, soap and clothes are collected and put into shoeboxes to give to children in war torn countries.

Every year VBS relies on offerings, donations and volunteers and every

year God provides exactly what is needed. This year we had 28 teachers and helpers all together, many of whom went far beyond the work they were called to do.

This year's VBS was a tremendous undertaking. Next year will be our 50th year of Vacation Bible School and we plan on doing something very special to celebrate. If you feel you can help in any way please pray about it and contact our Director of VBS, Barbara Waldron.+

Youth Ministries

Giant Kickoff Rally scheduled for September 23, 2000

Using a carnival theme with food and game booths, along with a music tent, we will be reaching out to the kids in the community with the Gospel.

A letter has gone out to approximately 130 households whose kids

have, over the past two years, attended VBS. The letter notifies them about our youth ministries:

- 1) Sunday school for all ages open to families with no church affiliation.
- 2) Word of Life Club - Olympi-

ans - 1st through 6th Grade

- 3) Teen Youth Group - 7th Grade and up

The Friday Night Youth Groups are open to kids regardless of church affiliation. Please pray that God blesses the ministries and staff.+

September 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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	29	30

Schedule of Events

- ? 9/7 - Busy Bee's Pampered Chef party
- ? 9/10 - Heritage Day/Praise & Prayer
- ? 9/13 - Family Night begins
- ? 9/17 - Mission's Sunday
- ? 9/17 - Baby shower for Ferello twins
- ? 9/22 - Youth Group Kickoff Party
- ? 9/24 - Praise & Prayer

Coming in October

- ? 10/5 - Busy Bee's Auction
- ? 10/8 - Praise & Prayer
- ? 10/15 - Mission's Sunday
- ? 10/22 - Praise & Prayer

Coming in November

- ? 11/12 - Praise & Prayer
- ? 11/19 - Mission's Sunday
- ? 11/19 - Friends Day—Guest Speaker George Gallop Jr.
- ? 11/26 - Praise & Prayer

Congressional Addresses

If you would like to write, email or phone your local Representative or Senators their contact information is as follows:

Representative for Flemington,
08822-2037
Honorable Rush D. Holt (D)
1630 Longworth



Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5801

Email: rush.holt@mail.house.gov
Web page: <http://www.house.gov/rholt/>

If you don't live in Flemington you can find your Representative at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> by using your zip code and state of residence.

New Jersey Senators:
Senator Robert Torricelli (D)
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3224

Email: senator_torricelli@torricelli.senate.gov
Web page: <http://www.senate.gov/~torricelli/>



Senator Frank Lautenberg (D)
506 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4744
Fax (202) 224-9707

Email: frank_lautenberg@lautenberg.senate.gov
Web page: <http://www.senate.gov/~lautenberg/>

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**Amwell
Church of the Brethren**

*The Friendly, Praying, Singing Church,
Preaching and Teaching Christ
Crucified, Risen and Coming Again.*



What about Abstinence (Cont from p. 2)
voice whisper, "Don't go." The instruction was unmistakable. "Don't go!"

"I'll just wait here," I said. When the class was called back to order, the teacher looked around the long table and thanked everyone for putting on name tags. She ignored me. Then she said, "Now we're going to give you the same lesson we'll be giving your children. Everyone please peel off your name tags." I watched in silence as the tags came off. "Now, then, on the back of one of the tags, I drew a tiny flower. Who has it, please?" The gentleman across from me held it up. "Here it is!"

"All right," she said. "The flower represents disease. Do you recall with whom you shook hands?" He pointed to a couple of people. "Very good," she replied. "The handshake in this case is intimacy. So the two people you had

contact with now have the disease." There was laughter and joking among the parents. The teacher continued, "And with whom did the two of YOU shake hands?" The point was well taken, and she explained how this lesson would show students how quickly disease is spread. "Since we all shook hands, we all have the disease" It was then that I heard the still, small voice again. "Speak now," it said, "but be humble." I noted wryly the latter admonition, then rose from my chair. I apologized for any upset I might have caused earlier, congratulated the teacher on an excellent lesson that would impress the youth, and concluded by saying I had only one small point I wished to make. "Not all of us were infected," I said. "One of us ABSTAINED."+

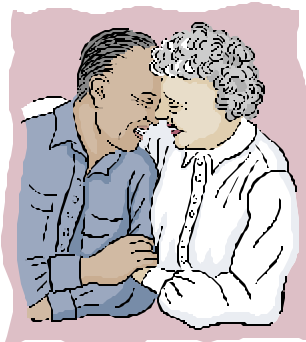
Mini Ministries at Amwell

Need to Feed:

Need to Feed provides meals for families with new babies, illness, grieving or other needs. If you could help make a meal for a church family in need please contact Tami Hettman.

Emergency Preparedness Pantry:

The Emergency Preparedness Pantry is always collecting non-perishable foods in case of a natural disaster or other emergency that may strike our church family. If you can contribute or have ques-



tions about what is needed please contact Joseph Ferello.

Food Pantry:

The Food Pantry also collects food but not for emergencies. This food is given to the Flemington Food Pantry to help the needy families of Hunterdon County on a daily basis. Please bring your donations to the back of the sanctuary near the coat racks. If you're unsure of what to bring contact Blanche Carl or Barbara Waldron.

The Busy Bees:

The Busy Bees have been organizing showers, parties, weddings and contributing their time to various charities at Amwell for over fifty years. If you would like to learn more about the Busy Bees and how to join contact Barbara Waldron.

Outreach Ministry:

The Outreach ministry focuses on reaching the neighborhood of our church home. This year they are focusing on visiting the homes of every family living within a three mile radius of Amwell. If you would like to participate contact George Hettman.