

# Amwell Echoes

WINTER 2001

Volume 2 Issue 2

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## **From The Pastor's Pen . . .**

*by Robert DiSalvio, Pastor at Amwell COB*



As we close in on the end of 2001, we find ourselves still reeling from recent, horrific events. The end of the twenty century found many people fearing Y2K. Remember?? Folks were storing up food and water against the mystical moment when, at 12:00 AM January 1st, 2000, life as we know it changed. The world watched... the world waited...what happened?? NOTHING!!

We all felt a little foolish, laughed, joked, kicked ourselves, and resumed our lives-- business as usual.

If Y2K accomplished one thing, I would speculate it added to America's apathy and its skepticism.

Our computer world, our consumer lifestyle and man-made safe guards had come through again. (You know, the cavalry rode over the hill and saved us!) All was well and we celebrated: "Eat, drink and be merry".

Then it happened, September 11, 2001. An ordinary day. 9 AM and get your coffee, sit at your desk, turn on your computer, see that you have 25 emails, mumble under your voice about Tuesdays, hear a thundering sound, feel the rumble, ask the question "What's that noise?", then nothing. Then Eternity.

(continued page 9)

## **Blanche's Corner**

by *Blanche Carl*

### **Fruit of the Vine:**

### **A History of the Brethren 1708-1995**

by **Donald F. Durnbaugh**

A welcome survey of Brethren history comes now from the able pen of Donald Durnbaugh, who has invested his life in researching and chronicling the history of the group which began at Schwarzenau, Germany in 1708. This is the first general Brethren history since Floyd Mallot's *Studies in Brethren History*, but aims to be more comprehensive than Mallot's work, and covers the entire scope of Brethren history in its 675 pages.

Some histories can be "dry as dust," but Durnbaugh's ability to tell the Brethren story is far from boring. The writing is clear, the facts are detailed, and the sources are well-documented. Each chapter runs 20-30 pages long. Early on in the book, Durnbaugh assembles the basic beliefs of the early Brethren, as gathered from court records, letters, early descriptions of the Brethren, and early Brethren publications. Those beliefs included: the shared orthodoxy of the Reformation (especially the authority of Scripture and the priesthood of all believers), with an emphasis on discipleship and obedience, the restoration of the early church, nonconformity, church discipline, mutual aid, focus on the Bible with literal interpretation, nonresistance, and love and unity. Durnbaugh states that the early Brethren "rejected the soft and

permissive 'false love' practiced among some Pietists ..." and that they "were concerned to maintain a unity of belief and practice among their ranks." These early beliefs stand in stark contrast to the Brethren of the 1990's.

The trials and tribulations of the Brethren through the early years are well covered, and throughout the book there are quotes from original sources to help the reader see events as they were viewed at the time they happened. An interesting chapter is "Relations with Other Religious Bodies," which shows that Brethren were aware of and interacted with other groups--such as Mormons, Adventists, Universalists, Disciples of Christ--and yet maintained staunch belief in their own principles as proved by Scripture

Change came to the Brethren in the 20th Century, and Durnbaugh engages many of those shifts. However, Durnbaugh treats modern religious currents unevenly. While viewing "fundamentalism" as an outside influence on the Brethren, "liberalism" or "modernism" is not viewed in quite the same fashion. The outside influence of liberal institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and the University of Chicago on the Brethren is briefly dealt with, but the rise of religious liberals such as D.W. Kurtz, Dan West, M.R. Zigler, and others to official positions clearly had strong effect on the official institutions of the church. The ill-advised entry into the Federal and World Council of Churches shows this influence. Durnbaugh, though, is to be

thanked for clearly identifying the liberalism which many mid-century Brethren leaders held, and for giving a frank assessment of liberal influence in determining the structure and program of the "Elgin establishment."

Of particular interest to our readers is the chapter on "Rise of Denominational Minorities," in which the Brethren Revival Fellowship is mentioned first. A brief history of the main dissenting groups is given. The statistics given for some groups are uneven and not always up-to-date (for example, three Brethren congregations in Maine have been established through BRF, and over 11,000 copies of the WITNESS are distributed). The reference to BRF appealing largely to Brethren in rural areas, "most of whom have not pursued formal higher education," sounds strangely similar to a comment in the secular press a few years ago that evangelicals are "poorly educated, and easily led." Readers familiar with BRF know that a majority of the BRF Committee have studied at the college level, and three current Committee members hold graduate degrees. Simplicity and orthodoxy are not indicators of ignorance and geography.

Durnbaugh's comment in the last paragraph on page 593 contrasting the sources of Brethren identity in 1708 (the Bible and church history) to the sources of today (outside consultants and focus groups) is telling.

Continued on Page 5

# Tourist Downturn Hits Garden Tomb

An unexpected victim of the troubles in the Middle East is the Garden Tomb, the British-owned tourist site in East Jerusalem.

Normally, over 250,000 tourists every year visit the quiet Garden and 1st century tomb, which tells the story of Christ's death and resurrection. During the past year of unrest, the number of visitors has shrunk steadily with just 1000 visitors per week in October compared with 7000 a week two years ago.

The Garden Tomb Association, based in Britain, has now reduced staffing, shortened the opening hours and suspended the open-air Sunday morning service for the winter months. . Although the Garden is now open only in the afternoons from Monday to Saturday, the Trustees are determined to ensure that "pilgrims can continue to be shown round and experience the wonder of the empty tomb."

An appeal for 175,000 pounds sterling (about \$262.500 US) has been launched to keep the Garden open, to provide for the needs of the ministry and to help fund capital projects, which have now been stopped. These include the preservation of the tomb itself, a major ongoing project under the supervision of the Israel Antiquities Authority, and refurbishment of a giant underground cistern, which irrigates the Garden

Peter Wells, the Association's General Secretary, comments, "These are difficult days, but we are not downcast or defeated. We know the One who conquered fear and death. In His strength we face the future with hope and joy. We also look to our friends throughout the world to support our ministry in prayer at this critical time

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## ✝ Missionary Outreach ✝

Amwell Church of the Brethren supports many Missionaries. Not only do these people and organizations count on our financial support they greatly depend on our prayers and encouragement. Please send them a card or letter to let them know you care.

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

**Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Martinez**  
C/O OC International  
PO 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



## Pastors March In Support Of Minister

(MCNS) -- 50 area pastors and their congregations marched through a crime-ridden Jacksonville, Florida neighborhood in support of a fellow pastor who has reportedly been threatened by drug dealers

Pastor John Guns of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church told police that members of his congregation told him there was a \$25,000 bounty placed on his head because of his work in trying to clean up the Washington Heights area.

Guns was moved to tears by the pastors who came to show their support and pray for his safety. He told the Jacksonville Times-Union it showed the city is overcoming racial and denominational barriers.

"I'm almost to tears today," Guns told the newspaper. "Every Sunday we stand alone in our churches."

"Stick to your guns," Paul Zink, pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship, told Guns. "It's very important what is happening here. It's time to do more than just pray for each other. We need to take action."

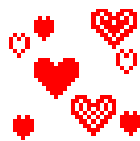
City Councilwoman Ginger Soud, a member of a growing coalition of pastors and churches throughout the city, was also among the supporters.

"The answer to the problems in our society is the church. Government doesn't have the answer," Soud said. "I support you personally, spiritually and politically. You are doing the right thing."

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### ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Christian or Kevin Emery  
29 Timber East Drive  
Apt 201  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
804-237-8958



Gina Caimano  
c/o Madita Grunert  
Ringstrasse 12  
d-69518 Unter Abtsteinach  
Germany  
e-mail Poloqt@aol.com

### Where will you spend eternity- smoking or non-smoking?



**Many people never look up until they are  
flat on their back.**



### SEEDS FROM THE SOWER

by *Michael A. Guido*

A girl came home from school yelling "Mom, I've been voted the prettiest girl in class." She came home happier the second day. "Mom, I've been voted the most popular girl in class."

But she came home very sad the third day. "What's the matter?" asked the mother. "I've been voted the most stuck up" she answered.

The higher you are placed the more humbly you should walk. Not only is man against the proud, but so is God. The Bible says "God opposes the proud, but He gives Grace to the humble." You must choose between humility

OR humiliation. Stay **HUMBLE** or you will

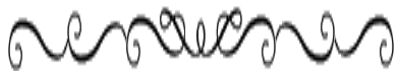
**STUMBLE**

## Blanche's Corner Book Review Continued ...

It is clear from a careful reading of this history, that in the 1900's the Brethren became more interested in the world's opinion, rather than God's opinion. Durnbaugh is optimistic about the future of the Brethren, but along the lines of more social outreach, ecumenism, and peace witness. Unfortunately, this has been the direction of the past fifty years, with Brethren more focused on the world than on God

Fruit of the Vine is a well written and valuable book. *It belongs on the shelf of every member of the Church of the Brethren* who wants to know where we have been, and who is interested in where we are going. The price is \$49.95 plus shipping, and it is available from Brethren Press.

--Craig Alan Myers



Sue shares her favorite Scripture with us:

**PSALMS 23:1** The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

## MEET ...SUE VOGEL!

Effervescent giggle, bright, twinkling eyes ...a desire to learn more about God .... this is Sue Vogel!

Sue grew up near Lambertsville but is quick to tell she was born "near the Sergeantsville covered bridge"! The family joke is Sue was born **SO** long ago ... she helped **Betsy Ross** sew the flag!

Sue was raised on a farm; in fact she is 4th generation farmer. She had a hand in tending all types of domestic animals ...along with a personal record of 77 rabbits! Sue spent most of her time helping to care for her parents. They were ill and they needed a lot of care and attention. Being a full time care giver is a lot of work and takes a lot of patience; Sue did what she had to do as a labor of love.

Sue still spends much of her day caring for people. This time though she pitches in with her twin great nieces. Stella and Charlie appreciate the extra hands. As anyone with children... especially twins, would tell you ...it is not easy! Sue's special loving manner is just the extra helping hand they need!

Baking has been a large segment of Sue's spare time. She loves to bake snacks and breads ...especially Christmas cookies! When she is not drained with her "domestic" activities, Sue enjoys companionable interaction with her social group at the Day Hospital.

Even though she attended Lambertsville Presbyterian Church most of her life, and knew Pastor Landis for a very long time, Sue did not become saved until 1997. She states she loves Amwell Church of the Brethren and everything about the Church. She is especially fond of Wednesday night Bible Study. She looks forward to the break in the middle of the week when she can dive deeper into God's message.

Make sure you say HI to Sue. You can't miss her; she is the bubbly lady with the 200 watt smile!

## From the Recipe File of ...*Susie Apgar*

It is with fear and trepidation that I offer (upon request of brother Bob Hughes) a sauce recipe to be printed when I am surrounded by the "GREATS" who have taught me much about the ways of Italian Cooking. If you are having Pastor Bob over, omit the garlic! -Love, Susie



### **Spaghetti Sauce AKA THE GRAVY!!!**

#### INGREDIENTS:

Olive Oil (4 or 5 tablespoons) Large onion  
1 pound or more Pork or Italian sausage  
fresh or dry Basil  
3 large cans (San Marzano if possible) Italian Plum Tomatoes (blended for 10 seconds)  
2 cans tomato sauce  
1 small can tomato paste  
Garlic (optional)

In a large heavy bottomed pot, heat oil. Add onion, garlic and meat. Brown lightly for a few minutes. Add all tomatoes, salt to taste. Add basil on top and cook approximately 1 1/2 hours. You may add meatballs or any other meat you like during cooking process.



### **Christmas Word Search**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | P | E | S | O | J | G | W | G |
| D | M | M | E | R | L | I | N | R |
| O | Y | A | C | O | S | I | T | P |
| N | H | R | R | E | L | I | S | E |
| K | R | Y | M | D | D | T | A | A |
| E | I | E | D | I | A | N | S | C |
| Y | N | A | N | R | G | T | M | E |
| A | W | G | R | E | G | N | A | M |
| S | S | F | L | O | C | K | S | S |

ANGEL  
DONKEY  
FLOCKS  
GLORY  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY  
PEACE  
STAR  
SWADDLING  
TIDINGS  
WISEMEN

## Parishioner's Potpourri

### December, 2001

Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM  
Dessert & Bible Study Every Wednesday @ 7 PM  
Olympians and Teen Youth Group Meet Every Friday @ 7 PM  
TBA Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:30 AM

- 6 Busy Bees @ 7:30 PM In The Annex
- 8 The Campbells Christmas Music Program @ 7PM
- 9 Children's Christmas Program
- 16 Mission Sunday
- 20 Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM (Place TBA)
- 21 Christmas Caroling Around Town @ 7 PM
- 23 Sunday Christmas Service and Communion
- 23 Klien Meeting House Service 3 PM & 7 PM
- 31 New Years Eve Watch Night at Amwell



### January, 2002

Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM  
Dessert & Bible Study Every Wednesday @ 7 PM  
Olympians and Teen Youth Group Meet Every Friday @ 7 PM  
TBA Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:30 AM

- 3 Busy Bees @ 7:30 PM In The Annex
- 17 Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM Place TBD
- 20 Mission Sunday

### YOUTH: JOIN WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP!!!

Pastor Bob is the contact and advisor for our exciting "**Word Of Life**" Youth Program here at Amwell. A wonderful staff of dedicated volunteers assists him. "**Word Of Life**" at Amwell runs from September until May with breaks for Holiday and school recesses.

Youngsters in grades 1-6 meet every Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Amwell Church of the Brethren. The program, called the "**Word of Life Olympian Program**", has been used at the Church for the past 6 years.

Our Motto is " Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto thy path...".

We have fun together, sharing and praying for each other, as we grow in God's word and learn His plan for our Youth and Adult Christian lives

### We gather Friday nights to:

- Recite the Olympian pledges to God and Country
  - Memorize verses
  - Sing songs
- Hear God's word in a continuing lesson series
  - Create a craft once a month
  - Fellowship
  - Enjoy bible application time
- Delight in our most favorite pastime which is called "Quiz Time".... A review of the past week's lesson.

The Pastor and his team of able-bodied assistants invite all youth to join the fun and excitement and learning each Friday.

**Word Of Life** on the world wide web:

<http://www.gospelcom.net/wol>



# MARK YOUR SOCIAL CALENDARS! WE NEED YOU!!!

## TEEN YOUTH CONVENE FRIDAYS

The Teen Youth Club meets every Friday evening from 7-9pm. This season we will be holding our meeting at the Brethren Church in Sergeantsville.

Our leadership team consists of about 4-6 individuals who love the Lord and have a burden for the teens of this community. Our teen program began in late September and will end in the middle of June, around the end of the school year. The Teen Club is for grades 7 through 12.

Our fellowship time consists of:

- ~ Games
- ~ Bible Lessons
- ~ Food/fellowship
- ~ Music
- ~FUN!!!

The Teen Club also enjoys special outings added to their schedule, such as: video scavenger hunts, bowling, roller-skating, treasure hunts, and progressive dinners to name just a few. We also have at least one fundraiser each year. This year we hope to extend our hands into the community with some service projects.

Amwell's Teen Youth Club is an excellent opportunity to get to know other believers your age, study God's word and grow in your faith. **All teens are welcome!** Come and bring a friend or two!

For more information about the Teen Youth Club contact Michele DiSalvio @ (908)-788-7002.

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**Congratulations Gina Caimano!**

Gina Caimano, daughter of John & Lorraine, has been accepted to RYDER UNIVERSITY for the Fall 2002 semester. Gina is the recipient of the prestigious Dean's Scholarship Award for early acceptance. Gina is currently spending her Senior year of High School in Germany and is enjoying her time abroad!  
God Bless You Gina!!!

## CHOIR ROUND UP!

The Amwell Choir is looking for a few good men and women. You really don't have to be good. All you need to join up is a love for the Lord and a love for singing!

Psalms 100 tells us to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands". Here's your chance to be joyful!

See **Jean DiSalvio** if you have any questions or if you feel the call to join in uplifting the Lord in song!!!!

## CAROLING AROUND TOWN!

Come join some brave and hearty Amwell Carolers on **Friday December 21 at 7 PM.**

We meet at the Church and caravan to Senior Citizen homes to bring some joy and music to brighten their evening. All ages attend and often hot chocolate and cookies reward us after a night of good singing and a job well done!

## CAMP SWATARA: COMING SOON!

It's never too early to start planning our annual trek to Camp Swatara. This rustic retreat, in rural Pennsylvania, welcomes Brethren all year round for different camping experiences.

We are heading West the first weekend of February...the 1st through the 3rd. We sing and eat and hike and do Bible Studies. We share and talk and perform skits and just spend our time getting closer in the Lord as a family should.

Reserve this weekend and see **Jean DiSalvio** if you would like to learn more about Camp Swatara.

## From The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 1)



### Lessons??

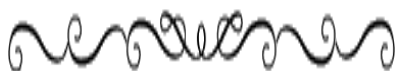
Mark 14:35-37 "Watch ye therefore for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh at even or at midnight or at the cock crowing or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping and what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH".

As people all around us search for a sense of normalcy and comfort it is our calling to introduce them to The Rock of Salvation and the Hope of the Ages...Jesus Christ.

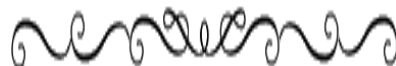
Soon the images of the Baby Jesus will appear everywhere. This is a perfect moment to introduce those in your sphere of influence to this soon Returning King of the Universe.

Let's take time from the busy holiday season to invest our energy and resources in the things that really matter and will not be destroyed.

I Peter 1:4 "...an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled which fadeth not away reserved for you in Heaven".



Hats off to **RYAN KISKURNO!!!** Ryan made honors for this semester's report card! Jeff and Cindy are pleased with their son's accomplishment!



Cheers to **Scott Kiskurno!** Jeff & Cindy's son made Honors for the first semester's report card! We all are proud of you, **SCOTT!!!**

## **AMWELL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**Carrying the Gospel as  
far as the World can  
Receive It**

**We are on the Internet at:**

<http://members.christweb.com/amwell>

**The Church of the Brethren  
Website:**

<http://www.brethren.org/>

**We also broadcast sermons on:**

WDVR 89.7  
Each Sunday at 7:30 A.M.

We Sponsor the Ravi Zacharias  
Programs

**"Let My People Think"**

and

**"Adventures in Odyssey "**



## CCA Soccer Team

Hi. My name is **LaChell Miller**. I receive my education from Crossroads Christian Academy. At this school, there are a variety of sports to play. One I play is soccer. I have been playing ever since the 5th grade, which would make four great years of playing for me. In the past, I've had Mrs. Root and Mr. Davis as my coaches, but this year we received a new coach by the name of Mr. Gilcrest. I learned many things from him. Not just how to pass, what position is what, or what plays to play; he taught us something more. He taught us that God wanted us to try our best and that the Lord doesn't see us as a failure, but rather sees us as a success. Well, all our hard work paid off this season by us winning half of our games and if you know our team you would know we've had some struggles in the past in winning. But even if we didn't win, we still played our hardest and challenged the other team in ways we didn't even think were possible! I am very sad to say that this is my last year of playing for Crossroads, but I'm very excited that I will be playing next year for Delaware Valley Regional High School. Even though it was my last year, there was a major advantage for being one of the oldest players. For example, along with my friends Chris and Arianna, I got to lead the exercises, lead in the running, and have the pride in strutting in a captain position. Well that just about closes out my article on soccer. The only thing left to say here is to give my best advice for you. If you want to take something up in life, I would encourage you to try and take the chance because you never know where the Lord may take you on the ride.

God Bless,

LaChell Miller



## Sense of Smell by *Gina Caimano*

Wood burning in a fireplace makes my memory come alive to Camp Swatara. Camp Swatara is where we go every year for a weekend in February, with other families from our church. The smell of wood burning is very strong in the cabin. These weekends at Swatara are very special times for me; holding many dear and precious memories. When we arrive we usually get up a game of basketball, four square, and table games and chat till late at night... actually early morning... and as soon as the day breaks we go sleigh riding, ice-skating, have snowball fights and just hang around with very special friends. We have several interludes of opening the Bible and feeding our soul throughout the weekend. Everyone is beginning to settle down and sit around the fire on our second night at camp Swatara. We usually sing praises and then have a time of sharing praises or concerns from the past year. Some of us are munching away on some kind of snack food, like chips or pretzels, with soda or juice and you can faintly smell the mix of foods and drinks in the air. You can hear the fire crackle and pop. The warmth of the fire fills the room. As people begin to share you hear the fear and sadness in their voices, others understanding the person's hurt cry too. As each one shares their thoughts you can feel the bond being made stronger and the love surrounding you. I look forward to going every February, especially this year when I will just be returning from Germany, but just one whiff of wood burning fills my heart and takes me right there to this very special camp I share with my family and church friends.

