

The Conference Call



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall 2010

Dine & Donate!

Thanks to the following eateries for offering their support to RBCC! Each restaurant listed below has offered a percentage of their income if diners present the appropriate flyer. Please consider eating out on these dates & times and help support the work of RBCC. What could be easier!

Tuesday, August 31—Viva, Park Road, Wyomissing—4pm till Close
Present a flyer with your order and Viva will donate 20% of your check to RBCC

Saturday, September 11—Old Country Buffet, Woodland Rd, Wyomissing—8am to 8pm
Present a flyer with your order and Old Country Buffet will donate 10-20% of your check to RBCC

Tuesday, September 14—Friendly's, Penn Ave, West Lawn—5-8pm
10% of all sales will be donated to RBCC

Wednesday, September 22—The Works, Bern Rd, Wyomissing—5-8pm
10% of all sales will be donated to RBCC

Thursday, September 30—Red Robin, Perkiomen Ave, Exeter—4-9pm
Present a flyer with your order and Red Robin will donate 10% of your check to RBCC

Flyers for each event are available on the RBCC Website: www.readingberkschurches.org or call 610-375-6108

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The Conference Call

September 2010

Banding Together

Michael Kaucher, Executive Director



Before I dive into some thoughts on banding together, I want to thank all those that give to RBCC. This organization has been blessed to serve in Berks County since 1947. Your gifts allow us to continue and grow the work that we do in connecting the Body of Christ around the county. On behalf of Reading Berks Conference of Churches, I thank you for your continued support!

I have to admit, I enjoy watching Extreme Makeover and always find it compelling how people band together to help out a "neighbor". The accounts from those who helped with the Berks edition are amazing and heart-warming. I did not hear of quarreling or disagreement over job responsibilities or complaints of heat or long hours, but quite the opposite - a joy in serving together. Everyone gave their best in every task with the final completed house in mind.

I couldn't help but think of the Body of Christ as I reflected on this. People working side by side, with different opinions, backgrounds and lives and doing it joyfully, focused on building a house... a spiritual house. As the Body of Christ we are called to be one, and to be witnessed in oneness, displaying to the community the values of Jesus himself, thus drawing others into relationship. We are blessed in Berks County to see evidence of this in many ways. Our weekly e-blast highlights many of these ways. (Please sign up for the e-blast on our web-site if you do not receive this free weekly communication.) The prayer and vision of Reading Berks Conference of Churches is to see this oneness in community and service continue to grow and flourish. We are committed to continue providing and promoting opportunities for the Body of Christ to gather in prayer, celebration, learning and service. There are a couple of wonderful opportunities to gather coming up that you won't want to miss. September 11th is a call to gather at City Park in Reading for prayer and worship as community. September 28th is our annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast. CROP Walk season is upon us, bell ringing season for The Salvation Army begins soon. People First is scheduling volunteers. There are so many opportunities to be one, working together in the community. I praise God for the wonderful people of Berks County and pray for a growing togetherness in the Body of Christ.

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

Where there is unity in spirit and truth, there is blessing. Let us continue to band together and grow in displaying Jesus' love within the community.

Our Mission:

- To foster unity and cooperation among the Christian churches of Reading and Berks County
- To provide witness in the community for shared Christian values
- To promote the ministries to our community in Christ's name
- To assist churches in fulfilling their individual and cooperative missions
- To encourage dialogue among all segments of the religious community

Our Vision:

To see unity in the Body of Christ come to fullness in Reading & Berks County through growing relationships and consistent visible action



Connecting the Body of Christ to events promoting faith, unity & service.

Want to get information on events in Berks County?

Sign up on our website and receive all the latest info via weekly email!

www.readingberkschurches.org



Berks County Youth Center & Berks County Family Residential Center

Dave Ludwig, Supervising Chaplain
How has God SHAPED you to serve?

Recently I listened to a sermon about serving, and the pastor began by saying that we “all” have a special SHAPE for ministry (serving). He also shared that we’re not all shaped for the same ministry. In other words, God made each of us uniquely different for good reasons. So, do you know how you’re shaped?

Spiritual Gifts
Hearth
Abilities
Personality
Experiences

If we look at the acrostic for the word “SHAPE” we can see ways how God equips us to serve others. What are your Spiritual Gifts? How can you serve others from your “hearts” desire? What special “abilities” do you have? Your “personality” and “experiences” can also direct you in areas of service.

Why am I talking about this? Because many times people contact me at the Berks Family Residential Center stating that they want to help the residents, but they don’t know what they want to do. My answer to them is usually, “What do you like to do?” or “What special abilities or experiences can you share with the residents?”

There are many ways that you can volunteer at the Berks Family Residential Center; here are some suggestions to consider:

- Teach the children how to play an instrument or sing songs
- Arts & Crafts, making items that they can keep or display in the Hallways
- Painting, murals and tapestries
- Teach the women to crochet or knit
- Sewing classes or teaching the residents how to do needle point
- Play games or read stories to the children
- Book Club, gather together to discuss a book and have fellowship
- Projects with the men, teaching them a trade or special skill
- Woodworking
- Repair old bicycles for the children to ride

Other ideas??

Maybe you’ve got an idea, but aren’t sure whether it is something that others would want to do. Chances are if you enjoy it, there is someone else who would too.

I am always looking for new volunteers. If you have a desire to serve, using your SHAPE to serve others, then please give me a call - (610) 396-0310 x2380.

I hope to hear from you! Serving Our Lord Together, *Chaplain Dave*

A Gathering of Unity, Love, Prayer and Worship

Sept. 11, 2010 at Reading City Park, 9:45am—2:30pm, All are invited to participate

Sponsored by: The Christian churches of Reading in co-operation with The Latino Pastors Ministerium, Reading Vicinity Ministerial Association & Reading Berks Conference of Churches.

Schedule:

- 9:45-10:30: Join with the City of Reading to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters of Reading by participating in the Annual Firefighters Memorial Service
- 10:30-12:00— Prayer walk to City Hall and the Reading School District Office Building.
- 12:00-1:30— An ecumenical worship and prayer service at City Park Bandshell with prayer for our country, state and city and unified worship celebration
- 1:30-2:30—Build relationships with one another in fellowship and celebration.

You are invited to join in this important gathering. Our city, state & country need our prayers at this critical time in history. Let us, together, cry out to God on behalf of the community we love!

The 2010 Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast

*Faith in Action...
Working Together We Build Hope*

Tuesday, Sept 28 ‘10, 7:15am



Keynote Speaker:

The Most Reverend John O. Barres,
S.T.D., J.C.L., D.D. - Fourth Bishop of
Allentown

Program includes breakfast, prayer for our community, speaker, and a chance to meet with business, education, government, and religious leaders of Berks County.

Post-breakfast panel discussion with the goal of providing deeper insight into unified faith/community action.

You don’t want to miss this!

Registration information included on a separate sheet in this newsletter. Call or email if you need further assistance. 610-375-6108 or info@readingberkschurches.org



The Baker Institute for Spiritual Growth presents an ecumenical Advent day of reflection on the contributions of Eastern Orthodox Christianity to the universal Church.

Eastern Christian Gifts for Western Christians

Saturday, Dec 11, 2010, at the Jesuit Center, 501 N. Church Road, Wernersville, PA, nine miles west of Reading.

9:00 AM till 4:00 PM (with Vespers at 3:30 PM)

The key presenter and facilitator for the day is Fr. Demetrius Nicoloudakis, pastor of St. Matthew Greek Orthodox Church in Blandon, PA. Thomas Xanakis, an iconographer residing in Washington, D.C., will speak about the devotional icon in prayer and meditation, and the living legacy of the use of sacred images and their historical and spiritual significance through an Eastern Orthodox perspective. Examples of his iconography will be displayed.

Cost: \$30. (Includes lunch) Register before Nov 24. Attendance is limited. Please send your check payable to: the Baker Institute for Spiritual Growth, P. O. Box 73, Wernersville, PA 19565. No refunds are possible after 11/24. If the event is cancelled, payment will be refunded.



The Reading CROP Walk is scheduled for **Sun, Oct 10** at Gring’s Mill Park. Registration: 12:30, Walk: 1:30pm. Honorary Chairperson: D.A. John Adams.

Take the 10-10-10 Challenge! We challenge you to find a new group of 10 walkers, who each have 10 Sponsors, with each sponsor donating \$10! Groups of 10 who pre-register at info@readingberkschurches.org will be recognized at the walk and receive a certificate. Don’t forget: every walker who raises \$100 in sponsorships receives a CROP t-shirt! For a flyer about the 10-10-10 Challenge, visit our website!

New this year! Supplies will be available **Thursday, Sept 9, 5-9pm at Isaac’s Restaurant & Deli**, Village Square, Wyomissing. We are encouraging coordinators, walkers, and entire congregations to visit Isaac’s that evening, grab a bite to eat, and pick up supplies. To **print the flyer** you need to present when you order your food so that 25% of the cost of your meal is donated to RBCC & CROP, go to www.readingberkschurches.org/CROP_walk.php

Questions? contact Claire at RBCC (610-375-6108 or info@readingberkschurches.org) or Doug at GBFB (610-926-5802, ext 212, or dslong@secondharvest.org)

Please join us as we help raise awareness and funds to fight hunger—around the block & around the world! See You There!

Reading Berks Conference of Churches relies on your contributions to continue the work presented through its Mission Statement and evidenced by the witness in these pages. To those who regularly donate so generously, we say thank you! To all, we ask for your support. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your tax deductible donation; any amount is a blessing. Thank You!

2011 Annual Assembly—“United In Hope” Saturday, Jan 22, 2011

Each year RBCC seeks to recognize, encourage, and celebrate Christ’s presence in our midst, through acknowledging those that unselfishly serve to share the reality of Christ’s love to others. We do not want to hide “under a bushel” the extraordinary work of our brothers and sisters. Therefore, we are soliciting nominations for the awards presented at our Annual Assembly in January.

Award descriptions & nomination forms can be found on our website at
www.readingberkschurches.org/Annual-Assembly.php

The intent of the awards is to encourage Christians from all churches. Therefore, we encourage you to consider each of the awards, and make nominations for as many as you deem appropriate. Please send your nomination(s) as soon as possible; the deadline is **November 12, 2010**. Regrettably, any nominations received after the deadline will be voided. Mail, fax, or email your nomination to the RBCC office: 519 Elm St, Reading, PA 19601. Fax 610-375-6108. Email info@readingberkschurches.org