

Dunkard Brethren Youth News



YOUTH, THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

October 2009

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Introducing a New Newsletter

Maddy Brock, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

Hi Everybody! I congratulate you on being able to successfully get a hold of one of these newsletters. And now that you have, I need to tell you that as a pilot edition I'll add an explanation to each section to give you ideas of what to submit for future editions.

I'll tell you right up front that this is written by amateurs, edited by amateurs, and typed by an amateur (that is myself), so don't expect anything fancy.

As young people we are learning so much every day. We have lots of energy and we have a lot of ambition. We have a need to talk to other people and to talk to God.

This newsletter is going to be a way that you can share and hear from other young folks. My goal is to use this as a

ministry to help youth to be encouraged and to grow in their faith. I want it to be an inspiration to take the gifts God has given us and to use them as an outreach to the world. What I am trying to say is I don't want this to be anything at all like the fleshly teen magazines the world puts out. What goes in comes back out and to be a light to the world we must fill our minds with godly things.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing nut to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men. Matthew 5:13

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16



The whole gang getting involved with canning green beans. Even 2-year-olds can help!

Calling all Writers

This is an invitation to all youth who attend the Dunkard Brethren churches, including those who are overseas. We want to hear from young men and women in different congregations and of different ages. So please don't be too shy about writing or I'll be stuck writing this whole thing by myself. Here are some topic ideas, but feel free to use your own!

Poetry, devotions, lessons I'm learning, humorous stories, service project ideas, current youth happenings, interviews with people doing God's work, mission projects, encouragement, seasonal articles, job experiences, school stories, useful hobbies, book reviews, etc. The ideas are endless.

We would like to include photos from you. You can send them to us via email or snail mail. Send an article to go along with it!!

We plan to send out this "paperless" newsletter by email list every other month (even numbered months). If you want a copy just send us your email address. My contact information is located on page 2.

The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2009. How about some Christmas articles?

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Dunkard Brethren Youth News



A newsletter without a name is like chocolate with no sugar in it.

Name Ideas Anyone?

If you haven't noticed the name Dunkard Brethren Youth News is kind of boring. It explains what this is pretty well but I would prefer something more unique. I decided to let you name it.

You can send in any name ideas that you have to:

brockfam7@gmail.com

Maddy Brock

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To "sweeten" the contest, the person who submits the winning name will receive a chocolate bar (with sugar in it). Submit as many ideas as you like. Please get them to us by December 1st so we can use it for the December issue.

"WE ALWAYS
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Working in Eastern Kentucky

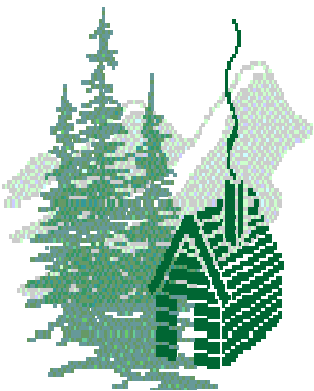
Rebekah Short, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

My family enjoys going on mission work trips. The last few years we have been working at a mission church in Eastern Kentucky. It is back in the mountains. Lately we have been working on a fellowship hall across from the church. We started by gutting it out and putting plywood around the bathrooms. We put a deck on and steps down the mountainside.

The congregation is only about 35 to 40 people. There is only one minister. The church has a wonderful outreach. They pick up a van load of children every Sunday morning. For Vacation Bible School they have 85 to 95 children attending.

My family enjoys going on mission trips. The people appreciate the work we do. We have fun making new friends also. If you ever have a chance to do something like that, try it. We enjoy it and we always receive a greater blessing from the Lord than what we gave.

When I was little I just loved to hear missionary stories, almost as much as I do now. Hearing them always gets me itching to GO! Somewhere, anywhere that Jesus wanted me to go. Maybe you are already in the mission field or maybe you are waiting for the correct time. This section is going to have a report of mission trips and service projects that our youth are helping with. I can't wait to see what gets sent in! And maybe after you read some entries you might get the itch too!



Poet's Show It

Here is a way to share a talent you might have. If you are a natural poet don't keep it to yourself. Poetry is a good way to encourage others and to touch hearts and to express your love for God. Isn't it amazing how God made the human mind so that it can distinguish when things rhyme?

To me poetry is magic. It can make something you don't care for at all into something wonderful. It makes words beautiful. If you are going to write a poem please write down what inspired you to write it to give beginning poets some ideas and to help us to understand your poem better.

Summer's Nearly Over

Jana Hunkapiller, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

Summer's nearly over I fear
And fall is drawing very near.
Too near, I think, for me,
For school will start eventually.
Some of you are out of school,
But believe me, I am no fool,
I've still got more years to go,
Let's more time to learn and grow

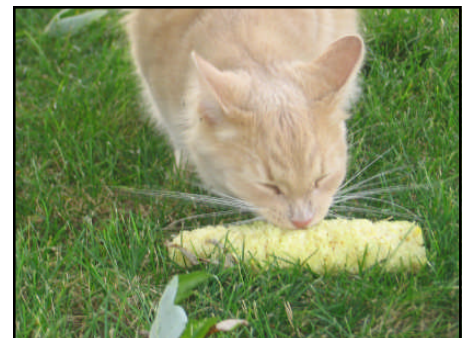
At summer's end I'm not as free
To go out side and climb a tree
Or play house up in my room,
To escape from winter's gloom;

I've mostly just time for school and jobs
It seems like I've got gobs and gobs
And I suppose I should prepare
For honestly I truly care
That...

Summer's nearly over I fear,
And fall is drawing very near.



"POETRY IS A
WAY TO
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Mocha, our vegetarian cat,
eating the last of the
sweet corn.

Book Review: Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris

Have you ever heard the saying, garbage in, garbage out? Wait! Before you make a beeline for your bedroom or go looking for earplugs let me tell you, that saying is true. Have you ever been somewhere that there was something on TV that wasn't right. To you it was probably shocking and you probably can still remember it clearly. Now if you were to watch TV four hours a day three things would happen: 1) You would become spiritually hard, like Pete the rooster did (see page 6), 2) What you were constantly watching would affect how you lived your life, and 3) You would get a mushy television brain like everybody else who watches TV four hours a day.

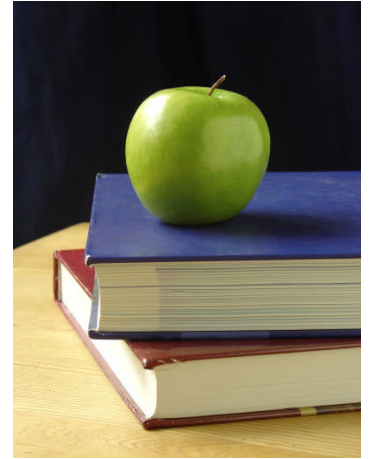
Ok. I'm getting carried away. But you get my point. If you read all 72 chapters of your favorite romance and then go read 2 chapters of your Bible so you don't feel so guilty you are still going to have a layer of sludge in your brain that needs cleaning out. Also after a bucket of cotton candy, the strong meat of the Bible isn't going to taste as "good" in comparison. The key is good reading material. This section offers suggestions for good reads.

The book Do Hard Things is a must-read for every young person. It's written by two teenage brothers, Brett and Alex Harris (brothers to Josh Harris of I Kissed Dating Goodbye fame). I read it and I was awake all that night thinking about what I had read. It encourages young people to get off the couch and get working.

That book was actually what got me going with this newsletter. If I hadn't read it I might have thought, "Me? Write a newsletter? But I'm just little! Who would wanna a newsletter written by some 14-year-old who doesn't know what she's doing? I can't do it. I'll put it off until I'm an adult." Instead I was thinking, "Yeah! Write my own newsletter! That sounds like a challenge, but I can do it. This will be fun!"

I really appreciated that the book gives examples from the lives of real young people who have taken the challenge to do hard things and have done great things for God's glory.

See what happens when you read it. It could change your views on everything!



"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

I Corinthians 13:11





Encouragement Corner

A flower can't live without sunshine. A baby can't develop without being talked to. And in the same way, you can't grow without encouragement. I'm not sure if the saying "Too much of a good thing" applies to encouragement, unless it makes you prideful. Feeling depressed? Read this! Oh, you're not feeling depressed? Read it anyway!

Such A Time As This

Bethany St. John, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

As I was pondering over the past weeks over what I could write, I was feeling as though I had absolutely nothing good or helpful ... or important to say! But as I was reading different passages in my Bible it got me thinking that, it's really not what I have to say that matters. That part really isn't important. The good, helpful, and most important part is God's Word and I hope we can all be encouraged by what it has to say.

Quite a while back I was reading a verse in the Book of Esther that I have read many times, but this time I didn't just read over it. What I read made me stop and read it again and now it has become a favorite verse of mine. In it Mordecai is asking Esther to go before the king to save her people. Esther 4:14 - "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knowest whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

It's the last part of the verse that I love so much. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" I don't know about you, but I have those times when I feel like I'm getting bombarded from every side. Whether it's the people you work with, or whatever it is, you feel like Satan is just trying to tear you down. Like the people around you are all trying get you to fall. They are pushing the limits, asking me to do things I know are wrong, using foul language whenever you're around, telling off-color jokes, just to see how I react... Or it could be many other things. It's those situations that make me just want to walk away from and not have to face anymore.

I was talking to a friend of mine not long ago about some of these struggles, when she brought that verse back to my mind. Maybe it was put there for "such a time as this". Maybe this is when my light will shine the brightest. Maybe I need to stay in a difficult situation for a little while longer because maybe, just maybe, God has put me there for a reason. Maybe through all the struggle and difficulty, someone will see Jesus!

It has been a tremendous encouragement for me to think that even though I'm struggling, even though I feel like I might fall from the pressures around me, God can still use me! And he can use you when those hard times come and you feel the weight of the world on your shoulders. When you just want to cry out to God to make it all go away, just remember that maybe He has you put there for a reason. Maybe he has put you there for "such a time as this"! He will carry you through whatever he brings you to. If he has put you there for "such a time as this" he will also supply you with the strength and the wisdom you need to make it to the other side of the struggle!

" BUT MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS."

PHILIPPIANS 4:19



SERVICE PROJECTS

How we spend our time matters to Jesus. It brings Him glory and develops our character when we find ways to serve Him by helping others. I think all of us could benefit by hearing how you or your youth group have put energy into serving others. You don't have to go very far from home to find people with physical needs. How has God used your gifts, energy, and time for His kingdom? Christian is older brother to Rebekah (on page 2). Now we can here the man's viewpoint.

Touching Lives in the “Hollers” of Appalachia

Christian Short, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

Through the years my family has gone on service projects; mostly cleanup and repair type work. On the projects we have made new friends from all over the U.S. and Canada. Many times I have gone expecting to help others, or bless their lives in some way, but more often than not, the Lord gives me a blessing, especially through those we work for.

In April and May 2008, I had the privilege of spending six weeks in Kentucky helping with a fellowship remodel project. This fellowship hall is part of Bowlings Creek Mennonite Church, which is tucked way back in the hollows (“hollers”) of the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. We worked mainly on the exterior shell of the building. Most of the time I worked along side PR (Paul Riley), a man in his sixties who loved doing things for other people. PR would tell stories at break time, of when he worked in the coalmines and how he held Bible studies over the CB radio. PR and his wife Bev would have me over to their house for a meal every once and awhile. I really appreciated them.

During my time there I stayed with an elderly widow, Martha. She had come from Pennsylvania fifty-some years ago with her husband, Wesley. He became the minister shortly after they moved. Martha has spent most of her adult life among the native s of Kentucky, serving in the church and community, and knows what it's like to go without some of the things that we think are necessities.

Toward the end of my time in Kentucky, we used the fellowship hall, though not yet finished, for five classes of Bible school. The minister's wife asked me if I would be willing to teach the fifth grade class, because they never had enough teachers for all of the students. I hesitated, because I was not used to such a task; when I talked to Martha about it, she said that “availability is more important than experience”.

As I thought about what she said and what she has spent her life doing, in service for the Lord, I decided I would try it. I can say that it was a good experience, and that it was only through God's strength that I could have taught those energetic, talkative, unruly fifth graders.

Quite a few of the Bible school students grow up in non-Christian families, many of which are broken due to drugs and alcohol. I found it interesting that although the parents have very little to do with the Bible or going to church, they readily want their children to come and learn. So I pray that the Lord will have used me that week, to plant the seed of the Gospel in their young hearts.

I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to serve the Lord in some way to do so with a willing heart. He will richly bless you, beyond what you can ask or think. I hope that you can find some encouragement through this experience in my life. May the Lord use it for His honor and glory.

Devotional Section

Have you ever noticed how much better your day goes when you start by talking to God and reading his word? I got all excited about writing this section. With God's help it wasn't too hard either. Don't let a big word like DEVOTIONAL intimidate you though. If your thinking about writing anything for this newsletter pray first and ask for guidance. You could be a major influence on someone. The devotional section should have a happening you heard of or experienced, how it ties in spiritually, and a Bible verse to back it up.

Lessons from a Rooster

It is my job to feed the chickens every day. We have about fifty hens and one rooster. Our rooster, Pete, is one of the sweetest roosters I've ever met. He is well behaved and he is very docile. I still give him his space just in case he would ever feel like I was provoking him and get mean. But anyway, when he was still just a young skinny fellow and he had just started growing his spurs and his voice was changing, he learned that all the sweet fluffy chicks he grew up with were turning into big, nasty hens. They fought all the time and there were a few hens that were a little bit different and they always got pecked on until they had bald spots on their heads and backs.

The first time Pete saw two hens fighting he was horrified. He ran, fussing loudly and broke up their fight. That first week he was kept busy breaking up the angry hens from their ruthless bullying. Then after a while he realized that the fighting was all around him and it happened all the time, so then he decided that he would only break up the worst fights. As he grew older he grew accustomed to the "sinful" activity around him. Most of the time he would give the ladies a disgusted look when they were bad and then he would keep eating or go take a nap. Anymore I notice that he no longer pays them a bit of attention. Hens nearly killing each other? That's normal.

Are you following in Pete's footsteps? Do you see the sins of this world and think, "Aw, that's normal. Everybody's doing it. I see them doing it all the time. It's not so bad. It doesn't bother me anymore." That kind of thought shows that you have a hard heart. Give yourself a little heart check.



Pete loose in the yard with one of his hens.

Do the things that used to horrify you still seem just as bad? They should. Just because something is common doesn't mean it isn't sinful. Do you ever compare the things you do that you know are wrong with the extremes of the world? You are a child of God. You know better. Don't compare yourself with sinners. Compare yourself with Christ.

But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13