

## Calendar of Events

**First Term** . . . . . Sept. 18 - Oct. 20  
 Choir Music Ministry Tour . . . . . Oct. 21 - Oct. 28  
**Second Term** . . . . . Nov. 1 - Dec. 10  
 Christian Nurture Conference . . . . . Nov. 19-21  
 Thanksgiving Vacation . . . . . Nov. 25 - 28  
 Choir Tour . . . . . Dec. 10 - 17

### Notice:

There are still openings for men in second term, and men & ladies in fifth term. Apply at SMBI.org, call the office, or email us for more information.

**2nd Term**  
 November 1 - December 10, 2021  
 Classes Offered:  
 Anabaptist History  
 Wisdom Literature  
 Discovering Our God  
 Galatians, Phil., Col., Philemon  
 Personal Evangelism  
 Servanthood That Enriches  
 Music Fundamentals  
 Pastoral Epistles  
 I,II,III John/Jude  
 ♦ 1 week choir tour following term

## WATER 2022

The 2022 WATER brochures should be available in November. Contact the office for more information or check our website - smbi.org for locations available this year.

## Yea, Hath God Said?

by: Clifford Schrock

I said... “I shipped it last week.” I told you... “Fold the laundry when you are done with the dishes.” I said... “I don’t want any more.” God said... “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins.” God said... “Take no thought for tomorrow, for tomorrow shall take thought for the things of itself.” God said, “Fear not.”

How many times have you said something and it seemed someone didn’t listen or just didn’t get it? It seems like it is a common problem. More importantly, how many times has God said things that we don’t seem to hear?

Some of the first words recorded in scripture- after recording the creation story- are “Yea, hath God said...?” In this case, the question was about eating of the trees of the garden. What did God say? What did He say about what would happen if they chose to ignore what He said? As we look at the rest of scripture and our current experience, it seems that these questions are central to our direction of life. It also seems that questioning what God has said has been a primary tactic of the enemy.

Scripture is filled with words from God that could transform our lives if we would let them. For example, God has said, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” So, why do many struggle with assurance of salvation? Why do we not rest in his grace? Is it not, in part, because the accuser of the brethren is still casting a shadow of doubt across the clear words of God?

Joshua 1:1-9 has been encouraging to me recently. This passage is the direct words of God for Joshua as a commissioning message . Typically, we attach added significance to messages delivered at specific events and ceremonies like this.

At this time, Joshua was not a young man any more. He was one of the original spies and survived the 40 years in the wilderness, so he was probably mid-60's or more. He had been in leadership for 40 years, but he was about to encounter new challenges and uncharted territory. Do those last words sound familiar?

In light of that, read these words. After describing what Joshua was to do, God says, “*Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to*

*all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*”

Three times in this short part of God’s message He says, “Be strong and courageous.” The Hebrew meaning of strong is to be strong, strengthen, harden, take hold of. A word picture from Hebrews would be, “lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees.” Courage is to be alert mentally and physically. So, a paraphrase of the text could be, “Take heart, encourage yourself in the Lord, and be ready to act whatever the circumstances.”

In the unknown future, Joshua would certainly have plenty of opportunity for feeble knees, trembling hands, and a fainting heart. But God foresaw the temptations and his challenge was, “Be strong and courageous.”

This is parallel to Moses words in his commissioning address. In Deut. 31, he twice encourages Joshua with the same words as he “called unto Joshua and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage.”

These words ring down through the centuries to this very day. We too face challenging times and uncertain days. Everyone of us face distinct challenges. Maybe it is a health struggle, maybe it is financial stress, maybe it is a spiritual valley, or depression, or church or family issues. Giants, strongholds, and attacks come in all forms, but we are not called to a spirit of fear!

As we examine God’s message, it is apparent that this is not a “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” call. God gives Joshua several tools by which to be strengthened. First, God revealed the end of the story. While the immediate may appear otherwise, there will be ultimate victory. So, we, like Jesus, can “endure the cross” “for the joy that is set” before us. Over and over again scripture encourages us to keep the big picture in mind. continued on next page...

**“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:”**

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Second, God would always be with him. God reminded Joshua to look at history and how he had been there for Moses and promised that he would do the same for him. God has promised the same to us. He will be with us, he will not fail us, nor forsake us!

Finally, God told Joshua to make sure he spent time in the text of scripture. He was to meditate on it day and night and make it his constant companion. Nothing was to distract him from this foundation from which he could

be prosperous and successful.

Yea, hath God said? If you have read this far in the article, you have at least seen some things God has said. But how will the direct words of God affect your life, values, struggles, feelings, and choices? To the degree that we continue to live in fear, discouragement, defeat, and confusion, we have chosen to disregard His words just as surely as Adam and Eve did. Instead, we can reject the doubts and lies, claim the truth of God's words, and live to more than conquerors. **God HATH said...**

### Housing Project Update

Praise the Lord and thanks to many people! Excavating for the project began April 23. By July, sheetrock was hung, trim was being finished and painting was done. September 2, we received a temporary occupancy permit and the Schrock family moved into the house September 4. A few exterior details and landscaping remain. It was amazing to watch it all come together in 4 months and 10 days! Again, thank you to all who gave time, materials, and finances to make it possible.



The basement walls need to be framed and insulated for final occupancy. Work to finish the basement will continue as funds allow. We had hoped to have some finances left from this phase to put toward the basement. Numbers are not complete yet, but we will instead be short on the main project. Funding details will be provided in the next Monitor. If you wish to contribute mark your donation "Housing Fund."

### Green Hill Apple Butter

For the past 88 years, the local Green Hill Sewing Club has been making open kettle apple butter. It started with a couple dollars and a fund raising challenge. It has continued as an annual fund raiser to fund the sewing club and community



service projects throughout the year. SMBI students and staff have had the opportunity to participate in this fun cultural and community event for many years. The first of two boilings this year produced 116 gallons of prime apple butter! Anyone have some fresh bread?



## ~Births~

Tony & Rachel (Mullet) Martin  
~Micaiah Brave

Phillip & Deanna (Hartzler) Weaver  
~Tanisha Joy

Ben & Jana (Wolfer) Weaver  
~Kristalyn Promise

### New Board Chairman

Earl Martin was elected as chairman by the SMBI Association and chaired his first meeting in January, 2000. He served well through the years, but chose to decline another term. He will continue to serve on the association. Thank you, Earl, for your steady leadership!

Chosen as next chairman on June 30 was Kevin Hurst of Myerstown, PA. Kevin and Katrina (Lehman) were married September 22, 2007. God has blessed their home with four children- Collin - 10, Cambrie - 8, Chase - 6, and Colson - 3. Kevin has been a part of the SMBI association since 2013. He was ordained as a minister at Lebanon Valley Mennonite Church, part of Mid-Atlantic Fellowship, in 2014. He is also employed in the family business at Lebanon Home Improvement.

Kevin enjoys spending time with family & friends. A hobby is playing Frisbee golf.

A favorite verse - "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him." Nahum 1:7



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Set up a recurring contribution on the support page at SMBI.org. Expand the impact of "small dollar donations." Every dollar counts!



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## ~Weddings~

Benjamin Bergey & Courtney Brubaker ~ 7.3.21

Japheth Beiler & Samantha Zimmerman ~ 8.20.21

LaVon Petre & Andrea Korver ~ 7.3.21

Kyle Hartzler & Tiffany Yoder ~ 9.25.21

Alex Coblentz & Victoria Martin ~ 7.24.21

Jay Weaver & Carmela Mullet ~ 9.25.21

Marcus Gingerich & Jewel Beiler ~ 7.31.21