

## Night of Music

February 5, 2021 7:00 pm

Needmore Bible Church

6939 Great Cove Rd,

Needmore, PA 17238

Directions: From I-70– Warfordsburg exit, take  
US 522 North 7 miles and church will be on the left.

From McConnellsburg, PA, take US 522 South

14 miles and church will be on the right.

Local eating and hotel suggestions are  
Breezewood, PA and Hancock, MD.

When registering at hotels, mention that you are with  
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute.

Watch SMBI.org or facebook for any  
COVID-related announcements

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INSIDE...

*Gratitude for All God's Blessings*

–Two New CDs

–New Well/Housing Project Update

–Financial Report



Like us on Facebook

## Calendar of Events

Third Term . . . . . Jan. 4 - Feb. 12

Missions Involvement . . . . . Jan. 15 - 17

Annual Night of Music . . . . . Feb. 5

Choir Tour . . . . . Feb. 12 - 19

Ministers' Week . . . . . Feb. 15 - 19

Fourth Term . . . . . Feb. 22 - April 2

Missions Conference . . . . . March 6 - 7

Graduation . . . . . March 26

Choir Tour . . . . . April 3 - 23

Fifth Term . . . . . April 12 - May 21

We have openings for men & ladies in fifth term.

### Ministers' Week February 15 - 19, 2021

Registration: Monday, February 15, 10 am - 12 noon

Dismissal: Friday, February 19, 1:00 pm

Costs: Institute rooms - \$10 / night, meals - \$3.00/meal.

An offering will be taken to help cover costs.

Pre-registration is required.

Please contact the office for a brochure and/or registration after Dec. 1.  
www.smbi.org

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Newsletter Of  
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute  
Vol. 43 • Issue 04

# 04

October– December 2020

# the Monitor

## Gratitude for All of God's Blessings

by: Byron Wolfer

At this time of year we, here in the United States, celebrate a day called Thanksgiving. The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was a harvest festival that was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621. This feast lasted three days, and, as recounted by attendee Edward Winslow, was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims. To this day the centerpiece of Thanksgiving celebrations remains Thanksgiving dinner. One history site actually lists the holiday as "a day for Americans to gather for a day of feasting, football and family." Notice the order given in that definition. Another site says it is to celebrate the harvest and other blessings of the year. That definition sounds better. What is our definition of Thanksgiving? I would like to hope that we are gathering for a time of expressing our gratitude to God for all the blessings He has given us through the year.

One definition of gratitude is "the quality of being thankful." Gratitude is a warm feeling of thankfulness towards the world, or towards specific individuals. The person who feels gratitude is thankful for what they have, and does not constantly seek more. Does this definition fit you and me, as we examine our past year? Are we thankful for what God has blessed us with or do we want more? Sure, we need to keep working to provide for ourselves, but is our goal to accumulate more because we are not content with what we have, or is our goal to provide for both our needs and the needs of others?

But maybe we should define what the blessings are for which we are expressing gratitude to God. Are they financial, spiritual, emotional, or physical? And what do we define as a blessing? If my house burns down, do I see any blessings in that situation? If I lose my job because of Covid or some other reason, can I find a blessing in that situation? Are there blessings in church struggles? What about blessings in broken relationships, or maybe anticipated relationships that never materialized?

So many times we only think of blessings as the things we have, as mentioned earlier in the definition of gratitude. Too many times I think we neglect to even think of the things we have as blessings. Many times

we just take them for granted and expect them to continue unabated. But we need to remember that God is the One from whom all our blessings flow, and we need to give Him all the praise and glory and honor that He deserves. Psalm 103:1-5 says **Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.** And the Psalm continues on with many more blessings from God. How many times do we think of all these blessings from God? Sometimes we forget all about the many blessings we receive from God!

Let's look at the scenarios given earlier and see if we can find any blessings in them. If your house burns down, can you recognize what a blessing it is that you only lost things, and not any family members who are dear to you? Possessions can be replaced but not people. While losing your job can be stressful, can we look at the blessing of more family time together that we might not have had before? Perhaps God wants to use this job loss to move you into a different job or position that He wants you in to better serve Him. Maybe He wants you to learn to trust Him in time of want. Watch how He provides beyond our imaginations! Maybe God wants to bless others by using them to care for you in this time. In church struggles, can we see the blessing of drawing nearer to God as we come to Him in search of answers to the situation? Can we see the blessings that come from going through broken relationships? If we have been through these and have healed from them it can give us a greater understanding in how to help others who may be going through them now. Sometimes as we look back at the anticipated relationship that never happened we can see the blessing of God in keeping us from a disastrous situation that may have destroyed our life.

Blessings come in many forms! Let's be careful to take the time to recognize them for what they are and come before God with gratitude for them!

## Return Service Requested

Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute

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Thank You!!!

It is always a humbling experience to reflect on the year and the generous prayer, student, and financial support that is provided to make the ministry of SMBI possible. This year has been particularly challenging for many, and that support means even more. **May God bless you for your contributions through this past year.**



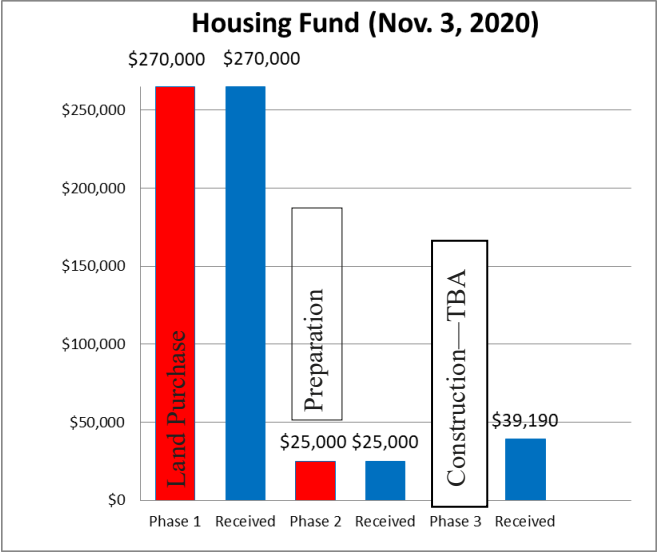
New Well

A new well has been drilled on the property purchased in July, 2020. We praise God for the strong flow of 10 gal./minute! This will provide sufficient water for the existing house as well as the proposed construction of a second house. The cost was approx. \$10,000 and is the first expenditure of phase three of the housing project.

Housing Update

Plans are underway to add a house to the property purchased this summer. This will provide a primary family dwelling and guest potential to our campus housing. Sewage testing is in process and prints are being drafted. Groundbreaking is scheduled for early spring if permits are complete and funding available.

If you wish to contribute to this project, checks may be sent to the SMBI office noted for the “housing fund.” Donors who wish to support this project anonymously may do so through the Anabaptist Foundation. Make your gifts payable to “Anabaptist Foundation” with “SMBI Housing Fund” written on the memo line of your check. Mail these contributions to: Anabaptist Foundation, 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA, 17837.



Student Aid Fund

Nearly \$14,000 in tuition discounts were granted this year. This reduced costs for pastors supporting their students, school teachers, and those who have given time in voluntary service. SMBI is now offering the opportunity to contribute to a “Student Aid Fund.” This will allow us to continue to offer these & other student aid benefits. You may contribute through the support page at [smbi.org](http://smbi.org), or send a check to the office noted for “Student Aid Fund.”

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Income                 |            |
| ROOM & BOARD           | 109,214.98 |
| TUITION                | 114,023.09 |
| PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS | 62,332.15  |
| CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS   | 93,563.98  |
| WATER                  | 7,299.80   |
| FACILITIES RENTAL      | 25,771.36  |
| CD SALES               | 6,914.99   |
| SNACK BAR              | 3,127.41   |
| STUDENT SERVICES       | 5,027.50   |
| RESALE ITEMS           | 1,925.80   |
| YEARBOOK               | 2,002.20   |
| VIDEO INCOME           | 986.74     |
| MUSIC INCOME           | 1,910.72   |
| INTEREST               | 11.14      |
| VEHICLE                | 769.33     |
| LAUNDRY                | 125.50     |
| TELEPHONE              | 36.76      |
| SALES TAX              | 80.94      |
| Total Income           | 435,124.39 |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Expense                        |            |
| PAYROLL                        | 173,524.32 |
| FOOD                           | 56,475.24  |
| FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT PURCHASE | 2,293.70   |
| WATER PROG                     | 13,085.99  |
| ELECTRIC                       | 27,191.99  |
| RENT                           | 11,772.00  |
| OFFICE & PRINTING              | 16,527.92  |
| PAYROLL TAX                    | 12,892.18  |
| FUEL                           | 7,851.80   |
| GIFTS & REMU                   | 14,631.90  |
| MAINTENANCE & BUILDING REPAIR  | 11,302.20  |
| TUITION WAIVERS                | 13,390.00  |
| MUSIC                          | 6,632.45   |
| REAL ESTATE TAX                | 8,900.21   |
| SUPPLIES                       | 9,689.02   |
| BUILDING IMPROVEMENT           | 14,910.37  |
| TELEPHONE EXPENSE              | 6,050.90   |
| INSURANCE                      | 6,907.43   |
| FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT REPAIR   | 1,262.46   |
| TRAVEL                         | 160.00     |
| SNACKBAR                       | 3,382.73   |
| SANITATION                     | 2,003.80   |
| STAFF DEVELOPMENT              | 2,011.92   |
| POSTAGE                        | 1,936.38   |
| YEARBOOK EXPENSE               | 1,609.01   |
| VEHICLE EXPENSE                | 1,858.83   |
| RESALE                         | 1,203.51   |
| AUDIT & ACCOUNTING             | 1,116.95   |
| PUBLICATIONS                   | 103.85     |
| STRIPE FEE                     | 772.84     |
| LIBRARY                        | 105.75     |
| LAND PURCHASE                  | 26,500.00  |
| SALES TAX                      | 2.16       |
| Total Expense                  | 458,059.81 |
| Net Income                     | -22,935.42 |

Did you hear...

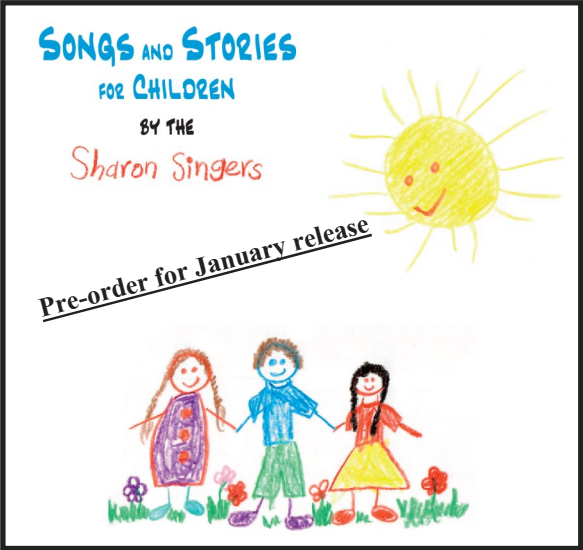
Marriages

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Luke Helmuth & <u>Stephanie Forry</u>        | 9.5.20   |
| Danny Miller & <u>Katrina Smucker</u>        | 10.10.20 |
| <u>Sheldon Bender &amp; Christine Fisher</u> | 10.31.20 |

Births

|   |
|---|
| <u>Nate &amp; Juliana (Wantz) Breneman</u>    |
| ~Katriel Shalom                               |
| <u>Sammy &amp; Amy (Byler) Fisher</u>         |
| ~Shyla Ruby                                   |
| <u>Anthony &amp; Katrina (Yoder) Hartzler</u> |
| ~Carson Anthony                               |

NEW CD RELEASE



SONGS AND STORIES FOR CHILDREN

- BY THE SHARON SINGERS
- As a Little Child
- Give Thanks to the Lord
- Walking With Jesus
- "John and Harry"
- J-O-Y Medley
- "Jamie's Lesson"
- If I Were a Butterfly
- Slippers With Wings
- A Little Talk With Jesus
- "Hailing the Chief"
- Jesus Loves Me
- "Light of the... Storage Closet?"
- Dare to be a Daniel
- Stand Alone
- "Mina of Nepal"
- Children of the Heavenly Father
- Umbrella Song
- "Tom the Candlemaker"

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE  
2020 SHARON SINGERS  
3RD TERM

LET ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE THE LORD  
HIGHEST PLACE  
WE COME  
HE IS FAITHFUL  
BY HIS HAND  
I BELIEVE  
I TRUST IN YOU  
BECAUSE HE LIVES  
IN CHRIST ALONE  
GOD GIVES US A FUTURE WITH HOPE  
BLIND BARTIMAEUS  
THE LOVE OF GOD  
HEART WITH LOVING HEART UNITED  
THE GIFT OF LOVE  
LOVE NEVER FAILS  
OUR ROCK AND OUR SALVATION



CD PRICES:  
\$14.00

CONTACT THE  
OFFICE:

717-485-4341

SMBI@SMBI.ORG

OR ORDER  
THROUGH OUR  
WEBSITE:  
SMBI.ORG.



Set up a recurring contribution on the support page at [smbi.org](http://smbi.org). Expand the impact of “small dollar donations.” Every dollar counts! \$1/day is a \$30 recurring donation. Just 50 contributors would add \$18,000 to the annual budget.