



**A Christ-centered community offering
God's love and truth to
Refresh, Retool, and Rebuild
individuals, ministries, and organizations**

November 2011, Volume 4 Issue 2

In this issue

- Directors' Report
- Highlights and Happenings
- People News
- Growing Leaders in Crisis
- Charity and Generosity



THANKS for many hands!



**Tropical Storm Lee turns
Haft pond into Haft Lake**

1 Haft Lane
New Albany, PA 18833
www.thehaft.org
thehaft@epix.net
570-363-2189

A View From the Bridge

Repetition and change continue to be part of our lives here, a rhythmic pattern of steady grace and challenging developments. We head into the winter with the woodshed filled again. A few months ago it looked like an impossible task, but with the help of three weekend work parties building on the planning and preparation of on-site team members and a few local volunteers, the 25 by 40 foot shed is stacked with our winter fuel supply (about 40 cords). This will feed the large outdoor boilers that heat three of our four buildings. Our thanks to Living Hope Fellowship, Hopewell Fellowship, and Spring Garden Church youth groups for all of their good natured labor and laughter. Now the challenge comes to feed the large fires and keep the driveway plowed through the snowy months ahead. Our new heat distribution and control system in the Barn should help with improved energy efficiency, meaning using less firewood. We'll see!

Intentional community living is hard work. The interdependence necessitated by a shared situation requires a different mind set than suburban individuality and a do-it-yourself or hire-it-done ethic. A more rural setting and a ministry focus call for clear and consistent communication and well articulated values. Resources and uses of energy must be shared as the goals are kept in mind. At the Haft, Christian community living is the setting providing for the needs of others, not the end goal itself. It is served by the freely given effort of those called to come alongside and work for a while so that leaders who need refreshment and rest and retooling can find it here. Spiritual gifts are employed in kingdom living and personal advancement is secondary to the common mission. In God's economy, nothing is wasted, so the things honed here are redeployed elsewhere as we grow in Christ.

We are learning that shorter commitments work best, and a year or two of time here is a good base for future advancement. God continues to surprise us with help and supply, but the challenge is to have consistency in relationships as we watch others come and go. We bade farewell to the Colemans in August and the Brauns moved back to Rochester this month. The Fishers finish their work here at the end of January. Ah, the challenge is waiting to see who comes next, including our own eventual replacements. Until then, we are called to be good stewards of The Haft's mission, resources, and the relationships, challenges, and opportunities with which He blesses us.

If you or someone you know is ready for a season of hard work, simple living, and the joy of serving the Lord in the fresh mountain air, send them our way. Mowing, plowing, cooking, cleaning, feeding fires, and welcoming visitors is the background work that makes the listening, counseling, coaching, and hospitable environment possible. We need people with the heart and skills to do some or all of the above for a season. Contact us to talk over possibilities.

Bruce and Joan Boydell

Directors of Ministry and Operations

Highlights and Happenings

Floods and Recovery

Joan Boydell

More than two months after the devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee starting on September 7, some of the havoc wrought in this area is still widely evident. Along Route 87 and across the Loyalsock Creek, a large house undermined by rushing waters continues to sink deeper into the still saturated ground each day, a sad testimonial to the consequences of a ruined foundation. A long string of guardrail hangs like a monstrous necklace on the bank, dangling between the remaining anchor posts. Pieces of the roadway looked as if it had been chewed by giant rodents, and ruined possessions are piled outside of damaged houses.

The work parties continue with the support of area church and civic groups, and aid from many sources has rallied residents and helped the stricken communities start to recover. The Haft has been able to have some small part in this. We continue to give thanks for being spared any major damage. We listened to the pounding rain and watched the pond water rush over its banks, but the earthen dam held and much potential distress was avoided. Some re-contouring of the stream banks, strengthening of the dam area, and road grading is needed. It will be done when more urgent repairs are completed for others. God has been good to us.

Coming Events and Activities

- Pastor John and Dorothy Boateng from Daystar Bible College, Ghana - November 28 - December 4
- Spring Garden Church Women's Retreat - January 13-15
- Living Hope Fellowship and Rock Run Youth Hunger Retreat - January 15-16
- 3 2012 Pastor Couple Retreats - February 7-9, April 10-12, October 2-4
- Hopewell Fellowship Youth Retreat and Work Weekend - April 27-29

Partnerships and Strategic Relationships

Haft Advisory Council - 14 leaders who support the Haft's mission have generously agreed to provide counsel and lend their influence to further our goals and vision. Members are listed on page 4.

Board Reunion - On October 8, former Haft Board members met with current leaders for a time of updating, fellowship, and thanksgiving. It was a wonderful testimony to God's sustaining grace and faithfulness.

Hopewell Network - Our new association is bearing fruit as pastors and leaders come to experience what we offer to serve their congregations.

Pastor Renewal Steering Team - A strategic group of ministry and education leaders in the Philadelphia area has affirmed the role of The Haft in offering a place to develop emerging leaders and bring help to struggling ones.

Serving Individuals and Organizations

Sabbaticals for Pastors - We have offered space and coaching to a number of congregational leaders needing refreshment and addressing vocational decisions.

Writing Retreats - The Executive Director of an international outreach ministry spent time at The Haft to begin work on a book to challenge and equip Christian leaders in the area of mercy ministries that transcend cultural and geographical boundaries

Group Retreats - A number of groups of youth and young adults have come to contribute volunteer help with projects and firewood gathering and to experience a fresh encounter with God's call on their lives. One such group spent time together focusing on "Embracing the Father's Love" as they sought healing from wounds and encouragement to more authentically represent the Father heart of God to their children and other family members and friends.

Improvements to Buildings and Grounds

- **Barn** - new zone-controlled hot water radiant heating to increase fuel economy; remodeling of living, eating, and entry areas
- **Paving** - the parking lot and some of the driveway has its first ever blacktop. In addition to serving vehicles and pedestrian traffic, it has made an exciting place for kids on their bikes and skateboards.
- **Garage and Maintenance Building** - now in full use and ready to serve year-round. A tough winter is predicted, but we're ready.

New Haft Website and Brochure

- The totally redesigned website is now active. It's has a new look and new functionality, including the ability to make on-line donations and reservations and participate in social networking to reach younger people. **Check it out at www.thehaft.org.**
- A new Haft brochure is available to help us and you get out the word to those who might be interested in taking advantage of our services and facilities. Let us know if you'd like an electronic copy or some hard copies.



DIANA BOMBERO
Volunteer Extraordinaire



In 1985, Diana Bombero came to the Haft as a seeker. She needed the restoration and focus that only God could provide for her, and she found it here at the Haft. As her heart and soul were strengthened, Diana began pouring out herself for others. She stayed on at the Haft as a tutor for other students, and provided the loving service of a caretaker as Glenn Hart lay dying. For years after, she gave special attention to Grandma Jean, keeping a promise to Glenn that she would look after her, too. She served as a Trustee for a while as well, staying on a team valiantly sustaining the Haft's ministry during difficult times.

Diana now lives in nearby Dushore, but she continues to be a special part of The Haft. She comes out at least twice a month to help out in various ways, doing special projects, helping to organize and improve things, cooking and serving on some occasions. She loves to fish, and has gotten more enjoyment out of fishing the pond than anyone else we can think of. Her special joy is teaching children to fish, and many a child has benefitted from her patient instruction. If you time it right, you just might arrive on one of the nights when she prepares a fish dinner for the whole group!

Diana prays faithfully for the Haft team and shares the word of the Lord with us. She is truly a blessing to many and a joy to the Lord. Thank you, Diana.

THE FISHER FAMILY - PREPARING FOR TRANSITION



Dutch and Rosa joined the on-site team in January 2011, with a one year commitment to serve The Haft and also to develop their leadership vision and skills. Their return to Lancaster County in late January 2012 will leave a big hole in on-site resources, but will be a gift to those in their home community who are seeking to better know and walk in their God-purpose in life. Here are some clips from Rosa's Blog which we commend to your reading. It is lighthearted, serious, and full of practical wisdom.

"...to think of leaving here isn't easy, but we feel it's important to go back to Lancaster for now. Will God call us here again for a longer period of time sometime down the road?? I don't know!! But we're so glad we got the privilege of being here this year.

People often wonder if the Haft is being used - is anything going on here, are people coming to be refreshed, & retooled? The answer is yes! And as people are finding out about the Haft & what's available here, we are getting more phone calls, etc. We are not booked solid, but we have people coming & going!! It's exciting to see God at work!!

Check out Rosa's Blog - <http://thedutchclan.blogspot.com/>

THE BRAUN FAMILY - FOLLOWING THEIR HEARTS



The Brauns arrived almost 2 years ago to serve as caretakers in the early stages of The Haft's transition. They left family and the familiar places and activities of Rochester, NY to launch a period of personal growth and discovery. Their heart desire has been to return to Rochester and apply the things they have learned as part of their Haft experience to serving Christ there and continuing to parent their children through the challenging period of adolescence to become creative and effective adults, with lives grounded in a Christian worldview. We will greatly miss all of them and are truly grateful for their contributions to The Haft and our lives. Ben's laugh, Sasha's questions, Elisabeth's writing, Martha's smile, Betsy's music and merriment, and Gregg's brains and braun will not easily be replaced here.

Growing Leaders in Crisis: Part 4

The Unity Crisis

Scot Magann

Great leaders harness the free energy in diverse individual agendas. Disunity can frustrate a leader's plans, but by working through it as a unity crisis, leaders can multiply their effectiveness.

The Unity Crisis

King Rehoboam inherited a kingdom from his father Solomon. The leaders from Solomon's day advised him to consolidate his authority: "Thank the people for the hard work they did for your father. Let them return to work their farms, and they will serve you gladly."

Rehoboam's young friends offered an alternative: "Tell these people, 'My pinky finger is more powerful than my father's thigh.' You must force them to serve you!" Unfortunately, the young king divided his father's country with a coercive demand.

Every member of an organization agrees to work on common goals. They also remain deeply motivated by their personal dreams—some are expressed, others are implied, but some may be completely hidden. As the organization grows, each member grows. Individual dreams become clearer and bolder, and the network of loyalties becomes broader and stronger. Everyone is growing and everything is changing!

Insecure leaders try to dictate every detail of change. They attack bold individual dreams as menacing competition. They undermine broad personal loyalties as a threat to their central control. While demanding unity, they generate the divisive "Us vs. Them" dynamic that destroys so many organizations.

Secure leaders unify growing people around a compelling mission and vision. They inspire people to pursue their own dreams while investing in common goals. They nurture broad patterns of loyalty that protect the organization in crisis. Change intensifies the pressure, but every member remains "one of us." So a unity crisis begs this question:

Do the people I lead believe I support their individual dreams and personal loyalties?

Perhaps it's time to validate the concerns of your people; answer their questions; consider their ideas; cherish their work; release them to pioneer their own dreams. Unity begins at the top!

The Haft, Inc.

1 Haft Lane, New Albany, PA 18833

www.thehaft.org

570-363-2189

thehaft@epix.net

Charity and Generosity

Frank Fendler

As treasurer of the Haft, it's been a privilege to observe the stewardship of the resources God has provided to revitalize the Haft. If you have any history with the Haft, it's fair to say that what will greet you coming through the front door today is close to breathtaking.

All that has to do with what is physically visible and I can assure you that what has been accomplished goes far beyond the very careful application of the funds that were allotted for these purposes. The leadership and staff drew in many who contributed to these efforts which produced amazing outcomes that could not have happened otherwise.

We know that as important as all these "things" are, they are all a means to the end. We want the Haft to be a place where those who come can hear God speak in ways unique to their individual needs and desires. While not so outwardly measurable, the extraordinary changes we've seen of late in the lives of people have more than affirmed that the investments made, both visible and invisible, have been well placed and are bearing fruit.

It's been some time since we made a direct appeal for support from our Haft friends. As you think about that, consider this. Opening your wallet may be thought of in terms of an act of **charity**; opening your heart is an act of **generosity**. Both, when done cheerfully, incur God's blessing. At the Haft, the Spirit of God has created a spirit of generosity that is palpable to most everyone who comes. The love that flows from that well is what fills up the empty places in the lives of those who need to be refreshed, retooled and rebuilt.

We'd like you to share in the joy of being part of that wellspring, to what ever level you are able. Please know that your generosity will be multiplied many times over through those who are called by God to restore His people through the ministry of the community of believers at the Haft.

Board of Trustees

Bruce Boydell — President

Scot Magann — Vice President

Eric Northop — Secretary

Frank Fendler—Treasurer

Joan Boydell - Trustee

On-site Ministry Team

Bruce and Joan Boydell

Elmer and Rosa Fisher

Administrative Assistant

Joan Rodriguez

Intercession Leaders

Heidi Eisenhard

Calvin Greiner

Janet Stanley

Ruth Ann Stauffer

Advisory Council

Paul Clough

Real Estate businessman

Pastor Christ Community Church

Men & Small Groups Ministry

Joy Crosby

V.P. of Organizational Excellence Care Net

Paul and Sue Fields

Pastor, Coalport, PA United Methodist Church

Michael Geer

President, Pennsylvania Family Institute

Ed Lochmoeller

National Director – PIR Ministries

Dr. Samuel Logan

International Director, World Reformed Fellowship

Curt Malizzi

Leadership Team of Hopewell Network

Pastor Hopewell Christian Fellowship

Philip Monroe, PsyD

Prof. of Counseling and Psychology, Biblical Seminary

James Petty

Executive Director

Children's Jubilee Fund

Richard Taylor

The Navigators

Church Discipleship Ministry

Richard Tyson

Senior Pastor Calvary Presbyterian Church

Dave Wiedis

Founder & Executive Director, Serving Leaders Ministries

Dr. Keith Yoder

Founder & President, Teaching The Word Ministries

Lester Zimmerman

Leader Hopewell Network of Churches