District Highlights

March 2007

STAFF:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday ~ Friday 7:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. Staff meeting each Monday, 8:00 a.m.

Please send all <u>Highlights</u> information to the District Office by the <u>15th</u>.

HIGHLIGHTS EDITOR:

Carolyn Willoughby
Deffenbaugh
carowill@homeside.to
(Subject: Highlights)

SMELLS LIKE CHURCH

What do you think the title, "Smells Like Church" is referring to? The answer can be found in the January 2007 issue of Messenger. As I was reading the editorial by Walt Wiltschek I was challenged by his comments about declining membership and at least one of the reasons this is happening across denominations. His comments accurately portray a number of situations in the denomination and congregations in the Western PA District. In commenting about an Associated Press article which describes the feud occurring among members of the board that administers the landmark, "Cross of Peace," near Carbondale, IL, Wiltschek observed, "... our own brand of infighting seems rampant. Groups on different sides of issues take potshots at each other. Some profess tolerance or a dedication to Jesus in one breath and attack their neighbor and fellow Christians in the next."

That description sounds all too familiar in many congregations. When we disagree with someone else, instead of listening with an open mind and spirit, we become critical, judgmental and make harsh comments to keep the other person in their place. We quickly forget about God's grace and forgiveness which has been extended to us. Jesus shared in John 15:12, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Earlier Jesus had shared, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." That is fairly simple and straightforward. Why is it so difficult to follow these commands of Jesus? That has become a prayer concern for me. Will you join me in keeping this as a priority in your prayer time, as we seek to be kind and loving to our sisters and brothers in Christ?

In commenting about diminishing membership, Wiltsheck stated, "And we wonder why our membership is shrinking. We wonder why so many youth and young adults leave the church. How do we show them we're any better than the rest of the world? Why should they want to come in? Where is Jesus in all that? Where is grace?"

How are you and I demonstrating grace, forgiveness and love in our relationship with sisters and brothers in the faith community? When we disagree with someone what is our first response? Do we start talking about them to others, or do we go directly to them and attempt to understand why we are in disagreement? The first step in dealing with diminishing membership is to look at our own attitudes and actions. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to give us loving hearts and positive attitudes toward others, especially those with whom we may disagree.

When I remember that God loves me, rough edges and all, how can I not love others even though I might disagree with them? Will you join with me as we put into practice Jesus' command, "Love each other as I have loved you."

RDB

Local Church News

HOSPITALIZED

- Wade E. Thomas, District Leadership Team (District Board) member serving on the Pastor & Parish Ministry Team (Ministry Commission), for treatment.
- **Kermit Jones**, retired ordained minister, for treatment.
- **Linda Beachley**, wife of District Minister Ron Beachley, for surgery

SYMPATHY

• to the family of **Gilbert L. Hedlund**, licensed minister in the Pike Run congregation.

LEADERSHIP

• Congratulations to Eric P. Kabler on his licensing to the Christian ministry in the Church of the Brethren at the Moxham Church on January 28, 2007.

NOTE TO THOSE RECEIVING THE District HIGHLIGHTS - The mailing list has been updated.

Those requesting to be removed from the mailing list because they are getting the HIGHLIGHTS online, please note that you do not receive all the pages. We are working to put all the pages into one format. Until that is accomplished, you will continue to receive a hard copy via snail mail.

<u>DISTRICT DIRECTORY</u> - The 2007 District Directory is in the process of being distributed. Several updates and changes will be noted in the April issue of <u>District HIGHLIGHTS</u>. Please call the District Office with any corrections.

NOTE TO CONGREGATIONS -

Please include the District Office when mailing your church's newsletter, and when distributing your church directory. Thanks very much!

WANTED - YOUTH DIRECTOR

LOOKING TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUTH NEAR THE HIGHEST POINT IN PA?

THEN LOOK TO THE SALISBURY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CONGREGATION IN SOUTHERN SOMERSET COUNTY

WE ARE WANTING TO HIRE A YOUTH DIRECTOR FOR OUR GROWING YOUTH PROGRAM THIS IS A PAID POSITION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MARTHA ALBRIGHT AT 814-634-8705 OR EMAIL fourms@verizon.net

NEW MEMBERS

Purchase Line Congregation

Tammy Berkey

Uniontown Congregation

- Mollie Stacy
- Laura Scottodiluzio
- David Scottodiluzio

Geiger Congregation

- Amanda Urban
- Benjamin Urban
- Amy Miller
- Christopher Charlton

Pike Run Congregation

- Nancy Gibson
- Taylor Gibson

April Highlights Deadline March 15, 2006

Young Adult Conference

All Young Adults are invited May 26-28, 2007

at Camp Harmony, Johnstown, PA!

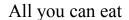
The theme for the annual Young Adult Conference will be "Doers of the Word" based on James 1:22-25.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young adults throughout the denomination to gather together for a weekend of worship, singing, fellowship and meeting other young adults.

A variety of young adults will speak during each of the worship services and sessions will

be led by **Paul Grout**.

Registration information is available online at brethren.org/genbd/yya/yac.htm



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast March 31,

7 to 10 a.m.,

free-will donation proceeds will go to the

District Disaster Fund sponsored by the Maple Spring Church.

Fish Dinner

Hooversville Church of the Brethren

March 9, 2007 4-7 p.m.

benefits the Kitchen Fund

Continue sending to the District Office or the Highlights editor your announcements, stories, milestones, information about your congregation and what people in our District are doing.

The Mountain Anthems
are coming to
Sipesville Church
March 18 at 7 p.m.
Menno S. Beachy, Director
Free-will offering will be taken.



Praise Team Leads a Monthly Worship Service

New Hope Ministries Praise Team "Power of Praise" believe that God inhabits a house of Praise. Our vision is to have a service where we can bring friends and family, the saved and the unsaved to feel the presence of God, not the pressures of the world.

The Praise Team leads a Praise & Worship service on the 4th Sunday of every month at *Tire Hill Church of the Brethren at 7:00 PM.* "EVERYONE WELCOME!" With power point visual aid everyone can join in as we lift the name of Jesus.

There will not be any Praise Services in March due to the Lenten Services. Next Praise Service will be on **April 22 at 7:00Pm.**

The Praise Team is also available to bring a service to your own church, visual aids and all. For information phone Harry at: 814-754-5180 or email hjhuzsek@pennswoods.net

Stewardship & Financial Resources For Congregations!

The District Stewards & Finance Team has numerous resources available for your congregation to use in education and Bible study, financial planning, campaigns, and all church programs. The materials available for you to preview include:

- Dessert First Complete Financial Commitment Program, by the Staff of Christian Community
- Cell Phones, Dessert, and Faith A Guilt-Free Look at Money and the Spiritual Life, by Steve Clapp
- Woven Together In Love Autumn All Church Program of Stewardship & Community Service
- Living As Seeds Springtime Bulletin Inserts
- Stewardship Box Variety of books, Bible studies & pastoral resources

These resources can be used in a variety of ways. For additional information, call the District Office at 814/479-2181.

Three generations of family in ministry in the COB

- **--Abby R. Mader,** licensed to ministry in 2006, graduate of Grove City College, enrolled in SVMC ministry classes, daughter of Jay and Ruby Mader
- **--Ruby F. Mader**, ordained to ministry in 2005, presently the pastor of the Rummel COB in Western PA District, completed SVMC classes, daughter of Kermit and the late Druscilla Jones
- **--Kermit L. Jones**, ordained in 1975, now retired, served full-time at County Line COB, part-time or interim at several congregations in Western PA District.



The picture was taken at a Thanksgiving Day family gathering, 2006.

Johnstown Area Lenten Services "Brokenness to Wholeness"

Services begin at 6:45 p.m. with a Hymn Sing followed by the worship service at 7:00 p.m.

- March 4 Morrellville Church Barron Deffenbaugh "David"
- March 11 Moxham Church John Mangus "Mary"
- March 18 Pleasant Hill Church Guy Meyers "the Woman at the Well"
- March 25 Roxbury Church Rob Rummel "Paul"

There will be childcare at each service.

Light refreshments and fellowship will be offered following the worship service.

Offerings will be divided between New Day, Inc. and Hogar de Niños Emmanuel Children's Home.

Brethren Disaster Response is very excited to announce the opening of our 4th active Katrina recovery project as of Feb. 11, 2007. This project will be based in Chalmette, Louisiana.

Chalmette is in St. Bernard Parish, where Katrina caused the levee failures that inundated homes throughout the parish with 6-20 feet of water for over 2 weeks. Over 200 parish residents lost their lives, and 100% percent of the homes were officially declared "uninhabitable." Nearly 50% of the residents were senior citizens.

Work to Be Done:

Brethren Disaster Response is coordinating efforts with the St. Bernard Project, a local all-volunteer organization. The city has taken care of demolishing houses and clearing debris. Volunteers will do major repair work including insulation, drywall, laminate flooring, plumbing, electric, roofing, etc. - just the basics to allow people to get back into their homes.

Volunteer Housing:

The S. Bernard Project was able to obtain seven trailers on loan from FEMA for the Brethren volunteers' use. Five trailers are for the work crews and two are for the project directors. The trailers are located in a trailer community of Katrina survivors. These trailers sleep 3 persons each, for a maximum of 15. But do the math - if you have both men and women, in order to accommodate 15, each gender needs to be in multiples of 3! If not in multiples of 3, this will reduce your group size to 13 or 14, which is okay. The trailers are air-conditioned and equipped with one double bed and one single bed, a bathroom and a kitchenette.

Volunteer Meals:

Volunteers will prepare and eat their breakfast and pack their lunch in their own trailer. Suppers are provided for volunteers free of charge at Camp Hope, about 4 miles away. COOKS ARE NOT NEEDED. Camp Hope also has a coin-operated laundry.

What to Bring:

All volunteers need to bring their own bedding, pillow and towels.

Note: We still have some open dates in May at all 4 projects.



Somerset Area Lenten Services

Services begin at 3:00 p.m.

March 11 "Celebration" Service at Pike Run Church
Theme: "Encourage" Philippians 2:1-11
Speaker: Br. Peter Kaltenbaugh, pastor of the Meyersdale Church

March 25 "Finale" Service at Meyersdale Church Theme: "Live" Ephesians 4:17-32

Speaker: Br. Marvin McClain, executive director of Camp Harmony



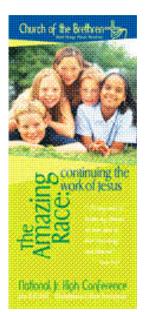
The Amazing Race: Continuing the Work of Jesus

NATIONAL JR. HIGH CONFERENCE June 15-17, 2007 Elizabethtown College

Registration is currently open to all 6th, 7th, 8th graders and their advisors. The cost is \$99 per person. You can register for the conference by going online at www. brethren.org, click under Youth/Young Adults. Registration is limited.

There will be a district bus. If you are interested in traveling on the district bus, please contact Linda McCauliff at the District office at (814) 479-7058.

As a reminder, Tony Campolo, Ted & Lee, and Ken Medema will be at the conference. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Diana Rok at (814) 535-7386.



NE

DISTRICT YOUTH VOLLEYBALL May 5, 2007 Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren

WHAT?!? Start gathering our youth for District Volleyball?! Have you seen the weather outside?!? There's snow on the ground and it's frigid!!!

That's right! You need to start planning for the District Volleyball on May 5, 2007 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Remember you need at least 4 players to register. Only one adult is allowed on the playing field at a time.

Keep watching the Highlights for the registration form!

Diana Rok, District Youth Ministries Coordinator Phone: 814 / 535-8346

District Youth Volleyball Tournament

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2007 Place: Pleasant Hill Church Time: 8:30 a.m. Devotions

Begin Playing: 9:00 a.m. Sharp!

WHO CAN PLAY: Junior Youth & Senior High Youth

(6th grade - one year out of high school)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$40.00

REGISTRATION FEE AFTER MAY 1: \$50.00

ALL REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE BEFORE: 3:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 4. REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SATURDAY, MAY 5.

For Additional Information, call Diana Rok, 814/535-8346, or Russ Peruso, 814/536-3685.

LEAP Service Project!

The LEAP Service Team is collecting canned goods for our community! The Team that brings the most canned goods to the Volleyball Tournament gets a gift certificate for *Pizza Hut*!

REGISTRATION				
Yes, we would like to register for the Volleyball To	ournament!!			
Contact Person & Phone Number				
Congregation	Approximate Number of Players			
Amount Enclosed				
Send Pre-Registrations To: Western PA District 0 115 Spring Rd <u>\$50.0</u> Hollsopple PA 15935				

NOTE: Please remember to bring canned goods to support our communities! The Team that brings the most canned goods gets a gift certificate to Pizza Hut!

WESTERN PA DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1. Rosters must be turned in on May 5, before play begins. Rosters must include names, addresses, and telephone numbers of youth and advisors.
- 2. Players <u>must be</u> Jr. High or Sr. High Youth (6th grade through one year out of high school).
- 3. All players should only be registered with <u>one</u> team, and cannot switch players to other teams.
- 4. You must have at least <u>four</u> people to play, and no more than <u>nine</u> on the court at a time.
- 5. Only one advisor, per team, is allowed on the court at a time.
- 6. Advisors cannot spike, but are permitted to block.
- 7. There will be no 10 foot line you can spike from anywhere.
- 8. When spiking, going over the line or under the net is illegal.
- 9. No closed fist spikes.
- 10. You must serve completely behind the back line.
- 11. After side-out, last server rotates out, while new player comes in.

NOTICE: IF A CHURCH HAS <u>TWO</u> TEAMS, THEY MUST PRE-REGISTER <u>BOTH</u> BY THE DEADLINE, OR THE SECOND TEAM'S REGISTRATION WILL BE \$50.00.

ALL TEAMS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED BEFORE 3:00 PM, ON FRIDAY, MAY 4!!
REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SATURDAY, MAY 5!!

Covenant forms will be available at registration table.

DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP **PRESENTS**

Our Annual Spring Rally "The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength"

,	3		
C	Date: Thursday, April 12	Cost: \$7.	50
R	Registration: 9:00-9:45		
Р	Praise Time: 9:45-10:00		
	LuAnne Baker. e impersonating women of the B	ible.	
Martha; Pı	reparation for Jesus' Visit		
Saria, A M	loslem Lady		
Mary: The	e Mother of Jesus		
The offering	will be going to the Greensburg Wo	men's Shel	ter
++++++	Disposable Diapers to be given to the highest terms of the highest terms	+++++	· ++++++++++++
Congregation _			
No. of women a	attending		
Cost: \$7.50 A	Amount \$		
Please write ch	ecks to the District Women's Fellowship		
Send to: Mildre	ed Hartzell, 619 W. Race Street, Somerset,	PA 15501	814/443-2566



Hello Ladies, Do I have a surprise for you!

If you haven't packed your bags yet for the *HeartSpa*, we're going to give you a last chance opportunity to do so.

<u>HeartSpa</u> is a place where we can relax and be pampered while growing in our relationship with Jesus and others. Together we'll experience meaningful devotions, spa treatments, and lots of rejuvenating fun!

HeartSpa will take place, Friday, May 4 (registration from 5:00 till 7:00pm) till Saturday, May 5 (around 3:30).

It will be held at the beautiful Antiochian Village Retreat Center along Route 711 north of Ligonier. The cost is only \$98.00 per person! This covers a Pizza gathering Friday night, two full meals on Saturday, fun and refreshing spa activities, and hotel style, comfortable lodging.

This is the last time we can offer this wonderful opportunity. The reservations must be given to the Aniochian Village. Your reservations MUST be sent by March 15th. You may pay a down payment of only \$50.00 now. The remaining amount isn't due till April 1st.

+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	++++++++++++++
Mail by MARCH 15TH	HeartSpa	
NO RESERVATIONS CAN BE	1	
Name:	Phone	
Address:		
Congregation:	Paid in full \$98.00	
To room with? (4 to a room)		
Down payment \$50.00	Paid in full \$98.00	
Make check out to "District Wom	nen's Fellowship'	
Send to: Mildred Hartzell, 619 W.	Race Street, Somerset, PA 15501 #	814/443-2566
	DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Y OF BEING A CHRISTIAN WOMAN" I	
SPRING RALLY April 12, 2007	"The Joy of the Lord is My Strength"	
HEARTSPA May 4 & 5 "Where	e Women are Refreshed in Jesus"	
CAMP DAY June 21, 2007 "He	Heals the Broken Hearted"	
HOME DAY August 9, 2007 "He	e Giveth Living Water"	
FALL BRUNCH October 20, 200	07 "If You Want Joy, You Must Praise for 1	ſt"

District Men's Fellowship

Annual Golf Outing

April 21, 2007 Indian Lake Golf Club (Private Course)

1:00 p.m. Tee Time 6:00 p.m. Picnic Dinner

Cost

\$65 per person (meal included) \$260 per foursome (meal included) \$8.50 for meal only

Cash Prizes

Hole in One \$100 Closest to Line \$50 Closest to Pin \$25 Longest Putt \$25 Longest Drive \$25

Team Prizes

High Team/Low Team Other Prizes

Hole Sponsorship \$35

Who can be a Hole Sponsor?

- Men's/Women's Fellowships
- Youth Groups
- Sunday School Class
- Individuals

You get: Your name on Sign on Hole and in the program and one person from the sponsoring group can attend the

Mail Registration to:

Homer Marshall 369 West Church Ave, Masontown,

Please send in your registration form by **April 7**, **2007**. Add \$15 per person or \$60 per foursome if registered after the

Western Pennsylvania District Highlights

District Men's Fellowship Golf Outing Registration Form

Mail to: Homer Marshall 369 West Church Ave Masontown, PA 15461-1651

Foursome or Individual

Spokesperson		Phone
Congregation Golfers (before April 7) (after April 7) Name	\$65	\$80
Name	\$65	\$80
Name	\$65	\$80
Name Total Due with Registration \$	\$65	\$80
Amount Received by Treasurers \$	Initial	Date
Congregation @ \$8.5 Number of Reservations @ \$8.5 Do Not Include Golfers After April 7 according to the contact Person	id \$5 per person	
Hole Sponsor		
Name		Phone
Address		Mail to: Homer Marshall 369 West Church Ave Masontown, PA 15461-1651
	Zip	
\$35 per Hole: Number of Holes	@ \$35 Total [Due

Denominational News

Personnel Changes

 The Church of the Brethren General Board has announced the placement of *Roy Grosbach* as interim part-time director of Information Services, serving since the departure of former director Ed Leiter.

Position Openings

- Bridgewater (Va.) Retirement Community seeks a fulltime director of Pastoral Care. A master of divinity or theologically-related degree, Clinical Pastoral Education training and five years or more in a pastoral ministry or equivalent experience, ordination (or licensing) to ministry, and good standing with the Church of the Brethren is required. The position is available May 1. Applications will be accepted through March 7. Send a resume to Paul Hoyt, President, Bridgewater Retirement Community, 302 N. Second St., Bridgewater, VA 22812; 540-828-2666.
- Sharing Services Agency/MAX (MutualAid eXchange) is offering a producer/agent career opportunity in the Anabaptist community. Sharing Services Agency/MAX provides property and casualty insurance products (homeowners, farmowners, church, auto, and commercial policies) and Mutual Aid Ministries programs. The Goshen, Ind., office is seeking a **producer**/ agent to develop strong connections to the Anabaptist community, generate opportunities for providing MAX insurance, and deliver outstanding service to members. Previous insurance experience and a current Property and Casualty insurance license is a plus. Training the right person not already licensed may be considered. To learn more visit www. mutualaidexchange.com. Resumes may be emailed to skwine@maxkc.com or faxed to 877-785-0085.

ABC Announces Spring Deacon/Caregiver Ministry Training Events

(Elgin, IL - February 12, 2007) The Association of Brethren Caregivers will hold three Deacon/ Caregiver Ministry Training events this spring with each event exploring the theme "Healing Balm." These day-long training sessions will help church caregivers learn about what it means to be a church deacon or caregiver and how to extend the healing balm of Jesus to those in need.

The Deacon/Caregiving Ministry Training events will be held:

March 10 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) - Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, Bridgewater, Va., with a registration deadline of March 2.

April 21 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) - Hillcrest, La Verne, Calif. with a registration deadline of April 6.

June 9 (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) - The Cedars, McPherson, Kan., with a registration deadline of May 25.

Bernie Fuska's keynote presentation for the Bridgewater event will explore the theme "Portrait of a Christ-like Heart." Fuska is pastor of the Timberville (Va.) Church of the Brethren and has served on the General Board and Standing Committee. He also is a resource person for Conflict Transformation for the Shenandoah District and a member of the Ministry of Reconciliation Practitioners network.

At Hillcrest and The Cedars, Wallace Landes will give the keynote address titled "Anoint Us, Lord." Landes is pastor of the Palmyra (Pa.) Chruch of the Brethren and chair of the ABC Board. He is an adjunct member of the Religious Studies faculty at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

Each event will include Bible study, keynote presentation, multiple workshops and worship. Workshops will address practical issues that regularly confront deacons in their ministry. A \$15 registration fee includes the cost of lunch for attendees who register by the appropriate deadline. Registration materials will be mailed this week to all Brethren churches and district offices and are also available on-line at www.brethren-caregivers.org. Please contact the ABC office at (800) 323-8039 with questions.

Newsline is produced by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Western Pennsylvania District Highlights

Plans progress for 300th anniversary of Brethren movement.

The Anniversary Committee of Annual Conference has announced several plans for special events and commemorations of the 300th anniversary of the Brethren movement. Among them are an opening celebration this fall in Germantown, Pa., joint events will be held with the Brethren Church at the 2008 Annual Conference, and a "300th Anniversary Celebration Sunday" for congregations on Aug. 3, 2008.



"Our committee views the period from Annual Conference '07 to Annual Conference '08 as the time of celebration for the 300th anniversary," said committee chair Jeff Bach.

The opening event will be held Sept. 15-16, 2007, at Germantown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, the site of the first Brethren meetinghouse in America. The meetinghouse was built in 1770. A day of worship will be the focus, with Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. led by the congregation, and a service at 2 p.m. serving as the denominational celebration. Other activities on Saturday will include cemetery tours, visits to the site of the first Brethren baptism in America at Wissahickon Creek, tours of Philadelphia, exhibits, a hymn sing, and informational presentations.

An academic conference at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College is planned for Oct. 11-13, 2007, to celebrate the past heritage, present, and future prospects for the Church of the Brethren, Bach reported.

The Annual Conference scheduled for July 12-16, 2008, in Richmond, Va., will include a joint day of worship and celebration with the Brethren Church on Sunday, July 13, and a joint closing service on July 16. A joint event on mission and the global church will take place on Sunday evening, July 13. The two denominations will gather under the theme, "Surrendered to God, Transformed in Christ, Empowered by the Spirit." The two denominations will have separate worship and business sessions on July 14-15.

On Aug. 3, 2008, the Brethren Encyclopedia Board is planning an anniversary event in Schwarzenau, Germany, the site of the baptisms of the first group of eight Brethren. Several Church of the Brethren members are planning tours to Europe to coincide with this event.

Aug. 3, 2008, also is designated as "300th Anniversary Celebration Sunday" for Church of the Brethren congregations. The anniversary committee invites congregations and districts to mark the anniversary with special events. Activities being suggested include district speech contests for youth on the anniversary theme, "Surrendered to God, Transformed in Christ, Empowered by the Spirit," or on the topics, "I'm Brethren because ," or "My hopes for the Church of the Brethren as we move into our fourth century are ." Winning speeches may be given at district conferences or district-wide anniversary celebrations.

Districts also have been invited to participate in Youth Heritage Travel Teams. A training event for Youth Heritage Travel Teams is scheduled for April 13-15, 2007, at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Each district has been invited to name a team of two youth to attend the training. Districts will cover travel expenses but other expenses such as room and board, materials, and leadership are covered by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office of the Church of the Brethren General Board. The youth teams will provide leadership at district events and in congregations throughout the anniversary year. They will be trained in the areas of storytelling, public speaking, drama, music, heritage, and Brethren beliefs and practices.

An anniversary resource packet including a six-lesson study guide on the anniversary theme, and a bibliography of worship and drama resources that will be posted at the anniversary website, was mailed to congregations and districts last fall. To request a copy of the resource packet contact the Annual Conference Office at 800-688-5186. A children's curriculum, "Piecing Together the Brethren Way," also will be available this year. It is suitable to be used for Vacation Bible School or church camp, may be expanded into a 14-week Sunday school unit, and may be adapted for use by youth and adults as well.

Find the 300th anniversary website at www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org. To receive the e-mail newsletter of the 300th Anniversary Committee, send a request to Dean Garrett at garet_poplrgrv@yahoo.com.

This is a special invitation for your congregation (delegates and non-delegates)

to attend the

221st Recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren

in the Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio June 30-July 4, 2007

This is an opportunity to meet other Brethren and experience the annual meeting of the denomination when it is in your area.

Conference Highlights

Saturday

Opening worship – Jeff Carter, Pastor, Manassas Virginia, preaching Bible studies, informational sessions on key business items, ice cream social

Sunday

Morning worship – Belita Mitchell, Moderator, preaching Consecreation of delegates and opening business session Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

Monday

Business sessions Evening worship – Duane Grady, Congregational Life leader, preaching Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

Tuesday

Business sessions Evening worship – Tim Harvey, Pastor, Roanoke, Virginia, preaching Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

Wednesday

Closing worship – Ataloa Woodin, Pastor, Fresno, California, preaching

All week

Organized programs for all age groups

Early Evening with the Arts - features concerts or drama each evening

Cash buffet for lunches & dinners in the Exhibit Hall; daily ice cream social

A variety of nearby restaurants and shopping malls

Seven downtown hotels, university housing and camping opportunities

Please post this on your bulletin board, insert it in the bulletin, announce it from the pulpit. For more information, call the Annual Conference Office toll-free 800-688-5186

What's happening at the Emanuel Children's Home?



It was a dream true for Aurora, the caretaker of the preschool age children, this month. She and Leticia, along with the children ranging in age from one come

to five years old, moved brand new into their **AURORA AND LETICIA**

more than doubled as many of the new children being received into Hogar Emanuel have been gunder five years of age. Inside the CASA CASA KINDER, the girls now have their own room and Ebathroom that includes two showers, two toilets, KINDER. Aurora has been the nanny for pre-Until now, she and the children were cramped and shower. Within the last year, her family has and sink. The boys have their own room and bathroom, and Aurora has her own private room They also have a common living school age children for the past several years. in two tiny little rooms with a single toilet, sink, room and/or play area. What a big change! which has been named the and bath.

der to accept additional children under the age The apartment that they left will now be transformed into the nursery area for a few infants, but many renovations are still necessary in orof one.

In the second half of CASA KINDER, another family unit will be ready by this summer. Then the next youngest age group will move next door.

The January work group from Western Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren were happy to help put the finishing touches on the first of the family-style living units.

× bringing the total number of months, joined the family of Hogar Emanuel along with resident children to seventyeight Their story is similar to every other child who is resronment and placed in the two older sisters last month, cued from an abusive enviage Nicole, Estrella

NURSE NORMA AND ESTRELLA

Clip here

staffing at the Home.

PLEASE HELP the Emanuel Children's Home to reach out to embrace even more children like care of a Children's Home in Honduras. Estella! Of course, with that goal comes the need for more help from all of you.

for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7 mind to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, "Each of you must give as you have made up your

STAFF HOUSING NEEDED!

Additional housing is needed to provide more on-site, round-the-dock care for Please pray about how you can be a part of the success and the ongoing the increasing population of children. construction needs of the Home. or further information contact:

Hogar de Niños E manuel Board Members Ph. (814) 629-9868 or (540) 941-3423 Web site: www.hogaremanuel.com Email: hemminger@verizon.net Mission Program Coordinators Bill & Rona Hemminger

CASA KINDER is ready!

Sponsorship Coupon **Emanuel Children's** This is YOUR project!

Partnering in the success, I pledge to keep the Emanuel Children's Home

in my prayers as well as offer my financial support. Please use my

 \square "Child Sponsors hip" — to provide the basic needs for the children living at the Home. (If you desire to be by offering my support for children

donation for the following fund:

qualified Hondurans and resolve the issues of under "Staff Sponsorship" — to help provide wages assigned a <u>specific</u> child, contact Rona.)

maintenance and improvements to the facilities. Projects will be scheduled as funding is available. "Maintenance & Development" to provide

"New Bridge Program" - a means of helping the children who are "aging out" the transitional tools for in dependent living

Special":

Wherever needed

Western Pennsÿlvania Distric€ Highlights

A suggested monthly donation is \$25.00. However, all contribution are appreciated for the general operations of the Home. Enclosed is my contribution of \$_

Annua lly Semi-annually Quarterly

Monthly

My name or a contact rame for my group (if dfferert from maling label in front)

Name of organization

Address

Phone

Signature

Emai

Please return this coupon with your tax deductible contribution made payable and sent to: WESTERN PA DISTRICT COB

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115 Spring Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935

May your blessings out number The shamrock's that grow!

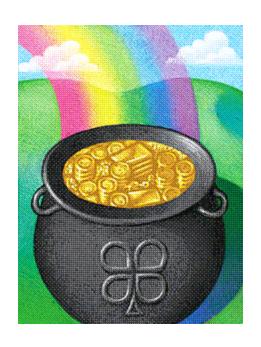
Wishing you a

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Brethren Home Community Windber

t Skilled Nursing
t Nursing Care
t Personal Care
t Assisted Living
t Independent Living

Call 814-467-5505 for



March 2007 AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST

ORDAINED

BAKER, SANDRA M. — 574 Adams St, Apt. #1, Clymer 15728-1162 — 724 254-4220 BALDEO, ISAAC C — 4555 Glen Eden Rd, Cranberry Twp 16066-3001 C 724 452-0923 BAUGHMAN, CARL L. — 130 Homewood Dr, Butler 16001-1960 C 724 283- 1051 D'AMICO, JAMES V. — PO Box 643, Greensburg 15601-0643 C 724 837-2649 FEATHERS, GEORGE E., SR. — 1583 Plank Rd, Hooversville 15936-7301 C 814 798-4603 HAY, CHARLES R. -1127 E Main St, Berlin 15530-1428 C 814 267-3205 HELLER, JACK B. — 769 Beech Hill Rd, Johnstown 15904-7422 C 814 539-6285 HIRONIMUS, BERTHA — 142 Bent Tree Hill, Ligonier 15658-3202 C 724 238-3984 HOSLER, WILBUR H. — 525 First St, Clymer 15728-1417 — 724 254-9764 **HOUGHTON, JAMES E. — 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown 15905-3019 C 814 255-2431 HOUGHTON, SALLY M. — 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown 15905-3019 C 814 255-2431** HURSH, DONALD — 24 Community Ct, Palmyra 17078-3610 C 717 838-5882 JONES, KERMIT — 1003 Wineva Lane, Windber 15963-2345 C 814 467-4201 KUNSELMAN, DOROTHY — 143 Pheasant Farm Rd, New Bethlehem 16242-7621 — 814 275-1296 LONGWELL, ERIC M. — 319 E Hanover St, Hanover 17331-2613 C 717 646-0700 MARSHALL, HOMER H. — 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 15461-1651 C 724 583-7073 MARSHALL, PATRICIA M. — 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 154611651 C 724 583-7073 MARTIN, NOAH S. — 614 Freedom Ave, Johnstown 15904-2206 C 814 266- 6489 MCCAULIFF, LINDA L. — 884 Fender Ln, Johnstown 15905-5311 C 814 255-4895 MCCLAIN, MARVIN — PO Box 158, Hooversville 15936-0158 — 814 798-5885 OTT, CLIFFORD W. — PO Box 444, Jerome 15937-0444 C 814 479-2374 PRESTON, OWEN H. — 611 Wilson Dr, Apt 2, Berlin 15530-1546 C 814 267-5898 RITENOUR, ERIC R. — 167 Meadow St, Friedens 15541-8415 — 814 442-5550 **RUMMEL, DALE E. — 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian 15666-1959 C 732 319-0099** SMITH, A. HARRISON — 103 Sabra Ct, Uniontown 15401-9730 C 724 425-1866 SHAULIS, M. ERIC — 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale 15552-1444 C 814 634-8740 SWICK, MICHAEL R. — 4127 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 C 814 634-8158 THOMAS, RODGER J. — PO Box 24, Central City 15926-0024 C 814 754-5297 WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN — RR 7 Box 155, Kittanning 16201-7516 C 724 548- 4901 WILCHER, JOEL A. — 658 R 13th St, Oakmont 15139-1020 C 412 828-3690 WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S. — 416 Kenneth Ave, Johnstown 15904-3510 C 814 266-9758

LICENSED

CLARK, ANDREA S. — 1065 Miller Ave, Johnstown 15902-3871 C 814 248-3205 DERR, AMELIA J. — 2164 Oakland Ave, Indiana 15701-3384 C 724 463-6017 FIRESTONE, JUDITH A. — PO Box 275, Mount Pleasant 15666-0275 C 724 547-4139 FORRY, CHRISTOPHER A. — 177 Sunrise Ln, Somerset 15501-7431 C 814 443-2750 JOHNSON, REBA B. — 411 Elm St, Indiana 15701-3132 C 724 465-8347 GAUNT, CRAIG A. — 113 Panarama Dr, Johnstown 15906-3914 C 814 536-6624 GINDLESPERGER, TERRY P. — 131 Colleen St, Johnstown 15906-3916 — 814 535-3660 KABLER, ERIC P. — 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 C 814 266-2734 MADER, ABBY R. — 2101 Cambria Ave, Windber 15963-1928 — 814 467-5265 MCKNIGHT, MELANIE A. — 105 Old Hickory Ln, Johnstown 15905 — 814 255-2107 PERUSO, RUSSELL J. — 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown 15905-7408 — 814 288-4529 RAPACH, MATTHEW C. — 720 Barefoot Dr, Wilmore, KY 40390-1437 C 859 361-4877 ROK, DIANA L. — 42 Lehigh St, Johnstown 15905-2241 C 814 535-8346 SMITH, CHERYL A. — 913 Locust St, Turtle Creek 15145-1537 C 412 641-6790 SHAFFER, DANIEL P. — 106 Jones Ave, Windber PA 15963-6630 C 814 467-7198 STONER, JOHN W., JR.— 2540 Stutzmantown Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 C 814 445-9794 STONER, LINDA K. — 2540 Stutzmantown Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 C 814 445-9794 THOMAS, DANIEL R. — 721 Upper Newtown Rd, Johnstown 15904-7533 C 814 539-0141 TYGER, ISAAC C. — PO Box 158, Hooversville 15936-0158 — 814 798-5885 WALKER, JUDY M. — 541 Chicora St, East McKeesport 15035-1305 C 412 824-2219

LAY SPEAKERS

RAMER, DONNA L. — 153 Ramer Farm Ln, Shelocta 15774-2227 C 724 354-2669 STEIN, ROBERT R. — PO Box 375, Chalk Hill 15421-0375 C 724 438-2226



Greetings from the igloo that is Camp Harmony!

As I'm writing this letter, the snow is coming down like crazy. While that may put some people in a bad mood, it has made me excited for the winter season here at camp. Over the past few weeks I have been gearing up for the events that will go on during our retreats. I've already tested the ice and it's solid as a rock which means swimming pool hockey. I've been to enough wing places to ensure I know what it takes to compete in our Great Wing Cookoff. And I've been working for 10 years or so on my own personal layer of "insulation" against the cold so I can take my time perfecting my snowman for the Insane Snowsulpture Competition.

Most importantly though, we here at Camp have been praying and seeking God daily in order to present the Gospel in a real and relevant way to the people who come through our gates. Our constant goal is to have each student and advisor leave Christ Centered, Challenged, and Charged Up. The upcoming weekend retreats are both experimental and experiential. Every activity is both exciting and purposeful. With workshops for both youth and advisors, we feel that everyone who attends will have the opportunity to meet God in a new and exciting way.

Thank your for your continued prayers and support. We need both to keep the excitement going here at your camp.

Godspeed, Dan Shaffer

Winter Blast the Blizzard Alexander's Quest Jump Start

Sr. High Retreat Feb 23-25 \$100	Driven. What drives you? Come find out.			
Jr. High Retreat March 30 –April 1 \$100	Join Chris Valente as we talk about your world.			
Jr. High Retreat April 27 -29 \$100	What makes a church awesome? We'll find out.			
3 rd -5 th Grades May 18-20 \$100	It's a whole week of summer in one weekend.			

Camp Harmony 1414 Plank Rd Hooversville, PA 15936 (888) 745-2267 www.campharmony.org

Camp Report from our Camp Manager

As I travel around the district I am hearing a lot of enthusiasm about camp being expressed. This is a good thing because I understand that it wasn't that long ago that few people were really excited about camp. After six months on the job I think folks are beginning to realize that some changes are happening at camp, and that some of those changes are giving people hope for camp again.

One of the changes that are taking place is that your Camp Board has formed a strategic planning team to create a plan of action and growth for camp. The team is made up of six members with varied backgrounds. outlooks and skills; giving the team a well balanced view of what is going on and what improvements should take place. Last month the team made its first report to the Camp Board. The board endorsed the process thus far so I wanted to catch everyone up to date here as to where the team is in the strategic plan.

The first stage of the plan was to establish what kind of camp we are. Board members were asked to informally poll their own circle of acquaintances for their impressions of camp. Those impressions were then compiled and grouped into four areas listed below.

Promotion: Camp is mostly unknown outside of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren. In times past, we could fill the camp with folks from the churches of the district, but not

Ministry: Camp is afraid of taking risks to further ministry. Like many churches do, camp quit investing in the future in order to cut expenses and meet the budget.

Support: Camp has been dependent on the District for donations, registrations, volunteer service. In recent years, camp has not been well liked or respected in the District, which has adversely affected our financial support and revenue.

Facilities: There were several unfinished projects in camp facilities and too much of the available space in other buildings are filled with unusable old equipment.

Not surprisingly, the team identified all of these as areas where camp needs to change.

The next stage of the plan was to identify the core values of the camp. Our core values are the reasons that we do what it is we do. The values of any organization shape the mission or function of that organization. For camp, our values determine what our ministry is or should be. More than a hundred folks across the district were surveyed for their perceptions of what camp values. The top ten values are listed below from the most valued to the tenth most valued.

The Lordship of Christ Bible-centered teaching Godly leadership God's Grace at work in lives **Teamwork** Fellowship within our community Christian education Enthusiasm for what we do Praise & worship

A Christian self-image

The team considers all these to be good values that should shape a spiritually enriching mission.

The current stage the team is working on is to create a mission that will drive the ministry of camp. In subsequent stages the team will consider the environment in which camp must minister, the vision of what would camp will look like when we achieve our mission, a strategy as to how we will get there, a plan of action to fit that strategy, contingencies that might arise to impede the plan, and finally, how the board can measure our progress and evaluate the plan. We'll keep you up to date on the team's progress as they report it to the board over the next several months

2007 District Events and Meetings

EVENTS ARE CODED AS...

- District Events open for anyone in the District to attend CAPS
- Meetings such as District Board, Camp Board, Home Trustees, and events beyond the District small print
- Youth and Children's Activities ITALICS & CAPS

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE...

- Keep for reference when setting local church dates.
 - Each month check this page in <u>District HIGHLIGHTS</u> for changes/additions.
- Keep *your* calendar updated.

March 2007

- 1 Brethren Home Auxiliary, 1:30 p.m.
- 2 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
- 3 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Indiana Church
- 8 District Charitable Trust Board, 7 p.m., District Office
- 9-11 EASTERN REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (ERYC), Juniata College
- 10-12 General Board Meetings, Elgin, IL
- 11 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks ahead one hour)
- 11 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SUNDAY
- 15 District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for APRIL issue
- 17 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Indiana Church
- 19 Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m
- 20 Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., District Office.
- 24 District Men's & Boy's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Somerset Church
- 24-29 CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR, New York City to Washington, D.C.
- 24 SHAFER SEMINAR at Center Hill Church
- 30-4/1 JUNIOR HIGH WINTER BLIZZARD, Camp Harmony
- 31 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Indiana Church

April 2007

- 1 PALM SUNDAY
- 6 GOOD FRIDAY
- 8 ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!
- 12 Women's Fellowship Spring Rally
- 14 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., District Office
- 15 Men's Fellowship Council, 2:30 p.m., Greensburg Church
- 15 District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for MAY issue
- 16 Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Heritage Festival Executive Committee
- 21 Men's Fellowship Spring Golf Outing & Banquet [SEE ENCLOSED FLYER]
- 22 ANNUAL SPRING TEA, 2-4 p.m., Brethren Home Community Windber
- 22 DISTRICT TITHING SUNDAY
- 23 Camp Harmony Board of Directors, 7 p.m.
- 23-25 CODE East, Rehoboth Beach
- 27-29 ALEXANDER'S QUEST, Camp Harmony 5th-8th Grade
- 28 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., District Office
- 30 Core Leadership Team (District Board Executive Committee) 6:30 p.m., District Office

May 2007

- 3 Brethren Home Auxiliary, 1:30 p.m.
- 3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 4-5 Women's Fellowship Heart Spa
- 5 YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY

Western Pennsylvania District Highlights

6 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

- 10-12 Pastor's Spring Retreat, Camp Harmony
- 10 District Charitable Trust Board, 7 p.m., District Office
- 12 SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., District Office
- 13 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!
- 15 District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for JUNE/JULY issue
- 15 Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., District Office
- 17 ASCENSION DAY
- 18-20 JUMP START RETREAT, Camp Harmony 3rd-5th Grade; Ropes
- 19 Leadership Team (District Board) Meeting, 9 a.m., County Line Church
- 21 Women's Fellowship Cabinet, 10 a.m., District Office
- 21 Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 25-27 Young Adult Conference
- 27 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH!! (PENTECOST)
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY (Observed)

June 2007

- 2 Brethren Home Chicken Barbeque
- 10-22 Staff Training Camp, Camp Harmony
- 15-17 JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE, Elizabethtown College
- 17 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
- 18 Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
- 21 Women's Fellowship Camp Day, Camp Harmony
- 24 Men's Fellowship Council, 2:30 p.m., Camp Harmony
- 24-30 YOUTH INVASION, Camp Harmony 8th Grade-college freshman
- 24-29 BIKE TREK, Camp Harmony 6th-8th Grade
- 30-7/4 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Cleveland, Ohio

July 2007

6/30-4 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Cleveland, Ohio

- 3 KINDERCRITTERS DAY CAMP, Camp Harmony Kindergarten-1st grade One Day
- 5 KINDERCRITTERS DAY CAMP, Camp Harmony Kindergarten-1st grade Two Days
- 5-7 YOUNG EXPLORERS CAMP, Camp Harmony 2nd & 3rd Grade
- 6 KINDERCRITTERS DAY CAMP, Camp Harmony Kindergarten-1st grade Three Days
- 7 KINDERCRITTERS DAY CAMP, Camp Harmony Kindergarten-1st grade Four Days
- 8-14 Midway Assembly Camp, Camp Harmony
- 15 District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for AUGUST issue
- 15-20 Wesleyan Church Camp, Camp Harmony
- 16 Brethren Home Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Heritage Festival Executive Committee
- 19 Core Leadership Team (District Board Executive Committee), 6:30 p.m. District Office ----
- For District Conference Business
- 22-27 JUNIOR CHAMP CAMP, Camp Harmony 3rd-5th Grade; Sports
- 22-27 VARSITY CAMP, Camp Harmony 6th-8th Grade; Sports
- 22-27 DISCOVERY CAMP, Camp Harmony 3rd-5th Grade; Stargazing
- 22-27 WILDERNESS CANOE CAMP, Camp Harmony 6th-8th Grade
- 23 Women's Fellowship Cabinet, 10 a.m., District Office
- 23 Camp Harmony Board of Directors, 7 p.m.
- 26 Core Leadership Team (District Board Executive Committee), 6 p.m.,
- 29-8/3 TRAILBLAZERS CAMP, Camp Harmony 6th-8th Grade; horses
- 29-8/3 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP, Camp Harmony 3rd-5th Grade
- 29-8/3 CAMP IN THE ROUGH, Camp Harmony 3rd-5th Grade; Ropes

<u>Please note:</u> Dates will be added or changed as needed. If your District group or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Thank You!