

District Highlights

November 2009

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WEBSITE:

www.westernpacob.org

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Please send **all**
Highlights information
to the District Office by
the **15th**.

HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR:

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

Dear Friends...oops, I mean Dear Friends,

I'm sorry I didn't get to see you at District Conference, but those of you who attended know why I wasn't there. Of course, it had to do with the aforementioned "deer" and my car. Praise God, we weren't hurt!

I've been told by several persons that the conference went smoothly and that it was a good day. For those of you that didn't attend, the theme of "Go, Run Your Race" was highlighted throughout the day. Insight sessions included information about On Earth Peace and the Mission & Ministry Board (formerly General Board), a session on Congregational Ethics, and one with information about the Annual Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, in 2010. Exhibitors included Brethren Press, On Earth Peace, Mutual Aid Association, Juniata College, the District Mission Program (Honduras and Puerto Rico), and many more.

Ruby F. Mader (Rummel) was installed as Moderator and the Rev. Dr. Wesley J. Berkebile (Center Hill) was named as Moderator Designate. Other persons affirmed on the slate included: Program & Arrangements Committee-Dottie Grew (Meyersdale) and Linda Stoner (Somerset); District/Camp Charitable Trust Board-Christopher Forry (Pike Run) and Gerald Baxter (Moxham); Brethren Home Trustees-Marie Camut (Walnut Grove) and Donna Ramer (Plumcreek); Camp Harmony Board-Erin Marker (Beachdale), Bill Miller (Maple Spring), Jack Harrison (Pleasant Hill), and Priscilla Haines (Geiger); Leadership Team Chair-Betsy Statler (Shade Creek/Ridge); Team members—CYOM-Erin Marker (Beachdale), O&S-Joel Wilcher (Pittsburgh) and Bill Frey (Indiana), SpF-Jane Wolfhope (Arbutus), St&F-Carole Walker; and Gifts Discernment Team-Frank Young (Tire Hill). The conference delegates also appointed Carole Horner as District Treasurer for another three-year term.

The Structure Review & Redesign Team presented revisions of the District Constitution for approval and implementation when the updated By-Laws are approved. Also presented and approved was a query entitled "Guidelines for Implementation of Congregational Ethics Paper" for passage to Annual Conference 2010.

A budget for 2010 of \$189,824.00 was passed. This total reflects a .0378% decrease. There were 218 attendees (187 delegates, 31 non-delegates), and 54 churches represented.

I truly missed seeing and greeting everyone at the conference. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

Suzie Moss, your administrative assistant

November 2009

Local Church News

HOSPITALIZED

- **Judy King**, wife of **Phil King**, pastor of the Pleasant Hill congregation, for treatment.
- **Wesley Good**, 8 year old grandson of Middlecreek pastor Nancy Good, for treatment.

NEW MEMBERS

Tire Hill congregation

- Paul Esmont
- Scott Thomas
- Stephanie Thomas
- Nancy Vettori
- Beatice Croyle
- Vicki Feathers
- Cathy Morder
- Joanne Szala

Center Hill congregation

- Art Lockard
- Mindy Lockard
- Julie Heigley
- Bill Heigley
- Connie Armstrong

Tax Information & Preparation Workshop

Originally scheduled for

**Saturday, October 10, 2009 has been
rescheduled for**

December 5, 2009

9:00 am

Western PA District Office

Cost: just a contribution toward lunch

Please call the District Office (814/479-2181) if you plan to attend. For information call Barron Deffenbaugh at 814/266-9758.

.5 CEU will be offered for those attending the entire workshop.

December '09/January '10

Highlights Deadline

November 15, 2009

Divine Caramels

"O taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8a

The Somerset Church of the Brethren will again be taking orders for their homemade, hand-wrapped and boxed caramels for the holidays. This is the sixth year for the project and it continues to grow each year. Over the years, the project has helped build the church, supported various mission projects and supported the general budget of the church.

These old-fashioned caramels are made with great care and only the finest ingredients, including butter, brown sugar and pure vanilla. Half pound boxes are available at \$4.50 and one pound boxes are available at \$8.00. Quantity pricing for twenty or more boxes is available upon request.

Orders may be dropped in the designated box in the church's gathering area or mailed or called to the church office at P.O. Box 347, Somerset, PA 15501/814-445-8853 **no later than November 12th**. Orders can be picked up at the church on Friday, November 20th or Saturday, November 21st between 9 am – 12 Noon. Unfortunately, we cannot ship caramels. Caramels can be frozen for up to one year and enjoyed long after the holiday season, so order extra boxes now because *Divine Caramels* are only available for a short time.

Christmas JOY!

The Sisters in Christ Women's Ministry at Maple Spring Church of the Brethren (106 Spring Rd. Hollsopple) invites you to get a head start on your Christmas gifts this year - and to try making them yourself! Join in on Saturday, November 14th from 9-3 for a great time of crafting and fellowship. Choose one or more crafts from those available. The youth will offer breakfast and lunch (with a donation). Please contact Sandy @ 814/479-7760 or Joyce @ 814/479-4840 or email sistersinchrist@maplespringcob.org with your questions or to let them know you plan to attend.

Crafts available include:

6" snowman \$5	Mitten Ornament 2/\$5
Snowflake tealight Lantern \$4	
Snowman Head Ornament \$2	
Coasters set of 4 \$4	Nativity Throw \$10
Decoupage Plate \$4	Kids Crafts \$1 or \$2
Decorative Frames \$2 each	and more

Local Church / District News

**Johnstown Area
Annual Thanksgiving Day
Worship Service
8:00 a.m.**

November 26, 2009
Way of Hope Fellowship
Beka House, 5977 Somerset Pike
Boswell, PA 15531
Speaker: Terry Gindlesperger

Come for a time of
thanksgiving, worship and praise.

You have time between putting the turkey in
the oven and setting the dinner table to gather
together for worship.

Beef Vegetable Soup Sale

Arbutus Church of the Brethren
1201 Erickson Dr. Johnstown, PA

Saturday, November 7
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Take out only
\$4.00 quart

Call 814/266-7404 for information
or to order your soup.



Deacon Training

“Death, Dying and Grief”

Beachdale Church
803 Owl Hollow Rd.
Berlin, PA

Sunday, November 8, 2009
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Speaker: Horace Derr
Minister, Certified Grief Counselor

If you have not yet registered for this event,
please contact Peter Kaltenbaugh at 814 634-
5650/814 267-6712, as soon as possible to see
if there is still room for you.

Denominational News

An Opportunity for You

A new deadline of **Nov. 10** has been given to register for the annual **Nigeria workcamp** sponsored by the Church of the Brethren’s Global Mission Partnerships. The workcamp is scheduled for Jan. 9-30, 2010. Workcampers will worship, learn, create relationships, and work with Christians from Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and Mission 21. The group will work in Kwarhi, tour Kulp Bible College, Hillcrest, and other schools, and visit a game reserve in Yankari. Cost is \$2,200 inclusive of a round-trip flight to Nigeria, meals, lodging, in-country transportation, and overseas travel insurance. Requirements include a passport (valid for at least six months after the workcamp) and appropriate vaccinations and medications. Participants must be 18 or older. Those 14-17 years of age may participate if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who also is participating in the workcamp. Contact Global Mission Partnerships at 800-323-8039 or mission@brethren.org.

Stories about people taking Jesus seriously.

Stories related to the theme of the 2010 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, "Taking Jesus Seriously" (John 14:15), are sought for presentations during the conference next year on July 3-7 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Moderator Shawn Flory Replogle has requested the submission of stories about people who have taken Jesus seriously, "as a way of challenging and inspiring us to consider the theme.

The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee is looking for stories that may represent a moment of selfless action or a lifetime’s commitment to a cause of the Gospel, and that may be about one person, a congregation, a district, an agency, or an organization. "We are interested in stories that span the diversity of our denomination: theologically, geographically, generationally, and more," Replogle wrote. "The aim is to include those stories of faith and testimony throughout our time together in Pittsburgh, celebrating God’s good work among us."

At the moment, the Program and Arrangements Committee is interested in receiving a brief synopsis of stories and contact information for follow-up. Send submissions by Nov. 9 to the Annual Conference Office, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 or cdouglas@brethren.org.

AbbsTract November 2009

Ah, the “holiday season.” It is nearly upon us, and you all know that it’s time to gear up for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For some, this is a wonderful time of faith, family and food – something to look forward to with great joy. For some, it is a painful time of dark memories or empty chairs. For some, it is a time of burden – shopping, cooking, traveling, decorating, and of course, financing. Some become simply numb to the wonders and miracles of God-blessing-us and God-in-skin. Turkey and football? Been there, done that. Carols and candles and Christ-child? Bo-ring. Tired.

So, what are you going to do about it?

If you fall into the first category, then you are blessed indeed. You get a twinge of excitement at the mere thought of singing festive praises to God around a glittery tree. The plan of salvation unfolding in a tiny Jewish baby sets your heart on fire. You go about your preparations with joy and love in your being. So pass it on. Cancel all the worthless gift ideas and use that money to host a few meals in your home. Invite some single parents and their kids, or maybe the youth in your church. Re-tell the timeless story of Bethlehem with vigor, and of course, do all the voices. Invite those who are going through the holidays without someone this year and be sensitive to their grief. Invite your co-workers and put on something Christmasy from the Annie Moses Band, or Big Daddy Weave, or whatever albums you want. Share the joy of the Lord and create lasting memories!

If you’re facing the holidays with grief and sadness – take heart! God’s Word tells us in Psalm 56 that each tear we shed is collected by our Father, and we can put our trust in Him. I’ve found that “in seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief” – it is then that I walk with God, take comfort in His Word, listen for His voice and feel the love of His Church surrounding me – even more intensely than when everything’s peachy. May I encourage you to not be alone in these times? Find a hospitable soul who will understand your heart, and meet together. Seek the Lord anew, and let Him begin your healing. For surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows! Don’t be ashamed to ask for help, and Church – don’t hesitate to provide it! (Gal. 6:2-3)

Okay, my frazzled friend – we come to you. Stop mixing up your cookie dough, sit down, and pay attention. What is driving you? Are you flying into your annual frenzy out of love and genuine concern for others, or is it because you have a need to be viewed as the Holiday Wonder on your street? Maybe anything less than perfection is unacceptable. Maybe you just want your kids to have it better than you did. Regardless, calm down. Your house does not need to look like a magazine spread. Your kids would rather have you than your overtime. Your Jesus wants the focus to be on Him. Because even doing stuff at church – teaching Sunday School, perfecting that tricky cantata, stocking the food pantry, running the kids’ musical, baking for shut-ins – even that is next-to-worthless if He doesn’t have your heart. Take a moment, breathe, be silent, and give Christ your heart (+ your schedule) now.

Bored? Disillusioned? Fed up with the whole 9 yds? Dare to make this year different. One of the biggest misconceptions that we Christians have allowed to persist is the idea that God is stale. It’s true that He is the same *being* yesterday, today and forever ... but He is always *doing* a new thing! So take a hint, and do a new thing. This year at Thanksgiving, pick a few folks and write them letters telling them why you’re thankful for them. Go on a prayer walk through your community and lift up the people around you. Read Luke 2 with a British accent. Give a gift card to a random someone in the dollar store on Christmas Eve. Deliver a huge care package to that one house where all the Chinese restaurant employees live. Things get old fast when we’re focused on ourselves. Talk with kids and teenagers. Little kids, man, it’s ALL brand new to them.

Out of room ... be a blessing – take heart – slow down – innovate. ***Celebrate!***

-Abby

Denominational News

Go to www.brethren.org for more information about these news items.

Personnel

- *Anna Emrick* has accepted the position of program coordinator for the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships, working at the church's General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She began on Oct. 12.
- *Kendra Flory* has been called to serve as half-time administrative assistant for the Western Plains District office beginning Nov. 30. The Western Plains District office is located on the campus of McPherson College.
- Brethren Disaster Ministries is welcoming new Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) worker *Steve Schellenberg*. He will join the leadership team at the Hurricane Katrina recovery project in Chalmette, La.
- On Earth Peace has welcomed new BVS worker John -Michael Pickens. He is working with staff member Marie Rhoades to lead youth and young adult retreats in the Peace Education program. Contact him for more information about youth retreats at impickens@onearthpeace.org or 717-233-3786.
- *April Vanlonden* has been called as director of

Academic Services in a joint position for Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion (ESR) in Richmond, Ind.

Position Openings

- Bethany Theological Seminary invites applications for a three-year renewable part-time **faculty position** in Brethren Studies, beginning Fall 2010. Application Deadline: December 1, 2009. For more information go to: www.bethanyseminary.org or www.brethren.org.
- West Marva District seeks a **district executive minister** to fill a part-time position, available immediately. Apply by sending a letter of interest and a resume via e-mail to OfficeofMinistry@brethren.org. Applicants are requested to contact three or four people to provide a letter of reference. A candidate profile must be completed as well. Application deadline is Dec. 2.
- The Church of the Brethren is seeking persons for positions, including: **Coordinator of On-line Giving**, **Director of Identity and Relations**, and **Peace and Reconciliation** (in Sudan). Go to www.brethren.org to find out more about these opportunities.

A reflection on arriving in Nigeria.

Jennifer and Nathan Hosler arrived in Nigeria in mid-August as Church of the Brethren mission staff serving with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). They are teaching at Kulp Bible College and working with EYN's Peace Program. The following reflects on their first month in Nigeria:

"September 29, 2009: On Monday, we learned that a funeral was to be held at EYN headquarters. A staff person at the dispensary was returning from a nearby village on motorcycle the night before and was fatally injured in an accident.

"Life is fragile everywhere, all of the time. However, the environment of Nigeria often places people into precarious circumstances. It seems as though the heightened awareness of life's fragility affects the speech of Christians in Nigeria. When speaking of plans, people do not assume that those plans will be met and verbally admit so. A common phrase added to plans is, 'By His grace.' For example, 'We will leave for Jos on Tuesday, by His grace.'

"This heightened awareness of life's fragility also produces an increased level of thankfulness to God for all types of circumstances such as rain for crops to grow or safety during travels. Even a cool breeze (welcome relief in a hot environment) elicits a 'Mugode Allah' or 'We thank God.'

"This perspective on life brings to mind the words of James: 'Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.'

"Privileged people in North America (which is most of us) typically assume that everything will work out. Only during extreme tragedy (a car accident, a terminal illness, the death of a child, etc.) do our thoughts ponder life's fragility.

"The attitude of our Nigerian brothers and sisters provides a needed reflection for North Americans on the delicate balance of our lives and how easily that balance can be broken--in North America but especially so around the world. We should be challenged--as James wrote--not to assume anything about our lives, our health, our wealth, and act accordingly, and especially to exhibit thankfulness for both large and small things.

"When I feel the cool breeze tomorrow as I wake in Nigeria (by His grace), I will say, 'Mugode Allah.'"



Psalms of Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Unto you, O God, do we give thanks, unto you do we give thanks: for that your name is near your wondrous ____ declare. Ps 75:1
6. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His _____. Ps 30:4
8. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a _____ noise unto Him with psalms.
10. Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the ____ unto our God. Ps 147:7
12. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His ____ endures for ever. Ps 106:1
14. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be _____ unto Him, and bless His name. Ps 100:4
16. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will _____ Him with thanksgiving. Ps 69:30
17. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His ____ among the people. Ps 105:1
21. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto your ____, O most High. Ps 92:1
22. O give thanks unto the ____ of gods: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:2
23. O give thanks unto the God of ____: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:26
24. That I may publish with the ____ of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works. Ps 26:7
25. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the _____ of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. Ps 122:4
26. I will give thanks in the great _____. I will praise you among much people. Ps 35:18

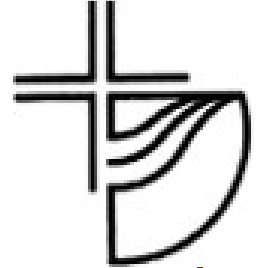
Down

1. So ye your _____ and sheep of your pasture will give you thanks for ever: we will show forth your praise to all generations. Ps 79:13
3. And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with _____. Ps 107:22
4. At _____ I will rise to give thanks unto you because of your righteous judgments. Ps 119:62
5. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the _____, and sing praises unto your name. Ps 18:49
7. I will offer to you the _____ of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. Ps 116:17
9. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; and give thanks at the _____ of His holiness. Ps 97:12
11. Offer unto God _____; and pay your vows unto the most High. Ps 50:14
13. Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto your holy name, and to _____ in your praise. Ps 106:47
15. O give thanks to the _____ of lords: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:3
18. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy _____ for ever. Ps 107:1
19. To the end that my glory may sing praises to you, and not be _____. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto you for ever. Ps 30:12
20. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto your name: the upright shall dwell in your _____. Ps 140:13
22. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the ____ who shall give thee thanks? Ps 6:5

DISTRICT AUCTION

November 7, 2009

Camp Harmony



Auction Begins - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast - 7:00-8:45 a.m.

Lunch served & fresh baked pies!

Western PA District Church of the Brethren is hosting the *4TH Annual Auction!* Churches are invited to collect and contribute items for the auction in support of the ministries of Western PA District.

There are three Saturday drop-off dates scheduled at Camp Harmony from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on:

October 17, 24, & 31 ONLY!

For more information, see your

Congregation's Auction Advocate

Or call the District Office 814 479-2181 or

814/479-7058!

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” Galatians 6:10

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST

November 2009

ORDAINED

BALDEO, ISAAC - 4555 Glen Eden Rd, -Cranberry Twp 16066-3001 - 724 452-0923
BAUGHMAN, CARL L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
DERR, HORACE E. - 1202 Roberts St, Nanty Glo 15943 - 814 749-0262
FEATHERS, GEORGE E., SR. - 1583 Plank Rd, Hooversville 15936-7301 - 814 798-4603
FIRESTONE, JUDITH A. - PO Box 319, Donegal 15628-0319 - 724 516-9191
FORRY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
HAY, CHARLES R. - 1127 E Main St, Berlin 15530-1428 - 814 267-3205
HIRONIMUS, BERTHA - 142 Bent Tree Hill, Ligonier 15658-3202 - 724 238-3984
HOSLER, WILBUR H. - 525 First St, Clymer 15728-1417 - 724 254-9764
HOUGHTON, JAMES E. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
HOUGHTON, SALLY M. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
HURSH, DONALD - 24 Community Ct, Palmyra 17078-3610 - 717 838-5882
LONGWELL, ERIC M. - 225 Oak Hill Rd, Shelocta 15774-3144 - 724 599-8690
MARSHALL, HOMER H. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 15461-1651 - 724 583-7073
MARSHALL, PATRICIA M. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 15461-1651 - 724 583-7073
MARTIN, NOAH S. - 614 Freedom Ave, Johnstown 15904-2206 - 814 266-6489
MOSORJAK, GARY N. - 1337 Roxbury Ave, Johnstown 15905-4528 - 814 619-4238
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PETERMAN (BAKER), SANDRA M. - 2288 N Ridge Rd, Shelocta 15774-7225 - 724 840-5748
PRESTON, OWEN H. - 611 Wilson Dr, Apt 2, Berlin 15530-1546 - 814 267-5898
REININGER, LINDA L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
RUMMEL, DALE E. - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian 15666-1959 - 732 319-0099
RUPERT, JACK - 409 State St, Johnstown 15905-2642 - 814 255-7793
SHAULIS, M. ERIC - 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale 15552-1444 - 814 634-8740
STONER, JOHN W, JR. - 2540 Stutzmantown Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 - 814 444-8800
STONER, LINDA K. - 2540 Stutzmantown Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 - 814 444-8800
SWICK, MICHAEL R. - 4127 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 - 814 634-8158
THOMAS, RODGER J. - PO Box 24, Central City 15926-0024 - 814 754-5297
WALKER, JUDY M. - 201 E Washington St, Mount Pleasant 15666-1959 - 724 547-3772
WHITACRE, DANIEL J. - 118 Chipmunk Ln, Meyersdale 15552-7245 - 814 634-5037
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN - 436 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning 16201-4639 - 724 548-4901
WILCHER, JOEL A. - 658 R 13th St, Oakmont 15139-1020 - 412 828-3690
WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S. - 416 Kenneth Ave, Johnstown 15904-3510 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

BAUGHMAN, KAREN L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
BEACHLEY, LINDA E. - 200 Conemach Trl, PO Box 723, Davidsville 15928-0723 - 814 479-4802
CRABLE, DAVID E. - 23 S Water St, Masontown 15461 - 724 583-7464
GREW, DOTTIE H. - R26 Broadway St, Meyersdale 15552-1370 - 814 634-5329
JOHNSON, REBA B. - 411 Elm St, Indiana 15701-3132 - 724 465-8347
KABLER, ERIC P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
PERUSO, RUSSELL J. - 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown 15905-7408 - 814 288-4529
ROK, DIANA L. - 42 Lehigh St, Johnstown 15905-2241 - 814 535-8346
SMITH, CHERYL A. - 913 Locust St, Turtle Creek 15145-1537 - 412 829-2253
SHAFFER, ABBY R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
SHAFFER, DANIEL P. - (office) PO Box 158, Hooversville 15936-0158 - 814 798-5885
STEIN, ROBERT R. - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill 15421-0375 - 724 438-2226
TYGER, ISAAC C. - 4701 Pioneer Lake Rd, Cherry Tree, PA 15724 - 814 743-5415

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA L. - 153 Ramer Farm Ln, Shelocta 15774-2227 - 724 354-2669

Western Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935-7412

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OCTOBER 2009

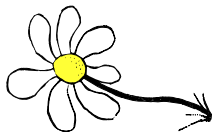
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



CHECK IT OUT!

We're on the web!

www.hogaremanuel.com



*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



Honduras

San Pedro Sula



El Hogar de Niños Emanuel (The Emanuel Children's Home)

Our Promise to You

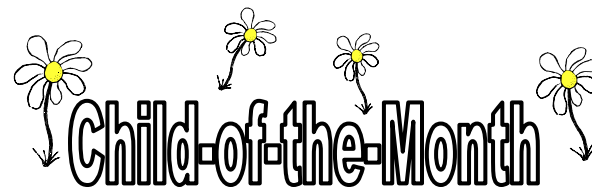
By serving on the Board of Directors of El Hogar de Niños Emanuel, it is our responsibility to help oversee the management of the Home and to make sure that your gifts of love are used with integrity, honesty, and for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of the children.

*In His Service as your
Mission Program Coordinators,
Bill & Rona Hemminger*

MAILING LIST UPDATE NEEDED

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, I hope you enjoy it. If you would like to be removed from this mailing or know of someone who should be added, please contact us at hogaremanuel@verizon.net

**You are also joining to help us when
you pray for us. 2 Corinthians 1:11**



BREILIN

Date of birth

July 20, 1996



Breilin is a happy and well adjusted young girl who came to Hogar in 2005 along with her older sister, Delia. Breilin turned 13 years old in July and is currently in the fourth grade at Sinai. Her favorite subject is Spanish in which she is presently learning about rhyming words. She has been taking swimming lessons every Saturday morning for almost a year now! She says that her favorite part of Hogar Emanuel is the educators, which is obvious by all the love and affection she is always giving them! She also says that she wants to be a psychologist when she is older. According to her educators, Breilin always volunteers to help bathe and brush the teeth of two of our girls who need help with these daily activities. She is well behaved and gets along with others. For these and many more reasons — Breilin is our Child of the Month!

Please keep Breilin and her sister in your prayers this month.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMANUEL CHILDREN'S HOME?

The Chicken Farm



The ninety-five hens in the chicken farm are producing approximately eight-eight eggs daily. We presently do not have roosters, because we didn't want to overload the children. We have arranged for another one hundred chicks to be sent to the home in November, when the children begin their winter vacation. No egg-producing hens are butchered, we are treating them like queens!! They are vaccinated, given vitamins, and spoiled in every way we can! The egg production from Monday through Thursday is strictly for helping to feed our children. However, the eggs produced from Friday through Sunday goes for sale. We also make occasional egg donations to nursing homes and orphanages less fortunate than ours.

Team Spirit



The kids at the Home are just about beside themselves!

They exhibit such team spirit when it comes to their country's national soccer team. Honduras had a chance to qualify against the USA, but lost! Their **last**, slim chance was if they were to beat El Salvador, **AND** if USA was to beat or tie Costa Rica. Well, Honduras **WON** its game against El Salvador—And the very last play of the game between Costa Rica and the USA tied the score. So **Honduras is in**, qualifying for its first World Cup in 27 years for the FIFA World Cup South Africa-2010. President Michelletti declared tomorrow (October 16th) a national holiday! What a boost in morale for this country! With all that is going on politically, they could use some of that right now!

The Nursery Update

In San Pedro Sula (the city where Hogar Emanuel is located) approximately six pregnant women each month who show up at one of their hospitals. She is placed on a gurney (that possibly has no sheets) next to several others just like her and stays there only long



enough to give birth. She no doubt is very young (maybe only twelve or thirteen years old), very poor, has had no pre-natal care, and definitely never had intentions of becoming a

mother. She will deliver her child and then walk away abandoning her baby. The Nursery facility is ready to go! Now all we need are the caretakers and we'll be ready help — just a little! Although we have the space for ten cribs, we will start out by opening our arms to only three infants soon after the beginning of the new year.

We will be sharing more about the nursery and ways in which you can help in the coming months. In the meantime, please pray for Hogar Emanuel as we step out in faith to help even more children. We trust Him to lead the way for the Nursery Project and know that great things can be accomplished with God as our guide.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

“Voices with a Cause—USA” was a huge success! What can we say, but THANK YOU over and over again to anyone and everyone who participated in the Dinner/Concert held at Camp Harmony on October 10th.

It was so exciting for us to share the display of beautiful fall colors, both inside and out. However, more than that, it was great to share the hopes and dreams for the children at Hogar Emanuel in such a special way with so many of you. Our prayers were answered as we are now thrilled to report that this fund raising event made it possible for Hogar Emanuel to supply the needs for THREE abandoned babies for about six or seven months! PRAISE GOD!

Clip here

Clip here

FORGET THEM NOT



THIS IS YOUR PROJECT!

Sponsorship Coupon
Emanuel Children's

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 donation for the following fund:

- “**Child Sponsorship**” — providing the basic needs for the children living at the Home. (If you desire to be assigned a specific child, contact Rona.)
- “**Staff Sponsorship**” — providing for staff wages
- “**Maintenance & Development**” providing for maintenance and improvements to the facilities. Projects will be scheduled as funding is available.
- “**New Bridge Program**” - providing for those who are “aging out” the transitional tools for independent living.
- “**Gift Fund**” \$ _____ -- birthday/Christmas gifts
- General fund** -- use where needed
- Special Fund** for Nursery

A suggested monthly donation is \$25.00. However, all contributions are appreciated.

Enclosed is my gift of love for \$ _____ :

- Annually
- Semi-annually
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- One time

My name or a contact name for my group _____

Name of organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Please return this coupon with your tax deductible contribution made payable and sent to:

WESTERN PA DISTRICT COB

115 Spring Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935

or visit the website and click

DONATE

10/2009

Brethren Home Community Windber

Christmas Tree of Stars 2009



Please help us decorate the Christmas Tree of Stars in this 26th year of our program. Your donation will not only honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, it will help us provide benevolent care for our residents in need.

Thank you for showing your love and concern by supporting the Tree of Stars Campaign.

Names of persons being remembered will be posted at the Home's Circle Lounge

Please return the bottom portion with your contribution to:

*Church of the Brethren Home
277 Hoffman Avenue
Windber, PA 15963
ATTN: Tree of Stars*



Christmas Tree of Stars 2009

Please shine a light in memory of: _____

Please hang an ornament in honor of: _____

Donated by: _____ **Amount of Gift:** _____

★ **SIMPLY THE BEST:**

For the fourth consecutive year, our Home has been voted "Simply the Best" personal care home by Johnstown Tribune Democrat newspaper subscribers. Even though this award is not a scientific study, it is wonderful to know that the Home's reputation in the Johnstown area is so positive. The staff was recognized for the award with a luncheon on Friday, October 3.

★ **AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:**

The Home Auxiliary is currently holding its annual membership drive. Our Auxiliary focuses on programs that directly impact resident needs, donating over \$15,000 for specific projects within the past year. They also supply the Home with countless volunteer hours and organize special events that brighten our residents' lives. Please join with us to support the Auxiliary! See your Key Lady for additional information, or contact Emma Thomas, Membership Chairman, at 814-629-7116.

★ **HOLDIAY REMINDER:**

The holidays are always a busy time for everyone. Should your group or organization be planning a visit to the Home, a call to Activities Director Susan Haluska at 361-6466 would be greatly appreciated. Advanced notice allows us to accommodate groups more easily and to schedule our staff accordingly. Thanks!

★ **PATIO PROGRESS:**

Anyone who has experienced a home remodeling project will easily identify with the progress of our patio. In our effort to erect a structure that is pleasing to the eye, long lasting, and functional, the original plans were upgraded and changed. Of course, the changes caused construction delays! However, the automatic door opener has been installed, the floor has been poured, and the structure is now under roof. The finishing touches such as lighting and landscaping are progressing. This project would not have been possible without the district's generous 2008 Harvest Home donations. We thank everyone who helped to make possible this new addition that increases our outdoor living space and eases entrance into our building!

★ **ALL FAITH COMMUNION:**

Autumn all-faith communion was held on Friday, October 2, in our main chapel. Home chaplain Rev. Warren Lewis and Rev. Ron Beachley officiated at the service with the assistance of Thomas Reckner, Rodney Jarvis, and the Activities department staff. Over 50 residents joined in this celebration of their faith. Our thanks to everyone involved.

★ **HARVEST HOME:**

Thanks to each church participating in our annual Harvest Home appeal. Donations of all types are deeply appreciated. The Home nursing department has made an additional donation suggestion. Many of the residents appreciate a light shawl around their shoulders as the weather grows chilly, so those who knit or crochet might adopt this project and add some warmth to the coming winter. Questions about any Harvest Home donations may be directed to Pam Harkcom at 814-361-6459



CAMP HARMONY

"Inviting all people to experience the wonder of creation, and find harmony with God, with nature, and with one another"

1414 Plank Road, P O Box 158
Hooversville, PA 15936-0158

e-mail: harmony@campharmony.org
<http://www.campharmony.org>
(814) 798-5885 or (888) 745-2267
FAX: (814) 798-2225

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.....HELP WITH THE MINISTRY OF CAMP

Weekend Hosts

Cutting and Splitting Wood

Servers for Dinners

Maintenance

Kitchen Help

Call Janice for details - the Lord's pay is the best

GROUPS AT CAMP IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Calvary Baptist

Wedding

Camp Reps Dinner

Westminster Presbyterian Retreat

Honduras Banquet

Somerset Jr. Honor Society

Windber School District

Time Out Christian Fellowship

Pig Roast

Amplify Concert

50th Wedding Anniversary Party

Soccer Leagues

Appalachian Mt. Club

Assembly of God Leadership Retreat

Bridge to Life

PAC - NYC Fundraiser

District Auction

Windber FCA

Quilt Peddlers

Stahl Mennonite Dinner

Scrapbookers

Conemaugh Twp. Sports Banquet

THE MINISTRY OF CAMP CONTINUES AND SO DO THE NEEDS.....

CAMP PROJECTS

General Budget

Lodge Restoration

Adopt a Camper Scholarship Fund (We have 6 Winter overnights)

Picnic Tables / Fire Rings

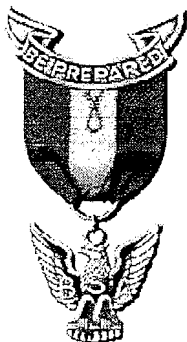
Basketball / Volleyball Court – Resurfacing

Pole Barn for Equipment

Mattresses for Cabins - 190 needed - \$63/mattress

Cabin Restoration – Congregations may adopt a cabin

The following letter was received from Cody Miller in regards to the waterslide project...



It is a great honor for me to have earned the Eagle Scout Award, but it is also a great honor to be able to share this special day with all of you.

Thank you for very much for being here today and helping me celebrate this great accomplishment.

Like Scouting, Camp Harmony has been a big part of my life. It means a lot to me to be able to do my Eagle Scout Leadership Project at the camp's pool and waterslide area.

There is no other place that I would want my Eagle Ceremony, than here at Faith Hall.

God has a plan for each of us. All we have to do is follow where He guides us. It is amazing how everything He plans for us, fits so perfectly together.

I would like to thank the following group of individuals that make our Troop the best there is:

Committee Members
Troop Leaders and Parents
Merit Badge Counselors
Scouts of Troop 114
Connumach Lions Club

Thank you Camp Harmony directors, board members, and staff for all of your help and support throughout my project.

To all of the churches and their parishioners, family, friends, fellow Scouts and their families, and businesses that helped make my Eagle Project such a success. You have all helped make a beautiful addition to a wonderful camp.

Special thanks to my Mom and Dad.
Your support and guidance helped me fulfill my goal
of becoming an Eagle Scout.

***We want to extend our prayers and well wishes to Charles Miller and his family upon his resignation from his position as Facilities Director at Camp Harmony. He has served Camp for over 11 years. On behalf of Camp, we sincerely thank him for all his time and service and hope and pray all goes well as he spends time with his family and any new endeavors.

2009 District Events and Meetings

EVENTS ARE CODED AS...

- District Events open for anyone in the District to attend - CAPS
- Meetings such as District Leadership Team, 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 *District HIGHLIGHTS* for changes/additions.
- Keep *your* calendar updated.

November 2009

- 1 - **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 5 - Structure Review & Redesign Team, 10 a.m., District Office
- 5 - Brethren Home Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
- 5 - District/Camp Charitable Trust Board, 6 p.m., District Office
- 7 - DISTRICT AUCTION, Camp Harmony
- 8 - Deacon Workshop, 3 p.m., Beachdale Church
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
- 14 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Ligonier Church
- 16 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 20-22 - *FOOTPRINTS*^{'09} – Chambersburg, PA
- 21 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Sipesville Church
- 23 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors, 7 p.m.
- 26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- 29 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2009

- 6 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- 12 - *DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, Camp Harmony*
- 13 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- 20 - .FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- 21 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
- 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Please note: Dates will be added or changed as needed.

If your District group, team, or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Thank You!

Western Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollisopple PA 15935-7412

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November 2009

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

An Abundance of Thanks

