



Middle Pennsylvania District  
Churches of the Brethren

# the Link

May 2011

Volume 15, No. 3

## Brethren Open Golf Tournament

Middle PA District & Camp Blue Diamond will hold the annual Brethren Open Golf Tournament on August 9, 2011 at Iron Masters Golf Course in Roaring Spring. The Tournament is followed by a meal at Albright COB. Invite your friends for a team of 4. The cost is just \$60 a person. Can't golf, but want to support the ministries of Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond, become a sponsor. Contact the District Center at 814-643-0601. A registration form is online at [www.midpacob.org](http://www.midpacob.org).

## Heritage Fair — 30th Anniversary

It's not too early to start planning for Heritage Fair on Saturday, September 24. It is our hope that all 55 churches will participate in some way as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary. Our emphasis is on Brethren heritage, so we would encourage you to dress in traditional Brethren garb. Do you remember what your church did for the first or second Fair? Are there ways you might "add to" what your church is already doing—i.e. displaying pictures from past Heritage Fairs or historical artifacts from your churches, developing a skit, etc.? Be creative! A more detailed letter will be going out to Pastors and Heritage Fair Contacts in the coming weeks. Heritage Fair proceeds support the ministries of Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond.

## 150th Middle PA District Conference

This year will be the 150th Recorded District Conference for Middle Pennsylvania District. District Conference will be held on October 14-15, 2011 at Carson Valley Church of the Brethren in Duncansville, PA. Our Moderator is David Filson who is a member of the Burnham congregation. Please mark your calendars now and plan to share in this celebration of our Brethren heritage. More details coming soon!

## Middle PA District

### Special Response Hearing Update

By Charles Eldredge

The Standing Committee Delegates of Middle PA District, Dave Crumrine, from Roaring Spring COB and Charles Eldredge, from Maitland COB, would like to thank everyone for their participation in our Special Response District hearings this past fall and winter. There were four hearings held throughout Middle PA District which drew 397 persons of all ages, including a number of high school youth and college students, from 46 Middle PA Churches. Several people from a neighboring district also joined one of our hearings.

After our first hearing at Pine Glen COB where we broke into three groups of 30-36, we quickly brought more group facilitators on board at our next three hearings to increase the number of groups, thereby bringing down the group size to 18-28 per group. The two hours we had to meet to discuss two issues, *A Statement of Confession and Commitment*, and a *Query: Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships*

*Continued on page 6...*

## Annual Conference Delegate Briefings

**Sunday, May 22** at Beech Run  
2:15 pm gathering  
2:30 pm business

**Thursday, June 2** at Altoona 28th Street  
6:15 gathering  
6:45 pm business  
2011 Annual Conference Moderator, Robert Alley will be speaking at this briefing.

## Placement Updates

- **Clover Creek 2nd Staff:** Orienting Search Committee/Preparing Congregational Profile
- **Martinsburg Memorial:** Preparing Position Description
- **Spring Run:** Reviewing Pastoral Profiles & Interviewing  
Interim: *Audrey Finkbiner*

## Other Updates

- **Adam Morgan** was licensed to the ministry on March 6 at Sugar Run COB. Congratulations Adam!

## Sympathy

- Our sympathy is extended to Tim McIntyre and his family on the death of his mother, Grace McIntyre, on February 24. Tim serves as pastor at Riddlesburg COB.
- Our sympathy is extended to Robert Thacker and his family on the death of his mother, Virginia, on March 12. Robert serves as pastor at Dunnings Creek COB.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kimmel family on the death of Myers Kimmel at the age of 91 on Saturday, March 19. Myers is survived by his wife Lois, 2 sons and 3 daughters. Myers was a retired ordained minister in Middle PA District. He served several churches in the district including Leamersville, Rockhill, Pine Glen and Ardenheim. He was a member of the Tyrone COB.

NEW MEMBERS	
Carson Valley:	Judd Stahley
New Enterprise:	Ashlyn Baker, Krista Foor, Whitley Furry, Vaughn Loose, Jerry Mellott, Nancy Mellott, Kim Shope, Robert Shope

2011 DIRECTORY CHANGES		
Page 19	Amaranth Moderator	Olie Teeter; 301-478-2353; 12310 Town Creek Rd. NE, Flintstone, MD 21530
Page 20	Bedford Moderator	John Montgomery; 814-623-8658, 682 Sweet Root Rd., Bedford, PA 15522 john-pam@comcast.net
Page 22	Carson Valley Moderator	Robert Wharton; 814-944-6725
Page 24	Everett Moderator	David Wilt; 814-652-9141
Page 27	Lewistown Moderator	Raymond Hill; 717-248-2790
Page 34	Tyrone Pastor Phone Tyrone Moderator	Jeff Miley; 814-215-0199 Tom Dickson; 814-684-1913, 1859 Decker Hollow Rd., Tyrone, PA 16686
Page 36	Yellow Creek Moderator	Patricia Muthler; 814-766-2287
Page 43	Paul Johnson email address	paulj9@atlanticbb.net
Page 48	Bill Pepper address	6124 Oak Ave., Altoona, PA 16601
Page 52	Robert Thacker Address	5183 Cortland Rd., New Paris, PA 15554

**Middle PA District 2011  
Financials Notes**

**As of April 25, 2011**

- Our General Fund Balance is \$3,651.90
- Year to date income is \$1,225.67 more than this time last year.
- Our expenses are exceeding our income by \$27,767.89

<b>Income</b>	<b>Jan-April 25</b>	<b>2011 Mission Plan (Budget)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Self Allocations/Congregational Giving	\$31,268.88	\$149,203.40	-\$117,916.52
Second Mile Servant/Individual Giving	\$1,720.00	\$12,000.00	-\$10,280.00
District Conference Assessment	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	-\$6,000.00
Interest	\$1.23	\$10.00	-\$8.77
Rent	\$850.00	\$3,000.00	-\$2,150.00
Special Funding	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Heritage Fair Funds	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	-\$15,000.00
Pennies for Congregational Ministry	\$5.39	\$8,000.00	-\$7,994.61
Golf Tournament	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	-\$3,500.00
Ministry Education Endowment	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
Congregational Vitalization Endowment	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
District Conference Offering	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	-\$1,800.00
Transfer from Restricted (Borrowed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,863.50</b>	<b>\$203,013.40</b>	<b>-\$169,149.90</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>District Outreach</b>			
Pennsylvania Council of Churches	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
Trucker/Traveler Ministry	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
CentrePeace	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
Park Ministry	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00
Summer Youth Workcamps	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	<b>\$403.42</b>	<b>\$13,850.00</b>	<b>-\$13,446.58</b>
<b>Congregational Ministry</b>	<b>\$2,094.22</b>	<b>\$6,700.00</b>	<b>-\$4,605.78</b>
<b>Center for Congregational Ministry</b>	<b>\$59,133.65</b>	<b>\$169,963.40</b>	<b>-\$110,829.75</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$61,631.29</b>	<b>\$203,013.40</b>	<b>-\$141,382.11</b>



**The Village at Morrisons Cove**

For more information, please contact our Activities/Volunteer Manager Kristy Detwiler at (814) 793-5212 or our Chaplain & Director of Spiritual Care, Linda Banaszak, at (814) 793-5218.

**2011 Sunday Afternoon Church Schedule**

May 1	Black Valley-Frank Wheeland
May 8	The Village Chaplain, Linda Banaszak
May 15	Williamsburg- Allen Baker
May 22	Riddlesburg- Tim McIntyre
May 29	Altoona 28th St.- Rebecca Zeek
June 5	Amaranth- Freeman Snair
June 12	Sugar Run- James Hullihen
June 19	Albright- Michael Olivieri
June 26	Lower Claar- John Winesickle



**Cassette Tape  
Duplicator**

Clover Creek COB has a cassette tape duplicator to give to anyone who wants. If you are interested or have questions, call David Banaszak at 814-793-3524.

## The “Word” from the Woodpile (Article from Beech Run Newsletter, March 2011)

By: Jonathan Whitsel, Licensed Minister, Beech Run

As many of you know, on February 20, I officially became a licensed minister in the Church of the Brethren. Wow, what an exciting time in my walk with the Lord. I started this journey of pursuing pastoral ministry in the fall of 2008 by enrolling in the ACTS program which is offered by the Church of the Brethren as one of the ways people who are interested in ministry training can receive training, without having to pull up roots and enroll into full-time seminary training program. In other words, it's a great way to be able to work full time, while also getting the training required to become an ordained minister.

“Wait, what was that?” “An ordained minister?” “But I thought you just said you are now a licensed minister,” you may ask. Yep, that's exactly what I said. I am now licensed, which, in the Church of the Brethren is a milestone that's reached during the process of working toward ordination. So, as neat as it is that I've reached this point in the journey, it's by no means the ultimate goal.

Which brings me to the subject of this article. What is the ultimate goal? In my mind, the

ultimate goal is to serve the Lord in whatever way he requires of me. If that means becoming an ordained minister, then that's what I want to do, but I don't want to “miss the forest for the trees,” so to speak. What I mean is, the certificate and card I was handed to prove that I'm not a licensed minister isn't worth the paper it's printed on if I'm not a living disciple of Jesus Christ.

When I was 16 I became a licensed driver, but if I jump behind the wheel, head down the highway, and can't keep it between the ditches, then I'm not doing what that driver's license says I can do. I could have a gold plated driver's license, but if I can't drive, it's worthless.

Several years ago I became certified in the timber industry by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). I was given a card to say that I'm officially a certified member of SFI which is supposed to mean that I know how to harvest timber in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. Sounds great, huh? Well, the fact of the matter is, if I go into the woods with my official card and all, and don't live up to the requirements of being an environmentally friendly logger, I

might as well take all those hours of training and pour them down the drain.

I don't want for a minute to think that just because I have a card that says I'm a licensed minister, that I can now slack off and take it easy when it comes to constantly trying to grow into the Christian that God intended me to be. I want to do more than simply “keep it between the ditches.” I want to be able to, with God's wisdom and strength, navigate my vehicle down the road of life, on my faith journey, in a way that's pleasing to God. I never want to be somebody that has an “I have arrived” mentality.

I'm still in disbelief that I'm actually a licensed minister now. Boy, God definitely calls the misfits doesn't he? I truly believe that at the end of our time here on earth, all the licenses, certificates, and accomplishments aren't going to add up to anything compared to whether our name's written in the Lamb's Book of Life and the way we lived our life and tried to help people come to know the Lord through our actions and words, which in turn possibly lead them to receive a license to eternal life. That's the ultimate goal, isn't it?

## Disaster Response

### Dates:

#### Ashland City, Tennessee

- ◆ May 15-21
- ◆ August 28-Sept. 3 (Martinsburg Memorial)
- ◆ October 23-29 (Clover Creek)

Call Ron Dilling at 814-224-5165 to volunteer on one of these trips.



### Urgent Need!

#### CWS Kits & Clean-up Buckets

There is an urgent need for CWS Kits and Emergency Clean-up Buckets to replenish the supplies that have been given to Japan earthquake relief. CWS is appealing to Church of the Brethren members to promote the need for these critical items. For information on assembling the kits and buckets, see: [www.churchworldservice.org/kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits).

## Youth & Young Adults

### Young Adult Conference

Young Adult Conference 2011 is being held at Camp Inspiration Hills, near Burbank, Ohio on May 28-30. This weekend event is full of worship, fellowship, singing and playing for young adults, ages 18-35. "Re:Thinking Church", based on Acts 2:1-4 is the theme. Register online at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

### Footprints Conference

Mark your calendars now! The 2011 Footprints Conference will be held on November 18-20, 2011 at Rhodes Grove Conference Center near Chambersburg, PA. The theme is "Be Doers of the Word" from James 1:22-24. Sessions with Walt Wiltschek and music led by Mutual Kumquat. Watch for more details coming soon!

### Help End Childhood Obesity Newsline 4.20.11

The Church of the Brethren is gearing up to end childhood obesity – in a very Brethren way, of course! As we participate in the national Let's Move! Initiative, our efforts will be organized around how we can face this challenge peacefully, simply, together. Each of the next three months you will find new ideas and resources posted at [www.brethren.org/letsmove](http://www.brethren.org/letsmove) – check out April's peacefully pages today, and share this information with everyone who cares about the health and future of our children. And be sure to use the link on the page to share your stories with us so we can celebrate our successes together! -Donna Kline, Director, Deacon Ministries

### National Youth Sunday

National Youth Sunday is celebrated across the Church of the Brethren Denomination on Sunday, May 1, 2011. The theme is "Faith indeed," James 2:14-26. Resources are available at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

## Camp Blue Diamond Events

Father Son Retreat (Boys K-6 & Dads)	May 6-7
Quilt & Craft Camp	May 13-15
Senior Adult Day	June 3
Summer Camp 2011	June 19-July 29
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 9
Heritage Fair	September 24

## Educational Opportunities

### Online Courses

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; <http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy> or call 1-800-287-8822, ext 1824.

- **Brethren History 101** is an eight week online course offered from May 30-August 2, with Denise Kettering as instructor.
- **Introduction to the Old Testament** is an eight week online course offered from September 12-November 5, with Craig Gandy as instructor.

**Classes Offered By Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center** To register for any of these classes, please contact Amy Milligan at 717-361-1450 or email [svmc@etown.edu](mailto:svmc@etown.edu) or online at [www.etown.edu/svmc](http://www.etown.edu/svmc).

- **Pastoral Care** with David Witkovsky as instructor. The course will be held May 19-22, 2011 at Juniata College. Email: [SVMC@etown.edu](mailto:SVMC@etown.edu) to register or for more details. Registration deadline is May 2.
- **Worship God's Way: Planning and Practicing Transformative Worship** with Leah Hileman as instructor. The course will be held Saturday, August 27, 2011 at Carlisle Church of the Brethren. Cost is \$20 plus \$10 CEUs. Email [SVMC@etown.edu](mailto:SVMC@etown.edu) or online at [www.etown.edu/svmc](http://www.etown.edu/svmc). Registration deadline is August 12.
- **Alternative Stories in the Bible** with Dr. Robert Neff, instructor, Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at Elizabethtown College. Cost of the event is \$50 with an additional \$10 charge for CEUs. Light refreshments and lunch are included. For more details or to register, visit [www.svmc.edu](http://www.svmc.edu). Registration deadline is September 6, 2011 (Etown).
- **Church Leadership and Administration** with David Banaszak on September 13, 20, 27, October 11, 18, 2011 at the District Center; 6:30-9:30 pm.

### 38th Annual Brethren Bible Institute

The Brethren Revival Fellowship will sponsor the Brethren bible Institute the summer, July 25-29, 2011 on the campus of Elizabethtown College. Application forms are available at Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517. Registration deadline is June 24, 2011.

## 2011 Annual Conference

July 2-6, 2011  
Grand Rapids,  
Michigan



### Business

#### Agenda

##### Unfinished Business:

1. A Statement of Confession and Commitment
2. Query: Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships
3. Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper

##### New Business:

1. Query: Guidance for Responding to the Changing of the Earth's Climate
2. Query: Proper Decorum

### Congregational Life Ministry Fair

Some of the events at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Mich. July 2-6 are changing and questions have been raised. "What happened to the Congregational Life dinner?" "Is there no Deacon Luncheon this year?" The new Congregational Life Ministry Fair will debut on Monday, July 4. It's designed to expand both of these events. As a 'fair,' this new event will provide the opportunity for participants to move from table to table to talk with others involved or interested in the same ministry areas you are, whether that be deacons, evangelism, children's ministry, older adults, board chair, or many others – a total of fifteen in all. Since most people wear multiple hats in their congregations, we thought it important to allow time for conversation with people in more than one ministry area. Register for the Fair under 'Meal Tickets' as a part of the Annual Conference registration. -Donna Kline, Director, Deacon Ministries- Newline 4.20.11

## Special Response Hearing Updates *continued from page 1...*

went by quickly, but all were very productive and engaging. Some groups had difficulty staying on task, others struggled to answer all the questions, and feelings in some ran strong, but respectful. With the help of our facilitators we made it through this part of the Special Response process.

We would like to express our thanks to the churches who hosted our hearings— Pine Glen, Snake Spring, Hollidaysburg and Martinsburg; the facilitators and note-takers—David Crumrine, Charles Eldredge, David Steele, Dottie Steele, David Witkovsky, Connie Maclay, Celia Cook Hoffman, Rebecca Zeek, Richard Landrum, Janet Sell, Jeannine Berube, Kim Witkovsky, David Stiles, and David Banaszak; as well as our District Minister, David Steele, and District Secretary, Kris Shunk, who helped communicate with our Middle PA District Churches about these hearings and secured our leadership.

Summaries of all these hearings, along with the comments and responses shared, were mailed in February to the Forms Reception Committee, a sub-committee of Standing Committee, who will read and study the Facilitator Report Forms and the e-mail responses submitted by those unable to attend a hearing. (Please note that since the purpose of the Special Response Process is to facilitate conversation, the Facilitator Report Forms from district hearings are weighted more heavily than individual correspondence via postal mail, e-mail, or the Annual Conference sponsored email link. Also, all input to the Forms Reception Committee is confidential information and will not be shared publicly.)

After reading and studying all the input from district hearings, letters, and individual e-mail responses, the Forms Reception Committee will prepare for Standing Committee a quantitative and qualitative report summarizing the input and noting common themes. They will not provide specific recommendations to Standing Committee.

The Officers of Annual Conference will provide copies of the report from the Forms Reception Committee to Standing Committee along with other information in preparation for their meeting in Grand Rapids, June 29-July 1, prior to Annual Conference.

In Grand Rapids, Standing Committee will discuss the report from Forms Reception Committee and then prepare recommendations based on the those reports to answer the two business items: *A Statement of Confession & Commitment*, and *Query: Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships*.

2011 Annual Conference delegates will receive the recommendations from Standing Committee and process them according to the outline in the 2009 Annual Conference Minutes: *A Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues*.

Again thank you to all who participated in and helped with our Special Response Hearings. If anyone has any further questions please feel free to contact your Standing Committee Delegates, David Crumrine and Charles Eldredge.

## Denominational News

- **National Older Adult Conference** 'Passion and Purpose in a Changing World' is the theme of the NOAC for adults 50 and older and takes place September 5-9 at Lake Junaluska, NC. For registration brochures and additional information, contact Kim Ebersole at 800-323-8039 or visit [www.brethren.org/NOAC](http://www.brethren.org/NOAC).

- **Two Middle PA Young Adults Will Serve As Coordinators for 2012 Workcamp Ministry** The Youth and Young Adult Office is delighted to announce the assistant coordinators for the 2012 workcamp ministry, **Catherine Gong and Rachel Witkovsky**, Assistant coordinators serve through BVS in the Elgin office from September-May, planning for summer workcamps. During the summer, they are on the road, leading workcamps for junior highs through young adults. Catherine is graduating from Pennsylvania State University this spring. Rachel is a graduate of Elizabethtown College. Both bring a passion for service and a desire to share this with the youth of our denomination.

(Newsline 4.20.11)

### New Four Square World Record Set By Manchester College Group -Two Middle PA District young adults help set this record!

-- Jeri Kornegay and Walt Wiltschek of the Manchester College staff provided this release for Newsline

A persistent, and bone-weary team of Manchester College students appears to have set a new world record in the schoolyard game of Four Square. Fifteen students bounced the ball for 30 hours, unofficially besting the Guinness



Kay Guyer with the ball.

World Record TM by a full hour in the Feb. 25-26 effort. They topped the record shortly after 6 p.m. Eastern time on Feb. 26, in the College Union.

At times, the challenge was almost overwhelming, said first-year student Todd Eastis, who chaired the challenge. "It was toughest trying to get through the night and make it to sunrise Saturday. But I never heard anybody say they wanted to quit." The sociology major was back at class Monday morning, admitting it took 12 hours of sleep to rejuvenate. The challenge, led by the campus faith group Simply Brethren, also raised \$1,000 for Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, Ind. Each fall since 1925, Manchester College students, faculty, and staff members have spent a day at the camp doing service, playing softball, canoeing...and playing Four Square. Camp Mack lost its main building, Becker Lodge, to fire last summer.

"Thank you, we look at you as inspiration as we look at the task ahead of us," said Camp Mack executive director Rex Miller, of reconstruction at the camp. Construction on the new John Kline Welcome Center, which will partially replace Becker Lodge, is under way. It is expected to be ready by the end of May.

Official observers and timers from the community (they could not be associated with the college) provided continuous, around-the-clock support, as did many college employees and students.

The record the students claim is unofficial. Now the students will gather and send in witness statements and log books, photographs, media coverage and other proofs of their feat. Validation typically takes six to eight weeks, they've been told. They hope to unseat holders of the 29-hour record, Buenos Aires International Christian Academy in Argentina.

The 15 players included Katelyn Carothers from Glendale, Ariz.; Todd Eastis from Warsaw, Ind.; **Kay Guyer from Woodbury, Pa.**; Lucas Kauffman from Goshen, Ind.; **Laban Wenger from Petersburg, Pa.**; Sarah Leininger from Timberville, Va.; Julia Largent from Muncie, Ind.; Miranda DeHart from Clayton, Ohio; Andrew Miller from Elgin, Ill.; Matt Hammond from Dayton, Ohio; Jesse Steffen from Goshen, Ind.; Hunter Snapp from Flora, Ind.; Turner Ritchie from Richmond, Ind.; Laura Lichauer from Wakarusa, Ind.; and Marie Stump from Garrett, Ind.

# Middle Pennsylvania District

Church of the Brethren  
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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**HUNTINGDON PA 16652**  
**PERMIT NO. 141**

2011 Office Hours:  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 – 4:00

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## May 2011

### Looking Ahead...

May 1 ..... Youth Sunday, *Denominational*  
May 7 ..... The Village at Morrisons Cove Chicken BBQ  
May 22 ..... Annual Conference Briefing, *Beech Run COB*  
June 2 ..... Annual Conference Briefing, *Altoona 28th St. COB*  
June 17-19 ..... National Jr. High Conference, *Elizabethtown College*  
July 2-6 ..... Annual Conference, *Grand Rapids, Michigan*  
July 13 ..... Summer Splash  
August 9 ..... Brethren Open Golf Tournament  
September 5-9 ..... National Older Adult Conference, *Lake Junaluska*  
September 24 ..... Heritage Fair  
October 14-15 ..... District Conference, *Carson Valley COB*  
November 4-5 ..... Inquiry Retreat, *Rising Sun-Camp Blue Diamond*  
November 18-20... Footprints Conference, *Rhodes Grove Conf. Center*

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