



Middle Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

THE LINK



Volume 13, No. 6

November 2009

District Conference Wrap-up

The 148th Middle PA District Conference had a new twist this year with an unexpected early snow fall in the days leading up to the conference that required cautious travel for some .

Pre-conference activities began Friday evening with the annual Ministers' Banquet. Seventy ministers and their spouses enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner that was provided by Juniata College and hosted by President Tom Kepple.

District Conference opened Friday evening , gathering under the theme God Lives in Us, 1 John 4:11-12, with worship. Kurt Borgmann, pastor at Manchester Church of the Brethren and guest speaker preached on "To Love One Another." Kurt has family ties to the Roaring Spring Congregation and was a camper in his formative years at Camp Blue Diamond. Kurt married Loyce (Swartz) who grew up in the Spring Run congregation. Kurt's thought provoking message to the 179 who attended was that we all have our own opinions but must remember that our love of God cannot be void of love for those we disagree with. Marty Keeney, Stone Church, shared his talents as Music Coordinator for the conference. Keeney Brass and Stone Church Women's Ensemble shared music during Friday evening worship. Katie Kensinger (Martinsburg Memorial) shared a liturgical dance, *I Love You Lord*, and Moderator Lori Knepp served as worship leader.

Friday evening business convened with approval of the minutes, audit reports of the District finances and Disaster Response Action Team. David Steele, District Minister, shared in his report to the conference body of the need to be better stewards of our resources and the need to join our ministries together, finding ways to share ministries, programs and even leadership with

neighboring Church of the Brethren congregations. Our ministry focus should not be to be bigger and better than our neighboring churches, but to come together and focus on doing the ministries of Jesus Christ. He challenged those gathered to be more intentional in our efforts to be invitational to those who have no church home – for each church to disciple 5 new members in the next year.



The delegate body gathered on Saturday morning with worship. Joel Nogle, pastor at Memorial Church of the Brethren, preached and his sermon was entitled "Who's Your Daddy." Through story, humor and music, Joel shared an energizing message reminding us that no matter where you come from that your heavenly Father is "Your Daddy." Nicholas Neal (Roaring Spring) shared his gifts at the piano, Jeremy Santos (Stone) offered special music, and Lowell Witkovsky, moderator-designate, served as worship leader.

Moderator Lori Knepp, reconvened the business session of District Conference. The slate of leadership was affirmed. *Continued on page 4*

2010 District Leadership Slate

(Affirmed by 2009 District Conference Delegates)

Moderator-Designate - David Filson (Burnham)

Gifts Discernment

Area 1 – Eric Biddle (Altoona 28th Street)

Area 4 – Barbara Rowe (Beech Run)

Program & Arrangements – Freeman Snair (Amaranth)

Audit Committee – Jeff Imler (Hollidaysburg)

Standing Committee – David Crumrine (Roaring Spring)

Coordinating Team

Area 1 – Rich Allison (Lower Claar)

Area 2 – Doris Miller (Holsinger)

Area 3 – Bobbie Replogle (Yellow Creek)

Area 4 – Marian Goshorn (Aughwick Germany Valley)

Treasurer—Jim Ake (Stone)

Across Middle PA District

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

New Enterprise Church will host a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26 from 11:30 to 2:30. Enjoy turkey, all the fixin's and various pies. This meal is free and open to the community.

Alternative Christmas Fair

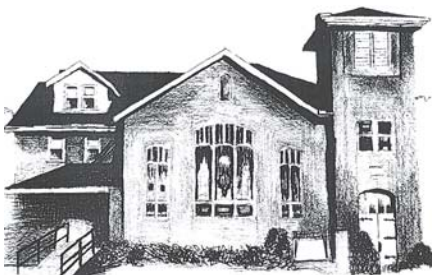
University Baptist and Brethren Church in State College is offering their annual Alternative Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 6 from 11-2. The fair offers 20 local, national and regional charitable organizations that offer goods and services to those in need. Enjoy soup/sandwich mission lunch, baked goods and Christmas cookies. Children's Alternative Store and Games 11-1:30. Make a difference!

100th Anniversary Celebration & Dedication

A celebration weekend is being planned for Stone Church in Huntingdon on December 12-13. "Grounded in our faith and Growing for the future." A celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for Stone Church and the completed renovations to the church building. They will recognize their history, celebrate the past, and look to the future ministries of Stone Church. Tours will be given on Saturday with a concert featuring the handbells and choir at 4 p.m. Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. Andy and Terry Murray will sing and share the renovation story followed by worship with Earle Fike, former pastor. Lunch will be served at Noon with Steve Engle and his puppet, Hilde, and hymn singing with Nancy Faus. Celebration is open to the public.

African Well Project

In April Randy Whetstone of Claysburg shared the need for clean water for the people of Malawi, Africa. After Randy's presentation, the Claysburg COB congregation committed to donate money to drill a well, at the cost of \$5500.00. God then provided the money in surprising ways. Through special offerings for the well we received \$3894.07. An additional \$1887.18 was given as offerings during Vacation Bible School



the week of July 6-10; and a yard sale the following week brought in another \$1018.75. On July 26, Rev. Ron Bashore, the pastor at Claysburg COB, presented Randy Whetstone with a check for \$6800.00 to go toward a well, some mosquito nets, and some new equipment. The well will serve 50 families in Malawi. Praise God for His wonderful provision.

Christmas Hymn Sing & Blue Christmas Service

Area 3 churches will have a Christmas Hymn Sing at 3 p.m. at the Bedford Church of the Brethren on December 13 followed by refreshments and a Blue Christmas Service at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

A View From Lower Claar Church of the Brethren

On hot, summer days I sit in my church pew which has a window view at Lower Claar Church of the Brethren, a church that is 118 years old in south central Pennsylvania and must admit that sometimes I am distracted by the beauty that God has created. No matter whether the sermon is interesting or somewhat boring, I find my mind wandering and looking out the window from the church pew where I have sat for 58 years.

This old farm that was built in 1824 is silhouetted by a church window and intrigues me with its history and natural beauty. It is the oldest stone house in the local area and at 185 years old deserves the admiration that it gets.

God has given us many ways to appreciate all that he has given to us from the weekly church worshipping to the natural beauty that surrounds us.

I catch myself staring out the window with a small amount of guilt, but saying to myself, "Nice job, God. You did a great job. It is beautiful."

Submitted by: Rich Allison



Placement Updates

- **Bellwood:** Negotiating w/ candidate
- **Diehl’s Crossroads:** Negotiating w/ candidate
- **Dunnings Creek:** Profile circulating
Interims: Claude & Mary Lou Hall
- **Fairview:** Profile Circulating
Interim Coordinator of Ministry: Adam Morgan
- **Martinsburg** (Director of Programming and Congregational Life): Profile circulating/
Interviewing
- **Roaring Spring:** Profile circulating
Interim: Dottie Steele

Other Updates

Rebecca Miller Zeek, pastor at Altoona 28th Street has been named to the Juniata College Board of Trustees as a church trustee.

Middle PA 2009 Financial Snippet			
As of October 31, 2009			
	Budget	Income	Expense
Totals	221,645	131,387	155,147

Pulpit Supply

- **Myers Kimmel**, retired ordained minister, is available for pulpit supply and evangelistic services. Call Myers if you are interested at 814.684.1832 or 814.505.3830 (cell#).
- **Karen Duhai**, Middle PA District Youth Ministry Coordinator, is available to speak to your youth groups or as pulpit supply on Sunday mornings. Please contact Karen at 814-624-0744 or email: kduhai@hotmail.com.
- **Laurie Stiles**, Curryville congregation, is available for pulpit supply. Call Laurie if you are interested at 814-793-2824.

New Members

Aughwick-Germany Valley

Jordon Long, Tyler Long

Claysburg

David, Susan, Gareth and Suzanne Wicker

Huntingdon Stone

June Blow, Heather Gregory

New Enterprise

Jim Milks

Yellow Creek

Peyton Leidy, Sydney Patterson

“Transforming Mission & Ministry”

The Coordinating Team would like to invite you to attend the last of the 5 area gatherings. If you have missed or were unable to attend the gathering in your area, please come and join us.

Many of you gathered two years ago to “celebrate what’s right with the church.” In those two-hour gatherings we spent time listening to one another share stories of your transformational ministries. We have much to celebrate! We would like to again engage your creativity and wisdom as we prayerfully and faithfully work to “transform our mission and ministries.”

Our final gathering will be held at the Holsinger congregation on November 15 and will begin at 2:00 p.m. During this time we will worship and then invite you to share with us from your knowledge and/or understanding :

- The purpose of the District and what is needed to fulfill that purpose.
- How the wider District and its staff is or could be a part of the ministry and mission of your congregation.
- How the District could better serve your congregation.
- The gifts that your congregation might share with the other 54 churches of Middle PA.

2010 Mission Plan Summary

The 2010 Mission Plan of \$211,700 was affirmed by the District Conference delegate body. The 2010 Plan represents a \$9,945.00 reduction from the 2009 Mission Plan. It maintains 2010 budget expenses in most areas at the 2009 levels. This funding will assure that we provide essential services and ministries, while not diminishing support to churches. This conservative budget proposal is dependent upon all of our 55 churches “stepping out” and fulfilling commitments to support District Ministries. We understand that some churches may have limitations to maintain support at the 2009 levels, yet others may see opportunity to increase their support for the 2010 Mission Plan.

May we celebrate and live out of the abundances that God has provided! May we also joyfully and faithfully continue the work of Jesus – Simply – Peacefully –Together.

You can find a copy of the 2010 Mission Plan at www.midpacob.org.

Heritage Fair

The feel of Fall was in the air for those who enjoyed the 29th Annual Heritage Fair at Camp Blue Diamond on Saturday, September 26. Many started their morning with a hot breakfast served by Koontz and Waterside congregations. Thirty-six congregations of Middle PA District served up homemade soups, funnel cakes, apple cider, pies and many varieties of traditional Brethren favorites. A children's area provided a petting zoo, sand art, cookie painting and puppet show. The rain held off until noon when many gathered for the auctions under the tent. This is the largest event to raise funds for District Outreach Ministries and Camp Blue Diamond. The money raised is split between Middle PA District Outreach Ministries (Pennsylvania Council of Churches, CentrePeace, Prince Gallitzin



Chaplaincy, Trucker/Traveler Ministries, Youth Workcamps) and Camp Blue Diamond. Approximately \$31,134 was raised with additional donations coming in.

Heritage Fair Quilt Rotation

The Heritage Fair Committee is working on a district quilt rotation to accommodate all the churches in Middle PA District. Your congregation received a letter detailing this rotation. If you have questions or concerns, please call the District Center at 814-643-0601. The following is a list of where the quilt will be the next several weeks:

- November 8 Parkview
- November 15 Rockhill
- November 22 Valley Point
- November 29 Sugar Run
- December 6 Beech Run
- December 13 James Creek
- December 20 Christmas
- December 27 State College

District Conference Wrap-up

Continued from page 1

The Coordinating Team used their reporting time by inviting District Ministry leadership to share with the delegate body some of the ministries of their respective teams, i.e. The Shalom Team, the Calling & Credentialing Team, the Ministers' Education & Support Team, etc. Several individuals from congregations also shared of the way district ministries have aided them in their local ministries.

The Coordinating Team reporting culminated after lunch with the presentation of the 2010 Mission Plan. The \$211,700 Plan, which represents a \$9,945.00 reduction from the 2009 Plan and included no program, ministry or outreach cuts, was affirmed by the delegate body.

The Youth Ministry Team shared their gifts by inviting the gathered body to refocus through music and devotion which was followed by a service of consecration for the ministries they share throughout the district.

Also a part of conference business was the Query – Cooperative Ministry Among the Brethren. (The query can be found at the Middle PA web-site: www.midpacob.org). The query originated from the Area 3 pastors and was passed on to the delegate body for consideration by the Coordinating Team. Although the motion from the Coordinating Team offered no direction other than to pass the query on to District Conference, the intent of the Team was that the concerns and

questions within the query are significant and relevant and that we (the District) should spend time studying and working at the query ourselves as directed by Annual Conference query guidelines. After discussion, a motion from the floor to send it on to Annual Conference was defeated. A second motion to pass it back to the Coordinating Team for study and action was passed.

Delegates also heard reports of the ministries of the Village of Morrisons Cove, Trucker-Traveler, Juniata College, together with a combined report from the Annual Conference agencies: Bethany Theological Seminary, On Earth Peace, The Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren and Brethren Benefit Trust.

Friday evening offerings totaling \$1,087.00 were designated to District Youth Ministry and the Pennies For Congregational Ministries offering on Saturday totaled \$5,547.77. The District Conference outreach project was non-perishable food items and monetary donations given to the Huntingdon Area Food Pantry. Jean Gutshall accepted the items on Saturday on behalf of the Food Pantry.

Lowell Witkovsky, 2010 District Moderator, was consecrated for his leadership for the coming year and asked for the congregations to be in prayer for the tasks ahead of us. The 2010 District Conference will be held on October 15-16 at the Maitland Church of the Brethren.

Feature Articles

The Middle PA District Center would like to feature a church and their pastor in the District newsletter as a way of keeping us connected to one another. This article may detail a special event or a milestone for the congregation . If your congregation is interested in providing information for such an article, please call Kris at 814-643-0601 or email details to kshunk.midpa@verizon.net. Deadline for the next newsletter will be December 11.



Altoona First Church of the Brethren

510 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA
 Phone: 814-942-2441 Email: alt1stcob@aol.com
 Website: www.altoonafirstchurch.webs.com

Altoona's First Church has had an especially busy summer with special celebrations, opportunities and outreach. The 'Lighthouse on the Corner' celebrated the addition of its new entrance addition on June 28, 2009. The new section features a covered drive- through handicapped entrance, allowing easy access to the renovated lobby which boasts large windows and doors offering natural light, hardwood floors and comfortable seating. Included in the renovations: large

handicapped restroom, coat area, kitchenette and handicapped accessible ramp into the newly painted Sunday School room and sanctuary. A newly installed sound system pipes soft music at the welcoming renovated entrance. Much of the original wooden trim was saved and utilized, to blend the new with the old. The interior of the church has received a 'facelift' as well, having been painted a warm ivory color, trimmed with a darker shade to accent recessed areas and to highlight the beauty of First Church's original stained glass windows.

On Thursday, August 13, 2009, First Church hosted its first SCHOOL CLOTHES Give-A-Way. Through posters, doorknob hangers and face-to-face contacts, neighbors of the church were invited to visit the church's parking lot from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. to 'shop' for back-to-school clothes and school supplies. The resounding success of this neighborhood outreach was evident in the smiling faces and bags filled with clothing and school supplies. Neighbors also enjoyed a hot dog and lemonade with 1st Church volunteers, who shared invitations to join in worship on Sundays.



Just one week later on August 20, 2009, the third annual Heifer Project Picnic was hosted by Clay and Barb Angle at their home. Members of the 1st Church family joined friends and neighbors for a fun-filled picnic featuring Clay's famous grilled chicken and Barb's mouthwatering pulled pork ~ plus an amazing assortment of side dishes and desserts. All were invited to participate in swimming, volleyball, bocce, lake walks and conversation. The intent: to enjoy fellowship to the fullest and to foster awareness of how each of us can make a real difference in quelling world hunger. The outcome: an evening of fellowship, food and fun, topped by generous donations! Heifer International received over \$2,250, thanks to the awareness and generosity of many good folks.

The congregation of Altoona's First Church of the Brethren is 'walking the talk' and proving true the adage: Good people make good things happen! Pastor Bill Pepper is filling the pulpit, filling our souls and filling seats in the sanctuary. First Church is much blessed and is happy to share those blessings with others.

Pastor Bill Pepper

Bill Pepper is a graduate of Practical Bible Training School, Johnson City, New York. He began his pastoral ministry in 1982. Before entering the ministry he and his wife, Patti, owned and operated a dairy farm in northeastern Pennsylvania.

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The Village at Morrisons Cove

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10	Annual Spaghetti Dinner-proceeds benefit Martinsburg Fire Co.
Dec. 3	Annual Christmas Tree Celebration
Dec. 3	Auxiliary Cookie Festival
Dec. 8	Christmas at the Cove-Manor House

Unleashing the Longevity Revolution

You are invited to a seminar with William Cave on Friday, November 13, 2009 at The Village Green at The Village at Morrisons Cove from 9-12. This seminar will introduce the radical demographic changes that are occurring in contemporary society which



The Village
AT MORRISONS COVE

call for significant paradigm shift with respect to how a congregation plans for and carries out older adult ministry. Emphasis will be given to ministry that is intentionally for, by, and with older adults rather than just to older adults. It is intended that the seminar will underscore that unleashing the longevity revolution benefits all ages and stages of life represented in your congregation. A model which embraces the new paradigm for older adult ministry will be introduced and discussed.

William W. Cave, MDiv, is a faculty fellow with the Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania. He teaches as an adjunct instructor for the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and Harrisburg Area Community College. In addition to serving as an ordained minister in the Annville Church of the Brethren, Cave is also a member of the Older Adult Ministry Cabinet of the Church of the Brethren Caring Ministries.

This event is sponsored by SVMC, The Village at Morrisons Cove, and the Middle Pennsylvania District. There is no cost for this event. There is a \$10 charge for those wishing to receive CEU documentation. The registration deadline is November 9, 2009. Lunch will be provided.

Questions? Contact: Amy at 717-361-1450 or email svmc@etown.edu or online at www.etown.edu/svmc.

Keyer, West Virginia Workcamp Experience

Hi, my name is Brianna Sheeder. I'm 15 years old and I attended the Keyser, West Virginia workcamp July 26th thru August 1st. I went to this workcamp with my friends Valerie and Tarra.

Hm, well, where to start. . . First of all, that was one of the greatest weeks of my life. I've been to two previous workcamps and this one



was by far the best. Out of the whole thing I gained a whole new respect for work ; I'm not much of a "hard labor-er." The people that I worked alongside and the people I worked for taught me so much. Their willingness to just help without hesitation just amazed me and inspired me to try harder. I made amazing new friends and I've kept in close contact with them since camp. The work we did was extremely exhausting but well worth the time and effort. I personally had the gross job of standing on scaffolding and scraping the entire ceiling until all the 5 layers of wallpaper were off ; and the gross part was that a piece of the ancient wallpaper fell in my mouth! However, I was excited to try to fix up the house we were working on ; it could be so pretty and I'm glad that I got to be a part of that. The fellowship we had together at the church we stayed at was great and I will always cherish it. Everyone in our group clicked and we were so close that whole week. I was so sad to leave. No matter what, I will always remember that week and keep the inspiration of those moments with me. I'm so grateful that I had the chance to make a difference, no matter how small.

Story shared by Brianna Sheeder, Aughwick Germany Valley

Pastor Bill Pepper ...continued from page 5

They have two (2) children: son Tyler (& Kim) Pepper, parents of Lydia and Mara; and daughter Holly (& Tim) Tangen of Greensboro, NC, parents of Ivy, Alivia, and Eliza. Tyler Pepper is Senior Pastor at Altoona's First Baptist Church. Tim Tangen is Senior Pastor at Greensboro's Edgefield Baptist Church.

Bill has pastored three churches and is currently filling the pulpit as interim pastor at First Church of the Brethren, Altoona. He enjoys gardening, hunting, and being with people. His children and granddaughters are the delight of both Pastor Bill and Patti Pepper!

Denominational News

Position Changes

- ◆ **Alan Bolds** has resigned as coordinator of Online Gifts and Development effective September 30.
- ◆ **Don Knieriem** has joined the BVS team as the staff volunteer. His primary responsibilities will be to assist Callie Surber, the orientation coordinator.
- ◆ **Jim Lehman**, of Elgin, Ill., has begun serving as interim director of identity and relations for the Church of the Brethren.

Junior High Conference Reverse Offering

Junior high youth who took part in this year's National Junior High Conference have exceeded the seed money they were given for a "reverse offering." Church of the Brethren Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office reports that each youth who attended received \$10. Youth were encouraged to transform the money into more. Staff returned \$800 given during the event and an additional \$6,277 has been received from junior high youth and youth groups.

2010 Annual Conference Theme

The 2010 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on July 3-7, 2010. The theme statement for Conference will be "Taking Jesus Seriously" from John 14:15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (NIV). Shawn Flory Replogle will serve as Annual Conference Moderator.

Taking Jesus Seriously

The 2010 Annual Conference Program & Arrangements committee is looking for stories of persons who have taken Jesus seriously. At this point they are looking for a brief synopsis of the story and contact information. Stories can be sent to Annual Conference office, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120 or to cdouglas@brethren.org.

Church World Service Needs Kits

CWS is asking congregations and groups to help replenish the supply of **CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets, Baby Kits and Hygiene Kits** for distribution to domestic and international partners. Most recently, Church World Service has provided Emergency Clean-up Buckets and Hygiene Kits to partners in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa and Kentucky for clean-up following storms and floods there. And, CWS Baby Kits are being distributed to vulnerable families in Ghana and Honduras. For more information on kits, visit www.churchworldservice.org/kits.

Education Opportunities

- **Brethren Polity and Practice** will be offered November 20-22, 2009 at Young Center, Elizabethtown College with instructor Warren Eshbach. For registration details with SVMC contact 717-361-1450 or SVMC@etown.edu.

Academy Certified Training System (ACTS)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
Contact Amy at 717-361-1450 or email: svmc@etown.edu

- **Introduction to Theology** with David Banaszak on Tuesday evenings January 19, 26, February 2, 16, 23, 2010; 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the District Center.
- **Interpreting the Bible** with Connie Maclay on Tuesday evenings March 16, 30, April 13, 27, May 11, 2010; 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the District Center.
- **Song, Mission & Culture** with Gill Waldkoenig on Feb. 5-6; 12-13; 19-20; 26-27, 2010 at Elizabethtown College, Young Center. Reg. deadline is Jan. 22, 2010.
- **History of the Church of the Brethren** with Dr. Jeff Bach on March 12-13, March 19-20, April 16-17, April 30-May 1, 2010 at Elizabethtown College, Young Center.

Church Planting...Continuing the Conversation

On Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to the District Center for continued conversation on church planting. Several weeks ago many gathered in conversation with Jonathan Shively and will come together to continue the conversation. If you are interested in church planting, please plan to attend this meeting.

New Church Planting Conference

May 20-22, 2010 at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, IN. More details as they become available.



Youth /Young Adult

NYC Promotional DVD

The National Youth Conference committee has put together a promotional DVD that provides information about NYC 2010. If you are interested in borrowing this DVD for your congregation to view, please contact the District Center at 814-643-0601. The DVD clip can also be viewed online at www.2010nyc.org.

NYC Registration

Registration will begin on January 5, 2010 at 8 p.m. central time. The cost of early registration is \$425 and increases to \$450 after February 15. Registration will close on April 5. A deposit of \$200 is due at time of registration and balance due by April 5. Money is non-refundable. T-shirts will be \$15 and can be ordered at the time of registration. NYC website is www.2010nyc.org.

Bus Trip Planned for NYC

The Everett Church of the Brethren is working with Bollman bus to arrange a trip to NYC and back. Dates for this trip are: bus leaving Tuesday, July 13, 2010 and returning on Sunday, July 25, 2010. Cost has not been finalized but it is estimated to be approx. \$500.00 which includes transportation, attractions and motel accommodations (4 to a room).

Plans are to stop at places like the Indianapolis 500 motor speedway, the Arch in St. Louis (this is also a Dred Scott historic site), Eisenhower's boyhood home in Kansas, and in

Colorado Springs we will spend two nights getting acclimated to altitude and have time for a Pike's Peak trip, visit Garden of the Gods, and have an option horseback ride. On the way back we will have special stops as well!

In addition we will be making a couple of Brethren Heritage stops along the way! These are being worked out. This is a great way to get to NYC.



Ideas for NYC Fundraisers

Ideas taken from church newsletters and NYC Website

- ◆ Baked Potato Bar
- ◆ Soup and Sandwich Lunch
- ◆ Soup and Salad Lunch
- ◆ Spaghetti Dinner
- ◆ Fisherman's/hunters breakfast
- ◆ Hoagie/ Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sales
- ◆ Apple Dumpling Sales
- ◆ Bake Sales
- ◆ Car Washes
- ◆ Make and sell Easter Candy
- ◆ Childcare for date night
- ◆ Holiday gift wrapping
- ◆ Auctions/ Silent Auctions
- ◆ Talent shows
- ◆ Pink flamingo lawn ornament travels
- ◆ SERRV
- ◆ Service Auction: Lawn work, babysitting
- ◆ Recycling
- ◆ Valentine Dinner
- ◆ The \$500 Wheelbarrow

2010 National Workcamps

Registration opens January 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. CST

www.brethren.org/workcamps; 1-800-323-8039; cobworkcamps@brethren.org

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." -St. Augustine

Junior High

Elgin Illinois-June 16-20
 Brooklyn, NY- June 23-27
 Indianapolis, Indiana- June 23-27
 Ashland, Ohio- June 28-July 2
 Roanoke, Virginia- July 28-August 1
 Harrisburg, PA- August 2-6
 Richmond, VA—August 3-7

Senior High

Dominican Republic- June 20-27
 Reynosa, Mexico- July 31-August 7

Intergenerational

New Windsor, MD June 14-19

Young Adult

New Windsor, MD- June 28/29-July 2

Opportunities to Support Middle PA District Disaster Work

Disaster Trips

Chalmette, Louisiana Dates:

- ◆ January 17-23, 2010
- ◆ March 7-20, 2010 (2 weeks)
- ◆ May 16-22, 2010
- ◆ July 25-31, 2010
- ◆ Call Ron Dilling at 814-224-5165 if you can volunteer on one of these trips or a trip in 2010.

New Windsor Service Center:

- ◆ Trips are taken every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Call Jennie Ramirez at 814-652-2634 if you want to go and volunteer.
- ◆ Prepared kits and buckets can be taken down to New Windsor. Call Jennie Ramirez at 814-652-2634.



BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries

New Disaster Rebuild Site Open

Brethren Disaster Ministries opened a new disaster rebuild site in Winamac, Indiana on September 27th. Volunteers are needed to help build 2 new homes destroyed during 2008 flooding. BDM is seeking volunteer groups of 6-8 volunteers. If you can help, contact Jane Yount, Brethren Disaster Ministries, at 800-451-4407, Ext. 7.

Disaster Response Meeting

The December meeting will be the annual carry-in dinner December 14 at Altoona 28th Street. Chicken will be provided. Anyone who supports Disaster Response is invited. Bring a covered dish or dessert.

Thoughts From Chalmette, Louisiana

I spend my week being the District Secretary for Middle PA District. On October 26-30, I spent my week doing something amazing! Working with a group of wonderful people on the Saint Bernard Parish Project in Louisiana. Our group consisted of 14 from Clover Creek, 1 from Snake Spring Valley, 2 from Maryland and 9 from Western PA District.

We worked on 5 houses during the week doing a variety of different jobs. I spent most of my week putting new laminate hardwood and tile floors down. I also painted and put caulking around windows and frames. Growing up around construction helped with some of my tasks for the week, but learning to use new tools was exciting. What I wasn't prepared for was developing new relationships with those I worked with and experiencing a connection for a lifetime. Coming together and feeling like you are making a small contribution to something that is so much bigger than you are, is a humbling feeling.

I can't begin to explain what I received from this trip in words, but as I talked with those who have gone on many disaster trips, it gets in your blood and you can't get enough of it. I plan to go again, because they are right, you do get addicted to what you can accomplish in such a short period of time. Maybe some of you feel that you could not do the work that needs to be done. I spent time

with an 82-year-old who continues to go on disaster trips and works along side young people who learn from his experience and the wisdom he brings to



the job. You are never too old to help make a difference in the lives of those you work with and those who have been affected by natural disasters in Louisiana or somewhere else in the world.

There is still lots to do in Chalmette and the communities that

have been devastated by Katrina four years later. There have been 245 homes rebuilt and so many more that need to be completed. Our goal for the week was to help bring our families one day closer to being home for the holidays. I can't begin to imagine the lives that have been uprooted from what is familiar and feeling lost and alone just trying to bring some sort of normal to your day. The homeowner I met lost everything in Katrina, including her grandmother. Her life may never be *normal*, but being back in her home may help with the healing process and bring some stability to her and her family. I am blessed to have been one small part of that process.

I want to thank my family and my district family for allowing me to experience one more piece of my work in district ministry as we continue to do the work that Jesus has instructed us to do. I look forward to more experiences like this one!

Middle Pennsylvania District

Church of the Brethren
1113 Mount Vernon Avenue
Huntingdon PA 16652

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HUNTINGDON PA 16652
PERMIT NO. 141

2009 Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 – 4:00

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2009

Looking Ahead...

Nov. 7Ethics Training, *Juniata College*
Nov. 26 Community Thanksgiving Dinner, *New Enterprise*
Nov. 26-27 District Center Closed
Dec. 12-13100th Anniversary Celebration, *Stone Church*
Dec. 13 Christmas Hymn Sing, *Bedford COB*
Dec. 13 Blue Christmas, *Bedford COB*

2010

March 19-20..... Lay Leadership Event, *Stone Church*
April 9-10Annual Dinners, *Camp Blue Diamond*
April 22-25.....Cross Cultural Event

Keep up to date on the District Calendar at
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/midpacob>

THE LINK

is the newsletter of the
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Center for Congregational
Ministry

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