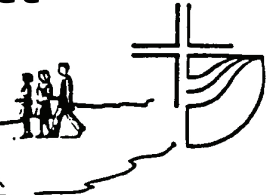




# Middle Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

## THE LINK



Volume 13, No. 5

September 2009

### District Conference *God Lives In Us* Juniata College October 16-17, 2009

**Annual Ministers' Banquet** for all Ordained and Licensed Ministers and their families on Friday, October 16, 2009 in Ellis Hall Ball Room at Juniata College. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. **Please call the district office by October 1 for reservations 814-643-0601.**



**District Conference Outreach** will help the Huntingdon Food Pantry which serves over 230 families. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected. Monetary donations are accepted. Let's gather a truckload!

**Registration** for delegates is due now. The fee increases after September 1.

### Pennies For Congregational Ministries Offering

The Pennies offering will be received as part of the District Conference Saturday worship. Our 2009 goal for the Pennies offering is \$8,000. This Pennies offering is now used to support General Fund ministries, ministries that include calling, credentialing and supporting ministers, educational scholarships for ministers in training, pastoral placement, youth ministry support, etc.

### Heritage Fair

The 29th Annual Heritage Fair will be held Saturday, September 26 at Camp Blue Diamond. Have you made plans to share in your Brethren Heritage this year? There will be activities for all ages. Food, fun and fellowship. Items are needed for auction. Proceeds are split between Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District outreach ministries: CentrePeace Prison Ministry, Prince Gallitzin State Park Chaplaincy Program, Breezewood Trucker/Travel Ministry and Youth Work Camp Scholarships. Activities will be from 9-4 with the quilt and basket auction at 11 a.m. Children's Auction at 1 p.m. and the district quilt being auctioned at 2:30 p.m. For more details call the District Center at 814-643-0601.

### Heritage Fair Needs

- The Heritage Fair Committee is looking for a congregation who is willing to make potpie for Heritage Fair.
- Volunteers are needed to help with parking. Must be 16 or older.

If you or your congregation can help with these needs, please contact the District Center at 814-643-0601 or Camp Blue Diamond at 814-667-2355.

### 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:

- September 27 Pine Glen
- October 4 Spring Run
- October 11 Lewistown
- October 18 Maitland
- October 25 Burnham
- November 1 Parkview
- November 8 Rockhill

### Footprints '09, "Impact"

November 20-21, 2009  
Rhodes Grove Conference Center  
Chambersburg, PA

Cost is \$125 for registrations received by October 31.

Senior High Youth who are in ninth grade during 2009-2010 school year, up to and including those who graduated in 2009

(More details inside this newsletter)



## Placement Updates

- **Bellwood:** Profile circulating
- **Diehl's Crossroads:** Profile circulating
- **Dunnings Creek:** Profile circulating  
Interims: Claude & Mary Lou Hall
- **Fairview:** Profile circulating  
Interim Coordinator of Ministry: Adam Morgan
- **Martinsburg:** Profile circulating  
Director of Programming and Congregational Life
- **Roaring Spring:** Negotiations  
Interim: Dottie Steele

## Other Updates

- ✚ A re-licensing service was held at the Everett Church of the Brethren on Sunday, July 26 for **Todd Eichelberger**. David Steele, District Minister, officiated the service.
- ✚ **David Lloyd Miller** has completed his one year of service as interim at Bellwood. We are grateful for his willingness to serve this congregation as interim pastor.
- ✚ **Paul Johnson** has completed his interim service at Diehl's Crossroads. We are grateful for Paul's willingness to serve.
- ✚ **Jeannine Berube** was ordained on Sunday, August 16 at the Maitland Church of the Brethren. David Steele, District Minister, officiated the service. Jeannine currently serves as associate pastor at Maitland.

## 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](mailto:kduhai@hotmail.com).
- **Laurie Stiles**, Curryville congregation, is available for pulpit supply. Call Laurie if you are interested at 814-793-2824.

## Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the **Daniel Hammel** family. Dan and Sharon's son, David, died on August 2. Dan is the pastor at Raven Run. Please keep the family and the congregation in your prayers.

Prayers and sympathy for **Dale Roth** and his family. Dale's mother, Madeline Roth, died on August 3 at the age of 98. She was from the Carlisle area. Dale is the chair of the District Coordinating Team and a member of UBBC.

## Congratulations

**Claire Mock** celebrated his 104th birthday on July 25 with his annual motorcycle ride. He is a member of Dunnings Creek but lives in Bedford and attends Bedford church regularly. Claire is the father of Elaine Sollenberger, grandfather of Beth Sollenberger Morphew, Lori Knepp and Leon Sollenberger. Congratulations on this milestone!

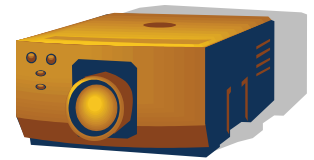
**Todd & Renee' Eichelberger** were blessed with the birth of a son, Trey Amos on June 17. Congratulations to the new parents!

## New Members

**Roaring Spring** accepted new members on August 16. New members are: Joe Price, Samantha Price, Matthew Price, Maddi Longenecker, and Rachel Brumbaugh. Members received by transfer of letter were: Darlene Wyland, Deb Delozier, Holly Delozier, Angie Delozier, Marissa Delozier, and Guy Forshey.

## Did you know?

The District Center has a projector that is available for use by congregations for a morning worship, Bible study, Bible school, etc. If you are interested in borrowing the projector, please contact Kris at the District Center 814-643-0601 and schedule a date on the calendar.



## Brethren Open



Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond held the fifteenth annual Brethren Open on August 11 at Iron Masters Country Club in Roaring Spring. The day was spectacular for a golf outing with 101 golfers participating. Congratulations to the winning team who was sponsored by Gatter & Diehl, Inc. Those representing the team were Jeff Crist, Doug Wishart, Jim Wingard, and Jesse Lasure. A total of \$6,735.79 was raised for the ministries of Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District Church of the Brethren. Thank you to all the sponsors and all who contributed in some way. Thank you to Ann's T.D.R. & Catering who provided a meal at the Albright Church following the tournament.

## Youth /Young Adult

### Footprints '09, "Impact"

Calling all senior high youth to an exciting weekend at Rhodes Grove Retreat Center in Chambersburg on November 20-22, 2009. You may remember this event as the Eastern Regional Youth Conference. This year it has a brand new look and a new name, "Footprints." The title comes from the idea that each of us is on a journey. Our footprints are taking us in new and exciting directions as each of us strives, in our own way, to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Footprints



Footprints is also about community and impact. The speaker for the conference is David Radcliff, director of the New Community Project. There will be several workshops to choose from and a service project.

To receive an early-bird discount, register before October 31. Cost is \$125 for youth and advisors. Cost increases after October 31. Questions may be directed to Karen Duhai at 814-643-0601 or email [kduhai@hotmail.com](mailto:kduhai@hotmail.com).

### 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](http://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 and has invited any Middle PA Youth to join them. Final arrangements for cost will be made in the coming weeks.

Plans are being made to stop at places like the Indianapolis 500 motor speedway, the Arch in St. Louis (where 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 there will be special stops as well!

In addition there will be a couple of Brethren Heritage stops along the way! These are being worked out.

### NYC Travel Opportunity

McPherson College is extending the invitation to district youth going to National Youth Conference in July of 2010 to stop at the college either on the way to or on the way home from Fort Collins. The college is prepared to offer free overnight lodging and breakfast. And, we ask that you give us time to take you on a tour of our college.

This invitation is being extended to all districts east of the Mississippi. We will take acceptances of this invitation up to the number of available beds that we have on a first response basis.

McPherson College is located one half hour south of I-70 in Central Kansas, approximately nine hours from Fort Collins, CO. For more details call: 620-242-0503.

### A Call for Youth

Two weeks ago, applications went out for the 2009-2010 Youth Ministry Team. Last month, applications went out for the brand new Youth Cabinet. We just wanted to remind you (pastors, youth advisors, board and church members) that these are two great but very different opportunities for youth. The **Youth Cabinet** is about leadership development through event planning and information sharing. We're asking for a regular time commitment of a few hours once a month to discuss ideas and to plan new events for the youth of the district. The **Youth Ministry Team** is about spiritual and leadership development through faith sharing. YMT requires a slightly greater time commitment. In the fall, YMT meets to plan a worship service that they present to the churches around the district. They also participate in various leadership training opportunities. We are asking that youth apply to only ONE of these groups, but we're also asking you to consider the youth in your church and to begin a conversation with them about these opportunities. The Church of the Brethren has a long history of calling out those with gifts for positions of leadership. What are the gifts and abilities of your youth, and would they be suited to either the Youth Cabinet or the Youth Ministry Team? Please, take some time to reflect on your youth groups. Perhaps the future leaders of the Church of the Brethren are sitting in your pews today.

## 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 such as a 50th Anniversary as our feature article in this newsletter does about Bedford Church of the Brethren. If your congregation is interested in providing information for such an article, please call Kris at 814-643-0601. Deadline for the next newsletter will be October 20.

### **Bedford Church of the Brethren Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **PO Box 107 Street Address: 310 Donahue Manor Road Bedford, PA 15522** **814-623-6095 email: bedfordcob@embarqmail.com** **website: www.bedfordcob.org**

The Bedford congregation has enjoyed many blessings since building its church 50 years ago. As early as the 1928 Church of the Brethren District Conference, the possibility of organizing a church in Bedford was raised. This idea resurfaced periodically and in 1955, the Middle District offered to assist the Bedford Ministerium in conducting a religious census of the community. The data collected showed there were 181 persons who were interested in becoming part of a Brethren church in Bedford. By 1957, the Bedford Fellowship was recognized by the District and was given congregational status.

In 1958 a ten acre tract of land, overlooking the town of Bedford, was purchased in preparation for a multi-stage building project. Groundbreaking was held on July 26, 1959 for the first phase of construction. Through collaboration, planning, and prayer, the first service was held in the still unfinished Fellowship Hall on December 20, 1959. This structure served as the congregation's facility until 1967 when the sanctuary and classroom section was completed. In addition to the diligence and sacrifice of the original members of the congregation, these accomplishments were made possible through the generous financial aid from the denomination, the district and its member churches. Recently, a star was hung high above the church, shining from the east of Bedford to mark the Christmas season, symbolizing the congregation's desire to be a light to the community.



Because of the founders' careful planning, the Bedford Church is blessed with easy access, ample parking facilities, and room for future growth. The church continues its mission to welcome all worshipers through a wheelchair-friendly sanctuary and by providing listening devices and large-print materials. Over the years, the church met needs within the community through clothing and food outreach projects and continues to serve as a Red Cross blood donation site. Church members today are involved in a variety of outreach projects including Brethren Volunteer Service and "Peaceknits" whose members knit, crochet and quilt items for donation locally and globally. Each month the Bedford Food Outreach uses the accessible Fellowship Hall to distribute food to scores of needy people. Congregation members and friends support disaster response through participation in District sponsored trips to affected areas and through fundraising activities such as "on the lawn" music festivals. In the near future, the congregation is anticipating the licensing of two young adults into Christian ministry.



In appreciation of the contributions and support afforded by the Church of the Brethren, Middle PA District, and its member congregations; the Bedford CoB congregation invites all to share in its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009, beginning at 5:30. See the church website: <http://www.bedfordcob.org> for further details.

#### **Marilyn Lerch, Pastor**

As I followed the moving van to Bedford from Virginia two years ago, it suddenly occurred to me that I had left Pennsylvania for Virginia almost exactly 40 years earlier. What an adventure those forty years have been!

*Continued on page 5...*

## Across Middle PA District

### We Have This Treasure

Pastor Belita Mitchell, the first Black female moderator of the Church of the Brethren will lead the *Celebration 2009* services at the Snake Spring Valley Church of the Brethren. *Celebration* will begin on Sunday Morning, September 13, at 9:30 AM and will continue each evening at 7:00 PM through Wednesday, September 16. Pastor Belita's theme will be "We Have This Treasure;" a renewal series based on II Corinthians 4. Pastor Belita's husband Don will share his talents during the special music time.

Pastor Belita is currently serving the Harrisburg First Church. She came from Southern California to Pennsylvania in 2003 in response to God's call to serve here. Pastoring is her second career as she retired as account executive for a Fortune 100 company with thirty years of experience. Pastor Belita is a graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale Illinois and of the COB TRIM program. She gained nation-wide recognition as Annual Conference Moderator in 2007. She and her husband Don live in Mechanicsburg, PA with adult son Don-Valliant and granddaughter, Serenity, a student at Immaculata University. Pastor Belita and husband are passionate in their current ministry in an urban, multiethnic setting and hold a vision that churches be more spiritually alive, be more ethnically diverse, and be fully devoted to sharing the good news.

The Snake Spring Congregation, along with Pastor Janet Sell, invite all who want to share in this time with Pastor Belita to attend any or all the services.

### My Life Flows On

The Claysburg Church of the Brethren is having Spiritual Renewal Services beginning Sunday morning, September 27 through Wednesday evening, September 30. Guest speaker is the Rev. Kirby Dubble from Palmyra, PA. Kirby, a recently retired pastor, had served the Mt. Wilson Church of the Brethren near Lebanon, PA for 25 years and the Paxton Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg, PA prior to that. The theme of the Spiritual Renewal services is "My Life Flows On." Worship on Sunday morning is at 10:30 am; nightly services are at 7:00 pm. Please join us for these services.

### Homecoming Parade-Free Hot Dogs

Stop by the Claysburg Church of the Brethren, 577 Bedford Street, prior to, during, or immediately following the Claysburg Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 3, 2009 for a free hot dog.

### How Deep is my Passion for Jesus Christ?

Maitland Church of the Brethren will host four nights of revival services with Pastor Jeannine Berube on September 20-23 at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion. The church is located at 315 Crossover Drive, Lewistown, PA. For more information, contact Pastor Jeannine Berube at 717-667-3474.

### Calling All Tour de Dunker Riders

Mark your calendars and come and ride on Sunday, October 11, 2009. The ride will be from Dawn's house to Williamsburg area and back. Lunch, snacks, water, Gatorade, etc. will be available. Call Dawn Baker Burket for more details 814-793-3451.

### Marilyn Lerch ...Continued from page 4

I grew up in the Quakertown Church of the Brethren in eastern Pennsylvania. I have an under-graduate degree in Nutrition and a graduate degree in Education from Virginia Tech. I now know that God was saying "Preach!" when I was in college, but until I entered seminary in my late 30s, I had never heard a woman preach. So, I thought God was saying "Teach!" and I did. After my second child began school, it felt time to return to full time work, but God simply would not let me go back to teaching until I had given seminary a try. Living in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with Eastern Mennonite Seminary nearby, I "stuck my foot in the water" of seminary education, and almost immediately knew it was okay to let God push me into the deep water. I have never regretted my life in ministry. Our family put our house on the market and moved to the suburban Chicago campus of Bethany Theological Seminary so that I could be trained in ministry through my own denomination. From there I spent 7 years of wonderful multicultural ministry as the pastor of the Naperville (IL) COB. Then it was time for big life changes. My long marriage ended, and I moved back to Virginia to respond to the call to pastor Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, home of my college alma mater. I become the single parent of Megan (27), my autistic daughter, with her dad moving nearby to help. I also have a son, Deepak (25), who we adopted at age 6 from an orphanage in India, and Sarah (30), my oldest daughter, is an architect in Savannah, GA. She and her husband Joel are expecting my first grandchild in November, hopefully on my birthday☺

I now juggle two positions, one with the delightful Bedford congregation, and the other as the Training In Ministry (TRIM) Coordinator for our denomination. For fun, I garden, do needlework, read, travel and cook. Life is good. God is good.

## The Village at Morrisons Cove Events

### Good Samaritan Banquet

The time of the Good Samaritan Banquet has arrived. This year's program will feature sacred music performed by members of the University Baptist and Brethren Church, including solos, a male quartet and the Sanctuary Choir.



The program will be directed by Chris Kiver, winner of two Grammy Awards in 2006, for best Choral Music Performance and best Classical Album. He is director of the Penn State Glee

Club and Chamber Singers. In addition we will celebrate the opening of the new Village Center and recognize individuals and groups who have advanced the development of the Village. The banquet will be held at the Casino, 300 Lakemont Park Boulevard, Altoona, PA on September 19, 2009. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

The Good Samaritan Banquet is an important part of our effort to raise dollars for residents who have outlived their resources. The price of the ticket is \$100.00 and these monies will be used to assist our residents. In 2008 The Village provided \$1,800,000.00 in charitable services. Thank you for investing in the care of our residents by supporting the banquet. If you are unable to attend, donate a ticket for one of our residents or simply make a gift to The Village for resident care.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 793-2249 and asking for Amanda Brown, or by coming to the Reception Desk at The Village and purchasing them in person.

### 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 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](mailto:svmc@etown.edu) or online at [www.etown.edu/svmc](http://www.etown.edu/svmc).

### Upcoming Events

Sept. 17	Open House
Sept. 19	Good Samaritan Banquet
Oct. 23	Soup & Bake Sale hosted by Auxiliary
Nov. 10	Annual Spaghetti Dinner-proceeds benefit Martinsburg Fire Co.
Dec. 3	Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
Dec. 3	Auxiliary Cookie Festival
Dec. 8	Christmas at the Cove-Manor House

**Education Opportunities**

- **Messages of Peace in the Old Testament** a continuing education event with David Leiter, pastor of the Green Tree COB, on Wednesday, September 16 from 9-3 at the Susquehanna Room, Elizabethtown College. When a church addresses the subject of peace, rarely is the Old Testament seen as the centerpiece of the discussion. Students and interpreters are very quick to turn to the New Testament and put the Old Testament on a shelf. Cost is \$50 plus \$10 CEU documentation fee. Registration deadline is September 4. Light refreshments and lunch are included. Contact Amy 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).
- **A Study of Judges** is an online course with Susan Jeffers; September 28-November 6, 2009. This is the study of the Old Testament book of Judges as if being read for the first time paying close attention to what the biblical text actually says and what it might mean. For more details: <http://www.read-the-bible.org/SVMC-Judges.htm>.
- **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](mailto:SVMC@etown.edu).

**Academy Certified Training System (ACTS)  
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center**

Contact Amy at 717-361-1450 or email: [svmc@etown.edu](mailto:svmc@etown.edu)

- **Introduction to the New Testament** with instructor, Wayne Brockway, on Thursday evenings September 3, 10, 17, October 8, 15, 2009; 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the District Center.
- **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.

**Bethany Sunday**

On September 13 your congregation is invited to celebrate Bethany

Sunday. Resources are available to download at <http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/publications-online/bethany-sunday-2009>



**New Church Planting Conference**

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



**Opportunities to Support Middle PA District Disaster Work**

**Ham & Turkey Dinner**

The Middle PA Disaster Response Team will be holding a Ham & Turkey Dinner on October 3 at the Everett COB from 4-7 p.m. to raise funds for future Disaster Missions. The meal will be served with all the trimmings. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and will be on sale soon. For information contact Helen O'Shea at 814-623-8257 or JoAnn Dibert at 814-623-0586.

*-Article information from "The Broadcaster"*

**Meal & Auction**

Disaster Response Meal and Silent Auction to benefit disaster assistance trips will be held at the Replogle Building in New Enterprise on October 10. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and meal is at 6:30 p.m. Menu consists of Pork and Sauerkraut with Kielbasa and fixings. Cost is \$10 for adult, \$5 for children 6-12, and children 5 and under are free. Special music by Dana and Diane Faupel. Call New Enterprise church if you are interested in tickets 814-766-2161.

*-Article information from New Enterprise COB Newsletter*

**Disaster Trips**

**Chalmette, Louisiana Dates:**

- ◆ September 20-26, 2009
- ◆ November 8-21, 2009 (2 weeks)
- ◆ 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.

## Annual Conference Wrap-up

For pictures and more specific details, please visit [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

- Total attendance 2,077 with 670 registered delegates and 1,407 non-delegates
- Election Results:
  - Moderator-Elect: Robert Earl Alley
  - Program & Arrangements: Victoria Jean (Sayers) Smith
  - On Earth Peace: David R Miller
  - Brethren Benefit Trust Board: Carol Hess
  - Bethany Seminary Board of Trustees-Colleges: David Witkovsky
  - Committee on Innerchurch Relations: Jim Hardenbrook
  - Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee: Tim Button-



Harrison

- Conference Quilt Auction raised \$6,275 for hunger relief.
- The Blood Drive conducted by American Red Cross collected 121 units.
- Annual BBT 5K Fitness Challenge had 120 runners and walkers.
- Lerry Fogle, Annual Conference Executive Director, who is retiring after conference was recognized.
- The winner of the Annual Conference Theme Video Contest was Kay Guyer! To view the video go to [http://www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grow\\_congregational\\_life\\_ministries](http://www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grow_congregational_life_ministries)
- Business Items

Delegate body set in motion at least two years of intentional denomination-wide conversation on two documents related to human sexuality. The delegates voted to accept both as "special response" items to be dealt with using the newly revised process for strongly controversial issues. The committee will develop resources on the issues, in order to aid the church in the conversation process. Standing Committee also named a Special Response Resource Committee.

A Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues document was passed with one amendment to shorten to one minute the time speakers would have during floor discussion of topics using this process, instead of the 1 1/2 minutes, to give more people a chance to speak and be heard. David Shumate commented that having a good process for controversial issues would provide a "surge protector" effect for the church, and added that the church needs special time to work with issues that "try us as a body."

Secret Oath-Bound Societies Query returned and reaffirmed the statement on membership in secret societies passed by the 1954 Annual Conference with an amendment asking the Conference officers to appoint a three-member group to develop resources to educate and inform the church on this topic.

Revised corporate by-laws of the Church of the Brethren were submitted for information, with the expectation that they will be brought for action at next year's Annual Conference. A revision of the by-laws is being submitted following the major reorganization of Church of the Brethren Inc.



David & Sarah Steele

Kim Ebersole reported on the Child Protection Activity. Three recommendations were given:

1. Every Church of the Brethren congregation, district, agency, ministry area, program and camp adopt and implement a child protection/child abuse prevention policy appropriate for its ministry setting
2. Church of the Brethren maintain resources to assist congregations, districts, agencies, ministry areas, programs and camps in developing child protection/child abuse prevention policies
3. The church continue to help strengthen families and ensure that parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skill, support, and resources to care for their children

Delegates approved a zero percent cost of living increase for the annual adjustment in the recommended ministerial cash salary table at the recommendation of the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee due to the economic situation.

## Denominational News

### Position Changes

- **Dana Weaver** has resigned as conference assistant for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference as of July 31. Dana worked with Lerry Fogle who is retiring later this year.
- **Becky Ullom** has accepted the call to serve as the director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Church of the Brethren effective August 31. Becky most recently served as director of Identity and Relations for the Church of the Brethren and designed and maintained the denominational website and a range of other communications for the church.
- **Bradley Bohrer** completed his service as director with the Church of the Brethren Sudan Mission on July 31 after the initiative was eliminated as part of a re-evaluation of the needs of Global Mission Partnerships.
- **Cyndi Fecher** has been named managing editor of the Gather 'Round curriculum project of Brethren Press and the Mennonite Publishing Network, as of August 3.

### Brethren Send Shipments to Haiti

According to a Newline article, two containers of food and supplies were shipped to help children in Haiti this summer. These services were provided by Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Material Resources program at New Windsor, MD. A second shipment included medical supplies for the hospital and clinic and canned chicken provided by the Meat Canning Committee of the Church of the Brethren's Southern Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Districts.

### International Day of Prayer for Peace

On Earth Peace is calling on churches and organizations to participate in the International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21. This year, a special emphasis is how the recession is affecting local communities. For more details visit [idopp.onearthpeace.org](http://idopp.onearthpeace.org).

### Nigeria Ministry Update

Nathan and Jennifer Hosler of Elizabethtown, Pa., will begin serving in two new peace and reconciliation positions with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), working through the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships. The Hoslers are members of Chiques Church of the Brethren in Manheim, Pa.

The Hoslers will fill joint positions as teacher of peace and reconciliation at Kulp Bible College and peace and reconciliation worker with EYN. Start date for their work was Aug. 16, with plans to travel to Nigeria in September.

### World Mission Offering

The suggested date for the World mission offering is October 11. Many resources and worship items are available online at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)



*Jesus rose from the table,  
wrapped a towel around himself,  
and began to wash his disciples'  
feet, setting an example for all to follow.*

*Based on John 13*

### 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.

Completed buckets and kits can be dropped off or shipped to the Brethren Service Center, 601 Main St., New Windsor, MD 21776. For more information on kits, visit [www.churchworldservice.org/kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits).

## Middle Pennsylvania District

Church of the Brethren  
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HUNTINGDON PA 16652  
PERMIT NO. 141

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### September 2009

THE LINK  
is the newsletter of the  
Middle Pennsylvania District  
Center for Congregational  
Ministry

### Looking Ahead...

Sept. 7 ..... District Center Closed  
Sept. 19..... Good Samaritan Banquet, *The Casino, Altoona*  
Sept. 26 ..... Heritage Fair, *Camp Blue Diamond*  
Oct. 16-17 ..... District Conference, *Juniata College*  
Nov. 7 ..... Ethics Training  
Nov. 20-22 ..... Footprints 09, *Rhodes Grove Retreat Center, Chambersburg*  
Nov. 26-27 ..... District Center Closed

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

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