OUR TIME!!!

During the past few weeks a number of pastors talked about resolutions, commitment and looking forward to the New Year 2013 in their newsletter articles. When the Pacific Southwest District newsletter, “New Life” arrived earlier this week, the article by District Executive, Don Booz, “The Healthy Pastor’s Platter,” caught my attention. I believe it was the word “platter,” which in my mind’s eye I visualized huge plate of food piled high with goodies.

However, as I began reading, I was intrigued with the content and began pondering the point being highlighted. I believe the point being made would apply to pastors, laypersons and anyone else who wanted to develop a healthy spiritual life. Just like there are healthy foods for us to eat to maintain good health, there are a number of positive habits to follow to sustain a healthy spiritual life.

The thought that I pondered and wanted to focus on was a sentence about our time. Don wrote and I quote, “How we use our time is important but it is OUR TIME and it is up to us to manage it.” Thanks Brother Don, for a simple statement packed with wisdom, insight and truth. As I pondered that thought I was challenged to look at my own use of time. How much time do I spend in ways that are not helpful in my spiritual journey? How much time do I waste during any given day? How can I be more diligent in the use of my time?

I could go on asking myself questions and that might be a waste of time. What I would like those who read this article to do is to spend a few moments reflecting on how “your” time is spent each day. “It is OUR TIME and it is up to us to manage it.” Some thoughts to ponder during your “spare” time:

- How much time do I spend daily in reading scripture, meditating on the Word and in prayer?
- How much time do I spend watching TV, talking on the phone or using the internet?
- How much quality time do I spend with my spouse, family or friends?
- How much time do I waste by putting off a chore, decision or some other responsibility each day?

To get a better handle on how you spend time each day—try to periodically keep a journal of your time for a week. Do it in one-half hour increments, putting a + in front positive use of time, and a – in negative use of time. If you see a lot of negatives or want to change any of your established habits I would suggest several things. First, begin to pray about areas you might want to change. Second, begin working on one change until it becomes a habit, or established pattern. Third, ask someone to be an accountability partner as you work at positive change in your life. Finally, give thanks to God when positive change happens in your spiritual journey!!

RDB
**District Office News**

**HOSPITALIZED**
- Herb Ewald, District Disaster Coordinator, for knee surgery.

**SYMPATHY**
- to County Line Pastor Barry L. Conn and family in the death of his wife, Lori.
- to Shade Creek/Ridge Pastor Charles B. Statler and family in the death of his father, Bruce.
- to Edward “Jack” Rupert and family in the death of his wife, Sally. Jack serves as the Executive Director of New Day, Inc.
- to the family of Arlen E. Longanecker, and to the Hostetler congregation where he served as pastor from 2005 until his death on December 29, 2012.

**2013 District Women’s Ministries**

**Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord Devotional**

The District Women’s Cabinet has chosen, “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”, as their theme for this year.

We have mailed a copy of a devotional to each church for your Women’s Ministries. Please watch for this mailing. We ask that you use the devotional. Then all the sisters will have a common bond. The Spring Event this year is also called, “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”. We also ask that you pray for this event to be a success. Please consider attending. You will receive such a blessing.

**God Stories of Western PA** has been put on hold temporarily. Please pray for this initiative and for wisdom in completing it.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Way of Hope congregation**
- Jacob Blough
- Beverly Blough
- Curtis Campbell
- Sue Harris
- Charlene Taylor
- Mary Taylor
- Kristen Taylor
- Shawn Scott
- Kathy Scott
- Zack Scott
- Andrea Leibfreid
- Mike Hutzell
- Tammy Barnett

**Center Hill congregation**
- Dalton Stivenson
- Dakota Stivenson

**Somerset congregation**
- Bob Hart
- Michelle Hart
- Sue Gibbs
- Wayne Johnston
- Cyndi Johnston
- Tanner Johnston
- Betty Kendall
- Ginger Rohrer
- Hannah Rohrer
- Haylee Rohrer
- Trish Schropp
- Kim Weaver
- Debbie Yoder
- Earl Yoder
- Samantha Zellem

**Natrona Heights congregation**
- Dillon Stivenson
- Eric Stivenson
- Jason Gaile

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The District HIGHLIGHTS is the official publication of the Western PA District Church of the Brethren. This newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Western PA District Office at 11S Spring Road, Hollsopple, PA 15935-7412. Postage paid at Johnstown, PA.
**District News**

**Mark Your Calendars!**
Plan to attend the 2013 District Women’s Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Spring Rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3-4</td>
<td>Spring Event at Antiochian Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Camp Day at Camp Harmony</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Summer Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Home Day at Brethren Home Community Windber</td>
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These events are still being planned. If your congregation would like to host an event or you have a suggestion for a speaker, please contact a Cabinet member listed in the District directory.

**Middle Creek Church “Aloha Christmas”**

Ike Sterner, Sr. and Chase Bolton (grandpa and grandson) are a perfect example of generations working together to celebrate the Lord’s birthday. They were participants in an “Aloha Christmas” at the Middlecreek CoB on December 8.

The evening featured a live nativity and an Hawaiian Christmas celebration. Judy and Larry Walker were special singing guests and did an excellent job. (Have Larry pose for you in his grass skirt and coconuts sometime). In spite of rainy weather earlier in the evening, the church had a record number of attendees. A free will offering was lifted for the Church of the Brethren Home. Interim Pastors John and Linda Stoner and all of the family at “The Little Church With The Big Heart” thank you for your support.

**Change Is Elemental**

Have you ever wanted to change the world? Have you ever been so passionate about something that it led you to action? It takes more than mere passion to make lasting change in our world, though. This winter at Camp Harmony, we explore the elements of change:

**Calling. Creed. Character. Commitment.**

Come find out more about these elements as you take part in a weekend that will not only inspire but equip you to make a difference. Through sessions, workshops, and a whole lot of crazy fun you'll see how God wants to use your abilities, dreams, and passions to bring hope and change to our world!

**ELEMENTAL RETREAT DATES:**

**Youth Retreat (grades 6-12)**
February 1-2

**Elementary Retreat (grades 3-5)**
March 1-2

All retreats are $70 and run from 7:00pm on Friday to 7:00pm on Saturday. Register online or download and mail the forms to Camp Harmony, Box 158 Hooversville, PA 15936.
Western PA
2013 Brethren Disaster Ministries
TEAM WORK SCHEDULE - January – December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>21-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>10-16</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>9-15</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>8-14</td>
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</tbody>
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PLEASE NOTE: LOCATIONS FOR THE ABOVE DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED!!

2013 DAY TRIPS TO NEW WINDSOR, MARYLAND

- Thursday, February 7
- Tuesday, February 19
- Thursday, April 4
- Tuesday, April 23
- Thursday, June 6
- Tuesday, June 18
- Thursday, August 8
- Tuesday, August 20
- Thursday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 22
- Thursday, December 5
- Tuesday, December 17

PLEASE--- post this schedule and refer to it often.
YOUR help is needed and appreciated !!!

Contact Herb Ewald at 814/539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net for more information and to sign up.

LENTEN EVENING SERVICES 2013

The Johnstown Area Churches of the Brethren
How the Cross Changes Everything

Ash Wednesday: 6:00-6:45 PM ---
“And rend your hearts, not your garments” (Joel 2:13a)

Feb. 13 Pleasant Hill Terry Gindlesperger Repentance Pretenders

Sunday Evenings: Hymn sing begins at 6:45 and worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 17 Westmont John Manges How the Cross Changes the Penalty of Sin
Feb. 24 Moxham Abby Shaffer How the Cross Changes the Guild of Sin
March 3 Arbutus Eric Kabler How the Cross Changes the Practice of Religion
March 10 Maple Spring Ed Houghton How the Cross Changes the Power of Sin
March 17 Morrellville Ron Barto How the Cross Changes the Purpose of Living

The offerings will be split evenly between New Day, Inc. and two area food pantries (Garden of Hope in Jerome & Walnut Grove). A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow the Sunday evening services. Childcare is provided.
Let’s talk about LOVE, shall we? That seems to be the overarching theme this month. God is love. God has demonstrated to us what love is supposed to look like through His Son, and through countless acts of blessing. Our Father desires for us to live in love; to lavish His love on others, both within the church and beyond its borders.

We recently officially “closed” the Pittsburgh COB. They dwindled and disbanded and it was made official at District Conference this past October. It is what it is. But I weep, and wonder how a church goes defunct in a neighborhood with 7,000-8,000 people. The greater Pittsburgh Metro area has about 2.4 million people across 7 counties. Quite a few other churches in our district fall into that demographic. Yet many are struggling. Where’s the love?

We have churches in college towns that have no college ministries. No outreach to college students, who are arguably the most questioning and open group of people when it comes to faith. Yet we do so little. Where’s the love?

We have churches who have given up viable ministries because they don’t want a ministry anymore. It’s not in the budget anymore. Really?? People are coming into your midst who haven’t graced a church door in years, if ever, and you’re going to cancel the ministry that draws them? Where’s the love?

We have pastors who do not visit parishioners. Are-you-even-serious? Yes. There are some pastors who don’t do hospital or nursing home visits. Pastors who are more concerned with the academic and theological pursuits of the job than with the honest needs of the flock. Outrageous. Where’s the love?

And deacons – I’ve heard of deacons who think their only sacred purpose is to fill foot basins twice a year and set out a love feast. Anyone can do that! Deacons are to be a set-apart group of caring individuals who visit the sick and dying; who minister through providing food and meeting physical needs, as well as spiritual ones. A deacon is to be a minister who prays, serves, labors, endures, speaks holy truth, supports and upholds the teachings of Jesus Christ. Yet, so many find time only to fill a few buckets. Where’s the love?

We have Sunday School teachers who neglect the Word of God and teach their own opinions instead. So we have kids growing up in the church who don’t know the Truth. Where’s the love?

Speaking of kids and youth – they’re not stickin’ around. I commend the churches who have taken a stand in faith and have said “we will change whatever’s necessary to get kids into our midst.” They have thriving ministries. But too many have counted the cost of ministering to the needs of young families and have decided it’s too “expensive.” So now the ‘newly marrieds’ class is in their 60’s and we start to wonder who will keep the church going. Where’s the love?

I hear about board chairs who don’t come to worship on Sundays. I hear about musicians who are completely possessive about church instruments. I hear that there are still some who refuse to support Camp based on things that happened years ago. I hear griping and back-biting from one corner of this district to the other. Where’s the love?

Maybe I’m stepping on your toes. Rest assured, I tromped on my own first. I just type what God gives me, in love.

Want to know my Valentine’s wish? It’s my all-year plea. It’s for biblical Christianity to once again take root in the Church of the Brethren. It’s for love and peace to grow here, with us. It’s for God’s will to be done in HIS church, without bickering, jealousy, power-grabbing or malice. My prayer is for apathy to be an unfamiliar concept. I want to see men and women and children stand and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? Because it’s the only thing that truly matters. It’s how we know what true ‘agape’ is. It’s why we can experience hope, joy, peace ... love.

From Romans 12: “Love must be sincere. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
Local Church News

**Locust Grove Church**
is holding its first
"Bible Knowledge Trivia"
on **Saturday, March 9,**
at 2:00 at Camp Harmony.

We're looking for kids & adults to accept a challenge of Bible knowledge. Last day to sign up is Sunday, February 10. This is a fundraiser event for Dexter Horner, a 2 year old with MLD (Metachromatic Leukadystrophy Disease). For more details or to participate, contact Elaine Fyock at Locust Grove Church, 539-6826, or Jen Sepp, 536-0412.

**Sisters in Christ Women’s Ministry**
(Maple Spring congregation)

Upcoming events:
**February 7, 2013,** Valentine Celebration 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Maple Spring Church of the Brethren. Come and enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship and an inspiring message by Isaac and Cortney Tyger. Bring your husband, family member, or friend. More information on cost for the meal will be shared by email and letters asap. You may also call the church office at 814-479-7062 for more information after January 14th.

**March 9, 2013,** Cozy Mountain Lodge (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) at Beka House. Join us for a mountain getaway at beautiful Beka House along the Somerset Pike. We will talk about Ruth and Naomi and explore how we can relate their relationship principles to our own relationships with God and others. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided by Sisters in Christ Women's Ministry. The cost for this event will be $25.00. This charge is for the material needed and which will be yours to keep. More information will be shared by letters and email asap. You may also call the church office 814-479-7062 for more information after January 14th.

If you would like to be on our email or mailing list leave that information with the church secretary when you call.

**Ash Wednesday Worship**
Pleasant Hill is inviting the District. The topic is "Repentance Pretenders" and the text is Matthew 6:5-8. Ashes will be available for any worshipper who wishes to come forward to receive them. No one should feel obligated to receive ashes. The service begins at 6:00 and will last approximately 45 minutes. Ash Wednesday is designed to remind us that we are mortal. "From dust you came and to dust you will return."
## Denominational News

### Christian Citizenship Seminar

**Childhood Poverty: Nutrition, Housing and Education**  
**March 23-28, 2013**

**New York and Washington, D.C.**

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

Register online now! Cost: $375

All high school youth and adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar.

Churches sending over four youth are required to send at least one adult advisor to insure an adequate number of adults. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants.

### Young Adult Conference

**May 25-27, 2013**  
**Camp Pine Lake, Eldora, Iowa**

"Voice: ... the stones would shout out!"

**Cost:** $100 ($125 after May 1)

Would you like to get connected to the young adult community in the Church of the Brethren? Plan to attend Young Adult Conference next May. This three day event typically takes place at a Brethren camp and is full of worship, fun, and fellowship. Come to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones! We’ll explore God's word and learn about what it means to be a young adult in the Church of the Brethren.

This year’s theme is “Voice: ...the stones would shout out!” and is based on Luke 19:36 – 40.

More information can be found at http://www.brethren.org/yya/

### 2013 National Older Adult Conference

**A Church of the Brethren conference for adults age 50 and older**  
**September 2-6, 2013**  
Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center  
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

"Then you will be refreshed in the Lord...”  
Isaiah 58:14

Registration information can be found at www.brethren.org/noac/.

If you are hoping to attend NOAC this year please contact the District Office so you can coordinate transportation with fellow attendees.

### 2013 Brethren Workcamps

On line registration is open for all 2013 Workcamps. Register early because they fill up fast (some only have a couple slots still open). Junior High participants must have a parental consent form completed before registering. Go to http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/ for more information and to register.

"Christ has found fertile soil in our hearts. The seed has been planted. His roots are extending deep into our whole being. Roots of peace, simplicity, and togetherness; roots that cultivate another way of living; roots that challenge us to serve and love as Christ did. Challenge accepted. It’s time to live the faith we’ve been taught and let our living spill over into thanksgiving. Because Christ gives to us, so we give to our brothers and sisters – living out our thanksgiving in service to others.”
INVITATION

BRUNCH ‘N BROWSE
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MATERIALS

For: Anyone Interested in Christian Education, VBS Directors, Teachers, Pastors, Christian Education Committees, Nurture Commissions

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2013

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Place: District Office
115 Spring Road, Hollsopple 15935

Hosted by: District Spiritual Formation Team

Have You Selected Your Vacation Bible School Materials?

You are invited to the annual Brunch ‘n’ Browse to preview VBS materials. The display will be provided by the Johnstown Christian Bookstore & Office Supply from several publishers such as... Standard Publishing, Gospel Light, David C. Cook, Augsburg, Veggie Tales, and Group Publishing.

Visit our curriculum displays and video and book displays in the District Resource Library, as well as the books in the District Library. Samples of Brethren Press curriculum are available to view, as well as numerous other resources, DVD’s and Bible studies.

There will be refreshments and a door prize awarded! The door prize is:

♦ VBS Kit ($100.00 toward the kit of your choice) - The name of the congregation selected must have representatives attending.

If you have any questions, please call the District Office 814 479-2181 or toll-free 1-866-279-2181.
Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal
Being Launched in 2013 - Registration Now Open

The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors and church leaders will offer courses with formal learning objectives which participants localize in their setting. Readings are assigned. Five interactive two hour phone conference calls of teaching will occur. A few persons in the congregation walk alongside the participant. A seminal solidifying paper will reflect both course content and application in a local setting of ministry. CEU will be available.

Foundations for Christ-centered Church Renewal

The first course offered will be “Foundations for Christ-centered Church Renewal” as done in seminary. Basic texts are *Springs of Living Water, Christ-centered Church Renewal* by David S. Young with foreword by Richard J. Foster and *Celebration of Discipline, the Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard J. Foster.

Learn to:

- Enlist a congregation in renewal, spiritually discern and train a renewal team
- Help individuals and churches in a spiritual journey using disciplines folders
- Use servant leadership from scripture to approach the life cycle of a church
- Be a renewal pastor in all its dimensions. Modeling, Equipping, Shepherding
- Guide in a seven fold path for renewal where a church builds on it strengths
- Help a church spiritually discern a scripture, vision, and ministry plan
- Assist a congregation to implement a renewal plan of focused ministries.

Saturday morning dates are February 9, March 2, March 23, April 13, and May 4, from 8:30-10:30 am. Eastern Time. Prompt registration by **January 30, 2013**, will be helpful. Cost: $185 plus $10 for CEU. The teacher is Dr. David S. Young with guests telling stories of churches. Participants can engage in spiritual disciplines using folders during the journey.

For a fuller description of this course and for the Springs of Living Academy of Church renewal brochure, please contact David Young by emailing davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or by calling (717) 615-4515. The Springs website is www.churchrenewalservant.org. Registration form is available.
Denominational News

Position Openings

- **Good Shepherd Home**, a full-service continuing care retirement community located in Fostoria, Ohio, is seeking a **full time long-term care chaplain**. To apply, submit a résumé to Good Shepherd Home, 725 Columbus Ave., Fostoria, OH 44830, Attn: Chris Widman, Executive Director. Résumés must be received by March 1, 2013. For information about the home visit [www.goodshepherdhome.com](http://www.goodshepherdhome.com). Good Shepherd Home is an equal opportunity employer.

- The new **Sunday school curriculum** to be produced by Brethren Press and MennoMedia is **accepting applications for a part-time contract editor**. Editors work closely with curriculum writers to edit manuscripts in accordance with editorial and production guidelines. Candidates must have excellent editorial and writing skills, understand faith formation and developmental stages, and operate well in a collaborative environment. Must be well-grounded in Church of the Brethren or Mennonite beliefs and practices. A bachelor’s degree is required; a graduate degree in theology or education is preferred. See Job Opportunities at [www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org).

More information about these and other positions is available at [http://www.brethren.org/about/employment.html](http://www.brethren.org/about/employment.html)

The **Global Mission and Service office** is **producing a monthly prayer guide** lifting up Church of the Brethren mission workers and mission partners around the world. Daily prayers are provided in a flier format easy to download and print from an online document. Find the January 2013 issue at [www.brethren.org/partners/prayer-guide-2013-1.pdf](http://www.brethren.org/partners/prayer-guide-2013-1.pdf).

**National Youth Cabinet is announced for 2013-14**

The Church of the Brethren's National Youth Cabinet for 2013-14 has been announced by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry office. Youth members of the new cabinet include:

- Emmett Eldred from Middle Pennsylvania
- Brittany Fourman from Southern Ohio
- Sarandon Smith from Atlantic Northeast
- Sarah Ullom-Minnich from Western Plains
- Kerrick van Asselt from Western Plains
- Zander Willoughby from Michigan

Adult advisors to the cabinet are:

- Rhonda Pittman Gingrich of Northern Plains
- Dennis Lohr of Atlantic Northeast
- Becky Ullom Naugle, director of the denomination's Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will work with the cabinet to plan National Youth Conference 2014.

"In God's Image" is the theme for the next National Youth Sunday in 2013.

**National Junior High Conference 2013**

**Love Speaks**

June 14-16, 2013
Elizabethtown (Pa.) College
$155 ($175 after April 19)

online registration is now open!

Speakers will include:

- Jeff Carter
- Marlys Hershberger
- Jennifer Quijano

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**Annual Conference 2013**

June 29 - July 3, 2013 in Charlotte, North Carolina

**Delegate Registration is now open!**
Give the women in your life a gift that will last a lifetime.

Women—maybe it’s time to treat yourself to a special time with God.

THE SPRING EVENT

Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord

“Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.” Psalm 90:17

May 3—4, 2013

Friday registration begins at 4:30

Saturday will end at 3:30

If you miss out on the Spring Event, “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”
you will be missing out on the Event of the year.

The Spring Event is being held at the Antiochian Village Conference Center. It is a warm and peaceful place for renewing your mind, body and spirit in an ambiance of natural beauty created by God. It has hotel style accommodations, gourmet food and breath taking surroundings. (along Rte.711—7 miles north of Ligonier - near the middle of the District)

Ladies—De-stress, refresh and rejuvenate in a nurturing, empowering and supportive environment. “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord” shows how the Bible applies to women and how God speaks through the Word. Have fellowship with Jesus, family and friends. Women of all ages are invited.

Pampering for your body will also be offered.

Messages and Manicures [extra $]

The Spring Event is sponsored by the District Women’s Ministries.
We are so excited to announce: the cost of the Spring Event  

“Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”  

has stayed the same price as the Spring Event last year.

4/5 in a room—$100.00 all inc.  Commuters—2 days—$70.00 includes supper, lunch, snacks & retreat  
3 in a room—$110.00 all inc  
2 in a room—$120.00 all inc.  Saturday only—$50.00 includes lunch, snacks & Retreat

We pray that the hearts of women of all ages will relax and connect with God through this meaningful event.

There are some exciting surprises and wonderful things in store for you at the Spring Event!!!!!

+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE SLIP FOR EACH PERSON. MAIL BY: Feb. 15, 2013

“Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”

Name_______________________________________Phone__________________
Address____________________________________________________________
Congregation_______________________________________________________
People to room with________________________________________________
Down payment non-refundable ($50.00)_____________________________or
Paid in full  $_____________________ Date______________________________

Make check out to:  District Women’s Ministries
Send to:  Pastor Judy Walker, 425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette, PA 15644-1954
For information call 724-522-5260
Happy New Year To All!  As we at the BHCW look back on 2012 we have so many reasons to be thankful.  In a year when government cutbacks made our budget even more difficult to balance, our blessings far outnumbered our cares.  The churches of the Western District gave even more generously than we anticipated through self-allocation, and the response to the Tree of Stars and Harvest Home appeals was simply overwhelming.  The Home was named “Simply The Best” for the sixth time.  Our maintenance staff worked tirelessly to improve energy efficiency and reduce campus utility costs.  We maintained our four-star rating in the Medicare/Medicaid system.  Our Chaplain and volunteer pastors from many area churches spread God’s word throughout the Home.  Grant applications written by staff members were approved, providing extra funds for specific needs.  Volunteers gave more hours than ever in support of our residents.  Staff members returned to the classroom to obtain advanced certifications that enable them to offer even better patient care.  Our wonderful Auxiliary worked with great enthusiasm, serving our residents with dedication and love, donating $12,000 for much needed equipment and thousands of resident centered service hours.

2013 will have its challenges, but we will work to meet them with certainty that our mission of superior care for seniors is blessed with support from our strong community of caring.  Thank you all!

Campus Happenings:

~ Our thanks to everyone who helped make Christmas 2012 special for our residents!  The programs at the Home including friendly visits, school groups, Brownie troops, and carolers made us feel the love of the season.  Trips to special events at St. Francis University, the Windber Museum, and Johnstown Christian School were highlights for our personal care residents.  The annual Christmas Family Open House was the centerpiece of the season.  The beautiful buffet meal, visiting, carols from the Scalp Choir and family pictures made for a great party.

~ The Windber High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes is once again volunteering on the Home campus.  During December they assisted with home decorating in the village at Orchard Point and Christmas card mailings.  Future plans include a board game day in January, and a Valentine project for February.

~ Celia Adams, Director of Nursing, is happy to report that these new employees have successfully completed the Certified Nursing Assistant course: Ashleigh Kissell, Lauren Binaut, David Woffinden, and Melanie Blough.
~ Gladys (Homway) Hebebrand celebrated her 100th birthday on December 15 with a party for family and friends at the Home. She was born in Windber and spent a good part of her life working as a nanny and waitress in Cleveland, Ohio. It was there that she met her husband, Russell Hebebrand, to whom she was married for 40 years. Karen Ritchey of the Somerset office of the Agency on Aging visited the Home to present her with a citation for attaining a century of living.

~ The BHCW is planning the implementation of two large projects that will help us maintain our high quality of care and remain competitive in the health care industry. A centralized electronic record keeping system will be installed and the Home heating system will be converted to natural gas. Both projects will require large initial investments, but will ultimately be cost effective.

~ Sodexo Senior Living, dietary supplier for the Home, held several charitable fundraisers during the holiday season. The events raised $400 that was donated to the Walnut Grove Food Pantry at the Walnut Grove Church in Johnstown. Staff member Scott Michaels generously added to the total by donating the ham he won back to the project. Pantry Director Ken Reed visited the Home to accept the donation from Lynette Orozco, Home Dietary Director.

~ Social Services Director Emily Reckner submitted a grant proposal to the Community Fund of the Alleghenies and was awarded a $1,100 grant for the purchase of an adjustable low electric bed. The Robert Waters Charitable Trust made this grant possible. Angie Berzonsky presented the check to Social Service Director Emily Reckner and Home Administrator Edie Scaletta on December 31st.

Valentine’s day is coming, and many residents at the Home will not be receiving a Valentine in the mail. To help make their Valentine’s Day brighter, we’re asking for some help for Cupid. If you are able, please make or buy a Valentine and send it to:

“Be My Valentine” 277 Hoffman Avenue, Windber, PA 15963.
Thanks for helping to spread a little love!
FYI – For Your Information

FAITH PROMISE CHALLENGE

“And they fell heir to what others had toiled for…Psalm 105:44

--First Benefit Dinner was November 30, 2012 – Goal - $200,000
--70 persons accepted the challenge and donated or pledged offerings by faith to invest in the Camp Ministry. Those persons using Camp Harmony year around either through our programming or by outside groups using Camp to further the spreading of the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20), means that more people are coming through the gates than at any other time in Camp Harmony’s 88 years of existence.

--That evening and later $35,000 was given in donations and pledges for the year. The Faith Promise Challenge is ongoing and open to everyone.
--Next Benefit Dinner is December 7, 2013
--Donations are being used for the following infrastructure…

--All 21 cabins are now under building permits with IBTS (Institute for Building Technology and Safety). We did this before the new year since Quemahoning Township was moving their inspection and permit control to Bedford County. This would have meant that we would have had to start all over with new plans, 2012 codes, etc. Needless to say that was not in the best interest for Camp. IBTS has been very fair and works with us to our advantage.

--Building plans for the two types of cabins have been finished by EADS.
--The official 911 site plan for Camp Harmony has been established and submitted.
--Electrical plans for all aspects of Camp have been finished by East Hills Engineering and we are now in contact with Penelec.
--Plans for sewage lines have been established.
--Since many professional persons have become friends of Camp and in order to be fair, it will be necessary for bids to be accepted in regards to the electrical work and excavating necessary which will connect all the buildings on Camp. If interested, please contact Bill Miller at the Camp.

* * * *

YEAR ROUND FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE

Hospitality and Food Service Director

Position Purpose – To direct the overall hospitality and food service operation of the camp including purchasing, preparation, nutrition, service, sanitation, security, personnel management, customer service, and record keeping. Assist in the management of the overall camp operation at the direction of the Executive Director.

A Job Description is available through the Camp office. To apply – a cover letter, general application (on the website) and a resume is needed. All applications for the Hospitality and Food Service Director must be in the Camp office by February 15.

WISH LIST

Often persons inquire about certain items Camp may need for our programs. At the present we are need of the following: matching bed linen sets - full and twin, microphones, good towels and wash cloths.
THANK YOU - 52 GOD BLESS YOU – 2012 TEAM
A special thank you is extended to all those persons / families who have sponsored the ministry of Camp Harmony through the 2012 “52 God Bless You”. In 2012 over 100 families were attached and approximately $13,000 was given to the ministries of Camp. The premise behind this program is that if every family in the District gave $1 a week for a year – Camp Harmony’s financial concerns would be greatly diminished or completely disappear. The more Camp is blessed, it then can be a blessing to others. Join the “52 God Bless You” - 2013 Team.

WINTER 2013 – SCHEDULE
Brochures are available with your camp representative or call the Camp office for information or to register

FEBRUARY 1-2 – (Grade 6 – 12) – Youth Retreat - $70
  6:00 PM Friday – 6:00 PM Saturday
FEBRUARY 2 – The Great Transparency Concert – 7:00 PM - $5.00 unless registered for the retreat
FEBRUARY 9 – Sweetheart Dinner
  6:00 PM – Appetizers  6:30 PM – Dinner
  $25 Couples , $15 Individuals  1950’s – 1960’s style – Milkshakes, Hamburgers, etc.
  Live Music  Poodle Skirts and appropriate dress encouraged. Come and join the fun.
  Call Camp by February 1 to reserve.
MARCH 1-2 – 3/4/5 Grade Retreat - $70
  6:00 PM Friday – 6:00 PM Saturday
MARCH 8-9 – Pastor/Spouse Retreat
APRIL 5-6 – Women’s Retreat
APRIL 19-20 – 30 Hour Famine

*** *** ***

CABIN ADOPTION UPDATE - According to the 911 Addresses & Permits

The following Congregations have adopted a cabin…..

**Please let Camp know if there is a discrepancy with this information. As of this date, 4 ½ cabins are left to be adopted. Adoptions are open to any congregation, family, or group upon Camp Board approval. Thank You…….
...for your help with this task. The annual report form for congregations (Form B) was sent out from the denominational offices in Elgin, Illinois. The form will update contact information about your congregation’s board or leadership chair, the treasurer, a deacon contact, a nurture contact, a stewards contact, a witness contact, junior high advisor, youth advisor, and several other contact persons. The form needs to be returned to Elgin as soon as possible.

In addition, the Congregational Outreach form was sent from the COB Stewardship Office — not the Yearbook Office. Blank forms are available at www.brethren.org/stewardship/documents/congregational-outreachform.pdf. If you need to contact Elgin with questions about the outreach form, please contact Mandy Garcia at 800-323-8039, ext. 361. The deadline for this form to get to Elgin is now passed, but the forms will still be received.

The forms listed below were received as of January 8. This information is important to both the district and the denomination. Please be sure to review the information provided and make updates as they are needed. Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated, as well as email addresses, if they are available. The updated form gets sent back to Elgin and then they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about the form, please don’t hesitate to contact Suzie at 814 479-2181 or 1-866-279-2181. Your prompt attention to this task will be appreciated. Thanks!

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2013 District Events and Meetings

EVENTS ARE CODED AS...
- District Events open for anyone in the District to attend - CAPS
- Meetings such as District Leadership Team, Camp Board, Home Trustees, and events beyond the District - small print
- Youth and Children’s Activities - ITALICS & CAPS

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE...
- KEEP FOR REFERENCE WHEN SETTING LOCAL CHURCH DATES.
- Each month check this page in District HIGHLIGHTS for changes/additions.
- Keep your calendar updated.

FEBRUARY 2013
7 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
9 - BRUNCH ‘N’ BROWSE, 9:30-11:30 a.m., District Office – [SEE ENCLOSED FLYER]
13 - ASH WEDNESDAY
16 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Rummel Church
17 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
18 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
23 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Conemaugh Church
24 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
25 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
26 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Berkey Church

MARCH 2013
1 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
3 - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
7 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
9 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Conemaugh Church
10 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks AHEAD one hour)
10 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
17 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
17 - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
18 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
23 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Conemaugh Church
24 - PALM SUNDAY
25 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
26 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Ligonier Church
29 - GOOD FRIDAY
31 - ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS Risen!

APRIL 2013
6 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
15 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
20 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
21 - ANNUAL SPRING TEA, 2-4 p.m., Brethren Home Community Windber
22 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
23 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Brethren Home Community Windber
28 - TITHING SUNDAY
MAY 2013
2 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
2 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
4 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
5 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
9 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
9 - ASCENSION DAY
12 - HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!
18 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Farmington Bethel Church
19 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost)
20 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
27 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Camp Harmony

JUNE 2013
1 - BHCW CHICKEN BBQ, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Brethren Home Community Windber
2 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING, location to be announced
16 - HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!
17 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
24 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
29-July 3 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina

JULY 2013
June 29-3 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina
15 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
25 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., (District Conference Business)

AUGUST 2013
1 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
2 - District Leadership Team, 6 p.m., Arbutus Church (District Conference Business)
10 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
19 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
24 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
26 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2013
2 - LABOR DAY
5 - BHCW Auxiliary Key Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon
5 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
7 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
8 - HAPPY GRANDPARENT’S DAY!
14 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Penn Run Church
16 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
21 - BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Camp Harmony
23 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST

February 2013

ORDAINED

BALDEO, ISAAC - 4555 Glen Eden Rd, Cranberry Twp, 16066-3001 - 724 452-0923
BAUGHMAN, CARL L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
BROWN, JOSEPH E. - 150 River Rd, Fairhope, 15538-2509 - 814 267-3211
DAVIS, KENNETH A. - 301 Walker St, Garrett, 15542-8427 - 814 634-8173
DEFFENBAUGH, BARRON K. - 207 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758
EASH, JOHN E. - 131 Friendship Ln, Hollsopple, 15935-6732 - 814 629-0206
FORRY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset, 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
HAY, CHARLES R. - 1127 E Main St, Berlin, 15530-1428 - 814 267-3205
HIRONIMUS, BERTHA - 142 Bent Tree Hill, Ligonier, 15658-3202 - 724 238-3984
HOSLER, WILBUR H. - 525 First St, Clymer, 15728-1417 - 724 254-9764
HOUGHTON, JAMES E. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
HOUGHTON, SALLY M. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
ICE, ROGER L., SR. – 48 N Grove St, Scottsdale 15683 - 724 887-4340
KABLE, ERIC P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
LONGWELL, ERIC M. - 225 Oak Hill Rd, Shelocta, 15774-3144 - 724 599-8690
MARTIN, NOAH S. - 614 Freedom Ave, Johnstown, 15904-2206 - 814 266-6489
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
REININGER, LINDA L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown, 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
RUMMEL, DALE E. - 6171 Greeneville Pike, Grampian, 15666-1959 - 732 319-0099
RUPERT, JACK - 409 State St, Johnstown, 15905-2642 - 814 255-7793
SHAFFER, JUDITH A. - PO Box 319, Donegal, 15628-0319 - 724 516-9191
SHALIS, M. ERIC - 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale, 15552-1444 - 814 634-8740
SMITH, A. HARRISON - 22 Hawes Rd, Farmington, 15437 - 724 329-5973
STEIN, ROBERT R. - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 - 724 438-2226
SWICK, MICHAEL R. - 4127 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 - 814 634-8158
THOMAS, RODGER J. - 1700 Veil Ave, Windber 15963 - 814 509-6399
WALKER, JUDY M. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WALKER, LARRY E. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WHIPPLE, CHARLES D. - 317 Wyoming St, Greensburg, 15601-3947 – 724 600-6332
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN - 436 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning, 16201-4639 - 724 548-4901
WILCHER, JOEL A. - 658 R 13th St, Oakmont, 15139-1020 - 412 828-3690
WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S. - 207 Churchill St., Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

BAUGHMAN, KAREN L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
GREEN, GARY W. - 4589 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, 15935-8217 - 814 479-5096
GREW, DOTTIE H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
ISHMAN, DANIEL R. - 116 Todd Rd, Freeport, 16229 - 724 525-2901
MARSZALEK, CHERYL A. - 409 Herman Ave, Wilmerding, 15148-1206 - 412 829-2253
PERUSO, RUSSELL J. - 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown, 15905-7408 - 814 288-4529
SHAFER, ABBY R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
SHAFER, DANIEL P. – 135 Holly Path, Windber, 15963 - 814 244-5470
THOMAS, SCOTT R. - 2996 Carpenters Park Rd, Davidsville, 15928 - 814 288-2094

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA L. - 102 Franklin Dr, Greensburg, 15601-1305 - 724 836-0594
As you can see, Jose Luis, is still a baby — only two and a half years old. He is one of our “little angles” who lives in the Sala Cuna (nursery) with eight other little ones under the age of four. He loves to talk and repeat everything you say to him. The insistent way he likes to “share” his food with his brothers and sisters can be quite funny at times. He is a cuddly, loving little guy who is well-behaved and polite. Even at his young age, he is learning to play soccer and likes to run after the ball (which is his favorite toy.)

Please join in praying for Jose Luis.
Jose Luis Murillo Garcia

Awww!

As you can see, Jose Luis is still a baby — only two and a half years old. He is one of our “little angels” who lives in the Sala Cuna (nursery) with eight other little ones under the age of four. He loves to talk and repeat everything you say to him. The insistent way he likes to “share” his food with his brothers and sisters can be quite funny at times. He is a cuddly, loving little guy who is well-behaved and polite. Even at his young age, he is learning to play soccer and likes to run after the ball (which is his favorite toy.)

He is learning to sing children’s songs such as “the chicken says — peep, peep, peep”, and loves to dance to the beat — whether fast or slow, he’s got the rhythm.

Please join in praying for Jose Luis.
If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically ONLY, please email that request to hogaremanuel@verizon.net and/or sponsorship coupons are also available on the website at www.hogaremanuel.com

If you contributed to Hogar Emanuel through the Western Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren's Mission Program during 2012, you can expect to receive a RECORD OF GIVING statement by the end of January.

For your convenience, included with your statement will be a booklet of sponsorship coupons. We hope you find them beneficial when sending in your gifts of love and pledged sponsorships.

If you do not receive a coupon booklet and would like to have one, please email your mailing address to me at hogaremanuel@verizon.net or call my cell at 540-649-3111. I will be glad to mail one to you immediately.

For those who prefer to make online donations, PAYPAL is also available on our website at www.hogaremanual.com

Blessings, Rona
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You are joining to help us when you pray for us.
2 Corinthians 1:11

HOGAR DE NINOS EMANUEL
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

OBJECTIVES ……
For each and every child that comes to the Home due to unfortunate and/or abusive situations in his/her biological family life, we have created a place:

• To develop spiritually and learn a deep commitment to Jesus Christ
• To meet the physical and emotional needs of the children who live there
• Where unconditional love and understanding is available to each child through staff and community relationships
• Where discipline administered to each child will teach about rewards and consequences
• Where there is no fear of abusive or unusually harsh punishments
• To have a place to call “home” that each child can be proud
• Where children are provided the opportunity to learn, study, and further their education

That prepares children for the challenges of life outside of the Home.

Please help to provide a place that can continue to meet these objectives in the coming year.

RECORD OF GIVING STATEMENTS
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Blessings, Rona

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Rona Hemminger, editor
Mobile: 540-649-3111
Email: hogaremanuel@verizon.net