MARK YOUR CALENDAR

“Be Led by the SPIRIT”
148th Western PA District Conference
Saturday
October 18, 2014
Camp Harmony
Moderator Homer A. Foster

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

Western PA District Leadership
Team for 2014
James E. Houghton, District Leadership Team Chair
Children, Youth & Outdoor Ministry Team
Carole Nedrow, Chair
Jeff Fackler
Erin Kimmel
Adele Madera
Outreach & Service Team
Bill Wenger, Chair
Sharon Eley
Sandy Peterman
Kristina Peters
Marsha Smith
Pastor & Parish Ministry Team
Homer Marshall, Chair
Eric Fether
Gary Green
Bob Stein

Spiritual Formation Team
Joy Derck, Chair
Rebekah Baum
Amelia Derr
Tammy Hoover
Brandy Liepelt

Stewards & Finance Team
Gary Hiler, Chair
Royal Knepper
Donna Smith

Ex Officio Members
Ron Beachley
Suzie Moss
Carole Horner
Abby Shaffer
Homer Foster
Vince Cable
Wes Berkebile
Donna Ramer
Janice Kaltenbaugh
Cortney Tyger
District Office News

HOSPITALIZED


- **Roger L. Forry**, retired ordained minister in the Pike Run congregation for treatment after a fall.

- **Charles R. Mahon, Jr.**, pastor of the Rayman congregation for knee surgery.

NEW MEMBERS

**Somerset congregation**
- Peggy Kimmel
- Priscilla Haines
- Hannah Haines

**Meyersdale congregation**
- Scott Green
- Mary Green
- Travis Smith
- Kelli Smith

**Maple Spring congregation**
- Kevin Sabo
- Jennifer Sabo
- Tyler Moss
- Jackie Moss
- Megan Hostetler
- Justin Weible
- Matthew Bambino
- Jacob Rosenbaum

**Rummel congregation**
- Bonnie Lehman
- Jessica Walukas

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

We are working on the 2014 District Directory and will be emailing it to congregations and contact persons in February. If you would like a paper copy or a CD, please contact the District Office at 814 479-2181 or email Suzie Moss at smoss@brethren.org by **January 31, 2014**.

Also, for paper copy **Subscribers to the District HIGHLIGHTS**, you will receive a renewal notice approximately one month before your subscription expires. For anyone that has not subscribed for a paper copy that is sent by postal mail, please send a $15 check for a one-year subscription made out to Western PA District COB and noted in the memo line “HIGHLIGHTS subscription.” Make sure you have included your full mailing address. Thank you!

Upcoming Events at **Penn Run Church of the Brethren**:

- An all you can eat PA Dutch Buffet will be held on Saturday, March 1 from 4 - 7 at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center. Cost is $8/adults and $6 kids 3-11 years old. Menu includes chicken and waffles, biscuits, mashed potatoes, noodles, hot vegetable, desserts and drinks. Take out and gift certificates are available.

- The Penn Run COB will have **2 Quilt Retreats** on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, both from 8 am - 8 pm at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center. Cost $35 whole day w/3 meals or $28 for half day w/2 meals. Please call the church office at 724-463-0420 for more info or to register for either retreat.

- The Penn Run COB will have a **Scrapbook Retreat** on Saturday, April 26 from 8 am - 8 pm at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center. Cost is $35 whole day w/3 meals or $28 for half day w/2 meals. Please call 724-463-0420 for more info and registration.

March 2014 Highlights Deadline

**February 10, 2014**
I didn’t get to shake her hand. I don’t even know her name. But she sat about 5 rows back and I can’t get her smile out of my mind.

On Sunday, I ventured out to our Brethren Home to sing “Celebrate the Wonder” with my Rummel COB choir friends. It was our Christmas cantata, and while I had mentally packed Christmas away for another year, this woman, clearly, had not.

Christmas rang out across her face as it does on so few faces these days. She probably didn’t battle the crowds at the mall for overpriced gifts. She probably didn’t clean her apartment from top to bottom in preparation for hordes of family. I doubt that she even got any cookies baked. But still, on January 5th, she was celebrating the birth of her Savior.

I don’t think she was on any meds to make her “unbalanced;” no, her smile was too genuine. Her bright fuchsia lipstick bobbed as she sang along to familiar carols wreathing through the music. She didn’t slump or doze off – she didn’t drift away as so many do.* She was fully present in the moment, worshiping God, and it was glorious!

She was the first one to start clapping after every song. She was so eager to show her appreciation. After some songs, I could hear her shouting “Beautiful! Beautiful!” above the applause. She gasped in amazement when we ended on powerful high notes; she closed her eyes and sweetly nodded her agreement to the slower, more reflective songs.

Never have I been so enamored with a member of an audience or congregation! It was such an encouragement to see this dear lady in a situation that is usually so difficult for me to get through.

I have to wonder – when God looks out upon His people – what does He see? Have we fallen asleep? Have we checked out? Or, are we brightly reflecting His glory? Happily singing His praises? I know that each person there offered the best they had, and I know they all enjoyed having us in their Home. But she stood out to me, like the last perfect rose of summer. Joyful and unexpected.

Friends, I fear that many in our churches have fallen asleep, have checked out, have slumped in their pews. Many have stopped actively caring about the Kingdom, the Gospel, the Savior who rescues us. Many attend church and their lips move, but their hearts remain still. Stony and stuck.

How desperately we need to be like that woman with the hot pink lips, shouting her praise to the King! Beaming from ear to ear and flooding all who beheld her with wonder and love. That day I saw a woman rise above her circumstances and worship her Lord with abandon. Oh that we would do the same!

As I thought about her, boldly shining in a sea of folks in their 80’s and 90’s, I thought about the handful of high school girls in our choir. I thought about Tabitha and Jessica and Kayla. I know they must’ve seen her, too. And I thought, “what if this one lady inspires these girls to stand out in a sea of folks in their teens and 20’s?” What if her example made an impression and encourages these girls to step out and shine for Christ?

I’m not going to ask you to wear bright makeup; you gents especially should steer away from that. But I will challenge each of us to smile broadly in church. To sing, and even shout, for the Lord. To start clapping when it’s appropriate. To give God the glory. Stop worrying about how you might look, and start fixing your eyes on Jesus.

Praise His Holy Name! Beautiful!

*Abby

*I understand that reactions are based on ability. I’m not being callous, here!*
INVITATION

Western PA District Annual
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 8, 2014

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.
**WOMEN of GOD**
Growing in Grace

2 Peter 3:18

You are invited to a very special SPRING EVENT! Just for you!

It is being held at a place where the SON is always shining.

**When:** May 2-3, 2014

*Friday evening thru Saturday - 3:30*

*Where: At Antiochian Village Convention Center*

Hotel accommodations - excellent food

6 miles north of Ligonier

Come and discover where God has planted you and GROW.

“We are planted with Love, nurtured by Grace, pruned with Mercy, watered by the Spirit and harvested with Joy.”

We want to give the women of the district the opportunity to take time to relax, make new friends, worship God and have a deeper relationship with Jesus.

There will be plenty of God-time, free time and pampering - (manicures, pedicures and massages).

**Come Join the Garden Party.**

*The Spring Event is sponsored by the District Women’s Ministries.*
We are so excited to announce: the cost of the Spring Event “Women of God—Growing in Grace” has stayed the same price as the Spring Event last year.

All prices are per person:

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<th>Price</th>
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<td>4/5 in a room</td>
<td>$100.00 all inc.</td>
<td>Commuters—2 days—$70.00 includes supper, lunch, snacks &amp; retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 in a room</td>
<td>$110.00 all inc.</td>
<td>Friday only—$30.00 includes supper &amp; retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 in a room</td>
<td>$120.00 all inc.</td>
<td>Saturday only—$50.00 (no breakfast)</td>
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<td>1 in a room</td>
<td>$130.00 all inc.</td>
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Pampering (Manicures, Pedicures and Massages) will be extra.

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 2014 Spring Event!!!! Come to the garden.

REGISTRATIONS must be received before March 4th. Balance must be paid in full by April 10th.

Please send a separate slip for each person. Mail: ASAP

“Women of God—Growing in Grace”

Name_______________________________________Phone_________________
Address____________________________________________________________
Congregation_______________________________________________________
People to room with__________________________________________________
Down payment non-refundable ($50.00)_____________________________or
Paid in full $_____________________ Date______________________________
Make check out to: W. PA. District Women’s Ministries
Send to: Pastor Judy Walker, 425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette, PA 15644-1954
For information call 724-522-5260
Complete payment is due by April 15, 2013. We must know if you’re coming by March 12.
District Church News

2014 QUILT PATCHES

HERITAGE FESTIVAL
WE NEED YOUR PATCH!!!!
We have received only 28 patches out of 70 patches. Please help us have a beautiful quilt by returning your finished patch. We have had patches come in from Colorado, Iowa and beyond. Surely you can find someone to do your patch. Please have your patch in by February 20th. This is a 2 month extension.
Send to:
Pastor Judy Walker,
425 Morningside Avenue,
Jeannette, PA 15644-1954
More info call: 724-522-5260

BLESSINGS

The District Women’s Ministries
Spring Gathering
A LOVELY BRUNCH

When: April 10, 2014
Where: Conemaugh Church of the Brethren
Registration starts at 9:30 in the fellowship hall
Music begins at 10:00
Save the date. Watch for the registration papers and more information next month. Plan on coming. You will be blessed.

WOMEN OF FAITH
RIVIVAL 2014
FAIRFAX, VA
AUGUST 1-2, 2014

Hi every one. I am very excited about going to WOF again this year. I am organizing a bus trip to Fairfax, VA. to join thousands of women worshipping GOD together. They are not having the conference in Pittsburgh this year so Fairfax, which is outside of Washington, DC, is the closest one. The Conference is being held at the Patriotic Center, Fairfax, VA.

The conference is 7:00-10:00 pm Friday evening and Saturday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. The cost of the conference is $71/ticket and does not include a boxed lunch. If you plan to come let me (Becky Toath) know ASAP and then I will need a nonrefundable deposit of $71 by May 1st. If someone replaces you, I will refund your money.

I have made reservations at The Hilton Garden Inn. The hotel is 6 miles from the Patriot Center. Again we will have the bus to transport us to and from the conference. The hotel has a restaurant, swimming pool and spa.

I have reserved a bus from Lodestar Bus Line again.
A detailed letter will be sent when plans are finalized.

I will try my best to accommodate room mates in the hotel rooms. Please try to be flexible and considerate of fellow travelers and very patient with me. If you have questions, please call me at 467-8132 or email me at mrst45@hotmail.com.

Cost:
Conference ticket: $71
Bus: $40
Room: 2 persons/room $ 50 each
3 persons/room $ 35 each
4 persons/room $ 25 each
Denominational News

Service Sunday 2014 will focus on serving God by serving all

The theme for the Church of the Brethren's observance of Service Sunday 2014 is “Serving God by Serving All” inspired by John 12: 26, “If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you’ll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment’s notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me” (The Message version).

Recognized annually on the first Sunday in February, Service Sunday is sponsored by a number of Church of the Brethren ministries including the workcamp ministry, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), Brethren Disaster Ministries, and the Brethren Service Center.

Service Sunday celebrates those who serve in Church of the Brethren communities and throughout the world, and encourages church members to discover opportunities to serve through Brethren ministries and to explore possibilities to serve in local communities. The goal of the event is to “Be transformed by serving one another in the name of Christ.”

Worship resources for Service Sunday 2014 are online at www.brethren.org/servicesunday.

Workcamp registration has opened on line

The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Ministry opened online registration for its 2014 workcamp season January 10. While studying the theme, “Teach with Your Life,” based on 1 Timothy 4:11-16, the workcamp ministry will offer eight junior high workcamps this summer, as well as one intergenerational workcamp, one young adult workcamp, and two workcamps for Brethren Revival Fellowship (BRF) participants.

Two important details for registration this year include a requirement for junior high participants to have a parental permission form filled out ahead of time, as well as an increased deposit amount of $150 for all workcamps.

Anyone interested in registering can find more information about the schedule and descriptions of the workcamps at www.brethren.org/workcamps.

National Youth Conference Registration Opens

Online registration for National Youth Conference (NYC) 2014 opened Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. central time. The conference will be held July 19-24 on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., and all youth who have completed 9th grade through one year of college are eligible to attend.

As of Tuesday morning, Jan. 7, 464 people had registered for NYC. That is up from 366 people in about the first four days of online registration for the last NYC in 2010.

There are several reasons why youth should sign up for NYC, according to Tim Heishman, coordinator, “NYC is a place where you can meet Christ and hear your calling as a follower of Jesus,” he said. “It is often the spiritual highlight for many youth during their high school years.” Another reason to sign up? Heishman says that NYC will be a blast.

For more information and to register for National Youth Conference, which takes place at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., on July 19-24, go to www.brethren.org/nyc.

Church Planting Conference looks toward an intercultural future

The Church Planting Conference to be held May 15-17, hosted at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., will be forward-looking with the theme, “Plant Generously, Reap Bountifully--Toward an Intercultural Future.”

Registration is now open at www.brethren.org/churchplanting/events.html and continues through March 17 at an “early bird” rate of $179.

“This vibrant gathering focused on church planting is rooted in worship and prayer while providing practical training, nurturing conversation, and stimulating idea-sharing,” said an invitation from Jonathan Shively, executive director of Congregational Life Ministries. “The entire conference will work toward an intercultural future, including a unique track offered in Spanish.”
It all started Sunday September 29, 2013, as one member of the congregation stated, “It was like the Holy Spirit came thundering down the center aisle of the church in a chariot- the hairs on the back of my neck and arms stood straight out”.

Miracle after miracle after miracle took place at Plumcreek and we praise God for what He accomplished and we thank Him for the privilege of serving Him.

When nobody had signed up for the children’s story for Sept. 29th, Pastor Randy Derck asked a woman to do a children’s message. Joy Derck asked this same person to share with the children about Samaritan’s Purse. This woman was in the midst of a personal trial that resulted in her being at Plumcreek. She had been praying for months that the Lord would allow her to be part of “doubling” the number of shoeboxes being sent to Samaritans Purse for Operation Christmas Child. At her “home” church the past several years God had doubled the number of boxes and this year they were anticipating the Lord blessing their church by sending 300 boxes. Her story focused on Samaritans Purse Shoebox program and the Plumcreek church was challenged to work with their AWANA children’s ministry to fill 300 boxes...by November 17th, only a month and a half away!

The AWANA club had numerous fundraisers during the club year 2012-2013 and due to the illness and death of a club members loved one, all the monies raised were still available to purchase items to help fill the boxes. The club knew they didn’t have enough money to fill and ship 300 boxes. The cost of shipping is $7.00 per box- a total of $2100.00 was needed just to ship the boxes. The club commander, a normally reserved and shy person, was filled with holy boldness that enabled her to go door to door talking to local business owners, explaining what the church and club was doing and inviting them to participate in this amazing project. Within 3 weeks we had received $2110.00 from these businesses- enough to cover the shipping of 300 boxes plus $10.00 to spare!

The boxes were filled with supplies donated from an out of state church, and with dresses and shorts made from material that had been donated by a woman who needed to “down size” due to a personal trial. The dresses and shorts were made by several church members including a woman whose vision had been failing for months. Unexpectedly and unexplainable by her doctors, her vision improved enough to allow her to see well enough to sew many of the dresses and shorts for the shoeboxes.

Less than 2 weeks from the “packing party” a count of boxes put us at 100 boxes shy of our goal. Many prayers were lifted and we received word from a couple in the community that they had shoeboxes we could have. Upon opening the bags they gave us, we found 97 boxes and almost half of them already wrapped!

Several AWANA Club nights the children spent working on this great mission project; sorting and stacking construction paper booklets, packing soap, placing toothbrushes in toothbrush holders, counting, sorting and...
securing pens and pencils, and bagging candy. The children were thrilled to work on this project; many “I just love doing this” comments were heard. As the children were downstairs working on preparation for filling the boxes the AWANA parents were upstairs diligently wrapping shoeboxes- the church was alive with excitement in serving the Lord.

A daycare in another town heard of what we were doing and offered to cut out hundreds of labels that were needed to be placed on the boxes, and a home church group in our community stepped in to wrap and wrap and wrap box after box after box. Congregation members also stayed after Sunday school several times to wrap shoeboxes.

On November 16th, the day of the “packing party”, we had a huge outpouring of love from the church family and the AWANA families which resulted in 300 boxes being packed within 1 ½ hours.

On November 17th, the congregation added their boxes to those packed the day before, for a total shoebox count of 372 – PRAISE GOD!

We stand in awe and amazement at how God made everything fall into place. And we are humbled to be used by such an awesome and Holy God!

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES REPORT

The Sipesville Women’s Ministries has had a busy 2013.

We would like to share some of our activities with you.

Last spring we distributed flowers to the shut-ins at our church. We also gave flowers to all the women of the church for Mother’s Day.

We received the flowers from Birthright.

In the Spring, we also had a Bakeless Bake Sale. For Father’s Day, we gave all the men cookies for their sweet tooth.

In the Summer, we had a Family Dinner with the Geiger COB at the Sipesville Fire Hall. We also had entertainment. A good time was had by everyone.

The Women’s Ministry sponsored an outing for the seniors of the church. We went to the Coal Miners Restaurant for a meal.

In the Summer, we sponsored a Hymn Sing. The offering that was collected went to the Cancer Society.

We had an Ice Cream Social with the Pike Run COB. The were our Prayer Partners for 2013.

A Bake Sale was held in September to support the Heritage Festival.

A continuing project throughout the year was selling King’s Restaurant coupons. We collected $ 125.00.

We decorated the church for Christmas. We also made Care Bags for our shut-ins.

We’re hoping that we can encourage you to do some of the many activities we have had a lot of fellowship doing them. The Women’s Ministry provides a way for the women of the church to do for others. We have been blessed and we have been a blessing.

God is good. By: Janet Fisher

February 2014
LOOKING FORWARD
YOUR CAMP REP AND PASTOR HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION OR CONTACT CAMP

Camp Escape Days – Contact Camp – All ages
January 18 – Sled Riding Party – 1-5 PM
February 1 - Craft and Crop Day - 9AM – 9PM
March 15 – Snow Much Fun – 1 – 5 PM

ZUMBA – Tuesdays and Thursdays – 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
February 4 – April 24 - $5 / Class or $30 / Month

YOUTH RETREAT – Grades 6 – 12 – February 7-9 - $100

CHILDREN’S RETREAT – Grades 2 – 5 – March 7-9 - $100

SKI AND DANCE WINTER WEEKEND – February 14 – 17 – All ages
Come for all or part of the time

SWEETHEART DINNER – February 22, 6:00 PM – 1950’S Era Dinner, Music, Fun, and Dancing $15/person, $25/couple (Back by popular demand)

WISH LIST
Often groups or individuals are looking for items and/or projects that they can do for Camp. This list is constantly changing and we thank you for all your help.
--mulch
--hot pads, oven gloves
--vacuum sweepers
--water shoes, tennis shoes (inexpensive)
--1” binders
(used for creek stomping)
--fishing poles
--magnifying glasses
--materials for Ga Ga Court and/ or construction
--materials for Four Square Vertical and/ or construction
(they last two are great projects for men’s groups or youth groups
 – contact camp for details)
--don’t forget we are always collecting Labels for Education (Campbells)

JOB OPENINGS
Inquire at Camp or go online www.campharmony.org and obtain a general application with a resume and reference letter and mail to Camp – Attn. Janice
--Maintenance – 40 hours a week
--Part Time Cleaning – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp
--Cook, Kitchen Assistants – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp

February 2014
The initial energy for the development of Camp Harmony was a petition to the District Board of Religious Education from a group of girls from Juniata College during the winter of 1922-23. This Board asked them to wait one year to have time to prepare for such a camp. After a thorough search through Fayette, Westmoreland, Cambria and Somerset counties, it was agreed to purchase “Camp Harmony” which had been the summer home of the Swanks of Johnstown for thirty years. An agreement was entered into on December 30, 1923 to purchase Camp Harmony, consisting of almost 19 acres for $8,000. The deed was delivered on February 5, 1924. After the formation of a corporation to hold the property in trust for the Church of the Brethren and the selection of the initial Board of Trustees, the charter was granted on March 3, 1924.

The first Older Girls’ Camp Conference, known as the Founders, began on July 21, 1924, and lasted for 10 days. The first Older Boys’ Camp Conference, known as the Trailblazers, followed in August 1924. Thus, the first Church of the Brethren camp was begun.

Camp Harmony continues to lift up His Name until the whole world hears……..

90th Anniversary Celebration
May 30, 31 and June 1

May 30 - Open House Celebration for area businesses, Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Johnstown Visitors Bureau

May 31 – Open House Celebration for community residents

June 1 - Chicken BBQ, Worship Celebration, Recreation

Keep your calendar open and plan to attend…..

Attach to the ministry of Camp Harmony - be part of the 2014 “52 God Bless You Team… all money benefits the ministry of Camp. ( $1.00 a week for 52 weeks)
Happy Valentine’s Day! Valentine’s Day is coming soon, and greetings of love and friendship are always welcome at our Home. Anyone wishing to share a Valentine greeting with a resident at the Home should address a card to them directly, or simply send a card (or cards) to “Be My Valentine” at the Brethren Home, 277 Hoffman Avenue, Windber, PA 15963. We’ll help Cupid deliver the mail!

Harvest Home: Harvest Home donations continued to arrive at the Home well into December. The many gifts of in kind items have been put to good use throughout the Home and the monies donated have been applied to the projects specified. The Home thanks each church involved for their support!

With Thanks: On behalf of the residents, staff, administration, Chaplain Linda Reininger would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who remembered our Home and residents during the holiday season. Your cards, gifts, visits, prayers and friendship made our Christmas blessed indeed. We would also like to acknowledge each clergy member who graciously filled the Home pulpit in 2013. Our residents truly enjoy the services brought by “outside” speakers along with the special music or choirs they often bring. Thank you all for generously sharing your faith and God’s word.

Get Your Flu Shot! Just as the CDC warned, the flu bug struck early this year. Our Home employees and residents had received their vaccinations, however, two cases of flu occurred early in December, causing the cancellation of many scheduled Christmas activities. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus delighted the residents by donning masks that allowed them to make their rounds on Christmas morning. While it was disappointing to miss many of the social events planned, the health of our residents is paramount and we are currently flu free.
Therapeutic Dietary Liberalization: Our dietary department, in close cooperation with our Sodexo dietician and facility physicians, is participating in a therapeutic dietary liberalization plan. The goal of the program is to allow geriatric residents to enjoy the least restrictive diet possible without endangering their health. Simply said, we are trying to allow the residents to safely reintroduce foods they love in their diets. Now our residents are looking forward to having special snacks and dishes they have been denied by previous diets. The medical staff closely tracks their essential numbers such as blood sugar and blood pressure to ensure that the additional foods do not adversely affect their overall health. In addition to the new short order menu that allows residents wider menu choices at each meal, the liberalization program is making dining healthy and fun!

Home Auxiliary Update: Thanks to our super Home Auxiliary for the over $9,000 donated to Home projects in 2013. Those donations included:

- We Care Gift Bags (basic toiletries for each new resident)
- Portable Stereos (music for activities)
- Monthly Birthday Party supplies
- Lap Trays (for use with hospital beds)
- Heel Positioners (therapy supplies)
- Lap Top Computer (to gather individual station reports)
- Sewing Machine Maintenance (used to attach resident clothing labels)
- Landscaping Mulch (to refresh outdoor flower beds)
- Lap Top Cart (to move computers from station to station)
- Arm Chairs (stable support for residents during activities)
- Geri Chair (recliner for resident use)
- Lift Slings (to move residents from bed to chairs)
- Hand Weights, Finger Exercisers & Hand Exercisers (therapy supplies)

When their monetary donations are paired with the countless hours our volunteers donate throughout the year, our Auxiliary is a shining example of Brethren service and Christian love in action!
As you can see noted below and on the back of this page, the reports are coming in. THANKS VERY MUCH!! Form B was sent to the churches from the denominational offices. This form updates contact information about your congregation’s board or leadership team 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. Please be sure to review the material provided on that form and make updates as they are needed. Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated, as well as email addresses, if they are available. Also, an Additional Officers Form for 2014 was sent from the District Office in October. Congregations should have received the Statistical Information for 2013 Form in December of 2013, also. This form is due back in the Yearbook Office by March 17, 2014.

In addition, the Congregational Outreach Form for 2013/2014 was sent from the COB Stewardship Office. If you cannot locate the form, you will need to contact Mandy Garcia at 800-323-8039, ext. 361, at the denominational office. The deadline for completing this form was December 2, 2013. A downloadable version of the form, as well as a new fillable option is now available at www.brethren.org/stewardship. Feel free to use that option in order to switch to paperless reporting.

The forms listed below were received as of January 20. This information is important to both the district and the denomination. The updated forms get sent to Elgin and they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about a 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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<th>Church Code</th>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Form A</th>
<th>Form B</th>
<th>2013 Statistical Report</th>
<th>Additional Officers</th>
<th>Self-Allocation</th>
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TOTAL 89,729.42 100,240.19 57,891.00 60,602.38 42,562.46 55,143.24

THANK YOU to all congregations for your 2013 support of Western PA District Ministries. PLEASE NOTE: Any checks for 2013 received after January 6, 2014, have been posted in 2014.
2014 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 2014
4 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., phone conference call
6 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
8 - BRUNCH ‘N’ BROWSE, 9:30-11:30 a.m., District Office – [SEE ENCLOSED FLYER]
15 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Conemaugh Church
16-22 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Spotswood, NJ – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
17 - District Women’s Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
17 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
24 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
25 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., phone conference call
25 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Conemaugh Church

MARCH 2014
1 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
5 - ASH WEDNESDAY
6 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
6 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
7 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
9 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks AHEAD one hour)
9 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
15 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
16 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
16 - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
17 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
18 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
18 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., phone conference call
23 - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
24 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
25 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Windber Church
29 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
30 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
APRIL 2014
6 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
8 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., phone conference call
10 - DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRY SPRING GATHERING – more information to come
12 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
13 - PALM SUNDAY
17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
18 - GOOD FRIDAY
20 - ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
21 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Nanty Glo Church
26 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
27 - ANNUAL SPRING TEA, 2-4 p.m., Brethren Home Community Windber
28 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
29 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., phone conference call

MAY 2014
1 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
1 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
1 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
2-3 - DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRY RETREAT – Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center [SEE ENCLOSED FLYER]
4 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
8 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
10 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
11 - HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!!
13 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
17 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., County Line Church
19 - District Women’s Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
19 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
26 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
27 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Brethren Home Community Windber
29 - ASCENSION DAY
30-31 - CAMP HARMONY CELEBRATING 90 YEARS – more information to come

JUNE 2014
1 - CAMP HARMONY CELEBRATING 90 YEARS - more information to come
7 - BHCW CHICKEN BBQ, Brethren Home Community Windber – more information to come
8 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH!! (Pentecost Sunday)
12 - DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRY CAMP DAY – more information to come
15 - HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!
16 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
23 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

JULY 2014
2-6 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Columbus, Ohio
10 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
14 - District Women’s Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
19-24 - NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (NYC) - Fort Collins, Colorado
21 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
24 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m. (District Conference Business)
28 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
**AUGUST 2014**

1. District Leadership Team, 6 p.m., Arbutus Church (District Conference Business)
2. BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
3. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
4. District Woman's Ministry Summer Tea – **more information to come**
5. Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
6. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
7. Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

1. LABOR DAY
2. Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
3. BHCW Auxiliary Key Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon
4. Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
5. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
6. District Women's Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
7. District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Purchase Line Church
8. Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
9. Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
10. BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Camp Harmony
11. DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
12. Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
13. Ethics Training for ALL Ministers – **more information to come**

**OCTOBER 2014**

1. WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
2. District Woman's Ministry Home Day – **more information to come**
3. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
4. District Conference, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
5. Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
6. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
7. Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 2014**

1. NINTH DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
2. NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
3. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks **BACK** one hour)
4. Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
5. BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
6. Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
7. SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – **location to be announced**
8. District Women's Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
9. District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Geiger Church
10. Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
11. Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
12. Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
13. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
14. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 2014**

1. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3. BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Camp Harmony
4. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
5. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER, 6 p.m., Camp Harmony
6. NEW YEAR'S EVE

**PLEASE NOTE**

Dates will be added or changed as needed. If your District group, team, or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Your help is much appreciated!
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
BROADWATER, KEVIN L. - 475 Keystone St, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 - 814 442-5684
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
FORKY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset, 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
GREG, DOTTIE H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
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, Scottdale, 15683 - 724 887-4340
KABELER, 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
MCCOY, SHELBY F. - 1809 Geiger Rd, Friedens, 15541-7500 - 814 233-5383
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PETERMAN, SANDRA M. - 2288 N Ridge Rd, Shelocta, 15774-7225 - 724 354-3533
REININGER, LINDA L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown, 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
RUMMEL, DAE E. - 6171 Greenville 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
SHAULIS, 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 Church St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

BAUGHMAN, KAREN L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
DERCK, JOY E. - 3089 Dutch Run Rd, Shelocta, 15774-2224 - 724 354-3386
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
SHAFFER, ABBY R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
SHAFFER, DANIEL P. - 135 Holly Path, Windber, 15963 - 814 244-5470
SISITKI, KIMBERLY A. - PO Box 204, Bolivar, 15923-0204 – 724 676-4465
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
OUR FAMILY IS GROWING and GROWING and GROWING! It is always a big deal when someone new moves into the Home. So it goes without saying that the biggest excitement at the Home during the past several months has been the arrival of many more sisters and brothers.

Typically when a child is found to be at risk, he/she is removed from his/her deplorable situation but kept in another not-so-nice government-run home until the Institute of Honduran Family Services can find a more permanent placement for each of them — such as into the custody of El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel. Often times these children must stay in the government-run home for long periods of time because a better place is simply not available. That is why it was so important for us to be able to help as many as we can.

We are thrilled to say that we now have room for about one hundred resident children! Just since September 2013, fifteen more children have moved into our home and we are preparing for even more in the weeks ahead. These children come to us with nothing. We must provide everything from clothes to much needed health care and helping the school-age children catch up on their lack of education. However they now have hope because of caring sponsors like you. We receive no government subsidies and operate solely on donations. Each sponsorship gift is used towards supplying their basic needs. We have stepped out in faith that God will speak to your heart to help us meet the current financially responsibilities of bringing in these additional children. The average cost of maintaining a child here is approximately $300 per month. Could you please help us with just one tenth of that amount by sponsoring one of our children?

None of our fifteen newest children have a sponsor at this point, so if you have never sponsored a child before — PLEASE give it prayerful consideration now! If you are currently sponsoring one of these deserving children of God, and are financially able to increase your giving (even by $5 a month), it would be much appreciated. And to those of you who will agree to continue sending $25 per month, thank you very much for helping to love, pray, and care for our children. These children need each and every one of you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOGAR ENMANUEL...

One of our newest children is seven year old Henry (born 7/2006) who arrived at Hogar Emmanuel in November with his three sisters — Lucy (11/1999), Angie (9/2007), and Idania (11/2009). Henry has a growth problem and slight paralysis on the left side of his body. The story goes that he was about one year old when he fell from a hammock and cracked open his skull. They took him to the hospital where he was in a comma for three months.

The doctors are currently checking his skull as it appears to still have a soft bulge on his head. We don’t know much about why the children came to be at risk, however, we have been told that while little Henry Obeniel was living at the government-run home prior to arriving here, he would tell stories from the bible and talk to the other kids about God. He and his sister Lucy are often heard singing church songs together. We’ve been told that many children would gather around him to hear what he had to say. Maybe we have a future pastor with us! Please pray for Henry and his sisters.

MEET OUR CHILDREN

One of our newest children is seven year old Henry (born 7/2006) who arrived at Hogar Emmanuel in November with his three sisters — Lucy (11/1999), Angie (9/2007), and Idania (11/2009). Henry has a growth problem and slight paralysis on the left side of his body. The story goes that he was about one year old when he fell from a hammock and cracked open his skull. They took him to the hospital where he was in a comma for three months.

The doctors are currently checking his skull as it appears to still have a soft bulge on his head. We don’t know much about why the children came to be at risk, however, we have been told that while little Henry Obeniel was living at the government-run home prior to arriving here, he would tell stories from the bible and talk to the other kids about God. He and his sister Lucy are often heard singing church songs together. We’ve been told that many children would gather around him to hear what he had to say. Maybe we have a future pastor with us! Please pray for Henry and his sisters.
Our newest children immediately begin to experience an entirely new kind of life — one where their bellies are full and where they can benefit from new kinds of activities than they ever experienced before. Even though school may be out for a few months, the children remain busy, busy, busy!

For instance, thanks to the hospitality of one of the Honduran godparents, they all were invited to swim and picnic at her beach front home several times this fall.

Our littlest ones enjoyed one of their first outings with a trip to Pizza Hut. This particular Pizza Hut has an indoor play area that is one of the largest I’ve ever seen. Ann (Brethren Volunteer Service volunteer) says the kids are still talking about their time eating and playing there!

Again this year, the children and staff shared in a Thanksgiving feast and learned about our American Thanksgiving traditions with Ann’s help. She is also teaching English and piano to the kids who signed up. She told us that in one of the classes they reviewed the names of different vehicles and then used recycled materials to make their own car, planes, busses, trains, and boats!

Staff member, Jairo, treated the middle-aged boys in his care to a PJ party. They ate nachos and popcorn while watching movies and trying to stay awake all night. The pajama party was not without the usual pranks —— when one of them fell asleep, they could count on having a crazy moustache drawn on their face.

For the older kids, December started off with a trip to the ice cream parlor and then they rode around San Pedro Sula just looking at the amazing displays of Christmas lights and decorations throughout the city. They also are taking part in cooking classes where they are making all sorts of things from enchiladas, bread, pizza, and Christmas cookies.

And, as of the writing of this newsletter, the children are anticipating a week long visit from a group of college students from the Corpus Christi University Parish at the University of Toledo (Ohio). The group will be hosted by the parish’s employee, Lauren Farrell. You might remember Lauren as the home’s on-site Brethren Volunteer Service volunteer from 2009 to 2011. This group has many things planned for the children during this week of their school break as well as to help share in their Christmas celebrations. Thanks, Lauren!

Thank you and Happy New Year to all who have made 2013 another successful year at El Hogar de Ninos Emmanuel. You can expect to receive a record of your personal 2013 giving before the end of January 2014. Blessings, Rona