District Highlights

July/August 2008

STAFF:
Ronald D. Beachley
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CONTACT:
115 Spring Rd.
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814-479-7058
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814-479-2181

WEBSITE:
www.westernpacob.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday ~ Friday
7:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m.
Staff meeting each
Monday, 8:00 a.m.

Please send all
Highlights information
to the District Office by
the 15th.

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

It isn’t District Conference without YOU!

Plans for the 2008 District Conference of the Western PA District of the Church of the Brethren are well underway, and I am writing to you to give a brief overview of what is in the works so far. The Program & Arrangements Committee and the District Office staff have been busy lining up all of the resources needed to conduct a good Conference, but our work will not be complete until we have you. After all, Conference isn’t Conference without the people of the Church. It needs you (that is every one of you!) in order to build up the body of Christ. As last year’s Moderator, Sister Reba Johnson reminded us, District Conference is more than just a business meeting. It is a time for worship in the greater body, a time to catch up on a year’s worth of living since you were last in contact with some of your sisters and brothers throughout the District.

The theme for this year’s conference, “Transformed in Christ” is a portion of the theme for our 300th anniversary year. By the time we get to District Conference in October, the official 300th year of celebration will be over, but I hope that the excitement and enthusiasm of celebrating our heritage as the Church of the Brethren will not have faded. God keeps a world of possibilities open to us as we start on the next 300 years. It is inevitable that many things will change, but my hope is that many of the things we cherish, such as the special kind of fellowship we enjoy at our large gatherings, will always be a part of who we are as the Church of the Brethren. Our fellowship living is one of the visible signs that we belong to Jesus. We who have been transformed in Christ will be a beacon to the rest of the world.

District Conference Inspirational Services will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2008. This year there will be two services, an afternoon service for the Indiana and Johnstown sub-districts, and an evening service for the Somerset and GUP sub-districts. The times and specific sites will be announced later, but it certainly isn’t too early to be planning on being there. I not only encourage you to attend one of the services, but try to bring as many people as possible. (Car pooling is encouraged.) We want to see how loud our joyful noise will be from the combined choir in each of the sub-district services.

Get the dates on your calendar, Sunday October 19, 2008, and Saturday, October 25, 2008. We will see you there.

Bob Stein, 2008 Moderator
Local Church News

**HOSPITALIZED**
- **Homer Marshall**, pastor of the Fairview Church, for surgery

**SYMPATHY**
- To **Vince Cable**, pastor of the Uniontown Church, on the death of his mother, Margaret.

**Work Day Rescheduled!**
The Outreach and Service Team had cancelled the work day that was planned for May 31st at E. McKeesport Church because of the weather. The team wants to plan another date as soon as possible with hopes that the weather and people will cooperate.

The plan is to paint two porches and the foundation of the church and whatever else needs done. Paint and other supplies and lunch will be provided. Check your calendar for **August 9, 2008** (Sat.) If interested call Doris Brehm 814/798-2913 or the District Office.

**300th Anniversary Challenge taken up by Windber Congregation**
In April, our congregation began a fundraiser, for donations of money, to cover the cost of three hundred 2 x 4’s (at an approximate price of $3.00 per each 2 x 4) for Habitat for Humanity. We ended the fundraiser just two week ago, on June 1st, with having raised a total of $904.00 (all of which will be donated to the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity). Heartfelt thanks go out to those within our congregation, as well as, to the friends and loved ones of our congregation who made donations to this fundraiser.

**NEW MEMBERS**
- **Brothersvalley Congregation**
  - Dustin Coughenour
  - Derek Coughenour
  - Nathaniel Custer
  - Mandy Freas

- **Windber Congregation**
  - Anna Boretos

- **Pike Run Congregation**
  - Roger Forry
  - Janice Forry

- **Union Chapel Congregation**
  - Edwin Allen Fike
  - Jeanette Lee Frazee
  - Barbara Darlene Frazee
  - Larry Blaine Frazee
  - Samuel Douglas King
  - Matthew Todd Leber
  - Davonne Michelle Leber
  - Travis Roy Leber
  - Meghan Noelle Leber
  - Timothy Lee Martin
  - Suzie Lynn Martin

- **Moxham Congregation**
  - Jean Allison-Rodgers
  - Danny Rodgers

**Choir Robes Offered**
The *Pleasant Hill Church* has 20 **choir robes** to give to any congregation that may want them. They are royal blue with additional white satin collars. Six light blue acolyte robes are also free for the taking. Call the church office at 536-3685 First come, first served.

**District Disaster Ministries**
The date for the next **work-day at New Windsor** is **July 17**. If you are interested in going you can contact the District Disaster Volunteer Coordinator, Paul B. Shumaker at 724/238-2994 or pssshumaker@verizon.net.
Local Church News

“SING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONG WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD”
Colossians 3:16

What a way to start your Sunday! The Praise and Worship Team of The Somerset Church of the Brethren, located at 606 Berlin Plank Road in Somerset, PA is hosting early morning Sunday services on a monthly basis beginning at 8:00 a.m. Perhaps you can join us prior to attending your own service. These services will last less than one hour. We hope you can attend and enjoy worshipping God through song on the following dates: June 29th, July 27th and August 17th. For questions or more information please call the church office at 814 445-8853.

The Indiana Church of the Brethren announces the OPEN HOUSE of its LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL. The Open House will take place on July 15 & 16 from 10:00am to 7:00pm. Stop by during these times to meet our preschool teacher, Shelby McCullough, and assistant, Bev Smith.

We will have activities for the children, so the parents/guardians/grandparents can discuss what we have to offer their preschool child.

If you or anyone you know is from the Indiana Area, please stop by during any of these times to learn more.

We are also still accepting registrations for the fall. For more information on the Open House or Registrations, please call 724-463-6100.

RIDGE RECEIVES NEW LOOK
This past January, Shade-Creek Ridge Church of the Brethren underwent a small restoration. The Department of Corrections of Laurel Highlands- SCI painted the church and the Sunday school wing. The Department of Corrections does not charge for this service, but groups interested in their services need to get onto their waiting list. Because of the Ridge Women’s Fellowship and an anonymous donor, the church could be painted for almost no cost to the church. Ridge Church Stewards- Kent Yoder, Lee Brehm, and Terry Jury, with the support of our board chairperson, Dorothy Gindlesperger met with Sherwin Williams Paint from Somerset. Sherwin Williams of Somerset has a working relationship with the Department of Corrections. As a result the job was completed in less than three week’s time.

Church members expressed the same sentiments, “It looks so bright! What a professional job these men did!” Board chairperson, Dorothy Gindlesperger, said, ”It is my hope these men have been touched by painting our church. Hopefully, when they are released they find a church and stay on the righteous path. These men have done a job that we would not have been able to do ourselves.”

Coincidentally, a small miracle occurred while having the painting crew in the building. The church suffered a waterline break in the church’s heating system. More damage could have been done, but because of the crew’s awareness a small catastrophe was prevented. Truthfully, this problem would not have been discovered until that following Sunday morning. God sent these men to paint the church at just the right time. Church secretary, Jerry Maldet, added, “We are thankful to have such a wonderful program in our community. They have certainly touched our lives with their God-given talents.”

Submitted & written by Jerry Maldet
Abstract

Mark 10:13-16. If I concentrate, I can almost see it. Maybe you can, too.

Jesus and His rough-around-the-edges friends have left the fishing town of Capernaum and have been walking for awhile. They walked everywhere. Much more than most of us do. Still, I imagine they are all tired, and thinking, “Are we there yet?” I can see them swatting at mosquitoes and wiping sweaty hair off of their foreheads. They probably can’t wait to sit down in the shade, kick off their sandals, and massage the dull ache out of their legs. They are now across the River Jordan, in Judea, and to the dismay of the disciples, a crowd begins to gather. As usual, the people want to hear what Jesus has to say. They’ve dropped what they were doing and have come to hear the teacher. Someone asks Him a question about divorce, and He answers it.

As Jesus is teaching, a problem begins to develop. See, many of these people brought their kids. They have heard such amazing things about Jesus that they are hoping He will take the time to say a word of blessing over their children. Childhood was rough in those days – they needed all the blessings they could get! Most parents just want to get their kids close enough for Jesus to touch a shoulder or a lock of hair. They aren’t seeking the limelight. Just a simple blessing from their Master and Maker.

The problem starts when Jesus’ friends decide to act as bouncers. “Get these kids outta here! Jesus is busy!” “Hey, stop running around! You’ll hurt somebody!” “Take these brats home – can’t you see the rabbi is teaching?!”

Some of us may side with the disciples. After all, they were Jesus’ support system. They often took it upon themselves to see that He had what He needed. They even fought over who would get the seat next to Him when Jesus established His kingdom. They knew they couldn’t turn the whole crowd away, so they at least tried to save Him from sticky fingers and nose boogies.

Jesus didn’t side with the disciples. When He saw what was going on, He rebuked them. According to our pal, Webster, to rebuke is to “criticize sharply.” Jesus got ticked off. He scolded His followers in public, because they were sending little ones away. Telling them they weren’t wanted in the presence of Messiah. Nothing could’ve been further from the truth.

I imagine that part of Jesus’ frustration came from knowing that He had just shown them His heart for children while they were in Capernaum (last chapter). The disciples were debating about who would be tops in God’s kingdom. Jesus found a kid, hugged him, and said plainly, “If you welcome a child in My name, you not only welcome Me, but My Father, who sent Me.” In other words, the way in which we treat our kids translates into how we act toward Jesus Christ.

I can see Jesus’ disciples slinking away, ashamed. He waves to the kids and they crawl up on His lap – even the sticky ones. They giggle and He laughs, and they enjoy being with Him. Such is the Kingdom of God.

May He powerfully bless your summer ministries!

-Abby
300th Anniversary News

Anniversary Celebration!

The Western Pa District of The Church of the Brethren gathered to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. The service was held at the Somerset Church of the Brethren in Somerset, PA, on May 18th. Over three hundred brethren filled the sanctuary for the celebration. Pastor Jonathan Shively of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, Richmond Ind. was the guest speaker. Jonathan also served as the musical director for the service, using various hymns of historical significance throughout the service. The congregation was seated men on the left with women on the right recalling the familiar practice of past generations.

The Somerset Church of the Brethren bell choir Pastor Dottie Grow shared organ. Pastors Phil King and her musical talents at the keyboard of the Eric Longwell shared various historical years. Congregational singing was a some sung a some men and for our Pastor offertry singing service. A Bread and Cup communion service was conducted by Pastor John Eash and Pastor Chris Forry with the assistance of the Somerset Church of the Brethren Deacons.

Pastor Mark Peachy closed the service with the benediction.

The Western Pa District 300th Anniversary extends their thanks to all those who assisted with the service and to all who attended for making this a very memorable celebration.

CF
Denominational News

**Position Openings** (for more information about these positions go to http://www.brethren.org/mrkclass.html. New positions are posted as needed and are not always listed in this newsletter.)

- **Bethany Seminary** is interviewing for a Director of Admissions and for an Administrative Assistant in the Institutional Advancement Office.

- **Brethren Benefit Trust** has announced the opening of the position of Director of Credit Union Operations.

- **The General Board** is seeking a teacher for the Kulp Bible School in Nigeria, available mid-2008.

- **The General Board** is seeking a coordinator of Online Gift Invitation, position begins Sept. 1, 2008.

- **On Earth Peace** is reviewing applications for a Program Director, Ministry of Reconciliation.

- **Pacific Southwest District** is reviewing applications for a District Executive Minister.

- **Illinois/Wisconsin District** is seeking a Church Planter.

- **The Cedars, Inc.** of McPherson, KS is seeking applicants for its chief executive officer.

- **McPherson College** has openings for an assistant athletic trainer, a Director of Marketing and Communications, and a Human Resource Manager.

**Personnel Changes**

- **Mary Miller** has begun work as office assistant in the Material Resources program at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

- **Susan Chapman** has resigned as fulltime program director for Camp Bethel, after completion of this summer’s camping program.

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"**Treasure in Earthen Vessels: A Women’s Celebration of Body, Mind, and Spirit**"

is being offered by the Association of Brethren Caregivers as a retreat for women who are seeking to develop balance, a sense of wellbeing, and fullness of spirit.

The weekend will be led by Deanna Brown and Anita Smith Buckwalter, and will be held at the Leaven Retreat Center in Lyons, Mich.

**The event begins at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26 and continues through 11 a.m. Sept. 28.**

The registration deadline is July 25, but space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Contact Mary Lou Garrison at the ABC office at mgarrison_abc@brethren.org or 800-323-8039.

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Are you looking for a meaningful way to help children and families after disasters?

Do you have a warm heart, patience, team spirit, a sense of adventure, and time to give?

**Children’s Disaster Services**

**Level 1 Volunteer Workshop**

**will be presented**

**August 22 & 23, 2008**

5:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 p.m. Saturday

at the

First Church of the Brethren

901 Bloomfield Street

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

A $45.00 registration fee covers all materials, meals, and overnight accommodations. Late registration (after August 1) is $55.00.


**Questions?** Call local coordinator ~

**Faye Eichelberger 814.239.2867** or

**CDS offices:** (800) 451-4407 ext. 5
cds_gb@brethren.org

Or the Western PA District Office for a brochure.

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MEMO

TO: District Conference Participants

FROM: Program and Arrangements Committee

DATE: July 2008

RE: 2008 District Conference Information

Greetings in the name of our Lord!

District Conference 2008 will be held, Saturday, October 25, at the Living/Learning Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The Program and Arrangements Committee is continuing to strive to improve the atmosphere and program schedule.

Contained in this newsletter you will find preliminary materials regarding District Conference. Please review this information and share the information with your delegates and other leaders of your congregations. Some of them may receive this information, as well. The following materials are included:

◊ **Registration Form:** The District Conference Registration form must be completed and returned by Friday, October 17 with payment included. Please send ONE check for each congregation’s delegates and non-delegates.

◊ **Directions:** A sheet with directions to the UPJ campus. Signs will direct you to the Living/Learning Center.

A **Child Care Registration Form** for parents/guardians to register all children for child care will be included in a *special mailing* coming soon. The child care will be provided at the conference facility.

Also included in the *special mailing* will be “Gift of the Heart” Recovery and Support Kit Information. This year’s offering will again be received in the form of kits.

All persons must pre-register for District Conference by **Friday, October 19**. The registration fee for the conference is $25.00 per person. The fee includes your lunch, conference booklet materials, and facility fee. Should you have any questions regarding District Conference, please feel free to contact the District Office at 814 479-2181 or toll free at 1-866 279-2181.
Directions:

From Eastern, Southern or Western Points: Take PA Turnpike (Route 76) to Somerset Exit (Old Exit #10). From Somerset, take Route 219 North to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756. Make a right off the exit, then another right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

Alternate route from Eastern or Southern Points: PA Turnpike (Route 76) to Bedford Exit (Old Exit #11). At exit, turn left on Business Route 220, then left again onto Route 220 (I-99) North towards Altoona. Exit onto Route 56 West. Follow Route 56 for approximately 30 miles until you reach a traffic light near the community of Windber. Continue on Route 56 for about 3 miles until you come to a traffic light at Theatre Drive. Make a right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

From Directly Northern Points: Take Route 219 South to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756 (Note: do not take the Johnstown Expressway exit). At the traffic light (bottom of exit ramp) turn left onto Route 756. At the second traffic light turn right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.
DISTRICT CONFERENCE
DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

Western PA District Church of the Brethren
Saturday, October 25, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Living/Learning Center
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

CHURCH ________________________________

REGISTRATION FEE of $25.00 per person - Due by Friday, October 17, 2008
This covers registration materials, meal and beverages, facility fee.

DELEGATE REPRESENTATION
♦ 200 members or less - 2 elected delegates
♦ More than 200 members - 2 elected delegates, plus 1 additional delegate for each 200 members over the initial 200 or a major fraction of 200.
♦ Authorized delegates from each congregation include the pastor, board chair, commission chairs (Ministry, Nurture, Stewards, Witness, or an authorized representative of corresponding commissions not to exceed 4 persons), and a youth representative. The total number possible of authorized non-elected delegates is 7 persons.

NON-DELEGATES
♦ Any person that is not elected or appointed.

Number of Delegates @ $25.00 each _________
Number of Non-Delegates @ $25.00 each _________
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_________

Make ONE check for all participants payable to:
Western PA District COB
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple PA 15935-7412

DUE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008
Before mailing to the District Office, please copy this form for your records.

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE USE ONLY
Form received: _______________________
Amount enclosed: _____________________

Please list persons attending on the other side of this form:
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In the News

**Sunshine Power: Juniata Installs Solar Panels at Raystown Field Station**

HUNTINGDON, Pa. -- Juniata College has installed a five-kilowatt array of solar power panels on the roof of Shuster Hall, the multipurpose classroom building at the college's Raystown Field Station, which will provide an estimated 20 percent of the building's total electricity usage.

"We wanted to find an opportunity to show that solar energy works in central Pennsylvania," says Sharon Yohn, co-director of the Raystown Field Station. "We wanted to install a large enough array that would be affordable for the college and produce a meaningful amount of electricity. This will give us a noticeable drop in our power costs."

The college was able to purchase the photovoltaic solar panels through a Department of Environmental Protection grant from Pennsylvania's Energy Harvest Grants program. The $46,564 grant was complemented by $15,000 in cost-sharing funds from Juniata. The Juniata grant was one of 28 institutions across Pennsylvania to receive grants from the Energy Harvests program this year.

The college installed 24 panels, each of which is roughly 3 feet by 5 feet. The panels were placed on Shuster Hall's long "shed" roof. The building was designed for the wide roof to provide passive solar heating in the winter, so the building's southern orientation positions it well for solar energy collection.

"When the solar array produces more electricity that required for the building, the power will go back to Valley Rural Electric as excess power. We will be fully integrated with the area's power grid," Yohn explains.

Shuster Hall, which is a LEED-certified "green" building, is expected to generate 6,500 kilowatt hours per year and reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide.

"The addition of a solar energy system to Shuster Hall makes our field station an environmental showcase for sustainability," says Thomas R. Kepple, Juniata College president. The solar panels were designed and installed by Envinity Inc., a State College, Pa. contractor specializing in green design and construction.

"We may have to clean the panels occasionally, but it's virtually a no-maintenance system," Yohn says.

The college also has incorporated the solar energy project into its educational mission. The solar technology has already been integrated into the field station's "green building tour," which attracts more than 1,000 visitors each year. Kathy Jones, assistant professor of education, developed two "green energy" modules that will be used at the field station, in lessons delivered in educational programs on wildlife, conservation and sustainability at various businesses located near or at Raystown Lake (as part of the Raystown Conservation Environmental Partnership), and in modules for Juniata's Science in Motion program.

In addition, Juniata students will be able to monitor electricity usage and solar energy generation for Juniata' array on the Internet, which gives students insight into how structural requirements affect energy usage.

"A small house will use about 600 kilowatts per month, so our system would effectively power a small house for about 10 months," she says.
District Men’s Fellowship

Fall Golf Outing

September 27, 2008
Timber Ridge Golf Course

681 Mulberry Hill Rd., Mt. Pleasant, PA—1/3 Mile West on Rt 31 from Rt 119 Mt. Pleasant exit

1:00 p.m. Tee Time 6:00 p.m. Banquet

Cash Prizes
Hole in One $100
Closest to Line $50
Closest to Pin $25
Longest Putt $25
Longest Drive $25

Team Prizes
High Team/Low Team
Other Prizes

Banquet Menu
Roast Beef Or Chicken
Potato
Vegetable Medley
Salad, Roll and Butter
Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Beverages
Hot Dogs on Course—$2.00

Cost
$75 per person (banquet included)
$300 per foursome (banquet included)
$18 for banquet only

Hole Sponsorship $35
Who can be a Hole Sponsor?
• Men’s and Women’s Fellowships
• Youth Groups
• Sunday School Classes
• Individuals
• Businesses
You get: Sign on Hole with your name in program and one person from the sponsoring group can attend the banquet.

Make checks payable to District Men’s Fellowship
Mail Registration to:
Homer Marshall 369 West Church Ave, Masontown, PA 15461-1651

Please send in your registration form by September 13, 2008. Add $15 per person if registered after the deadline. For banquet only, add $5 per person registering after the deadline.
District Men’s Fellowship Golf Outing Registration Form
Mail to: Homer Marshall
369 West Church Ave
Masontown, PA 15461-1651
September 27, 2008 (registration deadline September 13)
Make checks payable to: DISTRICT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Foursome or Individual
Spokesperson ___________________________ Phone _______________
Congregation ___________________________

Golfers (before 9/13)(after 9/13)
Name ___________________________ $75 _____ $90 _____
Name ___________________________ $75 _____ $90 _____
Name ___________________________ $75 _____ $90 _____
Name ___________________________ $75 _____ $90 _____
Total Due with Registration $ ___________
How many? Roast Beef _________ Chicken _________

Banquet Only Registration
Congregation ___________________________

Number of Reservations ________ @ $18.00 each Total Due $ ___________
Do Not Include Golfers After Sept. 13 add $5 per person
Contact Person ___________________________ Phone _______________
How many? Roast Beef _________ Chicken _________
Amount Received by Treasurer $ _________ Initial _________ Date Rec’d_______

Hole Sponsor
Name ___________________________
Phone ___________________________
Address ___________________________
___________________________________ Zip ______

$35 per Hole: Number of Holes ________ @ $35 Total Due _______
Amount Received by Treasurer $ _________ Initial _________ Date Rec’d_______
DISTRICT AUCTION
November 1, 2008
Camp Harmony

Auction Begins - 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast - 7:00-8:45 a.m.
Lunch served & fresh baked pies!
Western PA District Church of the Brethren is
hosting the 3rd Annual Auction! Churches are
invited to collect and contribute items for the
auction in support of the ministries of Western
PA District.

There are three Saturday drop-off dates
scheduled at Camp Harmony from 8:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon on:
October 11, 18, & 25 ONLY!
For more information, see your
Congregation’s Auction Advocate
Or call the District Office 814/479-7058!

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for
the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”
Galatians 6:10
The DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRY
2008 Theme: Selfless Obedience; God’s Women Together
“Your people will be my people and your God my God”
Ruth 1:16b

ANNUAL HOME DAY
At the Pettikoffer House
Thursday, August 14, 2008

HELPING HANDS FROM LOVING HEARTS:
THE BEAUTY OF FRIENDSHIP
Presented by the Rev. Linda Stoner and friends
Registration 9:15 – Praise 9:50 –
Program 10:00

COST: $8.00

If child-care is needed, we must know by August 6

REGISTRATION:
Please send by AUGUST 6TH to:
Judy Walker
541 Chicora Street
East McKeesport, PA 15035
412/829-2563

CHURCH__________________________

NUMBER ___________________ AMOUNT $_______________
2009 PUERTO RICO MISSION DATES AND RECENT NEWS

We have great news to share! Pastor Ronald St. Clair and Jennifer Heinrichs have accepted the role of District Coordinators for the Puerto Rico Mission Project and therefore we want to share the dates for the 2009 PUERTO RICO WORK MISSION trip. Please consider this great opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in Caimito and surrounding area. The dates are JANUARY 14 to 21, 2009. Both Rev. Ronald St. Clair and Jennifer Heinrichs are from the Scalp Level Church of the Brethren and have a heart for mission work. You will need to contact Rev. St. Clair by September 1, 2008 to register for this work mission trip and also send a $100.00 registration fee to the W. PA District CoB Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollspopple, PA 15935. Please note on the MEMO line of your check that the check is to cover registration for PR Mission Trip.

Again it is important to share with you that we need this information early so that we are able to get the best air fare possible. It appears that the cost of the trip will be $900.00 per person as in previous trips unless the flight costs go up a lot more than at the present time. One other consideration will be the cost to check baggage. Presently some airlines are charging for the second checked bag but others are charging for all checked baggage. We are anxious to hear from you as soon as possible. Contact Rev. St. Clair at 814-467-8460 or email him at rssl123saint@aol.com.

In recent communication with Juan and Isabel at the Christian Community Center, we talked about how we can be of help to them until we come in January. They mentioned the need for a legal size scanner for the office since all of the documents from HUD and the government are legal size. There is also the continuing need for office supplies. When we met with Doris Brehm and Clarice Ott of the Outreach & Service Team, this information was shared with them. They took this need to the Outreach & Service Team meeting on May 17th and the Team approved sending $1500.00 to the Christian Community Center to purchase the legal size scanner and the balance of the money to be used for office supplies. On Sunday we spoke with Juan and he was thrilled with the gift from the W. PA District to help with these needs. On behalf of Juan and Isabel and the Christian Community Center, we want to THANK YOU for your support of the continuing needs in Caimito. One of the joys of serving our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico is to witness their sincere appreciation for everything that is done to help them.

Roger and I are thrilled and thankful that Ron St. Clair and Jennifer Heinrichs have agreed to take over as coordinators of the Puerto Rico Mission Project. We will be working with them to make the transition as easy as possible. We also want to thank the W. PA District for the opportunity to be your servants, along with the many volunteers who served with us on the work mission trips. God has been gracious to us in granting us the health and strength needed for this endeavor. It will always hold a special place in our hearts for these people have become part of us. It is our desire that the work continue in Puerto Rico and we will be visiting our family there from time to time.

Again thanks and our prayers continue for this Outreach & Service Program.

Roger & Janice Forry
By serving on the Board of Directors of El Hogar de Niños Emanuel, it is our responsibility to help oversee the management of the Home and to make sure that your gifts of love are used with integrity, honesty, and for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of the children.

In His Service as your Mission Program Coordinators,
Bill & Rona Hemminger

MAILING LIST UPDATE NEEDED
If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, I hope you enjoy it. If you would like to be removed from this mailing or know of someone who should be added, please contact us at hogaremanuel@verizon.net

Cindy arrived at Hogar de Niños Emanuel in February 2005. She was removed from her mother due to abuse and was first sent to a loving foster home. Although, her foster family tried to adopt her, they didn’t have the finances to deal with all the red tape involved. They continue to be actively involved in her life, and are very supportive. Therefore, she is a very blessed child.

Cindy was chosen as Child-of-the-Month because of her sweet demeanor, great behavior and good grades in school. She is in 2nd grade at Sinai School and says that her favorite subject is Computer Class, and is enjoying working with Luis, her computer teacher at Hogar. She had an 88% average on her last report card.

She struggles with a lazy eye and sometimes must wear a patch. She has no siblings living at the home.

Please keep Cinthia in your prayers this month.
What’s happening at the Emanuel Children’s Home?

"Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." Mark 5:19

It is hard for me to explain the passion that becomes a part of each one who has the opportunity to go with a work team to el hogar. The kids living at the home are real, warm-blooded human beings that crave attention and NEED our help, but somehow we don’t want to think of missions abroad as something that pertains to all of us. It isn’t real until we encounter it ourselves. However, somehow through the experience of others, we hope to bring the message home to you. Below is what Amber Severa had to say after returning from her trip with a group of young adults who spent time there in May:

Honduras has my heart

When I first heard about Honduras, I wasn’t sure if I wanted to go. I was going through a lot of things in my life, such as problems at home, school, and I just recently tore my ACL. However, I kept thinking what if this experience could change my life? That’s exactly what this trip did; it changed my life completely. It’s hard to think that a third world country that barely has anything, could change your life. That’s it, a country that BARELY has anything. Here in America we are so wrapped up in the materialistic things that we tend to forget the important things that are right in front of us. These things are God, family, and friends. Being in Honduras, around these kids, has touched my life completely. I know anyone could say that, but they really have. They don’t have much, but what they do have they appreciate. Having one-on-one interaction with these kids touches your life. You don’t even have to speak Spanish. Just being there for them, giving them attention, means so much to them.

I got to experience that one-on-one interaction with a little girl named Kimberly. This little girl touched my heart. She reminded me a lot of myself in many ways. She wasn’t the only child who touched my life either. Erasmo is a little eight-year-old boy who has had a terrible past, but is now taken care of well in the home. He barely talks, but is so full of joy and laughs at everything. That little boy changed my life completely because he has been through so much, but yet is so cheerful. Another little girl touched my life as well, her name is Vicki. The last night we were there, the kids had a show for us. Vicki sat with me, and she wanted me to take her back to bed. As I was taking her back to bed she wrapped her legs around me, and squeezed me tighter. I got her to bed, and all I heard was this little sniff. I looked over and she was crying. I started to cry. I didn’t want to leave her, but not just her, all the children.

Our projects while at the home were cleaning out closets, taking inventory on supplies, raking the yard, moving rooms, making pancakes for the workers, and just being there for the kids. While we were in the country, we got to zip line/canopy through the jungle, swim at a waterfall, go to the beach, ride on a ferry, and see the most amazing scenery ever! Honduras changed my life, and I plan on going back again whenever there is another trip planned!

ANOTHER REMINDER!!

PAYPAL IS NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE TO MAKE DONATIONS TO EI HOGAR DE NIÑOS EMANUEL EVEN EASIER.

TAKE A MINUTE AND

Click DONATE

WWW.HOGAREMANUEL.COM

For further information contact:

Bill & Rona Hemminger
Hogar de Niños Emanuel Board Members
Ph. (814) 629-9868 or (540) 941-3423
Email: hogaremanuel@verizon.net
Web site: www.hogaremanuel.com

This is YOUR project!

Sponsorship Coupon
Emanuel Children’s

Partnersing in the success, I pledge to keep the Emanuel Children’s Home in my prayers as well as offer my financial support. Please use my donation for the following fund:

☐ “Child Sponsorship” — providing the basic needs for the children living at the Home. (If you desire to be assigned a specific child, contact Rona.)

☐ “Staff Sponsorship” — providing for staff wages

☐ “Maintenance & Development” — providing for maintenance and improvements to the facilities. Projects will be scheduled as financing is available.

☐ “New Bridge Program” — providing for those who are “aging out” the transitional tools for independent living.

☐ “Gift Fund” $________— birthday/Christmas gifts

☐ “Special”:

☐ General fund — use where needed

A suggested monthly donation is $25.00. However, all contributions are appreciated.

Enclosed is my gift of love for $________:

☐ Annually ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly ☐ One time

☐ My name or a contact name for my group

☐ Name of organization

☐ Address

☐ Phone

☐ Email

☐ Signature

Please return this coupon with your tax deductible contribution made payable and sent to:

WESTERN PA DISTRICT COB
115 Spring Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935
or visit the website and click

DONATE

Clip here

07/2008
Brethren Home Community Windber

4th Annual Golf Invitational

Please join us on Friday, September 5th, 2008, when we host our 4th annual Golf Invitational at Bedford Springs Resort. Proceeds benefit residents of Church of the Brethren Home

Sponsorship Opportunities

Clubhouse Sponsor $700
Includes your name on a tee sign, foursome and dinner for Four, and recognition on the dinner program

Hole Sponsor $400
Includes your name on a tee sign, twosome and dinner for two, and recognition on the dinner program

Tee Sponsorship $150
Includes your name on a tee sign and recognition on the dinner program.

Foursome $600

Individual $150

For more information please contact Melony Porada At (814) 467-5505 ext 6504
COVENTRY PLACE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction has begun on the new Coventry Place Independent Living Complex. The building site has been prepared, and the footers are now in place. The one and two-bedroom apartments are scheduled for completion in the spring of 2009. For details on apartment amenities and rentals, please contact Thomas J. Reckner, CEO at 361-6500.

WITH PRAYER AND CONCERN

Mr. Charles Allison, BHCW board chairman, and Mrs. Janis Gomola, BHCW board member have both been hospitalized recently. They are valued members of our community, and we extend our prayers for their recovery and return to their duties on our campus.

BHCW EDUCATIONAL GRANTS ENRICH HOME STAFF

The educational grant program at the Brethren Home continues to produce great results for the Home staff. Employees who become involved with the program are provided with funds to help further their education, while continuing their careers at the Home. According to Home Administrator, Mrs. Edie Scaletta, the program is currently helping three personal care aides to become certified nursing assistants, one RN recently completed the courses to qualify as a BSN, and one LPN is finishing training for her RN degree. The program has been in existence for approximately twenty years, and has become a valuable tool in easing staffing concerns as the employees attain higher certifications and skills.

GENERATOR INSTALLED

The new auxiliary generator has been installed and was connected to the Home power supply with the assistance of Penelec on June 5. It is our hope that everyone who was able to assist with this major project is aware of our extreme gratitude for their support. Each improvement that enhances our residents’ well being is an important step for our community. Thanks once again.
CAMP HARMONY PRESENTS!

Two big nights, two big shows.

Friday, July 4th:

Dinner Theater at Camp. Last year’s event was so successful we thought we’d do it again. It’s a delicious dinner prepared by our chef and served by our staff in our elegantly decorated Tabernacle while you are entertained with performances by our Clown and Human Video camps. Then as the lights dim, you’ll be served gourmet popcorn for you to enjoy as you take part in our version of the Broadway musical "Your a Good Man Charlie Brown". Intermission serves as a way for you to catch your breath from the amazing performance, only to have it taken away again by our amazing deserts. This is a night full of great food, great entertainment and it’s all for a great cause.

Proceeds from the meal will go to our ongoing "Completion Campaign". Last year we raised enough money to install a new furnace and insulate the walls in the Tabernacle. This year we hope to raise around $6,000 to complete some much needed interior work to the building. This includes the completion of interior walls, as well as the addition of an inside climbing and rappelling wall. We’re also looking to purchase two professional grade basketball hoops.

Come as an individual or reserve a six-seat table. Please reserve your seat or table by calling the Camp office at 888-745-2267.

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Donation: $25

There will also be a performance only show on Saturday, July 5th. Tickets are $3.00

Wednesday, July 30th:

50% Comedian, 50% Musician, 50% Preacher. Greg Strange might not know how to do math, but he does know how to make you laugh. We’re bringing Greg in for our Youth Symposium and we thought maybe you all might like to come see this nationally touring, professional funny man.

Greg comes equipped with an acoustic guitar, a Bible and an arsenal of funny songs. You just have to come equipped with $5.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Donation: $5
Heritage Festival Pastor’s Bake-Off  
September 20, 2008  
Camp Harmony

All Ordained Ministers, Licensed Ministers and Lay Speakers of the Western Pennsylvania District Are Eligible!

Three Entry Categories: 1) Cakes  2) Cookies  3) Pies

GUIDELINES:
1)  Cakes – 8” round or 9” x 13” for the auction, please supply one cupcake for judges to use for tasting.

2)  Cookies – Please supply two dozen for the auction and one cookie for each of the three judges.

3)  Pies – Please supply one 8” or 9” pie for the auction PLUS an individual pie for the judges.

JUDGING:
● Items will be judged on appearance, taste and texture.
● All items must be homemade, no store bought pie crust or slice/bake cookies.
● Entries must be submitted at the entry table by 10:00 a.m.

BE ADVISED:  When selecting your entry, we do not have space for items requiring refrigeration.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Tammy Berkey: 724 / 254-1682
2008 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.

July 2008

12-16 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Richmond, Virginia
17 - Stewards & Finance Team, 7 p.m., District Office
21 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
21 - Brethren Heritage Festival Executive Committee
22 - District Women’s Ministries Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
28 - Camp Harmony Board, 7 p.m.
29 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office

August 2008

1 - District Leadership Team Picnic Meeting, 6 p.m., Arbutus Church (District Conference Business)
7 - District/Camp Charitable Trust Board, 7 p.m., District Office
14 - District Women’s Ministries Home Day, 9:15 a.m., Brethren Home Community Windber
15 - District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for SEPTEMBER issue
16 - SVMC - Licensed Minister Interviews – Geiger Church
18 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
18 - Brethren Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
21 - Financial Resource Team, 7 p.m., District Office
30 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY, 9 a.m., Geiger Church

September 2008

1 - LABOR DAY
3 - Core Leadership Team, 6:30 p.m., District Office
4 - Key Ladies Luncheon, noon
7 - HAPPY GRANDPARENT’S DAY!!
13 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Plumcreek Church
13 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY, 9 a.m., Geiger Church
15 - District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for OCTOBER issue
15 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
16 - District Women’s Ministries Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
20 - 25th Brethren Heritage Festival, Camp Harmony
22 - Camp Harmony Board, 7 p.m.
27 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY, 9 a.m., Pleasant Hill Church
27 - District Men’s Fellowship Fall Golf Outing, Timber Ridge [SEE ENCLOSED FLYER]
October 2008
5  - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
5  - DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
11 - District Women’s Ministries Fall Brunch
11 - Tax Seminar, Maple Spring Church – MORE INFORMATION LATER
15 - District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for NOVEMBER issue
18 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY, 9 a.m., Pleasant Hill Church
19 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE INSPIRATIONAL SERVICES - To be announced
20 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
25 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Living/Learning Center

November 2008
1  - DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
2  - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
6  - JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
6  - Brethren Home Ladies Auxiliary, 1:30 p.m.
6  - District/Camp Charitable Trust Board, 7 p.m., District Office
7  - Core Leadership Team, 6:30 p.m., District Office
8  - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY, 9 a.m., Pleasant Hill Church
10-12 - PA State Pastor’s Conference
15 - District HIGHLIGHTS newsletter deadline for DECEMBER / JANUARY issue
15 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Geiger Church
17 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
24 - Camp Harmony Board, 7 p.m.
27 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
30 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2008
7  - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
14 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
15 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
21 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
31 - NEW YEAR’S EVE

Please note: Dates will be added or changed as needed.
If your District group or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Thank You!
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
DERR, AMELIA J. - 1202 Roberts St, Nanty Glo 15943 - 814 749-0262
DERR, HORA-E E. - 1202 Roberts St, Nanty Glo 15943 - 814 749-0262
FEATHERS, GEORGE E., SR. - 1583 Plank Rd, Hooversville 15936-7301 - 814 798-4603
FORY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
HAY, CHARLES R. - 1127 E Main St, Berlin 15530-1428 - 814 267-3205
HELLER, JACK B. - 769 Beech Hill Rd, Johnstown 15904-7422 - 814 539-6285
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
HURSH, DONALD - 24 Community Ct, Palmyra 17078-3610 - 717 838-5882
LANDIS, HENRY G. - 207 Quarry St, Mount Pleasant 15666-2103 - 724 547-2231
MARSHALL, HOMER M. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 15461-1651 - 724 583-7073
MARSHALL, PATRICIA M. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown 15461-1651 - 724 583-7073
MARTIN, NOAH S. - 614 Freedom Ave, Johnstown 15904-2206 - 814 266-6489
MCCOY, SHELBY F. - 1809 Geiger Rd, Friedens 15541-9751 - 814 445-5414
MOSORIAK, GARY N. - 1337 Roxbury Ave, Johnstown 15905-4528 - 814 619-4286
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PRESTON, OWEN H. - 611 Wilson Dr, Apt 2, Berlin 15530-1546 - 814 267-5898
REININGER, LINDA L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
RUMMEL, DALE E. - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian 15666-1959 - 732 319-0099
SMITH, A. HARRISON - 103 Saba Ct, Uniontown 15401-9730 - 724 425-1866
SHAUILLS, M. ERIC - 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale 15552-1444 - 814 634-8740
SWICK, MICHAEL R. - 4127 Greenvile Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 - 814 634-8158
STATLER, CHARLES B. - 548 Louella Dr, Windber 15963-5205 - 814 467-6280
STONER, JOHN W., JR. - 2540 Stutzmanton Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 - 814 444-8800
STONER, LINDA K. - 2540 Stutzmanton Rd, Somerset 15501-4219 - 814 444-8800
THOMAS, RODGER J. - PO Box 24, Central City 15926-0024 - 814 754-5297
WALKER, JUDY M. - 541 Chicora St, East McKeesport 15035-1305 - 412 824-2219
WHITACRE, DANIEL J. - 118 Chipmunk Ln, Meyersdale 15552-7245 - 814 634-5037
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
WILLOWBURY, CAROLYN S. - 416 Kenneth Ave, Johnstown 15904-3510 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

FIRESTONE, JUDITH A. - PO Box 319, Donegal 15628-0319 - 724 516-9191
GAUNT, CRAIG A. - 113 Panarama Dr, Johnstown 15906-3914 - 814 536-6624
GREEN, GARY W. - 4589 SomersetPk, Hollsopple 15935-8217 - 814 479-5096
GREW, DOTTIE H. - R26 Broadway St, Meyersdale 15552-1370 - 814 634-5329
JOHNISON, REBA B. - 411 Elm St, Indiana 15701-3132 - 724 465-8347
KABELER, ERIC P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
KENSINGER, JAMES M. - 329 Spackman Ave, Seward 15954 - 814 446-1088
MADER, ABBY R. - 2101 Cambria Ave, Windber 15963-1928 - 814 467-5265
PERUSO, RUSSELL J. - 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown 15905-7408 - 814 288-4529
RAPACH, MATTHEW C. - 720 Barefoot Dr, Wilmore, KY 40390-1437 - 859 361-4877
ROK, DIANA L. - 42 Lehigh St, Johnstown 15905-2241 - 814 535-8346
SMITH, CHERYL A. - 913 Locust St, Turtle Creek 15145-1537 - 412 641-6790
SHAFFER, DANIEL P. - PO Box 158, 1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville PA 15936-0158 - 814 798-5885
STEIN, ROBERT R. - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill 15421-0375 - 724 438-2226
THOMAS, DANIEL R. - 721 Upper Newtown Rd, Johnstown 15904-7533 - 814 539-0141
TYGER, ISAAC C. - 271½ Vaughn St, Johnstown 15906-1533 - 814 533-6036

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA L. - 153 Ramer Farm Ln, Shelocta 15774-2227 - 724 354-2669
The garden of the soul

There is a Garden of the Soul,
Where God plants loving seeds
That faith and grace will nourish
Into blooms of loving deeds.

Within this Garden of the Soul
Fruits of the Spirit grow;
And they produce new seeds of love
Which you and I can sow.

— Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems