During a question/answer period between Jesus and Peter, Jesus pushes Peter toward an end response. During the conversation, Peter becomes a little upset and Jesus keeps pushing.

As we all know, Peter had denied Jesus three times earlier. This was an opportunity Jesus was giving Peter to think about not only what he had done, but what he could do in the future.

I often think about how many times Jesus would have to ask me if I loved him. I haven’t kept track of how many times I had turned away from Jesus in my life. We live in a world that confuses our direction at times. We go into what I call reaction mode. We react to what happens to us in whatever manner gives us the quickest outcome with the least amount of work involved. I know that sounds a little ambiguous. Let me rephrase. We react in a way to get out of the situation as quickly as possible with the least amount of thought, so that we can get back to whatever we prefer to be doing.

Jesus asked him "Lovest thou me more than these?" Peter responded, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. When Peter answered yes, Jesus told him to feed his sheep. I was reading someone else’s thoughts the other day and they stated that it is one thing to say you love Jesus, but the real test is the willingness to serve him. We have a tendency to answer all questions, no matter whom they come from, with an answer just for the sake of giving an answer. In other words, sometimes we answer just to shut someone up and don’t really mean what we say. With Peter, Jesus was looking for him to repent for what he had done and take the next step and move forward to serve him, thus the direction of "Feed my sheep."

So in the end, Jesus was looking for a commitment from Peter. He looks to us for the same commitment. He also would like us to feed his sheep. The question that comes to my mind occasionally is: If we are feeding his sheep, then why is there a shortage of people to hold offices within our church structure? Whether it is in our local churches or the District? If we are going to serve Jesus, then we need to acknowledge that we love Jesus and make a commitment to feed his sheep.

Are you still trying to decide whether you really love Jesus, or have you made that decision and are now trying to figure out how to serve him? My suggestion is to pray about the commitment part, and he will give you guidance as to your service for Him.

In His Service,
Moderator Tim Resh
District Office News

**HOSPITALIZED**
- Charles B. Statler, pastor of the Shade Creek/Ridge congregation, for tests.

**SYMPATHY**
- to Carl L. Baughman and family in the death of his mother Marie. Carl is an ordained minister in Western PA and serves as a chaplain at the Samaritan Counseling Center.
- to the family of David Wilson. Dave was a retired ordained minister in the Mechanicsburg COB, Southern PA District. He served the Walnut Grove COB in the mid-eighties. His wife, Sara, survives.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Meyersdale congregation**
- Kevin Broadwater
- Robyn Broadwater

**Montgomery congregation**
- Caren Baldinucci
- Dennene Craig
- Marc Crosmun
- Tracey Lee Kensinger
- Leasa Tyger
- Lois Tyger
- Alice White
- Junior Woods

**Windber congregation**
- Norma Bothwell
- Steve Izing
- Kristin Killinger
- Dawn Yost

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**FROM THE HIGHLIGHTS STAFF:**
You will notice that this newsletter does not have a number of pages that you are used to seeing. Please check your inbox for some emails from the District Office. Suzie has sent or is going to send the following pages as .pdf files by email.
- AbbsTract
- Available Speakers List
- Report Card
- District Men’s & Women’s Spring golf Outing
- District Women’s Ministries Spring Rally and the Spring Event coming up in April and May
- District Calendar

If you did not get these pages and want to see them please make sure Suzie has your email address, email SMoss@brethren.org.

These pages will also be incorporated into the online version of the Highlights and can be accessed at http://www.westernpacob.org/publications.html.

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**Anniversary Celebration**

Mount Pleasant Church will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary on March 2, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. with worship, fellowship and light refreshments.

The DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

The 2013 SPRING EVENT

May 3-4, 2013

Friday - Registration begins at 4:30 at Antiochian Village

A very special evening is being planned for Friday. Saturday will be a day of reflecting the beauty of the Lord that has been given to us both inside and outside of our bodies and minds.

More information and registration forms can be found in the February Highlights and on the District website.
Local Church News

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren will hold spring revival/enrichment services Sunday, March 17 – 20, 2013 with evangelist, Bro. Roy Gearhart of Roy Gearhart Cutting Edge Ministries from Mahaffey, PA. Sunday morning service will be held at 10:45 a.m., with the evening services beginning at 7:00 p.m. Through dramatic portrayals, singing, worship leading, preaching and teaching, they share the message of Jesus with people of all ages.

“Easter Journey” at Somerset Church of the Brethren
If you’ve ever wondered why there are so many special events to celebrate the birth of Jesus and so few non-secular ways to experience and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, our Savior, plan to attend “Easter Journey” at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Palm Sunday, March 24 from 3-6 pm or Monday, March 25 from 6-8 pm. This interactive program, especially appealing to children, families and organized groups, invites participants to find their way to the Upper Room where they will be naturally drawn into the events of the Passover meal as they sit with Jesus and the disciples. Special music, period foods and departing activities will be provided. There is no cost to attend “Easter Journey”, however a free will offering will be accepted on behalf of Church World Service’s “Seeds and Tools” program.

The Somerset congregation encourages District congregations to attend and to invite others. For additional “Easter Journey” information, call the church office at 814-445-8853 or email Kathie Shaffer at tkshaff@gmail.com. A more complete description of this program can be seen at http://www.westernpacob.org/congregational_news.html.

Retreats at Penn Run
Spring Quilt
- Friday, April 12
- Saturday, April 13th

Scrapbook Retreat
- Saturday, April (Please e-mail questions to: pennrunscrapbook@yahoo.com)
  8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Outreach Center.

Lent and Easter Services:

- Please refer to the February Highlights for the Johnstown Area Churches of the Brethren Lenten service schedule.

- A "Celebration of Easter" will take place through music, first person accounts and much more. The Somerset sub-district pastors will sponsor these special Lenten services to give God the glory and honor and in support of the "Chaplain in the Parks" ministry. It takes roughly $4,500 to sustain this ministry each summer. Services will be held:
  - March 3 at 3:00 PM at Rockwood Church of the Brethren
  - March 17 at 3:00 PM at Sipesville Church of the Brethren

Everyone is invited to come and be a part of these special services.

- Berkey Church will host special services:
  - Spring Renewal Services from Sunday, March 17-Wednesday, March 20. Morning Worship begins on Sunday at 10 AM and the evening services begin at 7 PM. Jim Myer will be sharing with us. Child care is available and everyone is welcome.
  - March 28-7:00 PM Love Feast & Communion.
  - March 31-6:30 AM Sunrise Service, breakfast to follow. Sunday School at 9 AM and 10 AM Morning Worship with the choir sharing the Easter Cantata, “Because He Lives”. All are welcome.

- The Mount Joy Church of the Brethren Adult Choir will present “Risen Today,” a cantata written and directed by Scott Leichliter, Choir Director, on Good Friday, March 29, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. The Children’s Choir and the Youth will also be participating. The annual Easter Sunrise Service will be on Sunday, March 31, 6:30 a.m. Guest Speaker will be Bro. John Blackburn. For more information, call 724-547-3670.

- The Windber Church of the Brethren will be presenting their annual Tenebrae service on Friday, March 29, 2013 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend this very special, thought provoking evening.
District News

“But God, …”

What? Finish the sentence! Actually, I did. People constantly ask questions about situations they are in. What am I gonna do? How can we fix this? Give me some advice. My marriage is failing. My children are disobedient. Our church is dead. Things have gotten out of control and there seems to be no hope. Pastor, what would you do in my situation? Truth be known, I don’t know what I would do if I was you. In fact, I often wonder what you would do in my place. I, too, need answers. “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). Eph. 2:4-5

But God, is the complete sentence. These two words, “But God,” are what we need to be sharing with the world. I am messed up, you are messed up and so is the rest of the world. But God can fix the mess. Joseph was in what seemed to be a mess. He said to his brothers that sold him into slavery, “So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; …”

Do you want to learn how to share these two words? Learn how to share your faith simply, effectively, biblically, the way Jesus did. If interested, call Bill Frey, District Evangelism Counselor, 724-463-3280 (Indiana, PA COB). Many say evangelism is difficult; it’s not my cup of tea; but God!

DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRIES
Reflecting the Beauty of God

Spring Rally
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Greensburg Church of the Brethren
Registration: 9:00 AM
Program: 9:45 AM

Speaker from the Blackburn Center

Since 1976, Blackburn Center has been providing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Westmoreland County, and presenting education programs across this community. Their mission is to actively advocate for the rights of all people to live free from violence and oppression in their homes and communities, and provide supportive services to survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Cost: $10.00 (Offering will go for the Blackburn Center)

We will also be having a Country Store. Please bring food and craft items that are pre-priced for sale.

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Spring Rally
Reservations due by April 1, 2013

Church__________________________ Number attending _____

(Please enclose the names of women attending.)

Amount $__________ ($10.00 each)

Make checks payable to: Western PA District Women’s Ministries

Please send to: Arbutus Blough 845 Speigle Road Hollsopple, PA 15935

I will need child care for _____ children (please include names and ages).

March 2013
Brethren Home Community Windber
Visit us at www.cbrethen.com

~ The state Department of Health inspection team arrived at the Home on February 4 for their annual Home inspection. The results of this inspection are the basis of the Medicare/Medicaid rating the Home will receive for 2013. The inspection results will be published in a few weeks on the Medicare web site.

~ The flu epidemic has spared our Home for the most part. Several cases were reported and visitation limits were voluntarily enforced, mostly to reduce the chance of further contamination.

~ Donations to the Harvest Home campaign have financed the purchase of three gel cushions, a Geri chair and in partnership with our Auxiliary, thirty new mattresses. Thanks to everyone who was able to contribute to the campaign, whether through monetary or in-kind donations.

~ The Home is a clinical training site for two local nursing schools. Students from The Greater Johnstown Technology Center and Mount Aloysius College practice actual geriatric nursing skills on our stations and have the opportunity to see the Home as a possible place for future employment.

~ The Tree of Stars campaign to honor and remember loved ones while supporting the Home benevolent care fund raised approximately $10,000 this year. Look for the TOS recognition page in the March edition of the Home Horizon.
Denominational News

Position Openings

- **Atlantic Southeast District Executive Minister (Sebring, Florida)**
  Part-time position available July 1, 2013. The preferred candidate is a spiritually wise pastoral leader who offers inspiration and works collaboratively to envision the work of the district.

- Good Shepherd Home, a full service Continuing Care Retirement Community located in Fostoria, Ohio is seeking a Full Time **Long Term Care Chaplain**.

- **Marketing/Admissions Coordinator** at Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village, Boonsboro, MD

- The Cedars, Inc. in McPherson, KS is looking for an experienced **Development Officer**.

- Camp Swatara of the Atlantic Northeast District is seeking an **Administrator/CEO/CFO** to begin 6/2013.

- Brethren Mutual Aid Agency is seeking a licensed **agent** (Property/Casualty and Life/Health) to work with our Church Accounts.

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

Personnel

- **Matthew (Matt) DeBall** began Feb. 11 as the Church of the Brethren’s program assistant for Donor Relations, a new position located at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill.

- **Parker Thompson** has begun as director of Camp Pine Lake in Eldora, Iowa, as of Jan. 1.

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JUNIATA FINE ARTS STUDENTS PUT WORKS ON DISPLAY AT JUNIATA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

Nothing is quite so exciting as having an artwork you created on display at a public museum. The wide variety of works created by Juniata College artists studying fine arts, photography and ceramics will be exhibited at the Juniata College Museum of Art from Thursday, Feb. 28 to April 6.

There is an opening reception at the museum from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28. The reception and continuing exhibition is free and open to the public.

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Nursing scholarships are available through the Church of the Brethren

The Church of the Brethren awards a limited number of scholarships each year to individuals enrolled in a nursing program. Candidates for the scholarships must be enrolled in a LPN, RN, or nursing graduate program, and be members of the Church of the Brethren.

Scholarships of up to $2,000 for RN and graduate nurse candidates, and up to $1,000 for LPN candidates will be awarded to a limited number of applicants each year. A preference is given to new applications. Also, a preference will be given to individuals who are in their second year of an associate’s degree or third year of a baccalaureate program. Scholarship recipients are eligible for only one scholarship per degree.

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted by April 1. Candidates awarded scholarships will be notified in July and funds will be sent directly to the appropriate school for the fall term.

How are these scholarships possible? Scholarships are awarded from the Health Education and Research Endowment, which was established in 1958 to receive gifts raised through a fund drive authorized by the 1949 Annual Conference to reopen the Bethany Hospital School of Nursing formerly on the west side of Chicago. In 1959, Annual Conference authorized that the resources be placed in an endowment fund with the interest to be used primarily to grant loans and scholarships for nursing students in the school of their choice.

Prayers for Nigerian Brethren

More Nigerian Brethren have died in violent attacks on churches of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The LCC Samunaka church on the outskirts of the city of Mubi was attacked twice in four days, first on Feb. 1 and again on Feb. 4. At least 15 people were killed in the attacks, including eight members of the congregation, while one member of the church sustained gun shot wounds said an EYN report.

The Church of the Brethren has transferred to EYN donations amounting to $30,268.25, for a fund that helps care for churches and members affected by violence.

In addition to those lost in violent attacks against its churches, EYN has suffered other losses recently. The director of EYN’s Peace Program has died from illness, reports Jay Wittmeyer, executive director of Global Mission and Service; and a son of former EYN president Filibus Gwama has died in a car accident. A bus carrying EYN women home from that funeral also had a serious accident, causing injuries among the women but no deaths, Wittmeyer said.

Wittmeyer called Brethren in the US to continued prayer for the Nigerian Brethren.

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Newsline is produced by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board, cobnews@brethren.org or 800-323-8039 ext. 260.
District Calendar

**MARCH 2013**

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

District Men’s Fellowship is sponsoring

**A Men & Women’s Spring Golf Outing**

**May 4, 2013**

Indian Springs Golf & County Club
1:00 p.m. Tee Time (rain or shine)
6:00 p.m. Dinner

**COST**

- $80 per person (meal included)
- $320 per foursome (meal included)
- $20 for meal only

**HOLESponsorship** $35

Who can be a Hole Sponsor?
- Men’s/Women’s Fellowships
- Youth Groups
- Sunday School Classes
- Individuals ….. ANYONE

You get: Your name in program and one person from the sponsoring group can

**DINNER CHOICE**

- Stuffed Chicken Breast
- OR Stuffed Pork Chop
- Potatoes
- Vegetable
- Salad
- Roll
- Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

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 April 19, 2013. Add $15 per person or $60 per foursome if registered after the deadline. For meal only, add $5 per person registering after the deadline.

For registration forms go to [http://www.westernpacob.org/wpacob_news.html](http://www.westernpacob.org/wpacob_news.html) and print out as many as you need.
SPECIAL NOTE – A decision was made by the District Core Leadership Team to distribute the District HIGHLIGHTS electronically through email, beginning with the April 2013 issue. This decision was made due to several reasons including new postal regulations and financial savings.

We are in the process of updating our email distribution list. If you want to receive the HIGHLIGHTS in this way, please email Suzie Moss at smoss@brethren.org. For those of you who will be receiving an email edition please be sure to print and share any of the HIGHLIGHTS information with your congregation. We are hoping to have several persons in each congregation receiving the newsletter by email.

You will continue to be able to access the newsletter on the Western PA District web page at www.westernpacob.org, clicking on the “Publications” tab.

Recognizing that not all of the persons who now receive the District HIGHLIGHTS (over 1,000) have Internet access or email, it was also decided that the opportunity will be given for individuals to subscribe to the newsletter for a $15 yearly fee. They will then continue to receive each issue through the U.S. Postal Service. It will come in a 6x9” envelope. Below is a form to return to the District Office to request this service. Please return the form by March 15, 2013.

Yes, I want to receive the District HIGHLIGHTS by regular mail for $15 per year.

[Please print]

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Church _____________________________________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, PA 15935-7412
Thanks for still reading, friends – and thanks for taking the toe-pinching of last month. We have GOT to keep growing and changing and developing in the Lord!

I’ve been hearing a lot lately about “calling.” I don’t mean on the phone, Santa, baby. I mean the kind of calling that God places on our lives. It’s one of the four ‘elements’ we talked about at the winter Elemental retreats at Camp. Calling, Character, Creed, Commitment. You can’t positively impact the world, or even your neighborhood, without these four things.

So calling. The dictionary tells me that a calling is a summons, impulse or inclination. It’s a mission, a specialty, an invitation. A strong inner urge to do something. What does that mean, in a biblical sense? Well, we are called, or invited, to accept God’s grace, through Jesus Christ. And we are called toward Christ, enabled to accept the Truth. Then there’s the specific calling that we each receive – a unique calling for every one of us. It’s a calling toward a vocation. It’s a designation for a ministry. It’s a pronouncement of and purpose for gifts.

Ephesians 4 tells us that we’ve all been called to one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; called to one God and Father, who is above all and through all and in all. Excellent! This chapter also tells us that some are called to be apostles, some to be prophets, some evangelists, pastors, teachers. Other passages add “servant,” “administrator,” “exhorter,” “generous giver,” and “mercy-shower” to the list. Some are called to work behind the scenes, without notice, to make ministries happen. Some are called to use their musical or lyrical gifts. Some have a calling to craft and construct or to show hospitality.

What about you? What calling has God placed on your life?

Now, be careful with that. Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you’re called to do it. And just because you’ve been doing something for a long time doesn’t mean you’re supposed to still be doing it. Read that again.

Ability does not equal calling. Longevity does not equal calling. God’s purpose for your gifts equals a calling.

It’s our responsibility as leaders in the church to not just discern our own callings, but to look at the gifts of others, too. Are there people in your church who God is calling to serve in a specific way? Yes. Are those people being encouraged to wade into their callings? I can’t answer that for you.

What happens when there are people in the church whom God has called, and they’re not allowed to use their gifts? We have people in our churches right now who are aching to get involved, but no one will let them. Those people usually “drop out” and either find another church … or don’t. Can we blame them?

Here’s my challenge to you: If someone is better than you at doing something, let them do it! If someone isn’t as good at something and wants to get better, let them give it a try! Teach and encourage. Invite and exhort. Be patient as people learn, and exuberant as they grow into their callings.

Are there some younger ones you can invite to help make Communion bread for Holy Week? Are there some people you should invite the next time you go visit with someone in the hospital? Is there a quilter in your church who needs to be made welcome on quilting day? Is there someone with a calling for whom you need to design a new ministry?

We are all called to do things as people of God. If we stifle that, the church will wither. If we nourish it, the church will grow. Let’s welcome the gifts in our midst – let’s celebrate and utilize them for the Kingdom!

For God’s Sake,
© Abby
for your help with this task. Form B updates contact information about your congregation’s board or leadership chair, the treasurer, a deacon contact, a nurture contact, a stewards contact, a witness contact, junior high advisor, youth advisor, and several other contact persons. The form needs to be returned to Elgin as soon as possible.

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

The forms listed below were received as of February 18. This information is important to both the district and the denomination. Please be sure to review the information provided and make updates as they are needed. Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated, as well as email addresses, if they are available. The updated form gets sent back to Elgin and then they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about the form, please don’t hesitate to contact Suzie at 814 479-2181 or 1-866-279-2181. Your prompt attention to this task will be appreciated. Thanks!

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District Men’s Fellowship is sponsoring

A Men’s & Women’s
Spring Golf Outing

May 4, 2013
Indian Springs Golf & County Club
825 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, PA 15701 [VFW Course]

WHO CAN ENTER
Men & Women’s Foursome
Women’s Foursome
Men’s Foursome

Some prizes
will be awarded

COST
$80 per person (meal included)
$320 per foursome (meal included)
$20 for meal only

DINNER CHOICE
Stuffed Chicken Breast OR Stuffed Pork Chop
Potatoes Vegetable
Salad Roll
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

HOLE SPONSORSHIP $35
Who can be a Hole Sponsor?
• Men’s/Women’s Fellowships
• Youth Groups
• Sunday School Classes
• Individuals ….. ANYONE
You get: 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 April 19, 2013. Add $15 per person or $60 per foursome if registered after the deadline. For meal only, add $5 per person registering after the deadline.

1:00 p.m. Tee Time (rain or shine)
6:00 p.m. Dinner
District Men’s Fellowship Golf Outing Registration Form

May 4, 2013 (registration deadline April 19)

Make checks payable to: DISTRICT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Mail to: Homer Marshall
369 West Church Ave
Masontown, PA 15461-1651

Foursome or Individual

Spokesperson _______________________________ Phone _______________

Congregation _______________________________

Golfers (before 4/19)(after 4/19)

Name ____________________________  $80 ____  $95 ____
Name ____________________________  $80 ____  $95 ____
Name ____________________________  $80 ____  $95 ____
Name ____________________________  $80 ____  $95 ____

Total Due with Registration $ __________

Amount Received by Treasurer $ _________  Initial _________  Date Rec’d_______

Banquet Only Registration

Congregation _______________________________

Number of Reservations ________ @ $20.00 each  Total Due $ _______________

Do Not Include Golfers After April 19 add $5 per person

Contact Person _______________________________ Phone _______________

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_______

Meal Choice

# of Stuff Chicken Breast ___

Or

# of Stuffed Pork Chop ___
DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
Reflecting the Beauty of God

Spring Rally
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Greensburg Church of the Brethren

Registration: 9:00 AM
Program: 9:45 AM
Speaker from the Blackburn Center

Since 1976, Blackburn Center has been providing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Westmoreland County, and presenting education programs across this community. Their mission is to actively advocate for the rights of all people to live free from violence and oppression in their homes and communities, and provide supportive services to survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault. All of Blackburn Center's client services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

Cost: $10.00 (Offering will go for the Blackburn Center)

We will also be having a Country Store.
Please bring food and craft items, that are pre-priced for sale.

Spring Rally
Reservations due by April 1, 2013

Church________________________________________

Number attending _____
(Please enclose the names of women attending on back.)

Amount $_________ ($10.00 each)
Make checks payable to: Western PA District Ministries

Please send to: Arbutus Blough 845 Speigle Road Hollsopple, PA 15935

I will need child care for _____ children (please include names and ages).
March 2013

**AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST**

**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
- BROWN, JOSEPH E. - 150 River Rd, Fairhope, 15538-2509 - 814 267-3211
- DAVIS, KENNETH A. - 301 Walker St, Garrett, 15542-8427 - 814 634-8173
- DEFFENBAUGH, BARRON K. - 207 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758
- EASH, JOHN E. - 131 Friendship Ln, Hollsopple, 15935-6732 - 814 629-0206
- FORRY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset, 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
- HAY, CHARLES R. - 1127 E Main St, Berlin, 15530-1428 - 814 267-3205
- HIRONIMUS, BERTHA - 142 Bent Tree Hill, Ligonier, 15658-3202 - 724 238-3984
- HOSLER, WILBUR H. - 525 First St, Clymer, 15728-1417 - 724 254-9764
- HOUGHTON, JAMES E. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
- Houghton, Sally M. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
- ICE, ROGER L., SR. - 48 N Grove St, Scottdale 15683 - 724 887-4340
- Kabler, Eric P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
- Longwell, Eric M. - 225 Oak Hill Rd, Shelocta, 15774-3144 - 724 599-8690
- Marshall, Homer H. - 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
- Ott, Clifford W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
- Reininger, Linda L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown, 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
- Rummel, Dale E. - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian, 15666-1959 - 722 319-0099
- 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 Street, 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
- Green, Gary W. - 4589 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, 15935-8217 - 814 479-5096
- Grewe, Dottie H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
- Ishman, Daniel R. - 116 Todd Rd, Freeport, 16229 - 724 525-2901
- Marszalek, Cheryl A. - 409 Herman Ave, Wilmerding, 15148-1206 - 412 829-2253
- Peruso, Russell J. - 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown, 15905-7408 - 814 288-4529
- Shaffer, Abby R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
- Shaffer, Daniel P. - 135 Holly Path, Windber, 15963 - 814 244-5470
- Thomas, Scott R. - 2996 Carpenters Park Rd, Davidsville, 15928 - 814 288-2094

**LAY SPEAKER**

- Ramer, Donna L. - 102 Franklin Dr, Greensburg, 15601-1305 - 724 836-0594
The DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRIES invites you to attend

The 2013 SPRING EVENT
“Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us” Psalm 90:17

May 3-4, 2013
Friday - Registration begins at 4:30
In the main lobby at Antiochian Village
(Rte. 711 – 7 miles No. of Ligonier)

A very special evening is being planned for Friday. You won’t want to miss this occasion.

Saturday will be a day of reflecting the beauty of the Lord that has been given to us both inside and outside of our bodies and minds.

Come pamper your soul and warm your spirit. We are also offering pampering for your body. (messages and manicures - extra $)

For more information:
Pastor Judy Walker
425 Morningside Ave.
Jeannette, PA 15644
724-522-5260
We are so excited to announce: the cost of the Spring Event

“Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”

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

All prices are per person:

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

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

We would love for you to share your God-given talents. ...singing, dancing, poems, readings, etc. Please pray about it and call Pastor Judy.

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

We have extended the deadline till March 15, 2013

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

“Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord”

Name_______________________________________Phone__________________
Address____________________________________________________________
Congregation_______________________________________________________
People to room with________________________________________________
Down payment non-refundable ($50.00)_____________________________or
Paid in full $_____________________ Date______________________________
Make check out to: District Women’s Ministries
Send to: Pastor Judy Walker, 425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette, PA 15644-1954
For information call 724-522-5260

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2013 District Events and Meetings

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

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

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

APRIL 2013
6 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
8 - Financial Resource Team, 6:30 p.m., District Office
11 - Women’s Ministries Spring Rally – Greensburg Church
14 - Men’s Fellowship Council, 2:30 p.m., Greensburg Church
15 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
20 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
21 - ANNUAL SPRING TEA, 2-4 p.m., Brethren Home Community Windber
22 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
23 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Brethren Home Community Windber
28 - TITHING SUNDAY
**MAY 2013**

2 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
2 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
3-4 - Women’s Ministries Retreat, Antiochian Village Conference Center
4 - SPRING GOLF OUTING, Indian Springs Golf & Country Club, tee time, 1 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m.
4 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
5 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
9 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
9 - ASCENSION DAY
12 - HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!
18 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Farmington Bethel Church
19 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost)
20 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
20 - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., District Office
27 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - Johnstown Area Pastors, 12 noon, Camp Harmony

**JUNE 2013**

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

**JULY 2013**

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

**AUGUST 2013**

1 - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
2 - District Leadership Team, 6 p.m., Arbutus Church (District Conference Business)
10 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
17 - Women’s Ministries Summer Program
19 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
19 - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
24 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
26 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 2013
2  - LABOR DAY
5  - BHCW Auxiliary Key Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon
5  - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
7  - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – location to be announced
8  - HAPPY GRANDPARENT’S DAY!
9  - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
14 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Penn Run Church
16 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
21 - BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Camp Harmony
23 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Moxham Church

OCTOBER 2013
6  - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
7  - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
12 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Moxham Church
13 - STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
19 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
21 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
26 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Moxham Church
28 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2013
2  - 8TH ANNUAL DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
3  - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
3  - NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
7  - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m., (BAKE, CRAFT, & SOUP SALE)
7  - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
16 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Beachdale Church
18 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
25 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DECEMBER 2013
1  - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8  - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
14 - CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY, Camp Harmony
15 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
16 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
22 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
30 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER, 6 p.m., Camp Harmony
31 - 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!
“Easter Journey” at Somerset Church of the Brethren

If you’ve ever wondered why there are so many special events to celebrate the birth of Jesus and so few non-secular ways to experience and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, our Savior, plan to attend “Easter Journey” at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Palm Sunday, March 24 from 3-6 pm or Monday, March 25 from 6-8 pm.

This interactive program, especially appealing to children, families and organized groups, invites participants to find their way to the Upper Room where they will be naturally drawn into the events of the Passover meal as they sit with Jesus and the disciples. As they leave the meal, participants will discover a Garden and it is in this enchanted setting that they will hear the story of Jesus’ betrayal, arrest and his sentence to death by crucifixion. At the foot of the empty cross, participants will focus on Jesus’ last moments, and in the final setting of “Easter Journey”, a different sort of garden, participants will encounter women looking for the lifeless body of Jesus buried in a rocky tomb three days prior. Special music, period foods and departing activities will be provided. There is no cost to attend “Easter Journey”, however a free will offering will be accepted on behalf of Church World Service’s “Seeds and Tools” program. The Somerset Church of the Brethren is handicapped accessible.

All are welcome to attend this engaging and unique Easter program. The Somerset congregation encourages District congregations to attend and to invite others as a way of sharing the most important tenet of our Christian faith - the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For additional “Easter Journey” information, call the church office at 814-445-8853 or email Kathie Shaffer at tkshaff@gmail.com.
Just like any loving parent does from the day a baby is born into their family — from the day a child arrives at Hogar Emanuel, the goal is to prepare him/her for the day when they leave the nest and must survive independently.

For Hogar Emanuel that brings with it many extra challenges such as helping that child overcome the emotional traumas associated with the reasons they are living at the Home in the first place. The staff and loving visitors can offer their whole selves to these children, but for the most part, it is their responsibility to accept the help provided, pull themselves up, learn new ways, and learn how to accept the love of Jesus and his fellow servants. It’s no easy task! For this reason, the Home is always looking for new programs and resources that will help better prepare our youth.

One such program that focuses on young people with limited educational opportunities who may otherwise be attracted to crime, gangs, and violence is PROYECTO METAS (MEJORANDO LA EDUCACIÓN PARA TRABAJAR, APRENDER Y SUPERARSE). Translated the METAS Project is a program that helps improve education for our children to work, learn, and excel. It is funded by USAid which is part of the U.S. Embassy and supports U.S. foreign policy by carrying out economic assistance in Honduras.

For three hours each Saturday morning for a maximum of 9 months classes are being provided on site for our youth at Hogar Emanuel that will help them improve their math, reading, and ability to research information. The goal is to effectively increase their knowledge, skills, and job marketability. At the end the students take a final test and if they pass it with a minimum of 80%, they receive a METAS certification. Some local businesses are looking to hire people who have graduated from METAS which is a great advantage for them.

THANK YOU to all who are involved in the efforts of helping the children at Hogar Emanuel benefit from the METAS Project.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT HOGAR ENMANUEL...

Meet Kerlin and her three-year-old cousin Marlon who joined the Hogar Emanuel family a few weeks ago after tragedy struck their home. Their mothers were sisters who offered refuge to a friend who was going through some difficult times. However, just before Christmas, gunmen broke into their home in the middle of the night murdering all three of the women. Although Kerlin witnessed the massacre; miraculously, Marlon and his twelve-day-old baby sister slept through it. The infant girl was taken in by relatives, but the two older children were abandoned. Thank God they now have a place to feel loved and learn at Hogar Emanuel. Kerlin has made friends at the Home, is now attending the fourth grade, adjusting to her new life. It didn’t take long for sweet little Marlon to warm up and bond to his caregivers. Unfortunately, their story is not that uncommon in this crime-ridden country. Please continue to keep all of Honduras children in your prayers.
You are joining to help us when you pray for us.
2 Corinthians 1:11

What serving on a recent work camp to Hogar Emanuel meant to one team member:

The days leading up to the 10-day service trip to Honduras was disorienting for me. My head was filled with questions about my desire to go. Specifically, why should I give this amount of time and money to this effort and also be gone for this extended time?

Bill and Rona Hemminger are unlikely heroes who have poured blood, sweat and personal resources into Hogar Emanuel Children’s Orphanage in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. As board members they go to the Orphanage once or twice a year. From WMC were Janet Gillentine, Donald Sims, Bob Treacy, and myself. We were joined by Tim and Mary Thomas (Hooversville, PA). Our work included the installation of a giant fan in the courtyard, updating the phone system and running electrical wiring.

The orphanage is within site of a shanty town and San Pedro Sula has a high crime rate. One of the ways God spoke to me was through the gift of life given to the children at the orphanage in the face of such brokenness.

I came to see the orphanage as a refuge and thus as an expression of God’s salvation. I do not confuse the gift of salvation which we receive by faith in Jesus Christ. I do, however see expressions of salvation in the works that bring healing, hope, and life to people, especially when done in the name of Jesus Christ.

Observing this gift of life in action helped me to identify the ways God was speaking to me. First, I believe I am to mourn the marks of sin in the world with Godly grief. Mourning becomes an active alternative to anger and an antidote to depression. Second, God is further calling me into a life of active service in the name of Christ. Without a vision for serving the children of Honduras, there would be no orphanage. May God stir anew in my heart and help me to see the needs of our community through the eyes of faith. May I grow in my ability to offer healing and hope to others in the name of Christ.

Pastor Howard
Waynesboro Mennonite Church, Waynesboro, Virginia

Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.
~Bob Pierce, World Vision~