The Lord provided a little rain and fog for our journey on Saturday, October 19, as conference-goers gathered at Camp Harmony to complete the business of the 147th District Conference of the Western PA District. The conference seemed to go very smoothly, thanks to the staff of Camp Harmony and the cooperation of all the participants.

The theme of the conference this year was “Feed My Sheep.” Moderator Tim Resh challenged the attendees with scripture from John 21:15-17. Uplifting music and worship was provided throughout the day by One Voice, a group from the Robinson COB.

Two insight sessions were held in the morning – one highlighting the work of the denomination’s Mission & Ministry Board and On Earth Peace, and one concerning church renewal and new church planting. Conference participants were encouraged to browse the exhibit tables for information about Brethren Benefit Trust, Brethren Volunteer Service, District Mission Program (Honduras and Puerto Rico), Global Missions Program, Camp Harmony, Brethren Home Community Windber, and several others. They were also invited to review and purchase items from Brethren Press.

A fun skit written by Abby Shaffer was presented to remind the conference participants about the 8th Annual District Auction that will be held on Saturday, November 2 at Camp Harmony.

A presentation and a detailed explanation about the current financial situation at Camp Harmony was given. A positive plan to attain future financial stability was also presented. The Camp Board of Directors made a recommendation for the delegates to affirm the acceptance of a 15-year $203,000 promissory note from Peter and Janice Kaltenbaugh at 3.5% interest. The recommendation was seconded, and the issue was discussed at length. A vote was taken that affirmed the recommendation.

Homer A. Foster of the Center Hill congregation was installed as Moderator for 2014, and Vincent E. Cable, pastor of the Uniontown congregation was installed as Moderator Designate. Other persons affirmed on the slate include: District Clerk-Nancy Gindlesperger (Maple Spring); Standing Committee Delegate-Wes Berkebile (Center Hill); Program & Arrangements Committee-Linda K. Stoner (Somerset); BHCW Trustees-Doris L. Gindlesperger (Meyersdale); BHCW Charitable Trust Board-Donna Ramer (Greensburg); Camp Harmony Board of Directors-Cheryl A. Marszalek (Monroeville), Paul B. Hamilton (Locust Grove), Paul A. Liepelt (Somerset); Gifts Discernment Team-Joseph E. Brown (Windber); District Leadership Team – CYOM Team members-Erin P. Kimmel (Plumcreek), Carole A. Nedrow (Greensburg); O&S Team members-William W. Wenger (Moxham), Sharon Eley (Arbutus); P&PM Team members-Eric J. Fether (Ligonier), Robert R. Stein (Uniontown/Bear Run), Gary W. Green (Hostetler); SpF Team members-Rebekah Baum (Center Hill), Amelia J. Derr (Conemaugh); S&F Team members-Gary N. Weaver (Hooversville), Gary W. Hiler (Meyersdale), Donna J. Smith (Pleasant Hill).

A budget of $175,019 for 2014 was approved. The total reflects a .07% decrease. There were officially 205 attendees (180 delegates, 23 non delegates, and 2 children) and 55 congregations were represented. The offering was again in the form of kits for Church World Service and two van loads of hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits, and clean-up buckets were taken to New Windsor, Maryland. Thanks for your generosity!

Thank you, again, to the folks at Camp Harmony and to all who helped make the day of District Conference a success!

Suzie Moss, your Administrative Assistant
District Office News

**HOSPITALIZED**
- **Wendy Myers**, wife of Maple Spring COB Pastor Guy Myers, for tests and treatment.
- **John Jackson**, interim pastor at Natrona Heights, for treatment and recovery.
- **Frank P. Young**, pastor of the Tire Hill congregation, for tests and treatment.
- **Bettie Crable**, wife of Fairchance COB pastor David Crable, received treatment after a fall.

**LEADERSHIP**
- Congratulations to **John W. Manges**, on 50 years of ministry in the Church of the Brethren. A celebration was held at the Morrellville Church on September 15. Thank you for your service to God!
- Congratulations to **William A. Waugh** as he has been called as District Executive of the Southern PA District as of December 31, 2013. Pastor Bill has been serving at the Greensburg congregation. Blessings as you begin this new ministry in the Church of the Brethren!

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Meyersdale congregation**
- Chadd Sines
- Kristi Jo Sines
- Dan Pletcher
- Mindy Pletcher
- Matt Donaldson
- Mike Donaldson

**Way of Hope congregation**
- Nicole Smith
- Aimee Wyatt
- Brandon Wyatt
- Edie Hubbard
- Owen Hofecker III
- Andy Darr
- Jesse Friedline
- Christine Wolk
- Peggy Younkin
- Marcus Gallic

**Bear Run congregation**
- Kelly Hay
- Kayla Hay

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**PCAP Report**
The Outreach & Service Team received a report from Arlene Longwell, our district representative to the Pennsylvanians Concerned about Alcohol Problems organization, and wanted to share some information with our churches. PCAP representatives go into schools to teach young people the dangers of using alcohol and other drugs. They also will come to churches to share.

If you know a health teacher, guidance counselor, or school principal that you could ask to allow PCAP to come into their school to teach about alcohol, please do so. In as little as 45 minutes, they can present a meaningful age-appropriate lesson.

PCAP is a totally non-profit organization and operates using only the gifts that are received from individuals and churches. For just $100 you can provide a full day of instruction to many young people. Any gift, no matter its size would be helpful and used to teach young people the truth about alcohol, which may prevent them from destroying their lives. Some congregations have put PCAP into their yearly budgets, and for that the organization is grateful.

If you would be interested in serving as a speaker for PCAP or have questions about the program, you may contact Arlene at 724 354-4108 or email at amlongwell@windstream.net or Arlene Longwell, 1311 Girty Rd, Shelocta, PA 15774.

Donations can be sent to Western PA District COB for PCAP or directly to PCAP, 900 South Arlington Avenue Suite 160B, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5099.
Local Church News

Thanksgiving Worship

Mount Joy Church Choir will present the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. This year’s program is entitled "Let Us Give Thanks". It will be led by Scott Leichliter, Music Director. You are invited to come and enjoy this special program.

Mount Joy Church is located 1 mile east of Mount Pleasant on Route 31. Bro. Lee Smith is pastor. For more information, please call 724-547-3670.

Johnstown Area Churches of the Brethren invite you to participate in Thanksgiving Day worship in Camp Harmony’s Heritage Lodge at 8:00 a.m. Brother Joe Brown from the Windber Church of the Brethren will be the speaker.

District Women's Ministry 2014 Theme: "Women of God"

You may be thinking, why start thinking of next year?

Well you know how time stands still for no one, so with that in mind let us start to think of those women of God. Who do you know? Is it you?

As we "Grow in grace" 2 Peter 3:18, reflect on those women who have encouraged and strengthened our faith.

Save the date of May 2-3, 2014 for the Spring Event at Antiochian Place in Ligonier.

December 2013/January 2014 Highlights Deadline

November 10, 2013

LIGONIER PA CHURCH DEDICATES PEACE GARDEN

The First Church of the Brethren, Ligonier, PA held a dedication ceremony of their new peace garden on Sunday, September 22, 2013 following the regular worship service. The garden was designed in answer to a request by On Earth Peace and Church of the Brethren Office of Public Witness to plan creative Peace Day events on or around International Peace Day. In addition to the Peace Pole, the small garden includes a blooming shrub and a bench inviting contemplation and internet accessibility. The peace pole is surrounded by rocks from the U.S. and other countries around the world, and the community has been invited to add rocks brought back from their travels to the mix. A photo album record of the rock collection recording the source of each of the rocks will be retained. The garden design and implementation was the work of Becky Kwak, member of the Witness Commission.
Local Church News

"A More Excellent Way"
by Noah Martin, D. Min

- For busy Pastors who need ideas and help for Marriage & Premarital Counseling
- For Married Couples looking for ways to improve relationships
- For Engaged Couples preparing for marriage

Noah Martin has written a marriage manual based on his years of experience as a pastor and a marriage & family counselor. Married couples who wish to improve their relationship and engaged couples planning for the future will find this manual to be helpful. It is filled with information and action packed ideas to help secure good relationships and to save distressed ones.

Noah brings the experience of a COB pastor and a trained marriage and pastoral counselor. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care & Counseling. He is a retired Clinical Member of the American Association For Marriage & Family Therapy and a Charter Member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. Noah has counseled with many marriages & families, leads marriage enrichments, and has written articles & columns in newspapers and Christian magazines, and founder of New Day, Inc.

To review or purchase a copy you can contact Noah at (814) 266-6489, or send an email to martinn127@aol.com.

Mark your calendar!

Geiger Church is organizing a bus trip to Lancaster to see "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theater. It is scheduled for August 16, 2014. Includes transportation, tickets, and dinner, and tips. Cost is $127.00 per person.

Interested persons should contact Wilma McCoy at 814 445-8606.

Christmas Open House

Celebrate the birth of Christ at the Westmont Church of the Brethren, 2301 Sunshine Ave, Johnstown, PA 15905.

We are hosting an Open House and "Women of Faith" 2013 Christmas simulcast featuring Max Lucado and Bible teachers Sheila Walsh and Lisa Harper along with a Christmas carol sing-along and nativity skit.

Open house begins at 6:30 p.m. and simulcast will be from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of worship and celebration that honors the holiest of nights. See the enclosed flyer.

Within-the-District Mission Fund for pastoral support

In our Western PA District, mission funds have been designated to help struggling congregations to meet the expenses of pastoral support. The district Outreach & Service Team invites congregations in our district, who may be facing the challenge of meeting pastoral salary and benefits expense, to contact them about the possibility of receiving help through this mission fund. The team would be glad to meet with congregational leaders to discuss the use of these funds to help your congregation.

Congregations who apply for such funding will be required to supply a yearly budget, a plan for future growth, and a rationale for the use of any reserve monies the congregation has in its possession.

In order to keep funds available to help congregations, individuals and churches may donate to the Within-the-District Mission Fund of the Western PA District COB. Your help in keeping funds available is much appreciated.

If your congregation might benefit from these mission funds and you would be interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Bill Wenger, Outreach & Service Team Chair at 814 539-7807.
DISTRICT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP
FALL BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013

ARBUTUS
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1201 ERICKSON DR, JOHNSTOWN, PA 15904

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

FREE WILL OFFERING

Come & enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship!

Please contact Homer or Mearl with the number of persons attending:
Homer Marshall       or       Mearl Craig
369 W Church Ave     814-242-0909
Masontown, PA 15461
Or call: 724-583-7073

Thank You!
A chinchilla lives at my house. And he is awesome.

His name is Robert Paulson and he is just the cutest thing ever. But don’t tell him that. He’s kind of a ninja. He can jump much higher than you’d think. He can even bank himself off the wall to scale a barrier. Often, he escapes my grasp and scurries under the furniture. He runs around like he owns the place.

The only way to get him back into his cage is to tempt him with his one weakness… Craisins. Just crinkle the bag of dried cranberries, and in a fraction of a second, a small, eager head will pop out from under something. Then the game begins. He knows that he can have a Craisin, but that it will cost him his freedom. So he tries to wait me out. But I likely have more time left on earth than he does, and he caves in every time. *Clank!* goes the door behind him.

Sometimes, though, he gets a snack just for being awesome. When he’s in his cage and I crinkle the bag, he goes crazy—cramming his face through the bars, twitching and quivering. “Okay, buddy, give me a second, it’s coming!” I laugh at his frenzy. But he is so intent on that prize. And every time he obtains that treasure, he does something strange. He grabs it in his teeth and leaps off the perch, down two levels and into his small, plastic hut.

He sits in there, nervously, and devours it.

Now, I’m no rodent psychologist, but I believe he’s afraid I’ll take that Craisin away from him. Eyes on the prize; protect the prize. But how foolish is that? I’m the one who gave it to him in the first place! Why would I snatch it back from him when I know he relies on it and delights in it? Wouldn’t that be cruel?

Sometimes I do that with God. What about you?

Often, He gives me something, entrusts me with something; well, I grab it and go! And I hold onto it for dear life. I protect it at all costs, I am mesmerized by it, and it consumes my thinking. And like Robert, I seclude myself from the Giver.

“God, thank You for the wonderful husband You gave me – now I’ll take it from here – I know best how to treat him and how to love him and You had better not take him away from me, ever.”

“Lord, thank You for getting me this new job – now I’m going to do whatever I have to do to keep it, even if it means compromising my ethics – If You’re extra good, I’ll give You a token percentage of my enormous salary.”

“Father, thank You for a healthy baby – now I’m going to pursue all the best things for him that the world has to offer – he’ll be a wealthy, self-made man one day – I’m sure he can sort out his beliefs and values later.”

Ridiculous, isn’t it? I have never given this furry critter a reason to distrust me, and God has never given His children a reason to distrust Him. So why do we do it? Why do we desperately dig our fingernails into His blessings?

“God, thank you for stabilizing our church – now we’re going to ensure that not one dime gets spent on anybody. We’ll keep it all stored up in case we need it. We’ll eliminate outreach spending and our ministry to the homeless. Those old folks at the Home should have saved up better. That Camp should have managed things better. Those unwed mothers can work out their own problems. We’ll use this money right, and get shiny new offering plates.”

All I can do is to keep showing Robert my love and affection. My desire to give him good things. And all God can do is to keep showing His love for us, His desire to give us good things. May we let go and receive His blessings properly!

In His Name, © Abby
Western Pennsylvania District Highlights

40 Days for Life……A voice for the Unborn
By Pastor Linda Stoner

Each spring and each autumn an event takes place that literally saves the lives of tiny babies all over this country of ours and beyond. For 40 days and 40 nights non-stop vigils are set up in front of abortion clinics (primarily those operated by Planned Parenthood) and the results are incredible. These vigils are very Christ-based and are peaceful and respectful in nature.

This year the Lord laid it on my heart to approach the women and men of our district (via District Women’s Ministries) to make a trek to Pittsburgh to participate in this worthy cause. On October 5 the plan became a reality. Thirteen eager bodies piled into a van driven by my husband John, determined to spend two hours doing just what the Lord had directed us to do.

We spent the first hour standing peacefully in front of the clinic with signs urging passersby to pray for the unborn. I’d prepared an hour long service and we all participated in it by singing, reading poetry, prose and scripture and (most of all) praying. During our second hour the streets were blocked off and a parade took place right past the place where we were standing. The occasion being celebrated was “African American Culture” and it was delightful watching persons of all ages singing, dancing and celebrating their heritage. They waved at us and gave us the “thumbs ups” sign time after time. Our shift manager explained to me that this was a wonderful opportunity to minister and educate members of the African American community as they are very much affected by the abortion issue. It was her feeling that, if we could get people of their own heritage involved in the vigils, we could better win their trust.

As of last Thursday there have been at least 311 known cases of babies being saved due to the direct workings of 40 Days for Life’s Fall 2013 event. Women are approaching volunteers all over the country to report that they’ve decided against abortion because of these vigils.

Workers refer these women to counselors and alternative means of dealing with their situation. They also find help and counsel for women who may have made the decision to abort in the past and are now living with that horrible choice. Young men are also being counseled because sometimes wives and girlfriends choose abortion against the wishes of the fathers. The opportunities of Christian witness to these persons are numerous.

Most exciting of all, we are getting word nearly every week of clinics being shut down because of lack of “business”. Praise His Holy Name!

This Fall’s event runs from September 25 thru November 11. We plan a return visit for next spring’s event and would love for some of you to join us.

Brethren pride themselves in being a people of peace. They cherish the sanctity of life. What life is any more precious than that of a tiny baby?

Note: Check out www.40daysforlife.com for more interesting details.

Quote of the week:
“I have to say God has had us, we doubted sometimes but he’s really had us through all of this.... At first I didn't know what to do, but it's like I have a real home again, for the first time in two years.”
-- Kate Demeree, a homeowner in Broome County, N.Y., who has received help to rebuild from Brethren Disaster Ministries and other groups following Tropical Storm Lee. The storm ravaged the area two years ago. Find a Your News Now report titled "Local organization repairs 100th home damaged by Tropical Storm Lee" that includes an interview with Demeree, along with comments by Melissa Wilson of Brethren Disaster Ministries and other Faith Partners in Recovery leaders who are organizing the rebuilding, at http://centralny.ynn.com/content/news/southern_tier/696412/local-organization-repairs-100th-home-damaged-by-tropical-storm-lee . Time Warner Cable customers may view the brief video that accompanies the report; or request a special temporary access to view the video from cobnews@brethren.org .

November 2013
### Position Openings

- **The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership** seeks a **half-time coordinator** for the Training in Ministry (TRIM) and Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) programs. Send resumes to: Shaye Isaacs, Executive Assistant to the President, Bethany Theological Seminary, 615 National Road West; Richmond, IN 47374; or by e-mail to isaacsh@bethanyseminary.edu.

- **The Church of the Brethren** is seeking an individual to fill a full-time salaried position of **associate director** of Children’s Disaster Services (CDS). The associate director of Children’s Disaster Services is part of the Global Mission and Service team and reports directly to the director of Brethren Disaster Ministries. This position is based in the Disaster Response Office currently housed at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD.

- **Shine: Living in God’s Light**, a new Sunday school curriculum being developed by Brethren Press and MennoMedia, is accepting applications for **writers** for the following age groups: early childhood through junior youth. The writers will be working on products for the 2015–2016 curriculum year. Writers must attend a writers’ conference on Feb. 28-March 3, 2014, at Camp Mack in Milford, Ind. Writers’ expenses for meals and lodging at the conference and reasonable travel expenses will be covered. The application deadline is Dec. 31. Visit [Shine Curriculum](#) for a full job description and application information.

- **Timbercrest Senior Living Community** seeks a **Director of Development**. Experience with fundraising, donor development, planned giving, and church relations preferred. Send resumé to David Lawrenz, Timbercrest, P.O. Box 501, North Manchester, IN 46962 or email to dlawrenz@timbercrest.org.

- **Camp Swatara** (Bethel, PA) is seeking a new **Food Service Manager** to begin January 1, 2014. The Food Service Manager is responsible to plan, coordinate, and carry-out camp food service for all scheduled groups, activities, and events throughout the year. Candidates should have training, education, and/or experience in food service management, culinary arts, quantity food service, and staff supervision.

More information about these and other positions can be found at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

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### “Lybrook Community Ministries is active again!”

announced a recent newsletter from Western Plains District. Jim and Kim Therrien of Independence Church of the Brethren in Kansas recently moved to New Mexico to serve the Lybrook community. Jim Therrien has begun work as director of Lybrook Community Ministries and pastor of Tók’ahookaadí Church of the Brethren. Kim Therrien is teaching at the school. The district requests, “Please keep Jim, Kim, and the entire Lybrook community in prayer.” Jim Therrien reported in the newsletter that “we have resumed Sunday morning worship services and have had some attendance. They had not had a service in over a year, so it will take a little time to get the word out. We have been posting flyers and contacted both the Nageezi and Counselor chapter houses. Kim has started the Monday evening craft and fellowship night and has had between four and seven ladies attending. We are started our Wednesday evening Bible study on September 25 and look forward to studying God’s word together. Kim has started the planning phase of opening a thrift store on the mission grounds utilizing the lower level of the bunkhouse.” The grand opening for the new effort at Lybrook is planned for Nov. 5. Contact the Therriens at lybrookmission@gmail.com or Lybrook Community Ministries, HCR 17, Box 110, Cuba, NM 87013.

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### Enroll in dental, vision, and other insurance products in November through BBT.

Employees of Church of the Brethren-affiliated organizations who work 20 hours or more may enroll in certain insurance plans through Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT). Open enrollment for Dental, Vision, Supplemental Life (for current Basic Life members who are eligible to add up to $10,000 of additional coverage), and Short-Term Disability insurance through Brethren Insurance Services happens November 1-30.

Download this year’s open enrollment kit at brethrenbenefittrust.org/open-enrollment after October 28. Open enrollment kits will only be available electronically.

For questions about open enrollment or Brethren Insurance Services, contact Connie Sandman, member services representative, at 800-746-1505 ext. 366.

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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.*

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**November 2013**
Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal
Registration Now Open for Winter-Spring 2014

The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors offers courses with formal learning objectives which participants localize in their setting. Five interactive two-hour phone conference calls with practical training and focused discussion over a 12-week period. Focused readings. Individual contacts between calls. A few persons in the church walk with participant. A seminal solidifying paper reflects course content and application. CEU available. With positive response, Foundation Course Projected 2014:

Level 1. Foundations for Christ-centered Church Renewal
Using a spiritually grounded, servant led approach, learn to:
✓ Enlist a congregation in renewal, spiritually discern and train a renewal team
✓ Help a congregation enter a spiritual journey with disciplines folders
✓ Use servant leadership from scripture to approach the life cycle of a church
✓ Identify and fulfill 5 roles of transforming pastoral leadership for church renewal
✓ Implement a seven fold path for renewal where a church builds on it strengths
✓ Help a church spiritually discern a scripture, vision, and ministry plan
✓ Assist a congregation to implement a renewal plan of focused ministries.

Dates: Wednesdays: February 4, February 25, March 18, April 8, April 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants call an 800 number every three weeks. Please register as soon as possible. The cost will be $185, plus $10 if CEU are desired.

Instructor is Dr. David S. Young with guests. In both courses, participants are invited to practice daily disciplines using folders. Testimonials are available on the last page of the Springs of Living Water Newsletter.

For a fuller description of courses and a Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal brochure, please email davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717) 615-4515. The Springs website is www.churchrenewalservant.org.
Pioneering (within the mission of God)

A series of three webinars exploring the theme of pioneering, hosted by the Church of the Brethren and organized together with Urban Expression, Bristol Baptist College and BMS World Mission.

Within the mission of God and among the diverse ministries in the church, pioneering is essential if the Christian community is to keep in step with the purposes of God and resist institutional inertia. The biblical narrative includes many examples of women and men who exercised pioneering roles and a number of designations that have pioneering implications (apostles and prophets are examples). The rapidly changing cultural context in western societies, described in various ways, together with the decline and marginalization of the church, requires the identification, equipping and deployment of pioneers willing to explore fresh expressions of mission and church. And the world church through the centuries and today offers many examples of pioneering ministry in diverse cultures and contexts. This series of webinars explores the role of pioneers in post-Christendom western societies, offers a biblical/theological foundation for pioneering within the mission of God and reflects on what can be learned from the world church.

Pioneering—Embracing the Unknown with Juliet Kilpin

Changed to November 7, 2013 - 2:30-4 pm Eastern / 7:30-9 pm UK

Register now

Joining Jesus Outside the Camp: Pioneering God—Pioneering People of God with Steve Finamore

November 14, 2013 - 2:30-4 pm Eastern / 7:30-9 pm UK

Register now

Pioneering in a Global Context with David Kerrigan

December 11, 2013 - 2:30-4 pm Eastern / 7:30-9 pm UK

Register now

.15 CEU for live events only

Online registration will be available October 1st. Registration will be free with the option to donate.

Sponsored by the Church of the Brethren, Urban Expression, Bristol Baptist and BMS World Mission

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Curriculum helps youth develop beliefs on peace, conscientious objection

Call of Conscience, a Church of the Brethren web-based curriculum, is available to download from www.brethren.org/CO. Written by Julie Garber, this resource is designed to help youth develop their beliefs about peace and conscientious objection to war. The curriculum focuses on developing a personal peace position based on biblical teaching and the traditions of the church. As young men, and possibly women someday, reach the age of 18 they are required by law to register with the Selective Service System, a federal agency responsible for a military draft in the event the nation wants more soldiers than it can recruit as volunteers. If Congress decided to reinstate the draft, young people would have only a short time to gather evidence to convince Selective Service they are conscientious objectors and have a religious opposition to killing.

Call of Conscience helps youth prepare to “make a defense for the hope that is within them” (1 Peter 3:15). Four sessions designed to be led by an adult will help youth think through their beliefs as taught by the Church of the Brethren. Full session plans and downloadable resources are included:

-- **Session One:** The difference between allegiance to God and allegiance to the state.

-- **Session Two:** Biblical teaching on war and peace.

-- **Session Three:** The Church of the Brethren historic and living peace position.

-- **Session Four:** Making a case for conscientious objection.

In a culminating project, youth compile a file of evidence that they believe in the teachings of Jesus on peace, by keeping journals, collecting letters of reference, gathering lists of influential books, websites, news clippings, and films, and answering questions Selective Service will ask to determine the strength of their commitment to peace.

See www.brethren.org/CO.
Christmas Tree of Stars 2013

Please help us decorate the **Christmas Tree of Stars** in this 30th year of our program. Your donation will not only honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, it will help provide benevolent care for our residents.

The names of those being remembered will be displayed on the Christmas tree located in the Home’s Circle Lounge.

*Please detach and return the bottom portion with your contribution to:*

**Church of the Brethren Home**
277 Hoffman Avenue
Windber, PA 15963
ATTN: Tree of Stars

Thank you for showing your love and generosity by supporting the Tree of Stars Campaign!

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**Christmas Tree of Stars 2013**

Please Shine a Light in **Memory** of:

________________________________________________________________________

**OR**

Please Hang an Ornament in **Honor** of:

________________________________________________________________________

Donated By: ___________________________________________ Amount: __________
Address: _____________________________________________
Brethren Home Community Windber News

November, 2013

Annual Key Ladies Luncheon
The Arbutus church kindly hosted the annual Home Auxiliary Key Ladies Luncheon on September 5. 2014 membership information was distributed after a delicious lasagna lunch and a musical program presented by Suzie Moss and Jane Wolfhope. Any churches with questions about Auxiliary membership should contact membership chairperson Emma Thomas at 814.629.7116.

Heritage Festival
The Home Heritage Festival booth featured sunflowers. Along with a display of campus pictures, crafts with a sunflower theme were offered for sale. Sunflower pillows, magnets, love knots, wooden sunflowers and sunflower garden stakes were available. Even all those sunflowers weren’t enough to keep away the afternoon showers!

Special Thanks
The Center Hill church made a donation to the Home which made possible the purchase of a specialized alternating pressure and low air loss mattress designed to support patients up to 350 pounds. Their generous donation came just when this piece of equipment was needed! We thank them for their compassionate support of our residents’ special needs.

Harvest Home
The Harvest Home 2013 campaign is in full swing. Churches making in kind donations are reminded to mark their items with their church name, and be sure a home representative receives the items.

World Communion
Thanks to Dr. Ron Beachley, Chaplain Linda Reininger and members of the Home staff who participated in World Wide Communion on October 4. Our residents look forward to joining Christians around the world in this meaningful celebration of faith.
Continuing Education

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center works in partnership with Elizabethtown College, Church of the Brethren Districts, and the Congregational Life Team of Area 1 to provide Continuing Education.

**The Gospel of John and the Anabaptist Tradition** - 2013

**Monday, November 4, 2013**
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Elizabethtown College, Susquehanna Room

In this daylong symposium, noted scholars will address the distinctive features of John's Gospel, preaching and teaching John, evaluating commentaries on John, the implications of the gospel for Christian-Jewish relations, and the significance of John 13 in the Brethren tradition.

**Register by October 21, 2013.**

**Symposium Schedule**

**What Every Christian Should Know About Islam** - 2014

**Saturday, March 15, 2014**
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren

This event is designed to increase awareness of Islam using a Christian approach based on truth, fairness, and accuracy. Goals of this event are to provide a biblical assessment of Islam, to understand how the history of Muslim-Christian relations affect Christian witness among Muslims today, and to reflect on biblical approaches to Christian witness that overcomes fear and hatred and which fosters love for our Muslim neighbors (as Jesus taught).

**Register by February 28, 2014.**

**Leadership for the Emerging Church** - 2014

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Village at Morrison's Cove

This workshop will explore a congregation's life-cycle and the kind of leadership needed for a congregation to maintain or rekindle a dynamic life. Pastors attending this event will explore their leadership styles and how that style can be adapted for collaborative working relationships with other congregational leaders. This workshop will also touch on the skills of reading congregational culture and cultivating a theology of hope.

**Register by March 7, 2014.**

Access registration forms by clicking on the title of the event.
LOOKING FORWARD

**November 8-9** – Scrapbooker’s Retreat – Call 814-701-1681 to register

**November 15-17** – Polished: Women’s Retreat – Call Camp to register

**December 7** – Faith Promise Benefit Dinner – 5:00 PM

**December 14** – Children’s Christmas Party and Cookie Day – Call Camp for information

CAMP HARMONY BECOMES A RELAY CENTER FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

“Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child.” 100 million and counting….

Shoe boxes will be received at Camp during the nationwide collection week, November 18-25, from 9AM to 5PM, Monday-Saturday, and 4PM-8PM on Sunday. We do need volunteers to help with this ministry – Youth Groups, Women’s Groups, Men’s Groups, Church Groups.

Volunteering will be in 4 hour shifts. Come be a part of this growing ministry…..

For more information, email Cortney at program@campharmony.org or for more information about the shoebox ministry go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

WISH LIST  THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who have contributed new towels and washcloths, and bed linens for twin and double beds. They have already been used, when we had persons renting our facilities. Other items on our list include: 6 double bed sheet sets, a 100 cup coffee pot, vacuum sweepers, 1” white binders, hot pads, and magnifying glasses. It is quite evident that as we grow, our supplies and program needs are increasing.

2013 – 52 GOD BLESS YOU AND CAMP IS BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING…

53 Families/Congregations have attached to Camp Harmony by giving a dollar a week for a total of $5,000. Attach yourself to the Lord’s growing ministry. Thank You.

JOB OPENINGS

Inquire at Camp or go online www.campharmony.org and obtain a general application with a resume and reference letter and mail to Camp – Attn. Janice

--Maintenance – 40 hours a week

--Part Time Cleaning – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp

--Cook, Kitchen Assistants – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp
Thank you for all your donations in the past years. We have been truly blessed by all we have been given. With your donations camp has had to buy very little in the craft department, and this is wonderful because money can then be used in other areas of camp. Items we need for the summer of 2014 are listed below:

- flat baskets with no handles over the basket
- horse shoes
- popsicle sticks
- camo material
- pictures/magazines of sports, dance, cheerleading
- metal or sturdy plastic buckets preferably with lids
- stuffing
- duct tape-different colors or patterns
- glue sticks for hot glue guns-mini and large
- tacky glue
- 2 liter soda bottles
- colored craft foam
- Elmer’s glue-gallon jug or glue bottles
- glitter-all colors
- acrylic paint-all colors-large bottles
- fabric paint
- Styrofoam egg cartons
- sharpie markers
- winter gloves-don’t need to match
- google eyes
- peanut butter jars-labels removed
- picture frames-5x7,8x10 or larger
- glue sticks for hot glue guns
- wood pieces 10x12 (at least 40)
- plaster of paris
- small flat wood pieces for craft project 4x6 or larger
- thin, sturdy wire
- silk flowers, vines, etc.
- small plastic or flocked animals-no stuffed animals

As always, we can’t express how much we appreciate each of you. Without you we could not run the art/craft program so smoothly. If you have any questions regarding the items listed, please feel free to contact me at (814) 798-7282 or (814) 659-9410.

In His Service,
Cathi Neuhof, Camp Harmony Craft Specialist
THANKS in advance to all of you helpful people for getting this information reported! Form B has been sent to the churches from the denominational offices. This form updates contact information about your congregation’s board or leadership team chair, the treasurer, a deacon contact, a nurture contact, a stewards contact, a witness contact, junior high advisor, youth advisor, and several other contact persons. Please be sure to review the material provided on that form and make updates as they are needed. Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated, as well as email addresses, if they are available. An Additional Officers Form for 2014 has been sent from the District Office in October.

In addition, the Congregational Outreach Form for 2013/2014 has been sent from the COB Stewardship 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 completing this form is December 2, 2013. A downloadable version of the form, as well as a new fillable option is now available at www.brethren.org/stewardship. Feel free to use that option in order to switch to paperless reporting.

The forms listed below were received as of October 22. This information is important to both the district and the denomination. The updated forms get sent to Elgin and they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about a form, please don’t hesitate to contact Suzie at 814 479-2181 or 1-866-279-2181. Your prompt attention to this task will be appreciated. Thanks!

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<th>Church Code</th>
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<th>2013 Statistical Report</th>
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ORDAINED
BALDEO, ISAAC - 4555 Glen Eden Rd, Cranberry Twp, 16066-3001 - 724 452-0923
BAUGHMAN, CARL L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
BROADWATER, KEVIN L. - 475 Keystone St, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 - 814 442-5684
DAVIS, KENNETH A. - 301 Walker St, Garrett, 15542-8427 - 814 634-8173
DEFFENBAUGH, BARRON K. - 207 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758
EASH, JOHN E. - 131 Friendship Ln, Hollsopple, 15935-6732 - 814 629-0206
FORRY, ROGER L. - 341 Lincoln St, Somerset, 15501-1308 - 814 443-2979
GREW, DOTTIE H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
HAY, CHARLES R. - 1127 E Main St, Berlin, 15530-1428 - 814 267-3205
HIRONIMUS, BERTHA - 142 Bent Tree Hill, Ligonier, 15658-3202 - 724 238-3984
HOSLER, WILBUR H. - 525 First St, Clymer, 15728-1417 - 724 254-9764
HOUGHTON, JAMES E. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
HOUGHTON, SALLY M. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 - 814 255-2431
ICE, ROGER L., SR. - 48 N Grove St, Scottdale, 15683 - 724 887-4340
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
MCCOY, SHELBY K. - 1809 Geiger Rd, Friedens, 15541-7500 - 814 233-5383
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PETERMAN, SANDRA M. - 2288 N Ridge Rd, Shelocta, 15774-7225 - 724 354-3533
REININGER, LINDA L. - 229 Davis St, Johnstown, 15906-1517 - 814 539-1345
RUMMEL, DALE E. - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian, 15666-1959 - 732 319-0099
RUPERT, JACK - 409 State St, Johnstown, 15905-2642 - 814 255-7793
SHAFFER, JUDITH A. - PO Box 319, Donegal, 15628-0319 - 724 516-9191
SHARLIS, M. ERIC - 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale, 15552-1444 - 814 634-8740
SMITH, A. HARRISON - 22 Hawes Rd, Farmington, 15437 - 724 329-5973
STEIN, ROBERT R. - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 - 724 438-2226
SWICK, MICHAEL R. - 4127 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 - 814 634-8158
THOMAS, RODGER J. - 1700 Veil Ave, Windber 15963 - 814 509-6399
WALKER, JUDY M. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WALKER, LARRY E. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WHIPPLE, CHARLES D. - 317 Wyoming St, Greensburg, 15601-3947 - 724 600-6332
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN - 436 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning, 16201-4639 - 724 548-4901
WILCHER, JOEL A. - 658 R 13th St, Oakmont, 15139-1020 - 412 828-3690
WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S. - 207 Church St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED
BAUGHMAN, KAREN L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
DERCK, JOY E. - 3089 Dutch Run Rd, Shelocta, 15774-2224 - 724 354-3386
ISHMAN, DANIEL R. - 116 Todd Rd, Freeport, 16229 - 724 525-2901
MARSZALEK, CHERYL A. - 409 Herman Ave, Wilmerding, 15148-1206 - 412 829-2253
PERUSO, RUSSELL J. - 151 Blackner Rd, Johnstown, 15905-7408 - 814 288-4529
SHAFFER, ABBY R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
SHAFFER, DANIEL P. - 135 Holly Path, Windber, 15963 - 814 244-5470
SISITIK, KIMBERLY A. - PO Box 204, Bolivar, 15923-0204 – 724 676-4465
THOMAS, SCOTT R. - 2996 Carpenters Park Rd, Davidsville, 15928 - 814 288-2094

LAY SPEAKER
RAMER, DONNA L. - 102 Franklin Dr, Greensburg, 15601-1305 - 724 836-0594
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.

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
10-16 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Schoharie, New York – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
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.
26 - Johnstown Pastors, 12 noon, Scalp Level Church
28 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DECEMBER 2013
1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
5 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8-14 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Toms River, New Jersey – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
14 - CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY, Camp Harmony
15 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
16 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
17 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
22 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
30 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER, 6 p.m., Camp Harmony
31 - Johnstown Pastors, 12 noon, location to be announced

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!
Pluck! Pluck! Pluck! It was butchering day at the Home! This fall, assisted by the employees of the Cargill Corporation, the kids again learned how to kill and dress the chickens for eating. After providing donations of approximately two hundred peeps at a time, the Cargill Corporation then provides supervision to the children at el Hogar on how to properly care for the chickens, gather eggs, and finally how to butcher the birds. In addition, Cargill’s employees are a constant support at the Home by providing fun activities for the kids and supplying such things as milk and toilettries. Cargill is also the backing behind Jardin de Enmanuel, the on-site kindergarten school, as well. Thanks, Cargill!

Also a thank you goes out to the San Pedro Sula Boy/Girl Scout troops for sharing their time and talents with the Hogar children recently with a fun day full of activities. The Encuentro de Hogares took place the first Saturday of October. This is annual event sponsored by the Angles of Hope program through Food for the Poor, Inc. was held here in San Pedro Sula with various orphanages from around this part of Honduras. It is an all day event where the kids compete in dance competitions, booth competitions, as well as the most Beautiful and Handsome Indians. This year we won first place in the folkloric dance competition. The kids were very proud and had a wonderful day!

The Home’s current BVS on-site volunteer, Ann Zeigler, was able to share her volunteer placement site at Hogar Enmanuel with Jay Wittmeyer, Executive director of the Church of the Brethren’s Global Mission and Service and Dan McFadden, director of Brethren Volunteer Service during their visit to San Pedro Sula this summer.

Meet Noe

Noe (“No-ay”) is eight years old and has no known siblings. He joined the Hogar family this past February and began first grade at Jose Trinidad Cabanas. He says that he really loves school, playing with his school friends, and doing his homework. His favorite subject is his Natural Science class. Although his mother was very young when he was born, she still visits him on occasion. He says that when he grows up, he would like to become a police officer. At the Home, he says he has made two best friends, Luis Antonio and David Mejia, and can often be found playing soccer with the two of them. He says the kindness of the people and the Mango trees are his favorite things about the Home. He says he likes to eat chicken, but not onions. It is reported that he has a good sense of humor and is well behaved. Please pray for Noe this month.
You are joining to help us when you pray for us.
2 Corinthians 1:11

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.
Romans 15:1 NIV

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

PROVIDING FOR
HOGAR de NINOS ENMANUEL
THROUGH
WESTERN PA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN MISSION PROGRAM - HONDURAS
115 Spring Rd.
Hollsopple, PA 15935

CHECK IT OUT!
We’re on the web!
www.hogaremanuel.com

If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically ONLY, please email that request to hogaremanuel@verizon.net

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER TO HOGAR DE NINOS ENMANUEL

As a volunteer applicant to Hogar Emanuel, you are strongly encouraged to coordinate your service through the efforts of a trained volunteer program such as Brethren Volunteer Service under the direction of the Church of the Brethren’s Global Mission and Service or other similar volunteer sending programs.

You need not be a member of the Church of the Brethren to be included in its volunteer service program, but it provides a supportive network of people to provide you with an orientation designed to prepare and strengthen you for a life of service. In addition they will provide the benefits of full medical insurance while in service abroad, help with the cost of your air travel, and provide a monthly stipend for your minimal needs. When serving abroad, such as this Children’s Home in Honduras, a commitment of two years is expected.

General requirements are to:

• Have a desire to deepen your commitment to Christ and expand your Christian worldview.
• Be twenty-one years of age or older.
• Speak fluent Spanish (or at least have a good base-line grasp of the language).
• Love children.
• Have the ability to work on your own in a non-structured environment.
• Have adaptability to the Honduran culture.
• Have ability to actively support the processes the Home has begun, to adhere to work schedules and regulations as are set forth for all staff members.
• Have the ability to behave responsibly under sometimes trying circumstances.

As a volunteer, you’ll have the opportunity to help bring hope to shattered lives and build understanding between individuals, groups, and nations. Contact BVS and tell them you are interested in serving at Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel (Project #108) in San Pedro Sula Honduras:

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE
Phone: (847) 742-5100 or 1-800-323-8039
www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org
Email bvs@brethren.org

A THANKGIVING PRAYER

Oh God, when I have food,
Help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me
To remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home,
Help me to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain,
Help me to remember those who suffer;
And remembering, help me
To destroy my complacency
And bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough
To help, by word and deed,
Those who cry out
For what we take for granted.

~Samuel F. Pugh~