

District Highlights

November / December 2006

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UNDER
CONSTRUCTION

OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR:

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

The Western District PA COB announces the release of the newly developed official website!

On October 20, 2006 the Western District PA COB released the official district office website! The new website address is www.westernpacob.org.

The Western PA District Church of the Brethren contacted VII Design Concepts (www.viidc.com), a web development firm located in Western Pennsylvania which works on website media projects with clients nationwide and specializes in advanced web media solutions and applications, earlier this past Summer and discussed the development and design of the district office website. We wanted to provide our website visitors with a visually pleasant experience with simplicity in mind, information that is easy to locate, and to provide interactive web media applications where our visitors can stay up to date on upcoming news and events on a daily basis.

The new website has quite a few appealing features that will enable visitors to follow all upcoming events with an online calendar application and a complete news and events section.

Visitors will also be able to sign up on our website to receive our monthly newsletter electronically in their email. This is a most important feature and we urge all of those people who receive our newsletter in the mail each month to sign up to start receiving this newsletter in their email as this will GREATLY reduce our monthly costs of postage and paper needed for preparing and sending out these newsletters through regular postal mail. You can get your FREE email account at Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) if you do not already have an email address to assist us in this area so that funds can be allocated in other critical areas of ministry.

The new website is also equipped with a publications and forms download section where visitors can download forms required for upcoming event involvement as well as previous newsletter releases and descriptive flyers for all upcoming events.

The website also provides a unique text size selection feature for those who prefer larger text for ease of reading. Simply click the "Increase Size" link on the left of each page and the text size increases for your convenience.

A complete congregations listing is also provided with all contact information for each church in the Western PA COB district as well as a mapping feature for each that allows the visitor to view the locations of each church.

An integrated secure contact form allows all visitors to contact the staff member they need to as well as the subject of their contact request directly from the website. The visitor is then sent an automated email confirmation of their message.

"With the advancement of web based technology, we feel that the new website will provide our visitors with a variety of options and information for their viewing experience as well as assist us in reducing costs for our monthly newsletter preparation so that we can use these finances in other areas as needed."

Visit our new website today at www.westernpacob.org!

Local Church News

HOSPITALIZED

- **Elva Jean Westlake**, ordained minister in the Center Hill congregation, for another surgery and treatment.
- **Larry E. Walker**, pastor of the East McKeesport congregation, for tests and treatment.
- **Larry G. Black**, pastor of the Beachdale congregation, for surgery.

LEADERSHIP

- **Vincent Cable** has been called as FT pastor of the Uniontown congregation as of September 1, 2006.
- **Robert M. Thacker** has been called as FT pastor of the Maple Spring congregation as of January 1, 2007.
- **Larry G. Black** has resigned as FT pastor of the Beachdale congregation as of December 31, 2006, and accepted a call to the Hartville congregation in Northern Ohio District.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Pages 9, 13, 37

NEW ADDRESS - **John D. Cable** - 194 R Belleview St, Johnstown 15905

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NEW ADDRESS - **Center Hill COB** - 2039 Freeport Rd, Kittanning 16201

Wesley J. Berkebile - 2047 Freeport Rd, Kittanning 16201

Pages 36 & 42

NEW ADDRESS - **Kevin A. Wilkins** - 1115 Bair Hill Rd, Mount Pleasant 15666

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NEW ADDRESS - **Owen H. Preston** - 611 Wilson Dr, Apt. 2, Berlin 15530-1546

New Members

Middlecreek

- John E. Sleasman
- Kylee M. Noss
- Gabrielle L. Noss
- Gabrielle E. Sleasman

Mount Joy

- Thomas Robosky
- John Jackson
- Paul Barron
- Ruth Barron
- Jeffrey Neiderhiser

~ Heritage Hints ~

Can you identify this Church from the Western PA District?

This congregation was part of a larger congregation that developed in 1813 when a farm was purchased.

At that time, the second story of a two-story dwelling was the first especially prepared "love-feast room" in what is now southern Cambria County. About 1828, a home was built that housed services that were later moved to a schoolhouse. About 1878, preaching was again moved to another location that was known at that time as Whiskey Spring. The first church building was built in 1892; the church was organized in 1899.

**If you can name this church,
Call or e-mail Linda McCauliff at 814/479-7058**

See the answer in the next issue of the *Highlights*.

The answer to last month's Heritage Hints:

Fairview Church of the Brethren.

Thanks to *Betty Frazee & Linda Reininger*

January Highlights Deadline

December 10, 2006

Local Church News

Vacation Bible School Reports

Our VBS was held on June 19th-23rd at Berkey Church of the Brethren. The children learned about the Holy Days and Holidays. The children and adults enjoyed learning about the different holidays. The average attendance for the week was 190, including 50 helpers. It was a wonderful week! We ended up the week on Sunday morning, sharing with the congregation what we had learned. The children collected monies all week for the Riverside Christian School in Lost Creek, Kentucky.

Arbutus Church went to Son Treasure Island during Bible School this summer. There were 44 children, 29 of whom had perfect attendance for the week, and about 20 helpers. The children brought in the supplies for Gift of the Heart School Kits and with the help of the Women's Fellowship had ?? Kits to send to Church World Service. Their money donation of \$300 was sent to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium.

Continuing Education Opportunity

Storied Leadership led by Gil Rendle, Senior Consultant, The Alban Institute on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at Elizabethtown College. Sponsored by Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and Congregation Life Team, Area 1. Registration information will be forthcoming.

A primary tool of leading a congregation is the story of the congregation itself. The role of the leader is to help the congregation discern its own story and to seek what God asks of the congregation next. Leaders need to help congregations tell a "better story" of themselves in order to grow in their ministry and their faithfulness.

The Roxbury Congregation is looking for a Choir Director. The position would be needed Wednesday evenings for rehearsal at 6:00 PM and again Sunday morning for Worship Service at 10:30 AM.

Also we are in need of an Organist after January 1, 2007. Anyone interested or knowing someone interested in these positions, please call Carol Weimer at 262-9102.

District Women's Fellowship

The District Women's Fellowship Brunch was enjoyed by the 43 persons who attended. There were 81 kits given to Church World Service and the offering for Honduras Orphanage came to \$345.00. It was an excellent event with good food and fellowship. Anthony Fraizer gave some good tips on dealing with persons who have problems. The best idea is to really listen. Put everything else out of your mind, concentrate on what is being said. Don't accuse but try to be positive about ways for the person to begin to work through the problem. The person needs to deal with it. No one can stop the trouble for someone else.

The next event is the Spring Rally on April 12, 2007, using the theme *Being a Joyful Christian Woman*.

Annual Camp Harmony Christmas Dinner

December 30th

5:00 at Faith Hall



This is a recognition and thank you dinner for anyone who has helped out with camp in any way throughout the past 80 years.

There will be entertainment and plenty of time to fellowship and visit with friends.

Denominational News

Personnel Changes

- *Dr. Norman and Carol Spicher Waggy* have accepted a position with the Global Mission Partnerships of the Church of the Brethren General Board, to develop a new health ministry with the church in the Dominican Republic. They will begin in January 2007.
- *Rose Stutzman and Nancy Ryan*, both Mennonites from Goshen, Ind., are joining the staff of the Gather 'Round curriculum project, published jointly by Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network.

National Older Adult Conference to be held in 2008 and 2009

At its fall meeting, the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC) Board decided to hold the next National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) in 2008 and again in 2009 so that the biennial conference would not occur in the same year as future National Youth Conferences.

"Staff, volunteers and resources were very strained to prepare for and work at three major denominational conferences--Annual Conference, National Youth Conference, and NOAC--all held within a three-month period," said Kathy Reid, ABC's executive director. "By moving NOAC to odd-numbered years, the ABC Board is demonstrating good stewardship of staff, volunteers, and resources. As the agency representing the caring ministries of the church, we're also trying to encourage the wellness of the many people who work in various ways at all three events."

The ABC Board determined that holding the conferences back to back would successfully move into a new conference schedule while still honoring plans made to hold the next NOAC in 2008. The next NOAC will be held Sept. 1-5, 2008, followed by another on Sept. 7-11, 2009. After 2009, the conference will return to a two-year cycle. NOAC will continue to be held at Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly.

Newsline is produced by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

OMA holds a National Conference.



The Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren (OMA) is planning its national conference on Nov. 17-19 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Va. **"Fill Their Cups: Fostering Leadership"** is the theme for the event held every three years for church leaders, educators, youth and children's ministry leaders, camp staff and leaders, camp boards, district outdoor ministries committees and commissions, and interested people of all denominations.

"Leadership development is hugely important for building tomorrow's church," said the brochure for the conference. "As church leaders and camp leaders we frequently encounter members, guests, students, seasonal staff, and summer campers who are on the brink of becoming great leaders; their cup is almost full. When we take opportunity to add a little more--to give them the nudge they need--their potential comes spilling out and their spiritual gifts come into fruition."

Leaders for the conference include keynote speaker Eugene Roop, president of Bethany Theological Seminary; roundtable leaders Chris Douglas, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Church of the Brethren General Board, and Jerri Heiser-Wenger and Rex Miller, co-director of Camp Blue Diamond and director of Camp Alexander Mack, respectively; and session leaders Janis Pyle, coordinator for Mission Connections for the General Board, and Paul Grout, former Annual Conference moderator and co-founder of A Place Apart.

Registration costs include meals: \$80 per person for those lodging at Camp Bethel, \$60 per person without lodging, and \$40 per person for Saturday only. Discounts are available for children and seniors. For more information and registration go to www.campbethelvirginia.org/OMA.htm#conf. Contact camp.bethel@juno.com for printed, post-mailed copies of information and registration form.

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Jr. High Youth Conference

June 15-17, 2007

At Elizabethtown College

THEME: "The Amazing Race: Continuing the Work of Jesus"

The conference is for youth grades 6-8. The cost of the conference is \$99 per person. Keynote speakers are Tony Campolo and Ted & Lee. Ken Medema will be leading our singing during worship. Keep watching the District Highlights and the mail for updates.

DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH

YOUTH RETREAT

"The Heart Beat of ... Service"

Friday, December 1 -

Saturday, December 2, 2006

at

Camp Harmony

Speakers:

Friday night: *Steve Vickroy*, Fellowship of Athletes for Christ

Saturday: *Dan McFadden*, Director of Brethren Volunteer Service

Cost: \$25 per person

Sponsored by:

Service Team of LEAP!

Eastern Regional Youth Conference

March 9-11, 2007

At Juniata College

ERYC is for youth in grades 9-12. We are in the planning stages right now. Keep watching the District Highlights for details.

*Keynote speaker:
Rolly Martinson*

Diana Rok, District Youth Ministries Coordinator

Phone: 814 / 535-8346