

District Highlights

October 2006

STAFF:

Ronald D. Beachley

Linda L. McCauliff

Suzanne G. Moss

TELEPHONE:

(fax # also) 814-479-7058

814-479-2181

WEBSITE:

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)

OUR COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER!!!!

"So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault....Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others."

(Romans 14: 19, 22, The Message)

What commitment or accountability do I have to my sisters and brothers in the local faith community? I have thought about this question very specifically the past few weeks. This question keeps coming back to me as I deal with situations, needs and concerns coming from leaders in local congregations. Often I see and hear about persons leaving a local congregation, rather than share with the pastor or leadership a concern or issue which they feel needs addressed. Jesus, through his ministry, demonstrated and talked about how we should relate to others, in attitude and actions.

When was the last time you reviewed or listened to your baptismal vows? The one vow states, "Will you turn away from all sin and will you endeavor by God's grace to live according to the example and teachings of Jesus?" So, I ask-- what did Jesus teach or what was his attitude toward others? Certainly, he was honest, open and very direct when he dealt with people. Encouraging us to follow his example in a number of scriptures. He told the disciples in Mark, "*If anyone would be first, He must be last of all and servant to all.*"

In recent weeks I've thought at length about serving and how we relate to others in the faith community. How do I best serve and share my faith in the local congregation? What responsibility do I have to sisters and brothers in my local faith community? How do I confront a sister or brother in love? What is required of me to be a faithful servant? The questions could go on and on, but, "What is my response?" I see our answers and attitudes impacting congregations in dramatic ways.

Take a moment and prayerfully reflect on the questions asked in the above paragraph. Do my responses reflect the attitude that Paul encourages in the verses quoted above? As a Christian I/we need to be reminded of how we serve and share with others in our faith journey. We serve Christ best when we *Ado unto others as we would have them do unto us.* @ This is easy to say, but sometimes difficult for us to do. We need to constantly seek the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, if our words and deeds are going to reflect the mind and heart of Christ.

We are "called to be.. faithful, committed, dedicated, loving, caring," and you can add to the list. However, those words will have little meaning if they are not put into action in our relationship with Christ and with our sisters and brothers in the faith community. "*Each of one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'how can I help?'*" (Romans 15: 2).

RDB

Local Church News

SYMPATHY

- to the family of **Donna R. Allen**. Donna served as a licensed minister in the Bethel congregation.
- to District Board Member **Jeff Keyser** and family in the death of his son, **Jeffrey**.
- to **Ross E. Walker**, Brethren Home Charitable Trust Board member, in the death of his wife, **Winifred**.
- to District Clerk **Cynthia Mason** and family in the death of her father, **Morris Metzger**

CONGRATULATIONS

- to **Charles & Linda Whipple** on the birth of granddaughter Hannah, born to David and Cari Whipple on August 19, 2006. Charles is serving as pastor of the Connellsville congregation.

LEADERSHIP

- **Kevin L. Broadwater** has been called as PT pastor of the Hyndman congregation as of August 6, 2006.
- **John D. Cable** has resigned as FT pastor of the Roxbury congregation as of September 17, 2006.
- **Wilbur H. Hosler** has announced his retirement and resignation from the Penn Run congregation as of October 31, 2006
- **Michael A. Clark** has resigned as FT pastor of the Walnut Grove congregation as of October 15, 2006.

New Members

Somerset

- Joyce Pritts
- Eric Huet
- Drew Schrock
- Jarod Zehner
- Hannah Watkins
- Julie Garrity
- Alyssa Weigle
- Katie Custer
- Wendell Ritenour
- Cynthia Ritenour
- Wendy Ritenour
- Keith Ritonour

Hyndman

- Jennifer Miller

Pike Run

- Edith Shroyer

Walnut Grove

- Jon Mock

Uniontown

- Vincent Cable
- Charlotte Cable

Sudan Initiative

October 13

7:00 pm

Uniontown Church of the Brethren

Jim Hardenbrook will be speaking about the Sudan Initiative, a ministry of the Church of the Brethren through the Global Mission Partnerships.



There will be light refreshments after the program. For more info call 724-438-8372.

Retiring Pastor Honored

The Penn Run congregation invites you to attend a covered dish dinner in honor of Pastor Wilbur Hosler as he retires from the ministry. It will be held Saturday, October 21, 6:00 PM, at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center. Contact Karen Cramer for further information at 724-254-2898.

Don't forget to register for
District Conference by
October 20!

**November/December
Highlights Deadline
October 15, 2006**

Local Church News

Vacation Bible School Reports

Roxbury Church reported, "Vacation Bible School 2006 was a success!" Our theme this year was "Super Sized, Thin and Crispy, Hot and Spicy, Hold the Onions, Finger-licking Tasty Treats." Each day at Bible School, the children were able to sample a recipe made in front of them. The recipes included: unleavened bread, desert quail (chicken with spices wrapped in grape leaves), grape juice, cucumber salad, and mixed dessert (dates, raisins, nuts and honey on yogurt). Each day the Bible story had something to do with food in the Bible and the children got to experience first hand how people in Jesus' day ate.

We had a total of 31 different children attend Bible School this year. On Thursday night we had a mission offering for the Orphanage in Honduras. The children gave a total of \$104.79 which will be sent to the Orphanage.

Treasure Cove

In June, the Walnut Grove children enjoyed a week of discovering the riches of God's word at Bible School. Kelly Harrity, Amanda Beisel, Todd Beisel, Pastor Mike and Ann Clark, taught a group of about 12 eager students each evening.

The Mount Joy Church of the Brethren held its Vacation Bible School June 12-16, 2006. The theme was "THE QUEST FOR GOD'S 10 COMMANDMENTS". We had an average attendance of 81 including 23 helpers. The children raised money for the Emmanuel Children's Home. Their goal was \$300 and you should have heard the shouts of joy when it was announced that they had exceeded that! It was a wonderful week.

Auction Sale

Saturday, October 21st at 9 am
to benefit **Center Church of the Brethren**
Fellowship Hall Fund.

The auction sale will be held at the **Pike Run Church of the Brethren**, located along Rte 31 (west of Somerset). Pastor Charles Whipple, will be the auctioneer and food will be available from the church's Women's Fellowship.

All money raised from the auction and bake sale will go to help build their Fellowship Hall, they've been planning for.

A few of the items being sold, include: antiques, homemade furniture, used furniture, Tupperware, knick-knacks, Christmas items, donated items from local businesses.....



Save the date, to join us.

Any questions? Please call Pastor Homer Painter 724-423-4342 or Keith & Michele Miller 814-445-4357.

~ Heritage Hints ~

Can you identify this Church from the Western PA District?

This congregation was organized in 1790. Elder George Wolfe, Sr. moved from Lancaster County and organized the congregation known at that time as the Georges Creek church. Jacob Mack, grandson of Alexander Mack, was married in this community in 1796. He bought a mill on Brown's Run, about a mile from the Monongahela River, where he settled and held many religious services in his home prior to 1835.

**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: **Walnut Grove Church of the Brethren.**

Thanks to *Marie Camut & Linda Reininger* for correctly identifying the church.

District News

2006 District Directory Update

Pages 20 & 44

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS for **Diana L. Rok** -
diana.rok@gmail.com

Page 39

NEW ADDRESS for **Wilbur H. Hosler** - 525
First St, Clymer 15728 Phone: 724 254-9764

NEW ADDRESS for **Roger C. Knepper** - 206 S
Main St PO Box 134, Davidsville 15928-0134
Phone: 814 479-2698

NEW ADDRESS for **Henry G. Landis** - 207
Quarry St, Mount Pleasant 15666-2103

Pages 26 & 44

NEW ADDRESS for Homer Painter - 156 Brush
Creek Road Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Page 42

NEW ADDRESS for **William W. Wenger** - 146
Miller Dr, Davidsville PA 15928

**PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE
(814 479-7058) WITH ANY OTHER
CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS. Thanks!**

*"Now to each one the
manifestation of the Spirit
is given for the common
good."*

I Corinthians 12:7 NIV

Simply the Best!

The **Brethren Home Community Windber**
(BHCW) was awarded the
"Simply the Best 2006"

Tribune Democrat award in
the category Nursing/
Personal Care Home.



According to Mr. Reckner,
CEO of the BHCW, "this is
such an honor: our staff deserves all the credit,
they work very hard to make our Home "simply
the best"."

This is the 15th year the Tribune Democrat has
sponsored this program. The
Brethren Home was
nominated in the past but
this is the first time that it
received the winning votes.



Thank you for voting for us and thanks to our
staff for their dedication and exceptional service
to our residents. This award has inspired us to
work harder and hopefully next year achieve
another "Simply the Best".

The American Heart Association's
Family and Friends CPR Program will be
Offered at Arbutus Church of the Brethren.

November 5, 2006

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This 2-hour program combines video and hands-
on practice in providing CPR and assistance to
unresponsive and/or choking adults, children and
infants.

(This course isn't intended for individuals desiring
a BLS certification such as health care providers.)

RSVP to Charlene Trimeloni at 814-244-1070 by
Oct. 25th. (please leave a call back number with
your message)

Fees for this course are \$8/person or \$14/couple
to cover costs of booklet and manikin
maintenance.

District News



DISTRICT DISASTER RESPONSE

Update

September 24, 2006

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Calling Western Pennsylvania Volunteers:

Things are heating up in the south. There are now three projects in southern states. One is still open at Pensacola, FL (Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis). This is 17th poorest county in the US and our presence is needed there and will be for some time to come.

The other two projects are located in Lucedale, Mississippi, where this district sent 12 volunteers in August, and a new one at Slidell, Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish) on the shores of Lake Ponchartrain. The Mississippi project reportedly has over 300 homes that need work and the Louisiana recovery committee sees 3-5 years worth of work ahead there.

There is no news to report on the plans to establish a modular home building project in southern Virginia. As new as that would be for us, it will take some time and effort to get started, so stand by for developments.

The needs for volunteers mount and will be higher in the coming months than we've seen, perhaps since the end of the WW II. Among the twelve volunteers to Mississippi in August there were seven new faces. We praise the Lord for all the new hands we can recruit!!

There is still a need for Disaster Project Directors, Long term Project Directors, BVS'ers and Project Assistants.

Please continue to recruit and call out persons who are capable of these tasks. We really need to help these victims and we have to find the people who can do it. Rise to this challenge and let me know of prospects.

Now for the immediate. Western Pennsylvania has been requested to

Provide volunteers to Slidell, Louisiana, the week of November 4-11, 2006.

These dates include the probable travel dates. There is a conflict with the District Auction, but sometimes we just have to prioritize. Tentative plans are to borrow a van, leave around 8:00 Saturday, Nov.4, overnight at Nashville (\$5.00) and arrive at Slidell in the afternoon of Sunday the 12th. Return is still open, but one week only. Please let me know as soon as you decide whether you can go.

Questions? – Call.

God Bless,

Paul B. Shumaker
District Disaster Volunteer Coordinator
Telephone: 724-238-2994
e-mail: psshumaker@verizon.net

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children...." Ephesians 5:1

Denominational News

Personnel Changes

- **Connie R. Burkholder** has resigned as executive minister of Northern Plains District, effective Nov. 15. She has served in the position for 10 years.
- **Jim Chinworth** has resigned as campus pastor at Manchester College. Campus pastor Jim Chinworth, who has led Manchester College's spiritual life program for eight years, will join Manchester Church of the Brethren as associate pastor for youth ministry and congregational life in January.
- Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) has announced the appointment of **Stephen O. Mason** as director of the Brethren Foundation, Inc. In addition to the foundation, Mason will assume the responsibilities of director of Investments for BBT.
- **Del Keeney**, executive director of Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren General Board, has announced his resignation effective Dec. 31. He has accepted a call to pastor Mechanicsburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, where he will begin on Jan. 1, 2007.
- **Jay Wittmeyer** begins Oct. 30 as manager of publications for Brethren Benefit Trust. In this role, he will have daily oversight of BBT's printed materials such as newsletters, press releases, and website; will serve on the Communications Team helping to create new marketing materials and plan communications initiatives; and will be one of BBT's senior writers and editors.

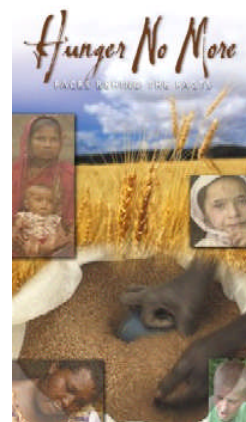
Position Openings

- Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind., is accepting applications for the position of **campus pastor**, to plan and coordinate religious services and oversee religious life programming. A minimum of a Master of Divinity or equivalent master's degree and ordination in the Church of the Brethren is required. Submit a cover letter, resume, and employment application (see www.manchester.edu/OHR/applicationprocess.htm) to Human Resources, Attn: CP/B, Manchester College, 604 E. College Ave., North Manchester, IN 46962. Applications will be reviewed beginning immediately and continue until the position is filled.

- An **executive director** for the Indianapolis Peace House is sought to lead the consortial "study away" program operated by Manchester, Earlham, and Goshen Colleges in Indiana, beginning no later than Nov. 15. Review of applications begins Sept. 15. Send applications to Dr. Nelson E. Bingham, Special Assistant to the President, Drawer #55, Earlham College, Richmond, IN 47374-4095. Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information go to www.plowsharesproject.org/php/peacehouse/index.ph.
- The National Council of Churches is publicizing two job openings: an associate general secretary for Administration and Finance; and a communication officer for its Washington Office. Position descriptions and full details for applicants are at www.nccusa.org/jobs/jobshome.html.

"Hunger No More"

Ending hunger is the topic of a National Council of Churches (NCC) television documentary, "Hunger No More: Faces Behind the Facts." The one-hour special was made available to NBC television network affiliates beginning Sept. 10. The documentary approaches hunger from the perspective of faith, declaring that it is more than a social issue. Howard Royer, manager of the Global Food Crisis Fund for the Church of the Brethren General Board, noted that the program may be a good resource for World Food Day on Oct. 16.



A study guide is available at www.councilofchurches.org/hunger.

The program is available on DVD and VHS video, along with a study guide keyed to the content. Call 800-999-3534 to order the video and study guide, at \$19.95 (VHS) and \$24.95 (DVD), plus shipping and handling.

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

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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.

Dr. Walt Mueller

Saturday, October 21, 2006

Somerset Area High School

Workshop Opportunities

For Parents & Youth Workers
8:30 am "Understanding Today's
Youth Culture"

For Teens
12:30 pm "Using Your Head to
Guard Your Heart"

Sponsored by New Day, Inc. of
Somerset County
Call: 814-445-7557

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.

National Youth Conference 2006

July 22-27, 2006

Fort Collins, Colorado

NYC 2006 was an exciting time! The youth, the workshops, the worship, REGNUH---everything! Here is a brief report.

For those who want the "numbers", here they are>>>

Diana Rok, District Youth Ministries Coordinator

Phone: 814 / 535-8346

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Participants: 3,606

Small Groups: 268

Workshops: 160

Service Project

Hikers: 2,750

Participants: 2,100

Food offering: 2,634 lbs

Scholarship

REGNUH 5K walkers/runners: 2,100

Offering: \$18,000

REGNUH Walk + Global Food Crisis Offering: \$94,000 & counting

Now for the highlights on the speakers.

Jeff Carter, pastor of Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren, preached Saturday evening. He is quoted as saying, "The question we need to answer tonight is, are we willing to come and see...(the) Christ who knows us by name, who invites us to join him in ministry, who accepts us as we are."*

Ted & Lee were on hand Sunday morning for worship. They portrayed Peter and Andrew. We watched and listened as they fed the 5,000 and as their feet were washed by Jesus.

Craig Kielburger, founder of (Kids Can) Free the Children, quoted Jeremiah 1:7 saying, "Do not say, I am only a youth."* He encouraged the youth to do something now. Not tomorrow or when they're an adult but now. Craig told them of the hurting and needy world both inside and outside their communities that they can impact.

We heard from the speech contest speakers. They are Jamie Frye, Allen Bowers, and Chrissy Sollenberger.

Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners community in Washington, DC, spoke about being in the middle of the evil and suffering. He is quoted, "I want to call you tonight to an important task. You've got to clear up the confusion about what it means to be a Christian."*

Andy Murray spoke about "Who are you becoming?". When we decide who we belong to, we can begin to become who we will be. Seeing things the way Jesus sees them.

Beth Gunzel spoke about the poor communities in the Dominican Republic. She shared about the microloan program she works with and how it has helped people in the communities in the Dominican Republic.

Worship was filled with singing, dramas, skits, Jesus or No Jesus, and Alexander Mack. The "Ripple Effect" tent was open after each worship for individuals to go express what was stirring in each one. NYC provided many service projects and a hike in the Rocky Mountains.

Western PA was represented by approximately nineteen congregations (if I didn't miss any one). Of those nineteen congregations, fourteen traveled by bus, stopping at places like MennoHof, the Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, St. Louis Zoo, and Bethany Seminary.

All in all, it was a great experience, both fun and spiritual. A time to get to know others and yourself. A time to get to know God.

Diana Rok, District Youth Ministry Coordinator

* Quotes were taken directly from The NYC Tribune.

Diana Rok, District Youth Ministries Coordinator

Phone: 814 / 535-8346