CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH!!!

A few days ago I attended a local pastor’s meeting and the topic of discussion was “Pastors Are Hurting.” Since October is “Clergy Appreciation Month” I felt this was a timely subject to have you think about and how one might be supportive of their pastor. I will suggest a few ways to be supportive later, but first it might be helpful to understand why pastors are hurting.

LifeWay Research conducted a national survey of Protestant pastors and the survey pointed out two main causes of pain in a pastor’s life. “One of the key symptoms of pain experienced by pastors is discouragement and another is loneliness.” Amazingly, in both of the areas above 55% of pastors surveyed at some point in their ministry were discouraged and lonely. These two factors often lead to depression and burnout.

In the area of discouragement, size of the congregation, geographical location, and educational level were all the same. However, younger pastors were more likely to be discouraged and more likely to be lonely. The greater the education level of the pastor the more likely she or he would be lonely. Reflecting on the two ideas highlighted in the research by Thom Rainer, LifeWay Ministries, what can I do about it?

Here are several suggestions for each of us to support our pastor. I believe the most important thing we can do is keep your pastor and family in your daily prayers and remind them of this on occasion. Another simple way of supporting your pastor is with a call, a card or note of appreciation to express your support for his or her leadership. Give your pastor a gift card, or better yet invite the pastor and family out or over for lunch or dinner. If you serve in a leadership role in the church, ask the pastor how things are going. When you ask that question, make sure you are in a private setting and what is shared will be held in confidence.

Let the pastor know he or she has your support, even if you don’t always agree on issues. Be sure you do not make disparaging remarks to others about the pastor. If you disagree with the pastor, make every effort to follow Matthew 18:15ff in talking directly with the pastor to understand and resolve the situation. Encourage your pastor to be involved with a local pastors group or join with one or two others in a support group.

Be creative in showing your gratitude to your minister on one Sunday in October. Some of the ideas shared above would work for support from the congregation. Another might be to surprise the pastor by inviting a “guest” pastor to have the sermon on a Sunday morning in October. One final idea would spread the gratitude throughout the year. This would be for the board or deacon chair to invite/encourage three or four different families each month to make a call, or send a note/card of appreciation or thanks throughout the year. I would be grateful to know how you are planning to share with your pastor this year.

RDB
**District Office News**

**HOSPITALIZED and RECOVERING**
- **Carole Horner**, District Treasurer, for knee surgery
- **Lori Conn**, wife of County Line pastor Barry Conn, for surgery
- **Tracey Kensinger**, wife of Montgomery pastor James Kensinger, for treatment
- **Larry Walker**, ordained minister and former pastor at Mount Pleasant, for treatment

**SYMPATHY**
- to the family of **Patricia Marshall**, in the death of Pat’s sister in Louisiana, Florence McBride

**NEW MEMBERS**
- Somerset congregation
  - Trish Schropp
  - Sue Darr

- Uniontown congregation
  - Timothy Kay

- Roxbury congregation
  - Kevin Allison
  - Steven Allison
  - Luella Luczko
  - Jeanette Yurasko

**DATES to REMEMBER**
(more info in the Sept. issue of the Highlights)
- **October 13** - Fall Scrapbook Retreat at Penn Run Church
  - Multiphasic Blood Screening at Roxbury Church
- **October 20** - Fall Quilt Retreat at Penn Run
- **October 21** - Hymn Sing at Sipesville Church
- **November 10** - Sisters in Christ/Christmas Joy at Maple Spring

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**From the District Office – REMINDER – DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Registrations are due by **Friday, October 12**.

The registration form was mailed to leadership persons in each congregation and was included in the September issue of **District HIGHLIGHTS**. Plan to arrive at the Fred M. Rogers Center on the campus of St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, by 8:30 a.m. Come for a day of good information and to have a voice in the business of the Western PA District, and also enjoy great fellowship and food. Childcare is available on site, and that registration form was included in the DC info packet that was mailed and included in the HIGHLIGHTS.

**the District Office – REMINDER – REPORT FORMS**

Please be aware that the annual report form for congregations (Form B) has been sent out from the denominational offices in Elgin, Illinois. The form will update 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 information is important to both the district and the denomination. Please be sure to review the information 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!
An Ode to Clergy.

Maybe no one’s told you, Pastor, but you’re amazing!

You rise early to study and pray; you lay down well after the sun’s gone to bed. All for the sake of the call.

If the phone rings at 3 am, you’re springing up from sleep to sit in the ICU.

While the rest of your people are snug in their beds, you’re comforting a wailing widow.

You stay after choir practice to change the banners for Sunday, and to water the poinsettias so they last another week.

Your highest charge is to deliver a message from Almighty God Who reigns On High in Majesty, yet you’re not above plunging a stuck commode.

You have eaten more leftover ham, scalloped potatoes and green beans than anyone can fathom.

You carry anointing oil with you and you know how to use it. Because someone may need to feel God’s power.

You constantly work to know more – to be wiser, to be more discerning, to embed more Truth into your mind.

When a friend is falling, you call on that Truth to minister to their confusion.

You are God’s mouthpiece – you pray that He would touch your lips with hot coals, that your words would be pure.

You hold new babies in your hands and bless them; you clasp hands with the elderly and reassure them of hope.

You’ve seen your share of ugly board meetings, yet you still believe that the Church is Christ’s bride.

You love beauty – inspiring music, the wonder of nature, the stillness of a winter morning, an unbridled “Alleluia!”

You aren’t paid what you’re worth, are you?

You never expected life would go as it has – you’ve done things you never thought you could, because you had to.

Always a prayer on your lips: “Father God, use me.” “Savior Jesus, change me.” “Holy Spirit, flood me!”

How you long for those prayers to come from the people you serve, as well.

We plod along slowly, in our pews, in our humanity. But you hold out hope for even the stubborn among us.

You smile when you’d rather scream, you sing when you’d like to cry, you comfort when your own heart is breaking.

Sin and death and turmoil and striving are temporary; you know that. One day we will stand in His glory!

Until then, you labor on. You weep and sweat and bleed and lose sleep for the sake of souls who need Christ.

You pray and seek and learn and fail and trust and forgive and teach and triumph and help and encourage and lean.

I gotta tell you, Pastor – you’re amazing!

With deep appreciation,

Abby
Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren will hold revival services Sunday, October 7--Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

Bro. Craig Alan Myers will be the evangelist.

Bro. Myers of Churubusco, Indiana, is pastor of the Blue River Church of the Brethren, Columbia City, Indiana. He has served there since November 1990. He was the 2011 Moderator of the Northern Indiana District Conference.


Services begin with the Sunday morning service at 10:45 a.m. and then nightly at 7:00 p.m.

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

Walnut Grove Autumn Rummage Sale
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
Walnut Grove Church

Come spend the morning with us browsing through a wide variety of merchandise for sale while enjoying our open kitchen and bake sale.

Those interested in renting table space should contact the church office at 814 536-1811.

Our church is conveniently located at 1068 Bedford Street in Johnstown, with plenty of off-street parking. We advertise the sale in local newspapers, local churches and on our outdoor signs.

Tables are only $10, and may be set up on Friday evening before the sale.

Hope to see you there!
District Church News

**District Women’s Ministries Spring Event**

Ah, the beautiful sight of the mountains, the rolling hills, the shimmering lake. We looked over God’s wonderful handy work that He made for us. We had time to admire the country side and to praise God for giving it to us. Of course, I’m talking about the District Women’s Ministries spring event (“Women On the Move”) at the Antiochian Village Retreat Center. Sometimes we need to take time out to praise and worship God for our surroundings.

Victoria Smith was the event leader this year. She is a Godly woman. She shared with us many of her experiences in the ministry and shared her music. She showed us some of the miracles that can happen when you let the Holy Spirit come into your life. We thank Vicky for her many insights and we thank God for sending her to us.

We are already planning next year’s spring event. It is “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord.” Our Scripture is Psalm 90:17, “Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.” The date will be May 4&5, 2013. Put this date on your calendar. Please pray for this event now through spring. It will be a great time to meet and fellowship with other Christians. This event is open to all your friends and relatives. Watch for more details in upcoming Highlights and through mailings to you church.

We need to take time to reflect on God’s love for us. We need to slow down from our busy schedules and let God talk to us. This event is being planned for you. God wants to share some time with you. God will show you that He made you beautiful from the inside out!

For more information call Pastor Judy Walker – 724-522-5260

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Rev Shirley Norman Memorial Award**

The Executive Committee of PaVOAD (PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) has approved the creation of an award in memory and in honor of Rev. Shirley Norman, one of our founding members and the first Vice President of our organization. Rev. Shirley was well known for her commitment to serve disaster victims and was a champion for the advancement of VOAD throughout Pennsylvania and was well known across the country in NVOAD.

It is our intent that the Rev. Shirley Norman Memorial Award will be given annually during our PaVOAD conference and be given to a VOAD member who best exhibits her spirit and commitment to service and the advancement of VOAD throughout the Commonwealth of PA.

If you are interested in making a donation in memory of Rev. Shirley in support of this award, you can do so by sending a check to: Robert Myers, Vice President, PaVOAD 1350 Groveton Street Pittsburgh, PA 15234 Checks should be made payable to “PaVOAD”. Make a notation on the memo line, for the “Rev. Shirley Norman Memorial Award”.

**MISSIONARY FURLOUGH HOUSING:**

A Johnstown area couple has an apartment for use by missionaries on furlough, evangelists, or speakers needing a place to stay. The apartment is fully furnished, has a kitchen, living room, den, bedroom, full bath, and a laundry area. However, the apartment is not handicap accessible; you must be able to go up ten steps. There is no charge for the use of the apartment. However, donations to help cover cost of utilities would be appreciated. For more information, call (814) 479-5552.
GLOBAL MISSION DISTRICT ADVOCATE

The Global Mission and Service agency of the Church of the Brethren has launched the “Global Missions Advocate Network.” The network aims at equipping districts and congregations to promote Brethren mission efforts at the individual, congregational, and district levels. The Outreach & Service Team of our Western PA District is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to serve as our District Global Missions Advocate.

The ideal advocate would have a heart for Church of the Brethren missions and the international Brethren community. The advocate will be tasked to keep Brethren mission work before the Western PA District through district newsletters, websites, conferences, and other avenues, as well as communicate district mission efforts to the broader network. In addition, the advocate will help recruit, resource, and support Congregational Advocates in each congregation throughout our district. The advocate can expect to receive regular mission updates, prayer concerns, and resources from the Global Mission and Service agency.

If you have a heart for missions and feel that being our District Mission Advocate would be a wonderful way to serve the Lord, please contact Pastor Bill Wenger, chairperson of the District Outreach & Service Team at (814) 539-7807. Thank you!

Organ Available:

Robinson Church of the Brethren has an organ available free to any congregation or Brethren affiliated organization that can use it. The organ is operable, but does need a little work to bring the sound to it’s best potential. If interested, please contact Kelly Hicks at 724-388-5031.

District Children’s Christmas Party!

The District/Camp Harmony Children’s Christmas Party is happening on December 15 and we’d like to engage the kids in a service project. They’ll be making scarves to send to No Walls Ministry, which aids homeless folks in Pittsburgh. We need your help! If you have some large, clean pieces of fleece (not felt) that you’re willing to part with, please consider donating to our project! Also, if you have some pony beads (those colorful, chunky plastic beads), we’ll take those too. Additionally, if you’d like to send hats, scarves or gloves (all clean) for these people, bring those as well.

Please bring donations to Camp or the District Office by December 10th. We are blessed to be a blessing - THANK YOU!!!

PASTORAL SUPPORT: THE WITHIN-THE-DISTRICT MISSION FUND

Within our Western PA District, mission funds have been designated to help struggling congregations 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, to contact them about the possibility of receiving mission funds. The Outreach & Service Team would be glad to meet with congregational leaders to discuss the use of these funds to help your congregation.

Congregations who would 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 money the congregation has in its possession.

If your congregation might benefit from these designated mission funds and you would be interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Bill Wenger, chairperson of the District Outreach & Service Team, at (814)539-7807. Thank you.
DISTRICT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012

SOMERSET CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
606 Berlin Plank Road, Somerset, PA 15501

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 John Watkins
369 W Church Ave 814-267-4352
Masontown, PA 15461
Or call: 724-583-7073

Thank You!
September 5, 2012

Herb Ewald
335 Southmont Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15905

Dear Herb:

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski Town Council extend our deepest appreciation to you for volunteering your time and energy to helping our community as we continue to recover from the effects of the April 8th 2011 tornados. We have been humbled and honored by the outpouring of assistance offered from people and organizations both nearby and very far away.

Sixteen months later, we have repaired approximately eighty homes and have moved fourteen families into their brand-new homes and will move two more this week. We have three more homes under construction. This incredible achievement has been possible only with the generous investment of funding, materials, and time from those like you who have supported us selflessly.

We deeply appreciate the investment our generous donors and volunteers from around the country have made in the continuing effort to rebuild our community.

Thank you so much for your part in this amazing achievement.

Sincerely,

Jeff Worrell, Mayor
Town of Pulaski

Joe Sheffey, Chairman
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors
The Western PA District Church of the Brethren is hosting the 7th Annual District Auction!

Churches are invited to collect and contribute items for the auction in support of the ministries of the Western PA District.

There are TWO Saturday drop-off dates scheduled at Camp Harmony from 9 a.m to 12 noon: October 13 and October 27 ONLY!

The ONLINE AUCTION begins October 1 and continues through November 2. Go to www.westernpacob.org and follow the links.

For more information, see your congregation’s Auction Advocate or call the District Office at 814 479-2181 or 814 479-7058
Denominational News

Position Openings

- The Church of the Brethren is seeking an individual to fill a full-time position of **Packer** for Material Resources.

- Camp Swatara of the Atlantic Northeast District is seeking an **Administrator/CEO/CFO** to begin 6/2013. Applications may be obtained after from the Camp Swatara website or from Melisa Wenger at swatarasearch@yahoo.com.

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

Wider Church News

**Juniata College Announcement:**

Hi! I am Molly Walmer, an officer of the Brethren Student Fellowship group at Juniata College. I would like to invite all high school seniors to participate in a Brethren overnight event at Juniata on October 7-8, 2012. If you're unsure of your college plans, this is a great way to get a feel for the college and the Brethren community that surrounds it, both on campus and at the Stone Church of the Brethren. You will have the chance to stay with current Brethren students, meet professors, see the campus, and check out all that Juniata has to offer. The event will include the following activities:

**Sunday, October 7**

- Check-in 4:30-5:00 p.m.
- Meet Fellow Brethren Students
- Evening Activities
- Stay Overnight in College Residence Hall with a current Brethren Student

**Monday, October 8**

- Breakfast at the Unity House with Campus Ministry staff
- Student-Guided Campus Tour
- Group Session with a Faculty Member
- Admission Information Session
- Lunch with Juniata Students

If you have any questions about this event please feel free to contact the Campus Ministry Office at campusministry@juniata.edu or (814) 641-3361. Register online at [juniata.edu/visit](http://juniata.edu/visit) or by phone at 814-641-3422. I hope to see you there!

Thank you!

Molly Walmer

Editor Note: This is late notice but there is still time and room for you to visit Juniata College.

"Circle of Protection" response to poverty

The way we spend (and earn) our money says something about our priorities. This is true at the individual, church and national level. The Proverbs, Jesus' teachings, and prophetic passages such as Isaiah 58:10-12 teach us this.

The Church of the Brethren has an understanding of mutual aid and stewardship that is Christ-centered. Jesus tells us to care for the "least of these," Matthew 25:45. The 2000 Annual Conference statement "Caring for the Poor" further defines our Christian responsibility to be advocates of the vulnerable in our communities.

"We recommend that congregations use their experience in ministry with the poor to inform themselves of the legislative and political issues having impact on the poor and speak to those issues with their legislators at local, state, and national levels.

The Biblical witness and our own experiences as a community of faith suggest that there is a corporate or societal responsibility to deal with the problems of the poor, such as the Year of Jubilee. This extends beyond personal, hands-on responses and includes advocacy on behalf of the poor."

Because of these faith values and our role as citizens, we believe that our government should be a partner in upholding the common good of all people. U.S. citizens and people abroad are experiencing historical challenges in poverty that require a response.

For more information about the Brethren response to poverty visit [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

This article was excerpted from an "Action Alert" email.
2012 Harvest Home Project

The generosity and love shown to the Brethren Home during Harvest Home is sincerely appreciated. This project has been a part of our yearly calendar for almost all of our 90 years. Your monetary support in the past has enabled us to complete a wide variety of projects that would have been impossible within our normal operating budget. The new auxiliary generator, dining room tables, automatic exterior door opener, new patio, interior decorations and dining room chairs have greatly improved our residents’ quality of life. As you prepare for Harvest Home, donations from the wish list mailed in September would be most welcome. However, if your congregation found that monetary support of one of our proposed small projects would be more practical, please consider the list project below.

**MATTRESSES:** In the effort of keeping our residents comfortable we find it necessary to replace the mattresses at the Home. With the generous support of our Home Auxiliary a small quantity has been replaced, our goal is to replace 30 mattresses.  
Approximate cost: $200 per mattress

**DINING ROOM CARPET REPLACEMENT:** Over the past few years the main dining room has been transformed into a more comfortable atmosphere and environment for the residents through plastered and painted walls, new tables, chairs and decorations. In making our facility more “home-like” we are looking to complete the dining room project by replacing the carpet. Approximate cost: $9,000

**T-GEL CUSHIONS:** The therapy department is always in need of additional gel cushions. They are instrumental in preventing pressure wounds for residents confined to wheelchairs. Approximate cost: $140 per cushion

To support these Harvest Home projects, please direct your donation to:  
**Donna Locher, Finance Director, Church of the Brethren Home**  
277 Hoffman Avenue, Windber, PA 15963

Please mark your check for its intended use. Thank you for your support of our mission to provide superior care for our residents!
Comforters Needed

The housekeeping department at the Home is in need of 6’x 8’ knotted comforters for our residents’ beds. Please contact Pam Harkcom if you have any questions or would like to drop off a donation.

Annual Golf Outing

The 8th Annual Brethren Home Golf Outing was held August 13. Seventy-two avid golfers spent the day in competition at Windber Country Club. Once again this year was very successful, providing a sizable profit for the Brethren Home Charitable Trust.

Residents Visit Steelers Camp

Seven personal care residents and three staff went to Steeler Camp where they watched their favorite players practice and scrimmage at St. Vincent College in Latrobe. They met and got pictures taken with mascot Steely McBeam and enjoyed the great day at Steeler Camp.

County Fair

Residents at the Home enjoyed a day at the fair August 30. The Brethren Home County Fair was complete with live stock provided by Creekview Farm, funnel cakes, lemonade, popcorn, games and displays of home-grown agriculture and horticulture. The agriculture and horticulture grown by the staff were judged by a panel of three residents, ribbons were given to the winners. Residents, families and staff participated in the fun day petting the animals, tasting the delicious food and playing fair games.

Staff Appreciation Week

Staff Appreciation week was held August 27-31. Staff participated in a dress down week, a cooked breakfast served by the department heads on Tuesday, a county fair and western day on Thursday and a barbecue lunch on Friday. We thank our staff for their dedication to the Home and the residents they serve; they play a vital role in continuing our mission caring for all residents in a Christian atmosphere.

“Touching Lives through Christian Care.”
Camp Harmony

Fall 2012

Heritage Festival
September 15, Free

Zumba Classes
Tuesdays & Thursdays, $5/session (Starting September 18)

Trick or Retreat
October 26-27, $10

District Auction
November 3

Fall Crop Scrapbooker's Retreat
November 9-10, call for pricing

Dodgeball Tournament
December 8, $25/team

For more information, contact Camp Harmony:
call 814-798-5885, e-mail program@campharmony.org, or visit www.campharmonyevents.org
The following fact is one that everyone needs to remember and take notice, because it affects the future of Camp Harmony….

Those persons using Camp Harmony year round either through our programming or by outside groups using Camp to further the spreading of the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20), means that more people are coming through the gates than at any other time in Camp Harmony’s 88 years of existence. THANK YOU LORD FOR YOUR TRUST IN US TO DO YOUR WORK….

**FAITH PROMISE CHALLENGE**

Goal – $200,000

“And they fell heir to what others had toiled for… Psalms 105:44

**Benefit Dinner**

*See and hear about our Camp Ministry in Action*

*November 30, 2012*

*6:00 PM - Fellowship  6:30 PM - Dinner*

*Invitation Only – Contact the Office*

*(3 persons have already given monetary endorsements)*

* * * * * *

**FULL CIRCLE PROGRAM – Good 360**

Camp now has plenty of items to share with congregations – Please call Camp to inquire about availability and procedures for distribution – doors, cabinets, flooring, windows, just to name a few.

*Volunteers are needed to install some of the products from this program into our Camp facilities. Call the office for information.*

* * * * * *

**ATTENTION…ATTENTION…ATTENTION…ATTENTION…**

A BIG 4’x4’x7’ yellow box now sits in our parking lot. It is a clothes and shoes collection box for **Planet Aid**. This is a nonprofit organization which recycles clothes and distributes them around the world. Bring your discarded clothes and shoes to Camp so others less fortunate may benefit.
2012 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.

OCTOBER 2012
4 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Work Day (Contact Herb Ewald -814 539-8530)
7 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
8 - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
11 - Women’s Ministries Home Day, Brethren Home Community Windber
13 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Moxham Church
13 - DISTRICT AUCTION ITEMS DROP-OFF DAY, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Camp Harmony
14 - DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
15 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
20 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Fred M. Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA
20-23 - Mission & Ministry Board, Elgin, Illinois
22 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m. – Board, 7 p.m.
23 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Work Day (Contact Herb Ewald -814 539-8530)
27 - District Men’s Fellowship Fall Breakfast, 8–10 a.m., Somerset Church
27 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Moxham Church
27 - DISTRICT AUCTION ITEMS DROP-OFF DAY, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Camp Harmony

NOVEMBER 2012
1 - Brethren Home Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
3 - 7th ANNUAL DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
4 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
4 - NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
8 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
10 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m., Moxham Church
11-17 - Disaster Team Work Camp – location to be announced
16-18 - MISSION ALIVE CONFERENCE, Lititz Church of the Brethren, Lititz, PA
17 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Salisbury Church
19 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
22 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
26 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m. – Board, 7 p.m.
DECEMBER 2012

2 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2-8 - Disaster Team Work Camp – Town Creek, Alabama (Contact Herb Ewald -814 539-8530)
9 - SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT
13 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Work Day (Contact Herb Ewald -814 539-8530)
16 - THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT
17 - Brethren Home Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
18 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Work Day (Contact Herb Ewald -814 539-8530)
23 - 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. The first draft of the 2013 District Calendar will appear in the November issue of HIGHLIGHTS. If you have dates planned ahead, please contact the District Office by October 10 with that information. Your help is much appreciated!
October 2012

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
BROWN, JOSEPH E. - 150 River Rd, Fairhope, 15538-2509 - 814 267-3211
DAVIS, KENNETH A. - 301 Walker St, Garrett, 15542-8427 - 814 634-8173
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
MOSORIAK, GARY N. - 1337 Roxbury Ave, Johnstown, 15905-4528 - 814 619-4238
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 15664 - 724 522-5260
WALKER, LARRY E. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15664 - 724 522-5260
WHIPPLE, CHARLES D. - 317 Wyoming St, Greensburg, 15601-3947 - 724 600-6332
WHITACRE, DANIEL J. - 118 Chipmunk Ln, Meyersdale, 15552-7245 - 814 634-5037
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN - 436 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning, 16201-4639 - 724 548-4901
WILCHER, JOEL A. - 658 R 13th St, Oakmont, 15139-1020 - 412 828-3690
WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S. - 416 Kenneth Ave, Johnstown, 15904-3510 - 814 266-9758

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GREEN, GARY W. - 4589 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, 15935-8217 - 814 479-5096
GREW, DOTTIE H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
HAMPTON, PAUL B. - 124 Friedhoff Ln, Johnstown, 15902-1401 - 814 536-4465
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. - (office) PO Box 158, Hooversville, 15936-0158 - 814 798-5885
THOMAS, SCOTT R. - 2996 Carpenters Park Rd, Davidsville, 15928 - 814 288-2094
YINKEY, CHRISTINA - 382 Cannery Rd, Somerset, 15501-2806 - 814 233-4832

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

The Holy Supper is kept indeed
In what we share with another’s need;
Not what we give, but what we share:
For the gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three:
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me.

— James Russell Lowell,
The Vision of Sir Launfal
Yes, we will “CELEBRATE THE DIFFERENCE” that is being made at Hogar Emanuel on September 29th in Pennsylvania, but September is also a month of celebrations in Honduras as they observe Flag Day and Independence Day. The biggest holiday for the children, however, is that of Children’s Day (Día del Niño) which is celebrated each year on September 10 in homes, schools and churches. Although the kids go to school that day; instead of classwork, their day is filled with fun and games. At Hogar Emanuel many local businesses will offer small gifts and plan parties for the children throughout the entire month.

The kids are not always on the receiving end—they enjoy giving back, too. Recently Hogar delivered 2,400 Guacamaya trees (acasias), as part of their commitment to helping the municipality reforest the parks and streets of the city.

They receive the nursery bags, soil and seeds from the municipality, and then the children and staff at Hogar plant the seeds, tend to, and nurture the plants until they are ready to be transported to the Municipality for distribution at parks and areas throughout the city.

We are proud of our children and the proactive role they are taking in bettering their community.

I am the child, All the world waits for my coming, All the earth watches with interest to see what I shall become. Civilization hangs in the balance, For what I am, the world of tomorrow will be. I am the child, I have come into your world, About which I know nothing, Why I came I know not; How I came I know not; I am curious; I am interested. I am the child, You hold in your hand my destiny, You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail. Give me, I pray you, Those things that make for happiness. Train me, I beg you, That I may be a blessing to the world. ~ Author Unknown ~

Roger

Three-year old Roger and his sister Vanessa (age 5), joined the Hogar Emanuel family earlier this year. Roger is a happy and amicable kid who enjoys chatting and dancing. From the very moment you meet him, a smile will be drawn on your face. He is such a cute little guy! Not only will he pull your hand to play and move your feet to an unstoppable rhythm, he LOVES getting his picture taken. As soon as one snapshot is taken, he will strike a new pose. “Let me see!” he says very excitedly. “Oh my, that’s a keeper!” “Let’s take another one,” he insists. Strike a pose! This one smiling, the next with a surprised look, you hugging Roger, Roger hugging you, thumbs up— you choose the way you want your picture and he will gladly smile at the camera for you. Meet Roger and learn how enjoyable it is to smile!
HOGAR DE NINOS ENMANUEL

This month’s star is actually not an employee at all. **Vivian Chahin** has served as the Executive Director of the Home since 2005 and has never received a salary for her position at the Home. In addition to raising a family of four and being a good wife, Vivian dedicates long hours and is on call 24/7 for the many emergencies that happen at the home. She is highly committed to the care of each and every one of the seventy-four resident children as well as thirty more children who now are attending Jardin de Enmanuel (Hogar’s Kindergarten school).

Along with her practical business sense comes the ability to motivate others and create an atmosphere of kindness and caring that radiates throughout the home. Even though the children do not have the advantages of a caring biological family, there is no better role model for them than Vivian and her family. She searches out every opportunity to show the children that they can stand tall and feel a sense of pride despite the meager funds available. Her love and devotion to them is plain to see in more ways that can be written about here.

She states that her efforts to improve the quality of life for the children of Honduras are a life-long endeavor on her part due to her deep love of the children and desire to thank God for the many blessings in her life.

Vivian will be sharing the goals and dreams for the Home with you at the “CELEBRATE the DIFFERENCE” dinner. Plan to come and meet her in person.

Please pray for Vivian and her family as she leads the Home into the future.

**STAR EMPLOYEE**

**HOGAR de NINOS ENMANUEL**

**CHECK IT OUT!**

We’re on the web! www.hogaremanuel.com

You are joining to help us when you pray for us. 2 Corinthians 1:11

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**PLAN TO ATTEND**

“Celebrate the Difference!”

A benefit dinner/concert to celebrate the difference being made in the lives of the children at Hogar de Ninos Emanuel

**SEPTEMBER 29 at 6:30 p.m.**

at

CAMP HARMONY, 1414 Plank Rd., Hooversville, PA 15936

Concert will performed by **Anderson Grove**, a contemporary Christian band

Please RSVP before 9/22 to with your donation of $25 per person to Western PA District Church of the Brethren 115 Spring Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935

Your attendance to this event will help to make a difference. See you there!

**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

If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically ONLY, please email that request to hogaremanuel@verizon.net. PayPal and/or sponsorship coupons are also available on the website at www.hogaremanuel.com

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**SPONSORSHIP COUPON**

Please provide your name and address on the reverse side and mail this coupon with your donation

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<th>General Fund—use where needed most</th>
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<td>Child Sponsorship—providing for the basic needs of the children.</td>
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<td>If you desire to be assigned to a specific child, contact Rona.</td>
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<td>Staff Sponsorship—providing for the on-site care of the children.</td>
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<td>Gift Fund—providing for birthday/Christmas gifts</td>
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<td>New Bridge Program—helping our adolescents prepare for independent living</td>
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09/12