A SIMPLE CHALLENGE

“Do you see what this means—All these pioneers who blazed the way, All these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes upon Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it.” Hebrews 12: 1 - 2

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Some of you will recognize these verses from the 2005 Annual Conference theme, “Fix Your Eyes on Jesus.” The question for each of us to ponder is—“Who are the ‘cloud of witnesses’ you looked up to and continue to give thanks for in your faith journey and call to leadership?” How often do we pause to pray, think about, or even remember those who touched our lives in significant ways that allows us to be faithful witnesses today? Many and varied are the persons who touched my life including: my mother, grandparents on my mother’s side of the family, my wife, and several Sunday school teachers.

I pray as you pause to remember, it will give opportunity to offer a prayer of thanks for those individuals who were, and many who continue to be, a blessing in our spiritual journey. I continue to give thanks for each of you who give of your time and gifts for the work of the wider church. It’s because of you that the ministry of the Western PA District is positive and touching many lives each day. As you reflect on those who were faithful witnesses in your spiritual journey—what will speak to your heart and allow you to be a faithful witnesses for Christ in your local congregation and beyond?

Who do you know, within your congregation or the wider church, who demonstrates a strong faith and commitment to Christ that you might invite to consider a call to the “set apart” ministry? My challenge to each individual who reads this article is to begin praying for one individual and then invite them to consider a call to ministry. Let them know you will be praying for them, ask them to be in prayer for discernment, and to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Please share with me the name of the individual you will be praying for and I will add them to my daily prayer list.

Again, thanks for your faith and commitment to Christ and the Church.

RDB
### District Office News

**HOSPITALIZED**
- Continue to keep in prayer **Isaac Baldeo**, retired ordained minister in the Good Samaritan congregation, for recovery following treatment.
- **Patricia Marshall**, co-pastor of the Fairview congregation, for treatment.
- **Andy Rivera**, son-in-law of ordained minister **Charles Whipple**, for treatment. Andy is married to Charles & Linda Whipple’s daughter, Kathy.
- **Frank Smith**, brother-in-law of District Minister Ron Beachley, for surgery.

**SYMPATHY**
- to **Sally M. Houghton** and family, in the death of her father, **Edward P. Saintz, Jr.** Sally is an ordained minister in the Pleasant Hill congregation and the wife of District Leadership Team Chair **Ed Houghton**.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Salisbury congregation**
- Peggy Reynolds
- Edna Paul

**Somerset congregation**
- Lee Fritz
- Joy Fritz

Don’t forget to check previous issues of the Highlights for information about upcoming events.

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### DEACON WORKSHOP
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014**
**SOMERSET CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Leadership will be provided by District Minister Ron Beachley and Pastor & Parish Ministry Team member Bob Stein. All deacons and ministers are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The new Deacon manuals will be available for you to purchase at the event.

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### DISTRICT CONFERENCE REMINDER –

The Western PA District Conference will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014, at Camp Harmony. The registration deadline for the conference is **Friday, October 10, 2014**. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office. Thank you!

### RUMMEL COB 140TH ANNIVERSARY

The Rummel COB is celebrating their 140th Anniversary in 2014. In April as part of the celebration, the witness commission challenged the congregation to make 140 kits in May and June for Brethren Disaster Ministries (and Church World Service) – 70 hygiene kits and 70 school kits. Individuals and families and few groups responded by purchasing the items, assembling the kits, and bringing them to the church to be prepared for shipment. Not only was the goal met, but 153 kits had been made! On July 10, the kits were sent to New Windsor, Maryland on the district van, when a group of volunteers went to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor for a work day. Thanks, Rummel!
Local Church News

**AN AUTUMN REVIVAL**
Geiger Church of the Brethren
September 28, 29, and 30
7:30 P.M.
Special Guest Speaker: The Rev. Fred Bernhard

*All are welcome!!*

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**Fall Flea Market**
Locust Grove COB
1421 Clapboard Run Rd. Johnstown, PA
**Saturday, October 4, 2014**
8:00 am—2:00 pm
Fellowship hall
Good selection of bargains!
Food available.

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**Fall Revival Services**
Mount Joy Church of the Brethren
**October 12-15, 2014**
Our guest speaker will be **Bro. Bruce Jacobsen** from the Mount Pleasant Church of the Brethren, North Canton, Ohio. He will be with us during our 10:45 a.m. morning worship on Sunday (10/12) and nightly beginning at 7 p.m., Sunday – Wednesday (10/12–10/15).

The **Penn Run Church** will sponsor a **Scrapbook Retreat** on Saturday, **October 18th** from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center. To register or for more information, please call Lori before 9 p.m. at 724-349-2929 or e-mail her at lorijefffackler@yahoo.com

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**Shade Creek/Ridge Church issues invitation**
Please join us for our annual **Fall Revival Services** being held **September 28 through October 1, 2014, at 7:00 pm.**
Our guest speaker will be **Dan Shaffer.**

We will have different music each night. Sunday night will be Brad Callihan; Monday night will be Rummel COB; Tuesday night will be The Springers from Maple Spring COB; and Wednesday night will be Roxbury COB.

We will have refreshments after the Wednesday night service.

Our church is located at 1623 Ridge Rd, Hooversville.

We look forward to having you join us in fellowship and praise!

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**Chicken Barbecue**
Saturday, October 18
3:00 to 6:00 pm
Shade Creek/Ridge Church of the Brethren

$8

Meal includes: half a chicken, baked potato green beans, roll, drink, apple/pumpkin dessert
Local Church News

The District Men’s Fellowship Council will be holding a **Men’s Breakfast** on **Saturday, October 25, 2014** at the Purchase Line COB from 8 to 10 a.m.

A free-will offering will be received. All men are welcome!

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**PANCAKE / BUCKWHEAT CAKE & SAUSAGE BRUNCH**

**OCTOBER 25, 2014**

10am – 6pm  
Sponsored by: Uniontown Church of the Brethren  
20 Robinson St. Uniontown  
Eat-in or Take-out  
Adult - $7.00  
Children (3-10yrs) - $3.50  
Additional cost for extra sausage.

Phone: 724-438-8372

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**Bittersweet Ministries Concert**

Maple Spring Church of the Brethren  
**Saturday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m.**  
Rev. Gilbert Romero and Bittersweet Ministries  
Come and be blessed by their ministry in music.  
All are welcome.  
A love offering will be taken.

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**ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVING THE LORD**

The folks at the Geiger Church of the Brethren spent the week-end of August 23 and 24 celebrating their **100th anniversary**. On August 23, 1914, the first sermon was preached at their present location.

On Saturday night the congregation welcomed a huge crowd of visitors from the community, local churches and around the district. Following a Christmas theme with a 1914 decor, guests enjoyed a live nativity, Christmas cookies and punch and live entertainment by Cloud of Grace (featuring Geiger’s own Chris Haines on the drums). Fun and fellowship abounded as folks gathered around bonfires to toast marshmallows and join in singing Christmas carols.

On Sunday morning the congregation was able to browse through memorabilia displayed in the sanctuary depicting 100 years of church history. The display will remain in place until September 21. A 100th anniversary booklet was also published as a keepsake for the members.

The Geiger church family and Pastors John and Linda Stoner thank every one of you who came to offer support and share in the joy. We welcomed old friends and made some new ones. Acquaintances made through the Daily American publication and on Facebook became live faces and a warm bonding took place. God is good and He’s using every means possible to bring His people together.

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**50 years of ministry**

On Sunday, August 24, Pastor John Eash was recognized by the Arbutus Church of the Brethren for his 50 years of faithful service in the ministry, including some time at the Arbutus Church. He was awarded a plaque during the morning worship service by the chairperson of the board, David Layman. John’s wife, Wilma, was also recognized and honored with gifts. Violet Eash and Arbutus Blough, sisters of John, shared special music. The service was followed by a church picnic.
The District Women’s Ministries Presents

Christmas in October

Dedicated to the babies in Honduras
And our dear friends at the Brethren Home

When: Thursday, October 9, 2014
Where: the Pettikoffer House

Registration 9:30 Festivities start 10:00

Come and have a delightful time
celebrating the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

We will be collecting items for Baby Layettes. Please bring as many items as you would like.

One Baby Layette:

♥ 6 - cloth diapers (flat preferred)
♥ 2 diaper pins
♥ 2 wash cloths
♥ 2 gowns or sleepers
♥ 2 T-shirts or undershirts
♥ 2 - receiving blankets

Note: Blankets and sweaters may be handmade

Also: Please bring Tissues for the residence at the home.

RESERVATIONS needed by September 25.   COST   $10.00 each

Church ___________________________ $10.00 ______________ per person

Checks payable to: District Woman’s Ministry

Send to: Arbutus Blough, 845 Speigle Rd, Hollsopple, PA 15935
Please enclose a list of the women planning to attend.
Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it’s not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, “Pray for me.”

St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote, “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company” (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love. Take the initiative and honor your pastor.
Thoroughly Married. This is the title of a book we have in the District Library. I remember seeing this book when I first started here in June of 2008. I remember chuckling over the title – for some reason, I found it humorous. I haven’t read it, so I’m not sure exactly what it’s about, but the title stuck in my mind. Back in the summer of 2008, I was preparing for my wedding. I was not yet thoroughly married.

As Dan and I prepare to celebrate six years of marriage this month, I feel I might now understand the meaning of “thoroughly married.” (If only you could see the wry smile on my face.)

Yes, they have been good years. And yes, I still cannot fathom how some of you have done this for 40 or 50 or 60 years. Being married, thoroughly married, is not easy! I think it’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done. This is why I laugh when people nag me about having children – I’m still trying to figure out how to be a good wife; let’s not add “mother” to my list just yet.

The things I knew in theory when I was single – even things I taught and preached – I now know in practice. I always said that marriage requires patience; now I am certain it does. And I am certain that I do not have enough of it. I always said that married grown-ups aren’t supposed to run away from home; now I have to coach myself on that point from time to time. 😃

The biggest reality I have learned in these six years is that I made a commitment. Dan made a commitment. We know that God brought us together for the purpose of marriage. We know that He molded us into partners for the rest of this life. We took that leap of faith and agreed to the covenant that God drafted for us. And that has to mean something. Because there are days when I think being married is really hard, and I don’t much like it. There are days when I’d rather be anywhere but here. There are days when I rely on God’s love fully, because I feel that I have none of my own to give.

Thank God for commitment. Commitment says you stay and love another day. Commitment says you ignore your temporary, brainless feelings and you focus on the covenant you made. It holds you accountable and it holds you together. Commitment gives you staying power and praying power, and it’s the thing that sets your head on straight when you think you just might come unglued.

When you said “I do” to Jesus, you made a commitment. You promised to love, honor and cherish Christ. You promised to serve Him, to submit to Him, to learn from Him – you entered into a covenant that was signed and sealed with Jesus’ own blood. That commitment makes you a part of His Kingdom on earth and His Kingdom in heaven. The already and the not-yet.

You are Jesus’ bride. (Gents, bear with me.) He has made a promise to take you into His home, provide for you, love you, honor you, equip you. Are you being a faithful bride? Do you forsake all others and cling to Him only? Do you obey Him and communicate clearly with Him? Do you trust Him? Do you hold onto Jesus fiercely when every force in Hell tries to tear you away?

Making a commitment to Christ should be the best and hardest thing you’ve ever done – If you feel that it’s easy, I’m not sure you’re doing it right. Keep struggling, keep seeking, keep returning to Jesus. Day after day. Year after year. Renew your commitment to Christ and remember His commitment to you.

He loves you so thoroughly.

😊 Abby
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, 15658-3017 - 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
KABLER, ERIC P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
KENNINGER, JAMES M. - 329 Spackman St, Seward, 15954-3117 - 814 446-1088
LONGWELL, ERIC M. - 240 Plumcreek Rd, Shelocta, 15774 - 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
MOORE, EDWIN E., JR. - 107 Sabra Court, Uniontown, 15401-9729 - 724 970-2505
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PETERMAN, SANDRA M. - 2288 N Ridge Rd, Shelocta, 15774-7225 - 724 599-2145
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
SHAULIS, M. ERIC - 25 Sixth Ave, Meyersdale, 15552-1444 - 814 634-8740
SMITH, A. HARRISON - 506 Sciandro Dr, Greensburg, 15601 - 724 837-4491
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
WHIPPING, CHARLES D. - 317 Wyoming St, Greensburg, 15601-3947 - 724 600-6332
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEN - 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 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

DERCK, JOY E. - 3089 Dutch Run Rd, Shelocta, 15774-2224 - 724 354-3386
DERMER, JOANN - 3062 Hyndman Rd, Hyndman, 15545 - 814 842-6489
HILER, GARY W. - 228 Baltzer Bridge Rd, Friedens, 15541-6320 - 814 267-6722
ISHMAN, DANIEL R. - 116 Todd Rd, Freeport, 16229 - 724 525-2901
MARSZALEK, CHERYL A. - 409 Herman Ave, Wilmerding, 15148-1206 - 412 551-6422
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
SISITKI, 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
**Denominational News**
go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

**Job Openings**

- The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) is seeking candidates to fill two positions: **associate general secretary for Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace**, and **director of Communications and Development**.
  
  To apply send a cover letter and resume by Sept. 30 to Ms. Elspeth Cavert, Office Manager, National Council of Churches of Christ, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002; Elspeth.cavert@nationalcouncilofchurches.us.

- Southeastern District of the Church of the Brethren seeks a part-time office support staff person to be **communications manager** for the district. Send a resume and letter of interest to the Southeastern District Office, P.O. Box 8366, Gray, TN 37615. Resumes are due by Sept. 22. A more detailed job description will be made available to those who send a resume.

- Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track, **faculty position in theological studies**, beginning fall 2015. Applications are encouraged from women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. The application deadline is Dec. 1, 2014. Interviews will begin in early 2015. Send a letter of application, CV, and names and contact information for three references to Theological Studies Search, Attn: Dean's Office, Bethany Theological Seminary, 615 National Road West, Richmond, IN 47374; deansoffice@bethanyseminary.edu.

**THE BOOK OF JOB AND BRETHREN TRADITION**
A Continuing Education Event
Sponsored by
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
Elizabethtown College Department of Religious Studies & Bethany Theological Seminary

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Elizabethtown College

Keynote speaker: Bob Neff, President Emeritus of Juniata College and Old Testament Scholar

Presentations by Jeff Carter, Steven Schweitzer, Christina Bucher, Frank Ramirez, David Leiter

Registration $60 (includes breakfast, lunch, and 0.6 CEU)

Registration deadline: October 22, 2014
Registration form available at: [http://www.etown.edu/programs/svmc/files/JobAndBrethrenTraditionRegistration.pdf](http://www.etown.edu/programs/svmc/files/JobAndBrethrenTraditionRegistration.pdf)

**Bethany Theological Seminary** will welcome **prospective students** to the fall Engage Visit Day on Oct. 31 at the campus in Richmond, Ind. Now in its seventh year, this event provides prospective students with practical information about enrolling in seminary study and includes them in seminary activities and experiences. Campus guests will take part in worship, interact with a panel of students, attend class, meet faculty, and be informed about the admissions process, with encouragement for each to continue discerning the path to which he or she is called. Registration and a schedule are available at [www.bethanyseminary.edu/visit/engage](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/visit/engage). For more information, contact Tracy Primozich, director of admissions, at primotr@bethanyseminary.edu.

**Newsline Quote of the week:**

“Because of the grace, love, and forgiveness of Jesus lavishly showered on each one of us we can come to the table of the Lord without fear or hesitation, trusting in the slow, patient work of God’s Spirit.... We come also mindful that we are surrounded by a global family of partners in Christ, persons of all nations and languages, who will gather one day around the throne of God to give praise and glory to God together for the gift of life in Christ.”

-- Part of an invitation to bread and cup communion written by Nancy Sollenberger Heishman for the 2014 Mission Offering, with the suggested date of Sunday, Sept. 21. The offering supports Church of the Brethren international partnerships in Nigeria, Haiti, South Sudan, and many other places. It also helps fund Brethren Volunteer Service, Youth Peace Travel Team, workcamps, and other ministries that provide opportunities to proclaim the Good News of Jesus through action. Other ministries that exist to train and support mission-minded leaders in the church are also supported: Ministry Summer Service, Office of Ministry, church planting, and the Deacon Ministry, to name a few. For worship resources go to [www.brethren.org/missionoffering](http://www.brethren.org/missionoffering).
Denominational News

go to www.brethren.org for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

'Awake’ Advent devotional, fall ‘Guide,’ updated Generation Why are new from Brethren Press

New resources from Brethren Press include “Awake: Devotions for Advent Through Epiphany,” the 2014 Advent devotional written by Sandy Bosserman; the fall 2014 quarter of “A Guide for Biblical Studies” on the theme Sustaining Hope written by Larry M. Dentler, Ken Gibble, and Frank Ramirez; and a series of Bible studies for youth as part of an update of the Generation Why curriculum. For more information about each resource and to order online go to www.brethrenpress.com or from Brethren Press customer service at 800-441-3712.

Grant goes to IMA World Health appeal for Ebola emergency

Brethren Disaster Ministries is directing an allocation of $15,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to an IMA World Health appeal for support of Ebola health workers in Liberia. The grant is funding work carried out through the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL). The EDF grant will provide CHAL health workers with personal protective equipment including gloves, gowns, goggles, surgical masks, leg covers, face masks, head covers, and disinfectant, as well as training for their use.

For more about the Emergency Disaster Fund go to www.brethren.org/edf.

A shipment to Honduras from Brethren Disaster Ministries--prepared and loaded by the Material Resources staff at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.--filled a 40-foot container with 350 cartons of canned chicken, 87 cartons of household kits, 2 bales of blankets, 77 cartons of baby kits, and 233 cartons of hygiene kits. The chicken was canned by Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. A thank you from Chet Thomas, director of Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG, Project Global Village) in Honduras, explained how the items would be used and distributed: “Thank you to each one of you and everyone from the different Church of the Brethren districts involved in this shipment...which will directly be distributed to those most needy in the communities where we work.... We have received canned chicken meat in the past and it has been used in many ways to attend those with greatest needs, especially those children suffering from malnutrition here in Honduras. Over the past several years and in more than 600 communities, we have been using the canned meat to provide a nutritional supplement to impoverished families whose children have fallen below the acceptable level of nutrition. Our community health program volunteers actually weigh more than 6,000 children each month (birth to two years of age) to monitor the growth of the children in our target work areas. The canned meat has saved the lives of many children who simply do not have enough to eat and do not grow properly. Your hard work and efforts will pay off big and bless many children with healthier and more productive lives because you have cared.” For more about PAG: www.paghonduras.org.

2015 Annual Conference

The preachers and the worship and music leadership for next year's Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has been announced by the Conference Office. Moderator David Steele will lead the Conference on the theme "Abide in My Love...and Bear Fruit" (John 15:9-17). Find his reflection on the theme at www.brethren.org/ac/2015/theme.html.

Preachers bringing the messages for worship at the 2015 Conference are

-- David Steele, 2015 Annual Conference moderator, who will preach on Saturday evening, July 11,
-- Rodger Nishioka, a popular speaker at this year's National Youth Conference and an associate professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., who will bring the Sunday morning message on July 12,
-- Katie Shaw Thompson, co-pastor at Ivester Church of the Brethren in Grundy Center, Iowa, and also an NYC speaker, who will preach Monday evening, July 13,
-- Don Fitzkee, chair-elect of the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board and director of development at COBYS Family Services in Leola, Pa., who will lead Tuesday evening’s service, July 14, and
-- Thomas M. Dowdy Jr., pastor of Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles, Calif., who will preach Wednesday morning, July 15.

On Sunday evening, performances will be given by Ted and Co. and Ken Medema, who both performed at National Youth Conference earlier this year.

The Worship Planning Team includes Christy Waltersdorff of Lombard, Ill., and the Program and Arrangements Committee; Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey of Hagerstown, Md.; Russ Matteson of Modesto, Calif.; and Dave Witkovsky of Huntingdon, Pa. Coordinating the music is Karl Elmore of Roanoke, Va. The Conference Choir director will be Terry Hershberger of Woodbury, Pa. The Children’s Choir will be directed by Marianne Houff of Penn Laird, Va. Conference musicians will include organist John Shafer of Oakton, Va., and pianist Heather Landram of Richmond, Ind.

October 2014
9th Annual
Western Pennsylvania
Church of the Brethren

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014
at
Camp Harmony
1414 Plank Road, Hooversville, PA 15936

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

TWO Saturday drop-off dates are scheduled to bring items to Camp Harmony. The dates are October 11 and October 25 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon both days. Items can also be brought the afternoon of October 18, following District Conference.

► Breakfast at 7:30 am to 8:45 am
► Lunch served
► Fresh baked pies
► Items can be previewed after 7 am

For more information see your congregation’s Auction Advocate or call the District Office.
Springs of Living Water Academy in Church Renewal
Registration Now Open for Two Courses: Spring 2015

The Springs of Living Water Academy for pastors offers courses with learning objectives which participants localize in their setting. The academy has five interactive 2-hour phone conference calls of practical training and discussion over a 12-week period, focused readings, joining in spiritual disciplines, and receiving shepherding calls between sessions. A few persons of the church walk along. A summary paper reflects course content and application. CEUs available.

Level 1. Foundations for Christ-centered Church Renewal
A spiritually grounded, servant-led approach using *Springs of Living Water* text learn to:
✓ Go deeper in one’s faith journey using a spiritual disciplines folder and devotional
✓ Enlist a congregation in renewal, spiritually discern and train a renewal team
✓ Help a congregation enter a spiritual journey with disciplines folders
✓ Understand 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 based on a church building on it strengths
✓ Help a church spiritually discern a scripture, vision, and ministry plan

Spiritual Disciplines folder on Disciplines, Devotional: *Celebration of Discipline*-Richard Foster

**Wednesdays: February 4 & 25, March 18, April 8 & 29 - 10:30 am-12:30 pm** ET

(If interested in a Saturday morning class, please check option on the registration form.)

Level 2. Servant Leadership for Church Renewal, Shepherds by the Living Springs
Using text *Servant Leadership for Church Renewal* and other resources participants will:
✓ Grow in a closer walk with Christ using spiritual disciplines folder and devotional
✓ Catch a vision of spiritually oriented servant leadership that is transformational
✓ Discover and apply principles of Master Preaching for Renewal of the Church
✓ Learn to use the gifts of dialogue and spiritual discernment for decision making
✓ Explore how to implement a renewal plan; follow up all aspects of transformation
✓ Learn to reach out to new people and in-actives according to size of your church
✓ Explore how to build healthy, spiritually vibrant, Christ-centered congregations.

Spiritual Disciplines folder: “Called To Be Servants-Entrusted To Be Servant Leaders”
Devotional: *Life Together*-Bonhoeffer

**Wednesdays: February 11, March 4 & 25, April 15, May 5 - 10: 30 am-12:30 pm** ET

Instructor is Dr. David S. Young with potential guests. Participants call an 800 number. Along with focused readings, participants practice daily disciplines using folders. For an Academy brochure, please email davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org or call (717) 615-4515. Website: www.churchrenewalservant.org.

(Testimonials on the back of this page.)
Testimonials from the Springs newsletter found on the Springs website

— “Taking part in the Springs Academy has been a refreshing journey in my own spiritual formation, and it has given me new energy, new perspective, and new direction in the work of the pastorate. I very much look forward to continuing my journey in the offerings of the Springs Academy.

Keith Funk, Pastor, Quinter COB, Western Plains District

— "I am not sure how the church can enter authentic renewal without being Christ-centered and transformed, and that is why I value what is taught in The Springs Academy. As we studied the process of church renewal, we were encouraged to deepen our walk with Christ through the spiritual disciplines that build the Christian life – which, I believe, ultimately teaches the people of God to discern the will of God which moves us toward renewal."

Mark Ray, Pastor, Leake’s Chapel COB, Shenandoah District

— “My participation in the Springs of Living Water Initiative has energized me spiritually. Practicing the spiritual disciplines has deepened my relationship with God by assisting me with internalizing the teachings of Jesus.”

Richard J. Fischl, Lead Pastor, Codorus COB, Southern PA District

— "Springs Academy has renewed my spiritual life personally and has brought new life spiritually back into the lives and hearts of the people in my congregation. A fresh new vision."

Barry Conn, Pastor, County Line COB, Western PA District

— “SPRINGS Academy has been a wonderful blessing to me personally and to the church which I serve, as we begin the Renewal Initiative. Dr. Young and the other participants have been encouraging, insightful, and very helpful as I began this exciting journey—looking upward, inward and outward. I have looked forward to our Saturday Morning Conversations.”

Merv Lanctot, Pastor, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
October Is Harvest Home Month:

Each year we are amazed by the kindness shown to our community during the Harvest Home campaign. The generous donations sent our way last year allowed us to complete the dining room carpeting project, purchase geri chairs and arm chairs, and contribute to the new centralized computer system. This year we are asking for in kind donations, (suggestions for those items are listed on the back of this page) or monetary support of the following projects: the hall carpeting project, 3rd station lounge furniture, gel foam cushions and thin gel cushions, draperies for the 5th station lounge. Thank you for the continued support you show our residents!

August Auxiliary Purchases:

At its August meeting, the Auxiliary voted to spend $1,100 to make the following purchases: Therapy equipment – graded pincher, bolt board, pattern board, twist and bend bars; Nursing equipment - special order lift sling, resident van transport board; Activities supplies – one year subscription to both the Johnstown Tribune Democrat and Somerset Daily American newspapers. As always the Auxiliary tries to focus on projects that directly benefit resident needs.

PointClickCare Selected:

After much research, PointClickCare was chosen as the centralized computer system for the Home Community. This summer has been a learning experience for all involved! In addition to their regular duties, employees from each department have been attending web seminars to learn how the new system will apply to their positions. By the time this edition of the Highlights is printed, the system will be up and running throughout our community.

Used Shoe Campaign:

Late last spring a fundraiser held through funds2orgs was initiated at the Home. Our Auxiliary key ladies were asked to have their congregations participate in the campaign by donating gently worn shoes and delivering them to the Home. The used shoes will be refurbished to stock shoe shops in business incubators in developing countries. Our goal was to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes by August 31. Volunteers have been receiving and packing the shoes for shipment during September. Our current total of more than 4,000 pairs of shoes far exceeds our wildest dreams for the project! Thanks to everyone who cleaned out their closets and shared their extra shoes. The Auxiliary voted to donate the proceeds from the shoe campaign to the repair of the Home bus which was an earlier Auxiliary project.
Church of the Brethren Home
2014 Harvest Home Project
Thank you for your support!

These everyday items are used year round at the Home and might be collected by a congregation as a donation to the annual Harvest Home project. To make arrangements to deliver donations to the Home, please call Pam Harkcom at (814) 361-6400

NURSING
White out
Notebooks
Clear notebook sleeves 8½ x 11
Post-It notes
Photograph printing paper
Hair spray
Deodorant
Skin lotion
Emery boards
Band-Aids
Denture cleaner and adhesive
Shampoo
Toothpaste
Tissues
Mouthwash
Rubber bands
Binders
Scotch tape
Unscented Dove soap
Pens
Pencils
Lamb’s wool
Combs
Hair brushes
10 X 14 Manila Envelopes

MISCELLANEOUS
White thread (40 or 50)
White sew-on Velcro tape ¾”
Navy blue thread (40 or 50)
Sewing machine needles #14
Rubber bands
Paper clips – large or small
Hi-lighters (any color)
Black permanent markers
Sharpie markers
Sympathy cards

GENERAL SERVICES
Dresser scarves
Knotted comforters 6’ x 8’
Paper towels
Clorox bleach
Bathroom tissue
Dial bar soap
Murphy’s Oil soap
Brillo pads
Terry dish towels
Ironing board covers

DIETARY
Sugar
Salt
Pepper
Cream of Wheat
Oatmeal
Potatoes
Peanut butter
Fruits or vegetables, in #10 cans

ACTIVITIES
Aleene’s tacky glue
Construction paper
Poster board colored or white (12 x 18 or 12 x 9)
Scissors
Quilt batting
New greeting cards
Yarn
Felt
Polyester fiberfill
Postage stamps
9 ounce plastic cups
Plastic bowls
3 ounce Dixie cups
Paper plates
Tissue paper (all colors)
CDs & DVDs
White tablet paper
Cotton fabric
Plastic forks and spoons
Diet soda (cans and liter bottles)
Clear contact paper
Masking tape
Scotch tape
Magic markers
Craft paint brushes
Sandpaper
Paper streamers
Acrylic craft paint
Wrapping paper and bags
Individual snack packs
Lunch bags (white or brown)
Paper glue sticks

MAINTENANCE
Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V)
Black Electrical Tape
Steel drill bits
Paint rollers
Fall Women's Retreat:

Real Women of God

October 10-12

$125

(group rates available)

Real life. Real struggles. Real pain.

Real faith. Real love. Real hope.

God has used real women to address these issues throughout history.

This weekend, we will discover His real call on us today.

RETREAT & INSIGHT SESSION LEADERS:

Pastor Cathy Westover
Pastor Kary Garretson
Leah Hileman
Cortney Tyger

RETREAT ACTIVITIES:

Outdoor Activities
Do-It-Herself Workshops
Pampering
Creativity, Relaxation, and Inspiration

Registration Deadline: September 29

Call Camp Harmony today to register or for more information:
814-798-5885  harmony@campharmony.org  www.campharmony.org

1414 Plank Road, Hooversville, PA 15936
Camp Harmony is looking for lumber donations to complete the new bed frames in our cabins! If you donate, you can have the bed built in honor of a camper (past or present). This name will be displayed on a small plate on the bed frame.

Yes, I want to make a donation to the Build-A-Bed Fund. I would like to honor a past or present camper with the following information on a name plate:

IN HONOR OF

________________________________________________ (25 characters or less)

(Name of past or present camper. No more than 2 camper names per plate.)

I have enclosed my $________ donation by _____Cash   _____Check

Each individual bed costs $150 to build, which also includes a new mattress.

To make a donation, please complete the form below and return to Camp Harmony:

PO Box 158
Hooversville, PA 15936

For more information, please contact the office at 814-798-5885.
CAMP HARMONY

trick or retreat

Get ready for a jam-packed night of excitement, sugar rushes, and awesomeness!

FINGER DARTS

PUMPKIN BOWLING

OCTOBER 24-25
10 PM - 8 AM

$15 Grades 6-12

WORSHIP: FLOOD CITY WORSHIP BAND

EPIC CHALLENGES

CANDY!!

CREATIVITY

SPEAKER: COTY HURRY

Registration Deadline: October 15

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 814-798-5885

EMAIL: PROGRAM@CAMPHARMONY.ORG

1414 PLANK ROAD
HOOVERSVILLE, PA 15936
www.campharmacy.org

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
The Good 360 Program – Full Circle Program can continue if…

- There is a person or group willing to donate the entrance fee of $600
- A place is located to store all the donated materials.
- Availability of a box truck for pick up.

Please contact Camp if you have any interest…..

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Volunteers

Camp Harmony always welcomes volunteers. Any day is suitable, however at this time, Tuesday is the day when most of our volunteers are present. Come and join the group any time. Thank you.

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Job Opening

Maintenance Position Available – 40 hours maximum per week/$10 per hour.

Experience with construction and building repair desired. Applications may be obtained from the Camp office or from the website. When applying please submit the application, resume’, and a reference letter (from someone other than family). Deadline is October 15, 2014.

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2014 “52 God Bless You Team”

60 families and/or congregations have attached to the 2014 “52 God Bless You Team” for $6,896. They are helping Camp Harmony bless others. Join now for a $1.00 a week for 52 weeks. This support helps the ministry of Camp as it reaches out to others. Thank You. As more and more families are blessed they contribute $1.00 a week or $52.00 to Camp so that the ministry can bless others. The original premise was that if all the families in the District contributed $52, the mortgage could be eliminated…..

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WISH LIST

Often groups or individuals are looking for items and/or projects that they can do for Camp. This list is constantly changing and we thank you for all your help.

--mulch
--vacuum sweepers
--materials for Ga Ga Court and/or construction
--materials for Four Square Vertical and/or construction
  (the last two are great projects for men’s groups or youth groups – contact camp for details)
--don’t forget we are always collecting Labels for Education (Campbells)
--small mesh laundry bags – 15”X18”
--work gloves --safety glasses
--picnic tables --hot pads, oven gloves
--non stick griddles for retreat centers --toasters for retreat centers
2014 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 2014
1  - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
5  - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
7  - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
9  - DISTRICT WOMEN’S MINISTRY HOME DAY, 9:30 am, Pettikoffer House
11 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 am – Pleasant Hill Church
11 - AUCTION DROP-OFF DAY – drop off items to be auctioned, 9 am-12 noon – Camp Harmony
12 - Deacon Workshop, 3 to 5 pm, Somerset Church
12-18 - Disaster Work trip to Spotswood, New Jersey - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
18 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, 9 am, Camp Harmony
20 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 pm
22 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
25 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 am – Pleasant Hill Church
25 - AUCTION DROP-OFF DAY – drop off items to be auctioned, 9 am-12 noon – Camp Harmony
27 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 pm; Board 7 pm
28 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call

NOVEMBER 2014
1  - NINTH ANNUAL DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
2  - NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
2  - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
6  - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m.
6  - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
8  - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – Pleasant Hill Church
11 - District Women’s Ministry Cabinet, 1 p.m., District Office
12 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
13 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
15 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Geiger Church
17 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
18 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
18 - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
24 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
25 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
27 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
30 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 2014

3  - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
7  - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7-13 - Disaster Work trip to Spotswood, New Jersey - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
9  - SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER ACADEMY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, phone conference call
13 - CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Camp Harmony – more information to come
14 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
15 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
21 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
22 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
30 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER, 6 p.m., Camp Harmony
31 - NEW YEAR’S EVE

PLEASE NOTE
Dates will be added or changed as needed. If your District group, team, or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Your help is much appreciated!