

# District Highlights

September 2006

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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  
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(Subject: Highlights)

***"Who is my neighbor?  
The one who showed him mercy.  
Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"  
Luke 10:29, 37***

On Saturday, August 12, twelve disaster relief workers from the Western PA District left to travel by van and car to Lucedale, Mississippi. Arriving Sunday afternoon at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, they were greeted by the directors, Jiggs Miller and Gordon Driver, as well as by the cooks Virginia Driver and Frances Neff.

Work days began at 4:30 a.m. with breakfast and packing lunches. Workers were divided into two crews that would work at different sites. The crews left by 5:30 a.m. to travel to the sites to begin work by daybreak. Crews left early because the day time temperatures usually reached 95-98 degrees, with the heat index higher. One crew worked on painting, plumbing, and putting up molding in a new home for Mrs. Bradley and her two children. The inside work protected the workers from the sun, but it was hot and fans had to be strategically placed to provide some relief from the heat.

The other work crew did roofing at several sites and could only work until noon because of the heat. The one day I was at the site, I met home owner Nettie Jones. Mrs. Jones is a widow and lives alone in a home her husband built. The roof was replaced on one side, and the other will be completed by another crew the following week. Nettie is not living in her home yet. She lives at a church shelter down the street because she needs a new water pump, and her kitchen and living room floor need repaired.

The entire group took a half a day off on Thursday and traveled to the Biloxi area to survey the hurricane damage. It was startling to realize that almost a year later, there is still considerable work to do. Homes and businesses are gone in some areas with only a foundation left as a visible reminder. Twisted metal and steel beams protrude from the ground. I saw a large, grand hotel that appeared to be fully intact. Driving past though, I saw the other side was partially gone, and the interior was fully exposed with plastic hanging over rooms and doorways.

I feel blessed having participated in this experience. By participating in disaster relief work, I feel a strong connection to this ministry and to the people I met. We have many devoted workers from our district that I want to encourage by saying... *Thank you for all that you do! You are part of an important ministry of our Church!* LLM

# Local Church News

## Hospitalized

- **Mark Peachey**, pastor of the Mt. Joy congregation, for surgery.
- **Homer Marshall**, co-pastor of the Fairview congregation, for surgery.

## Sympathy

- to **Cheryl Smith** and family in the death of her stepfather Stanley "Jake" McGregor. Cheryl is a licensed minister in the Monroeville congregation and serves on the District Gifts Discernment Team.

## Leadership

- **James D. Decker** resigned as PT pastor of the Nanty Glo congregation as of June 18, 2006.

## Field Trip to the Cross and Baptism in the River

Forty-four members and friends of the Robinson Church of the Brethren recently took a field trip to the cross in Jumonville, where many of the younger members of the group completed the steep climb to the top on foot, while others took the easier route via car. This was followed by lunch and a visit to Ohiopyle, where Pastor Farrel Abraham performed three full immersion baptisms and one re-dedication in the river. Although the popular tourist spot was crowded on that hot, humid day, it was wonderful to watch as they paused to respect what was taking place. It was a great opportunity to express our faith and witness the love of the Lord to others. One of those baptized was Paul Cavalcante, who survived a tragic car accident last fall in which two of his brothers were killed. Although his odds of survival were extremely low, Paul clung to life. After numerous surgeries and nearly a year of hospitalization and rehabilitation, he is now able to walk short distances with assistance. In spite of their loss and sometimes seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Paul and his family feel blessed each day as Paul recovers.

## New Addresses

To reach Carole Horner and the District Office - [wpacob@verizon.net](mailto:wpacob@verizon.net)

To reach Joel Wilcher - [docktari1947@yahoo.com](mailto:docktari1947@yahoo.com)

Please contact the District Office (814 479-7058) with any other changes or additions. Thanks!

## New Members

### **Brothersvalley**

- Elwood Shaffer
- Jean Shaffer

### **Robinson**

- Paul Cavalcante
- Alexis Betts
- Arick Betts

### **Indiana**

- Corina Adamson
- Diana Adamson
- Dalton Bright
- Dove Bright
- Melanie Bright
- Greg Johnson
- Dawn Klonosky
- Shirley Klonosky
- Bailey Smith
- Shin Ting

### **Rayman**

- Sue Bent



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

## Local Church News



### Please send in your Vacation Bible School Reports.

I plan to use more pictures and stories this year as space permits. Let us know what your theme was, how many kids and helpers you had, and what your special offering or project was for.

You can email pictures to me or send them in the mail to the District Office for us to scan. They should be as clear as possible and not have lots of people.

The **Robinson** Church of the Brethren recently hosted Vacation Bible School in cooperation with the neighboring United Methodist congregation. 118 children, teachers and assistants attended the week long "FIESTA". Camp Harmony will benefit from this year's service project. VBS Coordinator Carly Blake challenged the children to collect loose change. If they donated enough to fill a large container, she volunteered to kiss a live goat... on the lips! In response the children overflowed not only the original container, but a second jar, AND an offering plate. The final tally for the week was \$276!! On Friday evening, the goat entered the sanctuary amid the cheers of VBS attendees and Carly complied with her challenge. Let's just say it was NOT love at first sight.

**Brothersvalley** congregation had a "Christmas in July" theme for their Vacation Bible School. They averaged 24 children. Their offering project was for the Berlin Food Pantry.

**Farmington Bethel Church** VBS theme this year was "Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage". We combined with another local church - United Mountain Fellowship Church for a very successful Bible school. Our average attendance for the week of June 5-9 was 52 students with at least 25 helpers. Our VBS was held from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm daily. Our special offering went to Bob & Lena Duncan missionaries with CAM International in Panama.

June 12-16, the **Greensburg** church was filled with love, laughter and joy. They visited "Son Treasure Island" to find the Treasure of Jesus' love, patience, understanding and trust. They were taught not to envy, boast or to be angry. Their project was Heifer International and they raised enough money between the children's offerings during the week and the special offering during the program to send at least 50 flocks at \$20 a flock.

"All Aboard Gospel Express" was the theme for **Hostetler** congregation's Bible School. They had an average of 26 kids and 17 teachers and helpers. They made 16 quilts to give to PROJECT LINUS. The children made pillows, T-shirts, Angels and Sun catchers in crafts. They went on a hay ride to see a train caboose and heard a real train whistle while they were there. The offering for the week went to the Brethren Hurricane Emergency Fund. The children collected \$204 for the week.

### RAYMAN CHURCH WILL BE HAVING A HYMN SING

Sept. 17th.  
at  
7:00 P.M.

Special Music:  
Meyersdale Men's Chorus  
Rev. Charles Mahon Jr.  
Starlighters



### October Highlights Deadline September 15, 2006

# Local Church News



**Youth Pastor  
Needed**

The **Rummel, Scalp Level and Windber Church of the Brethren** congregations have combined their youth groups and are looking to hire a **part-time Youth Director**. Persons interested in the position and wanting more information should contact Pastor Ruby Mader at 814-467-5050.

## Beef Supper

at  
Shade Creek/Ridge  
Church of the Brethren  
1623 Ridge Rd. Hooversville  
on  
**September 23, 2006**  
4 to ?



Adults: \$7.00  
Children 4 to 11: \$3.50  
Under 4: free  
Takeouts available

## Chicken BBQ

on  
**October 7,**  
from 2 to 5:30 p.m.  
at  
Shade Creek/Ridge Church



Donation: \$6.50 per person  
for a dinner

Sponsored by Friendship Bible Class

## Revival Services

**Arbutus Church** will host Eric Shaulis as evangelist the week of September 17-19. Services will begin Sunday evening and continue through Tuesday, beginning at 6:45 with a hymn sing, followed by worship at 7:00. Each service will include a mini concert by guest musicians. Eric ministers in the Meyersdale congregation.

**Geiger Church** will host the Rev. Tom Zuercher as evangelist the week of September 24-28. Services will begin Sunday morning at 10:30 am and then continue nightly at 7:30 each night through Thursday evening. There will be special music each evening. Pastor Zuercher is currently serving as pastor of the Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren in Ashland, Ohio. Geiger invites everyone to hear Pastor Tom as often as possible. He will be sharing the following theme titles and texts:



Sunday AM	"The Sequence of Salvation"	II Kings 5:1-19
Sunday PM	"Who Would You Punish"	II Thessalonians 1:3-12
Monday PM	"Learning To Forgive"	Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32
Tuesday PM	"Capture Every Thought"	II Corinthians 10:1-5
Wednesday PM	"He Went A Little Farther"	Matthew 26:36-46
Thursday PM	"What I've Learned"	Isaiah 43:2-3

## District News

Planning and Partnering for Disaster  
Response and Recovery  
September 26-28, 2006  
Penn State Conference Center

Designed for county drug and alcohol, mental health and mental retardation directors and staff, service provider organizations including case managers and counselors, health care providers and clergy, this conference will address the key components involved in disaster preparedness and response.

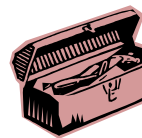
**Shirley Norman**, an ordained minister in the Western PA District and member of the District Disaster Team, is presenting a workshop entitled, "Developing Partnerships in Disaster Response and Recovery" to attendees of the conference. It is very important, the brochure outlines, for the recovery of those impacted by disaster that all organizations, agencies, churches, etc.; work together in a coordinated effort. To avoid duplication of services, the Long Term Recovery Committee is the national model developed to organize agencies for specific service response instead of each agency feeling responsible for all aspects of the need. This saves funds and allows every group to do response and recovery. Denominational response has been ongoing for over 50 years. Clergy and mental health providers need to work together in a joint effort to ensure recovery of both the mind and spirit. This workshop will discuss how to identify partners and develop an efficient and effective response organization.

For more information about this conference, go online to [www.ireta.org](http://www.ireta.org) and click on the 'training' section, or call 412 258-8569.

Tuition is free, but space was limited, call to see if there is still space.



Lizzie's Attic  
Jacob's Shed



donations for the  
Heritage Festival

Please bring your donations for the Flea Market tent at the Heritage Festival to Camp Harmony, Friday, September 16.

Your donations should be in **good condition** and can include household items, dishes, tools, furniture, decorations, toys, and whatever you have that you aren't using anymore. Please do **not** bring clothing.

You can call the Arbutus Church of the Brethren with your questions, 814/266-7404. Thank you!



## Crafts Needed for Heritage Festival

Please bring your crafts to the Heritage Festival, EARLY Saturday morning, on September 16. Please price your items. We thank you in advance for all your help.

If anyone would be interested in helping in the Craft Area, we would appreciate it.

For more information contact a member of the Women's Fellowship Cabinet.

## District News

### District Women's Fellowship News

District Women's Fellowship Can Be Pleased. At the Spring Rally, a collection was taken for the Every 30 Second campaign of the New Community Project. We sent \$1,176.45. They were so thankful. We made it possible for them to buy 10 sewing machines and to buy the material to make many mosquito nets treated with insecticide to be used over beds to help prevent the spreading of malaria. New Community Project is working with the New Sudan Council of Churches to provide the sewing machines and the netting. David Radcliff wrote a letter of "Thanks" and invited anyone interested to join a group going to southern Sudan. If you are interested, please call 888-800-2985 or write to New Community Project, 718 Wilder St., Elgin, IL 60123 , Attn. David Radcliff.



At the Brethren Home Day there were about 50 persons in attendance. There we learned how to do some very easy exercises which all of us need. They told us we need to physically active even if we do some things sitting down. It is possible for almost everyone to move their arms

and legs. The body should be physically fit as well as spiritually fit.

We also learned we each are given 86,400 seconds every day and it is up to us to make the most of them. We can not save any for tomorrow. What is not used is lost forever. Water is the #1 beverage and we should get plenty each day. We need to learn to forgive. The door to happiness is always open--no key is needed.

These statements came from Bertha Hironimus, Warren Lewis and Mauvette O'Dowd. If we don't take care of ourselves where will we live? A very good program with lots of good food for thought.

The **fall Brunch** will be held at the **Penn Run Church/Community Center** on **Oct. 14** beginning at 9:15 and ending about 12:30. The offering will go to the Honduras Orphanage and we will collect school kits to be sent to Church World Service. Speaker for the day will be Anthony Fraizer speaking on the theme "Talking to Young People about Tough Issues." This topic should be of interest to everyone since we all have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors as well as the young persons in our churches.

### ~ Heritage Hints ~

*Can you identify this Church from the Western PA District?*

This congregation was organized in 1810, and was originally know as the Conemaugh church. The congregation was divided and organized in 1879. After the division of the Progressives and the Conservatives, the Conservatives built a new house of worship in 1884. Though many were discouraged , they went on faithfully with the work of the church. In a council meeting on August 27, 1914, plans for a new church and a parsonage were presented and adopted. On August 30, 1916, the church was "dedicated with joy!"

**If you can name this church,  
call or email Linda McCauliff at 814/479-7058  
[lmcauliff\\_ds@brethren.org](mailto:lmcauliff_ds@brethren.org)**

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

**Reminder: The Heritage Festival is Saturday, September 16!**

The answer to last month's Heritage Hints: *Brothersvalley Church of the Brethren*.

Thanks to *Carol Kalaha and Linda Reininger* for correctly identifying the church.

## Denominational Deacon Ministry Newsletter

[Following are excerpts from the Quarterly Deacon Email from Kathy Reid, Executive Director of the Association of Brethren Caregivers]

Deacon Challenge: What do you do with deacons whose age or physical condition prevents them from being active?

The answer is at the bottom of this article.



- Deacon Ministry Training Events 2007

The first series of deacon ministry training events were a huge success. Deacons from around the denomination participated in these wonderful, one-day trainings to gain skills and learn more about deacon ministry. Last year's sites included: Sebring, FL (The Palms); N. Manchester, IN (Timbercrest Senior Living Community) ; and New Oxford, PA (Cross Keys Village). Each training was hosted by a member of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes.

In 2007, ABC will provide another set of deacon ministry training events. The locations include: Bridgewater, VA (Bridgewater Retirement Community); Mt. Morris, IL (Pinecrest Community); McPherson, KS (The Cedars); and LaVerne, CA (Brethren Hillcrest Homes). These training events will provide a major plenary session, inspirational worship and a variety of workshops for skill building. It will also be a great place for deacons to network with deacons from other congregations! Please let your deacons know about these opportunities. More details will be coming. But start thinking about how your deacon group can participate!

- A recommended Deacon Resource

Many deacons ask for resources for understanding the practice of anointing. An excellent resource for deacons is a new book written by Frank Ramirez, pastor of the Everett (PA) Church of the Brethren, called *Partners in Healing: The Ministry of Anointing*. Frank explains this important ordinance and helps us understand the theological significance of anointing. He also provides practical help by sharing a basic service of anointing, a hymn for anointing, prayers, sermons and other worship resources that deacons and pastors will find helpful.

In addition to all of these resources, Frank invites deacons and others to take time to study scripture and discuss the importance of anointing. The study questions, provided in the book, would be an excellent agenda for a deacon meeting or retreat. One example is "What meaning do you give to the words "cure" and "heal"? Is there a difference, in your opinion?"

There are even children's activities to assist us in passing on the legacy of this practice to future generations. Learn more about anointing from this important resource. You can purchase this book by contacting Brethren Press ([www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)) or contact the publisher, CSS Publishing Company in Lima, Ohio.

- Summer Caregiving Preview

*Together Conversations* are taking place across our denomination. Annual Conference took thirty minutes from each business session to invite delegates and others to share. Districts are inviting people to come together to talk about what it means for church. Congregations are setting up times for this special discussion time. Across the denomination in retreats, bible or fellowship groups, and children's church school, Church of the Brethren people are engaged in a comprehensive study of understanding who we are as a church and hearing one another's vision of what we could become as we continue the work of Jesus. Fred Swartz writes that Deacons can play an important role in this process. "Deacons can lead in this effort in congregations. Why? Because deacons are the group within the church that is consecrated toward the Christ-like mission of the church, they also have the church's welfare and fellowship at the heart of their concern. Deacons have their fingers on the pulse of the congregation."

Deacon Challenge Answer: See pages 77-79 of the Deacon Manual.



“Together” is all of us in the Church of the Brethren getting together in small groups to talk about being the church. We’ll worship, listen, learn, pray, reflect.

Why?

The world is a fragmented place, and sometimes the church is too. We long for the “spirit of unity” that Paul speaks of, but don’t always do any better than the world around us. To help ourselves understand and address this reality, the Church of the Brethren is being invited to an extensive conversation, one that will be a first step toward a new and common understanding of who, whose, and what we are.

It’s true that what the church is and does is shaped by our everyday words and actions as people of faith. But periodically it’s worth taking time to study and talk about these understandings. The last time the Church of the Brethren engaged in such a study was almost 50 years ago, close to the 250th anniversary of the denomination. This time, the hope is to involve everybody in the church.

When we look around us, we don’t very often see this sort of frank and caring conversation about important matters. The church can be different. Through Christ, we can model another way of being.

Are we just going to talk?

We’ll talk, and we’ll also listen. Expectations, openness, and prayer will make these holy conversations. There is no required outcome, no set of goals and objectives, no policies to be voted on or decisions to be made. Rather, this time together is about asking what God’s yearning is for us as a church. Together we can grow in the maturity of our faith; perhaps we will even find ourselves transformed. If we are open to God’s Spirit, it will be worth our time.

Who participates?

You. And everybody else in the Church of the Brethren.

“Can we talk?”

*If a peace church can’t,  
then who can?*

**Together: Conversations on Being the Church** is all of us in the Church of the Brethren getting together in small groups to talk about being the church. We’ll worship, listen, learn, pray, reflect. For more information, visit [www.togetherconversations.org](http://www.togetherconversations.org) or contact your district office.



# Denominational News

## **Personnel Changes**

- Ralph McFadden will serve as coordinator for the second Mission Alive conference, planned for April 13-15, 2007, filling a temporary, part-time position in the Global Mission Partnerships of the General Board.

## **Position Openings**

- Bridgewater (Va.) College seeks a manager of technical services and network administrator to oversee technical aspects of information technology at the college. Review of resumes will continue until the position is filled. For the complete announcement go to [www.bridgewater.edu/campus\\_info/jobs/itc\\_network2006.html](http://www.bridgewater.edu/campus_info/jobs/itc_network2006.html). For more information contact Terry Houff, Chief Information Officer and Director of IT Center, at [thouff@bridgewater.edu](mailto:thouff@bridgewater.edu). A completed application will include cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least three letters of references, to be sent to Vikki Price, Director of Human Resources, 402 E. College St., Bridgewater, VA 22812; or sent by e-mail (preferred) to [vprice@bridgewater.edu](mailto:vprice@bridgewater.edu). Bridgewater is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

## **Other News**

- As announced earlier this year, the Annual Conference Office relocates from the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., this month. The move takes place the week of Aug. 21-25. The office will open for business in New Windsor on Aug. 28. The new address of the Annual Conference Office is 500 Main Street, P.O. Box 720, New Windsor, MD, 21776-0720; 410-635-8740, 800-688-5186, fax 410-635-8742, executive director 410-635-8781. E-mail addresses remain unchanged for Fogle ([lfogle\\_ac@brethren.org](mailto:lfogle_ac@brethren.org)) and Conference assistant Dana Weaver ([dweaver\\_ac@brethren.org](mailto:dweaver_ac@brethren.org)).

## **Bethany Seminary Will Host Discernment Retreat**

Richmond, Indiana---Bethany Theological Seminary will host a discernment retreat titled Open Hearts - Open Minds September 22-24. Participants will discover and work with the call to ministry that is before them through prayer, worship, group sessions, and personal time for reflection.

Tara Hornbacker, assistant professor of Ministry Formation, is the retreat leader. A popular inspirational speaker, humorist, and ministry consultant, Tara is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. As Bethany faculty, she gives overall direction to the Seminary's program of preparing people for the ministry through experiential education, spiritual formation, and theological reflection on the practice of ministry. Opportunities for individual spiritual direction will be available throughout the weekend, facilitated by Lisa Lundeen Nagel, a 2006 graduate of Earlham School of Religion.

"Open Hearts - Open Minds is a retreat grounded in scripture, worship and an openness to the presence of God," says Amy Gall Ritchie, director of student development at Bethany. "It is a time that brings learning and doing together, as persons delve into the issues that God is presenting to them."

Registration cost for Open Hearts - Open Minds is \$25.00. Lodging and other detailed information will be sent to participants registered by September 1.

To register, or to receive more information, contact Amy Gall Ritchie at 765-983-1806, or by E-mail: [ritcham@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:ritcham@bethanyseminary.edu).

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

You are invited to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive  
**Cross Cultural Consultation and Celebration**  
**April 19-22, 2007**  
**New Windsor Conference Center**  
**New Windsor, Maryland**

Cross Cultural Ministry Team Mission Statement:

*We are called to enrich and strengthen the Church of the Brethren by our unity as people of color, modeling for the larger church the blessings of being one as God's people. --adopted October 2000*

This is open to anyone who would like to participate, there is no registration cost, however, meals and housing at New Windsor will be your responsibility. For more information about this event, please contact the District Office.

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### **Resource Suggestions from ABC**

Many people have been asking for resources and strategies to make their congregations welcoming places for all people, especially those with disabilities. Two new books provide practical assistance.

Newman, Barbara. ***Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism.*** Friendship Ministries, 2006.

This new book provides congregations with information on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and strategies to assist congregations in becoming truly welcoming congregations for people with Autism and their families. Our society is increasing learning more about the frequency of autism and how autism affects children and adults at school, work, and home. But what about church?

Autism and Your Church offers practical ways to welcome and include individuals with ASD into the full life of your congregation. This resource will enable church leaders to

- Appreciate those with ASD as persons created in God's image.
- Learn about five specific disorders included in ASD.
- Discover ten strategies for including people with ASD in the life of your church.
- Develop an action plan for ongoing ministry with children and adults who have autism."

Rich, Cynthia Holder and Martha Ross-Mockaitis. ***Learning Disabilities and the Church: Including All God's Kids in Your Education and Worship,*** Faith Alive: Grand Rapids, MI, 2006.

Those who work with children and youth will be especially pleased to see this new resource that provides assistance in understanding and planning programs for children, youth, and their families affected by a learning disability who are part of our faith family.

The book describes the nature and substance of learning disabilities and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. It examines ways congregations can effectively minister to people with these particular issues. Perhaps most importantly it demonstrates how congregations can offer God's grace to these families through their education and worship ministries. It offers specific strategies for making accommodations to enable these children and youth to participate in church school and worship. The authors challenge us to see a wider scope of possibilities for what it means to be the church - the body of Christ.

These books can be ordered from Brethren Press.

Many more resources are listed on the ABC website ([www.brethren-caregivers.org](http://www.brethren-caregivers.org)) under the Disabilities Ministry, Resources.