From the District Moderator:

As we gather at Camp Harmony for District Conference on Saturday, October 19, we will be discussing the past, present, and future. Some might say that we should look only to the future. I have always looked to the past as I have moved into the future.

There is something that I learned in the past that is very important. In fact, it has been the pattern for my life. During those early years as my parents took me to church, there were numerous Sunday school teachers and pastors who worked together to introduce me to Jesus. As I live each day, I reflect on those who opened up the whole world to me. So as I look back each day it allows me to move forward in my own faith walk as well as helping others grow in their faith.

Those folks always shared with me the scriptures and got me started on a journey that draws me closer to Jesus each day. They are no longer with me physically, but they continue to feed me. Yep, they took the information that Jesus gave Peter to heart. I feel that they, through their efforts, have helped to commission me to carry on the message to others.

Oh by the way, there is something else that happened years ago that helps me each day. Jesus walked this earth and by his actions, he has set an example for all of us to follow. So we need to take that example, and feed his sheep. At the same time, we thank our living Savior continuously for what he has done for us and what he continues to do for us.

So until, during, and following District Conference, continue feeding his sheep.

In Christ,
Tim Resh

PLEASE NOTE: District Conference registration materials and Church World Service Kit information are included in this issue of the District HIGHLIGHTS.
HOSPITALIZED

- Barry Conn, pastor of the County Line congregation, for gall bladder surgery.
- Homer Marshall, co-pastor of the Fairview congregation, for treatment.
- Gary Hiler, chair of the District Stewards & Finance Team, for back surgery.
- Shelby F. McCoy, pastor of the Sipesville congregation, is on medical leave for a few weeks.

SYMPATHY

- To the family of Donald Deffenbaugh. Donald served several congregations in the district, and brother of retired minister Gerald Deffenbaugh.

LEADERSHIP

- William R. Frey, Sr. resigned as FT pastor of the Indiana congregation as of June 30, 2013. He has been called to a congregation in Wyoming.
- Welcome to Gregory A. Beach as he was called as FT pastor of the Greenville and Bethel congregations as of August 1, 2013. He comes to Western PA from the Illinois/Wisconsin District.

A Call to Prayer

The Spiritual Formation Team is asking every pastor to call forth a prayer intercessor who would be willing to "stand in the gap" and intercede for Western PA and the churches in our district. While much of this prayer may be done in homes or the local church, gatherings for corporate prayer will also take place in each sub-district. Pastors have received a letter concerning this endeavor which is based on 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

All revivals have begun with prayer. In 1724, the Brethren awakening was the forerunner to the Great Awakening. Could this happen again? "With God, all things are possible." Please join us in prayer for spiritual renewal.

NEW MEMBERS

Locust Grove congregation
- Jolene Fyock
- Brittany Irwin
- Corey Kalinyak
- Eric Kaseler
- Connie Reed

Maple Spring congregation
- Emily Ross
- Monica Shaffer
- Keith Doyle

Bear Run congregation
- Nancy Rogers
- Mary Kay Hiles

County Line congregation
- Colleen Barnhart
- Brenda Kimmick
- Ashley Kimmick
- Alex Kimmick
- Bethany Laymon
- Josh Laymon

Attention Churches!
Please make sure that you are making this newsletter available to your congregation. Print out a copy for the bulletin board, put a notice in the Sunday bulletin that it is available, hand it to key leaders in your church. Communication is important as we work together as a District - please do your part.

October 2013 Highlights Deadline
September 10, 2013
Local Church News

**USED BOOK SALE!**
Church of the Brethren Home
Basement Chapel
September 12 & 13, 2013
7 AM – 3 PM
All types of books at great prices
Stop in and browse!

**Revival Services**
at the
Shade Creek Ridge Church of the Brethren
1623 Ridge Road Hooversville.
September 15-18, 2013 - 7 pm
The evangelist will be Barron Deffenbaugh
With special music each night.
Sunday-United from New Hope Ministries.
Monday- Ron Weible.
Tuesday- Emily Felton.
Wednesday- Rummel COB Choir.
Everyone welcome to attend.

**Brethren Disaster Ministries Schedule**
If you are interested in participating in a
disaster work camp for a week, or in going to
New Windsor for the day, please contact Herb
Ewald at 814 539-8530.

As you will note on the District Calendar, there
are three week-long disaster work trips to
Schoharie, New York to clean up after Hurricane
Irene (September 22-28; October 6-12; and
November 10-16) and one trip to Toms River,
New Jersey (December 8-14).
Volunteers are needed for each of these trips.
Day trips to New Windsor are scheduled for
October 3 and October 22 and December 5 and
December 17.
Herb will answer any questions you may have
about these trips.
Thanks for volunteering!

The Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren
**Divorce Care Support Group** will begin a
new support group on September 3, 2013,
7:00 PM at the home of Ed and Sally
Houghton, 124 Lindberg Ave. Johnstown PA
15905.

For information, please call 814 255-2431

**Mount Joy Church of the Brethren**
will be holding fall revival/renewal services
**September 29—October 2, 2013**
with Bro. Luke Bucher
from the Heidelberg Church of the Brethren in
Myerstown, PA.
Sunday morning service is at 10:45 a.m.
nightly services begin at 7:00 p.m.
There will be special music each night.
You are invited to any or all of these services.

Mt. Joy Church is located 1 mile east of Mount
Pleasant on Route 31.
Bro. Lee Smith is pastor.
For more information, please call
724-547-3670.
We ask that you please keep these
services in prayer.

**Offer of an Organ**
A private, Christian family, from
the Somerset Church of the
Brethren wishes to donate a
50+ former Somerset COB's full-size Hammond Organ and the
40 amp. speaker to a church in
need of one. This organ has been meticulously
maintained and only used in a private home
since leaving the church. The speaker is a
replaced one that is more powerful than the
original. We just ask that you transport it.
Any and all questions and inquiries should be
addressed by phoning 814-443-4005. Thank
you.
Greetings in the name of our Lord!

District Conference 2013 will be held Saturday, October 19, at Camp Harmony, 1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville, PA 15936. The Program and Arrangements Committee is continuing to strive to improve the atmosphere and program schedule.

Contained in this newsletter you will find preliminary materials regarding District Conference. Please review this information and share the information with your delegates and other leaders of your congregations. Some of them may have received this information already in a special mailing or an email. The following materials are included:

◊ **Registration Form**: The District Conference Registration form must be completed and returned by Friday, October 11 with payment included. Please send ONE CHECK for each congregation’s delegates and non-delegates. **IN ADDITION**: If you are traveling to conference from a distance, please be advised that you are invited to stay overnight on Friday, October 18, at no charge. Please contact Camp Harmony at 814-798-5885 by Friday, October 11, to register for lodging.

◊ **Child Care Registration Form**: One form for each child, to be completed and returned by Friday, October 11.

◊ **Church World Service Recovery and Support Kit Information**: This year’s offering will again be received in the form of kits. Enclosed is a list of items to be included in the kits.

All persons must pre-register for District Conference by Friday, October 11. The registration fee for the conference is $25.00 per person. The fee includes your lunch, conference booklet materials, and facility fee.

Should you have any questions regarding District Conference, please feel free to contact the District Office at 814-479-2181 or toll free at 1-866-279-2181.
DISTRICT CONFERENCE  
DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM  

Western PA District Church of the Brethren  
Saturday, October 19, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.  
Participants are asked to report to the registration table by **8:30 a.m.**  

CAMP HARMONY  
1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville, PA 15936  

CHURCH  

REGISTRATION FEE of $25.00 per person - Due by Friday, October 11, 2013  
This covers registration materials, meal and beverages, facility fee.  

DELEGATE REPRESENTATION [ALL OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS APPLY]  
♦ Authorized/appointed non-elected delegates from each congregation include the pastor, board or team chair, commission or team chairs (Ministry, Nurture, Stewards, Witness, or an authorized/appointed representative of corresponding commissions) not to exceed 4 persons, and a youth representative. The total number possible of authorized/appointed non-elected delegates is 7 persons.  
♦ 200 members or less - 2 elected delegates  
♦ More than 200 members - 2 elected delegates, plus 1 additional delegate for each 200 members over the initial 200 or a major fraction of 200.  

NON-DELEGATES  
♦ Any person that is not elected or appointed.  

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Make ONE check for ALL participants payable to:  
Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple PA 15935-7412  

DUE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013  
Before mailing to the District Office, please copy this form for your records.  

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE USE ONLY  
Form received: ____________________  
Amount enclosed: ____________________  

Please list persons attending on the other side of this form:
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Church World Service Recovery and Support Kits

CWS Hygiene, School, Baby Kits, and Emergency Clean-up Buckets are projects your church group can complete to make a difference for hurting people in the United States and around the world. These basic supplies are so common in the US, but so vital if you have lost everything in a disaster or live in poverty. Cash donations in lieu of assembled Kits or Buckets also help provide much-needed supplies. If you have questions, please call the CWS Regional Office at 1-888-297-2767.

Wrap your love and prayers in every Kit or Bucket you put together. But, please, include only the items listed. **Do not include personal notes, money, or any additional items in or with the Kits.** And, please, do not include or decorate your Kits with religious symbols, as the Kits are shared with people based only on need, regardless of religion. Thank you for helping CWS be ready to respond!

**Hygiene Kit**
- 1 hand towel – 16”x28” (no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide tooth comb
- 1 metal nail clipper
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 band-aids

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

**Baby Kit**
- 2 T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand-knitted or crocheted)
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 washcloths
- 2 diaper pins

All items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins. Patterns for many of the Baby Care Kit components are available online at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or by calling your CWS Regional Office at 1-888-297-2767.

**School Kit**
- 1 – 30-centimeter ruler (12”)
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 pair blunt scissors
- 3 – 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages. (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 1 large eraser
- 1 box 24 crayons (only 24)
- 1 – 12”x14” to 14”x17” finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Pack all items inside the cloth bag. Patterns for the bag are available online at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or by calling your CWS Regional Office at 1-888-297-2767.
Emergency Clean-up Bucket

- 1 – Five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 – 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- 1 – 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- 1 – 24-28 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- 1 package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, 2 – 50 ft. or 1 – 100 ft.
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pair latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 pair work gloves
- 1 – 24-28-bag roll of heavy-duty 30-45 gallon trash bags (may be removed from carton)
- 1 – 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, note aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. **Be sure to send only new materials.** Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

**Don't forget to send a check for $2 per Kit or $3 per Bucket to help cover the shipping costs.**

Kits should be **securely boxed and taped.** Boxes should be packed with only one type of Kit (Hygiene, School, or Baby) inside each box. The boxes should be labeled, noting the type of Kit, number of Kits, congregation/group, contact person, address, number of boxes. **Please DO NOT put the $2 inside the kit.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**

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Fill out and attach this form to the box with the kits or the buckets, and send a check for $2.00 per Kit or $3.00 per Bucket to help cover shipping costs. Make check payable to and send to **Western PA District COB.**

Congregation/Group ____________________________________________________________
Contact Person ______________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________________________________________
Phone Number __________________________________________________________________

Indicate amount enclosed: Number of Kits x $2 = $________________________
Number of Buckets x $3 = $________________________
Hey there, hope you’re having a fine day. Let’s talk about leadership this month, because if you receive this newsletter, you’ve probably been in a position of leadership at some point, if you’re not currently.

I hear this word ‘leadership’ being tossed around so frequently – people say they’re leaders, we have something called a District Leadership Team, we go to leadership conferences, all that good stuff. But what is a leader, what does leadership entail, and what characteristics do leaders need to have?

First of all, a leader is a person who can influence others to help accomplish a certain task. So if you aren’t influential and you don’t get people to work together and you don’t accomplish anything, you’re probably not a leader. This may come as a great relief to some of you. Let me tell you, it’s okay to not be a leader. We can’t all be leaders! In fact, if everyone was a leader, there would be no leaders. Why? Because ...

A leader must have followers! A leader is a person who has a vision, a dream. Then that person talks about the dream to other people. Some of those people will get excited by the vision and they’ll want to be a part of its realization. So they will follow the leader into the processes that make the vision come to life. They are the followers.

Followers get an iffy reputation, like they’re not as good as leaders. But every successful leader is successful because of dedicated followers who understand the vision and who want to work for it. Right?

Imagine a field full of people sitting on blankets. Now, imagine that one guy stands up and starts dancing. There’s no music, but he starts dancing. He is taking a risk, because if no one joins him, then he’s not a leader, he’s just a crazy guy who’s dancing to no music. But then someone else thinks “hey, that looks like fun – I’m going over to dance, too” and joins him. Now there are two guys dancing in a field to no music. Now the risk is lower for everyone else – so another joins, and another, and another. Pretty soon, 30 people, now 40 people, have joined the movement. And the folks sitting around on their blankets start to think “hey, maybe I’m odd for not dancing right now.” And when the original dancer gets tired, he can fade out of the throng and sit down, and the rest will keep dancing – because it wasn’t about him in the first place.

It was all about the vision. The dream.

So a leader is willing to dream. A leader is willing to take risks to get the ball rolling. A leader is willing to appear foolish for a little while, until people realize that this vision is worth pursuing. A leader is willing to train followers and model the necessary actions. A leader is willing to bow out when his or her part in the action is over. Because it was always about the dream.

Western PA, are we asking God to give us a dream? Are we praying for a vision, a purpose? Or are we using all of our blessings and resources to merely survive and keep the lights on?

What about in your church – are you dreaming big dreams and seeking God’s will? Are you training up people to be leaders in the congregation and community? Are you modeling selfless, Christ-like leadership?

Make no mistake, God is doing big things in this region – but He won’t do big things through our COB churches if we refuse to let Him. Our Father is the perfect gentleman – He doesn’t force Himself on anyone. But He won’t wait around forever, hoping we’ll grudgingly decide to follow Him.

The church needs strong leaders. Not tyrannical, self-serving leaders; but courageous, Spirit-filled men and women who aren’t afraid to bleed, sweat and weep for the sake of Christ’s Gospel. Will that be you?

😊 Abby
A flock of lessons

These facts about geese were distributed to staff Members of ‘Outward Bound’ all over the U.S. I took the liberty of paraphrasing them for you:

FACT: As geese flap their wings, they create an ‘uplift’
For the birds that follow. By flying in a ‘V’ formation,
The whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew along.
LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community get where they are going quicker and easier when they lift each other up along the way.

FACT: If a goose falls out of formation, it feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. So it quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.
LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those headed where we want to go.

FACT: When the head goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.
LESSON: It pays to share leadership and take turns doing the hard work.

FACT: Geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up the pace.
LESSON: It is important that our honking be encouraging. Otherwise it’s just—well honking.

FACT: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again.
LESSON: When one of us is down, it’s up to the others to stand by us in our time of trouble.

— Harry G. Kennon, Asbury United Methodist Church, Chesterfield, VA

The marks of a leader

Leaders should aspire to look like small boys in August. If you raise Children or grandchildren, you know that by the end of August, they’ve been running around all summer in their shorts, sneakers and T-shirts. You also know that their knees and their elbows are always skinned, their shins always black and blue and that they have the marks of the summer’s fracases on their faces. A 6-year-old boy at the end of summer is my picture of a leader.

I got that picture from David Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Many years ago he told me that leaders need to learn not to inflict pain, but to bear pain. It seems to me that if you’re bearing pain properly as a leader, whether you’re a preacher, a college professor, a parent or a teacher, you ought to have the marks of the struggle. One ought to have bruised shins and skinned knees.

— Max DePree in Leadership Jazz
The Western PA District Church of the Brethren
Invites you to the
30th Annual Brethren Heritage Festival
at
Camp Harmony
1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville, PA 15936
Saturday, September 21, 2013

Festival Schedule
7:00 am—Gates Open
7:30—9:00 am—Breakfast
9:00 am—Devotions with Bread & Cup Communion
9:30 am—Booths Open
9:30—10:00 am—District Choir on Stage
10:00 am—2:00 pm—Children’s Area
11:00 am—12 noon—Open Stage
12 noon—1:00 pm—United-Hooversville
1:00—2:00 pm—Glory Guys-Somerset
2:00—3:00 pm—One Voice-Robinson COB
3:00 pm—Heritage Auction
Closing Devotions and Closing the Festival

Crafts & Food

Red Cross Blood Drive
8:00 am — 2:00 pm

Entertainment

Quilt & Basket Auction

Western Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollopple, PA 15935
814 479-2181

Camp Harmony
1414 Plank Road PO Box 158
Hooversville, PA 15936
814 798 5885
Western Pennsylvania District Highlights

A Voice for the Unborn

“A 40 Days for Life Event”

Western PA District Women’s Ministries is taking a stand for the unborn. YOU can be a part of that stance. “40 Days for Life” takes place twice a year and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Association. The goal is to show support for the unborn babies by doing a 40 day vigil outside of abortion clinics. These vigils are very orderly and respectful and involve prayer, scripture reading, singing softly, etc. They have proven to be very effective in promoting awareness regarding this vital topic. For more information about 40 Days of Life visit http://www.40daysforlife.com.

On Saturday, October 5 a bus will depart for Pittsburgh to take part in this vigil. There will be Johnstown area, Somerset area and Greensburg area pick-ups (definite spots will be sent to those with confirmed reservations). Both MEN and WOMEN are invited to take part as we set up our vigil for two hours (lawn chairs are welcomed). Following the vigil we will head for Station Square for lunch and shopping and then to Phipps Conservatory for the Flower Show. The price is $41.00 and includes the bus fare and the admission to Phipps. Lunch is on your own.

This event is open to the general public so be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Seating is limited to 55 persons so early reservations are advised.

Reservations should be forwarded to our District Women’s Ministries Treasurer: Arbutus Blough, Treasurer
Western PA District Women’s Ministries
845 Speigle Road
Hollspotle, Pa. 15935-6735

Checks should be made payable to “Western PA District Women’s Ministries” ($41.00 per person)
Deadline for Registration – September 10

40 Days for Life

Name(s)__________________________________________________________________________
Address___________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number________________________ email address ________________________________
Area of Pick up_____________________________________________________________________
(Johnstown, Somerset or Greensburg)*

*These exact locations and times will be sent to you with your reservation confirmation.

Questions? Contact Pastor Linda Stoner, District Women’s Cabinet Member, at 814-444-8800 or email jnljaunts@floodcity.net. Linda can also be private messaged on Facebook.

September 2013
Denominational News

Position Openings

- **Southern Pennsylvania District, District Executive** (New Oxford, Pennsylvania)  
  Full-time position available January 1, 2014. The district’s mission is “to create New Testament communities committed to personal transformation through Jesus Christ.”

- **Media Support Specialist** (Elgin, Illinois)  
  The Church of the Brethren is seeking an individual to fill a full-time hourly position of media support specialist.

- **Director of Activities** at Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village (Boonsboro, Maryland) Position is responsible for the development, implementation, and supervision of recreational activities for Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village residents. For more information please go to [www.fkhv.org](http://www.fkhv.org).

- **Chaplain** (part-time) at the Palms of Sebring (central Florida) Apply at www.palmsofsebring.com or submit your resume to 863-385-2385.

More information about these and other positions can be found at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

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**Newsline: July 24, 2013**

Two Church of the Brethren-related schools have been named among this year’s “Great Colleges to Work For”: Manchester University in N. Manchester, Ind., and Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. The listing is produced by “The Chronicle of Higher Education,” which polled 45,000 employees at 300 institutions for its annual report. According to a release, Manchester is “the only small Indiana college in a five-state area to make the list.... Manchester University not only is one of the best college workplaces in the nation, it is a role model for fair and clear faculty tenure policies.” This is the fourth year in a row that Manchester achieved Honor Roll status among the 97 colleges receiving recognition. Juniata College also was placed on the Honor Roll, “the fourth time Juniata has been singled out as an Honor Roll recipient since the poll began in 2008,” said a Juniata release. “Juniata was recognized as a leader in the ‘Small College’ division (499 employees or fewer) in six out of 12 categories.” Find the full release from Manchester at [www.manchester.edu/News/GreatColleges2013.htm](http://www.manchester.edu/News/GreatColleges2013.htm). Find the full release from Juniata at [http://services.juniata.edu/news/index.html](http://services.juniata.edu/news/index.html).

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**Peace Day 2013: With whom will you make peace?**

Peace Day is coming up soon on Sept. 21, and this year’s theme asks one simple question: With whom will you make peace?

Peace Day (formerly called the International Day of Prayer for Peace) is a rallying call to bring people together to think about how this peace can transform relationships and communities. Sometimes it feels like violence is all around, and that peace is unattainable, but Jesus gives us peace and calls us to be peacemakers who build up our world and our communities. "My peace I leave with you" (John 14:27). Asked how many times to forgive, Jesus responded, "Not 7 times, but 77 times" (Matthew 18:22). How can we all live into his peace?

This year’s Peace Day theme is a reminder of the situations and relationships into which we have the ability to bring peace. Communities are filled with opportunities to bring the peace of Jesus into neighborhoods, for the possibility of transformation and reconciliation.

Last year, more than 170 congregations participated, including more than 90 Church of the Brethren congregations. The public events of Peace Day 2012 included prayer, cultural sharing, music, and art that brought communities together to talk and pray with one another.

On Earth Peace, the Church of the Brethren, the World Council of Churches, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries invite and encourage the organizing of Peace Day events this year on or near Sept. 21. Already churches and groups have signed up from places as different as Pennsylvania and the Congo. Join them, and start thinking about how to engage your communities on Peace Day this September. Here are some possibilities:  
 -- Sign up your church or group to participate at [http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com/join](http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com/join).  
 -- Follow Peace Day on Twitter @peacedaypray.  
 -- Bryan Hanger, a Brethren Volunteer Service worker serving as a legislative associate for the Church of the Brethren’s Office of Public Witness, provided this report.
**BBT launches news and information site on health care reform**

**Newsline August 8, 2013**

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) has launched a news and information website titled “ReformWatch,” offering information about health care reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

An April 2013 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation determined that 4 in 10 Americans do not know whether the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is still the law and being implemented, and 49 percent of those surveyed do not know how PPACA will affect them or their family.

Do you fall into one of these two categories? Do you need more information about PPACA? Let Brethren Insurance Services assist you with ReformWatch, offering up-to-date news and information on this sweeping legislation.

Some features of this site include:

--- A timeline that shows when each provision of PPACA is scheduled to be enacted and who is responsible for responding to each change.
--- A regularly updated news site that connects readers with reputable sources in the health care industry and the federal government.
--- A glossary of key terms that helps readers make sense of health care reform terminology.
--- A page for forms.
--- A frequently asked questions (FAQ) section with comprehensive responses from www.healthcare.gov.
--- ReformWatch E-Alerts, an e-mail service that updates registrants on the latest health care reform news.

To review the health care overhaul timeline, check FAQs, look up terminology, read news briefs from reputable sources, and sign up to receive ReformWatch E-Alerts go to www.brethrenbenefittrust.org/reformwatch.

--- Brian J. Solem is manager of Publications for Brethren Benefit Trust.

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**Annual Conference moderator announces theme for 2014.**

**Newsline August 8, 2013**

"Live as Courageous Disciples" is the theme that moderator Nancy Sollenberger Heishman has announced for the 2014 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, on July 2-6 in Columbus, Ohio. The New Testament letter of Philippians is the theme scripture.

“The times in which we live call for boldness, for courage, for fearless living that is faithful to the word and life of Jesus Christ,” said the moderator’s theme statement, in part. "The world around us is hungry and thirsty for living examples of lives radically committed to following Jesus. More than ever, the church needs to be a community in which Jesus’ disciples spur one another on to live courageously in this world.

“My dream for this coming year is that we will take steps toward living out the beginning of our denominational vision statement, which is: ‘Through scripture Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples in word and action,’” Heishman added.

The moderator is encouraging church members “to set aside this year to all study a particular New Testament letter together, the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians. In this small letter, as well as the background found in the book of Acts, we see what a life of truly courageous discipleship looks like. Even from a prison cell, Paul passionately proclaimed the gospel of Christ and encouraged others to find the courage to live it out in their daily lives.”

Heishman noted that Philippians has just 104 verses and 2,243 words, and added a challenge to memorize the whole book. “It would only require memorizing two verses a week until next July!”

She invites church members to share their experiences of studying and memorizing Philippians, and stories of courageous discipleship with her as she travels among the wider church this year.
On September 28, we invite you to come and learn how you, too, can...

have a new kid by friday!

(a video workshop from Dr. Kevin Leman)

Okay, so you don’t actually get another child.

But practicing Dr. Leman’s principles for better parenting will yield positive results from the start! Learn how to reshape your child’s attitude, behavior and character in biblical ways that show your love and care. Join us for a day of laughter and learning as our own Tammy Hoover facilitates discussion times and offers wisdom from her parenting experience. Register today!

Sponsored by the District Spiritual Formation Team

When: Saturday, September 28, 2013 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Somerset Church of the Brethren, 606 Berlin Plank Road, Somerset PA 15501

Cost: $10 per person
      $15 per couple

Please register by August 31.

Lunch and childcare will be provided!
have a new kid by friday!

REGISTRATION FORM

For Saturday, September 28th 2013

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Phone #: __________________ ________

e-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Special dietary needs / Allergies: ____________________________________________

________________________________________

Names, Ages & Special Food Needs of children in childcare for the day:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>age</th>
<th>dietary / allergy info</th>
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MAIL TO: WPA DISTRICT OFFICE – 115 SPRING ROAD, HOLLASOPPLE, PA 15935 – OR EMAIL – smo@brethren.org BY AUGUST 31.
District Men’s Fellowship is sponsoring

A Men’s & Women’s
Fall Golf Outing

October 5, 2013
Indian Springs Golf & County Club
825 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, PA 15701 [VFW Course]

1:00 p.m. Tee Time
(rain or shine)
6:00 p.m. Dinner

COST
$80 per person (meal included)
$320 per foursome (meal included)
$20 for meal only

WHO CAN ENTER
Men & Women’s Foursome
Women’s Foursome
Men’s Foursome

Some prizes will be awarded.

DINNER CHOICE
Chicken Cordon Bleu OR Stuffed Pork Chop
Mashed Potatoes Green Beans
Salad Roll
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

HOLE SPONSORSHIP $35
Who can be a Hole Sponsor?
- Men’s/Women’s Fellowships
- Youth Groups
- Sunday School Classes
- Individuals …… ANYONE
You get: Your name in program and one person from the sponsoring group can attend the banquet.

Make checks payable to DISTRICT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP.
Mail Registration to: Homer Marshall 369 West Church Ave, Masontown, PA 15461-1651

Please send in your registration form by September 16, 2013. Add $15 per person or $60 per foursome if registered after the deadline. For meal only, add $5 per person registering after the deadline.
District Men’s Fellowship Golf Outing Registration Form

October 5, 2013 (registration deadline September 16, 2013)
Make checks payable to: DISTRICT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Foursome or Individual

Spokesperson ___________________________ Phone ________________

Congregation ___________________________

Golfers

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<th>Name</th>
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</table>

Total Due with Registration $ ____________

Amount Received by Treasurer $ ________ Initial ________ Date Rec’d_________

Meal Choice

# of Chicken Cordon Bleu ___
Or
# of Stuffed Pork Chop ___

Banquet Only Registration

Congregation ___________________________

Number of Reservations ________ @ $20.00 each Total Due $ _______________

Do Not Include Golfers After September 16 add $5 per person

Contact Person ___________________________ Phone ________________

Amount Received by Treasurer $ ________ Initial ________ Date Rec’d_________

Hole Sponsor

Name ____________________________________

Phone _________________________________

Address _______________________________

____________________________________ Zip ______

$35 per Hole: Number of Holes ________ @ $35 Total Due ________

Amount Received by Treasurer $ ________ Initial ________ Date Rec’d_________
So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10

at Camp Harmony, 1414 Plank Road, Hooversville, PA 15936

The Western PA District Church of the Brethren is hosting the 8th Annual District Auction! The auction begins at 9:00 a.m.

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 am to 12 noon: October 12 and October 26. Items can also be brought the afternoon of October 19, 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 at 814 479-2181 or 814 479-7058
AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST

September 2013

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
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
OTT, CLIFFORD W. - PO Box 444, Jerome, 15937-0444 - 814 479-2374
PETERMAN, SANDRA M. - 2288 N Ridge Rd, Shelocta, 15774-7225 - 724 354-3533
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
SHAFER, 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 15644 - 724 522-5260
WALKER, LARRY E. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WHIPPLE, CHARLES D. - 317 Wyoming St, Greensburg, 15601-3947 - 724 600-6332
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. - 207 Church St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758

LICENSED

BAUGHMAN, KAREN L. - 130 Homewood Dr, Butler, 16001-1960 - 724 283-1051
GREW, DOTTIE H. - 509 Sherman St, Meyersdale, 15552-1239 - 814 634-5329
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
SHAFER, ABBY R. - (office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
SHAFER, DANIEL P. - 135 Holly Path, Windber, 15963 - 814 244-5470
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
This summer seemed to fly by, and it’s once again time for our annual Harvest Home project. Last year the in kind donations provided us with a large supply of basic necessities. We were also overwhelmed by the generous monetary donations that allowed us to purchase a variety of items that would have been impossible within our normal operating budget: four t-gel cushions, a majority of the funds needed for the dining room carpet, and over twenty new mattresses. Thank you just doesn’t seem quite enough to express our gratitude for the caring shown by so many. What a wonderful difference your giving has made for our residents!

As you prepare for Harvest Home this year, please find attached a list of items that are used on a daily basis at the Home. Donations from the list would be most welcome. However, if your congregation finds monetary support of a specific project more appealing, we have once again compiled a list of proposed projects that would enhance the lives of the Home residents, along with the approximate cost for each.

**GERI CHAIRS:** Geri chairs are specialized rolling chairs that provide extra support and comfort for residents with limited mobility. The Home supplies these chairs, however our fleet of chairs is in need of a few replacements. Approximate cost: $400 per chair

**CARPET REPLACEMENT:** Last year’s donations to our carpeting project have allowed us to begin replacement of the dining room carpet. The first floor hallways are the next area targeted for renewal. Approximate cost: $10,000

**ARM CHAIRS:** Many residents require the extra support chairs with arms provide during activity sessions. The chairs are stackable, and may be stored in the station lounges for easy access. Approximate cost: $45 per chair

**CENTRALIZED COMPUTER SYSTEM:** Although the cost of the proposed computer system has been calculated, donations for auxiliary components would be gratefully accepted.

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!
Church of the Brethren Home  
2013 Harvest Home Project

The following list identifies everyday items used year round at the Home that 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

**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 2 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**
- Steel bits
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V)
- Paint rollers
SUMMER THEME – Isaiah 43:18 – 19 – The Lord says, “Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don’t you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land.”

SUMMER STATISTICS – JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

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<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Campers</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campers from other groups</td>
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<td>203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Groups</td>
<td>1276</td>
<td>1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships provided by camp</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WISH LIST  THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who have contributed new towels and washcloths, and bed linens for twin and double beds. They have already been used when we had persons renting our facilities. Other items on our list include: 6 double bed sheet sets, 100 cup Coffee Pot, vacuum sweepers, 1” white binders, hot pads, and magnifying glasses. It is quite evident that as we grow, our supplies and program needs are increasing.

2013 - 52 GOD BLESS YOU AND CAMP IS BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING…

47 Families/Congregations have attached to Camp Harmony by giving a dollar a week for a total of $4500. Attach yourself to the Lord’s growing ministry. Thank You.

JOB OPENINGS

Inquire at Camp or go online www.campharmony.org and obtain a general application with a resume and reference letter and mail to Camp – Attn. Janice

--Maintenance – 40 hours a week

--Part Time Cleaning – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp

--Cook, Kitchen Assistants – Flexible hours depending on the need at Camp

THANK YOU

A special thank you is extended to Ruth Ott, Dorothy Gindlesperger, and Walter and Marilyn Ullery, for volunteering to deliver meals to the Boswell Housing Authority through the Tapestry of Health and the Feeding of America program. Camp Harmony undertook this ministry by providing 160 free meals and snacks to children for two days a week for 6 weeks.
LOOKING FORWARD

August 30 – September 2 – Fall Harvest Gospel Music Festival
  Adventure Programming – Call Camp for information

September 19 – Health and Welfare Council

September 21 – Heritage Festival – If housing is needed, please call camp to register

October 4 – 5 – Estate Auction

October 19 – District Conference

October 24 – Tax Seminar – 3:00PM – 8:00PM – Geared to pastors, and church leaders
  $7.00 for Supper Call Camp to Register….

October 25-26 – Trick or Retreat

CAMP HARMONY BECOMES A RELAY CENTER FOR
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
  “Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with
a hurting child.”  100 million and counting….  
  Shoe boxes will be received at Camp during the nationwide collection week,
  November 18-25 from 9AM-5PM Mon-Sat. and 4PM-8PM on Sun.  We do need
volunteers to help with this ministry – Youth Groups, Women’s Groups, Men’s Groups,
Church Groups.
Volunteering will be in 4 hr. shifts.  Come be a part of this growing ministry…..
  For more information email Cortney at program@campharmony.org or for more
  information about the shoebox ministry go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

THANK YOU NURSES
This past summer we relied on volunteer nurses to take care of our children throughout
the camp weeks.  Thank you to those who volunteered – we had 10 qualified persons
keeping our children, counselors, and staff safe.  To those who remember way back
when…this is how we used to operate our medical staff.  Since our summer went so well,
this will also be offered next summer, so for those who are qualified, contact Janice at
Camp for more information.
......to all of you helpful people for getting this information reported! Form B updates contact information about your congregation's board or leadership team 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. Please be sure to review the material provided on Form B and make updates as they are needed. Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated, as well as email addresses, if they are available. This year’s form will be sent from Elgin sometime in September 2013. An Additional Officers Form will be sent from the District Office in October.

In addition, the Congregational Outreach Form for 2013/2014 has been sent from the COB Stewardship Office. If you need to contact Elgin with questions about the outreach form, please contact Mandy Garcia at 800-323-8039, ext. 361. The deadline for completing this form is December 2, 2013. A downloadable version of the form, as well as a new fillable option is now available at www.brethren.org/stewardship. Feel free to use that option in order to switch to paperless reporting.

The forms listed below were received as of August 8. This information is important to both the district and the denomination. The 2012 Statistical Report is especially important. The updated forms get sent to Elgin and they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about a 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!

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<tr>
<th>Church Code</th>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Form A</th>
<th>Form B</th>
<th>2012 Statistical Report</th>
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2013 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.

SEPTEMBER 2013
2 - LABOR DAY
3 - Heritage Festival Booth Registrations due
5 - BHCW Auxiliary Key Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon
5 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
7 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
8 - HAPPY GRANDPARENT’S DAY!
14 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Penn Run Church
22-28 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Schoharie, New York – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
16 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
16 - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
21 - BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, Camp Harmony
23 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office

OCTOBER 2013
3 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
6 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
6-12 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Schoharie, New York – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
7 - Heritage Festival Committee, 7 p.m., Camp Harmony
10 - Women’s Ministry Home Day – Brethren Home Community Windber
12 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
13 - STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
19 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
21 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
22 - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
26 - SVMC/BRETHREN ACADEMY PROGRAM, 9 a.m. – District Office
28 - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
NOVEMBER 2013
2  - 8TH ANNUAL DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
3  - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
3  - NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY
7  - BHCW Auxiliary, 1 p.m., (BAKE, CRAFT, & SOUP SALE)
7  - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
10-16 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Schoharie, New York – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
16  - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Beachdale Church
18  - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
25  - Camp Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
28  - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DECEMBER 2013
1  - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
5  - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
8  - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8-14 - Brethren Disaster Team Work Camp – Toms River, New Jersey – Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
14  - CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY, Camp Harmony
15  - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
16  - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
17  - Day Trip to New Windsor, Maryland - Contact Herb Ewald-814 539-8530
22  - 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. Your help is much appreciated!
A LETTER FROM OSCAR

Hello, my name is Oscar and I am 20 years old. I have lived in the Hogar de Niños Enmanuel for 10 years. I came to the Hogar through the organization IHFA (child services in Honduras). Before coming to the Hogar I knew my father and siblings. My dad now lives in Mexico, but I do not have contact with him. I am in contact with my siblings though. I have a brother and two sisters, but they do not live here at the Hogar.

I like many things about the Hogar. One of them is the new buildings and facilities. The rooms are really nice to stay in. I also like how the Hogar works with the kids to develop them into effective professionals. There are a few things I would change. For example, I would like to see more opportunities for the kids to learn technical trades at the Hogar. In my free time I enjoy helping in the kitchen, reading books, playing soccer, and listening to music.

While at the Hogar I graduated from high school with an emphasis in computation. I currently work in the area of accounting and quality control for the company Foam de Honduras. I have many plans for my future. I would like to continue to study, have my own house and have my own family someday. I would also like to be able to help out the Hogar in the future. I definitely want to stay in contact with the Hogar because they are like my family. I have lived most of my life here and they have always given me support. I will be back to visit them once I leave.

I want to say thanks to Bill and Rona for the support they always give the Hogar. I keep them always in my heart. Thank you to the volunteers that support the Hogar. And also to Vivian, who is like a mom to all of us. Thank you so much, I care a lot for all of you.

Sincerely,
Oscar

SUMMER VISITORS

In addition to attending school classes from February through November, the children enjoy many visitors who give of themselves to be part of their life in some way.

In June during their mid-year break, board member Amber Haupt visited with a group from Western Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren to help coordinate a week full of special activities.

In July, the girls were treated to a Day Camp run by the Carolina Cross Connection from North Carolina where they participated in playing teamwork building games, doing arts and crafts which gave them an outlet for creativity, and closing their day with a meal and time of worship.

Other groups who spent time with the children this summer were from Dan Moran Ministries, World Missions, and TOMS Shoes™.

Norman Vincent Peale says that “There isn’t any knot that you can’t disentangle with controlled enthusiasm.”

THANKS TO ALL WHO BRING ENTHUSIASM INTO THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN AT HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL !!!!!

The children love to dance for their guests.

All tied up in a “human knot”
We often highlight events that take place within the Home in this newsletter, but this month, the spotlight is one of YOU, the wonderful people who give of your resources to help the children of Honduras. Some of you are near, some have the opportunity to visit often, but most of you live far away and will never see firsthand the impact that your help has made for these children.

This summer we talked with a young Honduran man who wants to tell those who have never been there what he has seen and why his regular visits to the Hogar Enmanuel have impacted him.

Allan Mejia is a nineteen year-old, Honduran college student in San Pedro Sula. He was introduced to the Home by his older brother who was doing a service project at Hogar Enmanuel several years ago. His brother was at the home three years ago when baby Nayeli arrived and he instantly fell in love with her. Unfortunately he was leaving the country to attend school and would be unable to continue his time with Nayeli, so Allan, at age 16, decided to become Nayeli’s padrino de Honduras (Honduran godparent). He has visited with her regularly since then and remains as a presence in her life.

Allan recalls Nayeli’s arrival and the many bruises and hand marks that were on her body and how malnourished she was. In a few short months after being there, though, she was much healthier and in better condition. He says that witnessing the transformation the Home has had on Nayeli’s life is the reason that he is drawn to return there. He says that he tries to do something good every day and that by sponsoring, he is making a positive difference in the world daily. “More importantly,” he says, “I can see how I am helping someone — specifically ‘Nayeli.’” Knowing the difference this type of sponsorship has made for both him and Nayeli, he encourages his friends to make visits and hopes that others begin to sponsor children as well.

As he went on, he shared that unlike many other children’s homes in Honduras he had visited, here the children have a clean and a good environment and that the workers and children take very good care of it. Here the children are not merely thriving, but are happy which is another reason he is pleased to share in its mission.

As for Nayeli, she also has those who help from afar; who bathe her in constant prayer and help to provide for her financially with regular monthly donations through the Child Sponsorship Program. Allan hopes that his observations encourages you, too, as you are indeed making a difference in a child’s life, even if you are unable to see it on a weekly basis like he does. Thank you and be encouraged!

The above interview with Allan was submitted by Jill Raselvich, Pennsylvania, while visiting there this summer.

### What’s Happening at Hogar Enmanuel...

- Daniel Edgardo

  When Daniel was born, he was found in a trash can outside the hospital and came to be a part of our Hogar family only ten days later. Originally, his first name was unknown, so he was named “Andres.” However, recent documents arrived informing us his given name — Daniel Edgardo. He was only 4 lbs. 8 oz. when he arrived at Hogar Enmanuel, but he is now 14 lbs. and growing very well. He even has one tooth coming in! The workers in the Sala Cuna (nursery) say that he is very happy, calm, and doesn’t cry often. All of the toddlers in the Sala Cuna adore Daniel and like to try to “help” take care of him, especially little three-year-old Karita who thinks Daniel is her real live baby doll, because the workers say she calls herself his "mom" and pays special attention to him. Please pray for Daniel this month.

### Meet Our Children

- **Daniel Edgardo**

  When Daniel was born, he was found in a trash can outside the hospital and came to be a part of our Hogar family only ten days later. Originally, his first name was unknown, so he was named “Andres.” However, recent documents arrived informing us his given name — Daniel Edgardo. He was only 4 lbs. 8 oz. when he arrived at Hogar Enmanuel, but he is now 14 lbs. and growing very well. He even has one tooth coming in! The workers in the Sala Cuna (nursery) say that he is very happy, calm, and doesn’t cry often. All of the toddlers in the Sala Cuna adore Daniel and like to try to “help” take care of him, especially little three-year-old Karita who thinks Daniel is her real live baby doll, because the workers say she calls herself his “mom” and pays special attention to him. Please pray for Daniel this month.