

Reflecting news and views

The Reflector

a publication of the Illinois/Wisconsin District of the Church of the Brethren

May 2011 / Volume 08 / Issue 5

District Executive: Kevin Kessler

Fletcher Farrar, Bethany Commencement Speaker

Bethany Theological Seminary Commencement speaker **Fletcher Farrar**, Moderator-elect of the Illinois-Wisconsin District, gave an address entitled *"Nicodemus at Dawn,"* based on the biblical texts of Isaiah 59:9-19 and John 3:1-10, at the academic ceremony. Farrar is the owner and editor of *Illinois Times*, a weekly newspaper in Springfield, Illinois, and the former editor of *Messenger*, the denominational magazine for the Church of the Brethren. Three members of the graduating class spoke at the afternoon service: Anna Lisa Gross, Kimberly Koczan Flory, and Larry Taylor. Their presentations were based on the texts Proverbs 8:1-12 and Luke 1:76-79.

Ten students received master of divinity degrees, eight students received Master of Arts degrees, and two students received a certificate of achievement in theological studies.

Disaster Ministries needs School Kits and Clean-up Buckets

The current inventory of School Kits and Emergency Clean-up Buckets is too low to meet the expected demand for the upcoming springtime flood season reports Chris Herlinger of Church World Service. They are appealing to all members including the Church of the Brethren to promote these needs to each congregation within the denomination. The efforts of Church members are critical to help meet the requests and replenish the supply.



(Photo from Church World Service)

For information on assembling the kits and buckets go to: www.churchworldservice.org/kits

On Saturday, May 7, Bethany Theological Seminary will celebrate her 106th commencement. Two observances will mark the occasion. A ceremony for conferring degrees took place in Bethany's Nicarry Chapel, 615 National Road West, Richmond, at 10:00 am. A worship service, open to the public, was also held in Nicarry Chapel at 2:30 pm.



Banners For District Conference

Moderator Lisa Fike and the Program and Arrangements Team are asking each fellowship/ church to make a small banner using the conference theme **"Joined with me and I with you"** (taken from John 15:5)

Or you can use your church theme or logo. Banners should be finished size 12 inches wide by 15 inches long and should include a means of hanging. They can be made of any material and can be any color. Please include your church name in some manner. These banners will serve as our back drop as we worship and do business. At the close of conference banners will be re-distributed. Each church will receive the banner of a sister church and are encouraged to hold this sister congregation in your prayers throughout the next year.



We please ask that you send the banners to the District Office or give to one of the members of the Program and Arrangements Committee by September 15, 2011.



DE Thoughts by Kevin Kessler

The 4th of the 5 questions asked at district conference last fall and the responses follow:

What would you like to share with the District Leaders?

1. We need to do more to attract youth and younger people to our churches. Make some changes and modernize to attract this group. Help!
2. Help our churches to grow/strengthen programs.
3. My encouragement to be bold and make the tough decisions to bring about the changes needed to move forward in mission.
4. Hold on to Jesus and press on.

I've read a couple books over the past few months that provide some insight to these responses, one which I just recently finished entitled *Born of Water, Born of Spirit: Supporting the Ministry of the Baptized in Small Congregations* by Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook and Fredrica Harris Thompsett, published in 2010 by Alban Institute. The focus of *Born of Water...* is that all the baptized are ministers. Familiar in Church of the Brethren circles is that we are all part of the priesthood of believers. However, I like the language of "**ministry of the baptized**" used in the subtitle of the book.

Baptism is a sign of an inner experience. It is also an ordination into ministry, not to the set-apart ministry, but to ministry in general. We become part of a mission, more familiarly called the church, where we enter into continuing the work of Jesus—together.

Remember the baptismal vows? We are asked to receive and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior, to turn away from sin and live according to the example and teachings of Jesus, and to be loyal to the church (the mission) by upholding it with our prayers, presence, substance, and service.

Baptism means we are engaged in ministry—all of us. Ministry is not a function of only those licensed and ordained, but ministry is a calling and activity of all.

Instead of thinking in terms of how to grow/strengthen programs in the church, I think the better question is how do we grow/strengthen discipleship among the baptized? What might the church look like, or how might the church be different today if we shift our focus away from trying the next best available program as the means to help us reach potential and instead begin concentrating on how each of us can become engaged in deeper discipleship efforts?

What do I mean? Well, take for instance response #1 above. The emphasis in the statement leans toward programming. What will attract youth to church? I think that is the wrong question, if I may be so blunt. I think the better question is, How can we be involved in the lives of youth to help provide a better life for them? Discipleship, in my humble opinion, is the way in which we become involved in the lives of others in order to bring about transformation, for them and for the world. It is about building relationships. Being involved in a genuine caring way is what will attract young, and old, to the church. Simply attracting youth or any age group with programs doesn't say much about how we care for them. It may say something completely different.

It will take some bold moves, I think, to change the way we think and act. And it will take time. Kujawa-Holbrook and Thompsett state in their book that "it takes a congregation or judicatory at least seven years to make the paradigm shift" from one way of being to another. They also piggyback on Robert Quinn's work about deep change which says that for paradigm shifts to happen, efforts to implement the change have to be given immediate and significant attention. Expecting incremental shifts is not enough. Claiming the need for change and getting busy is what it will take.

It will also take holding on to Jesus—for support, for wisdom, for strength, and for guidance. Holding on to Jesus will help us to press on. I also think that holding on to Jesus, if we "really" hold on, will require us to hang on for the ride which we'll be on. Commitment to and following the example of Jesus, genuine discipleship, will have the air whistling through our hair. Imagine where this ride could take us?

Along the Paths of Camp Emmaus



The completion date for the new pool project is June 1. The first Church of the Brethren camp to enjoy this new pool is Elementary I on June 25 – 26. The original pool was built in 1952 with thousands of swimmers enjoying it over the years. The pool provides a great marketing tool for the camp.

The cost for the renovation comes to \$250,000 of which \$100,000 still needs to be raised. Donations are welcome and can be made out to Camp Emmaus Pool Fund, Box 128, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

April showers have wild flowers blooming at Camp Emmaus. A huge field of Shooting Stars surround the lodge. You can call the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren who can contact one of the many fans of the camp who would be willing to lead a tour of the spring flowers growing all around the camp.

Camp clean up has been scheduled for June 15 – 22. Manager, Bill Hare, ordered 200 catfish to stock the lake for fishing. Come on out and bring your pole for a relaxing time in nature.

Registration forms have been sent to churches and we are hoping for a bumper crop of campers. Anyone registering for camp before June 10 will receive a free 2011 Camp Emmaus T-shirt. Grandparents, sending your grandchild to Camp Emmaus could just be one of the most memorable and long lasting gifts you could give. See you at Camp...

Contributed by Diane Swingel.

Volunteers of All Ages Spruce Up Camp Emmanuel



The week of April 16 -22 turned out rainy and cold but did not discourage the brave volunteers ages 10-83 from working hard to ready Camp Emmanuel for the camping season. The volunteers came from as far away as Mulberry Grove at the far southern end of Illinois and from as nearby as Astoria and Bader. They scrubbed the cabins and main lodge, washed windows, made curtains, set up picnic tables, cleaned out boats, cooked luscious meals for the volunteers and cleaned up the grounds.

This year's big project was replacing the aging deck and railings on the camp's suspension bridge. Jeremy Westlake, assistant pastor of the Woodland Church of the Brethren, designed the panels that would replace the old interlace method of bridge surfacing. The panels were built ahead of time by the new Camp Manager, Mike Siburt and volunteers John Renken of Washburn, Randy Buchanan of Decatur and Jeremy Westlake of Bader. The bridge volunteers worked daylight to dark and installed the approaches (the final pieces) on Thursday evening. We encourage everyone to come out and see the beautiful new bridge.

The Camp Board and managers wish to thank everyone who supports Camp Emmanuel with their time, prayers and donations. We're looking forward to the camping season ahead.

For information on church camp dates or availability of Camp Emmanuel facilities phone Mike and Ruth Siburt at 302-329-2291 or visit the camp website at www.cob-net.org/camp/emmanuel/

Contributed by Ruth Siburt, Camp Co-manager.

Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI July 2-6, 2011



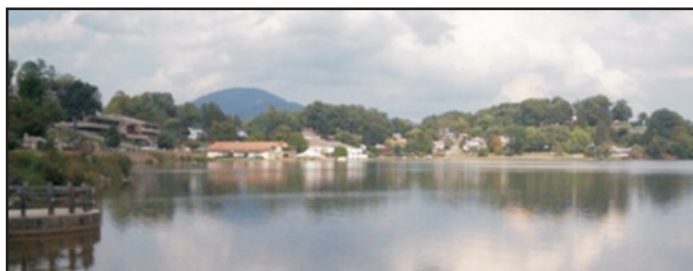
DeVos Convention Center, by Gary Syrba, Experience Grand Rapids

Regional Youth Conference



The **2011 Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference** will take place at Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) Nov. 12-13. Jeff Carter, pastor of Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren, will be our keynote speaker for the weekend. Other details will be developed in the months ahead, but for now please mark your calendars and plan to join us! For questions, contact the Manchester College Campus Ministry office at wjwiltschek@manchester.edu. Walt Wiltschek; MC Campus Ministry, 260-982-5243

NOAC Bus to Lake Junaluska



A bus to National Older Adult Conference in Junaluska, North Carolina has been reserved for transport from Mt. Morris on **Sunday, September 4, 2011**. The bus will return on **September 10, 2011**. The group will make an overnight stay going and returning. The cost is **\$260.00** for the bus fare including double motel occupancy. For information and registration, please contact: Marvin Thill, 521 Eugene St., Stockton, IL 61085; 815-947-3197; bettyandmarvin@gmail.com

Persons associated with churches in the southern part of the district are welcome to ride on the **Western Plains** bus boarding at **Carbondale**. Call David Fruth for details: 620-245-0674.

For information about NOAC go to www.brethren.org/NOAC or call Kim Ebersole at (800) 323-8039, ext. 30

38th Annual Brethren Bible Institute



Summer Term July 25-29, 2011

(on the campus of Elizabethtown College,
Elizabethtown, PA

Sponsored by: Brethren Revival Fellowship

Applications available at: Brethren Bible Institute
155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517

Application process completed by: June 24, 2011

Pleasant Hill Village - Annual Work Day Planned

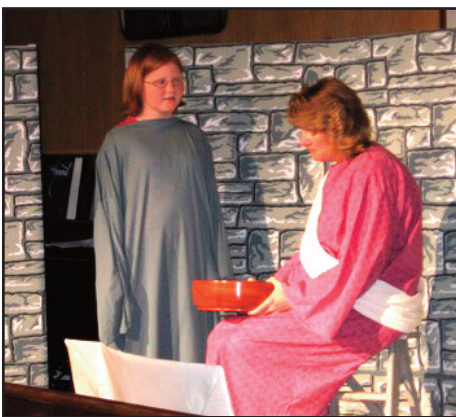


Plans for a **Fourth Annual Work Day** at Pleasant Hill Village in Girard have been set for **Saturday May 14th** with a rain date of May 21st. Work begins at 8:00AM but latecomers will find plenty to do as well. Flower beds need cleaning, planting, weeding and mulching and raking rounds out much that requires helpful volunteers.

Please bring gloves and garden trowels to facilitate the work. A light lunch will be provided along with refreshments and fellowship throughout.

Woodland Cantata “Come and See” Draws a Crowd

More than 70 people gathered at **Woodland Church of the Brethren** on Sunday, April 17th at 7 p.m. to enjoy the Woodland Church’s Choir and Drama



Troupe perform the cantata “Come and See.” Paul Sager coordinated the entire program.

The drama cast consisted of: Kelly Westlake as the Blind Beggar, Marcia Weiss as the

Widow, Ashley Weiss as the Widow’s Daughter, Assistant Pastor Jeremy Westlake as the Disciple Peter and Kevin Sager as Narrator.

Performing members of the Woodland Choir are: Pastor Greg Beach (soloist), Bo Peterman, Jim Miller,



Pleasant Hill Village is a Church of the Brethren

ministry located within the IL/WI District and presents a good opportunity to be involved in Brethren ministry. A tour and history of mission at the Brethren Home of Girard will be offered after lunch.

To all who have assisted in the past, a hearty



Thank-you for your dedication to serve. Please call and let us know how many may be coming – 217-627-2181 ask for Kyle Hood or Paulette Buch-Miller, or email us at phvil@royell.net.



Mike Siburt, Paul Sager, Kevin Sager, Jason Westlake, Violet Wickert, Phyllis Batterton, JoEllen Doyle, Norma Miller, Vonna Beach and Ruth Siburt (soloist). Members who prepared but were unable to perform are: Susan Easley, Marilyn Miller and Isabelle Belville. Light and Sound Technicians are: Linda Mikulich and Ethan Mikulich.

Refreshments were served in the Fellowship Hall after the performance. A free will offering was taken.. Woodland Church of the Brethren offers its sincere thanks to all who came out to see and hear the Good News of our Risen Savior.

Article submitted by Ruth Siburt.

Illinois/Wisconsin District Church of the Brethren

2011 Pledged to Actual Comparison (unaudited)

As of March 31, 2011

Congregation	2010 Actual Contribution	2011 Annual Pledge	2011 YTD Actual	Difference	Paid %
Allison Prairie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Batavia Faith	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Canton	\$1,800.00	\$1,300.00	\$700.00	(\$600.00)	53.8%
Cerro Gordo	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	0.0%
Champaign	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	0.0%
Cherry Grove	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Chicago First	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	0.0%
Decatur	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	0.0%
Dixon	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Douglas Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Franklin Grove	\$400.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	(\$900.00)	0.0%
Freeport	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)	0.0%
Girard	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)	0.0%
Highland Avenue	\$15,141.00	\$14,300.00	\$3,785.25	(\$10,514.75)	26.5%
Hurricane Creek	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	0.0%
La Place	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	0.0%
Lanark	\$2,654.08	\$0.00	\$408.32	\$408.32	--
Martin Creek	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Milledgeville	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	--
Mt. Morris	\$1,876.00	\$1,776.00	\$0.00	(\$1,776.00)	0.0%
Naperville	\$4,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Neighborhood	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	0.0%
Oak Grove	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Oakley Brick	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Panther Creek	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Peoria	\$5,850.00	\$5,850.00	\$0.00	(\$5,850.00)	0.0%
Polo	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	(\$2,000.00)	0.0%
Rock Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Rockford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Romine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Springfield	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$875.00	(\$2,625.00)	25.0%
Stanley	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Viriden	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Walnut Grove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
West Branch	\$994.25	\$740.25	\$740.25	\$0.00	100.0%
Woodland	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	0.0%
Yellow Creek	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
York Center	\$8,500.00	\$7,650.00	\$2,762.50	(\$4,887.50)	36.1%
Totals	\$56,165.33	\$49,716.25	\$15,371.32	(\$34,344.93)	30.9%

(This chart from numbers reported by District Financial Secretary, Christine Hoecker)

The end of March is 25% of the year-Thank you for your continued support of the District Ministry.

Mt. Morris Position Available

- Position Title: Half-time **Outreach Ministry Coordinator**
Position Open: May 1, 2011
Location: Mt. Morris, Illinois, Employer: Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren
- Position Summary: This individual will be working with the Community Outreach Ministry Team of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren and serve as a liaison with the community developing outreach ministries and leading people to Christ.
- Accountability: Works with and reports to the Community Outreach Team and is accountable to the Leadership Team of the church.
- Community: Mt. Morris is a small community that has experienced the closing of businesses and major employers leaving in the past few years. The community has a thriving Food Pantry that is housed at the Church of the Brethren, with a gathering area that has become a comfortable meeting point.
- Church community: The Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren has been in its current building since 1956. The church has been a vital part of the Mount Morris Community and supportive of the Church of the Brethren over the years. Outreach has become the primary focus as a means to transform the vitality of the congregation and offer the compassionate spirit of Jesus to the community.
- Qualifications: Preference given to individuals with a minimum of 2 years of post-high school education or training in the field of religious studies or the ministry. The individual should be comfortable working one on one as well as with groups, with an engaging, positive personality. Experience in problem solving, leadership and program development.
- Essential Functions: **Build** relationships within the target populations in the community. **Research** and determine priority needs in coordination with the Community Outreach Team, and communicate ways that the Congregation can assist in meeting some of those needs. **Organize** small groups for the purposes of support, encouragement and faith development. **Encourage** the values that are important to the Church of the Brethren, especially strong families, simple living, understandings of peace and justice, and the value of all human life. **Help** design short and long term goals for the project in cooperation with the Community Outreach Team and the Leadership Team of the church. Due to the nature of the position, it will be important to work during some non-traditional hours. This would include attending local, community events.
- Salary Range: For a one year agreement the salary range for this exempt position is \$15, 000 - \$18,000. There are no benefits associated with this part-time position.
- Application: Apply directly to the Community Outreach Team, Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, P.O. Box 2055, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-2055 *Include resume, 3 reference letters and a faith statement. Apps. will be accepted until position is filled.*

2011 Calendar

MAY

- 1National Youth Sunday
- 5National Day of Prayer
- 7Camp Emmanuel Counselors in Training
- 8Mother's Day
- 13-15....Camp Emmanuel Young Adult Camp
- 14 ..Leadership Team - Franklin Grove
- 27-30...Emmaus Family Camp
- 30 ..Memorial Day

JUNE

- 3-5....Camp Emmanuel Women's Camp
- 5-11....Camp Emmanuel Youth Camp
- 12-18....Camp Emmanuel Jr. High Camp
- 17 ..Nat'l. Jr. High Conf, Elizabethtown College
- 19 ..Father's Day
- 21 ..First Day of Summer
- 25-26...Elementary Camp I - Emmaus

JULY

- 2-6Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI
- 8-9....Camp Emmanuel Pre-Jr. Camp
- 10- 16...Sr. High Camp - Emmaus
- 10- 16...Camp Emmanuel Jr. Camp
- 17-23...Jr. High Camp - Emmaus
- 23 ..Leadership Team - Peoria
- 24-29...Elementary III Camp - Emmaus

AUGUST

- 2-5...Elementary II Camp - Emmaus
- 5-7...Women's Camp - Emmaus
- 12-14....Camp Emmanuel Men's Camp
- 14 ..Camp Emmanuel Board Meeting
- 20 ..Program and Arrangements

SEPTEMBER

- 5Labor Day
- 5NOAC, Lake Junaluska
- 2-5Family Camp Emmanuel
- 2-5Family Camp Emmaus
- 11 ..Grandparent's Day
- 17 ..Leadership Team - Dixon
- 21 ..International Day of Peace
- 29 ..Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER

- 2World Communion Sunday
- 8Yom Kippur
- 8Program & Arrangements
- 10 ..Columbus Day
- 15 ..Leadership Team - Peoria
- 22 ..Camp Emmanuel Fall Work Day

NOVEMBER

- 4-6District Conference, Lake Williamson
- 6Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 12 ..Camp Emmanuel Board Meeting
- 18-19...Leadership Team Retreat - Emmaus
- 24 ..Thanksgiving
- 27 ..First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

- 21 ..Hanukkah
- 25 ..Christmas
- 26 ..Kwanzaa