



Reflecting news and views

The Reflector

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

April 2012 / Volume 09 / Issue 3

District Executive: Kevin Kessler

From the Moderator – Fletcher Farrar

Ending the sin of racism – A historic opportunity awaits the district



There is a kairos moment awaiting the District of Illinois and Wisconsin. A kairos moment is an opportunity time, a historic opportunity, when an inescapable dilemma is turned into a new and exciting challenge. A kairos moment is when awareness that superficial change is no change at all

is followed by the discovery that deeper transformation is a gift of rebirth that is ours for the asking.

The opportunity that awaits the district lies in living fully into our new vision statement's call for "bridging cultural divisions." Our congregations can be transformed and liberated by our becoming an anti-racist church.

What Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said many years ago is still true. "We must face the sad fact that at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, when we stand to sing 'In Christ there is no East or West,' we stand in the most segregated hour of America." This isn't where we want to stand. Many of us are frustrated by our church's inability to break out of the white-walled prison we find ourselves in. Yet when we open the doors to "welcome" all races, we are disappointed that few people of color walk through them. We learn that dismantling racism and bridging cultural divisions isn't easy. It goes well beyond ridding ourselves of the sin of personal prejudice and bigotry. On the subject of racism, we have a lot to learn.

Yet the district's congregations that have stepped out in faith to form relationships with people of color have found their experiences spiritually satisfying. The Champaign church is making new friends through sharing its building with an African-American congregation. Mt. Morris has hired a community

outreach coordinator who is introducing church members to people of other cultures. Highland Avenue has had choir and pulpit exchanges with an African-American congregation. Chicago First has worked on issues of race and multiculturalism for many years.

There is much we can do, together, to end the sin of racism and to restore relationships in our churches, in our communities and in our world. The first step is to become more aware, through learning and by taking training. And Christ will help us as we learn and grow. 1 Cor. 12: 12, 13 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The statistics are shocking: in the US, a report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds. The Department of Health and Human Services says 3.3 million child abuse reports and allegations were made involving an estimated 6 million children in 2009 alone. Christianity proclaims justice and hope for all who are victimized; the church is called to protect God's children and restore hope to those who are abused.

For more go to: www.brethren.org/childprotection/month.html



DE PONDERING by Kevin Kessler



Each spring I have the privilege of visiting on campus with personnel and staff of Manchester College. I always exit these visits with a sense of pride that this is one of our Brethren colleges. In addition to the school's top-notch academic programming, there is a strong emphasis in helping students become people of character and integrity. Graduates move on from the halls of academia to the offices and fields of the work-a-day world with a skill-set for relating well to clientele with whom they interact and serve.

During my most recent visit, March 27th, I learned that students with the highest academic and social achievements at Manchester College are those with strong congregational affiliation and attendance. These individuals then become productive and successful contributors to society. When I received this information, it dawned on me that participation in and attendance at church has an impact well beyond the local congregation. The world also reaps benefits.

Frequently, new understandings open my eyes to see a bigger picture. For instance, I've been convinced in my own mind that regular church attendance contributes to the vibrancy of congregational life. Now, I am inspired to view church attendance as a factor contributing to the welfare of the world.

BDM Update

Brethren give grant for tornado outbreak, Syria; CDS begins care for affected children.



The tornado outbreak that began on Feb. 28-29 and continued March 2-3 was one of the largest ever recorded in March, according to Brethren Disaster Ministries.

The program has requested a grant from the denomination's Emergency Disaster Fund in response to a plea from Church World Service (CWS) for funds for affected communities. Another EDF grant has been given to aid those affected by violence in Syria.

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) is sending volunteers to Multi Agency Resource Centers in Moscow, Ohio, and Crittenden, Ken., and waiting for confirmation of another location in Missouri.

Read the full story at www.brethren.org/news/2012/brethren-respond-to-tornadoes-syria.html

(Copied from Brethren Newsline.)

I do realize that the scope of my new view encompasses more than merely being present at church related services and events. The wealth of information a person accumulates and puts into practice is a result of being in attendance. From this result, a person is molded to move into various chapters of their lives with what is needed to impact the world in helpful ways.

Thus, church attendance in and of itself isn't enough. Attendance with awareness of and attention to the mission of the church influences a person's level of success and achievement. It becomes important, then, that the church live out its missional potential as a means of helping to appropriately shape the lives of those who attend church. Such efforts have an expansive reach and provide a valuable contribution to the world.

How has attending church impacted your life? In what way have you contributed to the world as a result of your church attendance? In what ways does this influence your thinking about inviting others to attend church? Does this give church attendance new meaning or place it on a higher plane of importance? I continue to ponder these questions. Will you ponder them with me?

Viriden Church Celebrates 100 Years



The Viriden Church of the Brethren celebrates their **100th anniversary** with a "**Homecoming**" on **July 22, 2012**. We invite Previous Pastors (Full, part-time, or interim) to attend and participate. Please contact the Viriden Church of the Brethren at 334 W. Dean St., Viriden, IL. 62690 or call (217) 965-3422 or e-mail vcotb@royell.net

Verna Scharfenberg, 415 N. Masterson St., Viriden, IL 62690-1430 (217) 965-4141

DISTRICT POTLUCK
APRIL 28, 2012
PEORIA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
4714 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 -----Registration
9:00 – 9:40 -----Opening Worship
10:00 – 10:45 -----Workshop Session 1
11:00 – 11:40 -----Worship
11:45 – 12:55 -----Potluck Lunch
1:00 – 1:45 -----Workshop Session 2
2:00 – 2:45 -----Workshop Session 3
2:50 – 3:25 -----Closing Worship

Following is the list of workshops, a brief description of each, and times for the workshops. Please choose one item from each time frame to attend. Please note that more fellowship time has been built into the schedule as you requested following the last District Potluck. Ordained persons may receive CEU credit for attending these workshops, so please pick up a 3 x 5 card at the registration table.

10:00 – 10:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 1

1. **DEACON SPIRITUALITY** - by Donna Kline – It's generally assumed that deacons are spiritually mature. But here you are, with the same questions and doubts as everyone else. This workshop will provide a forum to discuss how we might walk more confidently in our own faith journeys.
2. **YES, YOU CAN DO IT!** - by Genie Fifer – Come learn some keys to memorizing scriptures as well as different fun ways to memorize. It is geared to all ages and to all levels of remembering or, as in my case, the lack of remembering. Let's learn together.
3. **PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE** – by Chris Douglas – “Lectio Divina” is the Latin phrase (meaning “Holy Word”) that describes the ancient Christian practice of praying with Scripture. We will spend time with a couple of different scripture texts in silent prayer as we discover how God speaks to us in prayer through scripture.
4. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** - Time to visit in the fellowship hall.

1:00 – 1:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 2

1. **HELPING THE HURTING** – by Donna Kline – Nearly every major life transition includes some degree of loss. Even with the frequency with which this happens, it's still very difficult to know how to minister to those in a time of grief and loss. Join our discussion for thoughts on how we can best be compassionate and supportive during these difficult times.
2. **TELLING GOD'S STORIES: STEPS TO TELLING A MEMORABLE BIBLE STORY** – by Denise Nichols – Make your Sunday School class more interesting or get others excited about Bible stories. Come and learn the steps for telling a Bible story from a storyteller herself. I will demonstrate by telling you a story and then share the steps of development so you too can become a better storyteller.
3. **YES, YOU CAN DO IT!** – by Genie Fifer – Come learn some keys to memorizing scriptures as well as different fun ways to memorize. It is geared to all ages and to all levels of remembering or, as in my case, the lack of remembering. Let's learn together.
4. **PRAYING WITH MUSIC, ART, AND JOURNALING** – by Chris Douglas – We pray in many different ways. Some people find it difficult to sit still but find the use of music and artistic expression helps them to better focus their attention on prayer. Others find writing in a journal to be a good way of “centering.” We'll explore a variety of these ways to pray during this workshop.

2:00 – 2:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 3

1. **BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEACON MINISTRY** – by Donna Kline – Thinking of expanding your existing deacon ministry? No deacons at all, but you would like to learn how (and if!) you might begin? This workshop on the basics of deacon ministries is designed to help you understand the questions to ask, as well as provide guidelines on what deacons in the Church of the Brethren are called to do.
2. **TELLING GOD'S STORIES: STEPS TO TELLING A MEMORABLE BIBLE STORY** – by Denise Nichols – Make your Sunday School class more interesting or get others excited about Bible stories. Come and learn the steps for telling a Bible story from a storyteller herself. I will demonstrate by telling you a story and then share the steps of development so you too can become a better storyteller.
3. **PRAYER WALKING** – by Chris Douglas – What happens when we begin to see as if we were looking through God's eyes? And hear as if we were listening with God's ears? During this workshop, we'll go outside to walk and consciously imagine ourselves looking through God's eyes... and focus all of that into our prayer. Come and spend time with God.
4. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** – Time to visit in the fellowship hall.

Registration Form

District Potluck --- April 28, 2012

Peoria Church of the Brethren
4714 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614
9:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Worship * Workshops * Fellowship * Food

Registration Fee - \$5.00, but no one will be turned away
Registration deadline prior to the District Potluck is April 9.
You may attend without registering ahead of time.

Each person should bring a potluck dish to enjoy with others from across the district.
Drinks and table service will be provided.

Schedule	Workshop Topics and Leaders
8:00 – 9:00 ----- Registration	Deacon Training -- Donna Kline
9:00 – 9:40 ----- Opening Worship	
10:00 – 10:45 ----- Workshop Session 1	Memorizing Scripture – Genie Fifer
11:00 – 11:40 ----- Worship	
11:45 – 12:55 ----- Potluck Lunch and Fellowship	Forms of Prayer – Chris Douglas
1:00 – 1:45 ----- Workshop Session 2	
2:00 – 2:45 ----- Workshop Session 3	Storytelling – Denise Nichols
2:50 – 3:25 ----- Closing Worship	

Plan now to attend this exciting event. Share this information with others in your church. There will be something for everyone: deacons, Sunday School teachers, pastors, those who want to learn, worship, and enjoy wonderful fellowship.

Come enjoy time with sisters and brothers from across the district!!!!!!

*This one-day event is being planned by your **District Deacons** on behalf of the Leadership Team of the District.*

Please complete the bottom portion, detach, and return with the registration fee to the **District Office at 269 E. Chestnut St., Canton, IL 61520**. Make checks payable to the District of IL/WI. **NOTE:** If you know how many are planning to attend from your congregation but are unsure of who, please return the form with the name of the congregation and the number attending. This will help us plan for the day. **Thank you.**

We look forward to seeing you and visiting on Saturday, April 28, 2012, at Peoria.

District Potluck – April 28, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Congregation _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Number attending _____

Please make copies of this form as needed.

District Leadership Team Meets at Dutchtown

The District Team met at the Dutchtown Church of the Brethren in Milledgeville on March 31. Our thanks to the Dutchtown Church for hosting the meeting and providing a wonderful lunch and snacks. Pastor Rick Koch sat in on the meeting and reported for the Disaster Response Team. Two visitors from Mt. Morris attended, Esther Fry and Mary Green.

Assistant Chairman, Jim Lehman, presided in the absence of the Chairperson. He opened with a meditation from Matthew 9: 2 – 8 and then led us in prayer.

DE, Kevin Kessler, recited the Mission Statement and spent some time encouraging the Ministry Team Liaisons to meet with their designated Ministry Teams. The Visioning Team had met on January 14. Ideas from that meeting were presented with the admonition to begin to put ideas into action.

DE, Kevin Kessler, reported his activities since the last meeting. He is working on Pastor placement at several Churches. He reported that the Decatur Church is investigating selling their property. They are now meeting in a Disciples of Christ facility. Kevin attended a CODE meeting and reported they worked on balancing a person's time.

The Disaster Response Team met just before the LT meeting. Rick Koch was elected Chairperson. They are working on having a week working at a Disaster site fully staffed by Illinois-Wisconsin people. The Disaster Response trailer will be at the Deacon Pot Luck and District Conference. The trailer is not fully up to denomination standards and it was suggested that District Churches sponsor a tool.

The Financial Report from the treasurer showed investments doing well and Church allocations are a little lower than in the past but we are meeting expensed at this time. The LT plans on creating a Funding, Investment and Properties Team in the near future.

The Batavia Church held a closing ceremony and auction in February. The property is for sale after a new deed was issued. The Church was originally listed as being owned by the German Baptist Brethren. The LT is operating as the caretaker of the property and paying the bills. The parsonage is being rented.

District Conference will again be at Lake Williamson and sponsored by the Virden Church of the Brethren who are celebrating their 100th anniversary. Dan Ulrich and Benjamin Reynolds will be featured speakers at the Conference.



Other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned with the group singing "Johnny Appleseed". The next meeting is May 5th at the Springfield Church of the Brethren.



Girard Church celebrates 100th Anniversary

The Girard Church of the Brethren marked their 100 year Anniversary in February 2012. Pastor Ron Bryant greeted area residents attending the Saturday reception. Pastor Bryant came to Girard in October of last year. He is shown introducing the Church's oldest member, Avis Dadisman (94) Church members served refreshments and the Pleasant Hill Village Chaplain, Terry Link, provided music. This article appeared in the local newspaper.

District Disaster Relief Team

On Saturday, March 31st an excited bunch of people gathered at the Dutchtown Church in Milledgeville to begin anew our District Disaster Team. Those at the meeting were District Minister, Kevin Kessler, Leadership Team Liaison Bob Champlin, New Chair Pastor Rick Koch along with Gil Crosby, Don Hart, Tom Martz & Paul & Kathy Skoog.

Among their topics of conversation were, how to better promote participation in Disaster Relief work in our District and getting into Churches with programs about this vital ministry.

Did you know that our District has a Tool Trailer that has been used on a few job sites around the country, but cannot any longer because it does not meet the specifications met by Denominational guidelines? This team hopes to change that soon, but it will need your help! It will take money, manpower and tools! More to come on in the next few months when we



find out just what is needed. We may be able to have the Tool Trailer at the District Potluck?

Also come next year it is our hope that our District can man a site by ourselves for a week. It has been over 10 years since we have done this! Now is the time. Oh, by the way it takes 12 – 15 people to staff a site for a week. Just so you can get it

on your calendar, we have tentatively set the second full week of February of 2013 as our week to staff. Now that doesn't mean you cannot work before that time. If interested please let me know.

Well this is only meant to be a "Teaser" to hopefully make you want to know more about our District's Disaster Relief Team. For more info please contact me, Rick Koch at revrick-dutchtown@jcwifi.com or give me a call @ 815-499-3012.

Brethren Disaster Ministries needs Volunteers



Many of you are aware of the extensive flooding that took place in Minot, North Dakota in early June of 2011. Extensive flooding along the Souris River damaged or destroyed thousands of homes and forced the evacuation of

approximately 12,000 residents. A severe housing and labor shortage sparked by the nearby oil boom was worsened by the flood, leaving residents confronted with an expensive real-estate market and a lack of skilled workers to rebuild.

Since the flood, the city of Minot has struggled to meet the needs of many of its residents.

Brethren Disaster Ministries is working closely with FEMA and other National VOAD member organizations to recruit and mobilize volunteers to assist with specific work in the area. A current shortage of local licensed electricians has created a backlog of work that threatens to hinder the recovery process.

BDM is seeking electricians to do residential wiring

in flood damaged homes in the area. The need for electricians is immediate as there are currently 90 homes waiting for electrical wiring to be completed before re-construction can continue. Below are the specific criteria for volunteer electricians interested in serving the people of Minot.

- Electricians needed immediately and through the next few months.
- Electricians must be Master level or Journeyman.
- Must be willing to serve for a minimum of 2 weeks.

Through BDM's partnerships, selected individuals will be provided with round trip transportation, food and lodging.

Interested individuals should contact BDM offices at 1-800-451-4407 for additional details.

Please feel free to distribute this e-mail to friends, relatives, coworkers etc.

Thank you for your assistance with this specific request.

In Christ, Zach Wolgemuth
Associate Director, Brethren Disaster Ministries



Illinois Central Song & Story Fest: All Aboard!

July 1-7, 2012 • Camp Emmanuel - Astoria, Illinois

A Family Camp featuring Brethren musicians and storytellers in the woods and river valleys of central Illinois! We're going to celebrate railroads and trains this year at the Fest and take some of our themes and titles from songs and stories about trains. We'll explore the impact of our increasingly virtual (not to be confused with virtuous) world on our relationships and on the role of the church in keeping face-to-face communities alive. **So join us** in Riding the Rails in Comfort. **Climb aboard our train Bound for Glory!** **These people will help make the trip enjoyable:**

Storytellers & Workshop Leaders

Deanna Brown, Bob Gross, Kathy Guisewite, Reba Herder, Jonathan Hunter, Jim Lehman, Sue Overman, *Campfire, Workshop, and Concert Musicians*, Rhonda & Greg Baker, Patti Ecker & Louise Brodie, Peg Lehman, LuAnne Harley & Brian Kruschwitz, Jenny Stover-Brown & Jeffrey Faus, Chris Good & Drue Gray of Mutual Kumquat, Mike Stern

Jump the train to the lake at Camp Emmanuel!

An Intergenerational Camp for All Ages -

Single persons and families of any size and shape will enjoy this combination of performance and participation in the woods and fields and valleys of central Illinois.

Mornings - Intergenerational gatherings and worship will be followed by workshops for adults, children, and youth to help us:

- Reconnect with the God of all creation and with each other
- Tell the stories that make for peace and rekindle faith
- Sing the words of our hearts in gratitude for the unceasing power of life
- Root and ground ourselves in the Jesus Way
- Deepen our connections with each other and the earth
- Celebrate peace, creation, and life
- Dance in circles, lines, and squares

- Learn the skills of peace-making and justice-seeking

Afternoons - Free for family time, recreation, nature walks, story swaps, and jamming.

Evenings - Campfires, snacks, and concerts or a folk dance.

Song & Story Fest #16:

This is the sixteenth summer in a row for these Song and Story Fests and is our first

venture into the great state of Illinois, crossroads of America and home to denominational headquarters. The Fest will begin on Sunday evening, July 1, with supper at 5:30 p.m., We'll close the Fest on Saturday morning, July 7, after breakfast, worship and hugs. This should allow plenty of time to get to Saint Louis, Missouri, for those attending Annual Conference.

On Earth Peace will again co-sponsor the *Fest*, providing leadership and administrative support.

Camp Emmanuel is located three miles south of Astoria, Ill., (on US Rt. 24) some 17 miles west of Havana (55 miles west of I-55 on US 136) and the Illinois River.. Check it all out on the Camp website at <http://www.cob-net.org/camp/emmanuel/index.htm> which also has directions,

Lodging - Rustic cabins or dorms furnished with bunk beds, or in your own tent or RV.. Please bring your own bedding and towels as the Camp doesn't provide these. There are a number of hookups for RVs. Hot showers are provided in common bath-houses.

Food - Arlene Kindy and her crew will cook for us again this year. Please bring a new table grace to add to our repertoire.

Craft Project - Contact Ken if you have a good craft project to share and lead.

continued on next page

Registration and Fees:

Registration includes all meals, on-site facilities, and leadership; and is based upon age. Children 3 and under are welcome, no charge.

Adults \$ 260.00

Teens 13 - 19 \$ 200.00

Children 4 - 12 \$ 130.00

Maximum Fee per Family \$ 780.00

Please register now and remit the entire fee by June 1. Registrations post-marked after June 1 should add 10% as a late fee. No discount for off-site, tent or RV housing.

Daily Fee - \$45/adult, \$35/teen, \$25/child, \$140/family; includes all meals.

Contact Bob Gross, On Earth Peace director, at 260-982-7751 or bgross@onearthpeace.org if you need financial help.

Register on-line at:

www.onearthpeace.org/programs/special/song-story-fest/registration.html

Call Darlene Johnson at the 410-635-8704 to pay by credit card or ask registration questions; you may also mail registrations or checks to: On Earth Peace, PO Box 188, New Windsor MD 21776
Phone: 410-635-8704; Fax: 410-635-8707;
oep@onearthpeace.org

For additional information or with program questions contact: Ken Kline Smeltzer, Director, 1452 Willowbrook Drive, Boalsburg PA 16827-1668
814-571-0495 (mobile); 814-466-6491 (home);
or bksmeltz@comcast.net

Registration Form

Family Name: _____

Names of Individuals Attending	Age	Fee
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE _____

Address: _____ City, State: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency Contact Person - Phone: _____

Cabin or Lodge Sharing Requests: _____

RV or Tent ? What are your needs? _____

Special Dietary, Health, or other needs: _____

T-Shirts Desired (insert number of shirts for each size ordered):

Child (\$12) S ____ M ____ L ____ Adult (\$15) S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL ____

Enclose payment with registration. Make checks payable to: On Earth Peace

Registration Fee enclosed \$ _____

Late fee (10% after June 1) \$ _____

T-Shirts Ordered \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send Checks/Registrations To:

On Earth Peace, Illinois Central Song & Story Fest, PO Box 188, New Windsor MD 21776

Greetings from Camp Emmanuel

We've had a wonderfully mild winter and are in hopes summer will treat us just as kindly. **Please check the District calendar for camps and dates for Camp Emmanuel.**



Please consider serving during work week, April 14 – 21, for however long you can: a day or two or the entire week. Jim and Clareen Dunn are the cooks so you'll be well fed. The fellowship of shared effort is not to be underestimated.

Work Week Projects:

Rebuild spillway bridge, Repair electrical in Cottonwood cabin Remove or repair playground equipment, Cut firewood, Power wash paddle boats Put boats in the lake, Clean cabins-porch-chapel-pavilion, Set out picnic tables & garbage cans Clean kitchen & dining area, Check smoke detectors in cabins

Paint foursquare grid on basketball court, Hang volley ball net and swings

Re-glaze & paint chapel windows, Paint Cottonwood cabin

Blessings from Mike and Ruth Siburt, Camp Managers

Annual Conference Preparations



It will not be long before Annual Conference will be here. I hope you are making plans to gather with the Brethren in St. Louis, MO from

July 7-11, 2012, as we consider how we can “**Continue the Work of Jesus**” in our day.

There are numerous ways that we can be prepared for Annual Conference. There are several in particular that I would like to share with you.

First, join the Annual Conference Officers in prayer, each Wednesday morning from 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. (local time). There is a prayer guide available on the Annual Conference website that you may use. Please feel free to share these in your congregations as well.

Second, there are several video blogs available on the Annual Conference website; these take short looks at items related to the 2012 Annual Conference. Feel free to view these, and share them in your congregations as well. Be sure to check back often for new video blogs to come.

Third, would you discuss the following questions with your congregations, and share your answers with the Moderator (moderator@brethren.org)?

1. How is your congregation *Continuing the Work of Jesus* in your local community?
2. How is your congregation being changed by that ministry?
3. In what ways can the Annual Conference help you do that more effectively?

Thank you for joining in this important shared work of the Church of the Brethren.

Tim Harvey, Moderator, 2012 Annual Conference Moderator

All information regarding Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri is now posted online at www.brethren.org/ac. Click on the “Information Packet” link. Congregations and delegates will not be mailed the Information Packet CD this year.

We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!

Jon Kobel, Conference Assistant, Conference Office, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120, call: 847-429-4365 (Direct) or toll free: 800-323-8039 x365, or e-mail jkobel@brethren.org

Church World Service Blanket Program

This Mother's Day give more than a card



Your compassion in action. That's the definition of the CWS Blankets+ Program. This Mother's Day take action – give help, give hope!

Dutchtown has a Blogspot

Blog: Dutchtown Church of the Brethren

Post: "Our Niche"

Link: <http://dutchtownchurch.blogspot.com/2012/02/our-niche.html>

Powered by Blogger

<http://www.blogger.com/>

Blankets + contributions gave hope and resources to people in crisis in 2011 when:

- Mother Nature's harshest actions – deadly tornadoes, hurricanes, and harsh winter conditions – caused destruction and hardship here at home.
- Refugees displaced by disaster or violence needed food and shelter.
- Seeds and tools were needed to help Haitian families create community gardens for food security.

Your congregation or group can send a powerful message to people in tragic situations: "You matter to us."

We know more disasters will occur. Let's work to put faith and compassion into action – for Mother's Day, Father's Day, any day – so help is there when it's needed most.

Plan your Blankets+ offering now. Order your Blankets + resources today. Arrange for a speaker about Blankets +. Contact Pam at the CWS Midwest Area office, 888-297-2767 or pfolkers@churchworld-service.org. Find out more or place an order at blanketsplus.org.

Older Adult Ministry

Older Adult Month – Aging with Passion and Purpose – May 2012

The Church of the Brethren celebrates God's gift of aging each May. This year's theme is

Aging with Passion

and Purpose: The hope to which you have been called... (Eph 1:18). A variety of worship resources are available at www.brethren.org/oam/month.html, along with a list of ways to recognize older adults in your congregation. Contact Kim Ebersole, Director of Older Adult Ministry, at (800) 323-8039 or kebersole@brethren.org for more information.



2nd Annual Congregational Life Ministry Fair

Tuesday, July 10 • 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Interested in...??

- Hospitality and church growth
- Church planting
- Reaching out to the community
- Deacon ministry
- Disabilities and accessibility issues
- Gifts-based discipleship
- Intercultural ministries
- Stuck in an age-group rut?
- Children should be seen AND heard
- Ministry by, for, and with older adults
- Spiritual life and prayer
- Stewardship as lifestyle
- Faith that “sticks”: nurturing long-term faith in teenagers
- Faith formation through small groups
- Creating—and creative—worship experiences
- What does a missional church look like?

Come share experiences and gather new ideas!



“I just really loved the opportunity to meet with other people who have the same interest.”

– 2011 Ministry Fair attendee

Two 30-minute sessions will offer the opportunity to meet with multiple ministry areas.

A light buffet supper is included in your registration fee.

Register for the Ministry Fair as a meal event on the Annual Conference website: www.brethren.org/ac

See you there!

**Pastors and lay leaders –
this Fair’s for you!**



Church of the Brethren

Questions? Contact Donna Kline, 800-323-8039, dkline@brethren.org

2012 Calendar

APRIL

- 1Palm Sunday
- 6Good Friday
- 7First Day of Passover
- 8Easter
- 14-21 ..Work Camp at Camp Emmanuel
- 23BVS Older Adult Orientation (thru May 4)
- 28DISTRICT POT LUCK at Peoria CoB

MAY

- 1Labor Day
- 3National Day of Prayer
- 4-5Counselor in Training, Camp Emmanuel
- 6National Youth Sunday
- 13Mother's Day
- 17-19 ..New Church Dev. Conf. , Richmond, IN
- 27Pentecost Sunday
- 28Memorial Day

JUNE

- 1-3Women's Retreat, Camp Emmanuel
- 3-9Youth Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-16 ..Jr. Hi Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-29 ..BVS Summer Orientation
- 16-22 ..National Young Adult Conf., Knoxville, TN
- 17Father's Day
- 17-23 Junior Camp, Camp Emmanuel

JULY

- 6-7Ministers Assoc. Pre-Conf., St. Louis, MO
- 7-11ANNUAL CONFERENCE, St. Louis, MO
- 7Mission & Ministry Board, St. Louis, MO
- 13-15 ..Pre-Junior Camp, Camp Emmanuel

AUGUST

- 3-5Young Adult Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-12 ..Men's Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 20-30 ..BVS/BRF Orientation, New Windsor
- 31Family Camp, Camp Emmanuel (thru Sept. 3)

SEPTEMBER

- 3Labor Day
- 16BVS Fall Orientation (thru Oct 5)
- 17Rosh Hashanah
- 21International Day of Peace
- 26Yom Kippur
- 29Fish Fry (11AM – 2PM) Camp Emmanuel

OCTOBER

- 7World Communion Sunday
- 20Work Day Camp Emmanuel
- 20-23 ..Mission & Ministry Board, Elgin, IL
- 28Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 4National Jr. High Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 16-18 ..Mission Alive, Lititz, PA
- 22Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 2First Sunday of Advent
- 9First Day of Chanukah/Hanukkah
- 25Christmas Day
- 31New Year's Eve

