

Reflecting news and views

# The Reflector

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

September 2012 / Volume 09 / Issue 6

District Executive: Kevin Kessler

## DE PONDERINGS by Kevin Kessler



*We need art to live fully and to grow healthy. Without it we are dry husks drifting aimlessly on every ill wind, our futures are without promise and our present without grace. —Maya Angelou*

**I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live...**

**—Deuteronomy 30:19 (NRSV)**

As at all Annual Conferences, this summer I parted with some of my hard earned money (Hard earned? My interpretation; yours may be different.) at the Brethren Press bookstore. One of the items I purchased was a small devotional book entitled "40-Day Journey with Maya Angelou." It contains 40 daily meditations that include excerpts from Angelou's writings and a scripture reference to reflect on silently, questions pertaining to the readings on which to ponder, a reading from the Psalms, a few more questions for which to journal responses, suggestions for prayer, and then a sentence prayer for closing. Now that I'm several days into this journey, it is proving to be a rich experience.

Angelou's writing for Day 9 begins "Great art belongs to all people..." She then speaks about art as the medium that allows oppressed people to "stand erect." Art for Angelou's grandmother, especially poetry, was what "put starch in your backbone."

In my journaling for this day, I pondered the question, "What is art?" My personal definition based on insights from Angelou is that *art is an opportunity to create anew something that gives voice to my being that otherwise would have been kept silent.* With art, I am able to unleash my emotions, my feelings, my thoughts, which likely, in my case, would otherwise go unsaid. Art gives me more "backbone" to express the inner me, that which I believe is true and just for the good of humanity, for the good of creation.

However, such freedom of expression needs a check to ensure that it doesn't digress into narcissistic individualism and control. Angelou's writing for day 10 provides a means for keeping the artist humble. She states that we need art to "show us images of ourselves" even "those we dislike." Profoundly, she then writes, "In some way that is very important to us we need to see those we dislike even more than those we like because somehow we need at least glancing visions of how we look 'as in a mirror darkly'."

Simultaneously, art should give us "backbone" to express our deepest beliefs and understandings, and it should also give us opportunity to see our dark side. The expressions I make to change the darkness of my surroundings will also speak to me, as the artist, that I need to change the similar darkness within me. Such a humbling effect is the corrective measure that ensures my art is a benefit for all.

Angelou has helped me to realize the artist within me. Art is painting, sculpting, music, dance, all things I lack talent in. But art is also writing, poetry, speaking, listening, all things I endeavor to do. With what I've learned about art from Maya Angelou, I hope I use the freedom to be expressive in ways that are helpful to all, being sure this artistic expression speaks to me while concurrently changing me for the better.

### Stuart Murray Workshop Cancelled

We have regretfully learned that Stuart Murray will be unable to come to the United States this fall as he has expected. Thus, the workshop with him that was planned for our district is canceled. Hopefully he will be able to be here next year sometime, at which time we will work to re-schedule some time with him. Stay tuned! Please share this information with others you know who may have been expecting to attend to the Oct. 20 event

# Compass: A New Ministry Begins!

## First Church of the Brethren - Springfield

First Church of the Brethren will become a *Community Partner* with Harvard Park Elementary School and the Family Service Center's COMPASS Program by providing the site, some volunteers, and other support for a new after-school program. The program is designed to assist homeless and low-income students from Harvard Park School.

Each Thursday of the week some 30+ students will walk from the school to our meetinghouse where

## Decatur Church moves to new location



The Decatur COB has finalized the sale of their building and now worships in the Crestview Worship Center. Because the Decatur COB meetinghouse was not handicapped accessible, several members were finding it difficult to navigate steps and continue attending. In addition,

maintenance costs continued to rise which was causing budget constraints for the congregation. Thus, it was discerned that moving to a new location would give the congregation greater opportunity to continue meeting together and serving in ministry. An opportunity was presented to the congregation to meet in the Crestview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) facility, a one-level accessible edifice located on the northwest edge of Decatur. Another congregation also meets at Crestview. The three congregations meeting at Crestview maintain their separate identities, times of worship and Christian education, and programming, yet share space which is a benefit for each of the groups. Each congregation is now able to continue ministry as a congregation without feeling overwhelmed by the burden of building and maintenance costs. These costs are now shared giving each the ability to use the funds for ministry. It is a win-win situation for all. The mailing address for the Decatur COB, which remains the same, is P.O. Box 3804, Decatur, IL 62524-3804. The Crestview Worship Center is located at 4415 N. Water St., Decatur, IL 62526. The new phone number for the Decatur congregation is: 217-875-4849.

they will follow a schedule that includes a snack time, help with homework, life skills lessons, and a family style dinner. The program will operate from 3:00-6:30 pm.



Family Service's Compass coordinator, Molly Berendt will be the site-director overseeing the program. Evelyn Taylor will serve as our congregational contact person. We will need tutors/mentors, life skill instructors, people to help put the meals/snacks together, etc. Other volunteers will come from additional community partners, such as Harvard Park Baptist Church and Mt. Zion Apostolic Church.

Some volunteers will come from other agencies or groups in town, like the Rotary Club.

**We hope to start on Thursday, September 20th.**

*From "The Boulevard News – Newsletter"*



## Powerhouse Youth Conference: Coming Up Fast!

**What:** Powerhouse regional youth conference, a weekend of worship, workshops, music, food, and fun!

**When:** Nov. 10-11, 2012

**Where:** Manchester University (note our new name effective July 1!), North Manchester, IN

**Who:** Youth in grades 9-12 in 2012-2013 and advisors

**Website:** [www.manchester.edu/powerhouse](http://www.manchester.edu/powerhouse)

**Other details:** Log on to the website!

Manchester University, Campus  
Ministry / Religious Life, 260-982-5243

***Come Join Us!***

# **2012 ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER 2-4, 2012**

**LAKE WILLIAMSON CHRISTIAN CENTER**

**CARLINVILLE, IL**

**HOSTED BY VIRDEN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

**Friday Evening:**

**Worship: Dan Ulrich**

**Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany  
Theological Seminary**

**Saturday Evening:**

**Mutual Kumquat Concert**

**Sunday:**

**Insight Sessions**

**Worship: Benjamin Reynolds, Interim Pastor  
at First Chicago CoB**

**Lake Williamson Christian Center  
17280 Lakeside Dr.  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
[lakewilliamson.org](http://lakewilliamson.org)**



**ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**@Lake Williamson Christian Center**

**Carlinville, IL**

**Hosted by: Virden Church of the Brethren**

**November 2-4, 2012**

Registration includes: 2 nights lodging, meals Saturday morning thru Sunday morning, Worship, recreation, insight sessions, business session, live & silent auctions, Mutual Kumquat concert

**Registration:**

**Delegate**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment Information:**

- Amount of registration from Page 2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A deposit of \$50.00 per person is required by August 13, 2012 when you register for this event.
- The remaining balance is due by: September 30, 2012.
- Any registrations after September 30, 2012 will have a price increase of \$15.00 per person registered.
- **Please remit to: Illinois/Wisconsin District Office**  
**269 E. Chestnut St.**  
**Canton, IL 61520**

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**Office Use:**

Deposit Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid In Full: \_\_\_\_\_



## ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

@Lake Williamson Christian Center

Carlinville, IL

Hosted by: Virden Church of the Brethren

November 2-4, 2012

Information and Registration forms available at: <http://iwdcob.org>

### **Registration/Rooming Options:** (maximum 6 people per room)

**Option 1:** 2 nights stay, all meals:

Single Occupancy: \$145.00 per adult

Double Occupancy: \$121.00 per adult

Three Adults or More: \$111.00 Teen 12-17: \$81.00 per child Child 6-11: \$65.00 per child

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ + Children/Teens: \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number of Adults) (Rooming Option) (Number of Children) (Rooming Option)

**Option 2:** 1 night stay, plus meals: \$86.22 per adult

Please mark which night you are planning to stay: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 3:** Saturday only + meals as needed for Saturday: (meals must be chosen now)

\$9.50 per person + breakfast \$7 \_\_\_\_\_ lunch \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ dinner \$9 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Other:**

1. Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Would you like us to pair you with a roommate?* \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Handicapped rooms are available, but in a limited number. Please reserve early if you need one of these rooms.
3. Dorm rooms are available: \$95.00 per person. Bring your own linens.
4. RV Camping is available. For this information, please contact the district office.
5. **There is no meal served on Friday evening** unless you are an exhibitor. There are restaurants in Carlinville if you need one.
6. Scholarships are available if you would like to attend District Conference, but need assistance. Please contact the district office for more information.
7. Would you like to help a youth attend district conference? Please indicate the amount of donation here and include with your registration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Along the Paths of Camp Emmaus



On a recent lovely August afternoon at Camp Emmaus, the junior high campers were spending their time either tie-dying shirts, “creek stomping”, or swimming in the pool. The beautiful pool lies under a canopy of oaks and creates a plus for the camping season. Swimming disappeared all last summer as the pool was under renovation along with the filter house.

Patrick, the lifeguard, shared that all the campers enjoy the early Polar Bear and afternoon swims and the new pool basketball hoop. Comments heard from campers like Jason, Noah, Reid, Avery and Tyler was “amazing”, “great for hot days”, “better than last year”, “feels great when it’s hot out”, and “pretty awesome”, show their appreciation. The pool opens for public and open swims on Sunday afternoons and for camps held the rest of the season.

Having a workable recreational water facility contributes a very important part of any camping program and promotes the programs of Camp Emmaus to local Church of the Brethren congregations and other nearby Churches. Contributions to retire the \$60,000+ balance of the pool renovation cost are **greatly** appreciated.

Thanks to the various local congregations who helped with the annual clean up of the grounds and buildings prior to the camping season. We couldn’t do it without you.

The Annual Camp Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 1 at 5:30 PM in the lodge. There will be no charge for this evening of great food, entertainment and an opportunity to visit with others who support the camp in so many ways. Fill a car(s) with folks from your congregation and join us.



*Don Hart & Bill Hare update entrance sign*



# Combat Hunger with an Amazing Evening The Cotton Patch Gospel



Can you imagine the Gospel of Matthew set in rural Georgia with Jesus born in a trailer behind Motel 6?

Can you imagine how all musical instruments and vocals can be performed by one man simultaneously?

For answers, come out to enjoy the professional two-act production of the **COTTON PATCH GOSPEL**, originally written by Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farm in Georgia. Jordan's vernacular rewrite was transformed into a popular bluegrass musical by the famous folksinger Harry Chapin (Cat's in the Cradle). Actor/musician Phil Kaufman will show us how it can all be done by one innovative young man. This traveling production is a ministry of the Willow Springs Mennonite Church in Tiskilwa, IL, but has played in Brethren churches in Lanark, Franklin Grove, Montgomery, and at the Lombard Mennonite Church.

**All Proceeds Go To The Lombard Villa Park Food Pantry And Mcc Food Programs**  
**Tickets Available From The York Center Church Office 630.627.7411 Or At The Door**  
**\$10 + Free Will Offering. Children 12 And Under Free.**

**On Your Calendar: Friday, September 21, 7pm**  
**At the York Center Church of the Brethren**

## Comforters for District Conference

**Hurry, Hurry, Hurry! You Still Have Time!!!**  
**We Encourage Your Participation.**

**Please Let The Appropriate Persons In Your**  
**Congregation Know About This...**

Last year at District Conference at Lake Williamson we were able to participate in a variety of events including love feast, worship, business, fellowship, and an **auction of some wonderful comforters**. The comforters showcased the creative talents from many of our churches and the auction led by Brother Rick Koch from Milledgeville was a lot of fun as well!

We would like to continue the project for another year and invite each congregation to make a contribution. **There are no rules** - be colorful, be creative, have fun. Proceeds will go to support our District work.

Please spread the word about this project. Let me know by September 15 if you are going to participate and then bring your comforter to District Conference (Nov. 2-5, 2012) and enjoy the friendly camaraderie as we bid for these wonderful pieces of Brethren art.

*In Christ's Service, Ed Garrison, [egarrison207@comcast.net](mailto:egarrison207@comcast.net)  
(815) 734-4565*



# Bethany Graduates from Illinois-Wisconsin earn Degrees



Back row: Aaron Shepherd, Andy Duffey, Ben Harvey, Dennis Webb, Vivek Solanky, Nick Miller-Kauffman, Parker Thompson, Jerry Bowen, Matt Wollam-Berens, Brandon Hanks. Front row: Jeanne Davies, Linda Waldron, Jae Paik, Bekah Houff, Katie Thompson. Photo: Jim Chappin

On May 5, 2012 Bethany Seminary granted 14 students Master's Degrees. Bethany celebrated the 107th commencement in Nicarry Chapel. Nadine S. Pence gave the commencement address. President Ruthann Knechel Johansen also addressed the group. **Jeanne Davies**, Associate Pastor at Highland

Avenue, received a Master of Divinity degree and **Dennis John Richard Webb**, Pastor at Naperville, received Master of Arts degree. Congratulations to our graduates on their success.

*Photograph from Bethany's Wonder & Word magazine.*

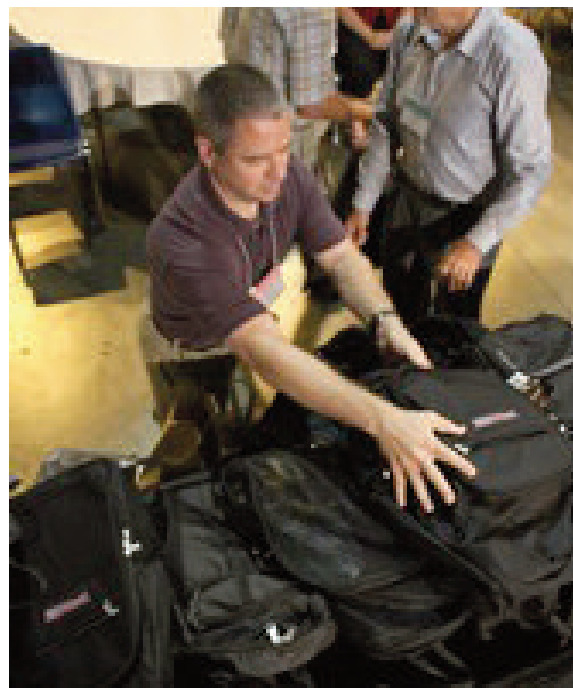
## Backpack bridges at Annual Conference

"Thank you very much for coming to St. Louis!" said Blake Youde during afternoon business at Annual Conference on July 9. Youde is the deputy superintendent of institutional advancement at St. Louis public schools, and he was there to bring more than greetings.

He had come to receive the 543 dollars, 40 boxes, and 417 backpacks full of school supplies that Annual Conference attendees donated to St. Louis schools. These supplies were collected during a special offering, and are estimated to fill over 1,000 backpacks altogether.

"There are 25,000 students in the St. Louis public school system," he shared. In addition to standard K-12 education, many schools provide early childhood development, opportunities for young adults to finish high school up to the age of 21, special needs programs, and job preparation. "We are training the future work force of St. Louis," said Youde, and this fall, many of them will enjoy new school supplies donated by generous folks like you.

*Reprinted from e Brethren*





# Camp Emmaus Family Camp

Circle One: Memorial Day Labor Day

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of people staying: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Camp Fees:

**Trailer or Tent:** \$4.00 per person per day (\$12 max per family per day)  
**Cabins** \$5.00 per person per day (\$15 max per family per day)

(Cabins include - girls cabins 1-4, boys cabins 5-9, craft cabins, directors room, staff rooms, and nurses room)

**Log Cabin:** \$48 per day & \$6 per person per night

**Retreat Lodge:** \$72 per day & \$6 per person per night

**Lodge Apartment:** \$27 per day (up to 3 adults)

**Swimming:** \$1.00 per person per swim session

## Family Camp Rules

1. All Campers must check in with the Family Camp Director.
2. See Lodge, Cabins, Bath House, Pool or Director for swimming and camp schedules.
3. Tables are available. If you need one please see the Director or carry one over from the picnic shelter. Also, please return the tables to the picnic shelter before you leave.
4. A miner guest at camp must have a sponsoring family responsible for them. Parents and/or guardians are responsible for their children and guest(s).
5. Ground fires are prohibited, use firebox, fire rings (boy's side), or grills (available from Director). Put hot coals or ashes in firebox or barrel behind Lodge. Be sure fires are OUT!
6. Trash should be deposited in dumpster by Lodge or in other containers as provided.
7. Cooking of meals will be at family's site or at the shelter. NO COOKING in cabins!!
8. The Lodge Kitchen, cooler, dining room and Retreat Lodge are OFF LIMITS to family campers.
9. The use of tobacco products and/or the consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited on campgrounds.
10. All mattresses are to remain on bunks in cabins.
11. Pets need to be confined or on a leash.
12. Telephone is to be used for Emergency calls only (911)
13. Electricity should be used conscientiously as overloading of circuits may inconvenience others. Air Conditioning will be an extra fee per day.
14. No direct water connections, connections for filling tanks only.
15. Swings area quiet after 10:00 pm and camp area quiet after 11:30pm.
16. No generators or gasoline engines can be run during camp.
17. If raining and very muddy, DON'T try to drive or move camping vehicles without the assistance of Camp Manager.
18. Please drive slowly around camp, there are always children at play!!
19. PLEASE PAY CAMPING FEES to the Director by noon on last day of camp or before you leave.

This form needs to be filled out for insurance purposes!  
Thank you for your cooperation and have a great time at camp!!

Total Persons Per Night Calculation Grid									
	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Times	Per Night	Total
Trailer or Tent							X	\$4	
Cabin							X	\$5	
Log Cabin							X	\$48*	
Retreat Lodge							X	\$6*	
Lodge Apt							X	\$72*	
Swimmers							X	\$6*	
							X	\$27	
							X	\$1	

\* Multiply # of days stay with daily fee & # of persons with per person fee

Grand Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks out to Camp Emmaus

# A Celebration of 160 Years

On Saturday, August 11th, the Panther Creek CoB celebrated its 160 years of service to God. The day was full of activities for all ages. There were many guests, with past Pastor Anet Satvedi and District Executive and Canton Pastor Kevin Kessler among them. The events started with the sounding of trumpets calling all to gather for the dedication of new Children's Playground Equipment. Peter Yordy led the dedication service—what a great addition to the grounds and so inviting for children. There was sharing of memories, church history and a lot of reminiscing as people gathered. It was a beautiful service at this old meeting house for the Brethren and it was super to see Peg and Marv Yordy in attendance and being true hosts as they have been for so many years! The people then moved into the Church and looked all around and continued their

sharing. Gospel music was next as our trumpeters, along with accompaniment on the piano, had all tapping their feet and singing along. Brother Satvedi then shared his ministry of Christian allusions. Boy, did he have everyone on the edge of their seats to see what he was going to do next. The gospel of Jesus Christ was the main focus, not Brother Satvedi's slight of hand. He's good!!!! A pizza supper was on the agenda next as Peter went around the entire group taking special orders so all got just the pizza they wanted. Popcorn and a movie were included in the full day as well. This little old country church celebrated its rich heritage of 160 years serving the Roanoke area, its people, the Church of the Brethren, but mostly, serving the Lord Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless them as they look into the future to serve Him more!

Submitted by L Matheny, First CoB of Peoria



# 2012 Calendar

## AUGUST

- 20–30 ..BVS/BRF Orientation, New Windsor
- 31 .....Family Camp – Camp Emmanuel (thru Sept. 3)
- 31 .....Family Camp – Camp Emmaus (thru Sept. 3)

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 .....Camp Appreciation Dinner – Camp Emmaus
- 3 .....Labor Day
- 3 .....Family Camp – Camp Emmanuel
- 3 .....Family Camp – Camp Emmaus
- 16 .....BVS Fall Orientation (thru Oct 5)
- 17 .....Rosh Hashanah
- 21 .....International Day of Peace
- 26 .....Yom Kippur
- 28 .....Il. Conf. of Churches Gathering, Champaign
- 29 .....Fish Fry (11AM – 2PM) Camp Emmanuel

## ‘My 2¢ Worth’ has a new look, new label

Church of the Brethren Newsline August 9, 2012

A new look and a new label are now available for “My 2¢ Worth,” formerly Two Cents a Meal. My 2¢ Worth is a program of the Church of the Brethren’s Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF). The new look and label were showcased at Annual Conference and the labels, as well as envelopes, are now available from the Global Mission and Service office.



The GFCF is the primary way that the Church of the Brethren assists in developing food sovereignty around the world. Since 1983, the fund has provided grants upwards of \$400,000 annually to community development programs in 32 countries. My 2¢ Worth donations help make it possible for the church, through the GFCF, to promote food sovereignty and mitigate hunger through sustainable agriculture development.

Write in to receive one or more free My 2¢ Worth labels for personal or congregational use. The labels are designed to wrap around tin cans or glass jars, turning them into attractive collection containers for change. A sample label and an order form will arrive at each congregation in the September Source packet.

For more information or to request labels and envelopes, contact GFCF manager Jeff Boshart at [jboshart@brethren.org](mailto:jboshart@brethren.org) or 800-323-8039 ext. 332.

## OCTOBER

- 7 .....World Communion Sunday
- 13 .....Program & Arrangements Comm., Canton
- 20 .....Work Day Camp Emmanuel  
Ministerial Leadership Dev. Team, TBA
- 20–23 ..Mission & Ministry Board, Elgin, IL
- 24–25 ..Midwest DE Meeting, Camp Mack, IN
- 28 .....Reformation Sunday

## NOVEMBER

- 2 .....Minister’s Pre-Conf. Workshop,  
Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL
- 2–4 .....IL-Wisc. District Conference  
Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL
- 4 .....National Jr. High Sunday  
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 10 .....Leaf Raking – Camp Emmaus
- 10–11 ..Powerhouse Youth Conference, Manchester
- 16–17 ..Leadership Team Retreat, Emmaus
- 16–18 ..Mission Alive, Lititz, PA
- 22 .....Thanksgiving Day
- 27 .....IL Conf. of Churches, Springfield 9AM

## DECEMBER

- 1 .....Ministerial Leadership Dev. Team, TBA
- 2 .....First Sunday of Advent
- 9 .....First Day of Chanukah/Hanukkah
- 25 .....Christmas Day
- 31 .....New Year’s Eve

## Deacon Ministry announces fall workshops

The Church of the Brethren Deacon Ministry has scheduled five workshops this fall, offering training for deacons in local congregations. Most of the workshops will offer a number of sessions on topics such as “What are Deacons Supposed to Do Anyway?” “Beyond Casseroles: Offering Support Creatively,” “Deacons and Pastors: The Pastoral Care Team,” and more.



Read the full story at [www.brethren.org/news/2012/deacon-ministry-training-workshops-1.html](http://www.brethren.org/news/2012/deacon-ministry-training-workshops-1.html)