

## Anniversary Items

Here is a list of what is currently available. More will be added as the year progresses.

- Church of the Brethren Anniversary Theme pamphlet. Four page brochure explaining the theme. Available at no charge. Can be obtained through the Annual Conference office or from any Anniversary Committee member. The conference office can be reached at 1-800-688-5186, 500 Main St, PO Box 720; New Windsor, MD 21776-0720  
[annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org)

- Anniversary Theme Study Guide for adults, Lorele Yager, 2006. Available from the Annual Conference Office

- Anniversary Theme Study Guide for youth and young adults, Shawn Flory Replogle, 2006. Also available from the conference committee.

- Anniversary Worship Resources, 2006. A collection of worship resources that also includes the theme study guide. Available from the Annual Conference office.

- The Meanest Man in Patrick County and Other Unlikely Brethren Heroes, by Frank Ramirez, 2004. Paperback book that tells eighteen stories of events and people from the history of the church. Price- \$10.95. Available from Brethren Press. 1-800-441-3712, email- [brethrenpress\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org) website- [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com)

- Another Way of Believing-A Brethren Theology, by Dale W. Brown, 2005. Paperback. Price- \$18.95. Available from Brethren Press.

- The Brethren During the Age of World War, by Stephen L. Longenecker., 2006. This hardback book is the fifth in a series of sourcebooks that began with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Price- \$25.95 384 pages Available from Brethren Press

- Fruit of the Vine, A History of the Brethren, by Donald F. Durnbaugh, 1997. While published before plans for the anniversary began, this recent hardback presents a most comprehensive history of the Brethren in one volume and is recommended by the Anniversary Committee. Price- \$49.95 Available from Brethren Press

- Fresh From the Word, a hardback devotional for 366 days of the year, 2007. Using writers from all the Brethren denominations who trace their roots back to 1708, this book will be available in July 2007. Price- \$20.00 for an individual copy, \$15.00 for orders of ten or more. Available from Brethren Press.

Excellent materials - Please make use of them. Marie Willoughby, DE

## **Our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations** Church of the Brethren

### The Opening Celebration at Germantown

This will be the opening event of our anniversary year. Those planning to attend should mark September 15-16, 2007 on their calendars. Saturday events will include: cemetery tours, visits to the site of the first American Brethren baptism, tours of Philadelphia, exhibit booths, a hymn sing, and informational presentations about history and current outreach. The Coventry congregation is inviting interested persons to a hymn sing on Saturday evening. Sandford Christophel, the Coventry pastor, will also be sharing some of the history of Coventry. The Germantown congregation will lead Sunday morning worship (10:00) and a special celebratory worship is scheduled for that afternoon (September 16) at 2:00PM. Earl Ziegler will be the guest preacher in the morning, and musicians from Germantown will provide music. Belita Mitchell will be the preacher in the afternoon. Come join us for this inspirational and enjoyable event. Area congregations interested in attending may want to charter a bus to help with the traffic situation. Since space will be limited, we are asking people to register ahead of time. Registration forms will be sent out with the next newsletter, placed in delegate packets at Annual Conference, and distributed in other places as well.

[www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.com](http://www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.com)

## Youth Heritage Travel Teams

Information provided Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

In planning for the anniversary, we felt it was crucial to find meaningful ways to engage youth in the celebration. To that end we have partnered with Chris Douglas in the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office to develop one of our most exciting anniversary programs.

Each district was invited to select **two youth** to participate in the Youth Heritage Travel Team program. Twenty-one of our twenty-three districts sent teams of youth to a special training weekend, April 13-15, 2007, in Elgin. While there these young people had the opportunity to work with Jeff Bach and Jim Lehman around issues of heritage and identity. In addition, they were coached by Paula Langdon in drama, Joseph Helfrich in music, Wendy McFadden in public presentation skills, Rhonda Pittman Gingrich and Leslie Lake in worship leadership, Jim Lehman in storytelling, and Chris Douglas leadership and organizational skills. They have also be given outlines for educational presentations, worship resources, DVD resources, and a new CD of Andy Murray's heritage music.

Throughout the anniversary year, these teams will be ready to visit congregations to lead in worship and/or educational workshop settings. They are faithful, committed, passionate, articulate, creative young people and will be eager to share their excitement and enthusiasm about our heritage and identity as a distinctive community of faith. Any congregation that invites them to share their gifts will be empowered by their message.

For more information about how to schedule a team, congregations can call their district offices. **Our Team members are Alison Fletcher and Julia Hammond.**

### **Activity Geared Toward Youth:**

This is an appropriate time for poetry contests, short stories, essays, and artistic activity. We have already mentioned the possibility of districts holding speech contests related to their faith and conviction. This is something that could be featured at district conferences and celebrations. We would like the names of participating youth or winners of speech contests by mid-October so that we can mention them in the November/December 2007 issue of this newsletter.

Our committee would like poetry, stories, and essays that relate to "Why will you continue to be a part of the Church of the Brethren?" Some participants will be invited to share their compositions at Annual Conference 2008. More will be said about this in future newsletters.

—the Annual Conference Anniversary Committee

## Calendars

Commemorative calendars for September 2007-December 2008 are now available. They feature 36 large and small inset contemporary photos of historical sites/items along with much historical information. The forty page calendars may be ordered through the Annual Conference Office or purchased during Annual Conference in Cleveland at the Anniversary Committee's exhibit booth. Order forms may also be found on the anniversary website. Individual calendars sell for \$5.00, plus \$3.00 shipping. You may also now order in bulk of 25 for \$100.00, or in bulk of 50 for \$200.00. Shipping of bulk orders is included in the price.

## Anniversary Curriculum Available in July 2007

### *"Piecing Together the Brethren Way"*

*Piecing Together the Brethren Way* is designed to help children explore the marks and practices of our faith that make us distinctively Brethren. Designed with flexibility in mind, the fourteen sessions will provide class participants with opportunities to explore the theme through a variety of multi-sensory activities. There will be a "take home" page for families and other members of the congregation to help them engage the children in dialog and supplemental activities that reinforce the lesson. Joanne Thurston-Griswold (Huntingdon Stone congregation, MPA) and Jean Moyer (Elizabethtown congregation, ANE) served as writers for the project. Vicky Goplin (Open Circle congregation, NPL) served as editor. The project was coordinated by anniversary committee member Rhonda Pittman Gingrich. The curriculum will be sold through Brethren Press and will be available at the 2007 Annual Conference in Cleveland. For more information visit our website and click on Resources/Curriculum. Or if you have questions, contact Rhonda at [rpgingrich@yahoo.com](mailto:rpgingrich@yahoo.com)

[MPA – Middle Pennsylvania District; ANE – Atlantic Northeast Dist.; NPL – Northern Plains District]