

People We Know

Chris Campbell (Onekama) was commissioned as a TRIM intern at the Skyridge Church in Kalamazoo on Easter Sunday 4-8-07.

Chris will be doing her 400 hours of Supervised Ministry Experience under the direction of *Pastor Debbie Eisenbise* and the congregational program. TRIM is Training in Ministry (in the Church of the Brethren).

Julia Hammond (Flint) and **Alison Fletcher** (Trinity) received training at our General Offices in Elgin, IL, April 13-15, as our district **Youth Heritage Team**. They will be available for local church programs, sectional and district events. Make arrangements through the District Office.

Vienna Marguerite Willoughby, born February 2, 2007, was adopted into the family of *John, Joanna, Zander and Zoe* on February 22. Of African-American descent, Vienna entered the world a bit early and quite small. She is making excellent progress. Grandparents are *Joe & Val Wave* (Marilla pastor) and *Don & Marie Willoughby*.

Ted Gandy, our oldest ordained minister, turned **90** on March 29, 2007. Ted has been living in a nursing home in Battle Creek for several years.

Manchester College Students

Katherine Allen and **Anna Emrick** will participate in the CoB Mission Summer Service working at the General Offices, Elgin, IL, in financial roles.

Colleen Hamilton has been named Head Gardner at MC for the college's summer organic gardening program.

Our sympathy to **Bill & Betty Nail** on the death of Bill's brother in Maryland, on April 11; to the Tarte family of Muskegon on the death of **Bonnie Tarte** April 10; to the family of (Arthur) **Bud Allerdig**, 86, of Woodgrove on his death April 4, and to **Bev Leaf** on the death of her brother on April 12. Our prayers for all who experience loss and grief.

Address Changes: for directory, etc.

Dan McRoberts – moved around the corner
6677 Mill Run Dr SW
Caledonia MI 49316

Nathan Polzin

2842 Davenport Ave,
Saginaw 48602-3737

The Church in Drive [Saginaw project]
P O Box 6172
Saginaw MI 48608-6172

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For your 2007 Calendar:

April 27-28 –District Board meeting
Camp Brethren Heights

April 28-29 –**Regional Youth Conference** – Manchester College

May 5 – **Meet the Moderator/AC Briefing 10 a.m. Hope CoB**

Unfinished Business items:

1. Doing Church Business
2. Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church
3. Brethren Medical Plan Resolution
4. Review & Evaluation Committee-
A New Mandate

New Business: Queries

1. Child Abuse Prevention (from Michigan)
2. Annual Conference Schedule
3. Reverse Membership Trend
4. Update on Annual Conference Polity
5. Recommendation Regarding Christian Churches Together

May 6 3 p.m. Amish in Michigan program at Detroit Trinity

May 7-10 Ministry Consultation at General Offices, Elgin. Don Leaf & Marie Willoughby attending

MAY 19 **CAMP OPEN HOUSE** – p. 3

May 26-28 **Young Adult Conference**
Sat-Mon. Camp Harmony, W. PA

JUNE 9 **Free fishing day** – come to **Camp**
Camp Board meeting at Camp

June 15-17 **National Jr Hi Conference**
Elizabethtown College, PA

June 17-23 Camp 100

June 24-26 Sampler Camp

June 20-July 4 **Annual Conference**
Cleveland OH – don't miss it!

July 6-7 Under Sixers Camp

July 8-14 Camp 89

July 15-21 Camp 67

July 22-28 Camp 45

AUGUST 9-12 “**Sharing God's Love**”
DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Wesleyan Campground, Hastings, Mich.

Lee Hannahs, Moderator

Tim Harvey, Speaker [New schedule](#)
Watch for special information!

September 4-7
Caring Ministries Conference Lititz PA

15-16 **300th Anniversary** launching at
Germantown CoB, Pennsylvania

October 13, 20, 27–
Heritage Car Tours to visit the
churches in the district. Details coming.

November 2-3 **District Board meets at Camp.**

Camp Open House May 19, 2007

Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

"On the Way"

Silent Auction – 10 - 1:30

Theme Baskets

Each church is asked to bring at least one basket valued at about \$25.

Bake Sale — *items needed to sell*

Mission Speaker – 11:00 a.m.

Janis Pyle, Mission Connections

Director for the Church of the Brethren will tell about the Sudan Initiative, where summer camp offerings are going

Lunch 11:30-12:30 Soups/Subs

\$6.00; \$3 under 12

Brethren Heritage Trail

Walk at your leisure

Activities for Children

Outdoors 10-11; Indoors 12-2 Tickets

See flier at church.

**Notes from Camp Board meeting
April 14, 2007**

Commissions met on Friday evening so the Camp Board members could help with work projects at the camp Sat. am
Call Andrew and come help anytime.

More ways of bringing income to camp are needed. Outright donations help!

A \$5000 project is underway for a new electrical pole and hook-up to provide power to the bathhouses.

A new hot water heater has been purchased for the girls bath house.

An Ad Hoc Committee to explore possibilities for a Family Campground separate from the Residential Camp has been formed.

In order to help larger families, it was agreed to make a rate change for the 2007 season for the 3rd child, or more, in the same family of a \$20 fee reduction. Contact Administrator Jen Crispin.

Fees at Camp Brethren Heights are already among the lowest rates at camps. **BUT WE NEED A LOT MORE CAMPERS! Please sign up today!**

Get the discount by registering before the May 21, 2007 deadline!

Phone: 231-867-3618 (incorrect on flier)
www.brethrenheights.org Look this up!

Watch for Heritage Auto Tours in October.

**Young Adult Conference
May 26-28, 2007 (Sat-Mon)**

"Doers of the Word" James 1:22-25

All Young Adults are invited to spend Memorial Day weekend at **Camp Harmony**, near **Johnstown, PA.**, looking at "Doers of the Word" based on James 1:22-25. This is a wonderful opportunity for young adults throughout the Church of the Brethren to gather for worship, singing, fellowship and meeting other young adults. Sessions will be led by Paul Grout.
www.brethren.org/genbd/youthyoungadults

**Annual Conference Volunteers
needed: June 30-July 4, Cleveland OH**

Most age groups and program areas need help. Consider volunteering at one or more of the interesting places to be. Submit your name and interest to *Sandy & Rick Dobberstein, AC 2007 On-Site Coordinators, 937-833-3269, sdobberstein@juno.com*

Wendi Hutchinson, director of church relations at Manchester College resigned in January. She was married in March and is now director of alumni relations and special events for the College of Consumer & Family Services at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

New Savings Options

The Church of the Brethren Credit Union began offering new savings options in December to facilitate good stewardship practices. The new products include regular money market accounts, Traditional IRA and Roth IRA money market accounts, Coverdell Education money market accounts and five unique club savings accounts. The Credit Union is a ministry affiliated with Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) and is open to all Church of the Brethren members and employees and their family members.

Two of the new savings accounts, the Kids Club and the Youth Club, are designed especially for children and youth. Feeling strongly that they be encouraged to be disciplined savers, these offer a higher rate of interest.

The brethren Youth Mission Club is truly unique to the Church of the Brethren. The new savings account club is offered to encourage savings for those planning for Brethren service or educational opportunities such as National Youth Conference, Christian Citizenship Seminar, workcamps or local projects.

For more information contact
www.brethrenbenefittrust.org/cobcu
1-800-746-1505

**34th Annual Brethren Bible
Institute - July 23-27, 2007
at Elizabethtown College (PA)**

Room/board/tuition is \$175 for the week.

Register by June 28

*Get fliers from the District Office or
The Brethren Bible Institute
155 Denver Road
Denver PA 17517*

**MOTHER'S DAY {May 13, 2007}
GRATITUDE PROJECT**

“In honor of a woman you know and love, and in solidarity with mothers around the world.”

Global Women’s Project is pleased to announce the launch of the Mother’s Day Gratitude Project. Rather than buying material gifts for your loved one (she probably has plenty), this year express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects that focus on issues related to women’s health, education, and employment. In return, your chosen recipient will receive a card of gratitude indicating that a gift has been made in her honor.

To participate, make your donation out to Global Women’s Project. Send this along with sender’s name and contact information, recipient’s name and address, and any additional text for in card to steering committee member Jacki Hartley at
213 Perry St., Elgin, IL 60123.

Gratitude cards will be mailed in time for Mother’s Day.

Global Women’s Project seeks to raise awareness of the global poverty, oppression and injustice suffered by women around the world; to recognize how our over consumption and misuse of resources directly contribute to their suffering; to examine and change our way of living; and to support self-help community projects that are led by, empower, and benefit women in the US and developing areas.

More People We Know

Nathan Polzin and Brian Mackie (New Life Christian Fellowship) will graduate from Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN, on May 5. Congratulations!

Alison Fletcher (Trinity) is going to China June 26-July 12 with the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

David Radcliff, *New Community Project*, visited the Detroit Trinity Congregation in February. The congregation is following through in several meaningful ways.

As of April 15 **10 Junior High’s and 4 Advisors** from Michigan were registered for the National Jr Hi Conference in Elizabethtown PA. They come from Kalamazoo Skyridge, Lakeview and Onekama. Some will travel by Amtrak!

Randy Short, formerly of Detroit Trinity, baptized a 3 member family at the Lick Creek CoB, Bryan, OH, on Palm Sunday. He serves as one of the pastors there.

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MOTHER’S DAY PROJECT - continued
A bulletin insert and additional information can be found on our website under the Brethren Witness/Washington Office at
<http://www.brethren.org/genbd/witness/gwp.htm>

Anabaptist beliefs

First among these convictions was what the Anabaptists called "discipleship". The Christian’s relationship with Jesus Christ must go beyond inner experience and acceptance of doctrines. It must involve a daily walk with God, in which Christ’s teaching and example shape a transformed style of life.

A second Anabaptist principle, the principle of love, grew logically out of the first. They would neither go to war, defend themselves against their persecutors, nor take part in coercion by the state. They also expressed this love ethic in their communities by mutual aid and redistribution of wealth.

The third Anabaptist principle is what we have come to call the "congregational" view of church authority, toward which Luther and Zwingli inclined in their *earliest* reforming years. All members were to be believers baptized voluntarily upon confession of personal faith in Christ. Each believer was both a priest to his fellow believers and a missionary to unbelievers. Decision making rested with the entire body.

A fourth major conviction was the insistence upon the separation of church and state. The church is distinct from society, even if society claims to be Christian. -copied

Michigan Rivers puzzle

Sharing God's Love

District Conference theme
August 9-12, 2007

Bring Others to Church

Help Shopping/Transportation

Bible Study

Building/Remodeling

Praying Together

Heifer Project

Planting Trees

Dining Together

Hugs and Support

Watch for the schedule

Plan to be with us at

Hastings, Michigan

Thursday evening through Sunday noon

Lee Hannahs, Moderator

Tim Harvey, Speaker

Tim is a pastor in Roanoke, VA and
Vice Chair of the Church of the Brethren
General Board

Crafting Prayers

A crafting group meets in the Flint Church of the Brethren from 2 to 4 p.m. on the First Sunday of the month. Opening with plenty of prayer the community group works on a variety of crafts. For information contact: Jennie Betts at 810-814-0356 nippersmom@yahoo.com

Amish in Michigan program at Detroit Trinity church on Sunday, May 6 at 3:00.

Trudy Huntington, author of "Amish in Michiga" will be making a presentation concerning the remarkable way in which the Amish responded to the October school shootings. Please invite others to join us for this presentation.

On March 24 Norm Slack (K-zoo) and **Frances Townsend** (Onekama) led a **banner workshop** in the Kalamazoo Skyridge church.

If your congregation receives a newsletter from other Michigan Church of the Brethren churches, make time to read through it. We have a wealth of Christian service and opportunities happening.

Proclaim the Power of God

Annual Conference Cleveland OHIO June 30-July 4, 2007

Moderator: Belita Mitchell

Excellent Worship and Preachers
Fine Fellowship and Meals
Activities for all ages

See Business Item list on page 15.

Michigan congregations sending **delegates** (as of March)
Beaverton; Flint; Hope;
Skyridge; Lakeview; Marilla;
Midland; New Life; Onekama;
Shalom

All of us benefit from this experience.

Non-delegates are always welcome.
Come to Hope church on May 5 to learn more. EVERYONE is WELCOME!

Position Open in Florida

Executive Staff for the Palms Estate near Sebring, FL is needed.
Send résumé and 3 references by June 15, 2007 to The Palms Estates at PO Box 364, Lorida FL, 33857

Contact the District Office for info.

300th Anniversary in Michigan

Here and there, things are happening in Michigan as we gear up to observe the 300th Anniversary of the beginning of the Church of the Brethren.

You'll find several of these throughout this issue. When your congregation has its own plans made, please report them to the District Office. We can rejoice together and glean ideas from one another

Save 3 Saturdays - October 13, 20, 27-
for the driving tours to our churches.

SAVE this issue as a resource for events.

Brethren Member Profile

by Stephen Longenecker 2007

Some general findings:

Brethren are "overwhelmingly white, and residing in non-urban settings" with only three out of 100 congregations classified as ethnic or urban.

The leading states in terms of numbers of Brethren are Pennsylvania first, Virginia second, and Ohio third, with nearly **two-third** of all Brethren (63 percent) residing in just four states: Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia.

Sixty percent of the church is female; two-thirds are 50 or older; 70 percent live in a small town or open country. **Half** have been members for more than 30 years, while 20 percent have been members for 10 years or less.

Survey questions also focused on issues of Brethren identity, attitudes about Annual Conference and the effect of Conference attendance on members' satisfaction with Brethren agencies, the respondents' theology such as views of Jesus and salvation, the peace witness, importance of moral and ethical issues, and faith commitments. Other questions addressed political views as well as views on controversial issues including abortion and homosexuality.

Watch for a more complete report.

April 2007 was a bit more 'wintery' than usual. Even with global warming effecting our planet, Spring has taken its time arriving.

Love Feast had to be postponed at Marilla due to Blizzard condition on April 5.

At Shalom (Ann Arbor) Community Church, 15 members held Love Feast in the home of pastor Paul Versluis.

Even **Easter Services** on April 8 had smaller numbers in some places and swelling crowds in others.

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed! Let us live, love and follow in his Way.

About 50 **video tapes** are being moved from the District Office to Camp so that they are more available to you

At **Manchester College** the Brethren Students conducted Love Feast for all, at **Midnight** on April 4/5

Read "**Messenger**" every month!

Report from

BRETHREN BELIEFS AND BLESSING DAY

held March 17, 2007
at Camp Brethren Heights

The 14 participants who gathered at camp kept moving from one activity to another that brought out the beliefs and practices of the Brethren. Of course, this only touched the surface of all that there is to know.

*Church history and geography=
Being fearfully and wonderfully made=
Hymns by Brethren authors were sung=
And the Readers Theater helped
internalize beliefs and blessings.=*

This 'program' can come to your church. Let us know when.

Senior High Youth

Spring Rally was held at the Zion church, April 13-15, 2007 with Tim Joseph as presenter.

Plans are to attend the Regional Youth Conference [RYC] April 28-29, at Manchester College, with training for the Cabinet on Friday evening. "*Now, Follow Me*" w/ Walt Wiltschek

Camp 100 is June 17-23, 2007, with Tiffany Herrold as Dean.

Some recent donations to Camp include:

Cleaning the stove for painting-
Brenda King
A toilet – Herrold family
Toboggan & Winter Retreat leadership –
Barry Barto
Pulling the truck from the swamp –
Bob Phillips
A new 24" flat TV/VCR/DVD from
Don & Marie Willoughby

There are many, many needs. See page 3

Disaster Response

Michigan Week May 6-12, 2007 in McComb, Mississippi

Get in on the action. Contact Tom Burr
989-281-4266 ltburr@eztechinternet.com

Junior High Youth

Spring Rally held at the Flint Church of the Brethren, April 20-22, with leadership from Mary Lorah Hammond, Nancy Hammond-Chaffin, Lee Long, and others.

10 Jr Hi s and 4 Advisors registered for the **National Jr Hi Conference** June 15-17, 2007, at Elizabethtown College, PA.

Camp 89 is July 8-14, Brian Mackie, Dean
Camp 67, July 15-21, Becky Phillips, Dean