

## Performance Analysis

It must take very special people to be professional athletes. I'm sure I would have a hard time working under the pressure of all the performance analysis about what is done, or more likely, what isn't done correctly.

As Christians, we may not have a broadcaster giving a play by play description of how we are living out our faith, but be assured our lives are not unseen. We've heard the phrases 'the gospel according to you', and 'you may be the only Bible someone reads'. Daunting, isn't it. Yet important.

We have the wonderful opportunity in the next 17 months to see how "Piecing it Together the Brethren Way" works. Role models, encouragers, saints along the way. The New Testament as our rule of faith and action. People are watching. Our lives reflect our beliefs.

Don't miss the new fantastic curriculum, and the many opportunities to use it in a variety of settings. It's called "***Piecing Together the Brethren Way***", and comes on CDs with printing rights. [No copying of the music performances, please.] I don't want to limit this wonderful opportunity to our children. Find ways to use the 14 sessions with everyone in your congregation.

***Marie***

Contact Brethren Press at 1-800-441-3712 or  
[brethrenpress\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org)

I'm sorry that those reading this issue on-line won't get to see all the 'cut and paste' illustrations, nor have several pages which include the song "If the War Goes On" and some word puzzles related to the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren.

But thanks for looking in, anyway.

To get on the mailing, contact the Michigan district Office, P O Box 47, Kaleva, MI 49645  
231-362456

Mailed August 1, 2007

*Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt.28:20b*

**The Michigan Church of the Brethren District Board**

**is committed to facilitating Christian discipleship and spiritual health within local congregations.**

## News and Notes

### International Workcamp July 30-August 5, '07

13 youth and 2 adults from *New Haven* and *Marilla* were signed up for a work camp at Ashland, OH. Names were listed in your June-July "CoB Connection". Our prayers for safe and meaningful participation.

**Heather Popielarz**, *Zion*, begins her year on the National Church of the Brethren Youth Cabinet with orientation August 1-3, 2007.

### Scheduling for the Youth Heritage Team

will begin during District Conference. Come with your invitation. Our team is **Alison Fletcher**, *Trinity*, and **Julia Hammond**, *Flint*.

"Grill the Pastor" stories come weekly from **Randall Bertrand**, who with others from the *Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish* have a ministry to children and youth in the park in Hastings. More details will be shared as space permits. Yes, they use a grill (for hot dogs), but they also encourage questions about faith and practice from these youngsters.

**Jake Davis**, *New Life*, continues to manage our district website from his new residence at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK. Check in occasionally at [www.michigancob.org](http://www.michigancob.org). Former issues of the "CoB Connections" are there, sans illustrations.

Be sure to sign up for the **October Heritage Car Tours** in the Michigan District. Brochures will be available at District Conference, and afterwards from the District Office. Planning was started by the Program Committee of the Camp Board. Because of distances, many of our churches will be visited sometime in 2008.

**Ruthann Knechel Johansen** has been called as the president of Bethany Theological Seminary. She began her duties in Richmond, IN, on July 1.

Dr. Johansen has served as adjunct faculty at Bethany and has been a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary. At the time of her call she was a professor in the Program of Liberal Studies and a Faculty Fellow of the Joan B Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

In accepting the appointment she said, "The Church of the Brethren, our society, and the world need the faith and Christ-centered vision Bethany Theological Seminary and our church have offered since their foundations. I am committed to the Believers Church tradition which emphasizes the priesthood of all believers. In such a faith tradition, Bethany Seminary is not simply an institution charged with educating professional clergy; it is also an inspirational resource for study and empowerment for all believers within and beyond the denomination who seek to embody the love, justice, mercy and peace of Jesus Christ in an often fearful and violent world."

### PLAIN BOX

**Ruth Graham**, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, was buried in June 2007 in a casket made by Richard Liggett, a convicted murderer in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Made of birch plywood with a cross on the top and brass handles on the sides, it was lined with a fabric-covered foam mattress, costing a mere \$215.

Liggett died of cancer in March and was buried in one of the last caskets he made.

(*Atlantic Journal*) reported in **Christian Century** {Why pay more?}

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

Announces **Upcoming Courses**

**"Teaching and Learning in the Church"**

Sept. 4- Oct. 26 On-line: Ministry Skills credit

**"Introduction to the Old Testament"**

Sept. 10-Nov. 2 On-line: Biblical Studies credit

**"Distinctive Marks of the Brethren"**

November 1-4, 2007 classes in the Northern Indiana District Office: Ministry Skills credit

**"First & Second Thessalonians"**

Sept. 24 - Nov. 3 On-line: Biblical Studies credit

**"January Intensive"** Steve Reid, instructor

At Bethany Seminary, Richmond, Indiana & more [www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy)

**Begin now to plan for observing the  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2007.**

Get more information from On Earth Peace  
P O Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188  
or at the Church of the Brethren's

Decade to Overcome Violence website:

[www.brethren.org/dov](http://www.brethren.org/dov)

**NEW LISTS for Church World Service  
SCHOOL KIT**

- 3 spiral bound 70 page pads of 8 1/2 x 11" ruled paper (no filler paper, please)
- 1 30 centimeter ruler (12")
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 1 large eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 12" x 14" finished size, cloth bag with cloth handles

Also send \$2 per kit for processing/shipping or send \$13 per Kit

**HEALTH KIT**

- 1 hand towel                      1 washcloth
  - 1 comb                              1 bar soap, in wrapper
  - 1 metal nail file or nail clipper with file
  - 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
  - 6 Band-Aids                      [no more toothpaste]
- Put all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closer.  
Send \$2 per kit or \$12 for CWS to purchase kits

**Mail kits** – one kind per package, labeled, to  
Church Word Service  
Brethren Service Center Annex  
601 Main Street  
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

**Send all checks** for shipping costs and for purchasing kits to  
Church World Service  
P O Box 968  
Elkhart IN 46515

**New Lists – TAKE NOTE**

**Notes from Annual Conference**

→**The Michigan Query on Child Abuse Protection** was accepted with thanks and referred the concerns to the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC).

→The 831 delegates adopted the **Inter-cultural** Study Committee Report which calls for all of our congregations to be intentional in becoming multi-cultural in our activities, our studies, our employment and our worship. Those seeking re-ordination and re-licensing will need inter-cultural study and experience.

→The medical insurance component of the **Brethren Medical Plan** for active ministers will be phased out (by Dec. 31, 2007) while BBT will continue to explore viability for church-related agencies and members of the plan who are retired.

→**The query "Reverse Membership Trend"** was adopted with the instruction to follow Matthew 28:19-20, to study the 1981 Annual Conference report on "Diminishing Membership.." and to review ways the congregation interacts with 'the world', being inviting and a witness for Christ so as to bring others into a vital relationship with Jesus. Be intentional.

→ **"Doing Church Business"** was received as a resource and study of possible options for the future. Congregations and districts can begin making use of these resources immediately.

→Approval was given to the two queries related to **Annual Conference schedule and rotation.**

→**Election results:**

**Moderator-elect-** David K Shumate, Virginia  
**Ann.Conf. Secretary** –Fred Swartz, Virginia  
**Program & Arrangements** –Sarah Steele, PA  
**General Board, at large** – Terrell Lewis  
Dist. Reps – **Frances Townsend, Michigan**  
Dan Petry, Northern Indiana  
John Moyers, West Marva

And many others.

**Michigan delegates** included:

*Bob Phillips*, Beaverton; *Pete Zenger*, Detroit Trinity;  
*Don Flint*, Flint; *Jeannie Kauffman*, Hope; *Carie Gross*, K-zoo Skyridge; *Beverly Gardner*, Lakeview;  
*Barbara Curtis*, Lansing; *Joe Wave*, Marilla;  
*Bill Sumner*, Midland; *Frank Polzin*, New Life;  
*Kathy Graham*, Onekama; *Roxanne Cross*, Shalom Community; *John Willoughby*, Standing Committee

*Frances Townsend* served with the communications team. Almost 50 of us attended some or all of the time.

**Answers to Brethren in America 1719-1774**  
**An Alphabet** (found on page 2)

Alexander	Naas
Beissel	Oley
Christmas 1723	Pennsylvania
Disciples	Question
Ephrata	Reconcile
Fourteen	Sauer/Saur/Sower
German	Two [Coventry & Conestoga]
Holland	Urner
Immersion	Vast
Johannes	Wissahickon
Krëfeld (Creyfeld)	X-rated (or eXtravagant)
Love Feast	Yearly
Maryland	Zeider Zee

**Find resources at**  
**[www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org](http://www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org)**

Address changes:

<b>Marcy Abner</b>	<b>Jake &amp; Liz Davis</b>	
5879 Weiss Rd.	7804 S Victor Rd.	Apt. D
Apt. H-3		Apt. D
Saginaw, MI 48603	Tulsa OK 74136	
	989-400-7299	

**District Conference is for Everyone**  
**It's where we connect with the**  
**rest of the Church of the Brethren**  
**family in Michigan. We hope you**

**COME!**

August 10-12, 2007

**"Sharing God's Love"**

**Schedule on page 4 - pink**

**Love Feast opens our time together**  
**2:30 p.m. in the dining hall**

**Worship sets the foundation**  
**4:15 p.m. - conference center**

**Our preacher is Tim Harvey,**  
**Pastor of Central Church of**  
**the Brethren, Roanoke, VA.**

Tim is now Chair of the General Board  
for the Church of the Brethren.

He was one of the Annual Conference  
preachers in Cleveland.

Also: Sat. at 7 pm; Sunday at 10:15 am

**Pastor/Spouse Lunch is Friday, August 10,**  
**11:45-12:45 in Dan West Hall. \$5 each.**

**Children's and Youth Activities are planned.**

Thanks to the folks from Flint for Jr Hi leadership  
and Paulette Reichenbach for child care. The Sr Hi  
Cabinet and Advisors oversee our Youth.

**Business sessions start at 7 p.m Friday**  
**under the direction of Moderator Lee**  
**Hannahs.** Gary Heisler is training Beth  
DuBois to be the new Conference Manager.

## **For your Calendars**

**August 2007 17-18 Jam Camp, Brethren Heights**

## **September 2007**

**5-7 “Caring Ministries Assembly”**

Lititz, PA See [www.brethren-caregivers.org](http://www.brethren-caregivers.org)

Or call 1-800-323-8039 Ask for ABC

**21 – Friday “International Day of Prayer for Peace**

**23 – Southwest Section Pastor/Spouse Supper 4-6 p.m.**

**Hope Church of the Brethren – all pastors/spouses welcome**

Confirm your coming through the District Office

**29 – Camp Board meeting at Camp 10- 4 Pot Luck lunch.**

**30 – Northeast Section Pastor/Spouse Lunch 2- 4 p.m.**

**Midland Church of the Brethren – see above**

## **October 2007**

**6 – Northwest Sectional Fellowship 2:00 p.m.**

**Lakeview Church of the Brethren, in Brethren**

**13, 20, 27 – Heritage Car Tours – pick up a brochure**

**28-30 – Mid-west DE’s Retreat at Camp Mack, Indiana**

## **November 2007**

**2-3 – Old/New District Board meeting at Camp Brethren Heights**

**December 2007 Cookie & Candy Camp, Brethren Heights**

**Don’t miss the information at**

**[www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org](http://www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org)**

Some parts are still under construction

BUT- DO look at

**About the Brethren - Historic Timeline**

**Resources – Resources for children/youth**

**Puzzles and other ideas**

**Dramas – a large variety to chose from**

**Events – Again many to know about, including**

**Tours of Europe, including Schwarzenau**

If you can’t access the website, let me know of your interests and  
I can mail things to you. Marie Willoughby, DE