



NEW MEMBERS

At **New Haven** on
October 26, 2008 these
people were baptized and joined
the church.

Dan Jones
Bea Jones
Tiffany Jones
Jessica Allan,
Jessica Duflo
Chris Duflo
Pat Roof
Bohdan Hartman
Nathan Davis,
Brandon Trefil
Kyle Trefil

And joining by transfer and
reaffirmation were:

Teresa Fuller
Rich Fuller
Barry Davis
Michelle Davis

Brian Ruth is pastor.

At **Woodgrove** on
November 23, 2008
these persons became members
by transfer and declaration of
faith:

Alton Miller
Rhoda Miller
Teressa Lancaster
Natthew Nichols
Virginia Grentz-LeForce

And on **December 3** these
were baptized:

Isaac Stevens
Jeremy Nichols
Joshua Diekhoff

Randal Bertrand serves as
pastor. Woodgrove is a
Federated congregation of the
Church of the Brethren and the
Disciples of Christ (Christian
Church)

PRAISE GOD!

News and Notes:

Add **Beverly Leaf**, Lansing,
to the list of Michigan folks
who served as Disaster
Childcare Workers following
the hurricanes in Texas this fall.

Painter **Susan Joseph**,
Onkama, had art work on
display at Manchester College,
North Manchester, IN, in
October through Nov. 10. She
displayed gouache paintings,
inspired by textile designs from
indigenous cultures around the
world.

Newsline Nov. 20, 2008

Micki Horst, Lansing,
received the V K Volk Award
2008. The award is presented to
an individual who has made an
outstanding contribution to
health issues related to aging, or
a significant effort to improve
health conditions for older
persons. Micki has
coordinated the implement-
ation of the Michigan
Dementia Plan and been a
leader in the Michigan
Dementia Coalition for the past
10 years.

For the full citation contact the
district office or Heddie >>>

"Micki is a member of the
Lansing church. I serve on
the Michigan Dementia Coalition
with her and she is outstanding
in her vision, focus and energy
for serving families and persons
with dementia."

Heddie Sumner, RN, BSN
Director of Education and
Resource Development
Senior Services/Midland
County Council on Aging

Heddie Sumner, Midland,
has also made excellent con-
tributions in the field of aging.
She serves on the Church of the
Brethren Association of
Brethren Caregivers Team.

THANK YOU

Russ Garrigus is completing
his pastoral ministry with the
Lakeview congregation at the
end of 2008. Russ has served as
interim pastor since October
2004. A former pastor for the
United Methodist Church, Russ
lives in Manistee.

PEACE CAMP

January 17-19, 2009

Saturday to Monday

Peace camp is for all young adults, aged 18 and over, who feel a call to live a life of peace and nonviolence.

Sadly, we live in a world where most of the images in the media portray violence as glamorous, funny, and cool. Even many churches today glorify violence and military might. It is our goal to provide you with the support, the tools, and the spiritual food that you need to strengthen your commitment to non-violence.

Planned Sessions:

Extending the Table:

Prejudice & Privilege

Nonviolence in Everyday Life:

How to Speak Up When it Really Matters

Enemy Love: When Jesus Said Love Your Enemy....

Faith in Action

Campaigning for Change:

Strategy Building and

Brainstorming

Activism Tools

The Details:

When: Saturday, January 17 at 10 am - Monday, January 19 at 7 pm

Cost: \$50 (Please [Contact Jen](#) if you need a full or partial waiver of fee.)

What it covers: All meals & lodging for the weekend

What to bring: Bedding (for twin XL bunk beds), writing utensils, a desire to change the world!

How to Register:

Contact Jen with the following information:

Name, address, phone

number, email

Any special dietary or health conditions

College and group affiliations (if any)

Payment is due at arrival at camp. If waiver is needed, please apply as soon as possible.

Download our flyer and promote Peace Camp at your church, dorm, or favorite meeting place!

WINTER FAMILY CAMP

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2009

We had so much fun last year -- if you can make it, please join us!

It was the perfect weekend for sledding. Several people learned to snowshoe, and some brave souls even skied out to the island and back!

In addition to outdoor activities, we'll also have games and puzzles around the fireplace, crafts and warm cocoa. :)

The cost is \$24 per adult, \$16 per child 12 and under (under 3 free,

maximum \$80 per family).

Download the flyer at our website:

<http://www.brethrenheights.org>

RSVP is required for both events. Contact Jen at

(231) 867-3618 or

brethrenheights@gmail.com.

Camp Board meeting

Saturday, January 10, 2009
at camp

District Board meeting

Fri-Sat. January 30-31, 2009
at the Midland Church of the Brethren

At the request of the Michigan District Board, this article was prepared by Tiffany Herrold.

What can you do about Modern Day Slavery?

Many may have wondered why we as Brethren felt the need to pass a resolution on Slavery in 2008, slavery was outlawed in 1865. Although you may not see it, enslavement still exists for 27 million men, women and children in the world today even though slavery is illegal everywhere in the world. The most common forms of modern day slavery are bonded labor/debt bondage, contract slavery, forced labor, and sex trafficking/sex tourism. So what can you do about it? Pray, educate yourself, share what you know, be aware of the products you purchase, and support organizations working to end modern day slavery. Here are a few resources for organizations fighting to end modern day slavery:

www.brethren.org – Resolution adopted by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in 2008 and the Action Guide on Modern Day Slavery (this article has many resources listed, including some of the sites listed below)

www.notforsalecampaign.org - Raising awareness about human trafficking.

www.freetheslaves.net – Fighting to end slavery worldwide.

www.unicef.org – Offers resources on child trafficking.

www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/ - Trafficking in Person Report 2007

One small step that you could take is to pay attention to what you buy. There are companies out there that are currently using sweatshops to produce their products, here's a list of some of the major brands that use sweat shops:

Ann Taylor	Bugle Boy	Nike	Phillips – Van Heusen
Abercrombie & Fitch	Hanes	Disney	Guess
Sears	K-Mart	The Gap	Banana Republic
Adidas	Calvin Klein	Old Navy	Tommy Hilfiger
Kohl's	J.C. Penny	Reebok	Levi Straus
Wal-Mart	Pier 1 Imports	Liz Claiborne	Ralph Lauren
American Eagle	Mattel		

For more information take a look at these websites:

www.coopamerica.org/programs/responsible shopper/

www.fairtradefederation.com/

Let the district know what else you or your congregation is doing to raise awareness, educate, or other ways to fight slavery in the 21st century.

Romance Without Regret

Winter Youth Rally at Camp BH
for grades 9 thru 12

January 9-11, 2009

Cost \$30

Scholarship aid available

Contact Dan & Denise Rossman - 989-236-7686

Speakers - Brian & Karen Mackie

Check In Friday, 9th 7 p.m. -8 p.m.
Pick Up Sunday, 11th 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Bring - bedding, personal items, warm clothes, outdoor clothes, sleds, skates, G-rated movies, snacks for Friday night

Don't bring - dangerous/illegal items, Mp3 players, iPods, unneeded electronics, Cell phones must stay turned off during rally

Activities include:

Sessions Recreation Worship
Making "Soup in a Pouch" and
"Brownies in a Bag"

Order forms have been sent to our youth. Get your orders in by Jan. 5.

\$6.00 per pouch or bag

Chicken noodle Beef Veggie,
Brownie Raisin Cookies

Or call Rossmans' (above) or
Betsy Grant (below)

Pre-register for the rally with
Youth President Betsy Grant
at 616-745-7926

Bring Reg. Form and Medical Release to Camp

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***NYC is July 17-22, 2010
It's coming quickly!***

Winter Junior High Rally

For grades 6 thru 8

January 30-February 1,
2009

At Camp Brethren Heights

led by Wendy Russell and
Joanna Willoughby

More details are forthcoming about cost,
program and what to bring
Contact Wendy 734-426-4347 or
Joanna 616-530-9788

Do bring a sled, warm clothes,
bedding, etc. and a good snack
for Friday evening

Online registration opens January 15, '09
for the National Junior High
Conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia
June 19-21, 2009.

[http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yva/NatJrHighCo
nf.](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yva/NatJrHighConf)

1-800-323-8039 ext 281
rhouff_gb@brethren.org

Becoming Alexander Mack Jr.

On the last day of the 2007 Michigan District Conference, 2008 moderator Debbie Eisenbise was given the special district gavel and box, which is given to every year's moderator. She gave her speech about how her 300th anniversary district conference would be like no other. She talked about how she would have historical figures walking around and attending events.

I thought it would be fun to be a historical person. After the service, I went up to Debbie and asked her if she needed more people to be historical people. She was so excited that I was willing to volunteer. We discussed who I should be, and then we went to talk to my dad, and finally we decided on Alexander Mack Jr. or "Sander Mack" as he was commonly known.

Then the work began. I studied and studied. Finally, when I thought I knew every detail of Sander's life, the school year began and I forgot everything I had learned. When school ended, I had to relearn everything. At Annual Conference, my mom was talking to Frank Ramirez, and he got her a copy of his article about Sander Mack from the Messenger booth. That was helpful, because he was the speaker for all of worship services at district conference.

It took a lot of work, but it was worth it to know about church's history. Over the summer I collected a costume. I wore a wide-brimmed black hat, suspenders, black pants, and a "Mack is Back" T-shirt from Brethren Press.

When I got to district conference (in August), I went to love feast. I sat at a table as Sander Mack with people I knew. Anita Smith Buckwalter was Sarah Righter Major. When we had time for discussions, the men at my table had the most interesting things to say. I had a chance to talk about 'myself'. When love feast was nearly over I was introduced.

After that I changed out of my Sander Mack clothing and went to play foursquare with my friends. Then I had to run and change back into Sander Mack and went to worship. I gave the introduction. After speaking in front of all those people, I felt a little sick!

After worship we all went to supper. Then it was time for the business session. The rest of the junior high people went to a campfire, but I needed to get back into character to give a citation to Gary Heisler, a direct descendant of Alexander Mack. Gary was the

district conference manager for many years, and he retired at the end of conference last year. I asked the people how many of them knew that he was 'my descendant.' Only five people knew. After the citation I went to the campfire.

The next morning, I went to speak with the younger children about Sander Mack. I read them the story called "Alexander's Journey." It was written from Sander's point of view, and talked about what he was told about the original baptisms in Schwarzenau. They had great questions. After that, I was free to do whatever I wanted for the rest of the conference. I will never forget that summer. – **Zander Willoughby**

Zander Willoughby, age 12, is a 7th grader from the Hope Church of the Brethren, Freeport, Michigan.

Reprinted from "Messenger" December 2008 with permission.



"We talk about the New Testament being our creed, but we don't know the New Testament."

- Jim Hardenbrook

Interim pastor of Wakemans Grove Church of the Brethren (Edinburg, VA) and former Annual Conference moderator, speaking at the Mid-Atlantic District conference.

Jim Hardenbrook is the scheduled speaker for the
2009 Michigan District Conference
August 14-16.

**Living Hope -
for today and tomorrow**

Christian Citizenship Seminar

April 25-30, 2009 youth and advisors in the Church of the Brethren will gather in New York City (and later go on to Washington, DC) for Christian Citizenship Seminar. The focus for our seminar will be on the issue of modern-day slavery. Most of us think of slavery as an institution that does not exist anymore, but many experts estimate that there are approximately 27 million human beings who are currently being held in slavery around the world.

What would Jesus do? What does God call us to do in light of these persons forced to perform domestic and agricultural work as well as to become prostitutes or soldiers against their will? We will examine the current status of slavery today and what our Christian faith invites us to do for "the least of these."

Brochures are now available from the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office in Elgin. You may also find information by going to www.brethren.org/genbd/yya

Please pass this information on to youth in your church!

2009 Young Adult Conference

Please mark **May 29-31, 2009** for Young Adult Conference at Camp Swatara, Pennsylvania. This conference is for young adults ages 18-35.

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Peace Camp Jan. 17-19 '09
Camp Brethren Heights

Denominational News

Eddie [Edwin] Edmonds, pastor of Moler Ave. COB, Martinsburg, WV, is chair of the newly formed Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. This board merged from the former General Board and Association of Brethren Caregivers.

Jay Wittmeyer resigned as Director of the CoB Pension Plan & Employee Financial Services to become the **Executive Director of Global Mission Partnerships** for the Church of the Brethren in January 2009. Jay was at the Michigan District Conference in 2008.

Dave Ingold, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Elgin, has retired (12/31/08). Dave & Rose plan to move to their farm in Missouri.

Nancy Heishman is the new Director of Theological Education in the Dominican Republic in addition to being Mission Coordinator there. **Jerry O'Donnell** is now the Assistant to Mission Coordinators Nancy & Irvin Heishman in the DR

Donna Hillcoat is the part-time Director of Deacon Ministry in Caring Ministries for the CoB.

Jerry Rodeffer is now the Chief Financial Office of Brethren Benefit Trust. **Patrice Nightingale** is Director of Communications and BBT and **Steve Bob** will serve as Director.

Bibek Sahu has the short-term position in information technology in **Yei, Southern Sudan**. Our work there will be with Reconcile, International, a peace and reconciliation organization. Churches recently received a letter about our **Sudan Mission** from our **General Secretary Stan Noffsinger**.

Alan Bolds is now Coordinator of On-line Gifts & Development for the Church of the Brethren.

This information is from recent issues of Newline. Get Newline directly. Subscribe at CoBNews@brethren.org

Conscientious Objection: The Logic of Christ

Conscientious objector: A person who “by reason of religious training or belief” is “conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form.” According to U. S. law, no conscientious objector can be required to kill or be trained to kill in the military.
www.centeronconscience.org

While being against war is only a part of Christian peacemaking, it is a foundational belief of a **living peace church**. Conscientious objection is a main way that Christ-following pacifists depart from the logic of the world around us.

Many, Christians and otherwise, believe that a threat to the country requires a violent response to eliminate the enemy, and that God blesses this aggression. Those who choose to follow Christ fully are tuned to a different logic, which encourages nonviolent response and sacrificial love. This peculiar logic of love is based upon the recognition of the image of God in each person, friend or foe. These Christians give allegiance to the Christ who refused to rain down fire on a village that turned his group away. (Luke 9:51-56).

Of course, conscientious objectors also object to many other tangling kinds of violence. But commitment to the nonkilling love of Jesus becomes a pledge which represents all the rest.

Will you stand up and be counted as a conscientious objector?

-Matt Guynn, Fall 2008
Program Coordinator for Peace Witness
On Earth Peace, a Program of the
Church of the Brethren

For another view of a living peace witness read the book “Three Cups of Tea”

By **Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin**
You probably already have read this. I hope so.

Bits and Pieces

Mileage Rates for 2009, set by the IRS, are 55 ¢ for business miles (pastors qualify) 24 ¢ for medical and moving, and still only the 14 ¢ a mile for volunteers in charitable organizations

One doesn't have to pay these amount, but anything over this rate is counted as income.

Aaron Hubble, a member of the New Life Christian Fellowship, has published the book “Henry, the Stuttering Hero”. It was released November 11, 2008
info at: aaronhubble@yahoo.com

Housing at Annual Conference in San Diego in the conference complex will be about \$132 a night for single/double and \$142 a night for triple/quadruple
Parking will be \$5 a day. June 26-30, 2009

John & Joanna Willoughby brought home a baby girl on November 4, 2008.

Ernest Leckrone, 100, former member at Marilla died November 24, in Martinsburg, PA.

Craig Gandy is teaching “The Theology of the Apostle Paul” on-line January 12-March 6 for Bethany Theological Seminary.

The course “The Churches Ministry with Children” is taught by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich Feb. 2- March 27.

After a long and unfinished road to recovery from an accident that caused a closed head injury, Robert Bertrand (father of Woodgrove pastor Randall) said **“After God calms the storm we still have a lot of rowing to do.”**

The Zion church has/had some 1992 blue **“The Hymnal”** to share. 18 are free gifts, but 15 will have a price. Contact Kevin Switzer if interested.
989-343-1069 switzer.kevin@yahoo.com

Among many **new email addresses** please use:
Mary Gault gaultmary20@gmail.com
Brian Rise brian@muchofgod.com
Brenda King juniorbrenda4Jesus@embarqmail.com
Tara Wise tara@imagineelv.com

Make sure the District Office has correct contact information from you. Cell phone #s are welcome, too.
The 2009 District Directory will be printed in January.



A note from Don Leaf:

At the Friday District Board, Nov. 7, I was asked to obtain a contact person and telephone number for **medical insurance providers**. This information was for churches and the District

The Centennial Group, centennial employee benefits section, is still providing a referral services for any organization seeking medical insurance for their employee(s). They prefer providing policy information for more than one person but they will provide services for only one.

Chuck Stickney is the contact.
Telephone 1-800-606-0062 ext. 202.



2009 Michigan District Calendar **Church of the Brethren**

Many other events will be added throughout the year.

January 3 **Vision & Restructuring Comm.** Camp
10 **Camp Board** meeting at Camp;
9-11 **Sr Hi Rally** Camp
17-19 **Peace & Justice** Young Adult Camp
24-28- Winter Council of District Executives meeting
-Florida
30-31 – **District Board**, at Midland Church of the
Brethren
Jan 30-Feb. 1 – **Junior Youth Rally** at Camp

February 1 **CoB Service Sunday Micah 6:8**
6-7 – **Winter Family Retreat** at Camp
for all ages
14 – Marie's last day as District Executive

March

14-16 – Mission & Ministry meetings, New Windsor

April

Sr Hi Rally, as planned

5 – Palm Sunday **12 – EASTER**

18/19 – **Camp Board** meeting & **staff training**,
at Camp

April 24-25 – **District Board** meeting Camp

April 25 – District Wide Annual Conf.
Briefing/Meet Moderator,
Camp Brethren Heights

25-30 – **Christian Citizenship Seminar**, NYC &
Washington DC

24-27 – **Cross Cultural Celebration** and
Consultation, Miami FL

May – **Camp work** days May 8-9, June 4-5-6
16– **Open House** at Camp Brethren Heights
and Long Term Planning session – open to all
May 23-25 **National Young Adult Conference**,
Camp Swatara PA

June - 6 – **Camp Board** meeting, at camp

14-20 – **Camp 100** Dean –

19-21- **National Jr Hi Conference**,

Harrisonburg, Virginia

21-23 – **Sampler Camp** (Sun-Tue) Dean –

June 26-30 2009 Annual Conference,
San Diego, California

July 9-11 – **Family Camp** – Dean –

12-18 – **Camp 89** Dean –

19-25 – **Camp 67** Dean – Becky Phillips

26-Aug 1 – **Camp 45** – Dean – Wendy Russell

August 2009

14-16 DISTRICT CONFERENCE,

Bill Sumner, Moderator

Jim Hardenbrook, Speaker

September 7-11 **NOAC**, Lake Junaluska,
North Carolina

Camp Work Days _ _ _ – all welcome!

October

3 **Camp Board** at Camp

17-19 **Mission & Ministry Board**, Elgin

November

6-7 District Board meets at Camp

Remember to **clear dates with the District Office** before scheduling any District Event

A BIG 'Thank You' to
Judy Hamilton, Lakeview CoB
for her consistent help in
preparing the newsletter for
mailing

**Church of the Brethren
Service Sunday –
February 1, 2009**

**Micah 6:8 “Do justice,
Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God”**

How will your congregation observe this day?

BOUND TOGETHER

Finely Woven

Online registration begins January 5, 2009
for the 2009

Church of the Brethren

National Workcamps

Congregations have received fliers.
Help your Jr and Sr Hi youth attend.

www.brethrenworkcamps.org

Inside:

- 1 – Bringing Justice & Beauty Together in Ministry
 - 2 – New members, Achievements
 - 3 – Peace Camp, Jan 17-19; Family Camp Feb.
 - 4 – Modern Day Slavery – what to do
 - 5 – Citizenship Seminar, Young Adult news; Denominational News
 - 6 – Becoming Alexander Mack, Jr
 - 7 – Sr Hi & Jr Hi Winter Rallies, National Youth Conferences
 - 8 – Conscientious Objection – The Logic of Christ; Bits and Pieces
 - 9 – District Calendar; insurance info
- Insert – Epiphany Greetings from District Staff