

Church of the Brethren
Michigan District Office
P O Box 47
Kaleva MI 49645

Mailed February 16, 2007

**Your Invitation to More information inside
Brethren Beliefs and Blessing Day – March 17, 2007
9:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. at Camp Brethren Heights**

National Youth Christian Citizenship Seminar – March 24-29 07
New York City & Washington, D C register by Feb. 28

Order a number of the **300th Anniversary Devotional Books**
The price goes up on March 15.

District Junior High Rally – April 20-22
At the Flint Church of the Brethren

District Senior High Rally – April 13-15
At the Zion Church of the Brethren

Annual Conference Briefing/Meet the Moderator – May 5

Camp Open House – May 19, 2007

CoB Connection
February – March 2007

Marie Willoughby
District Executive

231-362-2456

Michigan District
Church of the Brethren

Ordination to Ministry

“Throughout the centuries, God has called men and women to special responsibilities within the life of the church. The Church of the Brethren believes that ministry is the task of every baptized member of the church. The Brethren also call out persons whose gifts are especially helpful to members of the congregation in carrying out their mission. Those called to such leadership need to be serious in study, diligent in prayer, and purposeful in style of life. Persons ordained need the approval and constant prayers of the church.

“The Michigan District and the New Life Christian Fellowship – a Church of the Brethren- have full confidence in the Christian faith and demonstrated gifts for ministry of **Nathan Polzin** and **Brian Mackie**. Therefore, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the body of believers gathered at Mt. Pleasant on Sunday morning, **February 11, 2007**, to ordain these young men to the set-apart ministry within the church.”*

Nate is now the lead pastor in the new church plant at Saginaw Valley. *Brian* is leader of Standing in the Gap at Central Michigan University, and Associate Pastor at New Life Christian Fellowship.

* For All Who Minister © 1993

**All Adults and Youth are Welcome
at the Brethren Beliefs and
Blessing Day on March 17,
2007, at Camp Brethren Hghts**

Gather at 9:30 a.m. Cost \$6 each
Bring a sack lunch that needs
no extra preparation time;
your Bible and a friend

Activities will include:
Knee to knee Bible Study & Discussion
Audio/visual Presentations
Singing/Reading Hymns by Brethren
Readers Theater
Blessings around the table

Adjournment about 3:40 p.m.

Call or email the District Office by
March 15 to report you are coming.

231-362-2456
mariewilloughby@yahoo.com

Order before March 15 and save 40%

"Fresh From the Word"

Daily Devotions

for the 300th Anniversary of
the Church of the Brethren

Individual price \$20

Prepublication price \$15

Groups of 10 or more **\$12 before**

March 15, 2007.

Brethren Press 1-800-441-3712

Publication date is July 1, 2007

366 Devotions for January-December 2008

**Other Helpful Resources
and Good Reading**

"The Brethren During the Age of World War"

The Church of the Brethren Encounter with Modern-
ization, 1914-1950 by Stephen L Longenecker.
Order from BrethrenPress.com 800-441-3712

"Shalom: Christ's Way of Peace" from

On Earth Peace 410-635-8704

The Hebrew word shalom conveys a rich
vision far beyond the word peace. It includes
health, wholeness, right relations, justice, and
peace. A practical guide to the scriptural roots
of reconciliation and peacemaking, the 32 page
book costs only \$2 each plus shipping/handling.

Also from On Earth Peace is the new DVD

"Food and Clothing - Cattle and Love"

Brethren Service after WWII. \$10 +s/h

www.brethren.org/oepa/resources/everyone/

Let us take this seriously!

God said of Abraham in Gen. 18:19

*"I have chosen him, so that he will direct
his children and his household after him to
keep the way of the LORD by doing what is
right and just....."*

In the February 2007 Onekama
"Weavings", Elaine Foster writes: One of
the ways we as parents and grandparents
can direct our children in God's way is to
read the bible to them and talk to them of
Jesus in teachable moments. We are also
privileged to have a church and Sunday
School to assist with the teaching.

We.. realized that we needed other adults
(not just ourselves) in our children's
lives.... What they learn in the media, at
school, and from peers most of the time
does not encourage them to choose God's
way. We felt like it was important to be
consistent in church and Sunday School
every Sunday unless they were sick or
visiting another church.

Every week I study and get excited about
the lessons I am to teach (grades 3-5).
Lately I've been wondering if this is
important to anyone but me! [Too often]
NO children come to my class. God wants
us, as parents, to be like Abraham and
direct our children to keep the way of
Christ by doing what is right and just so
God can bring about his promises in their
lives and ours! Let us take this seriously!

"On the Way"

2007 Summer Camp

Themes:

1: Blessed on the Way

Abraham and Sarah

2: Led on the Way

Pillars of Cloud and Fire

3: Walking Together on
the Way Ruth and Naomi

4: Challenged on the Way

Jesus' Baptism

5: Rejoicing on the Way

Peter, John and the Lame Man

6: Sent on the Way

The Great Commission

June 17-23 Camp 100

June 24-26 Sampler Camp

July 6-7 Under Sixers

July 8-14 Camp 89

July 15-21 Camp 67

July 22-28 Camp 45

Camps allow for both entering or leaving
the grade level for which they are numbered

August 17-18 Jam Camp

Pick fruit and make & can jam

December 7-8 Cookie &

Candy Camp Make them

Revelation 7:9 Art Contest Sponsored by the Intercultural Study Committee

The Intercultural Study Committee invites you to participate in our Revelation 7:9 Art Contest! Entries are welcome from all age groups, and congregations are urged to encourage participation from their membership. Guidelines:

- One entry per artist.
- Entries should represent the artist's understanding of Revelation 7:9. (See below.)
- All entries must be flat on an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper.
- Any media may be used (i.e., crayons, markers, oils, graphics images, photography, etc.).
- On the back of the entry, please clearly print (or firmly attach a sticker that includes):
 1. Artist's name
 2. Congregation name and address
 3. Age group, using these categories:
 - ⌚ Young child (8 and under)
 - ⌚ Older child (9 to 12)
 - ⌚ Teenager/youth (13 to 18, in high school)
 - ⌚ Adult (College-age and older)

Deadline: Entries must be received by Friday, April 6, 2007 to:
Asha Solanky
Attn: Art Contest
8209 Franconia Rd.
Richmond, VA 23227

Judges will award a prize to the winner of each age group. All of the artwork, including the winning entries, will be displayed in the Intercultural Study Committee's booth at the 2007 Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio (July 1-5, 2007).

*"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands."
~Revelation 7:9*

Essay Contest Sponsored by the Peace Studies Program of Bethany Theological Seminary

What story will a Peace Church tell the world?

First prize: \$2,500. Second prize: \$1,000.
See ad on page 23 of "Messenger" Feb. 07
Or contact the district office.

From the 300th Anniversary Annual Conf. Comm.

Speech Contest Opportunity for Youth

We are encouraging districts to hold youth speech contests. Possible themes for speech contests include: "I'm Brethren because...." or "My hopes for the Church of the Brethren as we move into our fourth century are...". Use of the anniversary theme (Surrendered to God, Transformed in Christ, Empowered by the Spirit) would also provide a good focus for speeches. The winning speeches could then be shared at district conference or at a district-wide anniversary celebration.

GREETINGS

Greetings from Hopeful Prairie, heartland of the Church of the Brethren. Hopeful Prairie, where 85% of the congregations see 90 persons or less on Sunday morning!

The small membership congregation is at the center of what it means to be "Brethren." The small membership congregation is not a deficit rather it is the asset that calls persons to ministry no matter what chronological age they may be. First career persons, second and third career persons are anointed in the middle of a church needing and creating leadership for the age to come.

Our God does great things with any size group. Remember, Jesus was the leader of a small membership group. Out of the group, we have been given the church we love; the ministries we know will announce and continue the work of Jesus. A group where two or more are gathered in the name of Christ will be the instrument through which God

creates the Good News of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

All God wants us to do is to continue the work of Jesus. We are to do it with great confidence. We are to do it simply so that the whole world hears the Good News and is affected. We are to do it peacefully so that all know that salvation can be trusted. We are to do it together so that we, the whole Body of Christ, can do more than we can do individually.

From Hopeful Prairie, the recommendation comes for a book that will bless you and the people around you. Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power is that book. Authored by: N Graham Standish, published by: The Alban Press, this book is a must read for the small membership congregation and her leadership.

Shalom!

Submitted

May 4, 5, 11, 12, 2007

Christian Mediation and Conciliation (30 hours)

Leaders: Janet Mitchell, Attorney-mediator and MoR Practitioner, and Annie Clark, MoR Coordinator
Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend , Indiana

Are you a natural peacemaker? Have you been searching for a way to help people work through their differences? The Ministry of Reconciliation of On Earth Peace has a workshop for you. Join us Friday/Saturday for two weekends in May for a refreshing, Biblical approach to interpersonal peacemaking. Learn effective communication skills, conflict theory, how to understand and work with style differences in communication so all can be their best, and mediation skills. This is an introductory level mediation course.

Schedule: Fridays, May 4 and 11, 9 am to 9 pm (with breaks), Saturdays, May 5 and 12, 9 am to 4 pm.

Cost: \$200 per person, including materials, or 3 or more individuals from one congregation/non-profit organization for \$500.

Continuing Education Units are available to Church of the Brethren ministers.

To register, send name, contact info and number of participants to Annie Clark at aclark_oepa@brethren.org. Registration deadline is April 10, 2007.

NEWS FROM MANCHESTER COLLEGE

our Church of the Brethren college in North Manchester, IN

“Manchester is the only college in the United States to hold permanent status with the United Nations, as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). This status gives Manchester College representatives access to U.N. proceedings and, with permission, opportunity to actively debate issues on the floor of the U.N. General Assembly.”

EIGHT members of the Manchester College Faculty are tapped for “*Who’s Who Among American Teachers*”. Only 15% of teachers of higher education are tapped for publication.

Regional Youth Conference for High School students is April 28-29, 2007. This is a great opportunity to visit the Manchester College campus. Watch for the fliers.

National Young Adult Conference

May 26-28, 2007 Camp Harmony
Western Pennsylvania.

Call 1-800-323-8039, Chris Douglas for info

NEWS and NOTES

Elizabethtown College (PA) has announced the appointment of **Dr. Jeffrey A Bach** as the **Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist & Pietist Studies** beginning August 1, 2007.

Dr. Bach is currently associate professor of Brethren and Historical Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary. He has authored numerous articles and reviews for “Brethren Life and Thought” and is an authority on the Ephrata Cloister [PA].

Prior to his appointment as professor at Bethany, Jeff served as a pastor in Iowa and a schoolteacher in Kansas.

Preliminary work on an active **website** for the Michigan District is underway. *Jake Davis*, New Life Christian Fellowship, is serving as webmaster.

Our new District Treasurer is

Deidre Robison, Manistee. Deidre, a member at Onekama, is also registrar for the Manistee County Probate Court.

Marilyn Eccles, Kalamazoo, has returned to serve as Treasurer for the Camp Board. Marilyn is retired, and a member at Skyridge.

PLEASE CONTINUE to **send all funds** for the District and the Camp to our Financial Secretary *Lee Long*, 408 2nd St, Breckenridge MI 48615-9544

Roy and Tara Herrold Wise announce the **birth** of a third son, *Ryan Andrew*, on January 26, 2007. Congratulations!

Our sympathy to *Don Flint* and family on the death of his brother, Austin, on January 21, 2007. Don & Nancy drove to Texas to conduct the funeral service.

The district Commission on Nurture is preparing **Prayer Cards** to assist us in our prayers for the new church plant in the *Saginaw Valley*. *Nathan Polzin* is the lead pastor of “**The Church in Drive**”.

The Nurture Commission also hopes to assist every adult who travels with Michigan youth to the first **National Junior High Conference** at Elizabethtown College, June 15-17, 2007.

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Sound advice – seen somewhere:

**“Lower your hemline  
Raise your neckline”**

## “Together – Conversations on Being the Church”

Some of our congregations have had ‘wonderful success’ with this process of sharing what it means to be the church.

**It’s not too late** for the rest of us to enter the process. There may even be Study Guides and DVDs that you could borrow or buy from another group.

Some have used each of the six sessions in successive weeks in Sunday School, or evening discussions. Some have used 2 sessions (90 minutes) after worship (and a bowl of soup) for 3 weeks; at least one church has done it in One Day (5-6 hours). Some have used local leaders and others have persons outside the congregation facilitate the conversation. It’s been good, all around.

Contact our District Facilitator, Gary Copenhaver, at 734-981-6023 (home) [bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com](mailto:bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com), or the District Office, to help you move forward. The goal is to have all congregations in the Church of the Brethren participate.

And the conversation will continue.

Contact the District Office if you are interested in a European tour for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Notes

The District Office has received a sample **calendar** for the 16 month anniversary ‘year’. It’s not too late to place your order. It will now cost \$4 each for sets of 50, or \$5 each for fewer than 50. Sept 07-Dec 08 Contact the Annual Conference office at [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org)

**Curriculum** Available in May 2007

### “Piecing Together the Brethren Way”

Designed for children, but fun for all. 14 sessions that can be used in Sunday School, after-school programs, day camp, inter-generational events. Check the anniversary website or write [rpgingrich@yahoo.com](mailto:rpgingrich@yahoo.com)

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

**It was in February**

**that the first Conscientious**

**Objectors of WWII started**

**arriving in Civilian**

**Public Service Camps.**

## F Y I

### Membership numbers as of

1/1/2007

*Some stats for 2006 have not yet arrived.*

[1-1- 2007 figures] [1-1-2006 figures]

[Ave worship/ SS att. ‘06]

|                    |     |            |
|--------------------|-----|------------|
| Woodgrove (dual)   | 123 | [60 / 28]  |
| New Haven          | 121 | [111 / 50] |
| Onkama             | 114 | [60 / 15]  |
| Drayton Plains     | 100 | [74 / 54]  |
| Beaverton          | 111 | [60 / ]    |
| New Life           | 107 | [ / ]      |
| Hope               | 98  | [59 / 44]  |
| K-zoo Skyridge     | 69  | [51 / 30]  |
| Lakeview           | 64  | [51 / 7]   |
| Det. Trinity       | 64  | [40 / 28]  |
| Marilla            | 47  | [32 / 8]   |
| Lansing            | 47  | [ / ]      |
| Zion               | 46  | [ / ]      |
| Crystal            | 42  | [35 / 10]  |
| Shalom – CoB[dual] | 42  | [70 / 30]  |
| Sugar Ridge        | 42  | [38 / 18]  |
| Midland            | 37  | [45 / ]    |
| Flint              | 31  | [ / ]      |
| Muskegon           | 27  | [28 / 7]   |

**Young Adult Conf. May 26-28**

## Disaster Response News

Each local contact for Disaster Response has received a letter from *Tom Burr* our District Coordinator. **MICHIGAN WEEK** at McComb, Mississippi, is **MAY 6-12**.

Work includes removal and replacement of interior walls, ceiling and floors – still in Katrina recovery. Get in on the action. It’s a wonderful experience to participate.

The District Office gets information of Position Postings, Seminars, Personnel Changes, Seminary Classes, Learning Tours, etc.

If you are interested in these things contact the Office and they will be sent to you.

Keep informed by reading Newsline at <http://listserver.emountain.net/mailman/listinfo/newsline>