

June-July 2007

**"CoB Connection" Michigan District
Church of the Brethren**

Love Feast in the afternoon!

Friday, August 10, 2007

Michigan District Conference

Everyone is encouraged to come for this
2:30 - 4:00 special event.

Worship in the afternoon!

**Yes - the 2007 District Conference
has several new times for things,
so take note!**

Opening Worship starts at 4:15 p.m.

Speaker - Pastor Tim Harvey

Business in the evening!

So that the same people can serve as delegates
on both Friday and Saturday, business sessions
will begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday.

The full schedule is inside.

Pastor/Spouse Lunch Friday 11:45 a.m.

August 10 - District Conference grounds

CHURCH'S DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAMS ARE RENAMED

May 7, 2007 (Elgin, Ill.) -- New names have been chosen for three disaster response programs of the Church of the Brethren General Board: Emergency Response, Disaster Child Care, and Service Ministries.

--"**Brethren Disaster Ministries**" is the new name for the Emergency Response program that encompasses the Brethren Disaster Response rebuilding ministry.

--Disaster Child Care is being renamed "**Children's Disaster Services.**"

--Service Ministries is returning to a former name, "**Material Resources.**"

The names have not readily identified the programs as Brethren, and have not accurately identified what the programs do, staff said. The new names more adequately reflect the identity and mission of the church's disaster response work.

Slight modifications are being made to the logos of the programs, as well. The new names and logos will be displayed at the 2007 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.

---Newline

Michigan Week at McComb, Mississippi Disaster Response, May 6-12, 2007

Those who represented us in this valuable ministry are: *Ken Good, Al & Leona Good, and Brenda King* from Zion; *Bob & Becky Phillips, Bob Schnepf & Sherm Fassett* from Beaverton; and *Jiggs & Violet Miller, Don Vanas, and Tom Burnell* from Hope. Thanks to all!

To respond to disasters contact our District Coordinator: Tom Burr at 989-682-4266
ltburr@eztechinternet.com

2007 NATIONAL WORKCAMPS Church of the Brethren

There are 35 workcamps happening this summer for our youth, with three of them Intergenerational

Michigan youth and adults who are serving are *Heather Popielarz*, Zion, in St. Croix, July 23-29 And this long list are going to the Intergenerational Workcamp in Ashland, OH July 30-Aug. 5 *Amanda Thomas, Marilla; Zack Cameron*, South Boardman; *Danae Rossman, Nicole Ruth, Latisha Misenhelder, Heather Strong, Devon Rossman, Tyler Shook, Bert Strong, Emily Mills, Kaitlyn Ruth, Brooklyn Misenhelder, Loris Misenhelder, Dan Rossman and Denise Rossman*, all from the New Haven congregation.

Let us uphold these youth, advisors, and their work in our daily prayers.

Lowey Dickason, Skyridge congregation, went to Palestine with a **Christian Peacemaker Team** delegation in May.

Katherine Allen, Woodgrove, and *Anna Emrick*, Lansing, are doing accounting work in the Church of the Brethren General Offices, Elgin, IL, this summer through the denominations **Ministry Summer Service.**

BRING A SPECIAL GIFT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Church World Service School Kits and Baby Kits and Church of the Brethren Clinic Boxes are in great need and will be collected at Annual Conference at the Service Ministries booth For kit guidelines see

www.churchworldservice.org/kits/index.html
Please send shipping money for kits directly to CWS
P O Box 968, Elkhart IN 46515-0968 \$2 per kit

1st National Jr Hi Conference
Elizabethtown College ((PA)
June 15-17, 2007

13 youth and adults from 3 of our Michigan congregations have registered for this great opportunity. They are:

Kalamazoo Skyridge:

Joshua Moats, Olivia Lyszyk, Josh Null, and Jen Clyde;

Lakeview (in Brethren)

Tommy Garces, Mark Garces, Jordan Wilks, Brittany Plamp, and Willie Yeppez

Onekama:

Samantha Briggs, Alex Barto, Cathy Briggs, and Terri Barto. Also Sierra Warner

Leadership at the Conference includes preacher Tony Campolo and musician Ken Medema.

Thanks to our District Nurture Commission for financial assistance to the adults attending.

HEATHER POPIELARZ NAMED TO NATIONAL YOUTH CABINET of the Church of the Brethren

Heather, of the Zion congregation, graduated from high school on May 22, 2007. She plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University next year to study Art and Business. Heather is currently President of the Michigan District Youth Cabinet.

Orientation for the new Church of the Brethren National Youth Cabinet is August 1-3.

Heather is the daughter of and Becky Good Popielarz, and the granddaughter of Brenda (George Good) & Junior King. She is making her third trip to St. Croix for summer work camp this year, and she has served in various ways at Camp Brethren Heights. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Alison Fletcher, Detroit Trinity, is going to China June 26-July 12, 2007, with the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

Julia Hammond has a new email address: julialorah@hotmail.com

Alison and Julia are our **Youth Heritage Team** for the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. They are expecting you to invite them to your church, or sectional, for a program or a lesson during the next year. Arrangements will be made through the District Office.

Maundy Thursday, when most of us are attending Love Feast in our home congregations, was on April 5 this year. Because that evening was part of the Easter weekend break, the Brethren students at **Manchester College (IN)** held a **Love Feast at Midnight** on April 4/5 for all who would come.

Michigan COB students at Manchester include *Ben Harvey, Colleen Hamilton, Katherine Allen and Anna Emrick*. Pray for these young people.

ADDRESS CHANGES for your Directory

Dan McRoberts
6677 Mill Run Dr SW
Caledonia MI 49316

Joy Struble
Ryan Hedstrom
35 Deerfield Lane
Middlebury VT
05753

Nathan Polzin
2841 Davenport Ave
Saginaw MI 48602-3737

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

OUR SYMPATHY

To the family of
Ray Wieland, 83, Hastings (Hope church)
who died on May 4, 2007. Ray served the
Michigan District as Financial Secretary for many
years, retiring from that position in 2003.

To the family of
Phil Eikenberry, 64, Scottville (Sugar Ridge
church), who died suddenly on May 11.
Phil was district Moderator in 1991 and served
several terms on the Rau Farm Trustees.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ken and Charleen Thompson (Hope) on their
60th anniversary, May 25, 2007.

Going Beyond - - - -

Carol Scheppard, associate professor of
philosophy and religion, has been appointed vice
president and dean for academic affairs at
Bridgewater College (VA) July 1. She is a
member of Lebanon CoB and an ordained CoB
minister. She is a member of the Bethany
Seminary board of trustees where she is the chair
of the presidential search committee.

Thanks to 10 of our congregations for keeping
denominational connections with support to **On
Earth Peace during 2006: *Flint First; First
Lansing; Hope; Marilla; Midland; Muskegon;
Onekama; Shalom; Skyridge; and Trinity.***

Also 10 'families' gave individual gifts (most of
them from the above congregations). AND
offerings were given from Camp Brethren Heights
during 2006 with the theme "***Peace Talks***"

Staff changes for On Earth Peace
As of May 1, Barb Saylor is serving half-time as
Coordinator of Communications. Bob Gross is
now working solo as Director of OEP
(Barb was a Co-Director).

No pre-registration needed. Just go!

Service Evangelism*

What is a simple and effective of
sharing our faith in our communities
that has worked in such diverse
locations as Anderson, Indiana;
Quinter, Kansas and Kansas City?

When: Saturday, June 9
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Where: Heatherdowns Church of the
Brethren
3510 Schneider Road
Toledo, OH

This workshop is open to churches in
Northern Ohio and Michigan. It will
provide practical skills for doing
effective evangelism that can be used
back home in a variety of community
settings.

The event will include:

Worship
Bible Study
Overview about Service Evangelism
Real life stories and experiences
**An opportunity to practice—real time
experience**
Sharing about our experiences
Prayer

Who: Duane Grady will be the leader.
Duane is a member of the
Congregational Life Team for the
Church of the Brethren General Board
and is an experienced Service
Evangelism practitioner.

For more information call: 419-385-
2971

***Also called Servant Evangelism**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Contact the District Office or the Church of the Brethren General Offices, Elgin, IL if you are interested in applying for

Marketing and Promotions Assistant for Brethren Benefit Trust, Elgin. IL

Executive Staff Position at the Palms Estate, Sebring, FL. Due June 15, 2007

Teaching Position in Bible and Theology at the Kulp Bible College in Nigeria, Africa. June 15

Associate Director of Children's Disaster Services, New Windsor, MD. Due July 15, 2007

300th ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE TOURS

A number of opportunities for tours are available. Check the Anniversary website or contact the District Office.

Historic SAUR BIBLE

Last summer a number of our churches were blessed with the Saur Bible tour. Each church has received a DVD with the story of the Saur Bible that accompanied the Bible.

Plan for a time, or more, for your congregation to view this DVD and encourage faithful reading of the scriptures as part of our 'heritage celebration'.

Get acquainted with this period of our church history, and create a spirit of unity with the past, the present, the future, and with each other.

News from Camp

Late in May, we had our **annual fire inspection** performed. We have always passed with flying colors in the past, so it was much to our surprise that we were given **a long list of things that need to be changed** to be brought into compliance! These changes all need to be made before camp begins on June 17. This is not a lot of time, in a time of year that is already very demanding. If you have some time to give, please call Andrew at (231) 867-3618, and ask how you can help!

Camp Open House

May 19, 2007

God gave us a beautiful day for Camp open house. Brenda King, with help from others, served subs and hot dogs to 44 people, about 31 adults and 13 children. Linda Wise brought stuff to make Ruben sandwiches and had help from Darlene Smith and Cindy and Arlette Tart to put these together. They were a big hit for many people.

It was nice because there were a *lot* more kids this year. They were everywhere you looked. So if next year we can have as many kids but get back to previous years' total attendance, we'll be sitting pretty! The children enjoyed games in the ping-pong room under the direction of Nancy Hammond-Chaffin.

Several people bemoaned Don's absence in the basket auction. ;) We actually have two baskets that did not sell that will be stored and used in the district camp auction.

Janis Pyle's presentation on Sudan was interesting and well-received. I know that it sparked a number of conversations throughout the rest of the day

The bake sale looked very good. The ladies, and a few men, worked hard to make this a success. It was held in the women's dorm and seemed to do well there.

We can be thankful for the all people who came and enjoyed Beth DuBois' Heritage Trail. She said it could be something we can do during camping season in 2008, adapting it to each grade level.

The total income for camp open house was \$1145. \$47.50 was from games \$195 was from meals the rest was from baskets, bake sale, and donations
---From email reports by Brenda King & Jennifer Crispin

**221st Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
2007 Ballot Cleveland, Ohio June30-July 4**

**Business Items for the 2007
Annual Conference in Cleveland OH
Belita Mitchell, Moderator**

Unfinished Business

- 1. Query: Doing Church Business**
- 2. Query: Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church**
- 3. Brethren Medical Plan Resolution**
- 4. The Review and Evaluation Committee
A New Mandate**

New Business

- 1. Query: Child Abuse Prevention
From the Michigan District**
- 2. Query: Annual Conference Schedule**
- 3. Query: Reverse Membership Trend**
- 4. Update to Annual Conference Polity**
- 5. Recommendation Regarding Christian
Churches Together**

Song and Story Fest focuses on eco-justice

The annual intergenerational camp co-sponsored by One Earth Peace will be at Inspiration Hills, Burbank OH from June 24-30, 2007. This pre-Annual Conference event includes a number of Brethren speakers, story-tellers and musicians. Registration & meals are based on age. Information and Register at www.brethren.org/oepa/programs/special/song-story-fest/index.html.

MODERATOR-ELECT

Jeff Neuman-Lee
David K Shumate

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Fred W Swartz

Diane (Newcomer) Mason

PROGRAM & ARRANGEMENTS COMM.

R Jan Thompson

Sarah B Steel

ASSOC. OF BRETHREN CAREGIVERS

J Colleen Michael

John Katonah

ON EARTH PEACE ASSEMBLY BOARD

Susan Chapman

Linda K Williams

BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST BOARD

Deborah E Romary

Willie Hisey Pierson

GENERAL BOARD, AT LARGE

Laura Guthrie

Terrell Lewis

COMM. ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

James O Eikenberry

Melissa Bennett

PASTORAL COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Peter C Kaltenbaugh, Jr.

Lucinda Barnum-Steggerda

BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-

TRUSTEE – COLLEGES

Carol A Scheppard

Celia Cook-Huffman

BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-

TRUSTEE – CLERGY

Lisa L Hazen

William A Waugh

GENERAL BOARD – DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVE - affirmed

**Frances Townsend, Michigan
and others**

300th Anniversary

of the Church of the Brethren

The Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren is beginning to work on two projects celebrating the 300th anniversary:

^ Each congregation is requested to bring to this year's Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, one yard of 100 percent cotton print fabric, for a special quilt to be designed and constructed for display at the 2008 Annual Conference.

Congregational representatives should drop off fabric pieces at the Association for the Arts booth.

^ in a second anniversary project, artists are invited to create a three-dimensional art piece, painting, fiber art, or photograph that captures elements of the 300th anniversary logo

(www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org)

A selection committee will choose 12-15 pieces to show at the 2008 Anniversary Conference exhibit in Richmond, VA.

Artists should send or bring a concept description rough drawing, or completed art piece along with another sample of their art work to the Association for the Arts booth at the 2007 Annual Conference; or send by mail to Don and Joyce Parker, 1293 Laurel Dr, West Salem, OH 44287

Persons from **Michigan** servings as **delegates** to the 2007 Annual Conference include:

Bob Phillips, Beaverton; *Don Flint*, Flint; *Jeannie Kauffman*, Hope; *Carie Gross*, Kalamazoo Skyridge; *Beverly Gardner*, Lakeview; *Joe Wave*, Marilla; *Art Smith*, Midland; *Karen Ruth*, New Haven; *Frank Polzin*, New Life; *Kathy Graham*, Onekama; and *Roxanne Cross*, Shalom.

There are a number of others also going to Conference. They may be willing to carry the fabric and art work for those unable to attend.

CELEBRATION AT GERMANTOWN September 15-16, 2007

This is the opening event for the 300th anniversary year led by the Annual Conference Committee. On 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 invites interested persons to a hymn sing Saturday evening. *Sandford Christopel*, the Coventry pastor, will also be sharing some of the history of this very early congregation.

The Germantown congregation will lead Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m. and a special celebratory worship is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. *Earl Ziegler* will preach in the morning, with music by members at Germantown. *Belita Mitchell* is the preacher in the afternoon.

Everyone is invited for these inspirational and enjoyable events. Car pooling will be helpful as parking is limited. Pre-registration is being requested. Forms will be part of the summer issue of the 300th Anniversary newsletter, as well as being placed in the Annual Conference delegate packets.

National Conference on Brethren Heritage
October 11-13, 2007 Young Center
Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA
Theme: "Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future:
300 Years of Brethren Heritage"

The Saturday, Oct. 13, Love Feast will be led by Jeff Bach at the Bucher Meetinghouse, by reservation.
Contact: www.etown.edu/youngctr or call 717-361-1470

FOOD AND CLOTHING, CATTLE AND LOVE - a DVD

If you don't have your own copy of this telling of an example of the church at its best, order it now from On Earth Peace, P O Box 188, New Windsor MD 21776-0188 410-635-8704
oepa_oepa@brethren.org [use an underline]

The work of Brethren Service in Europe after the destruction of World War II is told using photos, film footage and interviews with those who served.

DVD \$10 + \$3 shipping VHS \$15 + \$3 shipping

As You Can See

there was just too much to say this time to use the other format for the "CoB Connection".

I was using up a carton of 11" x 14" paper and got several comments of appreciation for that size for the newsletter. However, that paper will not last much longer, and there is a good supply of this 8 1/2" x 11" size on the shelves.

Please keep this issue for future reference as much of the information is needed for some time. Thanks.

Preliminary Ballot for the Michigan District Conference August 10-12, 2007

MODERATOR-ELECT

Christina Campbell

DISTRICT CONFERENCE CLERK

Roya Stern

PROGRAM & ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Lori Waas

MEEB [Michigan Equity & Endowment Board]

Ken Good

DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARY

Frances Townsend

NURTURE COMMISSION

Janice Thomas

MINISTRY COMMISSION

Winnie Toledo

STEWARDS COMMISSION

Bob Phillips

WITNESS COMMISSION

Bob Schnepf

with affirmations for the Camp Board,
The Shalom Team and the
Nominating and Personnel Committee

Many thanks

To *Dan and Dawn (Campbell) Harrison*,
Onekama, for the gift of a pick-up truck for Camp.

To *Tiffany Herrold*, Lansing, who will become the District Treasurer this summer. And to *Lee Long* who did another interim term this Spring.

To the Child Protection Policy Task Team of *Bill Sumner, Jenny Leaf, John Glasscock, Tim Smith, Ineke Way, and Anne Seuss* whose work was accepted by the District Board. This team has been disbanded with thanks. A new team will be named by the District Board to take us to the next steps toward implementation at all district level activities.

To Hope Church for hosting the "Meet the Moderator" event on May 5. *Belita Mitchell*, pastor at Harrisburg, PA, and Annual Conference moderator 2007, shared experiences and business items.

In 2008 the **Annual Conference Briefing/Meet the Moderator** will be at Camp on Saturday morning, April 26. District Board commission will meet Friday evening and the full Board will meet Saturday afternoon. This is an open meeting and it is the hope that many will stay for it.

Please come to District Conference and stay for the entire weekend. It's a bargain and a great experience.

Conference books will be mailed in late June to all delegates, district office holders and at least one extra per congregation.

Take time to read through the reports before conference. You'll learn a lot.

Praise God for the dedicated servants of Jesus Christ in the Michigan District of the Church of the Brethren!

On page 5, write "Ed"
on the dotted line. He
is Heather's father.

Church of the Brethren
Non-Profit Org.
Michigan District Office
U S Postage Paid
P O Box 47
Kaleva MI 49645
Kaleva MI 49645
Permit #3

District Calendar 2007

Oodles inside

Take a look!

June

- 3 – Southeast Pastor/Spouse Lunch 1:30 p.m.
- 4 – Clergywomen's Lunch, Hastings
- Fire inspection work at Camp – plan to help
- 9 – Camp Board meeting, at Camp
- 15-17 National Jr Hi Conference PA
- 17-23 Camp 100, Tiffany Herrold, Dean
- 24-26 Sampler Camp, Chris Hamilton, Dean
- 30-July 4 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Cleveland OH

July

- 6-7 Under Sixers Camp 231-867-3618
- 8-14 Camp 89, Brian Mackie, Dean
- 15-21 Camp 67, Becky Phillips, Dean
- 22-29 Camp 45, Wendy Russell, Dean
- 30-Aug 5 Intergenerational Workcamp
See page 6

August

10-12 DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Hastings
17-18 Jam Camp, all ages, make jam

September

6- 8 Caring Ministries Assembly, Lititz, PA
23 Southwest Pastor/Spouse dinner, Hope 4 p.m.
30 Northeast Pastor/Spouse dinner, Midland 2
p.m.

We have had to do a bit of a re-start with the church plant, as both Jessica (who got homesick and moved back to Mt. Pleasant a few months ago) and Vanessa (who got a job in Farwell, and moved back to Mt. P to be with her soon-to-be fiancée) are not part of the Church in Drive any more. That has been pretty discouraging. The good news is that Steve Heska has joined the core group, and I am in conversations with some others about it. Even better news is that Standing in the Gap - SVSU chapter has grown even faster than I thought! The kids are mostly gone for the summer now, but in just a couple of months, we went from 3 people to 17 people at our on campus Bible studies. We are very excited for this coming fall here at Standing in the Gap. Also, the Church in Drive is going to be meeting in a park in Saginaw Sunday evenings this summer.

More encouraging news is that we have seen mighty miracles of healing in response to prayers in our prayer outreach, and God has blessed us with generous financial support.

Prayer concerns continue to be for 6-8 people to fully commit to being part of the core group of the Church in Drive. I am especially praying for some young couple to come on board with us.

News from "The Church in Drive",

the Saginaw Valley new church plant. Nate Polzin, lead pastor, reports mighty miracles of healing in response to prayers during their outreach. The Standing in the Gap campus ministry grew from 3 to 17 people at on campus Bible studies.

Sunday evening worship had been held in an motel conference room, but will be in a Saginaw Park during the summer.

Changes in the core group are happening. Vanessa and Jessica have moved back to Mt. Pleasant. Steve Heska is now working with Nate. Pray for a young couple to 'come on board with us', and for several others to join the core group.

Financial gifts for this ministry should be sent to the district Financial Secretary Lee Long, 408 2nd St, Breckenridge 48615 well labeled.