



A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

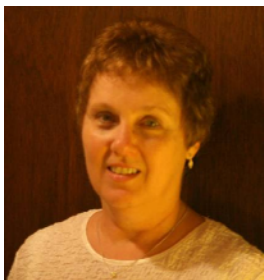


Author Unknown

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ANE Staff & Board Transitions



New Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator

The Atlantic Northeast District is pleased to announce the call of **Nancy Fittery** to serve as the new Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator for ANE. She will work with the Senior Adult Committee to plan and promote Senior Adult Banquets, give attention to senior adult needs and interests through the Senior Adult Newsletter, foster awareness of aging and wellness, and promote and communicate senior adult concerns in the district. She will also serve as a liaison to the District Women's Fellowship.

Nancy brings solid organizational and planning skills, as well as communication skills. She has worked with Lancaster Newspapers, COBYS Family Services, & Lititz CoB Church Office prior to completing the TRIM Program, being ordained and serving as Pastor of Swatara Hill CoB. In addition to TRIM, Nancy is a graduate of Lancaster Business School.

Nancy begins her work with the district on Jan. 1, and will continue as pastor at Swatara Hill CoB.

Evangelism Re-Focus

At the November District Board Retreat, the Atlantic Northeast District Board took action to re-position a focus on evangelism within the Commission on Church Development. This simply means that evangelism will now be partnered with church planting, church revitalization, and church growth. Previously, evangelism was connected with the ministries of the Witness Commission.

In making this shift, the Evangelism Committee will now work with the Commission on Church Development while the Witness Commission will be re-named "Commission on Witness and Outreach." The chief focal point here will be peace, social justice, urban ministry, disaster response, support congregations, and service ministries.

It is important to note that all areas of our ministry life should be flavored with an evangelistic spirit. This shift allows for a direct emphasis and commission connection with congregations in growth and development.

Please continue to watch for ministry efforts in these important areas of district ministry and pray that we will be found faithful in each of our life and witness together.



In case of inclement weather, the District Office follows the Elizabethtown Area School District for closings and delays.

Staff Search

Atlantic Northeast District is beginning a search for a new part-time District Staff member to serve as Director of Witness & Outreach. See the Position Outline below.

Interested persons should contact Craig H. Smith, District Executive, with a Letter of Interest and Resume. These documents should be submitted to his attention at the District Office or they may be sent via email to: csmith@ane-cob.org. The submission deadline is January 10, 2011.

Director of Witness & Outreach Position Outline

- ✓ coordinate the work of the Witness & Outreach Commission;
- ✓ develop, administer, and promote the Witness Commission's philosophy and strategy;
- ✓ oversee and resource witness projects & liaison relationships;
- ✓ cast a district-wide vision for disaster response, peace, social justice, service, & community outreach with a Christ-centered emphasis;
- ✓ foster a growing vision for urban ministry, connect with the Urban Initiative Task Team;
- ✓ monitor the fiscal state of "Support" Congregations;
- ✓ support with district disaster response network;
- ✓ assist in providing a "district staff presence" in congregations;
- ✓ other duties as assigned;
- ✓ 2 days per week - approximately 15 hours per week



Gifts Discernment for District Leadership

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
 Romans 12:4,5

The Gifts Discernment Team of the Atlantic Northeast District requests your prayerful consideration in the matter of discernment and calling of persons to District leadership. Please take the task of discernment to heart as "each member belongs to all the others."

We believe that within your Faith Community there are people whom God has endowed with spiritual gifts and abilities which will help to fulfill the mission of the church today. Recommendation forms and a list of open positions with descriptions will be mailed in early January to pastors, moderators, and board chairs of all congregations. Others who would like to receive recommendation materials should contact the District Office (717-367-4730). Descriptions of open positions can also be viewed on the District website (ane-cob.org). Click on the Special Events tab and select District Conference.

After forms are received, the Gifts Discernment Team will prayerfully discern those who will be included in the 2012 slate at District Conference.



Youth & Young Adults



Senior High Retreat

Date & Time: January 21-23, 6 pm Friday to Lunch time on Sunday.

Location: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: January 6

Cost: \$85 per youth; \$40 each per first two advisors (\$80 for additional advisors)

Details: The topic we are going to discuss is **Identity** and we will have main sessions as well as Insight Sessions to tackle this theme. As we raised money for Heifer Project last year, which was an overwhelming success, we are going to raise money for Loose Change to Loosen Chains. To find out more about this organization, please visit www.ijm.org/getinvolved/youth.

Please encourage your youth and their leaders to join this event and as a church group, would you find a way to collect money and we'll bring it all together at Retreat to see if, as a District youth group, we can send money to help someone reclaim their Identity!

Young Adult Final Friday

Date & Time: January 28, 7:30-10:30

Location: Ephrata CoB, Fellowship Hall

Registration Deadline: E-register to jross@ane-cob.org by January 26 so we have an idea of how many to expect. But even if you don't register, please still come!

Cost: Bring a snack to share!

Details: Join us and enjoy a time to relax in a coffeehouse atmosphere with drinks provided, as well as games which include Minute to Win It and Rock Band!

Junior High Lock In

Date & Time: February 4-5, 10 pm – 6 am

Location: Lebanon Valley College, Arnold Sports Center

Registration Deadline: January 27

Cost: \$10 per Youth, free for Advisors

Details: Games, craft, gym time, movies, swimming, and food!



Senior High Lock In

Date/Time: March 11-12, 10 pm – 6 am

Location: Chiques CoB

Registration Deadline: March 4

Cost: \$10 per Youth, Free for Advisors

Details: Christian Illusionist Brett Myers, bowling, food and other games!



Christian Citizenship Seminar (SH)

Date: March 26-31, 2011

Location: New York City and Washington D.C.

Registration: You can register at www.brethren.org/ccs. Registration opens online January 5, 2011, at 7 p.m. central time. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants.

Cost: \$350; includes lodging for five nights, dinner on the opening evening of the seminar and transportation from New York to Washington D.C.

Details: "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread." Come and join a community of high school students for a week to explore the connections between the food we eat and the faith we speak. You can find more information at www.brethren.org/ccs.

National Junior High Conference

Date: June 17-19, 2011

Location: Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA

Registration: You can register at www.brethren.org/njhc. Registration begins online January 10, 2011 at 7 p.m. central time and is limited to the first 800 youth and advisors who register, so register early!

Cost: \$150 per person (between Jan. 10 and April 15). The late registration cost (after April 15) is \$175.

Details: "Piece by Piece: Finding Our Place within God's Story" based on Ephesians 2:19 – 22. For more information you can go to www.brethren.org/njhc.

2011 Workcamps

The workcamp ministry of the Youth and Young Adult Office is pleased to announce the arrival of the 2011 National Workcamp brochures! Please contact the workcamp office to request brochures for your congregation: 800-323-8039 x286 or cobworkcamps@brethren.org.

Special workcamps include a young adult workcamp in Taize, France, the We Are Able workcamp in New Windsor for intellectually disabled youth/young adults and youth/young adult service partners, and an intergenerational workcamp for all ages in the mountains of Northern Arizona - families welcome!

Workcamp registration will begin on-line January 3 at 7 p.m. Central Time for youth, advisors and adult participants. More information is available: www.brethren.org/workcamps.

Check the Youth tab on the District website for more details on all events!

STEWARDSHIP

A special note from ANE District Executive, Craig Smith

As your congregation considers 2011 giving, it is vitally important for you to remember that congregational giving is the life-link of financial support for District Ministries. While there are many good things that are happening “out there,” please remember that there are scores of wonderful and meaningful ministries taking place right here in our own backyard. I want to highlight just a few of the significant things going on right here in ANE:

Each year congregations count on the District Executive to provide leadership in pastoral and ministerial placement. Bringing strong pastoral leadership to our congregations is vital to ministry success. In the past year, I have worked with 6 congregations in some phase of this process.

The work of the District Ministry Commission is fundamental: 25 new candidates for Licensed Ministry; ministerial training for 46 Licensed Ministers; 6 newly ordained persons; and providing quality administrative oversight for more than 240 Ordained Ministers.

More than \$81,000 is given as “direct” support for urban congregations and Family Life Center outreach. This amount is significantly increased by adding “indirect” gifts: volunteer hours, gifts in kind, personal and congregational designated gifts, Mission Church Support Fund grants, and TURF grants - all these coordinated through District efforts.

\$35,000 is available through district grant and resourcing programs.

Church planting is strong. Veritas and *common cup*, two new church planting initiatives in ANE, continue to grow; Light of the Gospel, in Brooklyn, has achieved Fellowship status and was recognized at this year’s Annual Conference in Pittsburgh; Renacer, a Hispanic project in Leola is being nurtured by the Conestoga CoB; the Maine Mission group is working with ANE to launch a new project in Sanford, Maine. This is good news for sharing the Good News!

Strong senior high and junior high youth ministry events, a growing young adult network, networking and discussion groups, NYC, NOAC, work camps, disaster relief efforts, increased levels of coaching, the Urban Initiative Task Team, stewardship education, ministry to senior adults, retreats, continuing education opportunities, international ministry exchanges, vital training partnerships with: Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, Bethany Theological Seminary, and a variety of local ministry-training institutions is strong, and . . . much much MORE!

These highlights simply scratch the surface of the district-based ministry links impacting congregations, the Church of the Brethren denomination, communities, and most importantly, the lives of those with whom we work.

Members of the District Staff are willing to come for a Congregational Visit and speak with your congregation about the many things happening in ANE. If you would like to arrange for a visit, please call the District Office (717-367-4730) to schedule a time.

The Bottom Line

Generous Congregational Giving to the Foundational Ministries of the District’s Ministry Investment Plan means strong District Ministry; strong District Ministry means a stronger church; a stronger church means impacting Good News in both word and deed!

Congregational News

PASTOR CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY



The Rev. Dr. Wallace B. Landes, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Palmyra CoB celebrated 25 years of service with the congregation this November. Born in Waynesboro, VA, Pastor Landes was licensed into the Christian ministry while a senior in high school. After graduating from Bridgewater College and Bethany Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1978. The Doctor of Ministry Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary was conferred upon Pastor Landes in May 1998.

Prior to coming to Palmyra, Pastor Landes served as pastor of the Bush Creek CoB in MD for seven years. He has been greatly involved in both the Mid-Atlantic and Atlantic Northeast Districts, serving as a member of numerous committees and boards. Pastor Landes has been a contributing author and guest editor for *Brethren Life and Thought* as well as a contributor to other Biblical study guides and theological journals and an instructor and conference speaker.

Ecumenical work has been important in Pastor Landes' life, as he has served as President of the Palmyra Area Cooperating Churches, Chair of the planning committee for State Pastors' Conference, member of the governing board and personnel committee for the PA Council of Churches.

In the academic world, Pastor Landes has been an adjunct faculty member of the Religion Department for Lebanon Valley College and also the Department of Religious Studies, Elizabethtown College. He presently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Elizabethtown College.

Pastor Landes is married to Bonnie Simmonds Landes, a kindergarten teacher in the Annville-Cleona School District. They have two adult children, Matthew and Kendra.

McPherson College Student Receives Mercedes-Benz Scholarship

Mercedes-Benz USA recently agreed to provide three annual scholarships to McPherson College totaling \$15,000 per year. The college is the premier choice for an education in automotive restoration; it's the only one that offers a four-year degree in the major. Each year, one \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to each of three students working toward an automotive restoration degree. This year, one of the recipients is **Rod Barlet**, a member of Elizabethtown CoB.



Rod Barlet, center

As a child, Barlet used to take apart anything mechanical – starting with his bicycle at age six. Later, he recalled what a treat it was to ride in his grandfather's 1974 Mercedes-Benz 240D. That early exposure has carried through his life and on to McPherson College. There professors encourage individual, in-depth research as opposed to spouting out easy answers.

Barlet said the new internship opportunity would take an automotive restoration student's learning to the next level. "Just like any other profession, your education never really stops," he said.

~ Opportunities ~

DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Volleyball

Place: Thompson Gym, Elizabethtown College

Time: 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Cost per Team: \$1.50 per member



Family Swim

Due to a swim meet, the College pool is not available.

Detailed information and registration forms have been sent to congregations.

Mail registrations to: Fran Strouse
190 Westview Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Phone: (717) 689-3590

Email: fstrouse@comcast.net

Registrations will be handled on a first-received - first-entered basis, & must be postmarked by Dec. 20.

Mennonite and Brethren **Marriage Encounter**

2011 Marriage Encounters

Feb. 18-20

July 15-17

Oct. 21-23

*Location: Kenbrook Bible Camp,
Lebanon, PA*

2011 Engaged Encounters

Jan. 21-23

Feb. 18-20

Apr. 15-17

May 20-22

July 15-17

Sept. 9-11

Oct. 7-9

Nov. 25-27

For information, call 717-569-5676,
email love@marriageencounter.org
or view the website:
www.marriageencounter.org



Camp Swatara Development Director Position Open

Camp Swatara is seeking applications for a part-time Director of Development. This position involves approximately 18 hours per week and provides shared office space in the camp office. Persons applying should have excellent interpersonal skills, be willing to travel to visit with potential donors, and have basic computer skills working with data base software. The opening will be filled by January 1, 2011. Interested persons should send a resume, references, and a letter of intent to: Marlin Houff, Administrator, Camp Swatara, 2905 Camp Swatara Road, Bethel, PA 19507.

Atlantic Northeast District Disaster Response

Following are the weeks ANE has planned for Disaster Response and the congregations that have committed to going. If there is no congregation listed, that week is open for anyone in the District to respond. If you or your congregation would like to get a group of volunteers to respond for a week but none of the weeks listed work for you, please contact your congregation's local coordinator to make your request possible. You may also contact Bob Eisemann, District Response Coordinator by email at rgeisemann@gmail.com or by phone at 717-823-6311. Bob will answer any questions you have and provide you with additional information.

Chalmette, LA

(28 is the maximum # of Volunteers each week)

January 9-15 - Florin

February 7-13 - Mohler

March 20-26 - Litz

April 3-9 - Hanoverdale

April 10-16 - Spring Creek

May 8 -14 - Mechanic Grove

May 8-14- Ephrata

May 15-21- Ambler

Nashville, TN

(Total of 15 Volunteers needed each week)

April 3-9 - Midway

May 8-14 - **Open**

June 5-11 - Wilmington

July 10-16 - Little Swatara

Elsewhere

July 31-August 6 - **Open**

September 25-October 1 - **Open**

October 9-15 - **Open**

November 6-12 - **Open**

Before planning a trip, please contact Bob Eisemann to confirm the week is available.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)



Save the Date

Stewardship University
Practical solutions for your life

Saturday, March 5, 2011
Lancaster Mennonite High School

30+ workshops focusing on
Holistic Stewardship

For more information, contact MMA:
Dale.Fry@mmapartners.org or 717-653-6662



District Women's Spring Fellowship

**Saturday, March 12, 2011
Hanoverdale Church of the Brethren**

The Hanoverdale Church will host the District's Women's Spring Fellowship on Saturday, March 12. The speaker will be Dr. April Hershey. April is the Superintendent of the Warwick School District. She studied at Lebanon Valley College, The Pennsylvania State University and Duquesne University and holds certifications as a teacher, elementary and secondary principal, and school superintendent. In addition to her professional work, she spends time with her first love, music. She gives private voice lessons, currently sings in the praise band and choir at Ephrata CoB, and works as a soloist for weddings and other special events. She and her husband reside in Ephrata.

Her topic for Spring Fellowship will be "For Such a Time as This," based on the book of Esther.

The event begins with registration at 8:45 a.m. and a fellowship time with coffee and tea. The program will conclude at 2:30 p.m. A buffet luncheon will be provided at a modest cost for those who pre-register. Child care for children five and under will be provided for those who request that service. More detailed information and a registration form will be mailed to each congregation in January. Registration forms should be returned no later than March 7. For further information, contact Carol Nelson (717) 234-0288 or email Carol at carolnelson@comcast.net.

Church Leaders Conference

"Prayer in the Life of a Servant Leader"

Guest Speaker: M. Robert Mulholland

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Elizabethtown College

Sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District Spiritual Renewal Team, this annual Church Leaders Conference is designed to be a day apart for ministers, church leaders, and other interested persons.

Writers Wanted

The Gather 'Round curriculum, a project of Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network, is accepting applications to write for the 2012–13 year. Writers are hired for one or two quarters for a particular age unit: Preschool, Primary, Middler, Multiage, Junior Youth, or Youth. Writers produce well-written, age-appropriate, and engaging material for teacher's guides, student books, and resource packs. All writers will attend an orientation conference March 6–10, 2011, in Chicago. For more information, visit the Job Opportunities page at www.gatherround.org. Deadline for applications: January 1, 2011.

Shane Claiborne, an engaging voice for radical Christianity who has been speaking at youth conventions and on university campuses across America, will be featured at a public meeting at the Lancaster CoB, 1601 Sunset Avenue, Lancaster, PA at 7 PM on January 4.

"Another way of Doing Life" is the subject of his presentation. "Christians are meant to be radical non-conformists, interrupting the patterns of our world with prophetic imagination," says Claiborne. During a time when the public mood is soured by unemployment, endless war, environmental disaster and political corruption, we urgently need Claiborne's message.

All are welcome, including parents and grandparents! A free will offering will be taken to pay for the expenses of the evening.

Claiborne's appearance in Lancaster is sponsored by the Taxes for Peace Interest Group of the [Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness](#) and by [1040 for Peace](#).

For more information, contact John Stoner at (717) 859-3388.



New Members

Indian Creek - *Letter:* Joy Woods

Lampeter - *Baptism:* Logan Myers

Quakertown - *Baptism:* Niko Balkit, Kale Donnelly, Travis Shearer

Calendar

December

24 - Jan. 3 District Office Closed

January

8 District Volleyball Tournament, Elizabethtown College

20-23 Hispanic SE BAH

21-23 Senior High Retreat, Camp Swatara

28 Young Adult Event, Ephrata CoB

February

4-5 Junior High Lock-In, Lebanon Valley College

March

5 Stewardship University

11-12 Senior High Lock-In

12 District Board Meeting, Myerstown CoB

12 Women's Spring Fellowship, Hanoverdale CoB

24 Senior Adult Banquet, Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Area

26-31 Senior High Christian Citizenship Seminar, New York City & Washington DC

April

6 Senior Adult Banquet, Harrisburg/Lebanon Area

14 Senior Adult Banquet, Lancaster Area

27 Church Leaders' Conference, Elizabethtown College



Deadline for the March/April issue of ANE Today is January 26. Articles may be faxed (717-367-8737) to the District Office or sent e-mail to: jreed@ane-cob.org. When possible, include appropriate logo or other graphic designs.

**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 East Cedar Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022**

**Non-Profit Organization
AUTOMATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Elizabethtown, PA
Permit No. 53**



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

STAFF

**Craig H. Smith, District Executive
Don V. Mitchell, Director of Church Development
Kay M. Weaver, Director of Stewardship and Interim Director
of Leadership Development
Jessica Ross, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Linda Williams, Office Administrator
Jan Reed, Administrative Secretary & Newsletter Editor
Wanda Rohde, District Projects Coordinator
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