



Scenes from District Conference



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ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP OCTOBER 7-8, 2011

The Forty-second Atlantic Northeast District Conference of the Church of the Brethren was held at Elizabethtown College, Leffler Chapel and Performance Center, on October 7-8. ***The Wisdom from Above*** was the theme of the conference. Moderator was David Stauffer, pastor of the Stevens Hill congregation, and hosts were members of the Heidelberg & Cocalico congregations. A total of 200 delegates attended, representing 73 congregations.

Before Friday evening's worship service, a Ministers' Recognition Dinner, hosted by the District Ministry Commission, was held in the M&M Mars room. This year Paul H. Boll and Luke B. Bucher were recognized for their 50 years of ordained ministry. Newly ordained, licensed, and placed ministers were also recognized.

Friday evening's time of worship and praise was attended by 277. They were inspired by a 50-member district choir, led by Joy Brubaker. Keynote speaker Moderator David Stauffer presented an uplifting message on the conference theme *The Wisdom from Above*. An offering was shared of \$2330 for District Computer Upgrades.

Saturday's business included the following:

Welcomed new President of Elizabethtown College, Carl J. Strikwerda

Celebration of New Fellowships and Congregation: Renacer and Sanford projects moved to Fellowship status, Nuevo Amanecer Fellowship moved to Congregation status.

Approved Revisions to the Plan of Organization

Action on Query on Military Chaplaincy: The motion was defeated by an approximate 65% / 35% hand vote. The query will be returned to Parker Ford, and conversation on this issue will continue in the District as well as the denominational Office of Ministry.

Approved a budget for 2012 of \$632,897, \$552 **LESS** than 2011

Three "Take Away Sessions" were offered on a variety of topics and well attended

Approved the following slate: Moderator Elect – **Thomas Fritz**; Program & Arrangements – **Joann Maurer**; Gifts Discernment – **Gerald Rhoades, Heather Yeater, Reba Baliles**; Standing Committee – **Dennis Garrison**; Alternate Standing Committee – **James Beckwith**; District Board Chair – **David Stauffer**; Church Development – **Joel Peña, Sandy Christophel**; Ministry – **Norman Yeater, Kevin King**; Nurture – **Ronald Good, Angela Mountain**; Stewardship – **James Gibbel, Donald Robinson**; Witness – **Nichole Whiteman**

Promoted Renovare 2012

Learned from the ANE District Displays

Consecrated Robert Wintsch, from the Mechanic Grove congregation, as the 2012 Moderator

Conference next year will be October 12 & 13 at Elizabethtown College.

Youth & Young Adults

Footprints¹¹

Footprints¹¹ ~ For the Western, Southern and Middle PA Districts as well as our very own ANE! This senior high event will be held November 18-20 at Rhoades Grove Retreat Center in Chambersburg. Our theme for this conference is "Be Doers of the Word" which is taken from James 1:22-24 and the main sessions will be led by Walt Wiltschek, a former editor of the

Messenger magazine and current Chaplain at Manchester College in Indiana. Music will be led by Mutual Kumquat, www.mutualkumquat.com.

Youth cost is \$150, Advisor cost is \$140.

Senior High Retreat



Date & Time: January 20-22, 6 pm Friday to lunch Sunday.

Location: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: January 5

Cost: \$90 per youth; \$45 each per first two advisors (\$90 for additional advisors)

Details: Our theme revolves around what it means to *Be a Disciple in Your World*. Ryan Braught will help us explore this topic as our speaker. Ryan was a Youth Pastor for many years and is now leading Veritas church project in Lancaster, PA (www.veritaspa.org). Chuck Gibson will be leading us in

worship through music and to learn more about him, check out

www.chuckgibsonmusic.com. And there will be plenty of great food, great games, & great people at retreat!

Starting about 2 years ago, we've collected money to donate to an organization, Heifer Project and Loose Change to Loosen Chains. To continue the generosity, but in a little different way, we are asking you to bring Bibles to donate. If you don't have any around your home or at church, you can find Bibles at some stores for less than \$10.

Part of being a disciple is spreading God's Word, so let's do our best to provide Bibles for those who don't have one!

Junior High Lock In

Date & Time: March 2-3, 10 pm – 6 am

Location: Lebanon Valley College, Arnold Sports Center

Registration Deadline: February 23

Cost: \$10 per Youth, free for Advisors

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



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

www.cob-net.org/church/ane/youth



THE STEWARDSHIP BUG by Kay Weaver, Director of Stewardship

This past summer at ANE's District Women's retreat at Camp Swatara, our speaker, Amy Messler, challenged us with a discussion on what takes place during the offering time of our worship service and what should take place during this time. I shared with the group that I have been somewhat disappointed with what the offering time of a worship service has become. However, I was encouraged with the discussion that had just taken place with Amy.

Following Amy's session, several women came to me to continue the conversation. Each one shared what bugs them about the offering time and why. They all agreed that this is something worth sharing to get congregations thinking about whether or not they are good stewards of their worship planning – especially the "Tithes and Offering" time. I promised I would share our thoughts in a newsletter article.

Following are a few of the "Stewardship Bugs" printed in bold that were mentioned. Unfortunately, space doesn't allow me to share scriptures and elaborate on each one. With the few thoughts shared here, I welcome feedback or further discussion. Please e-mail your thoughts to kweaver@ane-cob.org.

- * **"It's time for the Collection"** – What are we collecting – food, clothing, money for a special event? Sorry, the "Tithes and Offering" time isn't a fundraiser – it's Worship!
- * **The Praise Team has been singing and all of a sudden there are these people walking up and down the rows passing this circular plate with money in it.** No one said anything about this taking place in the middle of our singing. What's this for? I don't feel like putting money in a plate for the sake of putting money in a plate.
- * **"Now is the time in our worship service where we give of our "Tithes and Offerings". This morning's offering is for _____. To our visitors, please do not feel you have to give to our ministries, this is only the obligation of our members."** Whether I'm at my own church, at another Church of the Brethren or in my community, we are all working together in Kingdom Building. The offering is a part of my worship at that time. I offer my thanks to God for his blessings by prayerfully offering my time, talents, and - if I'm able - financially giving no matter where I am worshipping that day. We give because we love him – not because we are obligated to give!

Because of His love for us, God was motivated to give His son, Jesus Christ. At this time every year we celebrate having this gift God gave us by joyfully singing, or by having parties and family gatherings. Because He loved us, we love Him. It is out of our love for Him that we give our tithes and offerings to Him. Therefore, during each worship service let's celebrate – I mean *really* celebrate the offering! As you prepare for the giving of tithes and offerings in the worship service, how will you plan to have all in attendance worship and celebrate rather than just passing the plate or having a collection?

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Senior Adult Spring Banquets Planned

Lancaster Area

March 29

Middle Creek CoB



Harrisburg/Lebanon Area

April 19

Hanoverdale CoB



Philadelphia Area

April 25

Parker Ford CoB

Mark your calendars! Further details will be available early next year.

Atlantic Northeast District Disaster Response

Bonnie Wampler, ANE Disaster Response Correspondence Coordinator



WHERE IS GOD IN THE MIDST OF DISASTER?

He's in the rescuer who helps an elderly man trying to escape his car after trying to travel through flooded waters. He's in the hearts of people organizing community events to support victims. He's in me as I bring calm and help to a frantic woman trying to find an open road across a flooded river to get to her son. How is God working through you?

Chances are that even if you were not directly affected by the recent floods, you know someone who was. So your immediate help is needed in advocating for the elderly and handicapped or anyone else to best ensure they are getting the help they need. Some folks are still in shock and become vulnerable to offers and information that is shared. Sometime survivors don't think they are eligible or are too proud or shy to ask for assistance. Even if you don't think you have that much to claim now, mold and foundation problems can remain hidden for quite some time.

- * **November 14:** FEMA Deadline to file for assistance for damages from Lee and Irene. The website is www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm or call 1-800-621-FEMA or 1-800-621-3362.
- * Once registered with FEMA, you will receive a case #.
- * FEMA representatives will present ID, wear blue shirts with the FEMA emblem, and NOT ask for money or a signature.
- * Refer to safety and clean-up guidelines at <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/after>.
- * If you still need help with muck and gut (removal of wet items, drywall, and insulation), it is urgent that you contact your church, local coordinator or District Coordinator, as below.

Please contact the District Coordinator for ANE, Robert Eisemann (Ph: 717.203.7270 or e-mail: rgeisemann@gmail.com) for immediate recovery assistance and he will direct requests as necessary for assistance.

VOLUNTEERS

Amazingly, a month later, people still need help with mucking and gutting. Contact your local Emergency Management Agency to volunteer and ensure necessary protection when working in environments with mold.

During this recovery phase of the floods, local churches and community organizations are encouraged to provide support to victims with fundraisers, clothing and food drives. It's been amazing how communities have united together to meet people's needs. Clearly Christ is at work through us!

Brethren Disaster Ministries is working with PA VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and LTRG (Long Term Recovery Groups) in each county to develop a plan to assist in the repair and rebuild of homes for victims with unmet needs. These people will be referred by case managers to BDM for volunteers to engage in work projects. District Coordinators are developing a plan for volunteers to engage and more information will be forthcoming through District and Area Coordinators.





RENOVARÉ ESSENTIALS CONFERENCE

**Leffler Chapel and Performance Center
Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA**

SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2012

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

CONFERENCE: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

RENOVARÉ ESSENTIALS CONFERENCE TEAM



Christopher Webb



Richard Foster



Mickey Cox

Registration Form

(Complete one form for each Adult Attendee)

Early Registration (postmarked by March 1, 2012) - \$40 per attendee (includes lunch)

After March 1 - \$50 per attendee

Child Care/Sessions - \$5.00 /child (includes lunch)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work or Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail: _____ (for confirmation receipt)

Home Church _____ Denomination _____

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Signing for Hearing Impaired **Translation**

Child Care/Children's classes at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, adjacent to the college, for:

child/children kindergarten or younger (Nursery Care)

child/children grades 1-6 (Children's Sessions)

Make checks payable to and mail with this completed form to: **Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren**

Attn.: Renovaré, 500 East Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. You will receive confirmation following receipt of the registration and payment. Any questions regarding registration please call the office at 717-367-4730

Congregational News



Paul and Carol Boll

50 Year Ministers

Paul Boll (Palmyra CoB) and **Luke Bucher** (Heidelberg CoB) were honored at the District Ministry Recognition Dinner for serving fifty years as ordained ministers. Congratulations!



Luke and Naomi Bucher

New Members

- **Alpha & Omega** - *Baptism:* Maria Lopez, Melania Payano, Elizabeth Santiago, Ivan Santiago
- **Annville** - *Baptism:* Brenda Jean Miller Hackman, Todd Davis Hearsey, Suzanne Renee Giuliano Wentling, Ashlyn Marie Wolfe; *Letter:* Rebecca Sue Hitz Hearsey, Aaron Weaber, Ed Weaber, Jr., Linda Sue Snavelly Weaber; *Reaffirmation:* Chris Straka, Darcy Straka
- **East Cocalico** - *Letter:* John Weber, Wendy Weber
- **Florin** - *Baptism:* Vanessa Ely Vargas
- **Green Tree** - *Letter:* Peg Irwin, Mike Trotter; *Reaffirmation:* Pat Leiter
- **Lewiston** - *Baptism:* Jean-Pail Derosier, Theresa Derosier, Victoria Derosier; *Letter:* Elaine Horning, Glenn Horning
- **Palmyra** - *Baptism:* Rebekah Miller, Jacob Smith, Cody Whitman, Laura Whitman
- **Providence** - *Baptism:* Nancy Bomberger, Millie Craft, Zachary Ludwig, Jackie Prochaska Pratt; *Reaffirmation:* Andrew Delaney
- **Schuylkill** - *Baptism:* Chad Abrams, Hanna Abrams, Helen Lengle
- **Stevens Hill** - *Baptism:* Jeanie Love-Morris, Johnny Morris, Sarina Ponce-Garcia, John Setnar, Melissa Setnar, Jared Walker, Jenn Walker; *Reaffirmation:* Pam Martin, Randy Martin



In Loving Memory

Earl Forney, ordained minister from Midway CoB, passed away October 13. Please keep his family in your prayers.

~ OPPORTUNITIES ~



Christmas Dessert Theater

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren

Benefits ECOB Benevolence Fund

Friday, December 16 &

Saturday, December 17

-dessert served at 7:30 pm \$10.00/person

Matinee Performance

Sunday, December 18 -1:30 pm

(no dessert) by donation

Who is the "Christmas Guest?" What will the "Angel of Peace" bring? Enjoy dessert with your family and friends, discover the answers to these questions, and contribute to the Elizabethtown CoB Benevolence Fund all in one afternoon or evening!

Director Gene Ellis, professor of communications and theater at Millersville University, and well-known actor/director in Lancaster County, will lead a group of ECOB actors in performing two short plays: "Waiting for the Christmas Guest" by Larry Nestor and "The Littlest Angel" by Sharon Kirby-Cole. Both plays celebrate the meaning of the Christmas season - the peace and justice of God's kingdom arriving on earth in the form of Jesus—and remind us of how we can further God's kingdom.

The ECOB Benevolence Fund provides food, fuel, and helps meet medical and other needs of local families as well as helping to support families with complex needs.

visit www.etowncob.org for ticket information



Boars Head and Yule Log Festival

It's not too early to reserve your tickets for the fifth annual Boar's Head and Yule Log

Festival at Ridgeway Community CoB, December 3 and 4 at 6 p.m.

Witness this Middle Ages Christmas celebration as lords and ladies bedecked in holiday finery are entertained by the lord and lady of the manor house. The festival incorporates many of the traditional elements found in this ancient celebration of the Christmas season: carols, customs, and accoutrements. The festival will feature choir and instrumentalists, a children's chorus, lords and ladies, and the performance of an ancient play about the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem. Light-hearted comedy will set the tone for the holiday season.

Tickets are free but should be reserved in advance by calling the church office at (717) 545-4542 or by e-mailing your request to communications@ridgewaycob.org. A very limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

A free will offering on Saturday and Sunday will be divided equally between Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region (FPHCR), a nonprofit agency serving families who recently lost their homes, and COBYS.



Bazaar and Craft Fair

Mount Zion Road CoB

Friday, November 18th from 1-7:30 pm

We will serve an all-you-can-eat homemade chicken pot-pie supper at 4 p.m. Cold quarts are available at 1 pm. The church will also have homemade goods and white elephant items for sale. For a complete list of vendors and home-based business, please visit the church website at www.mzrcob.org. Direct questions to Roxanne at mrq-molnar@aol.com or 717-865-1377.

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home

The regularly scheduled Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home (LVBH) will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 8, in the Di Matteo Worship Center.

Reports will be made by the Administration, the Board of Directors, and the Auxiliary. A motion will also be considered to revise the corporate by-laws so as to concentrate full decision-making authority within the LVBH Board of Directors. A slate of 2012 nominees for new Directors will also be presented.

For information, call President Jeff Shireman at 717-838-5406, ext . 3057, or e-mail jshireman@lvbh.org.



Camp Swatara Travels to Acadia National Park

Why is the area around Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park called Downeast Maine? In 2012 you will have the opportunity to not only learn the meaning of "downeast," but also experience firsthand the wonders and beauty of this area where the "waters meet the forests." From September 7 -

16, 2012 Camp Swatara is sponsoring a trip to Acadia National Park and the surrounding area. Ray and Judy Powell who have co-lead this trip for the past five years, have more than 25 years of experience exploring the Park. Activities will include nature discovery walks and boat rides, as well as a carriage ride through the Park. Park Ranger presentations will be included on several of these discoveries. Sightings of deer, eagles, seals and beaver are common. (Sorry no moose, but you never know.) There will also be a stop at the famous Jordan Pond House to eat popovers and time to explore the shops of Bar Harbor.

Housing accommodations while in Maine are in 2-3 bedroom cottages located on the water's edge at Clarks Cove outside of Bar Harbor. Each cottage is comfortably furnished and includes private bedrooms (double occupancy), as well as a shared bath, kitchen and living room. Travel to and from Acadia is done in two Camp vans and overnight accommodations while traveling are in three star hotels included in the cost of the trip. The estimated cost is \$825 per person, which includes all housing accommodations, transportation, tickets, several dinners and a buffet breakfast each morning. Similar trips with commercial vendors cost about \$2,500. Space is limited to no more than 17 persons, and a cottage deposit is due before January 1, 2012.

Curtis Dubble (Lancaster Church of the Brethren) provided this reaction to the trip in 2010:

Co-leaders, Ray and Judy Powell from the Elizabethtown CoB skillfully guided us day by day into structured and unstructured events on both land and water. Group prepared breakfasts and bag lunches enriched our relationships within the group. Park Rangers shared their amazing stories about the area. Lobster dinners were advertised everywhere. Would you love to go on an early fall, exciting, inexpensive group oriented trip to Maine? If so, THIS IS IT!!"

If you wish to register for this trip you may contact Camp directly or for additional information contact Ray and Judy at jmprkp@comcast.net or at 717-367-1157.

Elizabethtown College Welcomes Carl J. Strikwerda, as Fourteenth President



Elizabethtown College is delighted to welcome President Carl Strikwerda and his wife, Gail Bossenga, to campus. President Strikwerda assumed the presidency August 1, 2011 and is very involved as he becomes acquainted with the campus, students and alums through a myriad of events and activities. Dr. Gail Bossenga will join Elizabethtown College as an appointed scholar-in-residence. Within this brief time, along with the rest of us, they have encountered an earthquake, a hurricane and a flood. What an initiation!

An excerpt of Carl's August sermon follows. The total sermon is available from the District Office upon request.

Wisdom and Revelation

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 1:17-23

A little knowledge, it's sometimes said, can be a dangerous thing. A lot of knowledge can be even more dangerous ...

More than knowledge, it is wisdom that is precious. Wisdom can be defined as the ability to use knowledge the right way. Discernment is another word to describe this combination, or, one could say, the ability to combine head knowledge and heart knowledge.

Knowledge, we can take in as information. Wisdom comes only by careful nurture. The apostle Paul wants his readers, and us, first of all to use wisdom in order to understand what it is God has done for us in giving us Jesus Christ as the redeemer of the world. We are to be conscious Christians. Because all of creation finds its origin in God, we ought to understand what God reveals to us, first of all in special revelation, in the life and death of Christ, but also in general revelation, the way God reveals himself to us in the world we see around us in nature, in the world of history, politics, and society, and in the world of art and literature which human beings create with their God-given talents.

Like Ephesus in the first century, Elizabethtown College is part of a larger world, a world we study in all its fascinating complexity. Elizabethtown College, whose presidency I am honored now to hold, was created, nurtured, and sustained by people from the Church of the Brethren who believed that education needed to be directed towards wisdom. Their "enlightened hearts" set us on a course we follow today. Our mission statement in 2011 declares that "Independent thought, personal integrity, and social responsibility" are "the foundations of a life of learning." Education should not be simply knowledge for its own sake. We should instead, as the motto of the College says, educate for service. The witness of the Church of the Brethren continues to shape the college in our commitment to peace making, to service to this region, and to teaching our students that, as our mission statement says, "learning is most noble when used to benefit others" and when it "affirms the values of peace, nonviolence, human dignity, and social justice." Your witness continues in our witness for peace, our commitment to service, and our dedication to teaching young people to lead lives of integrity.

Let us continue to be co-workers in teaching, each of us teaching in our own way, but united in service, in wisdom, in witness for peace, and in hope. Thank you.

Calendar

November

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 5 | District Board Retreat, Camp Swatara |
| 18-20 | Footprints ¹¹ Senior High Regional Retreat, Rhoades Grove Retreat Center |
| 24-25 | District Office Closed - Thanksgiving |

December

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 26-Jan. 2 | Office Closed |
|-----------|---------------|

January

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 20-22 | Senior High Retreat, Camp Swatara |
|-------|-----------------------------------|



Run/Walk For Peace Results

On September 10, 2011, 32 walkers and 82 runners gathered at the Elizabethtown CoB to participate in the 21st annual Run/Walk for Peace. The event, sponsored by the ANE District, raised a total of \$9,801.70 from entrance fees and sponsor donations.

The money generated will be donated locally to Samara, to combat family violence, and internationally to the Global Food Crisis Fund.

By participating, runners and walkers showed their personal commitment to peace. For many who attended, they felt that the peace themed-event was particularly important given that it was the weekend of the 10th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorism attacks. One attendee stated that she was very glad to be at the Run For Peace, to show that there was a different way of commemorating the violent events of September 11, as well as a different path forward. Doves instead of a starter's pistol marked the beginning of the run and walk. Fifty children participated in the children's fun run.

Please remember to thank and patronize the sponsors: Hollinger Services, Sweet November -race-day band, Continental Press/ITP, Crystal Pure Water Co., Shepherd Real Estate, Kellogg's, Gibbel Insurance, Hess Agency, Barry Hoffer family, MBJ Contracting, Walters Portable Toilet, Roger North, Elizabethtown Fitness Club, Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren Witness Commission, and Hershey and Wagner Plumbing and Heating.

Deadline for the January/February issue of ANE Today is November 30. Articles may be faxed (717-367-8737) to the District Office or emailed 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 & Evangelism
Kay M. Weaver, Director of Stewardship
Jessica Ross, Director of Nurture
Pat Horst, Director of Witness & Outreach
Linda Williams, Office Administrator
Jan Reed, Administrative Secretary & Newsletter Editor
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