



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.



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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 will be posted in January 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 2013 slate at District Conference.

Greetings from the Director of Witness and Outreach



Throughout the Advent season in Christian circles, we generally hear more about Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, than other seasons of the year. Gestures of hope and peace tickle our ears as we imagine what peace in our world would feel like. Sadly we surely know that many places are void of peace. Wars, violence, social unrest in our country and throughout the world, brokenness in families...peace sometimes seems like a lofty and often unattainable goal. But we *are* a people called to peace and seeking the peace. What does that look like for you, your family, your church and community as we enter this New Year? I invite you to join with others who are having these conversations. Visit the *On Earth Peace* website www.onearthpeace.org and begin a mission of peace as Jesus opens doors before you.

Many opportunities exist to explore ways to join with others in your church and community to seek the peace, invite discussion and study on Jesus' words for peacekeepers. One site for discussion within our district is the ANE Peace Advocates Xchange at <http://anepax.blogspot.com/> Read and interact with thought-provoking blogs provided by Todd Thomas, a member of the ANE Peace and Justice Committee. Explore the possibilities. *How is Christ inviting you to be His peace advocate and agent of reconciliation this year?*

~ Pat Horst

Youth & Young Adults

Young Adults – Night in Lancaster City

Date & Time: January 13, 2012, 7 pm

Where: The Community Room on Prince (19 North Prince Street, 3rd Floor above Prince Street Cafe in downtown Lancaster)

Cost: \$0

Details: College age young adults (or somewhere just beyond that!), this is for you! A time to connect with friends, make some new friends, play games, listen to live music (Matt Wheeler) and have some coffee and dessert!

Senior High Retreat

Date & Time: January 20-22, 6 pm Friday to Lunch time on 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 in Lancaster. (www.veritasp.org). Chuck Gibson will lead us in worship through music (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 some around your home or at church, you can find Bibles for sale 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!

Senior High Lock In

Date & Time: March 16-17, 10 pm – 6 am

Location: Skippack Church of the Brethren

Registration Deadline: March 8

Cost: \$10 per Youth, free for Advisors

Details: We will meet and eat and hang out at Skippack before we go to a local bowling alley. We’ll spend a couple hours there before going back to the church. Oh, and did I forget to mention the theme?? It is “nerd” bowling, so come with your best nerd outfit! Before you go home in the morning we will give you a light breakfast and send you on your way. If you are a driver for this event and want some time and a place to sleep, please let me know so that we can make arrangements at the church.

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

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

NATIONAL SENIOR HIGH YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS)

What is it? This program provides high school students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

Who is Eligible to Attend? All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Churches sending over four youth are required to send at least one adult advisor.

Where and When? We will begin on Saturday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m. in New York City and will end by 12:00 (noon) on Thursday, April 19 in Washington, DC.

What is the cost? The \$375 registration fee includes: lodging for five nights, dinner on the opening evening of the seminar, and transportation from New York to Washington, DC.

Note: Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses and some subway/taxi fares within the city.

What about registration? It is limited to the first 100 youth and adults - so register right away! Online registration is currently open, so visit www.brethren.org/ccs to sign up!

For more information contact:

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office – 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL, 60120
www.brethren.org/ccs CoBYouth@brethren.org (800) 323-8039

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC)

Date/Time: June 18-22

Where: University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Registration: To register for National Young Adult Conference go to www.brethren.org/yac. Registration opens January 6 at 8pm central time.

Cost: The \$375 registration fee includes: lodging, meals, and programming. \$100 deposit (non refundable) is due within two weeks of registering.

Details: The focus for the conference is "Humble yet bold; being the church" taken from Matthew 5:13-18. For Young Adults, ages 18-35. The Young Adult Steering Committee is hoping this event will be a chance for young adults to gather and have engaging conversations about our role in the denomination with one another, our various speakers, and others that will join together in Knoxville.

The Young Adult Steering Committee is encouraging congregations to put NYAC scholarships in their 2012 budgets to help support the young adults in their church. Also, an NYAC gift certificate may be purchased by friends and family members for their favorite young adult!

For more information please call 800-323-8039 ext. 281 or email NYAC2012@brethren.org.



What is Ministry Summer Service?

Ministry Summer Service (MSS) is a leadership development program for college students in the Church of the Brethren who spend 10 weeks of summer working in the church (local congregation, district office, camp, or national program).

Congregations may ask, "Why should we take on a summer intern?" Young adults may ask, "Why should we work for the church for a whole summer?" The answer has to do with God's call. The Bible is a record of God calling people to challenging tasks. MSS is no exception. Through MSS, God is calling congregations to reach out in the ministry of teaching and receiving. God is calling young adults to explore the possibility of church work as their vocation. For more information, please visit

www.brethren.org/yya/mss/.

Congregational News



New Members

Conestoga - *Letter:* Margaret Sensenig, *Reaffirmation:* Margaret Kiger, Dawn O'dell-Lowery

Indian Creek - *Baptism:* Brian Alderfer, Caleb Alderfer, Bob Lane, Nate Seitz

Lewiston - *Letter:* Quintin Horning, Valerie Myer

Mohrsville - Brett Dougherty, Kirk Dougherty, Elaine Sparrow

White Oak - *Baptism:* Jay Bowman, Jasmine Clapper, Deitrick Copenhaver, Alayna Gregory, Wendall Hess, Charlotte Martin, Tenaya Metzler, Esme Negley, Augusta Nolt, Blaine Rohrer, Kya Snyder, Madison Wagner, Grant Wenger, Cheri Zimmerman, Matthew Zimmerman, Wilmer Zimmerman, Samuel Zuck; *Letter:* Melissa Brubaker, Demas Moyer; *Reaffirmation:* Rachael Bowman

Elizabethtown Pastor Receives Lily Endowment Grant

The Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren has received a grant of \$47,561 to enable its pastor, Greg Davidson-Laszakovits, to participate in the National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. It is one of 158 congregations across the country that will support their ministers in the program, which allows pastors to step back from their busy lives and renew their spirits for the benefit of their ongoing ministries.



Greg & Karin Davidson-Laszakovits

“We ask these congregations and ministers to consider the question, ‘What will make your heart sing?’, as they devise their plans,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment. “They never fail to come up with wonderful and imaginative yet doable ways to fulfill their dreams. Their time away has freed them up to pursue personal and professional interests and needs in ways that have given them new energy for ministry – and the congregations have discovered that they too experience a refreshment of their own and a newfound sense of their own strengths.”

The Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren has designed a renewal plan around the theme of “Rootedness and Reaching” to “root deeper” by nourishing and deepening personal and congregational rootedness in God so that together they may “reach farther”.

Pastor Laszakovits and his family will spend nine weeks in Brazil where he will engage in reflective activities—daily prayer, reading, journaling—as well as education, recreation, and travel to nourish body, mind, and spirit. These renewing activities will be pursued in Brazil because an immersion into a different culture and language will provide a sharp separation from the routines of congregational life and work.

“Furthermore”, Laszakovits stated, “cross-cultural immersion, studying Portuguese, and observing church life in a radically different context will stretch me beyond my standard frames of reference and nudge me to experience God’s presence in new and creative ways.” Simultaneously, the congregation will engage in activities including two weekend retreats that encourage the members to root deeper in ways that will nourish their individual and corporate spiritual health and reach as well.

~ OPPORTUNITIES ~

District Women's Spring Fellowship **Saturday, March 10, 2012** **Coventry Church of the Brethren**



The Coventry Church will host the District Women's Spring Fellowship on Saturday, March 10. The speaker will be Patricia Ann Moyer. Pat is a freelance writer, wife, mother, grandmother and photographer residing in Pottstown, PA. She is a lifetime member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and past president of the Pottstown Area Garden Club. She is an inspirational speaker for women's events and a member of the teaching team for an adult ladies' Sunday school class.

Pat enjoys digging into the treasures of God's love. She will cover two topics.

- The morning session, "Biblical Garden: Rooted in Faith" will focus on various plants and gardens mentioned in the Bible that can be seeds of inspiration.
- In the afternoon session, "Fringe Benefits" we'll learn about the origins of the Jewish prayer shawl (the tallit) and hear the story of two people who received fringe benefits from Jesus.

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 cost of \$6.00. 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 to Juli Thomas, Registration Coordinator, no later than March 5, 2012. For further information, contact Carol Nelson (717) 234-0288 or email Carol at carolnelson@comcast.net.



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 soon.

DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Volleyball

Place: Thompson Gym, Elizabethtown College

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

Cost per Team: \$1.50/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 Jess Ross at the District Office.

Registrations will be handled on a first-received - first-entered basis, & must be postmarked by Jan. 2.

Mennonite and Brethren **Marriage & Engaged Encounters**

The next **Marriage Encounter** will be February 17-19. Spend some time away from the world to focus on your relationship with your spouse. Contact information is listed below. Other dates for 2012 can be viewed on the website.

Engaged Encounter helps you learn the skills you will need to create a marriage that thrives for a lifetime. Mennonite & Brethren Engaged Encounter is for engaged couples of any age that desire a rich and beautiful relationship. Take time off from wedding planning and call soon since Engaged Encounters tend to fill quickly. We recommend that you attend approx. 3 months or less prior to your wedding date. The next scheduled Engaged Encounter will be January 20-22 at Kenbrook Bible Camp in Lebanon, PA.

Please call 717-569-5676 to register, or visit www.marriageencounter.org, for more information.



Stewardship University ~ *Let's grow together*

Save the date!

Saturday, March 3, 2012
Lancaster Mennonite School
Registration begins at 8 a.m.

You can count on

Classes that offer practical, relevant, usable information
A wide variety of classes to choose from
Biblical, Christ-centered, Anabaptist focus for the event

30 workshops focusing on holistic stewardship.

Instructors include: Kevin King (MDS), David Shenk (EMM), Brian Roche (WGAL), Mary Etta King (Kairos), Brian Black (Gibbel, Kraybill and Hess)

For more information, contact Kay Weaver: (717)367-4730 or kweaver@ane-cob.org.



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.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Conference will also offer a day-long program for children at nearby Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, 777 S Mt Joy Street. Children grades 1-6 will learn about loving God and loving others. Younger children will be cared for in age-appropriate rooms. Lunch will be provided. **Pre-registration is required.**

Renovaré Registration Form

(Complete one form for each Adult Attendee)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Work or Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
 E-mail: _____ (for confirmation receipt)
 Home Church _____ Denomination _____

Early Registration (postmarked by March 1) - \$40 per attendee

After March 1 - \$50 per attendee

CEU (.65) - \$10 additional fee
 Signing for Hearing Impaired
 Spanish Translation

CHILDREN - \$5 each
 # Grades 1-6 Grades: _____
 # Kindergarten or younger Ages: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Checks payable to: Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren

Mail check and completed form to: **Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren, Attn.: Renovaré, 500 E. Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.** You will receive email confirmation following receipt of the registration and payment. Any questions regarding registration, please call the District Office at 717-367-4730

Calendar

December

26-Jan. 2 Office Closed for the Holidays

January

13 Young Adults Night in Lancaster City

14 District Volleyball Tournament, Elizabethtown College

16 Office Closed, MLK Birthday

20-22 Senior High Retreat, Camp Swatara

February

20 Office Closed, Presidents' Day

March

2-3 Junior High Lock-In, Lebanon Valley College

3 Stewardship University, Lancaster Mennonite High School

10 District Board Meeting, Hanoverdale CoB

10 District Women's Spring Fellowship, Coventry CoB

16-17 Senior High Lock-In, Skippack CoB

29 Lancaster Area Senior Adult Banquet, Middle Creek CoB

April

14-19 Christian Citizenship Seminar, New York City & Washington D.C.

19 Harrisburg Area Senior Adult Banquet, Hanoverdale CoB

21 Renovaré Conference, Elizabethtown College

25 Philadelphia Area Senior Adult Banquet, Parker Ford CoB



Congratulations to **Sarah & Michael Kolbe** (Hershey Spring Creek) on the birth of **Olivia Lynne** on October 31. Sarah is a member of the District Commission on Church Development & Evangelism.



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

Deadline for the March/April issue of ANE Today is January 25. 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

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

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