



ANE Today

Volume 46 Issue 1

January/February 2015

**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**
www.ane-cob.org



*Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth, A glad new year to all the earth.*

~Martin Luther

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What's New in the District?

Newly Ordained Minister

J. David Brubaker, Middle Creek CoB

Newly Licensed Minister

Darren Bishop, Middle Creek CoB



Welcome, New Baby

Blake Robert, son of Krista & Dan Dickson, was born November 29. Krista is the District Office Administrator. Congratulations!

New Members

Alpha & Omega - *Baptism:* Denzel Lizasuain, Nestor, Abdiel Rivera, Miguel Rivera, Natalia Rivera;
Reaffirmation: Felipe Careamo, Arnulfo Escalon, Zaida Ortiz, Noemi Serrata

Florin - *Baptism:* Todd Barto, Jim Claytor Jr.; *Letter:* Kate Barto

Indian Creek - *Baptism:* Wade Bechtel

Mohler - *Letter:* Bess Vance, Robert Vance

Parker Ford - *Reaffirmation:* Kevin Bailey, Boyd Curry, Cindi Curry, Kari Morby, Mike Morby, Ted Tenney

Pottstown - *Baptism:* Elmer Hilbert, David Kurtz Jr., Blake Steffenhagen

Sanford - *Baptism:* Matthew Balmer, Keith Lindley

Peter Becker Community Announces Appointment of New CEO

Peter Becker Community's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Suzanne Owens as the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer. Mrs. Owens will assume her position on January 19, 2015, replacing Carol Berster who is retiring after 8 years of service as Peter Becker Community's President and CEO.

Suzanne earned a Master's degree from Penn State University, University Park, PA and a Bachelor of Science from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She has over 23 years of experience in the senior living field in executive management roles. According to John Frankenfield, Chairman of the Peter Becker Community Board of Directors, "We are pleased to have Suzanne join us as the leader of the Peter Becker Community team. Her experience and leadership, combined with her extensive management skills, will support our initiatives to create a 'best place to live' environment for our residents and a 'best place to work' environment for our team members."

The Board of Directors would like to thank residents, family members, staff, and the local community for their support during this time of leadership transition.

A Call to Support our Brothers and Sisters in Nigeria

The ongoing disturbing news from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) continues to sadden all of our hearts. Rev. Dr. Musa Mambula, who is well known as a writer, educator and current National Spiritual Advisor for EYN, has been visiting a number of congregations in our district to share about the persecution of Christians by Boko Haram terrorists in Northern Nigeria. As a result, many persons here in the ANE District are discussing and talking about what we can do to offer help for the seemingly overwhelming needs of our church family so many miles away.

Two district-led informational gatherings are being planned to raise awareness of and support for the response of the Church of the Brethren in the US to this crisis.

Meetings are scheduled for:

Sunday evening January 4, 2015 7 PM	Sunday evening January 11, 2015 7 PM
Hempfield CoB 1186 Stevens Street, Manheim PA	Indian Creek CoB 821 Main Street, Harleysville PA

A central focus of the meetings will be a presentation on the US church's planned response, which will be given by Roy Winter of Brethren Disaster Ministries at Hempfield and by MMB chair-elect Don Fitzkee at Indian Creek. Both events will include first-hand accounts of the situation in Nigeria from Musa Mambula, a time of prayer, and an offering for the Nigeria Crisis Fund.

At their October meeting, the Mission and Ministry Board (MMB) heard a report from Jay Wittmeyer of Global Mission and Service and Roy Winter of Brethren Disaster Ministries on the denomination's plan to expand our response to this situation, using funds from a newly created Nigeria Crisis Fund. The Board allocated up to \$1.5 million to this fund and is seeking to raise a total of \$2.8 million for the first year of a multi-year response.

In her *Newsline* report on MMB actions Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford explained, "The denomination will continue to honor the intentions of the gifts received to the EYN Compassion Fund, but donors are encouraged to support the next phase of the relief effort by directing their gifts to a new Nigeria Crisis Fund within the Emergency Disaster Fund."

Please mark these dates on your church calendars and be sure to encourage attendance by all who would like to be better informed about denominational efforts and by all who would like to be a part of offering support to our brothers and sisters in Nigeria.

The Barnabas Fund

The Barnabas Fund Team is now receiving applications!

2015 Meeting Dates

January 26, 2015
May 4, 2015
July 20, 2015
October 19, 2015

Application Deadlines

January 19, 2015
April 27, 2015
July 13, 2015
October 12, 2015

The Barnabas Fund has been established to share the blessing of financial resources with those who express a ministry-driven need. The Fund seeks to encourage the ministry of congregations through a grant-based ministry investment strategy that seeks Kingdom-based ministry results through: shared resources, fiscal accountability, ministry planning, and economic partnering.

BARNABAS FUND RECIPIENTS

Consideration will be given to congregations whose characteristics include:

- A verifiable active outreach ministry
- Located in and serving a community with a significant economically challenged population
- Limited resources due to circumstances beyond their control
- Sizeable community needs that surpass the congregation's ability to respond
- There must be clear evidence of Gospel and Mission

Applicants will be contacted within 10 days **following** the scheduled meeting.

Please contact the District Office for an Application.

Stewardship University

Save the date!

Saturday, March 7, 2015

Lancaster Mennonite School

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

You can count on:

- Workshops that offer practical, relevant, useful information
- A wide variety of workshops to choose from
- A biblical, Christ-centered, Anabaptist focus for the event

More than 30 workshops focusing on holistic stewardship, including:

- Budgeting
- Christian/Muslim relations
- Church and finances
- Estate planning
- Financial planning
- Fitness
- Mandatory reporting and child protection
- Mental health
- Sexuality

For more information, contact:

Kay Weaver, ANE Director of Stewardship
kweaver@ane-cob.org
717-786-1645

You can also register online at StewardshipUniversity.com.





Outreach Update

As members of the Witness and Outreach Commission interact with congregations in our district, we often hear stories of ways that our churches are reaching out to their communities. This outreach sometimes takes place in the form of an organized program. At other times, outreach is a result of seeing and meeting a community need. This month Nathan Minnich from White Oak COB has shared his thoughts on the Manheim Project:

Where is the mission field? It's not a hard question, but it does seem to be a hard answer...or rather it seems hard to know what to do with the answer. We understand Africa and China and South America; but when it comes to our home town, all of a sudden we're not sure anymore. What does the local mission field look like? How do we take the church to our own neighbors?

First, let's get this out of the way. There's nothing wrong with foreign missions. We need more people willing to commit years or even decades of their lives to take the gospel to every tribe and nation. Am I to serve God in Africa? Asia? The Middle East? Now those are hard questions, but they have focused answers. Focused answers produce dedicated commitment. Dedicated commitment produces no excuses. And maybe that's where the problem lies.

The answer to local missions is too easy. Love your neighbors, live like Christ, hope someone notices. It's not necessarily a focused answer, and as such it produces wavering commitment and bunch of excuses. Let's face it: we are distracted. Living at home, we do not bear the honored title of "missionary." No one asks us to show our pictures at church. No one gives us money. No one dedicates prayer for our daily tasks...except mom. So we are left secretly confused.

Maybe we don't know what to do; or maybe we are simply too busy or lazy to do anything. We say that the mission field is our backyard but in the same sentence use our official "non-missionary" status as an excuse. But when Jesus spoke into effect the great commission, there was no fine print that He excluded our own nation; our own town. Look around. Do these people need help? Do they need the love of God? Do they need our focus?

For the second year in a row, our church decided that a local mission means intentionality. It means getting rid of the excuses, taking time off of work, getting your hands dirty and throwing some gas on the fire. It gave birth to the compassion project, a week long concentrated effort of local missions.

The idea is not original to us. One man in the small town of Ephrata, PA decided that it was time to stay home for a mission trip. His perspective caught on spreading to dozens of churches in various towns throughout our area. The Ephrata Project, the Lititz Project, the Landisville Project and the Manheim Project have all grown out of one man's vision to insert the church into the lives of its neighbors instead of hoping the neighbors will insert their lives into the pews of the church. And Lord willing, more towns, more churches will catch the vision.

The concept is not complicated: Find out what the needs are around you, get people to fulfil those needs, love people. It's really what we're supposed to be doing, but for some reason, it feels like a breath of fresh air when you have a group dedicated to this purpose. We set out to accomplish three goals:

1. To bless the town and people of our local region.
2. To grow in unity as a body of believers in our four walls but also with the greater body of Christ.
3. To challenge and encourage each other in this effort.

Continued on P. 6

Outreach Update Continued

We prayed, we planned, we presented, and then we put into practice the steps to carry out the task. It wasn't a piece of cake, but the more involved we became, the more we saw the passion of our congregation reveal itself in different ways. Prayer warriors, cooks, carpenters, concreters, house cleaners, drivers, teachers, and the list went on. We had men and women from eight to eighty years old desiring to bring their gifts before the altar for use in the neighborhood.

And their gifts were used. The first year we tackled almost two dozen projects ranging from shampooing carpet to painting an entire house. This year, with the help of three more churches, we entered into over fifty homes of people from the community. Some were new and some were repeats, but that's the point. Repeats...people who we can begin to build relationships with and establish trust. People who would never darken the doors of a church. People who knew some Christians and didn't want anything to do with them. People who are lonely, forgotten, and searching. After all, isn't that the purpose of a mission?

The results are underwhelming. Sorry, that's the way it works. It's the long haul type of mission. It's ministering to comfortable people when we ourselves are also very comfortable. It's a matter of examining what results you are expecting. Yes, some of those we served have come to church. Yes, we are still in contact with several families and are trying to build relationships. It's not a breakout revival, but it is a focused, intentional decision to not check out.

We are slowly learning that the results we should be expecting are in our own hearts first. We are answering questions about our own ideas of love, compassion, judgmentalism, and wrong attitudes. We are coming to grips with a better understanding of what it means to walk in love and be imitators of Christ. That in itself is a result worth pursuing.

Mission work means different things to different people; but regardless of the details, it means doing. It is a verb, and one that needs to be levied on the people we mow grass beside and the people we run into at the grocery store. Here is where the hidden problem is revealed. Local missions means consistency. You can't be Christ to the cat lady on the corner this week and then fly back home next week. She knows you now and she knows who you claim to be. And it's these excuses, among others, in which we too often seek refuge. No more.

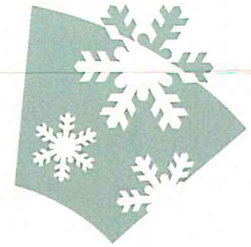
Intentionality: It is the precursor to focus. Focus leads to commitment and commitment produces no excuses. If you want to get serious about local missions, you have to get serious about local missions. No more excuses. Shed the no responsibility attitude and change your perspective. Perhaps The Lord has sent you to minister in your deepest, darkest home town.

We would love to hear YOUR outreach stories. You may send your stories to Mary Etta Reinhart, ANE Director of Witness and Outreach at mreinhart@ane-cob.org.



Youth & Young Adults

Jess Ross, Director



Senior High Retreat ~~

Date: January 16-18, 2015

Location: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: January 6, 2015

Cost: Youth – \$95, Advisors – \$45

Details: Join us as we talk about how we are *Connected By Christ*. Josh Brockway, our speaker for the weekend, is the Director of Spiritual Life and Discipleship for the Church of the Brethren. We will also have a great band, insight sessions, games, food, and of course great people to connect with.

Junior High and Senior High Service Project ~~

Date: February 28, 9 am – 1:30 pm

Location: MCC & Ephrata Church of the Brethren

Cost: Free!

Registration Deadline: February 19 (this gives MCC time to prepare for us)

Details: Please invite your whole youth program to join us at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resources Center in Ephrata. After serving there, we will be going to Ephrata Church of the Brethren where we will eat lunch and then split into JH and SH groups for some fun!

Junior High Lock In ~~

Date & Time: April 10-11, 10pm – 6 am

Location: Lebanon Valley College

Cost: \$10 per Youth and free for Advisors

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2015

Details: There will be games, movies, gym time, swimming, and food!

We are planning a **Senior High** Adventure Day at Camp Swatara, set for April 25...more details to come!

Check out the Youth section under Our Ministries on the District website for more details on all events and as always feel free to email me with questions!

jross@ane-cob.org



National Youth Events

National Junior High Conference 2015

June 19 – 21, 2015 Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God!

Registration will open online www.brethren.org/yja/njhc on January 9, 2015, at 12 noon central time.

National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed 6-8 grades and their advisors.

Questions? Contact Kristen Hoffman, NJHC coordinator, in the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office at 847-429-4389 or khoffman@brethren.org

Continued on P. 8

Youth & Young Adults Continued**Christian Citizenship Seminar**

April 18-23, 2015 in New York City and Washington, D.C.

The theme for the upcoming Christian Citizenship Seminar is U.S. Immigration. Please join us as we delve into topics that will challenge and support growth in our knowledge, compassion, understanding, and faith in learning about such an important and timely issue.

Online registration opened online, www.brethren.org/yya/ccs, on December 1. Registration is limited to 100 participants, so register early!

National Young Adult Opportunities**Young Adult Conference**

May 22 - 24, 2015

Camp Swatara, PA

Online registration opens on January 6, 2015! www.brethren.org/yya/yac

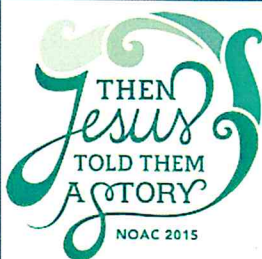
This three-day event is full of worship, fun, and fellowship. Come to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones! We'll explore God's Word and learn about what it means to be a young adult in the Church of the Brethren.

Ministry Summer Service

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).

Are you interested in Ministry Summer Service? Find the application at www.brethren.org/yya/mss, due by January 10, 2015. Orientation: May 29 – June 3

**2015 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)**

What NOAC is: NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

2015 Theme: The Jesus Told Them a Story (Matthew 13:34-35 CEV)

Dates: September 7-11, 2015

Location: Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, approximately 25 miles west of Asheville, NC

Website: www.brethren.org/NOAC (more information will be posted on the site as planning progresses)

Church Development & Evangelism

How do you see your church transformed for the Kingdom of God?

On April 18th, the E³ Ministry Group will be coming to ANE and the Coventry COB to ignite us in church vitality, renewal, engaging the community, and give us the tools for Kingdom Building.

The spark in this Kingdom work will be provided by:

Jeremy Ashworth



Jeremy is sought by many congregations and church leaders for his innovation and creativity in effecting a new paradigm in congregational life and vitality. He brings broad experience in embracing and engaging community, with pastoral and church experience in rural, suburban and urban settings. His passion and charisma has helped launch and facilitate congregational culture change through engaging, vibrant ministries with children, youth and young adults.

He currently serves as pastor of Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren in suburban Phoenix, AZ. He also serves as a writer, consultant and member of the Executive Advisory Team of the E³ Ministry Group, LLC.

Fred Bernhard



Having co-authored five books related to Church revitalization, Fred is a well-known speaker and facilitator of workshops on the topics of hospitality and faith-sharing for congregations around the United States. He brings 42 years of pastoral experience and was a past Annual Conference Moderator for his denomination.

Fred currently is employed part-time with Bethany Theological Seminary and serves on the Executive Advisory Team of the E³ Ministry Group, LLC.

John Neff



John was for over 20 years the CEO of a successful contracting business, engaged in community leadership and extensive non-profit board experience. He has transitioned from the business and now devotes his gifts and energy to a calling to the pastoral ministry and revitalizing congregations. John has designed and developed the "Discovering The Master's Plan"TM congregational revitalization process that engages a church in effective tools and exercises for impacting spiritual growth and vitality.

John is pastor of a new church plant in Moneta, VA- Lake Side COB, and is President of E³ Ministry Group, LLC.

Please refer to the flyer on page 10 in this newsletter for more information. Hope to see you there!

In Christ's Peace
Don Mitchell



~ OPPORTUNITIES ~

AWAKENING

REVEALING GOD'S VISION...

RELEASING THE SON...

REKINDLING THE FIRE!

April 18th, 2015

9:00am - 3:00pm

Coventry Church of the Brethren

946 Keen Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465

Atlantic Northeast District



CHURCH LEADERS CONFERENCE**“Living Contemplatively in the Real World”**

Guest Speaker:

**Sister Marcia
Springer****Director, Francis House of Prayer**

For 24 years Sister Marcia has led a day in the Kairos School of Spiritual Formation. Kairos is a school at the Jesuit Center founded by Anabaptists.



“Sister Marcia is a down to earth person who takes Spiritual Practices and makes it very accessible for everyone in the midst of our busy lives. When she teaches Spiritual Practices, I really feel like it’s something I can do.”

Pam Brubaker, Kairos Student and member at Lampeter C.O.B.

Conference Focus: *Listening to the practical wisdom of the Devotional Masters and applying their teaching to leading a Christ-like life in today’s world.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**Wednesday, April 22, 2015****Hempfield Church of the Brethren****Registration: 8:30 a.m.****Session: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

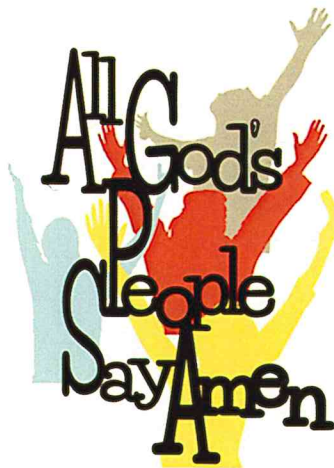
- CEU will be available for attending this event in its entirety
- Details to follow in the Pastor’s Memo and ANE Today newsletter

This Conference is designed to be a day apart for ministers, church leaders, and other interested persons

~ Sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District Spiritual Renewal Team

**Bus to Annual Conference**

Ken Kreider is again offering air-conditioned coach transportation from Ephrata, Lancaster, Elizabethtown, Carlisle, and along I-81 through Virginia, to Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida, in July, 2015. Transportation and hotels from July 9-17, tour of CNN headquarters in Atlanta included. For information and reservations please write to Ken Kreider, 1300 Bear Creek Rd, Elizabethtown PA 17022, call 717-367-7622, or email kreiderk@etown.edu

ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAY AMEN!**May 1-3, 2015****Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren****An Intercultural Retreat for:****Pastors****Church Leaders****Emerging Church Leaders**

**Step away for a weekend to experience fresh wind,
to encounter new learnings, and to gain a better understanding
of what it means to be an Intercultural Church in the 21st century**

Presenters will include:

Drew Hart - Drew Hart is known in social media circles as an "Anablacktivist." Though raised in a non-denominational African American Christian community, as a young adult Drew stumbled upon Anabaptism, and has since sought to learn from and dialogue with both the wider Black Church and Anabaptist streams. He majored in biblical studies at Messiah College and then joined the pastoral team of Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church, a racially diverse and urban Anabaptist community committed to racial reconciliation. Drew came back to Philadelphia after 4 years of ministry to work on his MDiv at Biblical Seminary with an urban/missional concentration. Along with continuing in pastoral ministry, he is also a PhD candidate at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, in theology & ethics.¹

Gimbiya Kettering - Intercultural Ministries Coordinator, Congregational Life Ministries

Jonathan Shively - Executive Director, Congregational Life Ministries

Stan Dueck - Director of Transforming Practices, Congregational Life Ministries

You Will Be Blessed by this Event!

¹<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/taking-jesus-seriously/about-drew>

Seeking Part Time Youth Leader

The Mohler Church is seeking a part-time (10-15hrs/wk) Youth Leader to direct and provide leadership for youth ministry within the congregation. Interested individuals may submit their resume or direct any inquiries to Mohler Church of the Brethren, 21 E. Mohler Church Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717-738-2753) or to mohlerwendy@hotmail.com.

COBYS Correction to District Conference Minutes:

Reported: Mark reported that a \$400,000 grant was received to be used at the newly developed Family Life Center. The recent capital campaign effort reached its \$300,000 goal, and is still hoping for some additional support from congregations. C O B Y S is providing services to the larger community, in the form of case management assistance, budget preparation, and helping with assistance programs. Mark alerted the conference to the recent changing laws about background checks for all persons working with children and youth. These legal changes related to child abuse and subsequent mandatory reporting need to be in place no later than June 30, 2015.

Corrected: *We currently are in the midst of a capital campaign to further strengthen our Family Life Education work. Our Work for the Well Being of the City Campaign is providing funding that will allow us to retire the family life center debt, recoup some of the startup costs associated with the facility, and raise additional funds for programming. So far supporters have pledged more than \$205,000 toward a \$300,000 campaign goal. We are currently visiting churches, asking them to consider supporting the campaign during 2015 and 2016 at a suggested amount of \$10 per attendee per year for the two years. We are grateful for the many people who have committed to the campaign so far, giving over and above their regular support levels.*

Calendar

January

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 | EYN Support Meeting, Hempfield CoB |
| 11 | EYN Support Meeting, Indian Creek CoB |
| 16-18 | Senior High Retreat, Camp Swatara |
| 19 | District Office Closed for MLK Day |

February

- | | |
|----|--|
| 16 | District Office Closed for Presidents' Day |
| 28 | Junior & Senior High Service Project, MCC, Ephrata |

March

- | | |
|----|---|
| 7 | District Women's Fellowship Spring Event, Blue Ball CoB |
| 21 | District Board, Quakertown CoB |

April

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10-11 | Junior High Lock-In, Lebanon Valley College |
| 16 | Lancaster Area Senior Adult Banquet, Middle Creek CoB |
| 18 | E3 Seminar |
| 22 | Church Leaders Conference, Hempfield CoB |



Deadline for the March/April issue of ANE Today is January 26.

Articles may be faxed (717-367-8737) to the District Office or emailed to: Jan Reed at jreed@ane-cob.org. When possible, include appropriate logo or other graphic.

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

Non-Profit Organization

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Kay M. Weaver, Director of Stewardship

Jess Ross, Director of Nurture

Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness & Outreach

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