



ANE Today

Volume 47 Issue 1

January/February 2016

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

District Conference 2016	2	Senior Adults	7
What's New in the District?	3	Outreach Updates	8
District Ministry Notes/SVMC	4-5	UITT/Barnabas Fund	9
Youth & Young Adults	6-7	Opportunities	10-11
		Calendar	11

District Conference

October 8, 2016

November 17, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thanks to all of you who participated in the "roll call" of congregations at this year's Atlantic Northeast District Conference by submitting pictures of your meeting places. A number of comments on the evaluation forms expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear the names of all our district's congregations and to see the different meetinghouses of congregations in our district through the PowerPoint presentation.

The theme for the 2016 conference is "*Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus*," drawing from the words in Hebrews 12:1-2. A portion of that text refers to a "cloud of witnesses." We would like to continue the idea of a roll call of congregations and, for the 2016 conference, would like the PowerPoint to include pictures of our brothers and sisters, as well as buildings.

Each congregation is asked to submit a picture or two of the people of your congregation for the roll call. The picture could be of an activity, a worship service, a service project, a way your congregation is fixing its eyes on Jesus, or maybe a specially posed picture of as many of the congregation as you can gather together for a photo. Be creative!



Knowing the coming holidays may be a good time to get some pictures, we wanted to get this out to you before the season. Please submit your pictures by email to wrohde@ane-cob.org or mail them to the District Office, 500 East Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 no later than **April 15, 2016.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Program and Arrangements Committee:

Dennis Garrison, Moderator

Glenn Martin, Moderator-elect

Sarah Clugston, Clerk

Mick Allen

Jennifer Balmer

Ruby Bean

What's New in the District?

New Members

Hershey Spring Creek - *Baptism:* Wyatt Howe, Luke Sheppard; *Reaffirmation:* Amy Bollinger, Steven Bollinger, Penny Radcliff (Associate Member)

Midway - *Letter:* Molly Dubble, Danielle Fisher, Carolyn Hoover, Marvin Hoover, James Martin, Allison Nolt, Brent Nolt, Colin Zimmerman

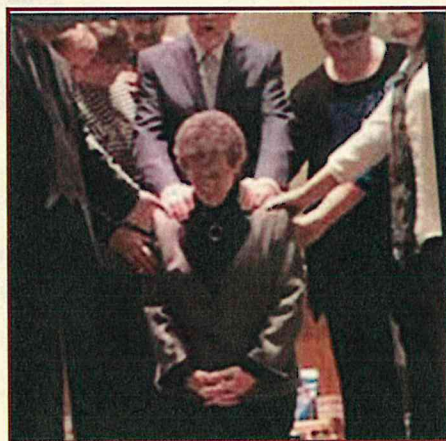
Mohrsville - Peter Rohrbach

Mount Wilson - Ruth Herr

Myerstown - *Letter:* Amanda Albright, Jean Soliday

Pottstown - *Baptism:* Janice Bainbridge, William Bainbridge, Derek Hand, Elmer Hilbert

West Green Tree - *Baptism:* Kaylee Kersher, Brayden Raynes; *Letter:* Betty Walmer, Gene Walmer; *Reaffirmation:* Michele Groff



Newly Ordained Minister

Kay Weaver (Lampeter)

Kay is the ANE District Director of Stewardship.

Congratulations to: **Bethany Clark** and **Andrew Hoffer** who were married Nov. 7. Bethany is Director of Youth Ministries at Palmyra CoB.

ANE on Facebook: Get connected. See ministry updates. Peruse photos of special events. Catch a word of inspiration. Stay informed. Become a part of the *ANE Communication Team*: REPOST ... help get the word out. Encourage your members to **LIKE ANE on FB!** Help us keep ... **Connecting Our Common Good News!** www.facebook.com/AtlanticNortheastDistrict

Reminder:

In case of inclement weather, the District Office follows the Elizabethtown Area School District's schedule for closings or delays.



Ministry

Craig H. Smith



Pastoral News

Hanoverdale: Called Matt Ross as Youth Director beginning January 1.
Mount Wilson: Called Jim & Sue Eikenberry beginning March 1.
Paxton: Mary Etta Reinhart serving as Interim beginning January 1.
Quakertown: Erv Huston serves as Interim.
Springfield: David Weiss serves as Interim.
Swatara Hill: Called Ed Liskey. Moves from Interim to Permanent January 1.

Seven Questions to Advance Your Church

1. What does "thinking outside the box" look like for your church?
2. What expands the vision, mission, and ministry of your church?
3. What is the fertile ground not yet being explored?
4. What does "looking inside the box" look like for your church?
5. What already exists in your congregational resources that help you reach out?
6. What is tucked away, hidden, or underutilized?
7. Who can help you objectively look inside and outside to discover ALL your options?



Asking better questions leads to healthier solutions; and healthier solutions lead to a clearer vision; and a clearer vision leads to a brighter future; and a bright future is God's energy for today and ray of hope for tomorrow.

Shift Thinking:

The following are considerations to navigate culture and shift thinking to impact this present generation:

- ◆ Listen to the scriptures.
- ◆ Listen to the cultural trends.
- ◆ Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Listen to the wisdom of elders.
- ◆ Listen to the fresh ideas of youth.



LISTEN

Scripture Points:

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative--that is, the Holy Spirit--he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. – John 14.26

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

– 1 Corinthians 9:22

Let's turn the tables on a culture of *stuck-ness* in the church and create a culture of meaningful tradition mingled with a bright-eyed, eager-spirited, God-alive wonder!

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Events

- April 4, 2016 **SVMC Continuing Education event: "Memory Care: Embracing the Journey"** taught by Jennifer Holcomb at Cross Keys Village, New Oxford. 0.5 CEUs. Pre-registration required: www.etown.edu/SVMC.
- April 27, 2016 **SVMC Continuing Education event: "The Book of Chronicles and the Church: Theology, Continuity, Innovation, and the Kingdom of God"** taught by Steven Schweitzer at Elizabethtown College. 0.6 CEUs. Pre-registration required: www.etown.edu/SVMC.
- May 15, 2016 **SVMC Sunday.** Materials available at www.etown.edu/svmc/resources.aspx or email svmc@etown.edu.
- July 25, 2016 **SVMC Continuing Education event: "Memory Care: Life with Purpose"** taught by Jennifer Holcomb at Cross Keys Village, New Oxford. 0.5 CEUs. Pre-registration required: www.etown.edu/SVMC.
- September 10, 2016 **SVMC Continuing Education event: "Reimagining Art for the Church"** taught by Diane Brandt at Lititz Church of the Brethren. 0.6 CEUs. Pre-registration required: www.etown.edu/SVMC.
- November 10, 2016 **SVMC Continuing Education event: "Preaching the Reign of God"** with keynote Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm at Juniata College. 0.6 CEUs. Pre-registration required: www.etown.edu/SVMC.

From the Annual Conference Office

There will be a change starting this coming year for congregations registering delegates for Annual Conference. Both delegate and non-delegate registrations will open on the same day, **Wednesday, February 17, 2016**. There will be no "early" delegate registration beginning in January as in the past.

A letter with more registration details and information will be sent directly to all congregations in December. Anyone with questions can contact the Conference Office at annualconference@brethren.org or by calling 800-323-8039, ext. 365.

Youth & Young Adults

Jess Ross, Director

Senior High Retreat

Date: January 15-17, 2016

Location: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: January 7, 2016

Cost: Youth – \$100, Advisors – \$60

Details: We would love for you to join us as we experience great sessions with speaker and band, games, food, and of course great people to connect with.



Junior High Lock In

Date: February 12-13, 2016

Time: 10 pm – 6 am

Location: Lebanon Valley College, Arnold Sports Center

Registration Deadline: February 4, 2016

Cost: \$10 per youth, free for Advisors

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

Junior AND Senior High Service Project

Date: March 12, 2016

Time: 9 am – 1:30 pm

Location: Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resources Center, Ephrata

Cost: \$2 per attendee (pizza lunch)

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2016 (this gives MCC time to prepare for us)

Details: Please invite your whole youth program to join us. After serving at the Resources Center, we will be going to another facility where we will eat lunch and play some games!

Open Camp-us

Date: April 9, 2016

Location: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2016

Details: Day of fun! Climbing Wall, High Ropes, Adventure Games, Hiking, Gaga, 4 Square, Volleyball, and more possibilities!

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

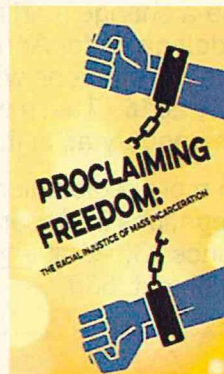
National Youth Events

Christian Citizenship Seminar

Apr 9 – 14, 2016

New York and Washington, DC

The group will take a look into mass incarceration as an issue of racial justice.



National Youth Sunday will be May 1, 2016

National Young Adult Opportunities

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). www.brethren.org/yva/mss

Youth Peace Travel Team

The members of this team travel to camps across the denomination, teaching about peace, justice, and reconciliation. The group also gives peace programs at a variety of camps and conferences over the summer. The goal of the team's work is to talk with other young people about the Christian message and the Brethren tradition of peacemaking. College age Church of the Brethren young adults (19 - 22 yrs.) will be selected for the next team. A stipend is paid to team members. www.brethren.org/yva/peaceteam



Think fast because MSS and Youth Peace Travel Team 2016 applications are due no later than January 8, 2016.

National Young Adult Conference

May 27-30, 2016
Manchester University

Workcamps

If you are a 6th grader, a 35-year-old young adult, or somewhere in between (or know someone who is in that age range), you should check out the workcamps for 2016! Registration is open!

www.brethren.org/workcamps

Apply to be a 2017 Assistant Workcamp Coordinator! www.brethren.org/workcamps/apply

Calling All Senior Adults to Experience Good Fellowship Through Travel



Washington D. C. Cherry Blossom Tour and Cruise-Thursday, April 7, 2016

A two-hour luncheon cruise aboard the Spirit of Washington sight seeing boat and a visit to the Arlington National Cemetery. Cost: \$115 pp. includes Elite Coach, lunch, all fees and gratuity

One-Day Mystery Tour on Thursday, July 14, 2016. The tour does not include much walking, but a variety of experiences ending with a very special dinner. Cost is \$68 per person.

One-Day Tour to Cambridge, MD to Hooper Island in Oyster Country (date tbd)

Experience a narrated cruise on the Honga River, spotting wildlife in their natural habitat, visit an oyster farm, have a buffet luncheon at Old Salty's Restaurant. Cost: \$125 pp. all inclusive.

5 Days & 4 Night Indiana Quilt Gardens and Ohio Amish Country Tour- August 1-5, 2016

View acres of gardens planted like colored quilt patterns, spend a night at Carlisle Inn in Sugar Creek, OH, visit the Warther Knife Co., & much more. Cost: \$763 pp double. occ. All inclusive

For more information, contact Earl Ziegler at 717-560-6488 or email: evzieg@gmail.com.



Outreach Updates

- Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness & Outreach

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.

A Mission Field Close By

We live in a little, rural town in Maine. Some of the residents along our road have been long-time neighbors, and we've interacted with carols and cocoa nights and neighborhood picnics. For the neighbors living closest to us--some of them newcomers--we share baked goods on special holidays. Garden produce and casseroles are also tokens of friendship.



Often sharing Christ can be seen by tangible items, but sharing Christ can go deeper—by conversation that speaks to the heart.

There's Millie several doors down from us. She's elderly, limited in mobility, concerned with having enough money for bills. Some years ago, she asked to attend our church, and we provided her transportation. One day she called to ask for a visit, saying, "If I don't behave myself, I won't get to heaven." Millie was ready for salvation and accepted Jesus into her heart at her kitchen table. Ever since, I meet with Millie to chat, to pray, and to glean some spiritual food for life's journey. Now she can no longer attend church, but our visits minister to her.

Then there's Tina several doors up from us. She is middle-aged and limited physically due to a couple strokes. Her aunt, a Jehovah Witness believer, has studied with Tina to promote her beliefs. With Tina's agreement, she and I met to study God's truth, but that was short-lived—Tina's choice. Instead, every month I took a *Daily Bread* booklet to her. Eventually, I prayed with Tina each time.

A couple weeks ago when I delivered garden produce and a *Daily Bread* to Tina, she was very despondent, saying she cried all day because she missed her mom so much since her death. We went to the couch to talk. After explaining the gospel message, I asked Tina if she wanted Jesus to come into her heart—and she did! Now, I am blessed to see growth in Tina's life. She has released her mother and has a better outlook on life. Spiritual things are so new to her, and her responses are priceless.

On one visit I asked Tina if she knew Jesus was coming back. With a look of wonder, she exclaimed, "WHEN?" Just yesterday, I read Tina a poem, *If Jesus Came to Your House*. When she heard the title, Tina exploded, "Oh I wish He would!" She went on to say that she would make him a meal . . . Oh, the simplicity of her faith.

I thank God for these opportunities. Our family has been privileged to lead several other neighbors to saving faith. Indeed, we do have a mission field right in our neighborhood.

Karen Keller
Lewiston Church of the Brethren

We would be happy to hear your Outreach Stories as well. Please send them to Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness and Outreach at mreinhardt@ane-cob.org.

UITT RENEW !!

The Urban Initiatives Task Team (UITT) was formed several years ago by a group of leaders in our ANE district urban churches. The group organized as a result of a perceived need to provide encouragement for urban pastors and congregations, to create an "urban awareness" within the ANE district, and to discover ways to do urban ministry effectively.



Leaders from 8 of our ANE District urban congregations gathered at Mohler COB on Saturday, October 24, 2015, to discuss ways to continue the efforts of this initiative. The goal of this gathering was to renew efforts to strengthen relationships and connections within the ANE network of urban and multi-ethnic churches. During this event, participants were able to share the challenges, opportunities, and achievements taking place in the church communities.

In 2016 we will have the opportunity to continue our urban initiative efforts by making use of the ANE district new video conferencing technology. Beginning in January 2016, John Neff of the E³ Ministry Group will be leading a series of video conference. We will be hosting a monthly (1st Tuesday of each month) video conference that will focus on helping our urban churches cultivate tangible tools and strategies to implement or engage in to impact their growth. The bottom line will be reflecting upon the question..."How are we making a difference?"



Participants can join this video conferences from home. No need to travel to a distant location to join in this discussion! Please contact Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness and Outreach at mreinhart@ane-cob.org to participate in this important event for urban leaders.

Barnabas Fund Update

Philadelphia Geiger Memorial Church of the Brethren

The Barnabas Fund Team met in October to consider a funding request from the Philadelphia Geiger Church of the Brethren congregation. The Barnabas Fund team was happy to be able to send \$2500 from our Barnabas Fund for the Outreach Ministry of Philadelphia Geiger.

Here is how Pastor Anthony DiBenedetto described the ministry being done by this congregation:

We engage in food distribution about once a month, free clothes distribution once or twice a year, Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket distribution, DVBS, and conduct funerals for neighbors who have no church connection. All these programs contain a clear presentation of the Gospel, plus Christian literature. A Christmas party for children with gift distribution is also held. Each Saturday, October through May, our "Masters Table" breakfast and Bible study outreach to substance abusers is held.....

Your financial support of this ANE District fund enables us to support this kind of ministry in our district churches. The Barnabas Fund seeks to encourage congregations through a grant-based ministry investment strategy that seeks Kingdom-based ministry results through: shared resources, fiscal accountability, ministry planning, and economic partnering.

For more information about the ANE District Barnabas Fund check out the "Our Ministries" page of the ANE District website at www.ane-cob.org.

~ OPPORTUNITIES ~

District Women's Spring Fellowship

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Lancaster CoB

Speaker: Melanie Snyder, Elizabethtown CoB

Detailed information and a registration form will be mailed to each congregation soon.



Help Wanted

Coventry Church of the Brethren, located in Pottstown PA, is receiving letters of interest and resume for the position of head Nursery School Teacher/Director. This position is a part-time position that meets each weekday morning of the school calendar from 8:30 – noon. The position will commence with the September 2016 school season. Minimal requirements for interested persons include a certification in early childhood education. Interested parties can email letter of interest and/or qualifications to coventrycob@comcast.net or call the office at 610.326.5426.

March for Life

Coventry Church of the Brethren is sponsoring a bus trip to participate in the March for Life event held in Washington D.C. on January 22. The bus will leave Coventry CoB at 7:30 a.m. and return around 7:30 p.m. The cost for a seat on the 54-passenger Klein motor coach is \$33, and payment is due by December 15. Reserve a seat by calling 610-326-5426. Contact the church office for complete details.

Mennonite & Brethren Marriage/ Engaged Encounter

Clergy Marriage Encounter: Take the chance to invest in your marriage during the annual Interdenominational Clergy Marriage Encounter! It will be held in Havre de Grace, Maryland from Thursday, January 21 - Saturday, January 23. We are currently accepting applications, but spots are limited.

Marriage Encounter: Spend an entire weekend focusing on your spouse and your relationship, working toward God's ideal for marriage. February 12-14, Kenbrook Bible Camp, Lebanon.

Engaged Encounter: The weekend helps you learn the skills you need to build a marriage that will thrive for a lifetime. January 8-10 or March 18-20, Kenbrook Bible Camp.

Email: love@marriageencounter.org
Website: www.marriageencounter.org
Phone: 717-569-5676

Cookies for Purdue University Students

We'd like to bake cookies for all Brethren-affiliated Purdue University students to sweeten and support their finals week. Do you know of any students from your district (or otherwise) who attend Purdue? We'd be grateful to know their names and contact info so we can extend Brethren fellowship during their college years, and share cookies. Please let us know by calling 765-474-5021 or emailing annalisa144@gmail.com. Thanks!

Interim Pastor Anna Lisa Gross
Lafayette Church of the Brethren



New Church Planting Conference

May 19-21 Bethany Theological Seminary

This vibrant gathering focused on church planting is rooted in worship and prayer while providing practical training, nurturing conversation, and stimulating idea-sharing.

The event is open to anyone who is willing to explore creative ways of shaping communities of faith and service. The conference will include a training track offered in Spanish.

For details: www.brethren.org/church_planting



Save the Date!

Stewardship University

Saturday, March 12, 2016
Lancaster Mennonite School

Workshops focusing on holistic stewardship.
Registration begins at 8 a.m.

For more information, contact Kay Weaver
at 717-367-4730.

More details will be forthcoming.



District Volleyball Tournament!

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in the District Volleyball Tournament planned for May 21 at Elizabethtown College. Watch for the flyer and registration form later this winter.

Calendar

December

23-Jan. 3
12/23)

Office closed for Christmas (beginning at noon

January

11-12

Church Leaders Conference, Camp Swatara

15-17

Senior High Youth Retreat, Camp Swatara

18

Office closed for MLK Day

February

12-13

Junior High Youth Lock-In, Lebanon Valley College

15

Office closed for Presidents' Day

March

5

District Women's Spring Fellowship, Lancaster CoB

12

Stewardship University, Lancaster Mennonite School

12

Junior & Senior High Youth Service Project, MCC, Ephrata

22

District Board Meeting



Deadline for the March/April issue of ANE Today is January 28. 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 designs.

**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

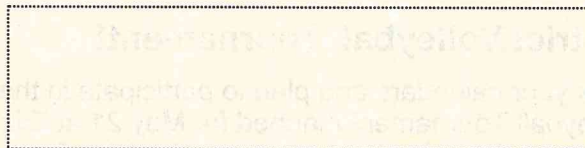
500 East Cedar Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Non-Profit Organization

AUTOMATION

**U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Elizabethtown, PA
Permit No. 53**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

Craig H. Smith, District Executive

Don V. Mitchell, Director of Church Development & Evangelism

Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness & Outreach

Jess Ross, Director of Nurture

Kay M. Weaver, Director of Stewardship

Krista Dickson, Office Administrator

Jan Reed, Communications Manager

Wanda Rohde, Projects Manager

Phone Number: 717- 367- 4730

FAX Number: 717- 367- 8737

Website: www.ane-cob.org



www.facebook.com/AtlanticNortheastDistrict