



**ALL IN: Godly. Going.
Glowing. Growing. Godly.**

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

COB New Church Planting Conference Recap— Don Mitchell

"Hope, Imagination, Mission--the theme of the Church of the Brethren New Church Planting Conference, May 19-21 in Richmond, Indiana, hosted by Bethany Theological Seminary--prompted a new call to the whole church to develop its imagination and foster a new hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ. One hundred (100) people participated in worship, keynote presentations, workshops, and a special track in Spanish. The conference was sponsored by Congregational Life Ministries."

ANE continues "Going" as it shows we are embracing our theme and commitment to be an "All In" church. On May 18-21,

16 ANE members attended the aforementioned Church Planting Conference. Our "Going" group consisted of church leaders, pastors, Church Development Commission members, District Executive Craig Smith, and those sensing the Call from God to plant churches.

We met for intentional prayer, song, and praise in a pre-conference gathering on Wednesday evening, May 18 as people arrived and registered. This was to prepare people to get ready for what was to come; leadership was provided by Pastor Belita Mitchell, Harrisburg First Church, and Leah Hileman, Minister of Music, Harrisburg First.

Keynote Speakers for the conference were Efreem Smith and Mandy Smith. Workshop presenters from ANE included Ryan Braught, Veritas church planter, and Dave Weiss a former planter and now Pastor of the Springfield Congregation.

Pastor Galen Hackman was also present with his Nigerian friend and other Nigerian leaders to discuss mission.

Dave Weiss gave the conference his artistic renderings as things unfolded. His work conveyed the beautiful essence as to what was taking place among us.

Eddie Quijano, supported by his wife, Jasmine, from Brooklyn First Church shared in an afternoon testimonial session. He spoke on how Brooklyn First has fostered other COB churches by the use of their facility, and their existing challenges. He also spoke about how they remain steadfast and committed to be an "All In" church, moving forward to 2020 and beyond.

District Executive Craig Smith prayed for the Harvesters, and it was a heart felt moment.

Details of this entire event may be accessed on COBNewsline at www.brethren.org/news/2016/church-planting-conference-calls-for-hope.html.



**CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
& EVANGELISM**

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What's New in the District?

New Members

Alpha & Omega- *Reaffirmation:* Josendy Martinez, Banencio De La Nuez, Jorge Serrano, Emily Riquelme, Wilfredo Riquelme, Santiago Payano, Petra Castro

Hershey Spring Creek - *Baptism:* Tyler Boland, Madison Dove, Cameron Nauman; *Letter:* Phoebe Gesford, James Gould, Winifred Gould, David Myers; *Reaffirmation:* Donna Esposito

Midway - *Baptism:* Aariah Freed, Ainsley Sellers, Caleb Ebling, Andrew Weidman; *Letter:* Dwight Ramsey, Loreen Ramsey, Isaiah Bomberger, Loren Stoner, Dana Ebling, Jessica Weidman, Caleb Stauffer, Erin Stauffer

Parker Ford - Joshua Kumpf, Stacy Kumpf, Dorothy Pike, Justine Rivera; *Baptism:* Shelli Witt; *Letter:* Mark Levensgood, Anna Levensgood

Little Swatara - *Letter:* Christopher and Christina Mowl

New Staff: Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Karen Hodges was appointed to the role of Program Coordinator of SVMC. Karen brings a wide range of skills to SVMC and holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Elizabethtown College. She most recently served as Administrative Support Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Business Administration at Penn State University—Harrisburg. Karen is an active member of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren.

Birth Announcements

Joel and Linetta Ballow welcomed baby Hannah Eirene into their lives on May 4, 2016.

Joel and Linetta are co-administrators of Camp Swatara. The family, including big brothers, Julian and Nicholas, are all doing well and are excited to become a party of five!

ANE District Adds New Staff

With the retirement of Jan Reed, ANE Communication's Manager, the Atlantic Northeast District is pleased to announce that Kelly Bernstein has joined the ANE Staff. Kelly began her new work with us on April 18.

Kelly is a graduate of Messiah College with a degree in Human Resource Management. She brings more than 25 years of office, managerial and business experience. Her previous experiences include: office work at a wellness center and Hershey Christian School, food service, and the hospitality and attractions industry at Hershey's Chocolate World, as well as being the co-owner of a small business.



Kelly and her husband, Rich, attend Hanoverdale Church, and recently moved to Harrisburg. They have two terrific college-aged girls. They enjoy watching their girls play soccer and travel.

Whether you encounter Kelly in a call or visit to the district office or around ANE at one of your events, please welcome her and make her feel a part of the

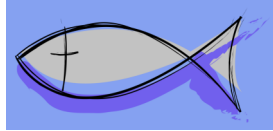
In Memoriam

Gilberto Falu, Pastor of the Potter's House Project in NY, passed away May 11, as result of a serious car accident.

Lloyd Moyer, Camp Swatara's Building and Grounds Manager, passed away May 12, following some health issues. Lloyd faithfully served Camp Swatara for 41+ years.

Ministry

Craig H. Smith



Placement News

Conewago- Open late summer. Search Committee to be formed.

East Cocalico – Interviewing. John Shaffer serves as Interim.

Elizabethtown- Gathering profiles and getting ready to interview. Minister of Faith Formation.

Ephrata – Negotiating. Internal Interim Team.

Florin – Galen Hackman called as Intentional Interim.

Green Tree – Profile developing. Rod O'Donnell serves as interim.

Lancaster- Negotiating. Associate Youth, Young Adults, & Faith Formation.

Long Run – Joel Hershey and Bob Spencer serve as Interim Team.

Myerstown – Jack Harpold serves as Interim.

Paxton – Interviewing. Mary Etta Reinhart serves as Interim.

Quakertown – Interviewing. Erv Huston completed Interim.

West Green Tree- Called Shawn O'Brien to Director, Youth Ministries



Shift Thinking—Craig H. Smith

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

- A positive attitude is great. A **positive action** is better.
- To encourage positive change is great. To **model change** is better.
- To look forward is great. To **walk forward** is better.
- Some people learn and learn in order to act. Others **act, learn, improve and repeat**.
- You are where you are because your daily choices got you there. If you don't like it, your daily choices can get you out.

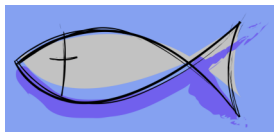
Scripture Points:

But when the Father send 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

Ministry

Craig H. Smith



Coaches' Corner— Craig H. Smith

Seven Questions to Advance Your Church:

1. How does getting more people into church differ from introducing people to Jesus?
2. Is your Church a Have-to Church, or a Want-to Church?
3. If you could tell one story that would positively impact your community, what story would you share?
4. Whom do you have the power to change in your church?
5. If money were no object, what would you do to launch your church into a bright future?
6. What are the best years of your church's life?
7. If your church went to the doctor for a check-up, what would the exam reveal?

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.

Newly Licensed Minister and Pastoral Installment

Cody Schwanger, West Green Tree, was licensed to ministry on May 15.

Andy Hamilton was installed as pastor of Stevens Hill Community Church of the Brethren on May 22.

Congratulations to both!

The Church of the Brethren Announces New Staff

The Church of the Brethren has hired **Joe Detrick** as Interim Director for the Office of Ministry. He will begin in this position on June 22, working out of the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. and from his home in Seven Valleys, PA.

This interim assignment is expected to continue for one year. Detrick served in Southern Pennsylvania District as District Executive for 13 years, from 1998-2011, and more recently was an interim District Executive for Pacific Southwest District for a year from January 2014 -January 2015. (COB [Newsline](#))

David A. Steele has been named general secretary-elect of the Church of the Brethren by the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board. His appointment was announced May 23, at a specially called meeting at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD.

Steele currently is District Executive of the Church of the Brethren's Middle Pennsylvania District, a position he has held since 2005. His start date as general secretary will be Sept. 1. (COB [Newsline](#))



Andy Hamilton's installment at Steven's Hill Community COB

Witness and Outreach

-Mary Etta Reinhart



ANE's 3-Year Emphasis:

**ALL IN: Going. Glowing. Growing.
Godly.**

Trunk or Treat "GOING" out to the Community! By Bethany Hoffer

The Palmyra CoB congregation made the decision in 2014 to stay in our current location and renovate. Location is an important part of who we are and the ministry that we want to do in our community. Coming to this decision created in us a need to meet the people that live around us. We began by hosting monthly cookouts in the parking lot--inviting our neighbors to join us for a hot dog or hamburger and to play a game of kickball or sit and chat in the shade.

After a summer of cookouts in the parking lot, we felt that there was more that we could do to engage those that live on and around Chestnut Street in Palmyra. Every year on trick or treat night, families traipse up and down Chestnut Street, walking past our building. This was a perfect opportunity for us to go out and join the community rather than asking them to join us.

Last October, for the second year in a row, members and friends of the Palmyra Church of the Brethren lined their vehicles up in the parking lot on Palmyra's community trick or treat night, trunks to the street. Each trunk was decked out in themes ranging from Mary Poppins to pirates to Jonah and the Whale. One family even set up a campsite complete with a fire pit and hot dog roasting! Those tending to the trunks were dressed in theme and passed out candy. As children and parents went door to door trick-or-treating down Chestnut Street, we were set up along their path.

In the weeks leading up to the event, groups and individuals from the congregation had the opportunity to sign up to secure a parking spot on Trunk or Treat night. We also collected candy donations from the congregation to last us through the evening. Each year, we handed candy out to over 100 children and youth!

The mission of the Palmyra Church of the Brethren is to invite, welcome, nurture, disciple, equip, empower, and inspire all persons to live and to serve in the way of Jesus. We look forward to carrying on our new tradition of Trunk or Treat again this year. The congregation continues to look for new and creative ways to interact with our community and carry out the mission that has been set before us.

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

Justice Like Water

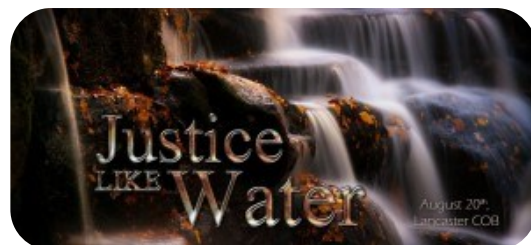
Saturday, August 20, 10am-3pm

In recent years, incidents and events in the news have sparked a very difficult national conversation about race, immigration, and culture. As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers, to stand with our fellow believers, and to continue to work of Jesus. What is a faith-based response in the context of today's conversation about oppression and justice?

Hosted at the Lancaster CoB, leadership will be provided by Gimbiya Kettering, Director of Intercultural Ministries at the Church of the Brethren. CEUs (.03) are also available.

\$10.00 per person and includes lunch.

Register online through our website under the registration tab, or use our link on Facebook!



The Barnabas Fund Update

The Barnabas Fund Team met in early May to determine 2017 funding based on requests received from ANE district churches. Alpha & Omega, Brooklyn First, Germantown, and Harrisburg First were all offered funding for 2017 contingent upon approval from the ANE District Board and the ANE District Conference in October of the 2017 Ministry Investment Plan.

As those requests for funding were reviewed, there were some wonderful stories shared of kingdom work being done in our local churches. Here are two stories that were shared with the Barnabas Fund team by Jonathan Bream of the Brooklyn First congregation:

The Spanish Bible Study currently is using a series called 'El Expositor Biblico: (The Bible Expositor), which consists of 13 lessons, focusing on the Great Biblical Teachings....Just this past winter, we lost one of the group's members to a long battle with cancer. At times, the Bible Study becomes a support group, seeking the Lord's answer to what are life's very complex problems.

Our Open Gym for Jesus continues to witness to unchurched youth from the street coming to know who Jesus is with Bible Study, snacks, and gym time. In 2015, we started to read through and study the Gospel of John. There are times we spend nearly half an hour understanding God's Word and answering questions. These young persons share prayer concerns. They pray for more than just good grades; they share deep family concerns. With guidance, they pray for each other, and they are seeing results. This group is diverse in age and heritage.

The Brooklyn First congregation is being supported by the ANE District Barnabas Fund with a \$25,000 annual commitment in 2016. This is just one more way that our ANE district congregations are able to work together to enable congregations with identifiable needs to more productively offer successful outreach and evangelism ministries in their communities.



Elvis Gospel Concert

Sunday, August 21, 6 pm

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren
2200 State Hill Road, Wyomissing.

Jeff Krick will perform as "Elvis" in a Gospel Concert. NOTES OF FAITH will perform at 6 pm with "Elvis" performing at 7 pm.

A free will offering will be taken. For more information, please call 610-374-8451.

Bus to Annual Conference

Ken Kreider is again offering transportation to and housing at Annual Conference. Join us for a comfortable trip to Greensboro, NC. For information, please call 717-367-7622, email kreiderk@etown.edu, or write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Bear Creek Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Brethren Bible Institute

Summer Term

July 25-29, 2016

Elizabethtown College

Resident: \$250

Commuting: \$100

For Applications: Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517.



August 6, 6:00pm



Church of the Brethren

JOIN THE ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT & THE PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN DISTRICT CHURCHES AT A HARRISBURG SENATORS ON AUGUST 6 FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! MONEY FROM EACH TICKET WILL BENEFIT YOUR CHURCHES RESPECTIVE DISTRICT!





—Kay Weaver



10 Things Every Church Administrator Should Know About Finance

LEARN MORE

MinistryWorks®
by Brotherhood Mutual

Healthy ministry finances? Here's how you know.

Created especially for busy church administrators—this easy-to-understand resource provides guidelines and tips on a variety of front-office topics concerning church finances. Includes links to free sample forms, checklists, and in-depth webinars.

- Tips for organizing ministry documents and records. And why you should.
- Unique ministry issues related to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- Best practices for protecting ministry finances.
- Policies and procedures for offerings and disbursements.
- Tips for correctly administering clergy housing allowances.

If you feel this would be a helpful resource, please request a copy from

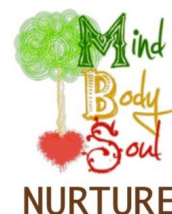
Kay at kweaver@ane-cob.org.

*To receive future notices of helpful Church Education resources, sign-up for **Building Church Leaders e-mail newsletter** at www.buildingchurchleaders.com.*

When you find helpful resources to download, you can get them FREE by contacting Jess at jross@ane-cob.org.

Church Finance Seminar

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 22, 10-11:30 a.m. for this seminar led by Dan Ensinger, CPA, Senior Manager at Weinhold, Nickel & Co. and member at East Cocalico CoB. More details coming soon!



Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity

How do you inspire generosity?

Everence® and Lake Institute on Faith & Giving invite you and your ministry teams to participate in a seminar experience that could change the way you and your congregation approach giving and generosity.

Saturdays, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Lititz COB Church, 300 W. Orange St., Lititz

Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity is a two-day interactive seminar, demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation.

This course is intended for those who:

- Believe in their congregation's capacity for greater generosity;
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money;
- Are willing to redefine giving in their congregation; and
- Understand giving to include service, social networks and sharing ideas and professional expertise.

Presenters



Beryl Jantzi, Everence Director of Stewardship Education, has more than 20 years of pastoral experience in leading churches in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Jantzi has also served as moderator for the Virginia Mennonite Conference. He is a graduate of the University of Waterloo in Ontario with a degree in religious studies, and earned an M.Div. degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and a doctorate of ministry from Lancaster (Pa.) Theological Seminary.



Kay Weaver, Director of Stewardship for the Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren since March 2003. In 2015, she completed her studies to become ordained in the Atlantic Northeast District. In addition to her stewardship responsibilities, as an ordained pastor, she assists the district's Executive Director with pastoral placements and credentialing. She serves on the Everence Lancaster Chapter Board as secretary.



Event Coordinator, Kevin Nofziger, Church Relations Representative, has been with Everence since 2011. Kevin earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, with a concentration in communication and a double major in biblical studies and journalism.

Registration

Registration fee for the seminar is \$150 per ministry team that includes a pastor and two or three leaders. Each attendee must also purchase the participant workbook for \$45. Space is limited. The deadline to register is Aug.15, 2016. Contact Kevin Nofziger at kevin.nofziger@everence.com or Kay Weaver at kweaver@one-cob.org for more information.



ANE District Disaster Response Update

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, twenty ANE Congregational and Area Disaster Response Coordinators met at Lampeter C.O.B. for the ANE Disaster Response meeting and training. Kay Weaver, ANE Director of Stewardship, reviewed ANE's Disaster Response Trip structure and Trip finance guidelines.

Bob Eisemann, ANE District Trip Coordinator, reviewed Trip planning procedures and updated

us on Brethren Disaster Ministries' site closings, new openings, and a new partnership in South Carolina.

Mary Etta, ANE Director of Witness & Outreach, reviewed our funding options for ANE's Disaster Response ministries. The Disaster Relief Auction granted ANE \$25,000 to help offset travel costs for ANE's disaster response trips through Brethren Disaster Ministries. The newly established ANE Disaster Benevolence Fund will provide additional funding for BDM trips, when necessary, as well as providing matching funds ANE congregations reaching out to individuals or families who have

been victims of disaster as defined in the Fund's guidelines.

Mary Etta also introduced ANE Witness & Outreach Commission's new Church2Church ministry. Following her explanation of this ministry, many attendees agreed to help with this ministry. For more information, contact the District office or Mary Etta at mreinhardt@ane-cob.org.

The meeting ended with a good "Q&A Discussion" and lots of fun and fellowship as everyone shared their disaster response experiences and enjoyed the light refreshments provided by the District. **We hope to see ALL congregational Disaster Response Coordinators in 2017!**



COME JOIN US!!

PHILADELPHIA BRETHREN HERITAGE TOUR

Chartered Bus Tour Sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District Historical Committee

Tour Guide: Jeff Bach

Saturday, October 1, 2016

- Experience Germantown's festivities of the historical event of the *Germantown Battle*
- Visit the site of the first C.O.B. baptism in America
- Jobie Riley's historic skit featuring Ben Franklin conversing with Peter Becker, Christopher Saur and two representatives from the Ephrata Cloister
- See Christopher Saur's print shop which produced the first German Bible in America

Bus will leave Ephrata C.O.B. promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Cost per person — \$60

For more details or to register go to www.ane-cob.org and click on 'Registration' tab or contact the District office at 717-367-4730

Update on ANE Trips for 2016.

Year to date as of May 15, a total of 23 ANE volunteers have served 3 volunteer weeks in CO, 2 volunteer weeks in SC, plus 1 volunteer served a month in WV. The West Virginia project is now closed and a new one has opened in Michigan. Volunteers are needed! If you or members in your congregation are interested in serving, contact Bob Eisemann at rqeisemann@gmail.com or 717-203-7270.

Cancer Companions

ALL IN: Going. Glowing. Growing. Godly. This is our three year focus for our ANE District. This year we are specifically looking at **GOING**, and as we do that, I want to tell you about **Cancer Companions**.

Cancer Companions are individuals in congregations that have been trained to care for those in their very own congregations who are living with cancer. "Cancer Companions learn how to provide a safe place where you can talk about the things that concern you, worry you or infuriate you. More than a listening ear and an understanding heart, Cancer Companions bring the gifts of prayer, scriptures and devotionals to lift up families affected by cancer in their time of need. This is done through Christian cancer support groups and one-to-one peer counseling." -Cancer Companions website

The article below shares how Cancer Companions has personally affected both the life of Doris Abdullah and those she ministers to. Doris is a licensed minister and Cancer Companion from the Brooklyn First CoB.



It has been said by theologians that "the people of God do not go to church; they are the Church."

I agonized over what to say to Sister Maria upon first seeing her in hospital after her cancer surgery in November of 2013. All the way to the hospital, I went over words or prayers that I could use in speaking with her and her family members. With the Cancer Companion program my anxieties were stripped away and replaced with wonderfully new and refreshing tools to steer cancer patients, caretakers and family members towards seeing "God in the cancer journey". And "God is bigger than-----" (fill in the blank) has become part of my vocabulary not only when encountering those with cancer, but in other seemingly overwhelming life situations. Becoming a cancer companion allows one to continue living out the service side of Brethren worship.

The scriptures used and accompanying readings are packed with new inventive present day stories telling on topics such as "Barriers for Prayer, You Can't Fix Them," and the most often used question of "Why Am I Sick". Scriptures, prayers, the offer of a safe environment to share and the act of listening were at the top of my tools list used in the cancer journey with Sister Maria. I was able to tell from listening what concerned her and what she needed or wanted from our visits. She had a son in prison that she had not seen since her surgery. As a Cancer Companion I did not have the day to day chores of a family member or caretaker. Thus I had time to find out how to make arrangements for her son to visit her before she lost consciousness. A cancer companion can offer a communion ceremony, not just bread and cup, as a fellow Deacon and I did one afternoon with Sister Maria. At the

small ceremony, she was able to share her faith with others that were present.

So intimacy and small settings play a large role in being a companion.

A Cancer Companion travels the journey with those suffering with cancer and their family and friends. They use the tools that I have already listed and in addition the companion is always mindful of and respect the patients privacy as they give a hug, offer of a shoulder to cry on, a cup or glass to quench thirst and a short retreat from the sterile hospital setting. Flexibility is needed in being a cancer companion, because hospital visits and other medical issue are erratic and untimely.

My favorite reading comes in the final ceremony listed in the guide titled: Victory Celebration!!! It is my favorite because it lists the physical and spiritual battles already conquered by Christ in our life. Most of all it reminds me of the Apostle Paul 1 Corinthians 15 verses on the resurrection body:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?"

Sister Maria died on December 7th, 2015 with all her children present, including the incarcerated son.

For more information you can visit www.cancer-companions.org or contact Barb Platt at plattbarbara@gmail.com.



NURTURE

—Jess Ross

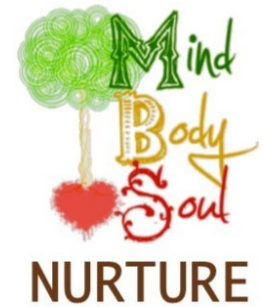
Camp Swatara Educational Gift

- Do you plan to attend one of the five Brethren Colleges or Bethany Seminary in the fall?
- Are you a member of a Church of the Brethren within the Atlantic Northeast (ANE) District?
- Do you plan to work the summer at Camp Swatara?

If you answered yes to all of those questions, contact me about the Camp Swatara Educational Gift and ask about what funds might be available to you!

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 Opportunities

Explore Your Call

July 15 – July 25, 2016, Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond Indiana. This summer, come to Bethany. Live on campus and learn with professors. Expand your mind and expand your circle of friends. Have fun in nature. Explore different, exciting paths of Christian ministry. Explore where God is leading you next in life. High school students are encouraged to apply now or find more information at bethanyseminary.edu/institute-for-ministry-with-youth-young-adults/eyc/.

Due to a generous grant, all qualified applicants will receive a full scholarship.

District Women's Camp

**August 21-23
Camp Swatara**

Speaker: Rosie Weary

Information has been sent to each congregation. You may also register and find further details through our website or under our Facebook events.

Senior Adult Ministries

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATLANTIC NORTHEAST SENIORS

August 1 to 5 – Five days and four nights: **Indiana Quilt Gardens and Ohio Amish.** View planted quilt gardens in four different areas, spend one night at Ohio's Carlisle Inn in Sugar Creek, visit the Warther Knife and Sailing Ship museum and much more. Cost per person double occupancy is \$763.

September 15 – **Newseum** one-day trip to Washington, D.C. Each of the seven floors is packed with interactive exhibits such as Pulitzer Prize photographs, Berlin Wall, our presidents, spectacular view of our nation's capital and many more. Cost is \$75 per person.

October 17 to 20 – **Noah's Ark and Creation Museum** -a walk through the 70,000 sq. ft. Creation Museum, enjoy a 2-hr. gospel music cruise and a tour on Noah's Ark which will open around August 1. A stop at Flight 93 site is planned on the way home. Cost per person is \$634.

November 14 to 18 – **Branson Christmas Shows** Four nights and five days, staying in same hotel and experiencing 12 musical and comedy shows. We will fly to and from Philadelphia Airport to Springfield, Missouri. Cost per person double occupancy is \$1,525.

For more information on any of these trips, contact Earl Ziegler at 717-560-6488 or email at evzieg@gmail.com. Detailed itineraries are available upon request.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2016

Dennis Garrison, Moderator

Several years ago, I noticed a small red spot growing on the white of one of my eyes. I called my optometrist who referred me to Will's Eye Hospital in Philadelphia where the spot was diagnosed as a melanoma. Fortunately, it had been caught early, and within three days, I was back at Will's, and in surgery to have it removed. All follow-up tests and visits have indicated no recurrence; however, I can't help each morning to fix my eyes on the white of my right eye to make sure there are no more red spots!

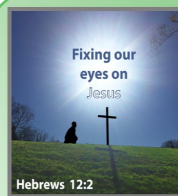
What about your eyes? On what – or whom – are they fixed? Maybe as a student, your eyes are fixed on that GPA, seeking to make sure it's where it needs to be to get into that first-choice college. Maybe, you're nearing retirement and your eyes are fixed on the stock market and your retirement accounts. Maybe, in this election year, your eyes are fixed on a particular candidate.

In Hebrews 12, the writer challenges us to "fix our eyes on Jesus." Knowing that most of us are afflicted with eyes that tend to become distracted and wander, the writer reminds us to get our focus to where it needs to be if we are to be faithful followers of Jesus. As we gather for District Conference on October 8, we will be reminded numerous ways of the need to have our eyes fixed on Jesus.

- At 7:30, Ronald Good will lead a Bible Study on Hebrews 12:1-2, the theme text for conference.
- At 8:15, the Spring Creek worship team will help us focus as we gather in Leffler Chapel.
- Following lunch, musicians, from Light of the Gospel in Brooklyn will help us prepare for worship.

- Dr. Jeff Carter, president of Bethany Seminary, will provide the message at the worship service at 1:30.

This gathering of our Atlantic Northeast District churches is not just for delegates. All members are invited to come, to be challenged, and to be refreshed through learning about the exciting ministries of our District and its related agencies. Conference is a time for fellowship, information and inspiration. As in previous years, we will continue the theme of worshipful work with inspirational singing and prayers for our pastors, district ministries and agencies.



Look for changes this year to District Conference Delegate Certification and Registration Forms.

New District Conference Registration Form : This form will be sent out to all congregations in July, so be sure to submit your Certification Form, by July 1.

So, fix your eyes on whatever roads will point you to Elizabethtown College and Leffler Chapel on Saturday, October 8. Come and join together, with brothers and sisters in Christ, as we celebrate what is happening in ANE; come to worship; and come with your eyes fixed on Jesus.

It is my hope that every congregation in the

District will be represented. Please extend the invitation beyond delegates to **all members** of our churches.

Conference will conclude with the passing of the basin and towel to Moderator-elect, Glenn Martin.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

(Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV)

District Calendar

July

June 29- Annual Conference, Greensboro NC
 July 3
 4 Office Closed

August

6 COB Night– Harrisburg Senators
 20 Justice Like Water, Lancaster COB
 21-23 Women's Camp, Camp Swatara

September

5 Office Closed
 17 Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity, Lititz COB

October

1 Philadelphia Brethren Heritage Tour
 1 Recovering the Joy of Preaching, District Office
 8 District Conference, Elizabethtown College
 13 Christian/Muslim Workshop, District Office
 22 Church Finance Seminar



Coventry Church of the Brethren, 946 Keen Road, Pottstown, PA, is looking for a part-time Youth Director. Email resumes to covenytrycob@comcast.net if interested.

Song and Story Fest

This year's Song and Story Fest, a family camp and gathering of Brethren musicians and storytellers, will mark a milestone: the 20th anniversary of the annual event. The 2016 Song and Story Fest is scheduled for July 3-9 at Camp Blue Diamond near Petersburg, Pa.



We have been gathering for these Song and Story Fests for a long time now," said the brochure for the event. "We've been fed by the sharing of music, stories, and life's happenings. We have reflected on being people of faith in these troubled times. We'll take some time to remember and celebrate our journey together. But we aren't finished yet! We continue to seek out the movement of God in our lives and the wider world, and to enjoy and celebrate that movement as well as to join in amplifying it."

This year's storytellers and workshop leaders are Heidi Beck, Marie Benner-Rhoades, Deanna Brown, Debbie Eisenbise, Bob Gross, Kathy Guisewite, Reba Herder, Jonathan Hunter, and Jim Lehman. Camp-fire, workshop, and concert musicians are Louise Brodie, Jeffrey Faus and Jenny Stover-Brown, Chris Good, LuAnne Harley and Brian Krushwitz, Joseph Helfrich, Bill Jolliff, Peg Lehman, Lilly Nuss, Ethan Setiawan, and Mike Stern. (COB Newslines)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Continuing Education Program presents:

Reimagining Art for Worship: Lead by Diane Brandt

September 10, 2016 9:00am –4:00pm

Lititz Church of the Brethren

\$65 (includes light breakfast, lunch, materials fee and 0.6 CEUs)

Registration deadline: August 24, 2016

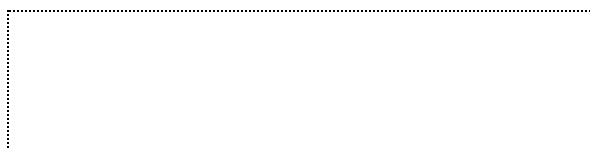
**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**
500 East Cedar Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

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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**

Kelly Bernstein, **Communications Manager**

Wanda Rohde, **Projects Manager**

Phone Number: 717- 367- 4730

FAX Number: 717- 367- 8737

Website: www.ane-cob.org



AtlanticNortheastDistrict

Our Mission:

*Creating spiritually healthy
New Testament congregations
who covenant and network
together to further the
Kingdom of God.*

**Deadline for the Sept/Oct issue
of ANE Today is July 21.**

**Articles may be faxed to the District
Office or emailed to:
Kelly Bernstein at
kbernstein@ane-cob.org.**

**When possible, include appropriate
logo or other graphic designs.**