

ANE Today



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 49, Issue 1

January/February 2018

Pete Kontra Starts As District Executive Minister

Pete Kontra will officially begin office hours as the ANE District Executive Minister on January 8, 2018.

Pete was born in Camp Hill, PA attended Penn State University as well as Bethany Theological Seminary. His first pastoral role was with Oakland CoB (Southern Ohio) and he continued on at Spring Creek (ANE). After 6 years at Spring Creek, he was led back to Oakland as a lead pastor until he was called to Hempfield (ANE). Pete and his wife, Shelly, along with their 2 children, reside in Lancaster, PA.



To be in touch with Pete, call District Office, or email him at pkontra@ane-cob.org. We are extremely excited to have him on board.

Randy Yoder's Term as Interim District Executive Ends



After almost 11 months, Randy Yoder will step down as Interim District Executive effective January 19, 2018. We thank Randy for his time here at ANE during our year of transition. His guidance and leadership has been a blessing. We wish Randy and his wife, Peg, many years of happiness.

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Merry
Christmas!



2018 ANE District Board

CHAIR: Jeff Glisson (Lititz)

VICE CHAIR: Pam Reist (Elizabethtown)

***TREASURER:** Ray Flagg (Annville)

***ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Carroll Kreider (Elizabethtown)

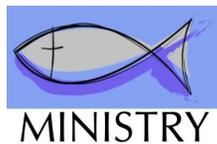
DISTRICT CONFERENCE MODERATOR: Misty Wintsch (Mechanic Grove)

***DISTRICT CONFERENCE MODERATOR-ELECT:** Brian Berkey (Mechanic Grove)



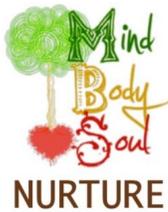
We are committed to equipping, encouraging and revitalizing existing congregations and planting new churches.

Commission Members: *Don Mitchell, Director (Harrisburg First), Jere Cassel (Conestoga), Andy Hamilton, Chair (Stevens Hill Community), Scott Haldeman (New Beginnings), Steve Hess (East Cocalico), Arlyn Morales (Alpha & Omega)



We oversee all aspects of credentialing ministers in the ANE District.

Commission Members: *Pete Kontra, District Executive, Marvin Foster, Chair (Lebanon), Liz Bidgood Enders (Ridgeway Community), Anthony Eberly (Middle Creek), Karen Hackett (Wilmington), Randy Hosler (Chiques)



We shall provide opportunities and encouragement for Christian education within the congregations of ANE. We shall also facilitate, support and advocate for the spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational health and vitality of the District's congregations.

Commission Members: *Jess Ross, Director (Hanoverdale), Donna Lefever-Hoover, Chair (Annville), Ryan Arndt (West Green Tree), Doug Enck (East Cocalico), Jim Hollen (Parker Ford), Joyce Schnupp (Middle Creek)



We promote Stewardship Education, interpret the ANE Ministry story, solicit financial support for District Ministries, aid and challenge congregations and District agencies to be good stewards of God's resources—time, talents, property, environment, promote planned giving, apply for grants from foundations, encourage business mentoring, establish communication and coordination among ministry partners.

Commission Members: *Kay Weaver, Director (Lampeter), Paul Pintarch, Chair (Spring Creek), Ruby Bean (Wilmington), John Miller (Mohrsville), Ronald Myer (Hempfield), Michael Shupp (Mohler)



We encourage and network with congregations to proclaim the love and power of God, the Gospel of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit through the witness of the faith and outreach to our communities and world.

Commission Members: *Mary Etta Reinhart, Director (Mechanic Grove), James Nolt, Chair (Chiques), Carl Brubaker (Mohler), Matt Christ (Little Swatara), Tonie Roman (Puerta Del Cielo), Dawn Weiss (Springfield)



***EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** In addition to those listed above, the Annual Conference Standing Committee: Jeff Rill (Lancaster), Mark Baliles (Indian Creek), Kim Ream (Ephrata), Belita Mitchell, Alternate (Harrisburg First) and the Mission and Ministry Board Members: Dave Stauffer (East Fairview), Paul Liepelt (Annville) are members.



What *is* the Slate?

You've probably heard the term "slate" many times throughout your involvement within the Church. You most likely know that it's made up of a group of members that are voted on at District Conference. Perhaps, you've even read their biographies in the conference book. However, have you ever truly tried to discern whom would best serve our District in these leadership roles?

The slate is comprised of a group of dedicated leaders within our District. They are nominated by Church leaders, Moderators, Mentors and friends. The slate is comprised of a diverse group of volunteers from all ages, backgrounds and congregational locations. They are Church leaders, stay at home parents, working professionals, business owners, retirees and more, with one common goal. At one time, these gifted individuals felt blessed and called by God, to gladly serve Him and the ANE District.

God has blessed each one of us with many spiritual gifts. When we discover and utilize these gifts, we find great satisfaction and joy from the Lord. Each one of you have God-given gifts and know others in your congregation that are blessed with them also.

Preparations for District Conference 2018 are underway and the formation of the slate is beginning now. As you read this article, please prayerfully consider whom you know that would serve the District well.

The following areas have open positions for 2019:

- ◆ Moderator Elect (Any Section)
- ◆ Standing Committee (Any Section)
- ◆ Program and Arrangements Committee (Lancaster South and North)
- ◆ Church Development and Evangelism Commission (ANE West)
- ◆ Ministry Commission (Any Section)
- ◆ Nurture Commission (ANE West)
- ◆ Witness and Outreach Commission (Lancaster North)

As you go through the process of discernment, carefully consider whom among your congregation has a passion for the Church or a particular ministry. Do you know anyone that is enthusiastic and feels compelled to make a difference? The goal should not be just to "fill slots." These individuals will hold a leadership position and make improvements within our District. If you know of someone that might be interested, please reach out to them. Explain that you've recognized their talents and encourage them to share their gifts, while making a difference within our District.

For more information about these positions, or a complete list of ANE Congregation Sections, please visit our website at www.ane-cob.org under the Events/District Conference/Leadership Positions menu. If you would like nominate someone, please contact Christine Dugan at cdugan@ane-cob.org or at 717-367-4730.

New Members: ANE District

Hatfield — *Reaffirmation*: Rodney Allebach, Lynne Alleback

Hempfield — *Baptism*: Jordan Fisher

Lititz — *Baptism*: David Raffensperger

Mount Wilson — *Baptism*: Dave Witmer, Derek Speece



Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations



Jim Gossnickle-Batterton was installed as Pastor of Spiritual Care at Lititz on November 12 by Kay Weaver, ANE Director of Stewardship.



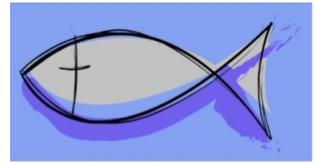
DJay Martin was installed as Pastor at Parker Ford on November 19 by Mary Etta Reinhart, ANE Director of Witness & Outreach.



Mark Nichols was installed as Pastor at Quakertown on December 3 by Randy Yoder, Interim District Executive.

Brandon Hanks is now serving as lead Pastor of Drexel Hill, effective October 2017.

Doris Abdullah's, Brooklyn First, ordination service was performed by Kay Weaver and Misty Wintsch, ANE District Conference Moderator, on December 3. Doris was recently highlighted in "Brethren Bits", November 21: "**Church of the Brethren representative to the United Nations, Doris Abdullah**, was at a recent meeting between the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, and the NGO community, at UN headquarters in New York. "I was the fourth person called upon," she reported to Newsline. "He spoke directly to my question on the situation in northern Nigeria. I thanked him for meeting with us, civil society, and gave my wishes that he could come to New York more frequently. NGOs in Geneva have access that is not given to us here in New York. My introduction of the Church of the Brethren included the fact that the Chibok girl we were praying for here in New York is still unaccounted for.... But mainly I wanted him to know now that some girls had been returned, the rest have seemingly been forgotten. And the despair, hunger and struggles are still going on in the area as the terror of Boko Haram continues." Abdullah added that she is working on a request to receive a formal response from the High Commissioner."



MINISTRY

Placement News

Conewago: Sandy Christophel serves as Interim.

Florin: Galen Hackman serves as Intentional Interim. Interviewing.

Geiger Memorial: Open.

Hempfield: Profile forming.

Lancaster: Seeking Interim Associate Pastor

Long Run: Joel Hershey & Bob Spencer serve as Interim Team.

Mechanic Grove: Seeking Interim Youth Director

Nuevo Amanecer: Negotiating.

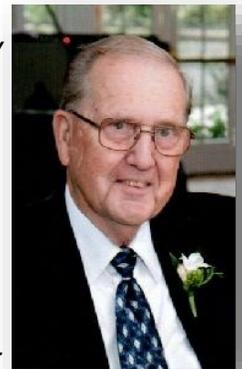
Spring Creek: Called Adam Ulm starting January 29, 2018.

Swatara Hill: Profile forming.

Wyomissing: Pastor Tim Speicher retires 9/18.

In Memoriam

Wilbur G. Lehman, 94, of Manheim, went to his Heavenly Home on Monday, October 30, 2017. He was called to the ministry in 1955. Wilbur dedicated much of his life to sharing the Gospel as Lay Minister on the pulpit of East Fairview Church of the Brethren where he was a lifelong member and as guest preacher during Revival Services in neighboring counties. He and his wife Esther were also faithful in their visitation ministry.





Outreach Update: Love In The Name of Christ at Mechanic Grove

Love INC has had a special place in the member's lives at Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren since 2002 and therefore in the lives of many folks living in Southern Lancaster County who are not members of our church. Love INC started in Lancaster County in 1993 with 6 churches, and today partners with over 160 churches from 24 different Christian traditions all working to show the Love of Christ to our neighbors.

All calls for help in Lancaster County start with a request to the Love INC office in Lancaster. They determine which partner church is close to the need and place a call to the contact person for that church. The contact person calls on a volunteer to provide the service to the client. The contact person notifies the Love INC office when a volunteer has been found. The volunteer calls



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

the client to make arrangements to meet their need.

At Mechanic Grove we are blessed to have 3 contact persons who rotate this duty one month at a time. We have 29 caring members on our volunteer list. The principal need in our community is for transportation to medical appointments and for various other needs such as grocery shopping, banking, etc. In 2017 from January to November, we supplied transportation for 83 trips to 17 different clients using 24 different volunteers. This means we

average 8 trips per month and many times are taking the same clients. These people depend on our help for their well-being, and our volunteers enjoy the relationships they make as well as the transportation they provide.

Mechanic Grove provided financial help by paying the rent for a client, supplying a grocery gift card for another client as well as home repairs and improvements supervised by one of our volunteers. Budget guidance was also given to a client by a qualified volunteer. What a joy it is to partner with Love In The Name of Christ as we serve our neighbors.



~ Ruth Ann Wood

Digital Pictures And Your Responsibility to Check Copyright Permission

We all need to use visuals in our sermons or PowerPoints for music. When you look for photos on the internet, you are responsible to make sure that photo does not have a copyright, or you are in violation of federal law if you use it without permission— even just once, or for an internal flyer.

There are a few sites that supply free clip art, and some photos. You can search and find the ones that suit your needs. However, when searching images through Google, you must use the filters supplied. Once the image has been searched, you must click the Tools icon. Once that is done, there is a section called usage rights. Under that section, the labeled for reuse filter must be selected. This will display photos that have released copyright so that you may legally pull from the internet and use for other purposes. It is good practice to look at the website that provides the photo to make sure that it is indeed copyright free. You can also go one step further to protect yourself as well. You can save the photo along with the url address of the photo in a document and note the day you downloaded the image. You can also search for images and pay a fee to use a specific image as well.

Either way, make sure you are following good procedures when it comes to copyright permission.





HEAVEN'S BOUNTY FOOD PANTRY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

First Church of the Brethren - Quakertown recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of their food pantry: Heaven's Bounty. Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry opened officially on September 9, 1997 and the congregation celebrated the 20th anniversary during their Harvest Home activities on Sunday, September 24 with a presentation during the morning worship service.

The pantry was started by the late Gloria Evans, a parishioner at the First Church of the Brethren, Quakertown. Having experienced her own financial hardships, she knew first-hand the difficulties and stress that comes from worrying about how you will feed your family today, tomorrow, next week, next month. So she took a courageous step of faith and solicited the help of the church membership to open a pantry at the church to meet food needs of



others in her neighborhood.

Creation of the pantry was a joint effort of the First Church of the Brethren and the Bucks County Opportunity Council. The use of a room and some shelving were provided by the church. Freezers and additional shelving were provided by the Opportunity Council. In the early years, Federal and State Government donations accounted for most of the food donations with additional donations coming from church members and other individuals.

The continuing mission of the Pantry is to serve others by providing food and holiday meals to neighbors in need. During the first month of its operation, two to six families were served per week. Today the Pantry serves 90 – 120 families per month, a threefold increase. From its early years, the Pantry has been able to provide a

limited number of holiday meals for families on Thanksgiving and Christmas. In 2017 the pantry also began providing an Easter dinner to local families.



Realizing the importance of positive social interactions, the pantry staff strives to present a warm caring, friendly atmosphere. With no paid staff, 15 active volunteers keep the pantry running smoothly. Volunteers not only serve our neighbors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but also do food pickups Monday through Friday. Record keeping and submission of the necessary forms for state and federal funding must be completed. Meeting and training with Bucks County Opportunity Council must be attended. Fundraisers must be coordinated. Thus, it is not surprising that our volunteers average 306 hours a month, every month. In the last ten years, the Pantry's clientele has increased from 40 families to 120 families per month, a threefold increase. The number continues to climb with a total of 1225 families in the fiscal year 2016-2017. Heaven's Bounty is up to the challenge of meeting these increase needs.

Currently, in addition to Federal and State food donations, the Pantry relies on individual donations, local church donations, and many local business donations and to keep the shelves stocked, making the Pantry a continuing vital entity in the community. Whenever the Pantry experiences a need, the Lord provides what is needed to get through the rough times. This has been experienced



time and time again and we are truly blessed. Current Hours of Operation are Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

~ Judy Stevens-Moyer, Quakertown CoB



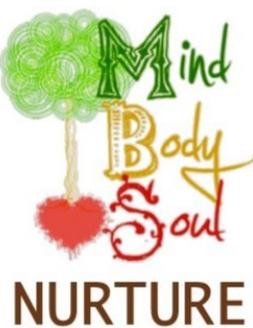
ANE Hosted Workshop on Hospitality

The ANE Nurture Commission hosted a workshop entitled “The First 30 Seconds: A Guide to Hospitality for Greeters and Ushers”. Joan Hershey, author of the book The First Thirty Seconds, was the guest presenter. Twenty-six people representing twelve different Brethren congregations met to hear Joan provide tips and guidelines for improving one of our congregation’s most important ministries in welcoming new people into our churches.

Joan began by telling us that Hebrews 13:2 says “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Did you realize that most guests visiting your church will decide whether they will return or not before they even hear the sermon? “Greeters and ushers are the ‘first contact’ with the congregation for many people who visit on Sunday morning. The number one question visitors want answered is: ‘Is this a friendly congregation?’ They start forming their answer based in large part on how welcoming and helpful the greeters and ushers of the church are.”



Our workshop leader, Joan Hershey, has been a District and Denominational leader, teacher, speaker and author in the Church of the Brethren. Joan has written several guides on church leadership. Her enthusiasm on the importance of the first impression guests entering our churches have is critical to their decision to return or not. She says we should “consider the tremendous isolation that many people feel today as they work in cubicles at the office or in the home, often doing a major portion of their communication through e-mail and the telephone. People are no longer likely to build close relations in the neighborhoods in which they live, and it’s not uncommon for friends and family to move to the opposite side of the country. People have an almost desperate need for the community, and the church as the body of Christ can offer a level of belonging that is not found anywhere else. Growing churches have learned how to regulate the congregational thermostat, and they have set it on warmth and love.”



The ANE District has a copy of her book that is available for your congregation to borrow if you are interested in learning more about the ministry of hospitality.





District Youth Activities and Information

Senior High Retreat

January 19-21, 2018

Camp Swatara

Jeff Keller (Lititz) will be speaking to the topic of

Surrender to Joy with music led by a team from Elizabethtown CoB. There will be meaningful sessions, great games and activities, super snacks, time to hang out with friends, and more! *Ninth through twelfth grade youth*, we really hope to see you there! **Registration Deadline:** Monday, January 8, 2018

Cost: Youth – \$100, Advisors – \$60

Register Online at www.ane-cob.org



Junior High AND Senior High Service Project AND Car Rally!

April 21, 2018

@ Global Aid Network (GAIN) in Mount Joy

Volunteer at GAIN from 9:45 – 1, with a pizza lunch, car rally and ice cream to follow! Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date.

****SPECIAL REQUEST FROM GAIN.** There is a shortage of clothing at their facility. Would you consider starting a clothing drive at your church and then bring all donations to GAIN on the day of the service project? Thank you in advance!!

Junior High Lock In

February 16-17, 2018 @ Ephrata Rec Center

Time: 10 pm – 6 am; **Registration Deadline:**

February 12, 2018; Cost: \$15 per youth, free for Advisors— **EXCLUSIVE OFFER:** FREE gift IF we have 100+ youth register!

Details: There will be devotion time, games (including 9 square in the air!), movies, gym time, swimming and food!



National Youth Conference

July 21-26, 2018—Colorado State University

Registration opens Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 6pm central time. Those registering by January 21 will get a free NYC 2018 drawstring backpack! Register at:

<http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/>

Offering Opportunity – All Church of the Brethren congregations are invited to participate in three NYC offerings. Even if there are no youth from your congregation attending NYC, we still encourage you to participate in these offerings! If interested, call the District Office for more details.

Speech Contest – Do you have a message to share? How does the theme scripture speak to your life and context? What would you want to be heard among your generation and greater denomination? Send your essay by April 1st! More details at (<http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/documents/2018/speech-contest.pdf>)

Youth Scholarship Fund: If your youth group is planning to attend one of the Church of the Brethren workcamps and an individual or group is in need of some financial assistance, you may submit an application for this fund. This fund was established in 1983, in memory of a number of Church of the Brethren members killed in a plane crash. Applications are available on our website under Our Ministries; Youth; Documents, or you may contact Jess at jross@ane-cob.org. Applications will be accepted through **March 31, 2018**. The Nurture Commission will then disperse monies as the fund allows. We will work to give as much as requested, however it may be less depending on how many applications we receive.



Junior High Youth Retreat in Review

This past October, the Inter-district Youth Cabinet (IYC) from Bridgewater College had the pleasure of leading sessions and games at the annual Junior High Retreat. IYC typically leads retreats for senior high youth around the southeastern region. However, leading this group of active and open-minded junior high youth presented fresh opportunities to grow our leadership skills. They were engaged and invested in learning more about who Jesus was, what he would be like today, and how we can see Jesus in ourselves and others. Even with a group that was smaller than usual, the youth were able to make connections, grow closer to the people in their youth group,

and make friends from other churches. They were eager to interact with us too, always asking us to join in on games like 9-square in the air, gaga ball, and spoons. The short weekend was full of learning and fun, as we wrestled with questions about Jesus, created little skits to portray our favorite stories of Jesus, and all of the fellowship that surrounded the dinner table and free time.

Thank you, Atlantic Northeast District, for hosting us and inviting us to lead your retreat. Thank you to the youth groups who participated and were eagerly engaged in our sessions.

~ Jenna Walmer,
IYC, Bridgewater College



Atlantic Northeast District
Women's Spring Fellowship
March 3, 2018: 9:30am– 2:30pm
Liz Bidgood Enders, Speaker
"When Women Prepare the Feast"
Green Tree CoB, 1078 Egypt Road, Oaks, PA 17456

All are welcome! \$8.00 to reserve a lunch. Everyone attending must register. See your *Women's Fellowship Representative*, or register online at www.ane-cob.org. Contact Karen Hackett (302) 998-6449 for more information.



Stories from ANE Disaster Response

Mt. Wilson Church of the Brethren has been a part of Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) work camp projects for the past three years. In 2015, we sent a group to Colorado, in 2016 we headed to Michigan, this year we went to Missouri and we're planning to send TWO groups in 2018!

This year, Mt. Wilson sent 13 individuals to Eureka, Missouri to do volunteer work with BDM the week of October 2-6, 2017. The Eureka United Methodist Church was their home for the week. Our group was made up of four guys and nine ladies, ranging in age from 68 to 15. We had a wide range of skill levels represented, from professional contractors to not much experience at all. But everyone had a great attitude to learn new skills and got a lot accomplished during their week!

An average day at the work camp looked like this: Breakfast at 7am. Leave for work place at 8am. Work until 10am then take a short break. Work until lunch at noon. Left work place at 3:30pm and head back to the church. Shower, relax, play games until supper at 6pm. Free time until bed. Quiet time was 10pm-6am. All meals are provided by BDM. A hot breakfast and supper were prepared each day. Each participant packed their own lunch in the

morning. BDM really takes care of their volunteers!

Our group was split into two work groups. Both groups were in the same trailer park working on two different trailers that were damaged by the winter storm, Goliath back in 2015. Some of their work included, painting, dry walling, trimming and caulking. The BDM leaders mentioned that our group got more work done than they expected that week!

This year, five out of our group of 13 were first time BDM volunteers!! We were very excited about that! I had a chance to ask some of our volunteers to share something about their trip. Here's what a few of them had to say:

MaKenna and Sherry were first time volunteers. I asked them what the highlight of their trip was. MaKenna (15) said she liked seeing how others live. She was happy to get out of school, but was most excited to have a new experience like this! Sherry mentioned how grateful the family was that they were helping. That was very nice to see!



Vanessa, another first time BDM volunteer, shared that she was very nervous about going on the trip. She didn't know what to expect and since she's self-employed she was concerned about losing a week of pay. Vanessa had heard stories of past work camp trips and all the fun that was had! She decided this year she was going to put her trust in God with her finances and just do it! And boy was she glad she did! Vanessa shared with me that she expected to give, but she didn't expect to GET so much from the trip. She enjoyed working with others from Mt. Wilson, she said the BDM leaders Jerry and Sammy were great and the cook, Karen did a wonderful job! One thing she noticed and appreciated so much was watching the older ones working with the younger ones. No one was left out. Everyone helped each other. It was a wonderful thing to witness! When I asked Vanessa what advice she would give to others who might be considering volunteering with BDM, she said, "I put this off for two years, so my advice is...Don't think, Just do! You will be blessed!"

Submitted by Jen Buck, Mt. Wilson

Travel costs for ANE congregations who travel to BDM work sites under the coordination of our District Disaster Coordinator, Robert Eisemann, may be reimbursed by funds from the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction and the ANE Disaster Benevolence Fund. For more information you may contact Robert Eisemann by phone at 717-733-7413 or email at rgeisemann@gmail.com or Mary Etta Reinhart, ANE District Director of Witness and Outreach by phone at 717-808-4306 or email at mreinhart@ane-cob.org.



Elizabethtown College: College Steeped in a Tradition of Non-Violence

(continued from previous issue)

Their leading teaching concerning baptism by immersion gave them the name "Tunkers" or "Dunkers." Since this would be a German equivalent of "baptist," the name German Baptist was often used for them when they settled in Pennsylvania in 1719. Originally they adopted no name and did not think of themselves as a denomination. They referred to one another simply as "the brethren."

The denomination spread through Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and westward to the pacific coast. The Brethren established six colleges and one theological seminary. The denomination's headquarters are in Elgin, Illinois.

In 1874 the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren was established as a mission directed by the Chiques Church of the Brethren (1856) in Manheim. The congregation met in the Mechanic Street School east of the Square parallel to East High Street. In 1888 they built a church on Washington Street east of South Market Street. In 1902 the congregation was established as a church and no longer sponsored as a mission. In 1954 they built a new church on the corner of South Mount Joy and Cedar Streets near their campus of Elizabethtown College.

The denomination held its first Annual Conference in 1778. Plain dress was universally adopted by the Church of the Brethren at their Annual Conference in 1804. It became a requirement for all baptized members of the church.

In 1885 Elizabeth Myer (1863-1924), a member of the Conestoga Church of the Brethren (1724) in Bareville, enrolled as a student at the Millersville State Normal School (1855). Elizabeth Myer was the only student at Millersville dressed in plain clothes. She was discerning leaving the school until Principal Benjamin Franklin Shaub (1841-1913) promised she would be respected for her convictions.

Dr. Shaub was a Mennonite and therefore sympathetic to plain dress. Student and faculty opposition to Shaub's support of Elizabeth Myer forced him to resign as principal in 1887. In the same year, Elizabeth Myer graduated and delivered the salutatorian address for the class of 1877. She taught in the Lancaster County public schools for 14 years. Elizabeth Myer's success inspired other Anabaptists of the plain sects to attend state normal schools and teach in public schools.

In the same year Elizabeth Myer entered Millersville

State Normal School as a student wearing plain garb, the right of teachers to wear religious dress in public schools was challenged, for the first time, before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1894 in the case John Hysong v. School District of Gallitzin Borough.

This public school district employed Roman Catholic nuns who wore the religious garb of the order of The Sisters of St. Joseph (1650). Certain Protestant parents wanted the nuns removed from the public school. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania rejected the contention of wearing religious garb amounted to sectarian teaching. The following year, the Pennsylvania legislature effectively annulled the decision by prohibiting the wearing of religious dress in the public schools, and the state supreme court upheld the legislation.

In 1895 the state legislature passed the Pennsylvania Garb Law: PL. 395-S.L. Sec. 4801: "No teacher in any public school shall wear in said school or while engaged in the performance of his duty as such teacher any dress, mark, emblem or insignia indicating the fact that such a teacher is a member or adherent of any religious order, sect, or denomination."

This legislation prompted discussions among Anabaptist groups in about establishing a private institution of higher education for students from plain sects in Lancaster County. There was little support for establishing a college among the Mennonites. The Church of the Brethren, on the other hand, had established 5 colleges (actually private Normal Schools) across the nation.

This was the third excerpt of Mr. Benowitz's article. His article will be continued in the next issue of ANE Today.



Alpha Hall the oldest building on the campus

Text by Jean-Paul Benowitz, Historian, Elizabethtown College Director of Student Transition Programs & Director of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships. Illustrations by Shanise Marshall, Elizabethtown College Class of 2015, History major with a Fine Arts-Art History and Religious Studies minors.



Our Mother Church and the Germantown Trust

The Germantown congregation was formed when a Love Feast was held on Christmas Day in 1723. It was the first Brethren congregation in America and, as such, is the mother church for all the Brethren groups that traced their origins to Schwarzenau, Germany.

In 1770, the congregation built the first Brethren meetinghouse. Additions were added to the meetinghouse in the late 1890s and in 1915. When the congregation disorganized in 1964, the church became the property of what is now known as the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of Brethren. Twenty years later a new congregation was organized and currently uses the Germantown facilities.



In 1982, the General Board established the Germantown Trust to care for the church, cemetery, and the house adjacent to the church. Members of the Trust include representatives from the Germantown congregation, the Atlantic Northeast District, the Mission and Ministry Board, as well as a representative from several Brethren groups that trace their beginnings to the Germantown Congregation. These groups include The Brethren Church, the Conservative Grace Brethren Church, the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, and the Old German Baptist Brethren.

Since 2000, the Trust has completed an addition of an entrance and bathroom for the handicapped; extensive roof and gutter repair; tree trimming and removal; interior painting; restoration of historical exhibits in the meetinghouse; and much more. Much work still needs to be done and funds are needed.

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If you're not familiar with this history of our denomination, take a day trip to Germantown, 6611 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA. If you'd like to take a group, contact Jeff Bach at bachj@etown.edu or call 717-492-4443. To contribute to the Trust, contributions may be sent to the Germantown Trust c/o Ken Hackett, Treasurer, 448 Greenwood Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808

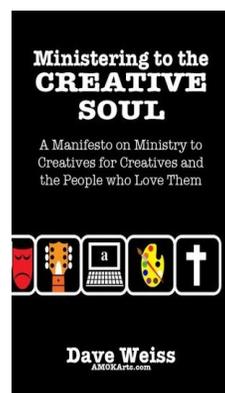


Books Available:

From time to time, pastors from the ANE District pen some books. Here are a couple available now:



Nancy Fittery (Akron)
pastor.njf@gmail.com



Dave Weiss (Springfield)
amokarts@aol.com



First ANE CoB Latino Congregational Camp Was Huge Blessing

This past October 27-29, 61 people from 4 ANE Latino churches, gathered for fellowship and learning at Camp Andrews in Holtwood, PA. Those attending were from the Alpha & Omega CoB, Lirio de los Valles CoB, Maranatha (Lancaster CoB), and Un Nuevo Ranacer CoB. There were many youth, children and adults!

Crossing Jordan was the theme for the weekend.

The weekend was partially funded by the Atlantic Northeast District **Seeds of Faith Fund**. The Committee granted the request for \$4,000.

Please visit the ANE website, Our Ministries, Special Funds section to see if your church would qualify for support.



District Calendar

January 8
ACTS Training

January 9
Ministry Commission

January 10
Church Development &
Evangelism

January 11
Witness & Outreach,
Chiques

January 19-21
Senior High Retreat
Camp Swatara

January 23
ACTS Training

January 24
Stewardship
Nurture, East Cocalico

February 5
ACTS Training

February 8
Witness & Outreach,
Chiques

February 12
ACTS Training

February 13
Ministry Commission

February 14
Church Development &
Evangelism

February 16-17
Junior High Lock-In,
Ephrata Rec Center

February 20
Program & Arrangements
Stewardship
Nurture, East Cocalico

Office Closed: December 22-January 2,
January 15, and February 19

Inclement Weather

Incase of inclement weather, the District Office follows the Elizabethtown School District's schedule for closings and delays.



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Events for 2018

The following are just a few events SVMC has planned for 2018. We will be adding to this list, but for now, this is what's being planned. Mark your calendars!

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9 AM - 4 PM:

Continuing Education Event, "Science, Theology, and the Church Today - Ministry with Youth and Young Adults", led by Dr. Russell Haitch, Professor of Theological Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary. Location: Susquehanna Room, Elizabethtown College.

Monday, May 7, 2018, 9 AM - 3 PM:

Continuing Education Event, Elder Care with Jenn Holcomb. Specific topic to be determined. Location: Cross Keys Village, New Oxford, PA.

Saturday, November 3, 2018:

SVMC's 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Speaker will be Steven Schweitzer, Academic Dean from Bethany Theological Seminary. Time TBD. Location: Chambersburg Church of the Brethren.

Monday, November 11, 2018, 9 AM - 4 PM:

Continuing Education Event, "Gospel of Peace" with Dan Ulrich from Bethany Theological Seminary. Location: Juniata College.



Report of the 2017 Brethren Disaster Relief Auction

At its Board meeting on November 14, the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction distributed over \$400,000 of its gross proceeds of \$534,520 YTD. Funds were earmarked as follows:

- \$ 78,813 Gift of the Heart School Kits (constructed at the auction)
- \$ 25,000 Hurricane General Grant by BDRA Board
- \$ 67,000 Hurricane gifts and matching funds
- \$230,000 Unrestricted gift to Brethren Disaster Ministries
- \$ 10,000 Reserved to pay for buckets for a "Bucket Building" project

No matter how you count it, Brethren Disaster Ministries benefitted to the tune of about \$410,813 on behalf of the many churches and supporters from the Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. We only pray now that God will multiply these gifts in such a way that only He can do! May the victims of these weather tragedies be blessed!





Stewardship University

Save the date!



Saturday, March 3, 2018

Calvary Church

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

For more information, contact:

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

For more information, contact:

Kevin Nofziger
Stewardship Consultant
kevin.nofziger@everence.com
(717) 653-6662

You can also register online at
StewardshipUniversity.com
starting Monday, Dec. 4.

Keynote speaker

Leonard Dow of Everence – How is it with your soul?

More than 30 workshops focusing on holistic stewardship, including:

- **Improve your credit score/Scam-proof your finances/Financial stress busters** – Tonia Brinston of LSS Financial Counseling
- **The human side of addressing poverty** – Chuck Holt of The Factory Ministries
- **Investing in the Kingdom: the five capitals** – Keith Blank of Business Community Network
- **Legal do's and don'ts for churches in 2018** – Peter Kraybill of Gibbel, Kraybill & Hess, LLP (GK&H)
- **Business as a calling: faithfulness from Monday to Friday** – Ruth Leaman of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
- **Finding a home: displacement and newly arrived refugees in Lancaster** – Luis Manuel Ortiz of Church World Service Lancaster
- **Motion pictures as mission; using a great medium to share Christ here and everywhere** – Grant Bradley & Paul Griffin of Inspiring Films
- **Creating a culture of generosity ... it begins with me** – Rebekah Basinger of Basinger Consulting
- **Conscious capitalism** – Craig Dalen of ASSETS of Lancaster
- **"Can we talk?": discussions to dismantle the illusion of race** – Belita Mitchell and Josiah Ludwick of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren
- **In a broken world, can I really do anything?** – Kevin Ressler of Meals on Wheels of Lancaster & Lancaster Action Now Coalition
- **What is Anabaptism?** – Henry "Hank" Johnson of Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church



Everence®

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 53**



OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

Pete Kontra, District Executive (starting 1/8)

Randy Yoder, **Interim District Executive (through 1/19)**

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**

Christine Dugan, **District Conference Manager**

Phone Number: 717- 367- 4730

FAX Number: 717- 367- 8737

Website: www.ane-cob.org



Our Mission:

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

Deadline for the March/April issue of ANE Today is February 5.

Articles may be faxed to the District Office or emailed to:

Kelly Bernstein at kbernstein@ane-cob.org.

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