ANE Today



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 56 Issue 6

A Note for You...

Basin and Towel Ministry in ANE

We, in the Church of the Brethren, place a high value on serving our brothers and sisters. Our beloved ordinance of Love Feast includes feet washing as demonstrated by Jesus in John 13. Feet washing, as represented by the basin and towel, is a wonderful reminder of how we value of serving others. There are actually many opportunities here in the ANE District to serve in a basin and towel type of ministry. Here are just a few examples:

<u>ANE Disaster Response</u> may be one of the better-known ways that our ANE District churches are encouraged to serve. This year over 45 persons from our ANE churches have travelled to Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) worksites at Bayboro, NC to help in recovery from a Hurricane Florence which struck in 2018 or Waverly, TN to help in recovery from flooding that took place in August 2021. One group also travelled to Madisonville, KY to aid victims recovering from a tornado that struck on December 10, 2021. The work of these volunteers makes a huge difference in the lives of these victims of disaster.

Speaking of serving with BDM, in this newsletter you will see the story of Martha Hummer from Annville COB who has chosen to volunteer through <u>Brethren</u> <u>Volunteer Service</u> to serve with Brethren Disaster Ministries. She will represent our ANE District well in this role of serving those in need.

Closer home, if you would like to serve a need in your local community but you need some financial help to meet that need, the <u>ANE District Helping Hand</u> <u>Benevolence Fund</u> may be the answer. Recently, the Wilmington Church of the Brethren became aware of a family in their community who desperately needed help repairing a bathroom. The church provided all the (skilled!) labor and used funds from the Helping Hands Benevolence Fund to totally remodel the bathroom for this family. Check out Ed Olkowski's article in this newsletter to learn more.

Our ANE District <u>Church2Church</u> ministry is another possible way to serve. Your Sunday school class or small group may want to consider reaching out to Harrisburg First. They are hoping to partner with folks from one or more ANE churches for some help in remodeling their nursery, toddler room and coffee room. This may be the perfect place for you to participate in a basin and towel type service ministry. Check out their article in this newsletter.

Serving others in a basin and towel type of ministry is an important value in the Church of the Brethren. And there are many opportunities for just that kind of service here in the ANE District. Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to serve others both locally and around the world. God may be challenging you to serve your brothers and sisters in some kind of basin and towel type ministry.

November/December 2022

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Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness & Outreach; Interim Director of Nurture

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A District Conference Reflection

District Conference is over, and I hope it was a good meeting. We are always eager to read the evaluation comments. They can be particularly helpful in the preparation for future conferences. But, as a moderator and responsible for facilitating a meeting, you don't want to hear that you failed miserably, and that it was a dreadful meeting.

Recently, I came across a thought that had me thinking a little different about meetings. Rick Joyner, talking about Sunday mornings, made a comment that is pertinent to District Conference. He said, "God does not judge the condition or quality of His church by how good the meetings are on Sunday morning, but by how good the people are on Monday morning."



This is the challenge for me: How do I respond to the actions of District Conference...to the reports...to the challenges brought to us by Pete Kontra, our District Executive and Dave Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren? It seems to me, it is what happens after the meeting that speaks to the value of the meeting. If I close up my District Conference booklet, place it on my shelf, return to normal, the meeting had little or no real impact. However, if I am motivated into a particular action, even if it may not have been a great meeting, it may actually end up being a great because of what it produced.

What would make District Conference a great meeting? With the information shared, what actions will we take moving forward? Here are some thoughts:

- Have discussions within your church about what the statement "Jesus in our neighborhood" means for us, and to have intentional plans and actions that grow out of that conversation.
- Be intentional about talking through "the Way Forward" commitment and taking action regarding your church's commitment to "the Way Forward."
- Individuals or churches connect more intentionally to one of the reporting agencies. Reporting agencies were
 asked to answer the question, "Why should we care?" They gave compelling reports. It is my hope that you and
 your congregation might have been stirred by a particular report that moves the congregation to greater
 investment.
- Take time to read through the "2022 Our Ministries, Our Story" as your church prepares its budget for 2023, respond to support the District Ministry Investment Plan, both individually and as congregations.
- Respond to the Seeds of Faith report by supporting this Fund.
- Enjoy participation in District ministries such as: Women's Fellowship, District Youth events, and Older Adult Ministry.
- Encourage others to hear God's call to ministry or to respond to a call upon your life.



There are any number of actions that can be motivated by District Conference which I trust each of your congregations will discern. It is my hope that each of our local churches are in prayer, seeking the heart of God to discern God's mission for the community in which it exists. But, also importantly, as a District, we relate to one another in a spirit of true humility so together we can put on display the reconciliation that God accomplished in Jesus Christ.

John Hostetter 2022 Moderator

Blessings to each of you,

John Hostetter

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In Memoriam

J. Calvin Wenger, DC, 88, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family and was welcomed

into his eternal home on August 24, 2022. Calvin attended J.P. McCaskey High School, where he played basketball and graduated in 1951. He went to Franklin & Marshall College for pre-med from 1951-1953. He then attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, where he graduated in 1956. Calvin was also ordained as a minister of the Church of the Brethren in 1979 and served the Lancaster Church of the Brethren as Assistant Pastor, Moderator, Pastor of Caregiving, Sunday School teacher, deacon, usher, greeter and jack of all trades until his retirement in December 2021. He was on the Board of Directors for Pleasant View Retirement Community in Manheim for many years and served as Board President from 1993-2012. He was very humbled in 2012 when the Board of Directors decided to name the new wellness and health care facility at Pleasant View in his honor.

Glen M. Faus, 86, peacefully entered eternity on Tuesday evening, October 4, 2022. Glen was a dedicated member of the Chiques Church of the Brethren, where he served as a bi-vocational minister for 50+ years and moderator for 8 years. He attended McPherson College (KS) where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion. He later attended Bethany Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, IL. While working as a probation officer for the County of Lancaster, he envisioned a Christian-based agency to help children and youth. In 1979, Glen was instrumental in founding Church of the Brethren Youth Services, now COBYS Family Services, a ministry dedicated to providing foster care, adoption, counseling, family life education, and permanency services for children and families at risk. He retired in 2001 after 22 years as executive director. Glen loved life and enjoyed making people laugh. He often had a mischievous twinkle in his eye and told stories about growing up with his brothers and pulling pranks in college. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hiking in Potter County and fishing in Canada. He was a part-time farmer and enjoyed gardening and maintaining birdhouses and feeders.

> **Ruben D. Deoleo**, 62, of Lancaster, PA, formerly of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on October 5th, 2022 at his residence following a long illness. Following Jesus Christ and serving the church was the foremost importance to Ruben. He became an ordained Mennonite pastor in the Dominican Republic and was a member of Alpha and Omega Church of the Brethren in Lancaster. Recently, he was being ministered to by Laurel Street Mennonite Church. Ruben was also Director for Multi-Cultural Ministries with the Church of the Brethren denomination in Elgin, IL and worked with the Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren as Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry. He also planted and helped to develop new congregations. Ruben was well-educated and had an entrepreneurial spirit. He earned a degree in Law from University O&M in Santo Domingo where he later practiced law. Ruben was a chaplain to members of the armed forces in New Jersey and prison chaplain in Harrisburg for 14 years.









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Placement News

Brooklyn First: Beginning search process. Kay Weaver serves as Interim.
Coventry: Called an Associate Pastor.
Elizabethtown: Naomi Kraenbring serves as Interim.
Green Tree: Called Kim Ream as Pastor.
Mechanic Grove: Called Kevin Richardson as Pastor.
Mohler: Search Committee formed.
Myerstown: Called Chris Dubble as Pastor.
Paxton: Kirby Dubble Serves as Interim.
Pottstown: Searching. Dawn Lare serves as Interim.
Skippack: Larry O'Neil resigning end of 2022
Wilmington: Search Committee formed.
Wyomissing: Jan Glass King retiring February 26, 2022

Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

*Correction: Tom Strubel's (Ephrata) information was mistakenly reported in the last issue. His licensing service was on July 24 and performed by Pete Kontra.

Looking for a Service Project?

Do you know of a group in your congregation who is looking for a service project? Is there a Sunday school class, youth group, or other small group that would like to stretch themselves by being involved in serving where there is a need?

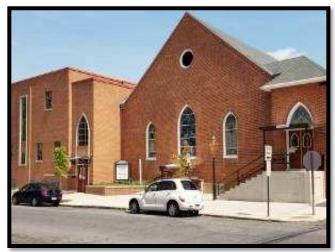
Harrisburg First is looking for a team that might be able to assist them with new counters in the nursery, toddler room and coffee room. The current counters probably are

original to when they built the education wing in the early 60's. They have served the church well, but now are in need of a face-lift. Sadly, the church does not have folks with the expertise to measure and install the new counters.

There is funding available to purchase the materials



for this project and there are persons in the church who will lend a helping hand as needed to support this work. All that is needed are a few people from



Church 2 Church is a "community building" ministry outreach opportunity that allows churches with needs to partner with churches who are interested in a service project.

Interested persons may contact.

Atlantic Northeast District Office (717-367-4730),

or the ANE District Director of Witness and Outreach (mreinhart@ane-cob.org)

one of our ANE District churches with the expertise to direct the work of this project.

Renewing Relationships: Celebrating Worship and Fellowship

On the last Sunday in August, a group of five traveled from PA to Staten Island, NY to worship with Light of the Gospel Christian Church. This Arabic speaking congregation is a project that grew out of the Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren and currently holds fellowship status in ANE and the Church of the Brethren. They moved to Staten Island nearly eight years ago into a church building they purchased that was in heavy disrepair. Through the efforts of former pastor, Milaad Samaan, and a dedicated group of congregational leaders, the building has been greatly improved and provides a welcoming space for the growing group of faithful worshippers.

Throughout the developing history of this group, close relationship has been maintained with District leaders, and continues to grow with the transition in leadership. The current pastor Joseph Gendy, and the congregation welcomed District Director of Church Development, Don Mitchell and spouse; District Executive Pete Kontra, and former chair of the Commission, Sandy Christophel and spouse to a time of worship and fellowship in an effort to maintain continuing relationships following the separation caused by the pandemic. It was a a great opportunity to live out the principles of our Way Forward mission.



DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

	Р	ower	November 13:	District Board Retreat Pastors as they prepare for Advent/Christmas
				Chaplains as they care for residents and families during the holidays
	\bigcirc	f		Ministries caring for those in need over the holidays
				Continuing growth and unity in our congregations
				Strengthening relationships in our churches
			December 18:	Program & Arrangements Committee as they begin to plan for Conference in 2023.
	Ρ	rayer	December 25:	ANE Gifts Discernment Team as they begin the search process to fill vacant positions for 2024.



John Hostetter, Moderator Arlyn Morales, Church Development Commission Bryan Messler, Ministry Commission Ryan Arndt, Nurture Commission Paul Pintarch, Stewardship Commission The ANE District would like to extend much gratitude to the following people for lending their time and talents to the District whose terms will end 2022.

Janet Myers, Program & Arrangements Committee Mark Baliles, Alternate Standing Committee Member Jennifer West, Standing Committee Member Delores Neuber, Gifts Discernment Team

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Road Trip to Germantown

The ANE District Witness and Outreach Commission recently enjoyed a "road trip" to visit and learn more about the ministry of the Germantown Church of the Brethren. This was a long-delayed visit that had originally been planned for the spring of 2020. It was a joy for our commission members to be able to finally make this long awaited "road trip" to this historic church. Four of the



five commission members were able to participate in this road trip along with Ray Flagg, ANE District treasurer and chair of the Germantown Trust Board.

The Commission visited the historic Germantown cemetery and learn more about the history of the church and the church building in Germantown. Pastor Richard Kyerematen met with the commission members and shared his vision for the Camp R.I.S.E. outreach ministry of this congregation. The commission members also learned about some of the plans being made to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Germantown church next year.

Commission members interact with this church as they receive and make recommendations for funding from the ANE District Barnabas Fund, which supports the ministry of several of our urban congregations. Members of this commission, who are now much more familiar with the ministry of Germantown, will be much better prepared to evaluate future applications for support from the Barnabas fund.

Commission members from left to right: Lisa Krieg, chair; Mary



Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness and Outreach, Deb Krantz, secretary, Tim Speicher, Franklin Iyasere (missing from photo: Donna Parcell)



All ANE Clergy Women are invited to join together for a lunch gathering on **Tuesday**, **November 15** in the Chives American Grill at Brethren Village in Fieldcrest.

Megan Lester, who serves as a chaplain at Brethren Village, will lead us in a discussion focusing on Pastoral Care in the 'New Normal" in a Post-COVID world.

For more information, go to: https://conta.cc/3galHwR

Or contact: Mary Etta Reinhart (mreinhart@ane-cob.org) or Kay Weaver (kweaver@ane-cob.org)

Helping Hands Benevolence Fund to the Rescue: Wilmington COB reaches out to a neighbor in need

On May 13th as I was shopping at the local Lowe's for plumbing supplies for the Wilmington church parsonage, I struck up a conversation with two women who were looking for plumbing tools to remodel a family friend's bathroom. They were not sure what tools were needed or how to begin the project. I mentioned that my church had a few skilled workers that might be able to help. At this point, she started to cry, and I knew there must be a way to provide help. (Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? James 2: 15-16)

I visited the house that afternoon and met their friend Dawn and saw that her only bathroom did not have a tub, toilet or vanity. She was using a 5 -gallon Lowe's bucket for her toilet. Dawn has a son, Andy who has Spina-bifida and no body function from his waist down. I told Dawn we would put a toilet in the next day. Needless to



say, she was ecstatic. I told her we would work on getting funds for a new bathroom, and at the same time, praying there would be funds available. The Wilmington Church Board and the skilled helpers were informed of the situation. I reached out to Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness and Outreach in the ANE CoB District Office, who said we should qualify for a grant from the Helping Hands Benevolence Fund. The Witness and Outreach Commission approved our application and we received a grant of \$2,500. We were able to complete the bathroom for \$2,000. While we were working on Dawn's bathroom, her central A/C broke at the height of the heat wave. An air conditioning company



came out and informed her that she would need a new heat pump for \$7,000. We contacted Good Neighbors Home Repair who partners with volunteers to make homes warmer, safer, drier and healthier and they sent Miguel Duarte to look at it. Miguel determined it was a burned-out control board that he replaced for \$250.00.

Thanks to church co-workers Ken Hackett, Shawn Carroll and Mark Vaneiken and a huge thanks to Bill Stecher and Miguel Duarte from Good Neighbors Home Repair. Good Neighbors is a faith based non-profit out of Kennett Square, PA. Special thanks to Mary Etta Reinhart and the ANE Witness and Outreach Commission who helped the Wilmington congregation share the love of God in Jesus to our community.

Dawn and Andy are thankful and very appreciative for the work that we have done. With the grant from the ANE District Helping Hands Benevolence Fund, we were able to help Dawn and Andy in their need.

~Submitted by Ed Olkowski, Wilmington Church of the Brethren



<u>My Story</u>

How a retiree from Annville COB found her way to serve as a BVS volunteer with Brethren Disaster Ministries

The year was 1964 and I was looking forward to graduating from Palmyra High School in Palmyra, Pennsylvania. I was active in my youth group at Palmyra COB but did not have a definite plan for my life. I thought about

Brethren Volunteer Service and considered applying. Two things stopped me at the time. First my father did not want me to go (I believe he thought I was not ready for that challenge) and second, I had met a young man who would become the love of my life.

Fast forward 56 years, three children, two dairy farms, multiple moves, and nursing career of 28 years-- the year now was 2021 and I survived the most difficult year of my life with too many challenges to share in this short story. The most significant happening was the discovering that my husband had terminal liver cancer and died on June 26, 2021, three weeks after his diagnosis. We were fortunate to have him at home with family present when he died.

I stumbled through the next six months and somewhere about Christmas time the idea of Brethren Volunteer Service came back to me. I looked BVS up online and sometime in January I applied but did not tell anyone until I knew if I would be accepted. After my acceptance letter arrived, I did start telling people who gave some different reactions. I knew my age would be a factor at some point. At 75, I was fairly sure I would

be the oldest person in my unit which was not a big problem for me. The other issue was, did I have the stamina to complete the year commitment I had in mind. I had been a farmer's wife and a nurse for many years and was still doing some farm work at home. I did not know for sure but I would give it my best.

On August 8th I left for BVS orientation in New Meadows, Idaho and Camp Wilbur Stover. A three

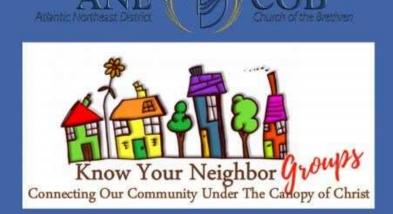




staff group led by Dan McFadden pulled the 11 new BVS'ers into unit #331. Eight days later I was on my way to New Windsor, MD for more orientation with Jenn Dorsch-Messler and staff. Three days later I landed in Waverly, Tennessee and Brethren Disaster Ministries where I chose to serve for one year.

How did I choose BDM? I had looked at other projects that did not work out-the Good Lord leadsand I had spent some time with our local church, Annville COB on many weekly, summer work projects that I enjoyed and the decision came in May when I called Dan and said this is where I want to go. I am here in Waverly-a beautiful little town that suffered a terrible tragedy, and I have met some wonderful people already. I look forward to making the lives of these warm, sweet people and others better and be a blessing in their lives.

By Martie (Martha) Hummer—BVS/ BDM



As we live and serve together it is vital that we build strong relationships as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Our District vision statement calls us to "covenant and network together" so that we may do more together than we can alone.

> One way we have done that in the past is through "Know Your Neighbor" as we shared with one another insights into who we are as congregations. The District Staff have worked to reimagine that ministry, now called "Know Your Neighbor Groups: Connecting Our Community Under the Canopy of Christ".

> > In the spirit of the District Vision and Way Forward Ministry this will be an opportunity for members throughout the District to join small groups to build relationships and strengthen our walk together.

Through opportunities such as hiking, motorcycling, knitting, golfing, and many other interests you may have, we can gather to share our lives and deepen our commitment to Christ and one another.

We are looking for individuals to lead our community groups.

Are you willing to lead?

SIGN UP TO BE A LEADER BY 11/30

https://tinyurl.com/NeighborLeader

MORE INFO:

Group sign ups will begin January 2023. Groups will start in April.



LECTURE

Peacemaking Beyond the Boundary: Lessons from EYN

Monday, November 14 • 7:00 pm EST

Dauda Gava, International Scholar in Residence at Bethany Theological Seminary and provost of Kulp Theological Seminary, discusses how Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, held its stand as a peaceful church as it faced crises of leadership, tribalism, and Boko Haram insurgency during the past 15 years.

Join us in person at the Young Center, Elizabethtown College, or via livestream at https://etown.zoom.us/j/95048643219.

Event sponsors: Bethany Theological Seminary, Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, Elizabethtown College's Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking, and the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies.

For more information, call 717-361-1470 or visit www.etown.edu/youngctr/events

Women's Camp @ Camp Swatara August 19-20, 2022



The Women of the ANE District gathered at Camp Swatara the third weekend of August for Women's Camp! There were 85 in attendance.

We were so happy that we were able to have an

Germantown Church of the Brethren **300th Anniversary Celebration**

On Christmas Day 1723, the early Brethren who had traveled from Europe to settle in America broke through the ice on the Wissahickon Creek in the area around Germantown (now



located in the city of Philadelphia) so that Peter Becker could baptize six people. Later that day they held the first Love Feast in America. That day marked the beginning of the first Brethren church here in America.

300 years later, the congregation of the Germantown Church of the Brethren, is preparing to celebrate the 300th anniversary of their church. Several special events are being organized over the course of the next year to commemorate this anniversary.

There is a special Christmas program scheduled for December 2022 to kick off this year long celebration. Throughout the month of February – Black History Month - the church will host a monthlong celebration of the role of Brethren in Black History. In addition, the Brethren Encyclopedia Board, who are gathering in Elizabethtown July 26 to 29, 2023, are planning a one day gathering at Germantown on Saturday July 29. This yearlong celebration will close with a closing celebration on Christmas Day 2023.

Here is a video that will tell you more about this special year long celebration:

https://tinyurl.com/Germantown300.

in person, overnight event. The past several years we were not able to have Women's Camp at all one year and last year it was a one day event.

The weather was beautiful! Our speaker was Jeanne Davies, Executive Director of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. Jeanne shared three sessions with us during the two days. She talked at length about how we can include those with disabilities in our congregations and ways to make them feel welcome. Her suggestions were very insightful and many came away with ideas they could take back to their congregations.

We had a wonderful time singing, hiking, playing games, doing crafts, studying the Bible, boating and canoeing, miniature golf, and just being together!

We hope that you will plan to join us next year at Women's Camp. Dates are August 18-19, 2023. Our Speaker is Pastor Kim Ream.

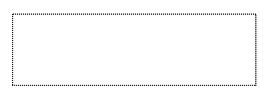
-Karen Hackett, Secretary, Women's Cabinet

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OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

Pete Kontra	District Executive
Don Mitchell	Director of Church Development
Mary Etta Reinhart	Director of Witness & Outreach &
	Interim Director of Nurture
Kay M. Weaver	Director of Stewardship
David Vasquez	Church Video Streaming Specialist
Krista Dickson	Office Administrator
Kelly Bernstein	Communications Manager &
	District Conference Coordinator

Phone Number: 717- 367- 4730 FAX Number: 717- 367- 8737 Website: www.ane-cob.org



AtlanticNortheastDistrict

You Tube Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren

Our Vision:

Guided by scripture, heritage and the Holy Spirit, we are creating spiritually healthy New Testament congregations who covenant and network together to further the Kingdom of God.

Deadline for the digital January/February issue of ANE Today is December 5. kbernstein@ane-cob.org

ANE TODAY Goes Completely Online

This is the last paper issue of the District's ANE Today publication.

For those who receive a paper edition, in order to continue to receive the ANE Today, contact the office with your email to be placed on the mailing list. Another option to keep in touch is to follow us on Facebook. The newsletter is also available on our website under Communications.

If you have any questions, please reach out at 717.367.4730