



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



Easter Blessings

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What's New in the District?

Newly Ordained Minister

Matthew Hershey, Cornerstone CoB



Newly Licensed Ministers

D. Jay Martin, Cornerstone CoB

Shawn O'Brien, West Green Tree CoB

New Members

Hempfield - *Letter:* Darren Meiser, Laura Meiser

Little Swatara - *Baptism:* Emma Stupp, Lydian Stupp; *Letter:* Denise Christ, Matthew Christ, Bonnie Schwenk, Kevin Schwenk, Thomas Schwenk

Middle Creek - *Baptism:* Elise Balmer, Ethan Balmer, Janae Bollinger, Reagan Kline, Colby Martin, Jayda Thomas; *Letter:* Earl Smoker, Vera Smoker

Myerstown - *Baptism:* Leah Bradnick, Noelle Eberly, Rowan Faehling, Patti Hauck, Thomas Hoffman, Victoria Maurer, Lori Ruth, Sage Sherk, Ashley Yoh; *Reaffirmation:* Deb Eberly, Donna Faehling, Karl Faehling, Dixie Gasper, Carl Hartman, Nancy Hartman, Nicole Hauck, Taylor Hauck, Kristi Keath, Sharon Kline, William Kline, Lori Leonard, Lisa Maurer, Jason Ruth, Ashley Shirk, Eli Shirk

Mount Wilson - *Baptism:* Erika Fies, Larry George

Quakertown - *Baptism:* Jose Montanez, Marc Montanez, Taleaha Rivera, Kevin Steich

West Green Tree - *Baptism:* Matt Ramsey, Jim Shumate, Polly Shumate; *Letter:* Clint Arndt, Julie Arndt, Ryan Arndt, Lisa Kerchner, Marlin Kerchner, Betty Walmer, Eugene Walmer, Anita Youtz, Dana Youtz, Dane Youtz, Dustin Youtz, Lauren Youtz, Lexi Youtz, Randy Youtz

White Oak - *Baptism:* Erika Kline, Ryan Longenecker, Henrik Nolt, Blake Patches, Darin Patches, Laura Patches; *Reaffirmation:* Bethany Clapper, Adrienne Snyder, Dustin Snyder, Shaina Snyder, Tyson Snyder

Wyomissing - *Reaffirmation:* Jennifer Garner, John Hane III

Dedicated to Ministry

A service of recognition was held on January 18 at Middle Creek CoB, for **Rev. Wilbur G. Rohrer** and his wife, Judy, who have retired from active ministry following 30 years of service to the congregation. Rev. Rohrer was called to the ministry by the congregation on August 29, 1984. He also served as moderator and then Ministry Team Leader for the congregation from 1997 – 2009.

Rev. J. Eric Brubaker gave the message titled "Honoring a Servant Leader." At the end of the service, Ministry Team Leader, John Hess, presented Wilbur and Judy with an engraved sculpture and a scrapbook of memories that had been put together by the members of the Middle Creek Church. A fellowship meal for invited guests followed the service. A drop-in was held in the afternoon for members of the congregation.

Wilbur retired as president and owner of Rohrer's Quarry after 51 years. In his retirement from active ministry, Wilbur will continue to serve on local Boards and for the Church of the Brethren on the denominational level and as a consultant to Rohrer's Quarry.





Outreach Update

As members of the Witness and Outreach Commission interact with congregations in our district, we often hear stories of ways that our churches are reaching out to their communities. This outreach sometimes takes place in the form of an organized program. At other times, outreach is a result of seeing and meeting a community need. This month we are highlighting the summer Vacation Bible School program that took place last summer in Lewiston Maine:

Vacation Bible School



"Sail on! When the waters get high, sail on! When the wind starts to die, sail on! It's just a matter of minutes 'til His ship comes to get us and we'll all get in it." If you had walked by 2 Shawmut Street in Lewiston, Maine, during our week of VBS this summer, you would have heard over 100 voices singing our theme song, *Sail On!*

We centered our week on the teachings of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee. The children hurried over the Gangway to Galilee each night to learn lessons from God's Word, to memorize Scripture, to build crafts, and to play games. Frank Reed taught the Adult Class about "Understanding Human Behavior." Thank you, Frank, for the time and effort you gave this ministry. Well done.

The offerings were given to the Voice of the Martyrs. We were able to collect money for 75 action packs (which included clothing, toys, bedding, etc.) for persecuted Christians around the world and 97 Bibles for "A Bible For Every Believer." Praise the Lord!

Each evening we gathered everyone together for a drama that emphasized the nightly take-home point. The children loved watching the lessons their jungle friends learned.

We were grateful that the Lord provided us with good weather and for safety throughout the week! I continue to stand amazed at how the Body of Christ pulls together for the week of VBS. So many different roles needed to be filled: understanding the importance of this ministry, planting the seeds, and sharing Jesus with the children. The willingness of the Body of Christ is a true testimony of 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

In life, the waters do get high and the wind will die, but, thankfully, we know the Captain of the ship. He is in control of the storms in our lives. *Sail On!*

To God Be The Glory!

Jim Keller

Co-Director of VBS 2014

Lewiston Church of the Brethren

AWAKENING

REVEALING GOD'S VISION...

RELEASING THE SON...

REKINDLING THE FIRE!

April 18th, 2015

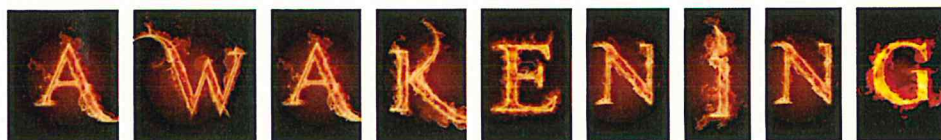
9:00am - 3:00pm

Coventry Church of the Brethren

946 Keen Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465

Atlantic Northeast District





Jeremy Ashworth



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

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

Fred Bernhard



Having co-authored five books related to Church revitalization, Fred is a well-known speaker and facilitator of workshops on the topics of hospitality and faith-sharing for congregations around the United States. He brings 42 years of pastoral experience and was a past Annual Conference Moderator for his denomination. Fred currently is employed part-time with Bethany Theological Seminary and serves on the Executive Advisory Team of the E³ Ministry Group, LLC.

John Neff



John was for over 20 years the CEO of a successful contracting business, engaged in community leadership and extensive non-profit board experience. He has transitioned from the business and now devotes his gifts and energy to a calling to the pastoral ministry and revitalizing congregations. John has designed and developed the "Discovering the Master's Plan"™ congregational revitalization process that engages a church in effective tools and exercises for impacting spiritual growth and vitality. John is pastor of a new church plant in Moneta, VA- Lake Side COB, and is President of E3 Ministry Group, LLC.

Registration: "Awakening"

April 18th, 2015

Registration Cost Per Person including lunch: \$25

.5 CEUs for Pastors Available: No cost

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Congregation _____

E-Mail _____ Telephone _____

_____ Please check here If CEU's are desired.

Registration Deadline: April 9, 2015

Return your registration form and payment to the District Office:

Atlantic Northeast District, 500 E. Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2516

CHURCH LEADERS CONFERENCE

“Living Contemplatively in the Real World”

Guest Speaker:

Sister Marcy Springer, SSJ

Director of Francis House of Prayer in New Jersey

For 24 years Sister Marcy has been a leader in the Kairos School of Spiritual Formation. Kairos is a school at the Jesuit Center founded by Anabaptists.



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

“Sister Marcy is deeply rooted in her faith and spiritual practices. Her practical, instructive, and delightful approach to leading groups is engaging to Christians in multiple walks of life. She encourages and challenges participants in their spiritual journeys.”

- Ann Bach, Kairos graduate, Spiritual Director, Ordained Pastor, and member of Stevens Hill C.O.B.

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Hempfield Church of the Brethren**

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Session: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District Spiritual Renewal Team

~ .6 CEU will be available for attending this event in its entirety

~ Registration includes lunch prepared and served by members of Hempfield CoB

To Register: *Complete the form below & submit with payment*

OR Register online at www.ane-cob.org (PayPal or Some Credit Cards accepted)

Church Leaders Conference – April 22, 2015 Registration Form

Please complete and return, along with the applicable fees, to:

Atlantic Northeast District Office
500 East Cedar Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

NOTE: Registration deadline is **April 13, 2015**
No refunds after this date.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CONGREGATION _____ DISTRICT _____

Registration fee \$40 x _____ persons = \$ _____

CEU fee \$10 x _____ persons = _____

Total fees enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
Atlantic Northeast District

Sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District Spiritual Renewal Team



Youth & Young Adults

Jess Ross, Director

Senior High Retreat: "100 senior high youth and advisor gathered at Camp Swatara for spirit-filled worship, insightful lessons, and action packed games. Josh Brockway, Director of Spiritual Life and Discipleship, reminded the youth about their connections to God and each other. Sarah Parcell, BVS, and On Earth Peace branched off of the theme of connection and engaged the youth during insight sections. The band, "Where the River Meets the Rain," brought us back to the heart of worship and moved us to sing our praises to God. Creativity and Bible knowledge was displayed through bag skits. The youth always enjoy evening activities, especially dodgeball. Finally, ANE Youth portrayed their gifts in a talent show. It was a wonderful weekend full of teachable moments and togetherness."

Jenna Walmer – Youth Cabinet Member

Future Events

Junior High Lock In

Date & Time: April 10-11, 10pm – 6 am

Location: Lebanon Valley College

Cost: \$10 per Youth and free for Advisors

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2015

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

At the deadline for this newsletter, we still don't have all the details, but we are planning a **Senior High Adventure Day** at Camp Swatara, set for April 25th! We hope you'll put it on your calendar and we will have the flyer to you very soon!

Check out the Youth section under Our Ministries on the District website for more details on all events and as always feel free to email me with questions! jross@ane-cob.org

National Youth Events

National Junior High Conference 2015

June 19 – 21, 2015

Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

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

Registration is online now at www.brethren.org/yva/njhc.

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



Living the Change:
Our Offering to God

Christian Citizenship Seminar

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

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

You can register online now at www.brethren.org/yva/ccs. Registration is limited to 100 participants, so register now!

Continued on Page 8

Youth & Young Adults Continued

Explore Your Call

July 24 – August 3, 2015, 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 learn more at www.bethanyseminary.edu/eyc. Due to a generous grant, all qualified applicants will receive a full scholarship.

National Young Adult Opportunity

Young Adult Conference

May 22 - 24, 2015

Camp Swatara, Pennsylvania

You can register online now at www.brethren.org/yya/yac.

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



Senior Adult Spring Banquets

Lancaster Area

April 16

Middle Creek CoB

Harrisburg/Lebanon Area

April 23

Palmyra CoB

Philadelphia Area

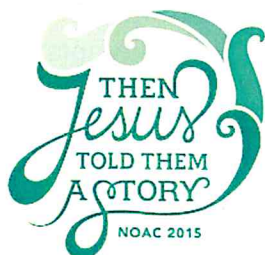
April 29

Coventry CoB

Watch for further details!



2015 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)



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

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

Dates: September 7-11, 2015

Location: Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, NC

Website: www.brethren.org/NOAC

~ OPPORTUNITIES ~

Alpha and Omega Community Center (AOCC) invites you to its annual banquet

which will be held this year at the Lititz CoB on Saturday, April 18th, at 6 p.m. Come to be inspired by Sherry Eshleman and Dave Weiss as they have a special message to share about our work at the AOCC. You will learn about the continuing work that AOCC is doing among the Hispanic community in Lancaster. Congregations are encouraged to sponsor a table for \$150 with seating for 8. Individuals can also reserve a place at a table on their own.



A freewill offering to support the ministry of the Community Center will be taken. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Alpha and Omega Community Center office at 394-3021 by April 3rd.

Atlantic Northeast District Women's Spring Fellowship

**March 7, 2015
Blue Ball CoB**

Nancy Shoap, Speaker

"Promises, Blessing, and Praise"

Nancy will share her testimony of how God accomplished the plans and purpose He had for her life and, with His healing touch, gave the gift of "new sight"!

Enjoy fellowship, inspirational speaking, and uplifting music!

For more information, call the District

Stewardship University

Register Now!

Saturday, March 7, 2015

Lancaster Mennonite School

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

You can count on:

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

For more information, contact:

Kay Weaver, ANE Director of Stewardship

kweaver@ane-cob.org

717-786-1645

You can find details of all sessions and register online at StewardshipUniversity.com



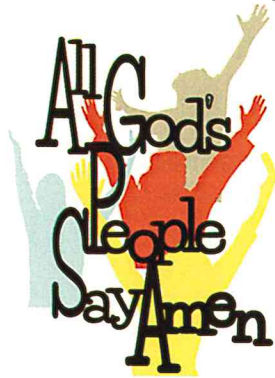
Everence

May 1-3, 2015 at Harrisburg (PA) First COB

An Intercultural Ministries Retreat for

Pastors, Church Leaders & Board Members, Deacons, Young Adults, Worship Directors

Sunday School Teachers, Ecumenical Partners, Community Members, Choirs



All God's People!

Join conversations about:

Why We Are All Urban

What it Means to be Christian in Post-Racial America

Welcoming Hispanic Brethren in Our Midst

and the Bible's Intercultural Mission for the Church

Registration & Information Online

<http://www.brethren.org/intercultural/godspeople2015/>

Workshops & Devotionals by Doris Abdullah, Jonathan Bream, Stan Dueck, Drew Hart, Leah Hileman, Don Mitchell, Gimbiya Kettering, Joel Peña, Jonathan Shively, Craig Smith, Ron Tilley, and others.

CEU Credits available.

Co-sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District and Congregational Life Ministries.

Save the Date!

The Atlantic Northeast District Conference will be held Saturday, October 3, at Elizabethtown College (Leffler Chapel and Performance Center).

Watch for further details!





The Stage is Set for Another Great Banquet

COBYS Has Talent!

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 pm
(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

Middle Creek CoB

Reservations are required, and the event will include an opportunity to support COBYS ministries. Contact Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org by February 23. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bus to Annual Conference

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



THE BARNABAS FUND

The Barnabas Fund Team is now receiving applications!

2015 Meeting Dates

May 4
July 20
October 19

Application Deadlines

April 27
July 13
October 12

BARNABAS FUND RECIPIENTS

- ◇ Consideration will be given to congregations whose characteristics include:
 - A verifiable active outreach ministry
 - Located in and serving a community with a significant economically challenged population
 - Limited resources due to circumstances beyond their control
- ◇ There must be clear evidence of Gospel and Mission.

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

Please contact the District Office for an Application.



Camp Swatara News

Paul Bunyan Workday – March 7th

Grab your tools and a couple of friends and head to the base of the Blue Mountain for the 2015 Paul Bunyan Workday at Camp Swatara on Saturday, March 7th! Work will begin around 8am and last until mid-afternoon. Enjoy a delicious morning coffee break and wonderful lunch! Please contact the camp office at info@campswatara.org or 717-933-8510 to sign-up and let us know you're coming! See you there!

Spring Weekend Camps for Juniors, Intermediates, and Jr. Highs! Let's POWER UP!

Campers in 1st-9th grades are invited to head out to camp for a spring weekend to experience the best of camp even before the summer begins! Each weekend offers the opportunity to have fun, meet friends, and get a sneak peak at the theme for the summer. Arts and crafts, nature, singing, campfires, and Bible time will complete the weekend festivities. Weekends are planned for Junior High (March 13-15; Grades 7-9), Juniors (March 20-22; Grades 1-3), and Intermediates (March 27-29; Grades 4-6). Check-in for each weekend begins at 7pm on Friday evening and the program ends at 1pm on Sunday afternoon. Cost is just \$84 per person! Online registration is available at www.campswatara.org. Contact Jason Haldeman, Program Coordinator, at jhaldeman@campswatara.org or 717-933-8510 for more information.

Online Registration for Programs NOW OPEN! Reserve Your Family Camp Sites NOW!

Are you ready to POWER UP in the Spirit this spring and summer?! There are three spring weekend camps and about 25 summer camp program opportunities waiting for campers in 1st-12th grade to experience! Online registration for all of these programs is available at www.campswatara.org. Feel free to contact Jason Haldeman, Program Coordinator, at jhaldeman@campswatara.org or 717-933-8510 for more information about any of these program opportunities OR if you need assistance registering! It's also time to book your site for 2015 at Family Camp! Mail, email (familycamp@campswatara.org), and phone (717-933-5244) reservations are now being accepted. All reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can [view availability](#) and submit a [reservation request](#) online! We're looking forward to seeing you around the campfire this year!

Spring Birding Weekend – May 8th-10th

Who's ready for a weekend of birding in Union County? Doug and Sally Ruby, will lead the "flock" of adults age 18 and over. The group will be staying in the Zaeger's House in dormitory style sleeping arrangements. Cost is just \$100 per person. For more information, contact Doug and Sally at srubybird@comcast.net or 410-548-9122. A flyer and registration form are available online at www.campswatara.org. Registrations are due by April 27th!



Crisis in Nigeria

The Atlantic Northeast District sponsored two informational sessions on the crisis in Nigeria in January at Hempfield and Indian Creek congregations. Reverend Doctor Musa Mambula of Nigeria was a co-presenter at each event, sharing from his personal experiences in Nigeria.

A presentation on the US church's response to the crisis was a central focus of the meetings. Roy Winter of Brethren Disaster Ministries presented at Hempfield on January 4 and Mission and Ministry Board chair-elect Don Fitzkee delivered Winter's presentation at Indian Creek on January 11. Both events included a time of prayer and an offering for the Nigeria Crisis Fund. About 90 people attended the session at Hempfield and gave \$4,266. Some 50 people donated \$972 at Indian Creek.

Calendar

March

- 5 COBYS Banquet, Middle Creek CoB
- 7 District Women's Fellowship Spring Event, Blue Ball CoB
- 7 Stewardship University, Lancaster Mennonite School
- 21 District Board, Quakertown CoB

April

- 10-11 Junior High Lock-In, Lebanon Valley College
- 16 Lancaster Area Senior Adult Banquet, Middle Creek CoB
- 18 E3 Seminar "Awakening", Coventry CoB
- 18 Alpha & Omega Community Center Banquet, Lititz CoB
- 22 Church Leaders Conference, Hempfield CoB
- 23 Harrisburg/Lebanon Area Senior Adult Banquet, Palmyra CoB
- 25 Senior High Adventure Day, Camp Swatara
- 29 Philadelphia Area Senior Adult Banquet, Coventry CoB

May

- 1-3 Intercultural Retreat, Harrisburg First CoB
- 22-24 National Young Adult Conference, Camp Swatara

Deadline for the May/June issue of ANE Today is March 30.

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

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

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

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Wanda Rohde, Projects Manager



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