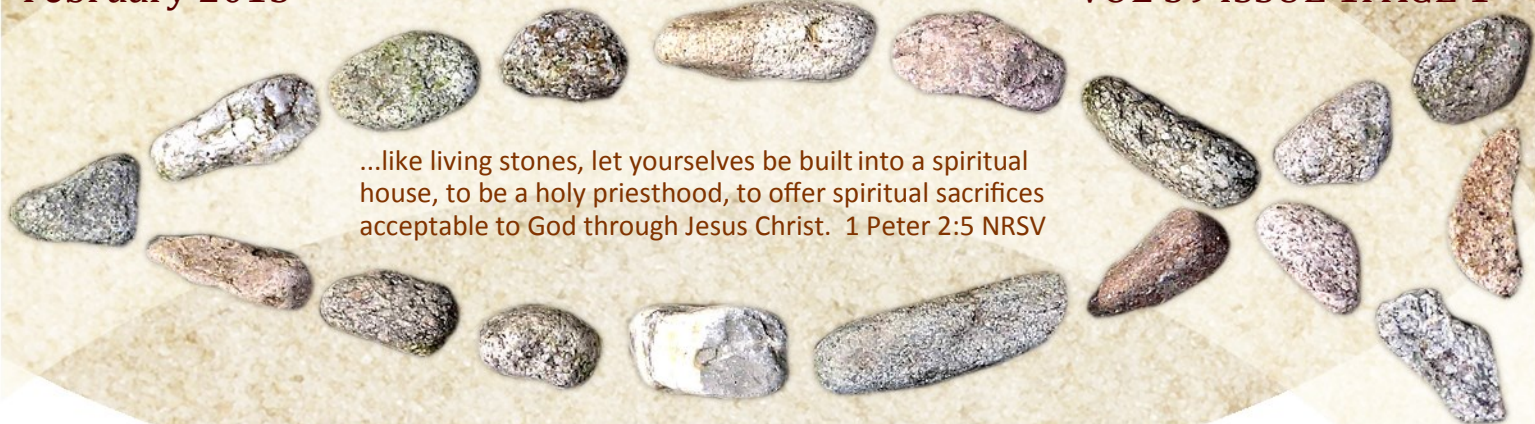


The Herald

THE NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

February 2015

VOL 59 ISSUE 1 PAGE 1



...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5 NRSV

Mark Your Calendar

March 14

**District Board Meeting
Black River CoB, Spencer, OH**

March 21

**Sr. High Collide Event
Mohican CoB, West Salem, OH**

March 24-28

**Spring Area Clergy Meetings
Funerals: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly
Guest Speaker, Reid Firestone
See Page 9 for Locations**

April 8, 11

**Pastor's Workshop
District Office, Ashland, OH**

April 14

**Executive Committee Meeting
District Office, Ashland, OH**

April 17-18

**SISTERS' Spring Retreat
Beulah Beach Lodge, Vermilion, OH**

May 9

**District Board Meeting
Pleasant View CoB, Elida, OH**

May 14-16

**CODE Church Leadership Conference
Frederick, MD CoB**

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Pastoral Placement

Akron Eastwood – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. **Cindy Peel** serving as interim.

Akron First – **Tobin Crenshaw** serving as interim.

Akron Springfield – **Tom Michaels** serving as interim.

Ashland First – Search committee conducting pastoral interviews.

Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Baltic – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Chippewa – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

East Nimishillen – Search Committee preparing congregational profile. **Matthew Reed** serving as interim.

Eden – **Jeff Ellsworth** called as pastor February 15, 2015.

Lake Breeze – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Lakewood – **Bill Holsopple** installed as pastor January 11, 2015.

Lick Creek – Search Committee preparing congregational profile. **Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Mansfield First – **Vaughn Loose** called as pastor effective March 1, 2015. **Barbara Siegle** serving as interim.

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

Painesville – Search committee reviewing pastoral profiles. **John & Sondra Bocchieri** serving as interims.

Richland – **Jim Frado, Jr.** serving as interim effective January 4, 2015.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim.

Sugar Creek West – **Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim effective January 4, 2015.

Swan Creek – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Woodworth – **Mitch Funkhouser** serving as interim.

District Prayer Calendar

February 22—February 28, Brook Park CoB (Pastor Dan Johnson) and Center CoB (Pastor Paul Bozman)

March 1—March 7, Chippewa CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and County Line CoB (Pastor Tom Dearth and Associate Pastor Chris Ewing)

March 8—March 14, Defiance CoB (Pastor Gene Yenser) and Dupont CoB (Pastor Brad Colley)

March 15—March 21, East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley) and East Nimishillen CoB (Interim Matthew Reed)

March 22—March 28, Eden CoB (Pastor Jeff Ellsworth) and Elm Street CoB (Pastor Doug Price)



February's Warm Heart

**In February winter drags on and on
with cold and dark encounters from sunset through dawn.**

**Yet, slowly and surely the Sun's bright rays
grow bolder and bolder day after day.**

**For at February's center there lies a warm heart
reminding us all of God's love from the start.**

**As surely as time becomes minutes and hours
our days will be blessed and our lives empowered.**

**For God is our Father and Christ is His Son
and we live by His Spirit until our days here are done.
So, rejoice in these moments for they must be lived
with perseverance and faith, and the desire to give.**

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Welcome New Pastors to the Northern Ohio District



Pastor Les Bartley, Wife, Jeannine
Pleasant View CoB

Les Bartley, Licensed Minister and Pastor, Pleasant View CoB – Les was born in Detroit, MI but grew up near Bellefontaine, OH. His wife Jeannine grew up in Lima, OH and they met when they were attending Ohio State University in Columbus. His ministry experiences include campus ministry at Ohio State, Associate Pastor of the Valley Brook Community Church in Maryland, church planter and Pastor of the Grace Community Church in Maryland, staff minister at the New Life Church in Gahanna, OH, and Pastor of the Amherst Brethren in Christ Church in Massillon, OH. Les and Jeannine have five children and six grandchildren. He was called to serve as Interim Pastor at Pleasant View in 2013, installed as Pastor in June 2014 and licensed in November 2014.

Brad Colley, Pastor, Dupont CoB – Brad was born in Portsmouth, OH. He was licensed to the ministry and called as Associate Pastor at the Dupont CoB in January 2013. He is a graduate of Ohio Christian University in Circleville, OH and studied at Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, IN. Brad and his wife Bethany are parents of three children. He began his service as Pastor at Dupont in September 2014.



Pastor Brad Colley, Wife, Bethany
Dupont CoB



Pastor Mark Kell, Wife, Laura
Mt. Pleasant CoB

Mark Kell, Licensed Minister, Mt. Pleasant CoB – Mark is a science teacher at Lake Middle School, and has also served as Head Track Coach and Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader. He has served the church as Church Board Chair, Outreach Committee Chair, Youth Advisor, Head Usher and Angel Food Ministries Coordinator. Mark and his wife Laura are parents of two children, Benjamin and Jonathan. He is a graduate of Hocking College and University of Akron. He was licensed in December 2014.

Vaughn Loose, Pastor, Mansfield First CoB – Vaughn is originally from Williamsburg, PA. He was licensed in the New Enterprise CoB and ordained in the Holsinger CoB, both in the Middle Pennsylvania District, and served as Interim Pastor in both congregations and as Part-Time Pastor at Holsinger. He most recently served as Co-Interim Pastor of the Snake Spring Valley CoB, also in the Middle Pennsylvania District. He also served as District Board Chair, District Disaster Response Team Chair, Vital Ministries Team member, and Pennsylvania Council of Churches member. Vaughn did his ministry training through the district's Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and Academy Certified Training Program. He and his wife Miriam have two children and four grandchildren. He begins his pastorate at Mansfield First on March 1.



Pastor Vaughn Loose, Wife, Miriam
Mansfield First CoB

Welcome New Pastors to the Northern Ohio District (Cont'd)



Pastor Bill Holsopple, Wife, Beth
Lakewood CoB

Bill Holsopple, Licensed Minister and Pastor, Lakewood CoB – Bill is originally from Pennsylvania. He served as Minister of Visitation at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold (a congregation in the Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church USA) for eight years. He is a graduate of Hesston College in Hesston, KS and Rosedale Bible College near Marysville, OH. He is married to Beth and they have three children. He was licensed to the ministry and installed as Pastor January 2015.

Welcome Pastor Bill Holsopple from Lakewood CoB

Pastor Bill Holsopple was installed at Lakewood Church of the Brethren, Lemoyne Road of Millbury, Ohio, as their new Pastor on January 11, 2015. He was installed and licensed by John Ballinger, Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren District Executive. He comes to Lakewood from West Clinton Mennonite Church in Fulton County. Pastor Jess Engle, Pastor of Central Mennonite Church and mentor to Pastor Holsopple, gave the morning message "Who Is This Guy?" Pastor Holsopple and his wife Beth live in Archbold, OH with their three children. Their oldest daughter,

Hannah, is a senior at Bluffton University and their fourteen year old twins, Daniel and Rebekah, are eighth graders in the Pettisville school system where Beth teaches second grade. Lakewood's family looks



From left to right, Pastor Jess Engle, Beth Holsopple, Pastor Bill Holsopple, & John Ballinger

forward to our new journey with Pastor Holsopple. We thank God for the new direction that is ahead for Lakewood. We were most thankful of the help of our District Executive John Ballinger and the Church of the Brethren in the selection process of a new pastor.

A welcome dinner for Pastor Bill Holsopple and his family and friends was held on Sunday after the morning worship service. It was an optimistic reminder of the expectations and adjustments that happen in a new pastor/congregational relationship. Pastor Holsopple brings enthusiasm and energy and a very prayerful presence to Lakewood. We are in God's hands as Lakewood and Pastor Holsopple and Beth and their family make this journey together.

Article Submitted By:

Barbara Wilch, Member of Lakewood CoB

Farwell Interim Dr. Byron Hawbecker from Lakewood CoB

Pastor Hawbecker thoroughly enjoyed the potluck and gifts we offered in his honor. He was given a small figurine, "The Praying Pastor", the picture commemorating the creation and copyright of "Because He Cares" by he and Helen May that he's had hanging in the office was placed in a lovely frame for his wall, laminated copies of "Because He Cares" were placed in all our hymnals, and a pictorial album of various people and scenes of our Lakewood Church family were all presented to him. We fondly wished him "Goodbye!"

TO PASTOR BYRON HAWBECKER

There are passages in life that make you sad
Doesn't mean things in anyway were bad.
Changes occur and you move on through.
Blessings abound more than we're due.
Two plus years we've followed Pastor Hawbecker's lead
His witness, his sermons and studies... inspired indeed.
He quickly moves on to another assignment
His arrival there... a blessed event.
Jokes and stories, hats, and the little blue "overnight",
are things you might find,
As "Hawbecker memories" stored in your mind.
"Homework", study guides, his gestures..
were all ways we learned,
The Bible lessons he hoped we discerned.
From one BH to another BH, Hawbecker to Holsopple, ay yi yi!
Our tongues are twisted, but we'll give it a try.
We'll see you less, new things are in store,
But love and admiration for you...we couldn't have more!

Reading CoB's 2015 Mission Project with Habitat for Humanity



2013 Home Project

Reading Church committed a local mission donation to Habitat for Humanity in 2011. We, being one of twelve churches, contribute \$5,000.00 each toward building a new home. As well, ministry, building, food and fellowship is shared by all twelve churches. It brings all denominations together, working as a group, supporting aid to those who apply and meet standards required for ownership.

In 2013, Reading supported a second home with a twelve church work force, all built in Alliance, Ohio area.

2015 plans to support a third home, brought about a campaign to raise funds, by donations only, serving soup suppers. Starting in December, six various homemade soups were offered, cookies, chips and drink. December and January was successful and the menu changes monthly but always six type of soup and sandwiches.

February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15 concludes this fund raiser. Building is expected to start May 1, 2015 and be completed by August.

Article Submitted By:

Terry Blickensderfer, Member of Reading CoB

terryblick@yahoo.com



2013 Home Project

County Line CoB Dedicates New Multi-Purpose Building



County Line Multi-purpose Building Dedication
October 2014

County Line dedicated its new 50' x 75' foot multi-purpose building as part of its Homecoming celebration on Oct. 12. Plans for the \$350,000 building were approved at a congregational business meeting held in September, 2013.

The building includes a kitchenette, 25' x 50' mezzanine and a 50' x 50' multi-use area (gym).

The morning worship service focused on dedicating the people of the congregation who then moved outside to dedicate the building. Prior to a carry-in meal served in the new building, members of the congregation circled the building for a brief service including songs and prayers.

Invited guests for the dedication included John Ballinger, Northern Ohio CoB District Executive, Matt Bertke, sales representative for H.A. Dorsten, Inc. of Minster, Ohio, and Jason Deitsch, Dorsten project foreman.

Article Submitted By:

Deb Beer, Member of County Line CoB



LEARNING FIRST HAND ABOUT NIGERIAN CRISIS

Even a snow-filled day did not deter either the speakers or the attendees from attending a rewarding evening to learn the personal experiences up-close of guest speakers Carl and Roxane Hill, who have served as missionaries in Northern Nigeria. Carl and Roxane braved a day of driving in the snow from Elgin, IL. The crisis worsens in the Northern section of Nigeria where The Church of the Brethren has had a long-standing presence and operates many churches and schools. As of the first of this year, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwas (EYN, The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), has had 8,000 members killed and more than 500 women and children have been kidnapped. More than 170,000 people connected to EYN have been displaced along with 2,092 pastors and evangelists. Also, 1,668 churches have been burned or abandoned.



Roxane Hill grew up in Nigeria where her father and grandfather were both missionaries. Carl and Roxane served in Nigeria as missionaries from 2012 at Kulp Bible College, which is a ministerial training college of EYN, until the facilities were overrun by forces of the Boko Haram in that troubled African country in 2014. We were informed of the terrible burdens of losing families, young children who have been kidnapped from schools and the displacement of so many families. It was very helpful to have speakers who could help the audience picture the way of life during the crisis in Nigeria.

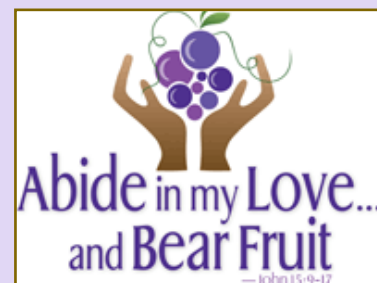
Following a day of fasting and prayer for our fellow Brethren in Nigeria, we shared a meal and more prayers for all affected by this terrible violence. Carl and Roxane spent the night and joined many Lakewood members of the Working Wonders for breakfast before returning home to Elgin, IL. As Carl and Roxane set off for Illinois, the Working Wonders set off for a day of volunteering at Mom's House in Toledo, OH, whose mission is to guide at-risk single parents through the process of achieving educational goals and provide tools and resources needed to become effective parents.

Article Submitted By:

Barbara Wilch, Member of Lakewood CoB

Annual Conference 2015 July 11 - 15 • Tampa, Florida Hotel Reservations and Non-delegate Registration open on Wednesday, February 25

While delegate registration opened on January 5, (\$285.00 delegate fee through February 24, \$310.00 2/25-6/10, \$360.00 7/11-7/15) registration will open on February 25 for non-delegates at 12:00 noon central time (\$105.00 non-delegate fee through June 10, \$140 7/11-7/15). Hotel reservations for both delegates and non-delegates will also open at noon (central time) on Wednesday, February 25. To register as a non-delegate, go to www.brethren.org/ac and click on "Register Now". Please see Annual Conference website for non-delegate daily rates.



After you have registered as a non-delegate for Annual Conference, you will immediately receive an automatic email that gives you a link to register for the hotel you prefer. This year there are two hotels in the Conference Block: Marriott Waterside (\$109/night) and Embassy Suites (\$114/night including breakfast for one). You can find more details about these two hotels on the Annual Conference website. Please do not telephone the hotels directly; they cannot give you the negotiated conference rate. Please register for Annual Conference and then use the link you will receive to book your hotel room. All delegates who are registered will automatically be emailed the link on February 25 to secure their hotel reservation. If you have any questions please call the Annual Conference Office at 847-429-4365.

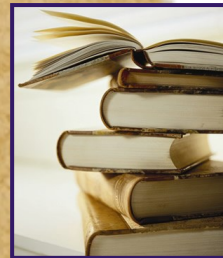
Northern Ohio District Launches Online Interactive Resource Program for District Churches and District Ministries

The Northern Ohio District recently launched a new resource program for both district churches and ministries on its website. Some features include a webpage directory for posting photos, videos, events, articles, as well as special group contact lists, accessible to members of the district. Members will also have the option to register online for district events. We hope churches and district ministries will take advantage of this new and exciting resource to promote their activities. Please look for more information in upcoming district publications about member access and use.

District Library Request



With the changing technology the District Library is changing direction. With the assistance of the District Office, we plan on sharing suggested resources in the Pastor's Memo and on the District website. We are seeking people who enjoy reading and/or surfing the Internet to help review available resources for churches. Skills needed: a love for the Lord and teaching his people; ability to read and write short summaries of resources. If you are interested, please call Billi Janet Burkey 330-418-1148 or email billijanet@aol.com.



SISTERS' Spring Retreat

April 17 and 18

Beulah Beach, Vermilion, Ohio

Speaker: Kris Hawk, Akron Springfield

"Care, Share, Dare" II Thessalonians 2:16, 17

Cost \$65 if registered by March 15.

\$70, March 16-March 31; \$75; April 1-April 12

(All money due by April 12.)

View and download flyer and registration form at

www.nohcob/resources/SISTERS.

Attention Ladies: Do you enjoy serving and have a desire to share God's love with other women? We have volunteer tasks for you. The Northern Ohio District SISTERS (Women's Ministry) Team is seeking additional ladies to help plan the activities for the District. Skills needed: a love for the Lord and caring for his people; ability to travel to evening or Saturday planning meetings. Helpful skills (not required): computer knowledge; creative. If you are interested, please call Billi Janet Burkey 330-418-1148 or email billijanet@aol.com.

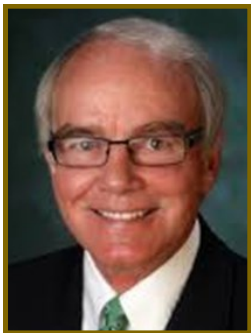
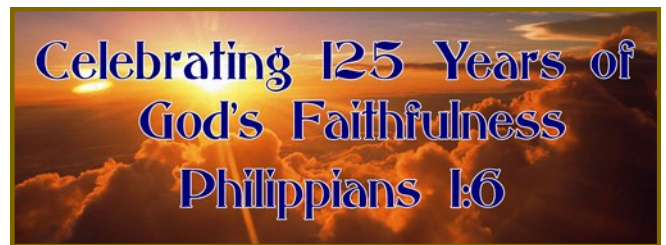
East Chippewa to Celebrate 125th Anniversary throughout 2015



East Chippewa Church of the Brethren of Orrville, OH is celebrating their 125th Anniversary throughout 2015. Many special events are being planned for the milestone. The church's Anniversary Committee has multiple events planned throughout the year to highlight and mark the special occasion. The Anniversary Committee is made up of nearly a dozen long time members of the Church of the Brethren family (mutigenerational names like Fike, McFadden, Hostetler, Everson, Cormany, and Snyder). Current Pastor Brad Kelley is helping the committee in planning all the special events. The Committee members believe and know that God has been so good to East Chip and He continues to prove Himself faithful to us from generation to generation.

East Chippewa's Anniversary Theme Banner (see photo)

The special anniversary theme is "Celebrating 125 Years of God's Faithfulness." The theme verse is Philippians 1:6, "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*"



The first formal occasion to praise the Lord for this bench mark will be on Sunday Morning **March 15th** at 10:25am the **Rev. Knute Larson (in photo)**, the former Senior Pastor of 8000 + member Chapel in Akron, OH and current church & pastor consultant will be the special keynote speaker on that day. Rev. Larson will be preaching on the Church's Anniversary theme by bringing a message titled "Celebrate A Church of Nobility." In the evening from 7:00 - 8:30pm, Rev. Larson will be teaching an open session on "Church Health" to the church leaders and any area or district pastors and church lay leaders that may want to attend.

Two other events are being planned to highlight the 125th Anniversary including: a **Church Homecoming Weekend on June 27th-28th** featuring keynote speaker, former pastor, **Keith Funk** (current pastor at the Quinter CoB in Quinter, KS) and other past ministers and interns. Sunday morning **November 8, 2015**, a special concert from Southern Gospel recording artist **Mark Allen Chapman** will be the climax of the church's 125th Anniversary Celebration year. For more information on any of these events, please call the church office during the week at 330- 669-3262.

Article Submitted By:

**East Chippewa Church of the Brethren's 125th Anniversary Committee
Member Pearl Good Cormany and Pastor Brad Kelley**

“On the Way” with District Executive Minister John Ballinger

Then they told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them... (Luke 24:35)

Kathy and I recently attended our great niece's birthday party. It was a splendid party, with beautiful decorations and delicious food. The little guest of honor was having a great time.

When our hosts served ice cream and cake, though, she ran into a problem. She wanted to put some topping on her ice cream, but try as she might, she couldn't get any to come out of the squeeze bottle. I was seated next to her, and she turned and looked up at me with a perplexed expression and said, "It won't come out, Uncle John!"

What's an uncle to do? I took the bottle from her and gave it a good squeeze, and she was right, nothing came out. Then it dawned on me. "I think I know what's wrong, sweetheart," I said, as I tipped the bottle upright and unscrewed the lid. Sure enough, the seal was still in place. No amount of squeezing was going to produce any topping. So I tore off the seal, screwed the lid back on, handed the bottle back to her, and she happily topped off her ice cream with a generous serving.

Ever feel like God's blessings aren't getting through to you, like something might be blocking them? Some friends of mine would suggest that obstacles to grace might be the problem. They contend that obstacles to grace are those things which hinder us from enjoying the loving relationship that God offers us in Christ. What's the "seal" that causes the blockage? Sin!

The Greek word for sin is hamartia, a term from the sport of archery that meant to miss the mark. Their suggestion to those who "hit a dry spell" in their relationships with God and with fellow believers is to start, just as our great niece did, by asking for help. Psalm 139:23-24 is a good starting point when asking God for help: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (or the ancient way)."

Are you perplexed? Is something "not quite right" between you and God, or between you and a fellow believer? Try asking God to turn the bright light of truth on for you, so that you and God can search your heart and deal with any wicked, sinful ways you might discover. Set things right through confession and repentance, accept God's (and hopefully that fellow believer's) forgiveness, welcome the restored relationship, tear off the seal, and let those sweet and generous blessings flow!

Spring Area Clergy Meetings

March 24-28, Guest Speaker, Reid Firestone
Funerals: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

3-24, 10am-12pm, Defiance CoB—Western Area

3-24, 7pm-9pm, Lakewood CoB—Western Area

3-25, 10am-12pm, Grace Brethren—Central Area

3-26, 10am-12pm, Zion Hill CoB—Eastern Area

3-26, 7pm-9pm, Brook Park CoB—Eastern Area

3-28, 10am-12pm, District Office—Central Area

2 contact hours of CE relating to Focus Area 6 Pastoral Care. Ordained, licensed and interim ministers invited. Meet and greet 30 minutes before each meeting.

Gifted by God...

Called by the Church...

Empowered by the Holy Spirit...

A Church Leadership Conference

Sponsored by The Council of District Executives of the Church of the Brethren

May 14-16, 2015

Frederick, MD Church of the Brethren

A Leadership event designed for all church leadership featuring worship times, breakout workshops and plenary sessions. You are encouraged to bring your entire leadership body.

Guest Speakers:

- ⇒ Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Theological Seminary
- ⇒ Belita Mitchell, Pastor of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren and 2007 Annual Conference Moderator
- ⇒ Leroy Solomon, Former Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Ashland Theological Seminary

**Join the CODE Leadership Facebook page
for more information.**

Pastor's Workshop

April 8 & 11, 2015

District Office

Attention Pastors! On Wednesday, April 8 or Saturday April 11, 10am-3pm plan on attending our annual Pastor's Workshop, a get-together for all Pastors. New and veteran pastors, and interims, are invited to join in fellowship and practical conversation about sharpening their ministry tools. "Open Forum" topics may include pastoral leadership, sermon preparation, worship planning, visitation, counseling, self-care, or church conflict. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to the District Office by Friday, April 3. 5 contact hours of CE. Meet and greet 30 minutes before each meeting.

Northern Ohio District Conference 2015
July 24-25, 2015
Mohican Church of the Brethren

***A Message from 2015 District Conference Moderator, Pastor Mike Zellers,
Freeburg Church of the Brethren***

Change. Just the word evokes emotions in most all of us.

To some of us comes dread, we fear the unknown, we bask in the confidence that comes from the comfortable, the usual.

Some welcome change, the anticipation of new experiences, the excitement of the unexpected.

Change is rarely welcome in areas where our comfort level is high. We have become quite comfortable with the “usual” experience at District Conference. When elected to the post of District Conference Moderator Elect, changes for the conference were at the forefront of my prayers. I should have been more specific in my prayers. My intention was to see interest grow, have attendees come away from conference excited about what they had experienced. I wanted the District Conference to inspire congregations to grow in vitality and service in their communities. I did not look for the changes that were necessitated by the unavailability of the venue we have used for many years.

Through the work of the Central Committee, I believe we have dealt with the changes made necessary. These changes have left us with opportunity to make further changes in the way we do conference. There will be issues that may seem to get in the way of conference. We will not have an unlimited amount of space to use as we wish, we will need to use smaller facilities more efficiently. As we have made our plans one feeling has been foremost in my heart, we are coming together in a place we can feel at home as the family God has made us a part of.

As we meet together at the Mohican Church this July, my prayer is that we can relish the setting, relish the intimacy of being together in the Lord’s House. Plans are being made to do as many of the pieces of Conference that we have come to enjoy as possible. We will continue with the pre-conference workshop for pastors, church leaders and all who desire to see our congregations thrive. We will explore spiritual gifts, recognizing them in ourselves and others and how to bring them to bear in the work of the church.

We will be blessed with the sharing of Carl and Roxanne Hill about their call to serve the Lord and perhaps stir some of our own wishes to serve where we can.

As we prepare to come together I ask that we each listen for the Voice of God in our lives and seek the direction His Voice leads.

Hear His Voice...

Seek His Face...



**Answering
the Call
of Jesus**

“Hear His Voice, Seek His Face” Isaiah 55:6

2015 News & Events for Camp Inspiration Hills

T-Shirt Design Contest:

Calling all campers!!! We need YOUR help designing our new summer t-shirts--instead of waiting until you get here to see what it looks like, why not be involved in the process from start to finish? This year we're running a t-shirt design contest. Anyone 5-18 can submit designs based on our summer 2015 theme, "Power Up!" Our design angle for "Power Up!" is based on video games, so keep that in mind when you plan out your shirts. Designs should be submitted by email to chris@inspirationhillscamp.org, and the whole district will be invited to vote for their favorites on the camp website. We'll have two winners and print two different shirts--one for our younger campers (Mom/Dad and Me through Junior camp) and one for older campers (Junior High, Senior High and Worship Arts).

Designs will be accepted through April 1, followed by two rounds of voting. First we'll ask everyone to help us narrow it down to the top 3 in each category, then final voting will happen on Facebook. Winners will be notified May 1 and then announced to the world. When submitting designs, please put "t-shirt contest" in the subject of your email, and include the name, grade and age of the designer in the body.

Leadership Retreats:

We are halfway through our year-long leadership series for youth and college students at Inspiration Hills, but we welcome new leaders anytime! This series is specifically designed for those who are interested in working at camp over the summer, but absolutely anyone interested in developing their leadership skills is welcome! We meet the fourth weekend of every month through April. More information can be found on the camp website.

Summer Camp:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..."
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

We are surrounded by power these days. Plugged in everywhere, all the time, on a constant search for a new power source for one more device. Our bedrooms, cars and even our lives have become a tangle of power cords! This summer, though, we're going to unplug and learn about a different kind of power. We're going to explore how we can each "Power UP!" just like video game characters who jump, reach and run for extra lives or special powers. But instead of moving faster or growing bigger to win a physical battle, we are fighting for power that will change our lives and those around us for the better spiritually. We want to "Power Up!" to be like Christ, "Power Up!" to bear fruits of love and joy, gentleness and peace, kindness and faithfulness. We want to "Power Up!" as a community equipped to show God's love to the world. This summer we'll learn to work harder than Mario ever did to become the best versions of ourselves for Jesus Christ and the world that needs Him more than ever.

Brochures are coming soon for summer camp 2015! Be sure to check them out because we have several new camps this year.

Volunteers:

Camp needs YOU! We would like to start a new volunteer program here at Inspiration Hills, with regular volunteers in several areas including facilities, programming (working with kids), office help and more. Please call the camp if you're interested in helping out here when you have time. We will train volunteers in their areas of interest, and call you for help on a rotating basis as often as YOU say you have time. So no matter if you'd like to help once a year, once a quarter, once a month, once a week or summers only, give us a call and we'll plug you in!

Kitchen Workers:

Inspiration Hills is in immediate need of 2-3 paid part-time staff to work in the kitchen. Previous experience is a plus, but training is provided. More important is your heart for ministry and your availability on weekends! Call us at 419-846-3010 for more information.

Article Submitted By:

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