

THE HERALD



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Staying Enthusiastic

By Dr. Nancy Berkheiser, Lick Creek Church of the Brethren

Scripture: Psalm 150:1-6
Pressure, Tension, Stress!

The daily toils of modern life constantly threaten to take a toll on our enthusiasm. It's not easy to stay excited and inspired in the middle of a long journey. You probably know some people who have lost their zest for life.

Perhaps even in your own life you've seen evidence of dwindling enthusiasm. Maybe at one time you were excited about serving God. You couldn't wait to get to church. You loved reading your Bible, praying and spending time with fellow believers. But lately you've been thinking, I don't know what's wrong with me. I don't have any drive. I'm just going through the motions.

The truth is, much of life is routine, and we can become stagnant if we're not careful. We need to replenish our supply of God's good gifts on a daily basis. We cannot get by on yesterday's supply. Our lives need to be inspired and filled afresh with God's goodness every day.

Make a decision that you are not going to live another day without the joy of the Lord in your life; without love and peace; and without living excited about your life. The Scripture says, "Never lag in zeal, but be aglow and on fire, serving God enthusiastically." (Romans 12:11) Are you "aglow" with God's presence in your life? Are you on "fire" with enthusiasm? You can be! In the morning, do you get up with excitement to meet the day?

You need to appreciate and stay excited about the opportunities God has given you. Whenever you are in life, make the most of it and be the best that you can be. If your assignment right now is to raise your children, do it with enthusiasm. Don't get up and say, "My friends are out doing something significant, something important, something exciting. All I'm doing is taking care of kids."

A mother's work is one of the most important jobs in the whole world but you have to keep up your enthusiasm about it. But in the midst of the ordinary, you can choose to have an extraordinary attitude toward your work. The Scripture tells us to do everything we do with our whole hearts, "to never lag in zeal."

If you work outside the home, do your work with excellence and enthusiasm. Set an example. Do your work with such excellence that others will be impressed with your God merely by observing your behavior and work ethic.

We should be so excited, and full of joy that other people will want what we have. Ask yourself, "Will my attitudes, the words I speak, the way I handle challenges and setbacks, cause anybody to want what I have?" Are you drawing people to God because of your joy, your friendliness, your enthusiasm, your attitude of faith? Or are you turning people away from God because you're perpetually negative, discouraged or cynical? If you want to point people to God have some enthusiasm and be excited about life.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 10.31
Nominating Committee Meeting
District Office, Ashland, OH
- 11.6-7
RECHARGE Youth Event
Dupont CoB, Dupont, OH
- 11.7
Central Committee Meeting
Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH
- 11.7
Disaster Volunteer Reunion
Ashland Dickey CoB, Ashland, OH
- 11.10
"Jonah's People" Kick Off
Good Shepherd Home, Fostoria, OH
- 11.14
District Board Meeting
Mt. Pleasant CoB, North Canton, OH

District Prayer Calendar

October 18—October 24, Mount Pleasant CoB (Pastor Bruce Jacobsen) and New Philadelphia CoB (Pastor Max Canfield)

October 25—October 31, North Bend CoB (Pastor Patrick Bailey) and Owl Creek CoB (Interim Charles Barnhill)

November 1—November 7, Painesville CoB (Pastors John & Sondra Bocchieri) and Paradise CoB (Pastor Allen Kahler)

November 8—November 14, Pleasant View CoB (Pastor Les Bartley) and Poplar Ridge CoB (Pastor Ben Polzin)

November 15—November 21, Reading CoB (Pastor Larry Bradley) and Richland CoB (Pastor Jim Frado)

November 22—November 28, Ross CoB (Interim Keith Stoller) and Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin)

October Remembrances

**October glows with colors bright
as days slip quickly into night.
The air moves sharply from warm to cold;
the Sun drops slowly from high to low.**

**October moves from bright toward bleak
reminding us of memories sweet;
of persons dear who have flown away
into eternity and its new day.**

**So mark it well, this seasonal change,
for it holds promises of endless range.
God's great blessings and eternal plan
are filled with potential, oh so grand!**

*This poem keeps us in mind of the celebration of
All Saints and All Souls Day at the end of October.*

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Pastoral Placement

Adrian – *David Morton* serving as interim.

Akron First – *Tobin Crenshaw* installed as pastor October 18.

Akron Springfield – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. *Tom Michaels* serving as interim.

Ashland First – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. *Tina Hunt* serving as interim.

Bethel – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Center – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Chippewa – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

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

Eden – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Lake Breeze – *James Washington* serving as interim.

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

Maple Grove – *Bill Schaefer* resigning as pastor effective November 15. The search for an associate pastor has been put on hold.

Marion First – *Rick Hicks* serving as interim.

Owl Creek – *Charles Barnhill* serving as interim.

Richland – *Jim Frado* called as pastor June 28. Installation to be scheduled.

Ross – *Keith Stoller* serving as interim.

Sugar Creek West – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim.

Swan Creek – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

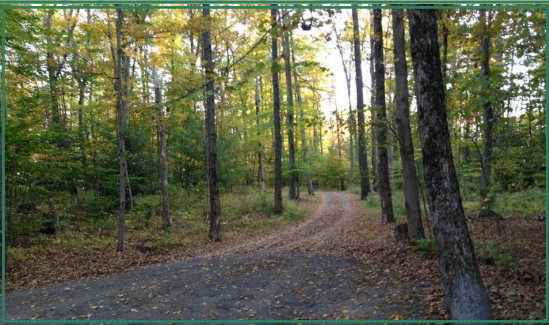
Woodworth – *Mitch Funkhouser* serving as interim.



SISTERS "RETREATS"



Centerpieces for West View Healthy Living



Inspiration Hills October 10, 2015

Why do we call it a retreat? According to Webster's dictionary to retreat is "an act or process of withdrawing" or "a place of privacy or safety." Why should women go on retreat? To withdraw from our hectic everyday lives and find some private time in the safety of our Lord... what better place to do that than in the beauty of nature.

On October 10 ladies attended the SISTERS' retreat on that beautiful autumn day. Thank you to Cindy Peel for your great presentation; Janis Turk for doing registration; Faith Polen for the music; Eula Agee, Fern Dews, Rosalie Dews, and Jerri Dews Davidson for our awesome craft project; Mary Bright and Tina Hunt for delivering the centerpieces to West View Healthy Living; and the Inspiration Hills Camp Staff (Dale and Shannon) for their hospitality.

Your next retreat opportunity is April 29 and 30, 2016, at Beulah Beach in Vermilion, Ohio. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Bonni Brockway. We are planning some awesome activities. Mark your calendars now.

Yes the cost of the spring retreat is \$70. Oh my... a little steep for most of us? True, but that does include pizza on Friday, three full meals on Saturday, overnight stay with bedding and towels included, session materials, and craft supplies.... and don't forget the beautiful view of Lake Erie in the spring.

At the fall retreat, I gave those present an envelope and encouraged each of them to put \$10 a month in it between now and April. You can do that at home... save a little each month and you'll have a head start on the cost. However, if the cost is what might keep you away, please feel free to contact me personally. Some have also asked how they can help sponsor someone to attend. If you would like to help, you too may contact me.

Sisters In Service To Enrich, Refresh & Support
Billi Janet Burkey, SISTERS Team
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SISTERS' Retreat October 10, 2015
Inspiration Hills Cherry Lodge



About 40 Centerpieces were made for West View Healthy Living

A New Perspective on the Millennial Generation

By Spencer Dolezal, District Youth Coordinator

Here's how it works. I'm going to go to college because that is a necessary prerequisite. I'm going to graduate college in four years. Then I'm going to get a job. It won't be the perfect job, but I know it will be in my field, and I know it is going to pay well. That is why I went to college after all. I might even start a company. That could work. Yeah, I'll start a company, and my company will be clear on its social stances, and we will be built on fair practices, and we will explode onto the scene after a couple of years of work. It's simple. And, I'm just the person for the job. I'm special enough, and I'll have all the right skills.

Here is the view of the millennial. (A broad disclaimer: this is a generalization. Not every millennial feels this way. Not every millennial is this way). The millennial generation is comprised of the individuals born between the mid 1970s to the mid 1990s. They have a lot going for them, and they are missing their mark in many ways too.

I am a millennial. I didn't choose it, but it was just when I was born. I also don't say this as if I'm nervously admitting my addiction at some sort of support meeting. I am not ashamed to be a millennial. I am a millennial because of when I was born.

There are a few things that must be understood about millennials in order to effectively minister to us. We are ambitious. Our grandparents instilled a work ethic in our parents that told them, "If you work hard for a long enough time you will have a secure career." Our parents worked hard for a long enough time, and they hit a time of economic prosperity that caused their reality to be better than the expectations they were given by their parents. This caused them to instill a different sort of work ethic in their kids, the millennials. Instead of having the same idea that hard work over long time equals success, we learned that we were special, that we didn't have to put in a lot of effort in order to gain the successes of our parents. We are delusional. We think that the world owes us some things – a good job, a fulfilling career, an outlet for our specialness ("Why Gen Y Yuppies are Unhappy," Urban, waitbutwhy.com).

Simply put, we are simply wrong.

But, and here's the kicker, it isn't our fault.

Before I move any further, let me say that I, a millennial, am not demanding that I am owed anything from the generations before me. I haven't done anything to deserve that. I haven't worked nearly hard enough for nearly enough time to warrant anything, but it also isn't my fault that I am a product of my generation. I can't help that I grew up in a world that taught me through experience that I am special, and that I can have whatever I want without much work.

My plea for you is to treat my generation with something other than contempt. I know it is easy to be discouraged by the waning number of young people in the church. I know it is easy to be upset over my generation's whininess. I know it is easy to look at a picture of a bunch of unkempt, inept, technology focused young men and women and dismiss them as one of the laziest and most ineffective and, quite honestly, most useless groups of people out there.

But, please, do not.

Here are six names to consider: Lucero Alcaraz, Rebecka Ann Carnes, Quinn Cooper, Treven Taylor Anspach, Lucas Eibel, Jason Dale Johnson. These six men and women were among the nine people who lost their lives in the recent Oregon shooting. It has been stated across the news that the gunman asked those in the room if they were Christians. If they answered "no," he inflicted nonfatal gunshot wounds. If they answered "yes," he took their lives.

The names of these victims are important, but their ages are maybe more interesting. Alcaraz, 19, Carnes, 18, Cooper, 18, Anspach, 20, Eibel, 18, Johnson, 34. Here is a group of millennial-aged individuals who stood up and professed their faith in Jesus Christ in the face of certain danger.

Why is this so interesting and important?

Young people, the useless, whiny, entitled, insignificant group of people who can't seem to accomplish much in our society, have a ton of ambition and a ton of power when it comes to what they believe in. The stereotypical view of millennials would have told this story differently. The millennial Christian might have cowered and then professed faith later through the social media circuit. But, reality would have the story play out differently. Reality shows a tragically triumphant moment for the millennial generation.

Please, I beg you, do not write off my generation as the stereotypical useless group of people who have ambition and no outlet. In our churches, please give us the opportunity to show you that we care about you, that we can accomplish our goals, that we know what it means to serve others, that we really do want to see social change, that we are committed to Jesus Christ and His church, but that we haven't (in a lot of cases) been given the respect, responsibility, and trust that we may not deserve but that we need. Don't assume we need a watered down version of the gospel. Don't assume we need a fresh looking service and flashy enticement to step into a congregation. We aren't interested in that. We are interested in something authentic.

We are interested in a faith that is centered not on ourselves as society would think, but a faith that is centered on Jesus Christ.

We have been ambitious because of what the generation ahead of us instilled in us. We have been useless because we have not had an appropriate outlet for that ambition. To say it simply, at this point in time, it is on you and us to make sure that we are included, as friends, as members of your churches, as mentees, and most importantly of all as disciples.

If you ask me, "how do we reach these kids?" My answer is simple, and I believe it to be true. "Go and make disciples."

Welcome New Pastors



BRIAN ARCHER
PLEASANT VIEW

Brian Archer was licensed to the ministry at the Pleasant View congregation in Elida, OH on June 14.

Brian grew up in the Lima area and graduated from Allen East High School in Harrod, OH. He attended Ohio State University and Indian Hill Community College in Iowa. He was originally licensed in the Northern Ohio District but moved to Lanark, IL where he was licensed in the Illinois-Wisconsin District and served as pastor of the Cherry Grove congregation. He then moved to Ottumwa, IA where he was licensed in the Northern Plains District and served as pastor of the Ottumwa congregation. He held district leadership positions while at Lanark and Ottumwa.

Brian is married to Kerri and has one stepdaughter, Greta, who was married in July. The Archer family has hosted five exchange students from Thailand, Denmark, Germany and China through International Ministry Exchange.



CHRIS EWING
COUNTY LINE

Chris Ewing, associate pastor and youth pastor of the County Line congregation in Harrod, OH was ordained on June 7.

Chris was born and raised in the Lima, OH area. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Regent University and a Master of Arts degree in Biblical Interpretation from Regent University School of Divinity. Prior to serving at County Line, he served as youth pastor at the Dover, OH Foursquare Church from 2007 - August 2013. He was licensed to the ministry by the Northern Ohio District in 2013.

Chris and his wife Anna are parents of three children, Kynzie, Jax and Declan.

Interim pastor **Jeff Ellsworth** was installed as pastor of the Eden congregation on April 26. Jeff served as interim at Eden from March 2012 to April 2015.



JEFF ELLSWORTH
EDEN

Born in Massillon, Jeff graduated from Hoover High School and Kent State University. In addition to serving the Eden congregation as interim pastor and pastor, he was employed by Michael's Arts and Crafts as the frame shop manager. He was licensed to the ministry by the Northern Ohio District in 2008.

Jeff and his wife Patricia were married in 1980, and have two daughters, Christa and Meghan. Patricia is a lifelong member of the Mt. Pleasant congregation and Jeff became a member in 1979.

Jeff passed away on July 8 following a courageous battle with cancer.

Paul Bozman was installed as pastor of the Akron Eastwood congregation on August 9.

A lifelong Northern Ohio resident, Paul grew up learning to serve the local church from his grandparents who were missionaries and pastors with the Salvation Army.

He received a Business Administration degree in Accounting from Kent State University in 2007 and worked as a retail drug store manager with Rite Aid and Walgreens. In response to his call to ministry, he enrolled at Ashland Theological Seminary and graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree in 2011. Prior to his call to Akron Eastwood, he served as pastor of the Center congregation from 2011-July 2015. He was licensed to the ministry by the Northern Ohio District in 2012 and ordained in 2014.

Paul also serves as District TRIM (Training in Ministry) Coordinator, overseeing the training of ministry students in conjunction with Bethany Theological Seminary's Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

Paul and his wife Lynne have been married for 15 years and have a 12-year-old daughter Mackenzie.



PAUL BOZMAN
AKRON
EASTWOOD

Welcome New Pastors contd.



**TOBIN CRENSHAW
AKRON FIRST**

Tobin Crenshaw was installed as pastor at the Akron First congregation on October 18.

Born in Tipp City, OH, Tobin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Cedarville University and a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Malone University. In addition to serving as pastor, he serves as a Pre-Trial Officer for the Summit County Court in Akron. Prior to his call to Akron First, he served as associate pastor at the Eaton congregation in the Southern Ohio District in 2001 and as associate pastor and then pastor at the Hartville congregation 2002-2009.

He was licensed to the ministry by the Northern Ohio District in 2002 and ordained in 2005.

Tobin and his wife Monica live in New Franklin, OH.



**JOHN & SONDR A BOCCHERI
PAINESVILLE**

John and Sondra Bocchieri were licensed to the ministry by the Northern Ohio District and installed as co-pastors of the Painesville congregation on July 19.

Sondra's parents were Assemblies of God missionaries to Southeast Asia. She attended elementary school in Myanmar and her high school years were spent in Malaysia and Singapore. Whether she was with her parents or in a boarding school, she participated in evangelism through music. She is a graduate of Evangel College in Springfield, MO.

John is a graduate of Evangel College and Kansas State College of Pittsburg (Pittsburg State University) in Pittsburg, KS. He has served as a draftsman/illustrator, college art teacher, missionary and missions director in Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, Cayman Islands and the U.S., and associate pastor.

John and Sondra met at Evangel College when John was completing his degree. They are parents of two children and grandparents of one.

“On the Way” with District Minister Executive John Ballinger

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

Early Monday morning, September 28, Northern Ohio District Executive Emeritus Gordon Bucher went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Friends and family gathered Saturday afternoon, October 2 at the Manchester, IN Church of the Brethren to celebrate Gordon's life and ministry.

Gordon's life and ministry were extraordinary, as these numbers indicate:

- 89 years of life,
- 68 years of marriage,
- 64 years as a parent, grandparent and great-grandparent,
- 75 years of Church of the Brethren membership,
- 1 voyage as a "Seagoing Cowboy" in 1945 on the first Brethren Service Commission/United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration ship to transport livestock to Europe after WWII (500 horses from New Orleans to Greece),
- Active in seven Church of the Brethren congregations: Woodland, Canton, Rockford (licensed and ordained), Bethel Center (PT Pastor) and Springfield (FT Pastor) in Illinois, Hartville (FT District Executive) in Ohio, and Manchester (retired) in Indiana,
- 48 years of ministry,
- 7+ years as Part-Time and Full-Time Pastor, and
- 33 years as District Executive.

But there's so much more to Gordon's life and ministry than numbers. To paraphrase the late Andraé Crouch's lyrics in his song, My Tribute (also known as "To God be the Glory"), "Gordon, how can I say thanks for all the things you have done for me?" Here's how: a tribute to you, my dear friend, ministry colleague and mentor.

Gordon, I thank you for your FRIENDSHIP as I was licensed, as you encouraged me in ministry training, as you visited Kathy and me in our home, as you and Darlene welcomed me into your own home, and as you advised me and prayed for me as I have served as a DE.

I also thank you for your FREQUENT SMILE whenever we visited and talked. No church or personal problem was too big for God and us to work through together. You were my pastor during my early years of ministry, and I was yours, briefly, when I anointed you and prayed for you and Darlene in March of this year. And you paid me the ultimate compliment when I visited you during the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and you turned down the sound on your television (but I noticed that when we sat down, you sat where you could keep one eye on the screen!)

And I thank you for your FAITHFULNESS to your family, to Christ and the Church of the Brethren, and to all of us. When I read your editorial in the August 1971 edition of the Northern Ohio District Herald in which you paid tribute to your late father, you wrote in part, "God is a Father. He is a loving Father. To those of us who have had loving fathers, this has real meaning ... It is tough to lose one you love. But the joy is that Dad was a dedicated churchman." You wrote about your sorrow in "missing the golf games, hugs, jolly handshakes and jokes for the grandchildren." But you also wrote about your joy in having "tremendous respect for a father who along with your mother showed you what love is about. Joy of knowing that he has inherited his eternal existence with God, the Loving One. Joy of knowing that life for this world was better because of his Christian witness and concern. He was a Christian giver. And just to think, that God is even a more loving Father than dad. What a dad! What a God!"

Thank you, Gordon, for being a dedicated churchman as well, and for showing me, and all of us, what love and Christian faith lived out in our Church of the Brethren family, are all about.

You can view Gordon's obituary on the Canton, OH Repository's legacy.com web site at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/cantonrep/obituary.aspx?n=Gordon-Bucher&pid=175981918>.

Jonah's People: A New Fellowship in Fostoria, OH

Barry A. Belknap, Pastor

District Conference, in July 2015, approved funding for a fellowship in Fostoria, Ohio. The group is meeting at Good Shepherd Home, which has been a Church of the Brethren ministry since its founding in 1904. Today, Good Shepherd Home is a vibrant continuing care retirement community including 22 independent living villas in Good Shepherd Village, 54 assisted living rooms in Brethren Court, 128 licensed nursing care residences and a 14 unit HUD subsidized independent living complex. Attendees of the fellowship are residents, resident families, and community members. Good Shepherd's Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Barry A. Belknap, serves as pastor.

Jonah was the prophet who struggled throughout his ministry to see the need to follow God's call to work with the secular culture at his doorstep. Ironically, when Jonah preached, people listened and God's work was initiated. When we read about Jonah's experiences, we read about someone who was facing challenges similar in many ways to those we faced today. We are people of God called to deliver His word. The fellowship of Jonah's People, like the prophet Jonah, seeks to overcome the excuses we harbor about an indifferent culture to share our faith, hope, and love with our greater community. We believe that our witness can make the world a better place to be.

The complexion of the fellowship looks very different than a typical COB church. Participants come from numerous Protestant and Catholic backgrounds. The goal is to draw people together to celebrate the many things we have in common, with an emphasis on

community outreach. Our initial goals are:

Create and maintain spiritually enriching Christ centered worship opportunities for residents, resident families, and people from the community.

Develop fellowship and study opportunities that enable people to grow in their faith and build relationships within the community of faith.

Provide holistic pastoral care that enables people to sense God's presence and love as they struggle with the more difficult moments and transitions of life.

Reach out, as a community of faith, to bring light and life to the surrounding area, utilizing the gifts and energy of the many people involved in the church.

Offer enriching educational events for clergy and church lay workers to better equip them to meet the needs of people they encounter in ministry.

Some of these initiatives are well under way. Currently Good Shepherd Home offers two Protestant worship services and three Catholic services each week. The Catholic Services are staffed by a priest and local Eucharistic Ministers. The Protestant Sunday Chapel averages 40 people. Catholic services average 45 people. A Monday night Fellowship Hour averages 12 people. A weekly Gospel service has recently been added to our schedule.

The current initiatives being worked on:

- Planning for a kick-off service on November 10th at 6PM
- Recruiting more Steering Committee members
- Wading through federal and state legalities related to starting a non-profit and obtaining 501c3 status
- Defining categories of membership

Please pray for this new ministry as it works to build a solid foundation and please plan to join us on November 10th at 6PM for the kick-off service.



Good Shepherd Home Chapel, Fostoria, Ohio



Northern Ohio District

Youth Ministry

Church of the Brethren



Sr. High Youth Leadership

We are looking for help with leadership for the Sr. High District Youth. We want a team of individuals who are excited about helping out with youth ministry to be instrumental in the planning and executing of engaging high school ministry events. If you know of anybody in your congregation who you believe is gifted in shepherding, organization/administration, teaching, gathering, or hospitality, and would be interested in helping with Sr. High District Youth, please send their information (with their approval), to the District Youth Coordinator (Spencer Dolezal, spencer@nohcob.org, (440) 554-4657). Thanks and God bless!

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