

# WEST MARVA DISTRICT MEMO MAY 2017

384 Dennett Road  
Oakland, MD 21550  
301-334-9270

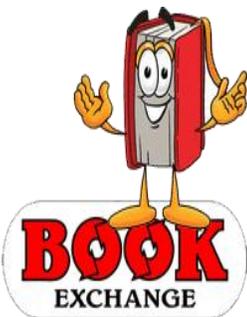
Kendal Elmore, Executive Minister  
J. Rogers Fike, Executive Minister Emeritus  
Brenda Harvey, Administrative Assistant  
[www.westmarvachurches.org](http://www.westmarvachurches.org)



## 2017 WEST MARVA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The West Marva District Conference is scheduled to be held September 15-16, 2017 at the Moorefield Church of the Brethren. Our conference moderator this year is Russell Webster, pastor of the Moorefield Church. Our speaker for the Friday evening worship service will be Julian Rittenhouse, pastor of the Pine Grove-Pocahontas and New Hope Church of the Brethren. Julian is from Green Bank, West Virginia.

District Conference delegate registration forms will be sent to all pastor/contacts electronically (to those who have current e-mail addresses) soon. All other pastor/contacts without e-mails should be receiving their forms by regular mail. These forms should be returned to the District Office no later than July 1, 2017.



Attention all Book Lovers!!!! This year at District Conference the West Marva District Spiritual Growth Team will be sponsoring a 'Book Exchange'. Churches and individuals are encouraged to bring Christian study books and Christian fiction books to a designated room (to be announced) where they will be displayed. Then anyone in attendance at conference can take these books at no charge. Any books left at the end of conference will be distributed to different charity organizations in the Moorefield/Petersburg area.

Attention VBS Directors!!! Also this year at District Conference the West Marva District Spiritual Growth Team will be sponsoring a Vacation Bible School Repurposing Room. If your church would have VBS supplies, decorations, craft ideas, etc., these items can be brought to a designated area (to be announced) and they would also be made available to anyone attending conference at no charge.

The District Conference Planning and Arrangements Committee has been working for a number of months in preparation for the 2017 District Conference. We are looking for a church or possibly two neighboring churches who would be willing to prepare and serve the breakfast for Saturday morning. If your church would be interested in helping us please contact the District Office for additional information.

**S**unday, June 4, 2017 is a  **Birthday... How are you planning to celebrate?** Pentecost Sunday is the day that Christians celebrate the Birth of the Church of Jesus Christ!

There is a great deal to be learned from the Bible that can only lead us into a celebration... of the birth of the Church.

We all know pretty well that the Church of the Brethren began in the Eder River in Schwarzenau Germany, and we surely have some idea that the church began in the first century, after the Resurrection of Jesus... But do we have an ingrained sense of the birth of the Church Universal on the Day of Pentecost, following the Resurrection of Jesus?

Many of us are likely aware of the events on the Day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit was manifested as...

- ◇ The sound of a mighty rushing wind...
- ◇ The appearance of flame like images above their heads and...
- ◇ The uttering of unlearned languages... (Acts 2:2-4 NKJV)

**But...** that's not the whole story... not by a great deal! In the chaotic mystery of this unprecedented moving of the Holy Spirit, some worshiped while others scoffed, and accused these disciples of being "drunk." At which time Peter spoke up and preached a great sermon, using Joel 2:28-32 as his text, highlighting that the day would come when the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon "all" flesh... not just occasional manifestations as had been the experience leading up to this day. Peter proclaimed, "*This is That!*" (Acts 2:16 NKJV)

His sermon then expounded on the development of God's plan as it was fulfilled in Jesus' ministry, death, burial, and resurrection, climaxed now in this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Those who were

moved by this sermon, asked, "What shall we do?" Peter responded by saying, <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation. Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." (Acts 2:38-41 NIV)

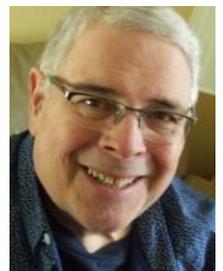


The remaining passages in this second chapter paint an intriguing picture of the first generation church. It reaches its summit in these verses: <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 NIV)

- ◇ How might we best celebrate the Birthday of the Church as we come to the day of Pentecost?
- ◇ Might we make a serious promise, a resolution of sorts that we would seek to yield our traditions and processes as we aspire to live into the image modeled by the first church?
- ◇ What would that take for us today?
- ◇ What fruit might be borne by such a process?
- ◇ Do we dare to enter in to such an opportunity?
- ◇ Do we dare not to?

**Blessings to one and all!**

*Kendal* ☺



# West Marva District Mission and Evangelism Team... Invites EVERYONE to come...



**When:** May 19 and 20, 7:00 PM Nightly

**Where:** Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, WV

**Speaker:** Rusty Brown, Pastor and Evangelist from Galivant's Ferry, SC

**Song Leader:** Kevin Staggs

**Keyboard:** Jennifer Sanders Kreighbaum



Rusty Brown, Speaker

**Special Music in Both Services, which are to be in the New Outdoor Chapel.**

**Dr. Rusty Brown** is scheduled to preach in an Evangelistic Rally for two nights at Camp Galilee, in Terra Alta, WV. The West Marva District Church of the Brethren Mission and Evangelism Team is sponsoring the event.

**Testimony:** Having been raised in church from birth. After graduating from high school and moving out of his parents' home, Rusty continued to attend church periodically still believing he was "good with the Lord". Behind the scenes, Rusty lived a life of secrecy. He continued his battle of drug addiction that stemmed back to high school while managing and working in a very prosperous service business founded by his father and mother. Later he married Brooke, and after 3 years they had a daughter, Chloe. God revealed his sin and where he actually stood with God at the age of 24. God saved Rusty on his living room floor. He was delivered him from addiction! **No rehab! No hospital! No withdrawal meds! The only rehab Rusty received was at the foot of the Cross!**

Soon, God called Rusty to preach. Now, the pastor at Galivant's Ferry (SC) Baptist Church his focus and passion is studying the Gospel and doing what God has called him to do, "the work of an Evangelist..."

---

***Come to be spiritually refreshed and blessed... Bring others with you, who may not be clear regarding their relationship with God!***

---





*Calling All Seniors!*

## **SENIOR CITIZEN'S CAMP AT CAMP GALILEE**

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

*Registration begins at 9:00 am with donuts and coffee  
in Recreation Hall.*

*Program begins promptly at 9:30 am*

**COME and ENJOY THE DAY  
FREE FOOD, FUN, and FELLOWSHIP!**

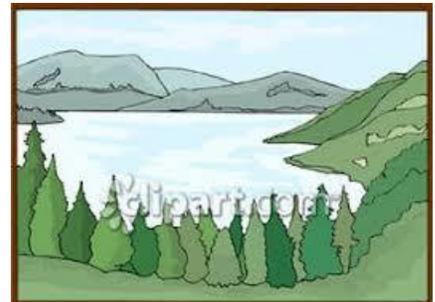
*Last year's committee did such an excellent job that it was requested that they prepare our program again this year. The committee members are: Randy Shoemaker, pastor of the Sunnyside COB, Fred and Margie Roy, members of the Sunnyside Church and Grover Duling, a member of the Oak Dale Church and our District Board Chair.*

*Enjoy an outstanding lunch (chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, drinks and dessert) and a wonderful opportunity to fellowship.*

*The afternoon freewill offering will be going to a National Charity: Heifer Project*

**REMEMBER TO CALL** the District Office at 301-334-9270 to register by May 26th.

*Pre-registering helps the Camp Staff to adequately plan for meals- but walk-ins are welcome.*



**WOMEN'S RETREAT  
CAMP HOPE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
JUNE 10, 2017  
9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.**

**SPEAKER: BRENDA HARVEY  
"HOW BRIGHT IS YOUR LIGHT"**

**Let your light so shine before  
men, that they may see your  
good works, and glorify your  
Father which is in heaven.**

**Matthew 5:16**



**Breakfast and lunch will be provided!  
There will be Morning Devotions,  
Crafts, Singing, Banner Making and a  
Study of Women of the Bible. Come  
and join us for good Christian fellow-  
ship.**

**For additional information contact LuAnne  
Poling at 304-457-1236.**



## Annual Conference 2017 June 28 – July 2 – Grand Rapids MI DeVos Convention Center



The 2017 Annual Conference is an event that many West Marva Brethren should be experiencing. Two of the Business Items have emerged from two “queries” that were sent to the 2016 Annual Conference last summer in Greensboro, NC.

The questions asked in these queries were as follows:

- “How shall districts respond when ministers and/or congregations conduct or participate in Same Sex Weddings?”
- “Is it the will of Annual Conference for On Earth Peace to remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren with reportability and accountability to Annual Conference?”

Each of our 65 churches is entitled to have one Voting Delegate for the first 200 members, and one additional Voting Delegate for each 200 members above 200. On April 1, there were only 14 Voting Delegates from our congregations registered. These are in addition to the 2 Standing Committee Delegates who represent our district. Does your congregation have registered delegates yet? Below is some information that is available on the internet, and a call to Brenda at the District Office [(301) 334-9270] if you need further assistance.

**For the Web Address for Registration Click [HERE](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/registration/?referrer=http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/).** (or enter this text into your web browser: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/registration/?referrer=http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/> )

**For the the Report regarding Same Sex Weddings Click [HERE](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/business/UB-4-Authority-and-Accountability-final.pdf).** (or enter this text into your web browser: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/business/UB-4-Authority-and-Accountability-final.pdf>)

**Hotel Information is available, Click [HERE](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/hotels.html).**

(or enter this text into your web browser: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/hotels.html>)



The city of Grand Rapids, Michigan will be the location of the 2017 Annual Conference. Located in Western Michigan on the Grand River about 30 miles from Lake Michigan, it is the second largest city in Michigan with a metro area population of over 1 million people.

Grand Rapids is home to five of the world’s leading office furniture companies and is nicknamed “Furniture City.” It is also home seven Christian colleges and universities.

It’s the hometown of U.S. President Gerald R. Ford and the location of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

# WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY



Steven Earl Sauder, 58, of Oakland died on Saturday, April 15, 2017, at his home surrounded by his family.

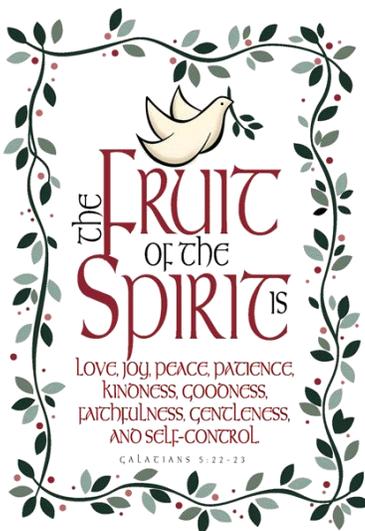
Born on December 8, 1958 in East Earl, PA, he was the son of Grace (Sweigart) Sauder of East Earl and the late Raymond Earl Sauder. He was a graduate of Garden Spot High School in Lancaster County, PA and obtained an Associate of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Hesston College in Kansas.

Steve had been the long-time Pastor of the Gortner Union Church and was also self-employed in property maintenance. He was a current member of the Oak Park Church of the Brethren.

In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoyed riding his bicycle.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Anna M. (Hursh) Sauder; three children, Elizabeth Petersheim and husband Steven of Richmond, IN, Holly Clark and husband Jamie of Frostburg and Andrew Sauder of Oakland; six grandchildren, Mikayla, Ethan, Abigail and Johanna Petersheim, Landon and Kinsley Clark.

A private interment service was held at the Gortner Union Church Cemetery. A memorial service was held at the Oak Park Church of the Brethren on Monday, April 17th with Pastor Carl Fike officiating.



## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

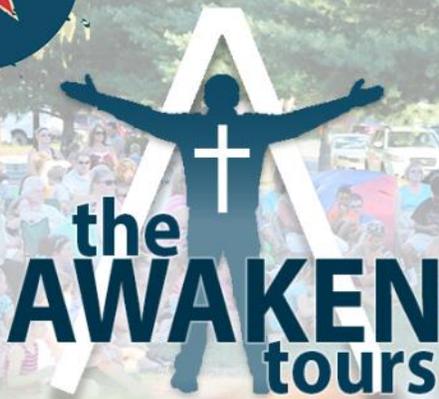
The West Marva District Spiritual Growth Team is sponsoring "The Fruit of the Spirit" Workshops.

Those who attend "The Fruit of the Spirit" Class will examine all nine "fruits" (Galatians 5:22-23 using numerous Bible verses, group discussion questions and understand the true meaning of each fruit. We will examine the life of the Spirit vs. the sinful nature, and the life of Jesus-our master example of a life filled with good fruit. Our presenter for this class will be Pastor Lucy Webster.

Our classes will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Moorefield Church of the Brethren. It is a two day class so you will receive 1 CEU for attending both days. The class will start at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm daily. Lunch will be from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, it is on your own. We have several eating places in Moorefield. We will have a list for you on the first day of class.

Come and see how the spirit works in and through believers and how we are to live according to the spirit.

To register for this class, please contact the District Office at 301-334-9270 or [wmarva@verizon.net](mailto:wmarva@verizon.net) no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> so we can make sure that we have enough materials.



# STEP RIGHT UP!

# YOU'RE INVITED

**FREE FOOD** Kids Activities  
BBQ Pulled Pork & Hot Dogs  
Sno-Cones  
Fellowship  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
GUEST SPEAKERS Moon Bounces  
Cotton Candy  
Face Painting and more!!!

GIVEAWAYS

GAMES

## Tour Dates

Jul 15, 2017 (4-8pm)	TOWN PARK	MOOREFIELD, WV
Jul 29, 2017 (4-8pm)	WELTON PARK	PETERSBURG, WV
TBD	TOWN PARK	BARTON, MD
Aug 12, 2017 (4-8pm)	TOWN PARK	KEYSER, WV
Sept 2, 2017 (4-8pm)	THE GLADES	OAKLAND, MD

\* RAIN DAY WILL BE THE FOLLOWING DAY AT THE SAME TIME

[www.theawakentours.com](http://www.theawakentours.com)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of Christian Fellowship.

## Income Report—January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

Church	Allocation	YTD Giving	Church	Allocation	YTD Giving
Asher Glade	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 625.00	Pine Grove	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,760.00
Bean Settlement			Peasant Hill		
Bear Creek	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 650.00	Pleasant Valley		
Beaver Run			Red Creek/Bethel	\$ 1,000.00	
Bethel			Romney	\$ 700.00	
Bethesda	\$ 400.00		Salem		\$ 825.00
Bowden		\$ 600.00	Shady Grove		\$ 500.00
Brake		\$ 5,000.00	Shiloh	\$ 3,300.00	
Brick	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	South Mill Creek		
Brookside	\$ 3,000.00		Sugarland		
Capon Chapel			Sunnyside	\$ 1,500.00	
Cherry Grove			Tearcoat	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Clifton Mills	\$ 500.00		Terra Alta/Whitedale		
Danville	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	Valley River		\$ 50.00
Elkins	\$ 600.00		Walnut Grove		
Fairview	\$ 1,500.00		Westernport		
Frostburg			White Pine		
Georges Creek	\$ 100.00		Wiley Ford		
Glady					
Gortner Union			Totals	\$64,010.00	\$ 22,747.00
Hanging Rock					
Harman	\$ 4,000.00				
Harmony			Allocations	\$22,747.00	
Harness Run		\$ 437.00	Individual Giving	\$ 50.00	
Harpers Chapel			District Event Offering	\$	
Hazelton	\$ 300.00		Interest Income	\$	
Jordan Run	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	Total Income 2016	\$22,797.00	
Kelley Chapel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00			
Keyser	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 375.00			
Knobley			Brenda Harvey,		
Laughlin	\$ 650.00		Financial Secretary		
Laurel Glen	\$ 500.00				
Livingstone					
Locust Grove	\$ 2,000.00				
Maple Spring	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,500.00			
Moorefield	\$ 1,000.00				
Morgantown	\$ 1,000.00				
Mount Zion					
Mountain Dale					
Oak Dale	\$ 2,000.00				
Oak Grove, MD	\$ 5,000.00				
Oak Park	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 2,725.00			
Old Furnace		\$ 500.00			
Onego	\$ 400.00				
Petersburg	\$ 1,200.00				

*Brethren Bits from Betty's Desk.....*  
*We could have celebrated last year... (continued)*

**The first District Conference of the West Marva District was held September 9-10, 1966 at the Tear-coat Church with Fred Clayton serving as moderator.**

Most people by now know how the name was chosen. The title was adopted from the name of the combined First West Virginia District and Western Maryland Youth Groups which had used it for a number of years.

*Something to think about:* We read on page 798 in *Allegheny Passage*:...” The West Marva District has now been in existence since 1965. As reported the last year before data was consolidated, the three districts had a combined membership of 8,173 in 54 congregations, having a total of 80 churches or preaching points.” ... In 2015: membership stood at 5,440 with 63 congregations and 3 Fellowships.

There was an office known as District Field Secretary—selected to be in charge of the administrative role. (pg 790 *Allegheny Passage*) In 1939 the office of District Executive Secretary was established as a part time, financially compensated function. Foster Bittinger (father of Emmert Bittinger) served in that role in the First District until he moved into the Western Maryland District as pastor of Westernport church in 1941.

Following Foster Bittinger's service, Ezra Fike, A. R. Showalter, and Galen Fike served in the capacity of District Field Secretary.

Changes were in progress in the early 1950's. Once more, we need to look at *Allegheny Passage* pages to refresh our memories. The “Tri-District Joint Field Program” ...”uniting the efforts of the three districts in securing a full time executive was a major step. As developed by the three district boards, and presented to the First West Virginia District Conference in 1953, the program was to begin September 1, 1954 and be on a three-year trial basis.” ...

As always—finances were cause for concern. “The resources of the three districts were not immediately sufficient to provide financial support. One half of the budget of \$5,000 for the program was obtained from the Brotherhood Fund. Today—we smile as we read...”the First District was to provide \$1,500, Western Maryland, \$650, and Second District WV only \$350.”

Rev. Norman Harsh, native of Eglon then serving the Sunnyside Congregation, was employed and begun his service on September 1, 1954. Norman remained as Executive Secretary for six years. *Allegheny Passage* gives the information ... “Near the time of his departure, he expressed the belief that ‘the districts were on the threshold of new adventures’ and that there could be a ‘fresh awareness of togetherness between and among the three cooperating districts.’ ...”

Things do not always progress smoothly. Unfortunately a successor could not be immediately found and it was recommended that “contact men” for each district be appointed. In 1960 the Parsonage Trustees reported that the building should be sold and the parsonage be located elsewhere, not so far from doctors, schools and shopping facilities.

In 1954 a home had been purchased in Eglon for the Norman Harsh family. This was the original District Office.

The proposal to sell and relocate was approved by Second District, failed to pass First District and Western Maryland voted to place the decision in the hands of the Trustees to act in the best interests of the program. The parsonage was retained at Eglon.

Rev. Owen G. Stultz who had resigned from the joint pastorate at Knobley, Sunnyside and Harness Run was eventually engaged as District Executive and filled the vacancy on September 1, 1961.

The question of the district parsonage continued to be an issue. During an Elder, Pastors and Moderators Council held at the Locust Grove Church on September 14, 1963 when the vote was taken 36 were in favor of selling the old parsonage in Eglon and 48 opposed.

January 1965 during the second Tri-District Conference delegates voted 85 to 31 to move the location of the district parsonage. This Conference then chose the Oakland area for the new setting. A building committee was established.

The old parsonage in Eglon was sold, a lot was purchased on Dennett Road, a contractor was engaged to build the combined parsonage and offices for \$22,735.00. The new complex was dedicated on October 17, 1965 by Norman Harsh, former Executive Secretary and native of the area.

Owen Stultz and his wife Flemmie who served as office secretary and assistant continued their work in the three districts. Quoting from *Allegheny Passage...* "They achieved the distinction of effectively leading and assisting the three districts through the several years of lengthy and complex study in preparation for consolidation into the new West Marva District." ... They remained until the fall of 1968.

J. Rogers Fike was secured as the next Executive Secretary, and he began his service on February 1, 1969. He continued for approximately eight years, giving his resignation in December of 1977. However, J. Rogers stepped in 1994 as "interim", then once more 1997-1999.

Beginning July 1, 1978 Sylvus Flora served until 1990. Harold Statler and Donald Matthews served together during 1991 before Rich Hanley came and served until 1994. Peter Leddy's term was from 1994-1997. Following J. Rogers Fike interim term 1997-1999, Steve Abe who was pastor at Elkins began as the District Executive Secretary in 2000 until 2009. John Moyers pastor at Harman, Red Creek Bethel served as interim in 2010 until Kendal Elmore, our current District Executive was hired.

How many of you recall Brenda Harvey first sitting in the secretary's chair during the summer of 1969 working for J. Rogers Fike and for a couple years before she moved on to other employment?

November 1993 Brenda Harvey, our Administrative Assistant, began her duties as Office Secretary to Rich Hanley, who had already been serving as DEM since 1991, a position he held until 1994. Over the years her expertise, interest and love of the District has formed her into a valuable asset for everyone who has questions about "anything from where is an address or phone number or how best to reach someone... she knows where to direct the inquires to the proper source or if she is unsure, she puts forth boundless effort to be helpful."

Recently, when questioned what the most challenging moment of her career as administrative assistant has been, she quickly responded..."When DEM Peter Leddy and the District Board asked her to take on the position of District Financial Secretary in addition to her office duties." This was an area where she had very little training.

The most thrilling aspect of being our administrative assistant is getting to meet and greet people at District Conference.

*Some District TRIVIA to think about . . .*

For several years after its establishment in 1866, the District of West Virginia was referred to in the Annual Conference Minutes as the "*Third District of Virginia.*" *For those interested in history—West Virginia became a state in 1863, Annual Meeting records continued until 1874 to use the connotation, Third District of Virginia.*

*We read on page 739 of Allegheny Passage..."the date and place of the first District Conference of 1866 or 1867 is unknown."*

Prior to 1893, an extremely active mission program was supported in First West Virginia District. In 1893 according to *Allegheny Passage ...* conference was petitioned to consider the establishment of a home mission in the district. With the establishment of the first special board, the year 1893 became a significant milestone in the development of district organization. Members appointed were Jeremiah Thomas of Sandy Creek, O.P. Ebert of Greenland, Calvin Rogers of Tearcoat, Tobias Fike of German Settlement and J.W. Leatherman of Beaver Run, foreman." ...

**Church of the Brethren  
West Marva District Office  
384 Dennett Road  
Oakland, MD 21550  
MAY 2017 Issue**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OAKLAND, MD  
PERMIT NO. 68**

**Address Service Requested**

**IN GOD WE TRUST**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

May	1-9	Kendal out of office—Vacation
	7	West Marva District Youth Ministry Event, Hazelton COB
	5	Ministers and Spouse Banquet, Moorefield COB
	10	West Marva District Women's Rally, Oak Park Church
	13	Workshop—"Recognize, Respond, REACT Training—Suicide Prevention" —Tearcoat Church
	19-20	Revival Services at Camp Galilee
	22-24	Brenda out of office
	29	Office Closed—Memorial Day
June	3	District Board Meeting—Oak Park Church
	6	Senior Citizen's Camp at Camp Galilee
	10	Women's Retreat at Camp Hope
	10	Fruit of the Spirit Workshop—Moorefield COB
	24	Fruit of the Spirit Workshop—Moorefield COB
June	28-July 2	Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, MI
July	4	Office Closed—4th of July
	7-9	Primary Camp at Camp Galilee
	9-14	Youth Camp at Camp Hope
	9-15	Youth Camp at Camp Galilee
	15-16	Alumni Camp at Camp Galilee
	16-21	Junior Camp at Camp Hope
	16-22	Junior High Camp at Camp Galilee
	23-26	Primary Camp at Camp Hope
	23-28	Junior Camp at Camp Galilee
August	10-12	Women's Camp at Camp Galilee