

# WEST MARVA DISTRICT MEMO June/July 2014

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## Can't Get to Columbus? Don't Miss Annual Conference! You can "Be There - Online!"

Broadcasts are planned for Annual Conference 2014! Come join us in Columbus... yet if you cannot make it in person, participate live as the church gathers for worship and business!

This year like every year, the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is expected to be a unique

experience. It can be wonderful, inspiring, educational, fun, sad, encouraging, discouraging, refreshing, tiresome, and many other things. It is always memorable. It contains elements of a congregational worship service, a church business meeting, a family reunion, and, yes, even entertainment. When you have been one or more times, you sort of miss being there. Now, there is an option to "be there" without leaving home. **Annual Conference Online.** If you can access the internet, (higher speed access is best) you can observe all of the business sessions and worship services on your computer. If you have the proper equipment, you can even watch and listen on your flat screen TV.

An even more exciting option would be to consider inviting your congregation to worship with us on Annual Conference Sunday. That's right if you have the proper equipment available at your church you can worship with the hundreds of folks in Columbus right in your own sanctuary, complete with printed bulletins!

Complete information and instructions can be found at <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2014/webcasts.html> on the internet. In fact, there is a "test video" which provides instruction on "how to" have a successful connection and how to worship with the Brethren in Columbus even if your normal worship service is scheduled to begin after they start in Columbus. **Check it out!**

**Notice the schedule on the right side of this page.**

This tells us the scheduled time for each broadcast this year. These sessions (with the exception of Wednesday's worship) may be viewed later as well as "live."

So... even if you can't get to Columbus, physically this year, you don't have to miss out on Annual Conference. On Saturday, a special time of prayer is scheduled as we hear from Dr. Rebecca Dali, wife of Dr. Samuel Dali, who leads the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN).

**Annual Conference 2014  
Broadcast Schedule**

*(all times Eastern Time)*



**Wednesday, July 2**  
6:50 pm - 8:30 pm    Opening Worship\*

**Thursday, July 3**  
8:30 am - 11:30 am    Bible Study and Morning Business  
1:55 pm - 4:30 pm    Afternoon Business Session  
6:50 pm - 8:30 pm    Evening Worship

**Friday, July 4**  
8:30 am - 11:30 am    Bible Study and Morning Business  
1:55 pm - 4:30 pm    Afternoon Business Session  
6:50 pm - 8:30 pm    Evening Worship

**Saturday, July 5**  
8:30 am - 10:00 am    Morning Worship  
10:15 am - 11:30 am    Morning Business Session  
1:55 pm - 4:30 pm    Afternoon Business Session  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm    Sat Eve Concerts (Blue Bird Revival,  
Community of Song, Mutual Kumquat)

**Sunday, July 6 - Annual Conference Sunday**  
8:30 am - 10:30 am    Closing Worship

*All Annual Conference business sessions and worship services will be streamed live over the internet, and recordings posted immediately for viewing at any time later. \*However, the recording of Dr. Long's preaching on Wed will not be available after the close of Annual Conference due to his request.*

**T**he Apostle Paul, exhorted Timothy: "... give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them,...**"

from 1 Timothy 4:13b-16a (NKJV)

**Licensed Ministers** in the Church of the Brethren, need to have their licenses renewed each year. The West Marva Ministerial Leadership Team conducts a review each year in which information from the minister, his/her mentor, and appropriate leaders from the minister's congregation is received and evaluated and the license renewed or not based on that information and there may be an interview as well.

The ordination certificate for **Ordained Ministers** is renewable every five years. In addition to the kind of information required from licensed ministers, those ordained ministers who are **servicing in ministry full time** are expected to have documentation of five (5) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or one (1) complete unit each year, during the five years between certificates. **Those ministers who are not servicing in ministry full time, have less requirements. For example, if a pastoral position is "half-time" the requirement would be halved, or 2.5 CEUs over the 5 year period...** Other situations will be considered as well. The amount of study required to meet this requirement is based on 1 unit equaling 10 hours of classroom instruction. There are other methods of obtaining the credits, in addition to "classroom" time. There are DVD's in the District Office, there are opportunities provided each year within the district, as well as some beyond the district, including a number of events each year at Annual Conference.

2014 is half over and in the fall of 2015 the Ministerial

Leadership Team and the Mission & Ministry Board of the District will be completing the task of considering the re-ordination of all ordained ministers for the period until 2020.

**Ethics Training** occurs on a five year cycle and happens in conjunction with ordination review. This year all ordained, licensed and ministers in training are to be included in the ethics training process (**see details on page 11**). This means **West Marva Ministerial Training Program** students, **TRIM** students, **EFSM** students and **Seminary** students will be also be expected to take this course.

**West Marva, Western Pennsylvania and Shenandoah Districts** are partnering together to offer ethics training on several different days. One, in Virginia, is on a Sunday afternoon, all the others are on Saturdays. It is our hope that by offering several choices, it will be more convenient for all to attend. **Continuing Education Units will be given for Ethics Training.**



In addition to the scripture from 1 Timothy, we find the following in 2 Timothy: "**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**" 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Any of us in ministry, may feel, at times, that we can't find the time for **Ethics Training**, or **Continuing Education** opportunities. Some of us may even feel that we keep our "sword sharpened" by preparing sermons each week. We do, nevertheless, need the discipline (like the word "disciples") of organized study to really "take heed to ourselves" as Paul admonishes us in 1 Timothy (above)...

For those of you who are not credentialed ministers, please encourage your pastor and other credentialed ministers in your congregation to take advantage of the opportunities for Ethics Training and of the time that is still available for additional Continuing Education work to be completed.

For additional information, feel free to contact the District Office.

Kendal ☺

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH PLANTING CONFERENCE

*"I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the growth" – 1 Cor. 3:6*

The seventh biennial new church development conference of the CoB gathered at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, IN, May 14-17. The group numbered over a hundred and came to share together in worship, prayer, study, fellowship, mutual encouragement, and celebration.



There were 3 attendees from West Marva District. They were Kendal Elmore, Executive Minister, Carl Fike, chair of the New Church Development Committee and Robert Combs, pastor of the Hanging Rock Fellowship.

Special leadership for the conference included Annual Conference Moderator, Nancy S. Heishman, who preached at the opening worship service and keynote speakers, Efrem Smith and Dr. Alejandro (Alex) Mandes. Both General Secretary Stanley Noffsinger and Bethany President Jeff Carter brought greetings to the conference and affirmed the work of church planting and congregational vitality as directional goals for our denomination. Photos are at <http://www.bluemelon.com/churchofthebrethren/2014churchplantingconference>

A highlight of the conference was the prayer service on Friday afternoon that uplifted established church plants, new church plants, and individuals discerning the call to become church planters. Also uplifted were district leaders and executives as well as lay supporters. Special prayers and acknowledgement were offered for denominational staff that was responsible for leadership development and the church planting mandate. This service was "saturated" with prayer and song, bringing tears of joy and appreciation to many in attendance.

The closing worship on Saturday morning included a panel consisting of Pastors Joel Pena, Belita Mitchell, and Congregational Life Executive Jonathan Shively who each responded to the questions:

*Since the day you heard it here at the conference –*

*What has come to you that is essential for us to thrive as church planters?*

*How can we develop multicultural churches and church plants?*

*What needs to be lifted that has not – or needs further clarity?*

The reflections and comments were thoughtful, introspective, inspiring, and encouraging.

May God continue to bless us in our work of making disciples as we follow Jesus, planting generously, reaping bountifully, toward an intercultural future.

### **PASTORAL PLACEMENT UPDATE:**

The Asher Glade Church has called Michael Saturday to serve as their pastor beginning July 1, 2014. Mike is a licensed minister in West Marva and serves as the principal at the Elk Garden Primary School. Please keep Mike, his wife Fayann, their family and their church family in your prayers .

Torin and Carrie Eikler, have resigned as pastors of the Morgantown Church. Please keep the church in your prayers as they begin the search process. Torin has accepted a position as District Executive of the Northern Indiana District Church of the Brethren with a start date of September 1, 2014.

## FERVENT PRAYER AND FUNDS NEEDED FOR NIGERIAN BRETHREN

It is difficult to put into words the many acts of violence and persecution that our EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria – Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) brothers and sisters continue to experience. Reports continue to be shared by our denomination of the abductions, destruction of homes, businesses, and churches, and killings of members of EYN.



In early April, former missionary Monroe Good spoke with EYN President Rev. Samuel Dali, who reported these statistics. He said, “So far, because of this persecution, 12 churches, and 2,500 homes have been burnt or destroyed. And over 400 members killed and 17 kidnapped.”

Then came April 14 abduction of over 200 teenage girls from a school in Chibok, Borno state, in northeastern Nigeria. Many of those girls were EYN families. This tragedy happened on the eve of the departure of Church of the Brethren General Secretary Stan Noffsinger and Executive Director of Global Mission and Service Jay Wittmeyer, who had been in Nigeria attending the Majalisa (Annual Conference). At the conclusion of the conference Rev. Dali said of Stan and Jay's visit, “We now are certain that the Brethren family around the world walks with us. We are not along.”

Other forms of solidarity have been a gift of \$25,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund channeled into the EYN Compassion Fund, which supports Nigerian Brethren who have lost a family member, home, or property due to the violence. The fund was started by Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria as a mechanism for Nigerian Brethren to demonstrate mutuality in support of one another. Another effort was through our denomination's Office of Public Witness encouraging advocacy through contacting senators and the State Department to put pressure on the Nigerian government for a peaceful release of the girls and to improve security in the future. Mission workers Roxane and Carl Hill also have assisted and observed EYN members aiding families affected by the persecution through distribution of food, clothing and shelter.

In May, Monroe Good, corresponded with EYN Chibok District Secretary Rev. Bitrus. He was very grateful for all the prayers made on their behalf. And he was glad to hear about all the support and caring given from all over the world. He said, “Since the news of our girls being kidnapped is now known around the world, all this violence may soon change and come to an end.”

The recent Majalisa, or Annual Conference, theme was from Exodus 3:7 “I have heard their cries of distress.” If you or your congregation feels led to respond, funds can be sent to the Global Mission and Service Office, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120, earmarked “EYN Compassion Fund.” Or give online at [www.brethren.org/EYNcompassion](http://www.brethren.org/EYNcompassion). We know our God is great and hears our cries,” so continue to lift those fervent prayers.

Carolyn Fitzkee, District Global Mission Advocate

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE PLANNING AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE:**

Conference delegate credentials have been mailed to all pastors/contacts. Conference booklets will once again be e-mailed to each delegate who provides either their own e-mail address or that of another person in their church, such as their pastor, or someone who has availability of printing the booklet. By e-mailing the packets, it gives the opportunity for each person to receive it 'free' of any charge. In order to obtain a free booklet by e-mail just provide an e-mail address on the credential form. For anyone who decides to still have the District Office print and mail a hard copy booklet, just enclose \$10 (made payable to West Marva District) along with your credential form.

**Childcare:** Pre-registration is required. Child care will be available at Conference for children ages 10 and under. As it is difficult to obtain volunteer child care during conference, Planning and Arrangements has decided to employ providers again this year. To provide this important service to children of conference attendees, a charge of \$10 per child is being assessed which will go directly to the child care providers. See the credential form for information for registration details. The pre-registration deadline will be September 2, 2014.

# RESERVATIONS FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2014

The lunch served on Saturday will be on a pre-pay basis. It is extremely difficult to prepare a meal when you don't have a number to work with. The menu will be: Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, noodles, green beans, coleslaw, rolls and butter, tea, lemonade and coffee and dessert. Meal prepared by the Moorefield Church. Reservations need to be in by September 8, 2014 along with a check made payable to West Marva District, 384 Dennett Road, Oakland, MD 21550.

Person sending reservations:

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From congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (if needed for contact) \_\_\_\_\_

## MEAL RESERVATIONS:

Number of persons: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday noon (cost of meal \$10.00)

## MEAL TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE ON SATURDAY MORNING

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

Motel reservations should be made directly, arranging with the following public accommodations:

In Moorefield:  
South Branch Inn (304)538-2033  
Rt. 220 North  
Honors AAA & AARP  
(If your church has a tax exempt number  
bring a copy of it with you to be tax exempt)

In Petersburg:(20 to 25 minutes away)  
Fort Hill (304)257-4717

Hermitage Motor Inn (304)257-1771  
Virginia Avenue

Evans Motel (304)538-7771  
N. Main St.

Homestead Inn, Rt. 55 (304)257-1049

## SINGERS NEEDED FOR A CONFERENCE CHOIR

The time has arrived to begin thinking about preparing a District Conference Choir to sing during District Conference in September. Before music is selected we would like to find out if there is enough interest to have a choir this year. We would like to have at least 20 to 25 individuals who would participate. If there are enough people interested music will be selected and CD's will be made for you of the music to practice at home or in your home church groups before gathering at various areas across the district to practice. If you are interested in participating in this choir please contact Krista Hayes at [chuck.hayes@frontiernet.net](mailto:chuck.hayes@frontiernet.net) or call 304-735-3511.

Please share this information with your congregation.

## **BRETHREN BITS from Betty's desk on the topic of . . . CAMP GALILEE**

It's summer time and that means Church Camp time. Within our district we maintain two camping facilities. Today, we will give some thought to the history of Camp Galilee and at a later time we'll discuss Camp Hope. Have you been privileged to be a camper at either or both of these camps? What memories do you have . . . how much of the history do you know?

Believe it or not, camping programs in our district are less than one hundred years old. In using **Allegheny Passage** information, . . . *"we learn out of concern for educational efforts to reach young children and youth, leaders of the youth and Board of Christian Education of the First District of West Virginia called the delegates at District Conference of October 2, 1937 to take note of camping projects in other districts. A query from the Keyser church to District Conference that year asked for the delegates to give favorable consideration to the advisability of buying the camp site at Terra Alta. The Western Maryland District had already approved the camp project as a cooperative endeavor, and the Keyser church was seeking action from the West Virginia (district) side."* . . .

A Trustee Board consisting of A. R. Fike, Ezra Fike and Arnold Ludwick were given authority to effect an organization. Talk about getting the ball rolling . . . they met three days later and took actions necessary to purchase approximately 85 acres one mile north of Terra Alta, which comprised former Camp Lakewood. In less than a month work days were organized and by December 11, 1937 the deed for this property was recorded by the County Clerk. By time of the 1938 District Conference, these men could report three church camps had been held.

From **"The Past is A Key To the Future—A History of Terra Alta WV and It's Vicinity"** by **Betty Whittaker White** loaned to me, some facts unknown to most of us reveal . . . *"Terra Alta Lake is a fifty acre, mile long, artificial lake, five hundred feet wide, . . . the lake is a result of construction of a dam for a grist mill."* On page 450 of this book we read . . . *"Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith married in 1852 and settled in Preston County... Mr. Smith, a miller, built a mill and a home, dammed up Snowy Creek to run the mill at the lake. . . . There was a sawmill in operation at the lower end of the lake. . . ."* On pages 451 and 454 it was recorded . . . *"a certificate of corporation was issued to Lake Terra Alta Improvements on June 1, 1895. A vast tract of land and the lake itself was owned by this group which had high hopes for development, even with a plan for a hotel on the south hill of the lake to be called Hilltop Hotel . . . with a one mile park to run the entire length of the lake's north side. . . . An additional hotel was in the plans and was to be erected at the present site of Camp Galilee . . . with a race track planned for the lake's west side. Continuing on page 452 of this book: . . ."* *The Improvement Company had a steamboat on the lake for several 'excursions' and at a reasonable price... 'someone recalled seeing the old paddle wheels years later, lying in the Lake ...the steamboat was a novelty.' . . .*

Another interesting tidbit included in Mrs. White's book . . . *"During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the development of the Lake was underway, Civil War veterans of Preston and Garrett County had an annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic and Celebration at the Lake. People came from Keyser, Cumberland and as far away as Baltimore on trains and were met at the railroad station in Terra Alta and taken to the Lake."* . . . Of course this was years before the Church of the Brethren ever thought of purchasing the property.

Arvin Harsh who for many years served as Camp Trustee and volunteered countless hours, but also was a participant in the Camp's first decade of campers has shared his memories of Camp Galilee. I am grateful for this additional information and will integrate portions within this article. Arvin recalls "the original campsite purchase was for eighty-five acres, bought on foreclosure that the Terra Alta bank financed for about \$8,000.00 at 1.25% interest." Robby May, interim camp manager adds the debt for the land and the lake was paid off in 1982.

Although negro campers had attended earlier we learn from the book, ***Kum-Ba-Yah*** by Linda Logan, who writes ... “*The interracial camp carried out by Foster Bittinger, then pastor of the Westernport Church at Camp Galilee in 1943 is a good example of the ... vigorous stand the Brethren camps took against racism. Galilee was one of the many Brethren camps taught about the sinfulness of discriminating against some of God’s children.*” ... “Bittinger reported afterwards that it was a good experience and that camp planners ‘enthusiastically and unanimously decided to invite Negroes to all our camps’...” Miss Logan’s book goes on to state (in 1943) ...” girls as sweet as those negro campers were refused a sandwich in a restaurant in their own town.” ...

Do you remember?

- The Pittsburgh, PA “Boys Camp” that provided much needed revenue to keep the Camping program going until about 1985 by providing payments for the loan
- the original “Main Lodge” (built in 1914 by the YMCA and razed in 1973 due to fire marshal regulations), which preceded the Dining Hall and Recreation Hall and those “front steps” where campers gathered from early morning until Vespers times, or “simply hung out making friendships
- the old bowling alley (which Arvin recalls was on an additional 28 acre tract secured in 1948 that reached from the bowling alley spot behind the original “Main Lodge” and down to the lake breast works spillway)
- the camp tents that were there from around 1940 although were phased out by the 1950’s—the original cabins ...”were mostly constructed with lumber from railway cars from the Keyser B & O Railroad cars, secured by the Ludwicks in Keyser; as time passed these were replaced by new cabins in the 1960’s and 1970’s provided by many different churches, and private donations in memory of former campers.
- the backless benches in the “House of Memories” (a memorial to the our district martyrs, missionaries Alva and Mary Harsh)

Do you remember when?

- the new Dining Hall/ kitchen was built in 1967 by the Moon Brothers with many volunteers at a cost of about \$12,000.00
- the new Recreation Hall constructed around 1969-1970, costing just a little more than the Dining Hall, also built by the Moon Brothers with volunteers which replaced the “House of Memories”
- the outdoor classroom, known as “Gene’s Dream “ was added to honor the years of dedicated service by the late Gene Marsh (whose wife Phyllis continued in the Camp Director position until her resignation earlier this year)
- there were boat rides for campers with vespers held out on the lake in a boat

Were you also a former camper and did you

- experience devoted, Christian, loving volunteer camp counselors which gave you the desire to return next year and encourage your friends to go also
- acquire memories of evenings at “Vesper Point” or around a Campfire Circle to round out a day of hiking, swimming in the cold lake, some crafts (ever hear of or recall making a “sit upon”) or waiting what seemed like forever for a meal cooked outside in your group to be “done” ... (usually the S’mores were ready long before the “meal”)

--wish to grow up and one day become a counselor?



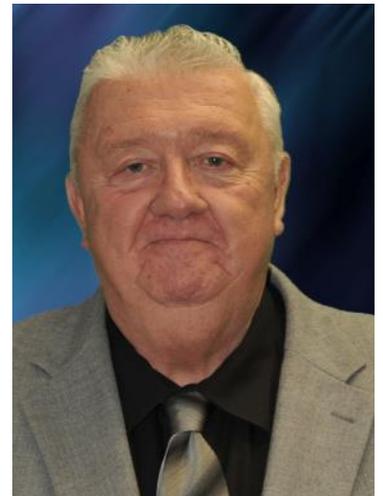
## FOCUS ON OUR PASTORS . . . Let's have a look at .....**John Walker**

**Did you know John Walker has been serving the Lord at LOCUST GROVE for over 31 years?** As we learn about our district pastors it is interesting to read or hear of the wide variety of "callings" our pastors have experienced. Many have been involved in Sunday School and worship services all their life, other's have experienced some dramatic event which has turned their life around and set the pace.

John explains how he came to know Christ as his personal Savior: ...*"At this time of my life, I was teaching a Sunday School class, in fact was the Sunday School Superintendent and serving as chairman of the Commission of Education at a local church. While at work talking about the Bible with a good friend, the question was asked of me several times... 'do you know Christ as your personal Savior?' ... I could not respond to this question...."*

The friend told John, *"Let me give you a scripture to read tonight. This was Acts 16:30-31. Immediately after going home that evening, I looked up this scripture and read it several times, then finally realizing salvation came by faith through the grace of God and not by works. I immediately went to church realizing that I was indebted to God for what His Son had done for me on the cross, and that he was not indebted to me for my works. I got down on my knees and accepted Christ as my personal Savior." ...*

John shares that as he got more involved in the church ministry, people would ask him about salvation. Eventually churches began asking him to speak on Sundays. By the power of the Holy Spirit John was actively speaking for several years whenever he was invited. John has been ministering from the pulpit for over 49 years and actually been ordained for more than 27 years.



Knowing that God calls and God ordains, the opportunity to speak at Locust Grove church came. Three weeks later, Locust Grove asked John to serve as pastor of the church. This was not a decision to be made lightly. *"In making this important decision, I prayed about it much and as in the past, I said "no" to God. But, this time I knew I was wrong by the Spirit and that God had intended for me to pastor this church."*

Locust Grove voted to license and later to ordain John as their pastor. The congregation encouraged him to take "the reading course" and seek ordination. Today, John wants us to know "being a pastor and serving the Lord in this capacity has been a blessing in love."

**Locust Grove Church** has been listed as a preaching point of Allegheny at least since 1943 and has been known as a part of the Allegheny Congregation. We can read in "**Allegheny Passage**" ... "that the white church building" was built in 1914 and dedicated in October of that year. Improvements were made in 1961 and 1962 and 1976." John shares that the current structure which includes a new sanctuary, baptistery and new basement, was completed and has been in use since 1995. Space in the "old church" now is for classrooms and the kitchen is located in what was the old basement.

“All through these years my wife, Ruth has been my helpmate and she shares a lot of weight of this ministry, day and night, in all seasons, she is by my side. John and Ruth have three children and two “perfect” grandchildren.”

John is another of our bi-vocational pastors. In 1960 he began working for Westvaco and was an employee until his retirement after 42 years in 2002. He counts it as a privilege that he was “able to come and go in all emergencies, to hospitals, funeral homes or whatever his ministry required. This, he says was a real blessing, considering the amount of time this required, but also upon occasion, John was able to share his ministry with his employer.”

In reading what John has shared, we easily see how the Lord has used his ministry and by John surrendering to the Lord, the ways to continue the work of his ministry were smoother. It is wonderful to learn that John’s favorite thing about serving the church is ... “love for preaching and teaching about the gospel and watching the Body of Christ grow in the Lord.” ...

John and Ruth enjoy traveling and we learn he “used to like to go fishing” but still finds the time to go hunting about three days a year.

His vision for Locust Grove ...” ***That in the Spirit we might grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God and that we might help others come to the saving grace of God.***”

### **HAVE YOU EVER FELT GOD TUGGING YOU TOWARD THE MINISTRY?**

**PASTORS:** Please share this Information with anyone in your congregation who has an interest in serving the Lord by entering the pastoral ministry.

**CALL TO MINISTRY EVENT**  
**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**  
**Westernport Church**

It’s been a few years since the District has offered an opportunity for persons interested in the Ministry to discuss the process of “getting into the ministry”, or to ask questions and learn more.

The Ministerial Leadership Team is planning an Event for Sunday, August 24th at the Westernport Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. Some of those students now attending the West Marva Ministry Training classes will be on hand if a person wants some one-on-one explanation about these classes. What better way than to have the opportunity to speak with those participating in the three year program. Some of the persons invited to share ten (no longer than fifteen) minutes of comments are Jennifer Kriegbaum, pastor of The First Church of the Brethren Quakertown, PA and graduate of Bethany Seminary who can give input about Bethany experiences, Randy Shoemaker, pastor of the Sunnyside who has recently completed the West Marva three years of study courses, and John Walker, pastor at Locust Grove who has served in the ministry over forty years. Members of the Ministerial Leadership Team encourage those currently enrolled in the WMMTP to be on hand to answer questions also. The (WMMTP) education is a part of the process which serves to strengthen “the Call” that is discerned with the individual, their congregation and the District Ministerial Leadership Team.

PASTORS, please consider anyone in your congregation who shows the potential and perhaps in one way or another has indicated an interest in the ministry to participate. Our Team members (formerly the Ministry Commission) feel this informal time of sharing will be beneficial. Having persons on the spot to answer any questions and provide information about the procedures should simplify finding the right person to get answers for those who are unfamiliar with the licensing of pastors, etc.

There will be finger-foods available as participant’s fellowship together. PLEASE, prayerfully consider those you can invite to this “CALL TO MINISTRY” Event. More information will be coming later! Put this on your calendars and consider now who you can invite to this Event. For more information please contact the District Office.

## WEST MARVA WOMENS RETREAT

AUGUST 7, 8, 9 2014

### CAMP GALILEE



Just as the Lord is our help we should be a help to those in need. We will be featuring several speakers from various local organizations as they explain the help that is available to those in need and how we can assist in reaching these needs. We will also prepare our hearts and minds with times of devotions, and Bible study to be prepared to be a help and to be a servant. There will be a time of singing, fun and laughter too!

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday; with Friday and Saturday activities beginning at 9:00 a.m. Camp will come to a close at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Join us in whole or part as your schedule allows!!

#### Camp Fees

Thurs. only: \$8 Fri. only: \$20 Sat. only: \$14

"All Weekend" Special: \$30

Please pre-register by calling 1-301-334-9270.

\*Our offerings will be shared between the organizations that are our guests.

Things you may want or need to bring to camp: Bible, \*Money for offering, A comfy chair, Camping Gear if spending the night, and a Flashlight. An open mind & heart! A friend or two!!

## CRAIG HOWARD RECEIVES THE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD FOR 2014

**Craig Howard**, pastor of the **Brake Church**, recently was awarded the Human Rights Award for 2014 by the Church Women United in Petersburg, WV. This award recognizes persons who continually and faithfully work for the cause of human rights. He has been pastor of the Brake Church of the Brethren near Dorcas, for 33 years.

Pastor Craig has organized and led 13 youth mission trips in the past 15 years. He has taken youth and adults from his church, Brake Church, to Reynosa and Tampico, Mexico, Siebu, Romania, San Juan, La Laguna, Guatemala, and Kingston, Jamaica, as well as on disaster relief missions in the US.

He and fellow mission trip leader, Jerry Judy, also made a trip to Golmi, Niger to minister to missionaries and help procure textbooks for a local school. They also traveled to Niamey to work with the Sahel School for missionary children, and with a leper colony in West Niger.

Trips with Pastor Craig are not vacations. Each trip is scheduled around work projects to benefit the area they are visiting. His groups have helped build churches, homes, schools, and orphanages. Volunteers also direct a Bible School or similar events for local children.



## Julie's Coming to West Marva!

Every 5<sup>th</sup> year, all credentialed ministers in the Church of the Brethren need to take one day of Ministerial Leadership Growth and focus on Ethical Conduct for those in Ministry.

The topic this time is **"Beyond the Basics"** and it is to be led by Julie Hostetter, *Executive Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership* at Bethany Theological Seminary, in Richmond, IN. Our Executive Minister, Kendal Elmore will share leadership with Julie.

Save these dates and times, and look for more information in the near future!

Saturday, September 13, at the Moorefield Church of the Brethren, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Saturday, November 1, at the Oak Park Church of the Brethren, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Two sessions in neighboring districts will also be possibilities for those who find these two dates difficult.

Sunday, September 14, from 2:00 to 8:00 PM at the Antioch Church of the Brethren in Woodstock, VA.

Saturday, September 27, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Mount Joy Church of the Brethren, near Mount Pleasant, PA.

**There will be additional information forthcoming, but please check your calendars now!** For additional information, call the District Office at 301.334.9270.

## NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO THE VALLEY RIVER CHURCH

The **Valley River Church in Junior, West Virginia** was excited to announce that seven new members were baptized and added to their membership. They were: Michalina Hamilton, Linda Grim, Chuck Sheridan, Katy Bennett, Dennis Bennett, Johanna Huffman and Martha Workman.

Church of the Brethren  
West Marva District Office  
384 Dennett Road  
Oakland, MD 21550  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

July	2-6	Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio
	4	District Office Closed
August	7-8	Women's Camp at Camp Galilee
19-Sept.	2	Kendal out of office—Vacation
	24	WMMTP—Westernport
	24	Call to Ministry Event— Westernport COB 6:30 p.m.
Sept.	1	District Office Closed
	13	Ethic's Training—Moorefield COB 10:00 a.m.
	19-20	District Conference—Moorefield COB
	28	WMMTP—Westernport