

# WEST MARVA DISTRICT

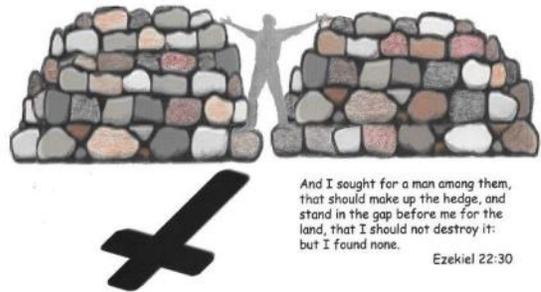
## MEMO

**JUNE 2015**

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)



## DISTRICT CONFERENCE MODERATORS THOUGHTS: STANDING IN THE GAP

In reading about the Children of Israel, we have various visions of walls that protected being compromised and God's people being in jeopardy. At that point, the scripture often reveals a call from God to an individual to "Stand in the Gap" and rebuild or repair the brokenness.

Today, as in Hebrew history, the wiles are sometimes the result of our response to the fiery darts of the devil. (Ephesians 6) Without Christ's influence in the lives of mankind, the tendency to yield to the temptations the world presents can overwhelm and consume lives. (James 4)

I Samuel 17 rehearses the story of David raising up to stand for the people of God in the face of their weakness. In Numbers 11, the complaining of the people stirred God to anger. God's response was to send fire among the people. Moses was called on to pray and the fire was quenched.

It is painfully obvious that there are a tremendous number of battles and fires burning in the lives of mankind. It is also apparent that in times like this the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, calls and equips his saints to "Stand in the Gap" for souls who need the Grace and Strength of Christ.

Moderator  
John Moyers

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORMS DUE JULY 1ST.

District Conference delegate registration forms were e-mailed, or sent by regular mail to all congregations. These forms should be returned to the District Office by July 1, 2015. Once again conference booklets can be received electronically without cost. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the booklet the cost will be \$10.00.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL/ANNUAL CONFERENCE SHARING TIME SCHEDULED!

Interested in knowing what is happening at Annual Conference? If so, you are invited to attend an Ice Cream Social/Annual Conference sharing time to be held on June 28th at the Sunnyside Church at 3:00 p.m.

Please bring your families to enjoy a very informal time where you can eat some wonderful homemade ice cream while listening to John Moyers and Grover Duling, our Standing Committee delegates, as they share with you the items of business, etc., that will be taking place at conference in Tampa, FL. There will be a time of questions and answers so please feel free to attend. This event is open to everyone!!!

If you have any questions or need directions you can contact the District Office.

# Kendal's Korner

# Full Time? or Part Time?

**A**s I meet with Search Committees, who are tasked by the congregation to present a candidate to the church who may become their next pastor, it's not uncommon for the question to be asked:

## Full Time? Or Part Time?

This question reflects the changing dynamic of congregational financial health. There are a number of factors, some of which are, as follows:

- Declining Membership...
- Aging Membership (limited ability to give)...
- Some have lost pension income, or are dependent on Social Security...
- A "sluggish" economy...
- Some declining enthusiasm for the work of the church...
- Fatigue as fewer members try to carry on ministries that a few years ago were embraced by a much larger number of persons...
- Many other factors, as well...

**"Full Time? Or Part Time?"** is not the right question to be asked. The better question is **"Can we carry on ministry with a bi-vocational pastor?"**

**Cynthia Woolever writes:** *Bi-vocational ministry is different... The pastor holds a dual role — he or she serves in a local church ministry position...AND...meets other significant non-church work obligations. ...Often, these pastors receive salary and support (benefits, etc.) from other employment. ...However, many pastors would describe "other" part of their vocation in unique ways. Most bi-vocational pastors REJECT the label of "part-time pastor" because they see their pastoral calling as full time.*



*...Their non-church employment puts these pastors squarely out in the community.  
...Tentmakers ...because of their non-church employment, (increasing) the likelihood of commitment to the local community.  
...Bi-vocational churches and pastors possess positive qualities that give them the flexibility to experiment, adapt, and respond quickly to new opportunities. They have all that they need to respond to what God is calling them to do.*

*The Parish Paper © 2015 www.ParishPaper.com by Cynthia Woolever, Editor (with permission)...*

*In my experience, there are no "part time" pastors. Only those who are full time in their commitment, but "part time" in the compensation (in this world) they receive from their congregation.*

*Let's all work together in expanding the Kingdom of God!...*

*Peacefully, Simply, Together!*

*Peacefully, Simply, Together!*

*Kendal ☺*

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

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

*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!***

The committee members for this year's program are: Randy Shoemaker, pastor of the Sunnyside COB, Fred Roy, a member of the Sunnyside Church and Grover Duling, a member of the Oak Dale Church and our District Board Chair.

There will be a time of sharing about Guatemala and African mission trips, a tribute to Walt Disney with some "real characters", and a visit from a very special guest. Randy will be sharing the gospel in music. You may even win a prize or two.

Please bring your Bibles for a time of Bible Study along with a battery powered calculator!

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

*The afternoon freewill offering will be used for Local Ministry—this year our offering will be used to benefit the construction of our new chapel.*

***REMEMBER TO CALL the District Office at 301-334-9270 to register by May 29th.***

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

From the Church of the Brethren **Global Mission and Service** office come these prayer requests:

- **Haiti:** Praise God for the community health project installed at the New Covenant School of Eglise des Freres (Haitian Church of Brethren) in St. Louis du Nord. The project includes a play area, a rooftop garden, and a rainwater cistern that uses a sand filter to make the water drinkable. May these new resources contribute to the health and well-being of the school's 600 students.
- **Honduras:** Pray for Global Mission volunteers Alan and Kay Bennett as they continue to serve with Proyecto Aldea Global (Project Global Village). Alan especially requests prayer for the waterline project into which he, PAG, and the community of Magueyal have been investing much time and effort. The waterline is designed to provide the community with a year-long water supply for irrigation and household uses, but identifying and fixing leaks has been a major challenge. Please pray for diligence and the safety of the leak-repairing team, and for the patience of all the stakeholders.
- **Nigeria:** Praise God for the 68th Majalisa (annual conference) of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), held last week in Jos. Give thanks for safe travels of Church of the Brethren general secretary Stan Noffsinger and Roxane and Carl Hill, co-directors of the Nigeria Crisis Response. Pray for all members of EYN as they continue to live out the love of Christ in these difficult times.

Excitement is building as we anticipate the West Marva District's evening of hosting a delegation from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. A Covered Dish Fellowship Meal is planned prior to a 7 PM concert by the



EYN Women's Fellowship Choir Tuesday, June 30, at the Oak Park Church of the Brethren in Oakland MD. More information will be forthcoming. A Love Offering will be received to support the Nigeria Crisis Fund. Plan now to attend the entire event, as we welcome our Nigerian brothers and sisters.

You can find the latest news on Nigeria at [www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/news.html](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/news.html).

To connect with Nigerian sisters and brothers in daily prayer, follow the [EYN devotional guide](#).

## Telling Everybody About Your VBS

Through the *MEMO* and our e-mail updates, we can help you get the word out about your congregation's **Vacation Bible School**.

Send us as much of the following information as you feel will be helpful:

- Congregation(s)
- Dates
- Time
- Theme
- Age groups included
- Any meals included
- Closing program details
- Special outreach projects
- Contact person with email address and phone number



Please mail the information to the West Marva District Office, 384

Dennett Road, Oakland MD or send via e-mail to [wmarva@verizon.net](mailto:wmarva@verizon.net).

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## Brethren Bible Institute

### July 21 - 25, 2014

On the Campus of  
Elizabethtown College



The 42nd annual **Brethren Bible Institute**, sponsored by the Brethren Revival Fellowship, will be held **July 27-31** at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. Ten courses will be offered, and each student may enroll in as many as three courses. The cost for the five-day institute is \$250 for dormitory students and \$100 for commuting students. For application forms, write to Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, Pa. 17517, or go to <http://www.brfwitness.org/brethren-bible-institute/>. The application process must be completed by June 29. discipleship, will be the keynote speaker. Details on location and topics will be forthcoming

### WITH DEEP SYMPATHY

Gerald Neher, 84, passed away on Monday, May 25, at the Cedars in McPherson, Kansas.

Gerald and his wife, Lois, worked with the Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria from 1954-1968, serving in Chibok and at Kulp Bible School. While at Chibok, they helped expand the size of the school building, making it possible for the first girls to attend the school. Gerald studied the Chibok people extensively and published the book "Life Among the Chibok of Nigeria" in 2011.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 30, in McPherson, Kansas.

## FOCUS ON PASTOR RANDY SHOEMAKER

"I gave my life to Christ one Sunday evening while attending an evening service that I really did not want to be at, but when the service was over, I knew that I needed Jesus in a bad, (good) way, and that is when I accepted the Lord into my life and it has been a great ride ever since March of 1981."

The Lord has opened many doors for me to walk through and each time it has been an adventure. I took my first mission trip to Haiti in 1985 and then made the trip six more times, having the opportunity to minister to the people in word and deed. The Lord took me on a mission trip to Russia previously and gave me two educational trips to Israel.

I have also been to Guatemala for the last thirteen years. I am pleased to share that the Lord has really blessed this ministry from people in our area. Since I made that first trip and began telling others and taking others along, there are now several other churches and other denominations in the Keyser area that now do regular mission trips to the Orphanage in Guatemala.

Together with my wife, Karen we served as youth pastors for approximately ten years. Also, I have been involved in the prison ministry for nineteen years, serving at the Western Maryland Correctional Institution, ministering to the general population as well as those in the protective custody housing unit. I have served too, at the Regional Jail in Augusta, WV for five years.

My wonderful wife Karen and I have one daughter, Amber Buie who presently resides in Charleston, S.C. and three grandchildren, Bernard 13, Orianna, 12 and Randy 5 years. As well as being a pastor I also own my own business, I have been a window washer for twenty nine years, and I employ one person.

I enjoy fishing, golf and most of all my grandchildren when they get to come and spend some time with us.

Meeting new people who come to worship at Sunnyside is one of my favorite things about my work there. Working with many of our younger members and couples in what has become an annual event--preparing our adult Christmas play is high on my list. We have been having Family Night Picnics the third Wednesday of warmer months to get to know each other with food and fellowship including Bible quizzes, (our Bible Study group meets the other Wednesdays) and the annual Fall Festival are events that produce a lot of fun and offer an outreach opportunity to invite the community to participate in the life of our church.

***"Sunnyside has been a blessing to me and the Lord has been doing a wonderful thing with the people of our congregation on a regular basis. It seems as if we are having visitors nearly every week and our congregation is continuing to grow. We want to be a light in our community and we do several events that reach out to them. I never try to guess what the Lord has in store next, but I always know that it will be an exciting ride when we got on board and ride the wave of the Spirit."***



## Brethren Bits and ... Do leadership roles change in the Church of the Brethren

Yes, over the years since the “founding fathers in Germany” started our denomination many changes have come in our leadership. As our credentialed pastors are well aware this is the year for the review by our Ministerial Leadership Team.

Last summer at the 2014 Annual Conference a new Ministerial Leadership document was approved by conference delegates. Recently our Ministerial Leadership Team members met with Kendal Elmore and Brenda Harvey for a session of explanation and to further our understanding conducted by Mary Jo Flory Steury.

How much do you remember about “leadership” for example, of Alexander Mack and his group of rebellious religious folk in that tiny village of Schwartzenau, Germany? Alexander Mack clearly assumed a “set apart” leadership role as he baptized the other seven original members. Not that he wanted to be considered the “founder” for that group took great pains to not to have this “group” become a cult.

The earliest Brethren leaders held occupations while they carried out ministerial tasks. For example: Peter Becker one of the early Brethren was a weaver, Christopher Sauer was a printer in Germantown, PA and later after Brethren were established in the “New World”—this developing nation and during the Civil War, our well known martyr, John Kline in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia was a farmer.

The 2014 Leadership paper says: ...”Leery of the professionalized leadership they observed in other Christian denominations, Brethren did not provide a salary—but expected the minister hold another occupation that would provide financial support.”

During the eighteenth century Brethren frequently identified ministerial leaders by their duties. Let’s look a bit closer. **DEACONS** responsible for the material needs of the congregation and for the annual visit, came to be known as “visiting Brethren” while those that assumed preaching duties were commonly referred to as “laboring Brethren,” as they labored for the gospel.

At that time, **ELDERS** came into the scene. Elders provided counsel and direction for congregations and for the Brethren as a whole, as evidenced in their oversight of local annual meetings. Their purpose basically was twofold (1) they held a key role in resolving congregational disputes and (2) secondly, providing advice.

In the nineteenth century, Brethren developed a three fold ministry of **first degree** ministers, **second degree ministers** (with the responsibility of overseeing congregations) and **Elders** who oversaw multiple congregations and we considered to be the most spiritually mature leadership.

Key debates in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries related to ministerial leadership and continued to have implications for Brethren! Guess what: the first issue of that era—providing a salary for ministers.

Those Brethren in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries believed that paying a minister was as though a congregation was “paying a minister to sell the gospel.” Reasoning by our good Brethren over those years was the concern, if ministers received compensation for ministerial duties, they might “water down the gospel or be unwilling to speak the truth in love” because their livelihood was dependent on a regular congregational group.

Today, we wonder ... how do you expect to have a pastor if you are not willing to offer compensation. It is the exception, rather than the rule to have a pastor willing to serve a church for little or no salary.

In 1911 Annual Conference provided the first official approval of paid ministry. From that point forward, there is a transition from non-salaried free ministry to a salaried pastoral ministry across our denomination.

Another change came at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the first 200 years of the church, most congregations had a plural ministry—or multiple ministers who served their congregations. This was true of our West Marva churches.

As these changes came, most congregations (often in our rural area, with assistance from the district) could afford and came to expect that a single pastor would bear responsibility for ministerial leadership. In some instances within West Marva a minister would serve two or more small churches.

A third important change came in the 1900's long before credentialed pastors were expected to collect CEU's. Formal education soon played a role. To better understand this—early Brethren ministers operated under an apprenticeship model. The Elders and ministers ... "would oversee younger, new ministers." ...

What did congregations expect of their "younger ministers?" (we could compare these in a broad sense to our licensed ministers) Young ministers received increased responsibility as they demonstrated an ability to complete their assigned duties—eventually progressing to the higher degrees of ministry.

**Congregations expected ministers to engage in rigorous personal Bible study and reading. Brethren did not establish educational credentials for elders and ministers until 1917. A high school education and a two year Bible course as well as a two year reading course became a requirement.** However, this obligation could be met after the person had already been elected to the ministry. Compare those requirements with our current expectations!

Looking closely at the historical practices of our denomination, as long ago as 1853, Annual Meeting asserted: ... "that a person had to have the full approval of the congregation. It was not up to the individual, or even other ordained persons but rather it was the role and responsibility of the community—the priesthood of all believers, to discern "gifts for the ministry." ...

(to be continued next Memo)

## **WEST MARVA DISTRICT WOMEN'S SPRING RALLY UPDATE:**

The West Marva District Women's Spring Rally was held on May 13, 2015 at the Keyser Church of the Brethren. The Tearcoat Church took care of the registration and the Old Furnace Church provided the morning refreshments.

Our president, Betty Wolford welcomed everyone. Dwight Ramsey, pastor of the Keyser Church, shared with the group that he felt the women of our district are a vital part of the spirituality of West Marva District. Dwight had our opening prayer.

The ladies from the Locust Grove Church presented the opening devotions and shared with us that everything we do should be done to God's glory.

It was suggested that our morning love offering be sent to Church World Service to be used for the devastation in Nepal from the earthquakes and in the United States in the areas that have been affected by the tornadoes and floods (clean-up buckets and health kits). The morning offering totaled \$1,334.00.

Nina Mason shared that the Women's Handbook will be updated and ready to be distributed this fall at our rally. Nina asked the ladies to send her any information that they might have that would help with the history of the District Women's Fellowship and also any information they would have about the history of their congregations so this information can be included in the Handbook.

The theme for the day was "Grab Your Fly Swatter". Every woman received a fly swatter with a special word on it when they registered. As our program began Donna Kempfner, from the Brookside Church, asked us to consider the fly which is a very annoying insect. The right tool to get rid of a fly is a fly swatter. Bad habits are like a fly and are very annoying. In order to get rid of our spiritual bad habits we need the right tool and that tool is God's Word.

Anna Sauder, wife of Steve Sauder, talked about how to get rid of bad habits. We need to pray and meditate on God's Word. We should not allow anything to come between us and God. We also need to be careful not to allow good things to take our time away from God. It is so important to stay connected with God. We can't just shoo away bad habits we need to 'swat' them away for good.

Ann Friend, from the Pine Grove Church, talked about a number of bad habits that we can have in our lives. She reminded us that when you kill one fly there are more. Satan knows us well and knows what buttons to push. She talked about anger and we know it is a sin. We need to resist the devil and he will flee from you. Resist is our 'fly swatter'.

Faye Hetrick, from the Oak Park Church, reminded us that after we have asked God's forgiveness for the bad habits, which are rooted in sin, we need to commit not to get bogged down with them again. God helps us by giving us some things to replace them with such as: bowls of mercies; kindness; humbleness of mind; meekness; longsuffering; forbearing one another; charity; peace of God; thankfulness; Word of God; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and spiritual songs singing to the Lord. Once again we realize that our 'habit swatter' is the Word of God.

Tammy Timbrook, from the Tearcoat Church, talked about keeping our habits under control. If we are going to keep our habits under control we are going to have to do as I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...do all to the Glory of God." She talked about the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. The message of the Beatitudes is one of humility, charity, and brotherly love. Jesus teaches transformation of the inner person. He presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, virtues in life which ultimately lead to reward. Love becomes the motivation for the Christian. Each of the Beatitudes tells us something about what our Attitude should be. Each one starts with the word "Blessed". One of the meanings of "Blessed" is happy or joyful. Each of the "Blessed" statements describes a person who puts God and other's interest above his or her own interest. We cannot be blessed if we live selfishly. She asked each lady to take their "flyswatter" and "swat" all of our bad habits away from us but them to take that same "flyswatter" and "swat" the good things to us, so that we can live as Jesus wants us to live.

Donna Kempfer finished out the sessions stressing that as Christians we represent Christ at all times. She asked us to think about what impressions do we leave and what changes can we make in our lives to honor Christ? Somebody sees everything we do. We are a walking testimony of God. The women in attendance shared positives (words that had been on their flyswatter) of how we can overcome our unspiritual bad habits: gladness, service, thankfulness, devotion, unselfish; blessings; charity; considerate; joy; brotherly love; grace; study; mercy; kind hearted; harmony; humility and patience.

We were asked to take home with us what we had learned today and apply it to our lives.

A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the Keyser Church.

The afternoon session began with a time of singing with Jeanne Whitehair as the chorister, Nellie Bradshaw on the organ and Marian Sutton on the piano.

Reports were given from the treasurer along with a report from the Children's Assistance Fund. Tammy Timbrook also shared regarding her experiences with the Children's Assistance Fund. The Women's Camp Committee reported that they will have their camp at Galilee on August 13-14<sup>th</sup> with a theme "An Excursion into the Secret Garden of Prayer". This is a shortened version of camp and there would be more information available soon. An election of officers was held: Vice president: Donna Kempfer; Witness Chair: Eileen Dove and Nominating Committee: Ann Friend. Mary Berg, chair of the Witness Commission announced a New Windsor Workday which is scheduled for September 28, 2015.

There were 19 churches represented with 51 in attendance. We received 49 Hygiene kits, 57 School kits, 1 Baby Layette, \$739.00 for blankets and \$226.00 for kit postage. These kits will be taken to New Windsor by Nova Stonesifer.

The afternoon offering was received and totaled \$226.00. This offering will be used in our general fund.

The Bean Settlement Church had the closing devotion and Betty Wolford closed in prayer. Please mark your calendar for the Fall Rally that is scheduled to be held October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Tearcoat Church.

## **CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND UPDATE:**

The Children's Assistance Fund was established by the West Marva District Women's Fellowship. This fund was created to assist children from all areas of our district that other funds may not reach. The monies can be used for a variety of items including: clothing, shoes, end of the year field trips, and items associated with graduation (caps, gown, required portraits, etc.) The request can only be initiated by school personnel. A cap of \$50.00 was set for this year.

During this school year we have assisted **65** students from **7** schools (elementary to high school). The expenses for these children totaled **\$2,191.26**. (**This is a new total since the Women's Spring Rally**). There has been a wide range of needs from a single pair of shoes, to winter coats and scarves, other clothing and assistance with field trip expenses.

If individuals, women's fellowships or congregations would be interested in assisting with this program it would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to the West Marva District Office, and sent to 384 Dennett Road, Oakland, MD 21550. Please make sure you clearly mark the check for the Children's Assistance Fund.



## **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!**

**Carl Fike**, pastor of the Oak Park Church, was ordained to the set-apart ministry on Sunday, April 19th.

**John Knoll**, pastor of the Pleasant Hill Church, will be licensed to the set-apart ministry on Sunday, May 31st.

Please keep both Carl and John, their families and their congregations in your prayers!

## **PASTORAL PLACEMENT UPDATE**

**Scott Rush**, will be installed as pastor of the Oak Grove, MD Church, on June 14th. Please keep Scott, his family and the congregation in your prayers as they begin this new phase in their lives.

# **YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED!**

The West Marva District Executive Board has requested that our office contact all recipients of the MEMO who are receiving a copy via regular mail. Currently we are mailing 360 copies. We have just been notified by the Post Office that we will be having another increase in our mailing costs.

We are requesting that if you wish to continue to receive the MEMO (by regular mail) that you fill out the form below and return it to the District Office. If you do not return the form or contact the District Office, your name will be dropped from the distribution.

We feel that it is extremely important for your congregation to be informed about up-coming events and other important issues so we hope that you will continue to receive our MEMO.

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Please return this form to the District Office by June 30, 2015. Please be advised that you can also call the District Office (301-334-9270) or e-mail (wmarva@verizon.net) if you wish to continue receiving the District MEMO.

I would like to continue to receive the West Marva District MEMO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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West Marva District Office  
384 Dennett Road  
Oakland, MD 21550  
June 2015 Issue

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IN GOD WE TRUST

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June	2	Senior Citizen's Camp at Camp Galilee
	6	District Board Meeting, Oak Park COB
	13	Women's Camp at Camp Hope
	28	Ice Cream Social/Annual Conference Sharing Time Sunnyside COB at 3:00 p.m.
	30	EYN Women's Choir—Oak Park COB 7:00 p.m.
July	3	District Office Closed
	11-15	Annual Conference, Tampa Bay, Florida
	12-17	Youth Camp at Hope
	12-18	Youth Camp at Galilee
	19-24	Jr/Jr High Camp at Hope
	19-25	Jr. High Camp at Galilee
	26-29	Primary Camp at Hope
August		
	2-7	Junior Camp at Galilee
	9-12	Primary Camp at Galilee
	13-14	Women's Camp at Camp Galilee