



**Pleasant Hill
Church of the Brethren**

Brethren Visitor

November 2009

What the Choir means to me...

I have been asked to write about what the choir means to me. For me, music is a very important part of the Worship Service. As someone who has sung in choirs for many years, I know how much time, effort and practice it takes to prepare a different anthem for every Sunday. I'm always surprised and pleased by the variety and types of music the choir presents. Whether it's a gospel, traditional or spiritual song, it is always a joy to hear. Something I especially enjoy is the presentation of the Easter and Christmas Cantatas. With the addition of the screen giving us not only the words, but beautiful scenery, it makes me feel as though I'm actually a part of the events in our Savior's life. Thank you Choir for your dedication and hard work.

- Loretta Brühart

What the Praise Team means to me...

I attend Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren's contemporary service, which was started as a form of worship that was aimed to attract the younger age group to attend worship. A Praise and Worship Team was added to the worship service. The Praise Team is a group of musicians; one bass guitar player, one lead guitar player, a drummer, pianist and three ladies and one gentleman singers. The songs played and sung are so uplifting and the words to the songs are so empowering on your heart. The words often express so well the way you would like to praise God, but are not able to express in your own words. The music speaks to the heart as no words can. The Praise Team has attracted all ages of those who never came before, because they are being fed spiritually by the music. Pastor Phil's sermons are always a big plus to our worship service because they are extremely good. Often the song choices tie right in with the sermon. The 8:00 service is early to rise but it is so worth sacrificing more time to sleep. I feel if you go through a tough week and come to the early service with the Praise and Worship Team, you go away recharged spiritually for the coming week, whatever battles may come your way.

- Sue Graham

Sundays in November

Nov. 1 Music Appreciation

Text: Mark 12:28-34
West End Hymn Sing Grace
Lutheran 7:00 PM

Nov. 8

Text: Mark 12:38-44
Covenant Bible Study 6 PM.

Nov. 15

Text: Mark 13:1-8
Covenant Bible Study 6 PM.

Nov. 22

Russ Peruso speaking

THANKSGIVING DAY

8:00 AM worship at Way of
Hope Fellowship

Nov. 29 First in Advent

Dan Shaffer speaking
Hanging of the Greens 7 PM.

OUR SHUT-INS

AT HOME: Pauline Caton

Elsie Matula, Gladys Kovach, Mabel Rose,
Janet Roberts, Bob & Anna Craft, June Berg

AUTUMNS VIEW: Mildred Rager

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN HOME: Mildred
Blue

HARMONY HOUSE: Agnes Mae Harrison

PRESBYTERIAN HOME: Belva Rager

HOSPITALIZED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

Belva Rager, Judy King, Arley (Snyder) Bestvina

NEXT COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING(S):

Monday, December 14, 2009

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, January 25

NEXT DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, December 1

DEACON(S) FOR THE WEEK

November 01 – Barry and Gail Miller

November 08 – Barry and Sandy Natta

November 15 – Robb and Pam Piper

November 22 – Randy and Debby Rager

November 29 – Rick and Lori Rhodes

8:00 AM NURSERY CARE

November 01 – Doris Bassett

November 08 – Doris Bassett

November 15 – Jessie Rager

November 22 – Taylor and Garrett Harrison

November 29 – Diane Metzgar

10:30 AM NURSERY CARE

November 01 – Aleah Dishong and Lauren Natta

November 08 – Sandy Tiffany and Lori Denhard

November 15 – Cindy Cummings and John Campos

November 22 – Heather Pudliner

November 29 –

8:00 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

November 01 – Greg and Patty Blue

November 08 – Dale, Sandy, Garrett & Taylor Harrison

November 15 – Jim and Cherie Kinsey

November 22 – Ed and Lisa Jones

November 29 – Roger and Donna Swick

10:30 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

November 01 – Lewis and Mildred White

November 08 – Jerry and Judy Rhodes

November 15 – Ron and Janet Wallace

November 22 – John, Misty, and Taylor Plunkard

November 29 – Pastor Russ and Jill Peruso and Family

TWO CENTS A MEAL

The bucket will be in the back on Sunday, November 1,
for your use as it is on the first Sunday of every month.
The next day to give will be December 6.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

Date	8:00 AM	Sunday School	10:30 AM	Offering
10-4	86	123	155	\$6,393
10-11	77	104	138	\$3,541
10-18	98	105	126	\$5,834
10-25	90	92	114	\$4,312

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

November 01 – Aleah Dishong and Lauren Natta

November 08 – Chad Cameron and Jordan Schroll

November 15 – Hannah Davis and Ashley Wallace

November 22 – Chase Davis and Austin Pudliner

November 29 – Hannah Cameron and Paige Hunter

The Acolytes begin serving their church when they are willing and able. This is a very special way to represent “Jesus. . .The Light of the World!” If you are unable to acolyte on your scheduled day, please call April Mackell at 536-1589, so the change can be made in the bulletin.

GOD’S BLESSING

Jonathan David Babal was born on Friday, September 25, 2009. The proud parents are David and Kristel Babal. Grandparents are Dave and Ginny Babal.

Cadence Amanda Murray was born on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Proud parents are Benjamin and Jessica Murray; big sisters are Faith and Audrey. Grandparents are Tom and Janet Leventry, and Bill and Linda Murray. The baby is named in memory of Amanda Leventry, Jessica’s sister.

SYMPATHY

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of CHARLOTTE DARBY, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, September 25, 2009. Charlotte was the mother of Linda Oaks.

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of VAUGHN PERRINE, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, October 5, 2009. Vaughn was the father of Rick Perrine and Jennifer Teeter, and the grandfather of Christina and Sarah Perrine.

SYMPATHY

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of MARGARET KAUFMAN, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Margaret was the grandmother of Amelia Derr.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Matt Marye and Justine Dishong, who were married here at Pleasant Hill on Saturday, October 10. God bless you both.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who sponsored me for the CROP walk in Johnstown on Sunday, September 26. I turned in \$663.00 for world hunger, 25% of which stays right here in this community for our own food pantries.

Phil King

Dear Pastor Phil and the Pleasant Hill Congregation, I thank you very much for the care package I have recently received as well as your continued support and prayers. Growing up in the Pleasant Hill community has truly been a blessing for me. I remember attending Sunday School, Bible School, as well as regular church services often times as a youth. The teachings and stories I learned there have stuck with me in the good times and the times when I needed lifting up. Words cannot describe how grateful I feel for the blessed life I have lived. Although my face is not in the crowd often times on Sunday I want you to know that everyone there is always in my prayers and will always hold a special place in my heart and in my prayers. I appreciate all I have learned there and I thank you for the gracious love and support you have blessed me with. God bless you for the wonderful contributions you have bestowed on the community and individuals within the church.

Thanks again and God bless. Matt Demchak

Pleasant Hill Church,

Thank you so much for sending me a care package. I was so surprised! That was such a thoughtful gesture. I miss all of you and hope everyone is doing well!

Thanks again. Rachel Dorchak

Dear We Care Committee and Everyone at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren, I wanted to thank you all for your generous gift. I was so excited to find out I had received a package. Finding out it was from you just touched my heart. It was so kind of you guys to be thinking of me. Pittsburgh is good and so is school. I just received a letter stating I made the Dean's Honor Roll, which was great news. I hope to be home soon and see you all in church! Thank you. Cayla Zahoran

THANK YOU

We would like to sincerely thank the church family for the beautiful flowers, expressions of sympathy, and cards received at the passing to Glory of our mother. God bless you all. Charlotte Darby's Family

Tom and I would like to thank our Pleasant Hill Church family for all your cards, calls, prayers, and concerns for Tom after his tree-cutting accident last Friday. He is healing and we know your love and prayers are the reason. Thank you all. Tom and Mary Lou Thomas

Thanks to all who helped with the "Gift of the Heart" kits for district conference. We completed 87 school kits, 25 health kits, and 2 baby kits, 114 kits in all. What an awesome outpouring of love from our church!!

I would like to thank my church family for the cards, prayers and food I received during my recent illness. May God bless you all. Faye Roberts

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

The following were baptized on Sunday, October 4: Rob Crynock, Chase Davis, Amy Swick, Charissa Weyant.

DISTRICT AUCTION

The Annual District Auction will be held at Camp Harmony on Saturday, November 7 and breakfast may be purchased in the dining hall. Ernie and Diane Holsopple are the auctioneers and proceeds benefit District ministries.

TASTEFULLY SIMPLE FUNDRAISER

Ansley Stigers was born July 23, 2009, and was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She has been at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh undergoing chemotherapy treatments since her diagnosis, which has caused quite a struggle for the family and we would like to help them out by donating 20% from the fundraiser. If you are interested in placing an order you can talk to Marisa Hyland 659-9574 or Stacy Serenko 242-1683. You may also email us at hyland.serenko@gmail.com. There will be 2 books in the nursery or you can view the catalog at www.tastefullysimple.com. Orders are due Sunday, November 8. Thank You for Your Support!!

DEACON WORKSHOP

A Deacon Workshop, sponsored by the Pastor & Parish Ministry Team of the Western PA District will be held at the Beachdale Meetinghouse on Sunday, November 8 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Horace Derr is the resource person leading us in training on the subject of grief support and care. Simple refreshments will follow.

SOUP ORDERS

Women's Fellowship is making soup again; they will be selling vegetable, ham and bean, and chicken noodle. Please have orders in by Sunday, November 8. Pick-up will be Tuesday, November 17.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Company will be having a spaghetti supper on November 14 from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall. Take-outs are available and also delivery for shut-ins. We will need help preparing and serving the supper. Donations of cakes are very much appreciated.

DISASTER MINISTRIES

The Western PA District continues to perform much needed work in Chalmette, LA and at a new project in Hammond, IN. There are jobs for everyone regardless of experience or skill level. Please contact Herb Ewald, District Volunteer Coordinator at 814-539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net to sing up for a trip:

Nov. 15-21 Hammond, IN
Dec. 8 New Windsor (one day)
Jan. 3-8 Chalmette, LA
Feb. 9 New Windsor (one day)
Mar. 14-20 Chalmette, LA

THANKSGIVING MORNING SERVICE

A special service of praise and thanks will take place on Thursday morning at 8:00 on November 26 at Way of Hope Fellowship which meets in Beka House on 985 (Old Somerset Pike); Terry Gindlesperger speaking.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our youth will provide this special service on Sunday evening, November 29. Everyone will be given an opportunity to help decorate the Christmas tree.

2010 BOARD MEMBERS

The following is the slate that was passed at our Congregational Business Meeting:

Nurture Commission: Terry Gindlesperger (second term)
Kurt Roberts
Stewards Commission: John MacEwan
Roger Swick
Witness Commission: Judy Rhodes (second term)
Jessie Rager
Patty Toth
Music & Worship: Michael Rager (second term)
Jerry Rhodes (second term)
Living/Memorial Trust Fund: Donna Smith
Clerk: Diana Mikolic
Assistant Clerk: Kathy Ferencik

ANNUAL CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN HOME AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Types: Regular - \$1.00 Sustaining - \$10.00
Second Mile - \$2.00 Life - \$100.00
Contributing - \$5.00

We are thankful for your generous support which enables us to help the residents and the dedicated staff. You may join through your Sunday School class or contact April Mackell at 536-1589. This year we were able to help the following departments. Therapy: lift seat for the whirlpool, eight lift seat slings and a New Balance gym stepper at a cost of over \$5,000; Dietary: food warmers; Beauty Shop: towels and hair spray; Housekeeping: automated bed. We purchased three Aristocrat flowering pear trees for the front of the home for \$750. We serviced four sewing machines, bought video games, a subscription to the Daily American, and We Care gift bags for each new resident. The auxiliary consists of over seventy churches in the western district.

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND

A bus trip is planned for Thursday, December 3 to see "The Miracle of Christmas" at Sight and Sound Theatre. The cost is \$85 per person and includes the show, transportation, and Shady Maple smorgasbord. Call Lori or Jeff Keyser at 814-322-5733.

TESTIMONY ON THE WEB

Check out Butch Derr and "Good Grief" on the web, and you can hear testimony and singing by Diane Myers. Go to www.1160wccs.com/goodgrief.aspx.

EAT-N-PARK COUPONS

The Auxiliary of the Brethren Home is selling \$10 Eat-n-Park coupons. The Home will make \$1 profit on each one sold. We appreciate your support. See April Mackell (536-1589) or Jean Rager (322-1158).

PARENTING INSIGHTS

Turn on children's "gratitude lights" with these tips from Children's Ministry Magazine:

1. Encourage the language of thankfulness. If children neglect to show gratitude, prompt them with words such as "What can you say to your friend for sharing?"
2. At unexpected times, give small gifts. Let children know you think of them often and always thank God for them.
3. Affirm children's feelings of gratitude. When you observe physical demonstrations such as eyes that light up, say, "I can see how much you're thankful for that."
4. Model thankfulness in the little things. Thank your children for picking up something you drop or for being patient with a sibling.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Traditionally at Pleasant Hill, we place poinsettias in our sanctuary on the Sunday before Christmas to beautify the Worship Center and to honor or remember a loved one. We are planning to do so again this year. If you wish to add to this display, please fill out this order form and give it to Mike Rager (536-0080) or Misty Plunkard (467-8272) on or before November 29, 2009. Please include payment at the time of order. Make checks payable to PLEASANT HILL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN. It is easiest for those handling the orders if you could enclose your payment and order form in an envelope with your name on the outside.

DONOR: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____

8 INCH POTTED DOUBLE POINSETTIA - \$12.50

COLOR: RED _____ WHITE _____ PINK _____

RED AND WHITE SPLASH _____ TOTAL _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

TO HONOR: _____

TO HONOR: _____

Brethren Home Community News

The **Home Dietary Department** held a sub and pizza sale to augment the funds donated by district churches participating in Harvest Home 2008. With the funds raised, they were able to purchase new chandeliers for the main dining room. The new lighting adds a beautiful touch to the room.

Our super **Auxiliary** recently purchased a new Balance Step machine for use in the physical therapy department. With the many post-surgery rehabilitative admissions to the Home, the therapy department has made great use of the new technology.

The family of **Sara Jean Anglero'** has made the generous donation of a second bookcase for the Tauffer Place lending library. The library is a fitting memorial for Mrs. Anglero', who was a Conemaugh Township School librarian for many years. It has become a favorite stopping place for Tauffer residents. We also thank **Mrs. Doris Bentz** for her frequent donations of current editions to the library.

Mrs. Joyce Braunns has donated art and tapestries to decorate the recently painted walls of the Therapy department. Both the new paint and the art help to make the therapy room a more inviting place to visit.

The Home dining room display at the Heritage Festival was joint effort of staff, residents and volunteers. We would like to extend special thanks to **Susan Haluska**, Home Activities Department Supervisor, **Russel Grasser**, and **Clark Bentz**, who donated both time and his woodworking talents to build the harvest wagons.

District Children's Christmas Party!

What: An exciting party celebrating the birth of Jesus – we'll eat and sing and play games and make stuff and have fun with new friends!

When: December 12, 2009

Where: Camp Harmony – 1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville, PA 15936

Time: TBA – check the November & December Highlights or your church bulletin board for times!

Who's eligible: Children ages 3-11. *All children must be potty-trained or parent must stay.*

All parents are welcome to stay with their children, but are also free to sign in and leave them in our care!

Because space is limited, please call 1-866-279-2181 and talk to Abby to register your child – each child who is dropped off must have a consent form filled out and signed by a parent/legal guardian.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	2	3 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	4 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	5 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	6	7 District Auction at Camp Harmony 7:00—8:45 Breakfast 9:00 AM Auction begins
8 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 3-5PM Deacon Workshop at Beachdale Meetinghouse 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study.	9	10 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	11 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	12 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	13	14 4:00-7:00 PM Middle Taylor Spaghetti Supper at Pleasant Hill
15 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	16	17 Pick up soup orders from Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	18 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	19 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	20	21
22 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	23	24 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	25 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	Thanksgiving Day 8:00 AM Thanksgiving Morning Service at Way of Hope Fellowship	27	28
29 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6PM Covenant Bible Study 7PM Hanging of the Greens	30					

CBYF Cookie Tray Fundraiser 2009

\$15 per tray (6 dozen cookies on a tray)
Trays available for pick-up on Sat, December 19th
(Noon-2:00pm)

Please let us know if you need them delivered

*Drop off donated cookies Sunday Dec 13th
from (8am-Noon)

Give orders to youth during both church services
Orders are **DUE** by Sunday, November 29th

****Make checks payable to CBYF****

-----Cut and save top portion-----

(Print neatly!!)

Prepaid orders only please

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of trays _____ @ \$15 = _____ TOTAL

* * *

We Need Your Help!!!!

You can help your youth by donating:
Monies to defray the cost of ingredients and trays,
Baking supplies, (See Russ about the sign up sheet)
or cookies.

Name: _____

will make _____ doz. of _____

What is on the trays?

- *Fundraiser Cookies made by our youth:
- *Chocolate Crinkles, *Colorful Cookies
- *Double Chocolate Brownie Drops
- *Peanut Blossom Cookies, *Cinnamon Wreaths
- *Church Window Cookies, *Peanut Butter Cup Bars
- *Sugar Cookies, *Chocolate Chip
- *Real Good Bars, *Chocolate Nut Slices
- *Peanut Butter Cookies, *Snickers doodles

There will be an assortment of other Cookies that are
donated as supplies last, some Decorative Candies and
Christmas Kisses.

*The cookies made by the youth may change as needed.



Church of the Brethren TAPESTRY

Caring for the whole fabric of the Church of the Brethren community • November 2009, Vol. 7, Issue 9

National Older Adult Conference connects wisdom and legacy

"But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory."
1 Corinthians 2:7

The three keynote speakers at National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) 2009 addressed the conference theme as they examined the connections of legacies and wisdom.

Rachael Freed, founder of Life-Legacies and author of the book *Women's Lives, Women's Legacies*, explained her work to reclaim the ancient tradition of the ethical will or legacy letter as a helpful tool for older adults to pass faith on to succeeding generations.

The idea of a legacy letter is quite simple: A letter (or another form of communication) that a person writes to impart life lessons, values, meaningful stories, and blessings.

Freed emphasized the importance of legacy letters offering blessings for the next generations. She offered the following blessing to the NOAC participants, quoted here in part: "May this time in your life as elders be a time of wonder, of gratitude, of renewal, of connection, and contribution.... Your wisdom and blessing are shared in ways you can't ever imagine...."

David Waas, a Church of the Brethren member and emeritus professor of history at Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind., addressed connections between the legacy of Christianity and what the faith—particularly the Brethren way of following Jesus—may have to say to the nation-state.

Bringing to mind stories told of Brethren leaders of past generations, he asked participants, "What will the next book be, when you and I are the

subjects?" and "What will be said about how we witnessed to our time?"

He explained that these questions needed to be asked from the point of view of two identities, shared by most of those present: as a member of the Church of the Brethren, and as an American. "You and I have helped fashion not only our church," he told the NOAC audience, "but you and I helped fashion our nation."

Waas traced a historical shift in the Church of the Brethren from opposition to the state at the beginning of the Brethren movement, to a focus on how to be a good citizen, as the church moved into the mid-twentieth century. Then he traced the development of a number of current crises in the United States including the economy, health care, and gun violence.

But the "crisis we never seem to be able to talk about," he said, is the movement of military power to center stage in the United States. "That has happened in our lifetime. A shift to massive, ever-present military strength.... A tectonic shift in our society, to a different kind of nation that often we do not recognize."

Waas called on NOAC participants to recognize the alternative legacy that followers of Christ may offer to a militarized nation. "We should adopt and reinvigorate the Christian vision to call the state to its highest ideals," he said. "We must work as never before to advocate for peace. We have to have the courage to challenge the sacred cow of the military."

"You and I are citizens of a great



Photo by Clara Glover

National Older Adult Conference 2009 participants considered the legacies they will leave for future generations.

land and we carry the mantle of a rich Brethren heritage which our nation needs," Waas concluded.

Michael McKeever, a Church of the Brethren member from Elgin, Ill., who teaches at Judson University, connected wisdom "at the crossroads" with life journeys of reconciliation.

Starting with the image of Lady Wisdom in Proverbs, McKeever then moved on to discuss three parables Jesus tells in Luke 15 about God's search for the lost.

Christians are portrayed as "on the road" as "followers of the way" in the New Testament, McKeever reminded his audience.

"Perhaps salvation in Luke is about being found," he said. "Putting so much hard work into seeking what has been lost may seem foolish in the eyes of the world, but it is the foolishness of God," McKeever told the NOAC audience. And for the wise seeker, "giving up is not an option."

— Frank Ramirez, pastor of Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, and Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of News Services for the Church of the Brethren, contributed to this report.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Future Church of the Brethren events and activities:

Nov. 1 National Junior High Sunday

Dec. 6 Advent Offering (suggested date)

Jan. 5, 2010 National Youth Conference registration opens

Jan. 9 - 30 Nigeria workcamp

April 22 - 24 Cross Cultural Consultation and Celebration

TAPESTRY is a newsletter highlighting the mission and ministries of the Church of the Brethren. It is published by the Office of Identity and Relations; Becky Ullom, editor.

TAPESTRY is inserted in each SOURCE mailing and posted on www.brethren.org; congregations and districts are encouraged to make copies for distribution.

RESOURCE CORNER

52 Ways to Teach Stewardship

Children have God-given talents that need to be developed for use in the body of Christ. This book will stimulate life-long commitments to stewardship in your children and help them see that giving can have world impact. Order from Brethren Press at 800-441-3712.



National Junior High Conference exceeds seed grant in 'reverse offering'

Junior high youth who took part in this year's National Junior High Conference have offered back more than the seed money they were given for a "reverse offering."

In an update on the collection, Becky Ullom, director of youth and young adult ministry, called the effort a "fantastic response from the youth."

The worship planning team at the National Junior High Conference "wanted to have an offering experience that didn't put additional financial strain on families sending their youth to the conference," Ullom said. "Because the conference was focused on the theme of transformation, we decided to try a reverse offering to benefit the transforming ministries of the Church of the Brethren."

Each youth who attended the conference received \$10, made possible through a \$4,000 grant from the Church of the Brethren's Core Ministries Fund.

"We encouraged the youth to consider how they might 'transform' the money into more," Ullom said. "If the youth were unsure of how to do that or didn't want to participate for some other reason, they could offer

the money back immediately."

Staff returned from the conference with about \$800 given during the event. Since then, many more donations have been received, for a total of \$6,347 in late September. More donations are expected through the fall, Ullom said.

"I just wanted to share this great news with you," she wrote in her e-mail about the program. "What an example these youth and their advisors, families, and congregations are providing!"

Go to www.brethren.org/photos for photos from the National Junior High Conference. For more about youth and young adult ministry programs, see www.brethren.org/youth.

Photos by Glenn Riegel



FOR THIS WE PRAY: SHARING THE GOSPEL

Week of Nov. 1: What does it mean to "share the gospel"? How is God urging you to use your gifts to build up the body of Christ?

Week of Nov. 8: What do you say when asked about your church or faith? Prepare in prayer for times when you will have the chance to touch a life for Christ.

Week of Nov. 15: Jesus masterfully addressed both spiritual and physical needs. Expand your heart

and your table to welcome others this Thanksgiving.

Week of Nov. 22: What role does scripture play in your daily living? What role could it play? Ask God to guide your understanding of scripture and to transform your relationship to it.

Week of Nov. 29: Prayerfully consider who in your life is ready to connect more fully to Christ. Invite that person to worship.

November Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sara Oaks | 10 Hazel Rager | 21 Cody Friebe |
| 1 Allyson Harrison | 11 Bill Owens | 21 Laura Williams |
| 2 Nancy Fern | 12 Dale Harrison | 22 Tom Burkey |
| 2 Jacob Kornprobst | 12 Matt Teeter | 22 Aleah Dishong |
| 3 Ashley Myers | 12 Joe Chuha | 22 Jeff McKendree |
| 4 Melinda Cameron | 13 Debra Burkey | 22 Shawna Kosakowski |
| 4 Austin Dressick | 13 Autumn Gossard | 22 Erin Carr |
| 5 Jessica Cernic | 14 Kim Reighard | 22 Kiersten Zabala |
| 5 Nathan Miller | 14 Heather Smith | 22 Brooke Thomas |
| 6 Richard Brehm | 14 Terry Swick | 23 Declan Heider |
| 6 Charlene Lewis | 15 Viona Blue | 23 Hannah Berg |
| 6 Michael Pellow | 15 Jean Byers | 23 Pam Pavic |
| 7 Bryan Williams | 15 Jane Sroka | 23 Dave Stem |
| 7 Jennifer Williams | 16 Gene Burkett, Jr. | 24 Dave Dishong |
| 8 Sandy Natta | 16 Steve Diamond | 24 Bob Thomas |
| 8 Cindy Gossard | 16 Trudi Blue | 25 Travis Rudge |
| 8 Garrett Harrison | 16 Marty Rager | 25 Jamie Sroka |
| 8 Ed Zeimba | 17 Tiffany Lizardi | 26 Virginia Rummel |
| 9 Loretta Brillhart | 18 Robert Piper, Jr. | 26 Tammy Horner |
| 9 Tracy Davis | 19 Debbie Sojak | 27 Brady Tomechak |
| 10 Judy Burkett | 20 Ben Murray | 30 Larry Blue |
| 10 Mary Jo Myers | 21 Cristy Hill | 30 Cathy Bouch |
| | 21 Kathy Covalt | |

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Joseph and Linda Metzgar | 25 Virginia and David Babal |
| 9 Bob and Carla Berg | 26 Gene and Debbie Paul |
| 9 Laird and Jean Rager | 27 Steven and Tammy Diamond |
| 12 Jeff and Tammy Horner | 27 David and Karen Stem |
| 17 Ronald, Sr. & Sally Mackell | 28 Melvin and Freddie Rummel |
| 19 Edward and Jill Robbins | 28 Gerald, Jr. and Connie Bush |
| 23 Dana and Lindi Turgeon | 29 Ed and Charlene Lewis |
| 25 Russ and Tisha Harrison | 30 Richard and Kathaleen Williams |