



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Journal

"Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus"

Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday, June 30, 2007

Manassas Virginia Pastor to Preach Opening Worship

Manassas (Va.) Pastor Jeff Carter will preach the opening worship of conference. His message, "Some Assembly Required," is based on text from Ephesians 4:1-6. Carter serves as the Church of the Brethren representative to the World Council of Churches. A recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, D. Min, Carter received his M.Div from Bethany Theological Seminary. In addition to his duties at Manassas Church, he serves as the lead chaplain for the Prince William County (Va.) Department of Fire and Rescue .



On Earth Peace Holds Drawing for Original Painting

Fran Nyce, an artist and member of the Westminster (MD) Church of the Brethren, created a watercolor painting of a covered bridge which will be given away in a drawing to be held on Tuesday morning. The subject was chosen to fit this year's theme of "Building Bridges." Come visit with staff and board members at the On Earth Peace booth. See the painting, and enter the drawing.

Sunday Schedule Change

New Church Planting Reception, Cleveland Convention Center Room 201, will begin at 9:00pm instead of 7:00pm.

Passport to Wellness and the 300 Day Challenge!

The Wellness Ministry of the Church of the Brethren encourages you to participate in the "Passport to Wellness" during your time in Cleveland. Pick up your "Passport" at the booth of any three sponsoring agencies-Association of Brethren Caregivers, Brethren Benefit Trust, or the General Board. You'll be amazed at how simple it is to do healthy activities while you are at conference-even easier this year-and go home with a bright, new T-shirt! Whether you join the "Passport" fun or not, you are being challenged to choose well-being and holistic living during the next year. From now until the 300th Anniversary Annual Conference in 2008, all ages are invited to do at least ONE health-promoting activity a day for 300 days. Just pick up a lime green card at the exhibit areas listed above or the 300th Anniversary booth to learn everything you need to promote your spiritual and whole-person wellness. After conference you can access the information at www.brethren-caregivers.org

Highlights of Conference Business

Unfinished business items that will be considered:

- Doing Church Business
- Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church
- Brethren Medical Plan
- Review and Evaluation Report

New business items:

- Child Abuse Prevention query
- Annual Conference Schedule query
- Reverse Membership Trend query
- Update to Annual Conference Polity on Conference rotation
- Recommendation regarding Christian Churches Together

Sunday afternoon scheduled items:

- On Earth Peace report
- Living Peace Church stories
- Review and Evaluation Committee Report

Brethren Benefit Trust Annual 5K

Join nearly 150 Brethren for the annual 5K Fitness Challenge run/walk at 7am, Monday. Your \$15 registration fee covers a T-shirt and post-race breakfast. Please stop by the BBT booth to register and obtain directions to the starting line. BBT would appreciate having registration completed by 6pm on Sunday, although registrations will still be accepted the morning of the run/walk prior to the event.

2007 Annual Conference Moderator Delivers Sunday Morning Message

"Looks like we are going to have an excellent conference!" said Moderator Belita D. Mitchell as she prepared for the 221st Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Mitchell, the first African-American female ordained minister to moderate the Annual Conference, will lead delegates from across the denomination as they face a full business agenda. In an interview with *Newsline*, Mitchell said she hopes the Conference will come prepared by prayer. "The preparation of prayer" helps us to embody more openly and visibly what it means to be the body of Christ." She will preach Sunday morning on the theme, "The Priority of Prayer," using text from Acts 16 and Matthew 7. She is married to Don Mitchell, her husband of 35 years. Together they are the parents of four children and four grandchildren. Mitchell serves as pastor of First Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg, Pa.



Children's Worship Packets

Parents may find daily "children's packets" at the entrances to worship prior to each service throughout the 2007 Annual Conference. Packets are designed for pre-school through primary aged children and will include a variety of activities corresponding to each of the worship service themes. The packets are sponsored by the Congregational Life Team staff of the General Board and were coordinated by Jan Glass King with the assistance of others. Due to the cost and popularity of the packets, adults please refrain from requesting a packet to take home. For more information on similar applications for use in the local congregation, contact your Congregational Life Team Member. This evening's packets were prepared by Carol J. Bowman, Stewardship Development, Funding Staff, General Board. Sunday's packets were prepared by members of the Harrisburg (Pa.) Church on behalf of Moderator Mitchell.

The quilts are in the frames and now we need

Quilter's Needed No Experience Necessary!

you! Please come to the AACB booth in the exhibit hall to help quilt this year's beauties. Each year the quilts are auctioned off at the close of business to benefit projects that alleviate hunger around the world. Come, learn, and help us finish this work of our hands for the Glory of God and our Neighbors' Good.

Annual Conference Blood Drive 2007

Proclaim the Power of God, by giving to those in need.

Sunday, July 1- 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Monday, July 2 and Tuesday, July 3- 10:30am to 6:30pm

The blood drive will be located in the exhibit hall and sponsored by: Emergency Response/Service Ministries Church of the Brethren General Board and American Red Cross, Northern Ohio Region.



BETHANY Get Connected!

Theological Seminary

Empowering Christian Leaders

Free wireless Internet access is available in the

exhibit hall, compliments of Bethany Theological Seminary. The "hot spot" is an extension of Bethany's use of the Internet at their exhibit, which features many of the technological components used in the Seminary's educational program and communications with constituencies. Enton Eller, director of distributed education and electronic communication, shares, "the nature of wireless Internet allows us to easily make it available to conference attendees, and we thought it might provide a great service." The wireless network is named "Bethany." Users will need computers capable of connecting to 802.11b/g networks. Those experiencing difficulties connecting or who have additional questions can find more detailed instructions at the Bethany exhibit.



News and Notes

Healthcare keeps getting more and more complicated. Find out how to navigate the healthcare system during an insight session

presented by Brethren Benefit Trust on Sunday afternoon, 12:30-1:30pm in Room 206 of the Convention Center. Dr. Dan Nafziger of Mennonite Mutual Aid will be participating in a video/phone presentation discussing the many aspects of dealing with and navigating through the healthcare system.

What's new with the CoBCU? Come and find out during an insight session presented by Dennis Kingery, director of the Church of the Brethren Credit Union. The session will be held Sunday evening from 9:00-10:00pm in the Crowne Plaza, Hassler (6th floor).

Brethren Press Schedules Book Signings In the Bookstore

Donald Miller will sign copies of *Seeking Peace in Africa: Stories from African Peacemakers*, a book co-edited with Scott Holland, Lon Fenal, and Dean Johnson, Sunday, 11:45am-12:15pm. Miller is former general secretary of the General Board and professor emeritus at Bethany Theological Seminary. The book grows out of a consultation of the Historic Peace Churches held in Kenya, and tells of responses of Africans who have lived through horrific violence.

Stephan Longenecker will sign copies of *The Brethren During the Age of World War*, Sunday, 4:30-5:00pm. Longenecker is professor of history and chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Bridgewater (Va.) College.

Seagoing Cowboys to be Recognized

The "seagoing cowboys" will be recognized Sunday evening at the insight session titled "Heifer Project's Seagoing Cowboys and Their Legacy." The session will be led by Peggy Reiff Miller and is sponsored by the Brethren Historical Committee. Be sure to attend if you served as a livestock caretaker on a cattle boat to Europe, China, or Africa after World War II or if you want to know more about this unique Brethren Service program.

Message from News Services

The printed Conference Wrap Up, in its new two-page format, will be handed out prior to Wednesday's closing worship. Available online, the Wrap Up will not be sold in print form by Brethren Press. Delegates and congregations are encouraged to make as many copies as they need for their congregations and reports.



Association of Brethren Caregivers

Deacon helpers will be available during lunch time to assist anyone who needs help navigating the lines or carrying their meal to a table. Look for the deacons wearing white aprons with the Association of Brethren Caregivers' name.



The Journal is a publication of the Annual Conference Office, Lerry W. Fogle, Executive Director, Eddie H. Edmonds, Editor, Alice W. Edmonds, office staff.