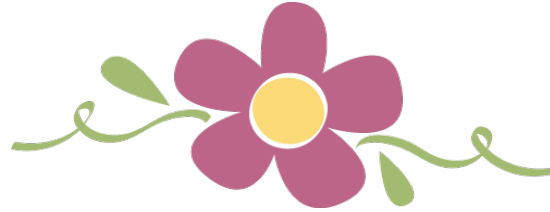


UPDATE
Missouri/Arkansas District
Church of the Brethren
April 1, 2014



Prayers to Begin Again: We have completed the rounds of all our congregations as we prayed for them in the year 2013. We will begin again to pray for each other. This time we will just post the prayer concerns and the month that the prayers are to focus. If your congregation would like to send in your list, please send it to Carolyn Schrock at the District office to be included in the next month's UPDATE. You can send those by email or snail mail.

During April Pray for Broadwater:

Prayer needs for Broadwater--

--That we keep our eyes, ears and hands open and ready to meet the needs of our community.

--And we gain a broader perspective of who our neighbors are.

--Bro. Harold Gass and his family continue to need our prayerful support.

--Marie Froman would appreciate prayer for this year's educational endeavors and ministry internship.

--Stephanie Sappington continues with treatments for her diagnosed cancer.

District Pastors to take Ethics

Training: On April 5 MO/ARK pastors and others will gather at Warrensburg for a day's training in Ministerial Ethics. The course will be repeated again on April 26 at the Cabool Church. The group will gather at 9:00 a.m., lunch will be provided, and the sessions will be complete by around 3:00 p.m. This course will be led by Lois Grove of

Northern Plains District and a portion by Carolyn Schrock, MO/ARK DE.

District Women Retreat: About 45 MO/ARK women from 8 congregations gathered for the annual spring retreat at the Peace Valley Community Center. The Messiah and Warrensburg women were the hosts. Becky Baile Crouse led the group with thoughts turned toward children. We remembered our own childhood and who nurtured us through the bringing of a childhood toy or book that together built a worship center focused on nurturing children.



Elsie Troyer

Becky led three sessions on "Children and Poverty: What is Our Role as Women of Faith". There was lots of discussion of how to "help" in situations of lack of food, care, or relationships.



Becky Baile Crouse

In the business meeting the officers were asked to serve another year. Offerings were received for the Global Women's Project (\$271), and the Women's Fellowship 2treasury. It was voted to send \$150 to Festival of Sharing, \$100 to Missions, and \$150 to Hammond Mill Camp for facility improvements. We once again put some stitches in our quilt that needs to get finished next year!!



Doris Lenihan, Anne Zimmerman, Mary Beth Grubb

Next year's retreat will once again be held at the Peace Valley Community Center on March 27 & 28. Cabool and Peace Valley women will be the hosts.

Respond

Adapted from "God's First Responders" by Michelle Cobb.

Every day our attention is grabbed by news stories of public servants who respond to emergencies. They are known by their well-recognized garb: hats, boots, and coats that identify these persons as first responders in times of great need.

In the local church community, we also have the opportunity to be first responders—of a different kind.

God's generosity was revealed when God gave the world Jesus Christ, who expressed

the ultimate depth of God's generosity. In turn, God calls us to follow Jesus' example and be fearless in our living, our giving, and our service. And So

Brethren Send Child Care Workers to Washington State:

Child Care Disaster responded to the land slide in Oso, WA.

There are now 4 folks from the Pacific Northwest District on the ground in Arlington, providing staff support to the Red Cross Child Care Disaster Respite Care Center. So much tragedy.....difficult enough for adults but the children have special needs.

Festival of Sharing Seeks new

Coordinator: Many changes are in the air for Festival of Sharing! Terri Williams, who has been Coordinator for the past 7 years, has resigned effective the end of March. Terri has prepared job descriptions and time lines for the Coordinator and the eleven Planning Teams that make for a successful Festival.

Festival has learned that the Church World Service has made some personnel and office location changes. The offices in St. Louis, MO and Topeka, KS will be closed and offices opened in Springfield and Kansas City.

Festival materials are in a new format. We no longer have the large manila envelope containing booklets, posters, offering envelopes, etc. Everything, except offering envelopes, is now in an 8 ½ by 11 booklet. Bulletin inserts, record of giving, etc. may be photocopied. The booklet contains posters, all of the kit information and information on other approved organizations that are a part of Festival.

Emphasis at the 2014 Festival will be to raise funds for educational scholarships for the RAINBOW NETWORK with the first ever Festival bike ride on the Katy Trail. Rainbow Network brings nutrition and education to children in Nicaragua, especially to remote rural areas.

Once again the Festival will be held at the State Fair Grounds in Sedalia. Put October 18, 2014 on your calendar !!!

(Martha Louise Baile, District Representative to Festival of Sharing)



Call 211 for Emergency Help: With the season of floods and severe storms upon us, it is good to be prepared and know how to get help quickly if needed. The United Way has established a hotline where you can call to find out where and who the closest help is to you. The kinds of help they can refer you to are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Child Care | Debris Removal |
| Children | Seniors |
| Basic Needs | Legal Questions |
| Health | Mental Health |
| Housing/Shelter | Transportation |
| Pets/Animal Rescue | Tarps |
| Where to drop donations | |

United Way 2-1-1 can be accessed 24/7/365 by dialing 211 from a **landline phone or AT&T mobile phones**. Cell phone users may also dial 1-800-427-4626 to reach a friendly, trained representative.

From: Gary Gahm District Disaster Coordinator

GWP Steering Committee Meets in

Missouri: The Global Women's Project Steering Committee met the weekend of March 14-16 in Warrensburg to affirm support for partner projects located in South Sudan, Rwanda, Nepal, Uganda and Wabash, IN, USA. The Committee also planned awareness and education fundraising support including support activities to encourage us all, women and men, to be mindful of our luxuries and privilege in a world where some simply survive and the opportunity for education are indeed luxuries. More information at GWP at <http://globalwomensproject.wordpress.com> or on Facebook.

Partner project contact in South Sudan, Gladys Manany, who helps coordinate the women's sewing projects in Narus and Nimule, writes: "Please continue to put this situation of South Sudan in your prayers that the people of this country can ...be liberated..."

While in Warrensburg, Steering Committee members also had the opportunity to share in worship and in conversation around the dinner table at the Potato Bar fundraiser for National Youth Conference hosted by youth and their families.





News from Warrensburg:

The congregation has recently installed solar panels on the south side of our building. The first months of operation show great promise. Our purpose is to offset our electric use AND model for the community what others might do to help cut down on electricity usage and thus have a positive impact on our climate.

Pew cushions for the sanctuary have arrived and placed in use a couple of weeks ago.

Two small groups are meeting for Bible study, sharing and prayer this Lenten season, using Vital Ministry Journey, a publication from the Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren.



Vital Ministry Journey

Cabool Completes First Phase of the

Vital Ministry Journey: The Cabool congregation had four small Bible Study groups that have studied, shared, and prayed their way through the VNJ book

prepared by the Congregational Life Ministries. A celebration was held on March 23 where groups reported what they discern to be God's leading for their future mission in the Cabool community. These recommendations are now passed to the Leadership Team for further planning.

The four groups have restructured and will meet during April, May, and June to study "Ephesians: Reconciled in Christ", a Covenant Bible Study book written Donna Richey Martin.

Corrections to the District Directory:

The list of members on the Gifts Discernment Committee is not correct. Diana Smith has finished her term of service. Instead Peggy Tess should be inserted. Peggy's phone number is 573-345-3164 and her email is pegteess@gmail.com

Please continue to let the district office know of other mistakes in the directory so all can be informed of the corrections.

Jerry Crouse Makes a Sankofa

Journey: Jerry Crouse of the Warrensburg congregation applied to the District Building on the Foundation Fund for financial assistance to take a Sankofa Journey as a professional growth experience. (As you know, Building on the Foundation Funds are matching grants that members of our congregations can apply for to attend conferences or other growth experiences.) Jerry has completed his journey and says: "Thank you to the District for the financial support of my recent Sankofa Journey experience. I have attached a letter to be shared with the District summarizing my trip and expressing my thanks for the support." His summary follows here:

March 11, 2014

Dear MO/ARK District and Leadership Team,

Thank you for providing financial support that enabled Morris Collins and me to participate in the Sankofa Journey on Jan. 30 to Feb. 4, 2014. Morris is a fellow pastor and educator from Warrensburg, Missouri.

The Sankofa Journey is an event hosted by the Evangelical Covenant Church (<http://www.covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa/>) with the goal of seeking racial righteousness. Sankofa is an African word meaning "looking back in order to look forward". For the Sankofa Journey, a person of African American ethnicity partners with someone of non-African American ethnicity for a bus journey that originates in Chicago and spans 3 days and 3 nights while visiting sites of historical significance for the Civil Rights movement. 46 of us rode a bus on the Journey. We visited Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama our first day. Our second day included stops in Jackson, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee. A highlight of the trip included the honest sharing by participants who revealed the way expressions of racism have had a part in shaping our perspectives and experiences in life. I was inspired by the sense of unity we embodied in our commitment to overcome the barriers that inhibit our fully experiencing the Beloved Community which we believe is God's will for humanity.

When I first asked Morris if he would be my partner, he gave it some thought and then graciously agreed even though he did not know me very well. An added benefit for us is the fact that both of us are from Warrensburg so we can continue to build upon our friendship now that we have returned home. We spent an extra 2 days

travelling which allowed us to ride Amtrak from Warrensburg to Chicago and back. At age 66, Morris had last ridden a train when he was 11 years old! For the 2 nights in Chicago, Morris and I were guests in the homes of members of the Naperville Church of the Brethren. He and I shared photos and a summary of our experience with members of the Warrensburg community who gathered at Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church for a Black History Month celebration on February 23rd. In the coming months, we plan to co-facilitate a series of community gatherings to dialogue about racial issues.



Morris & Jerry visiting the Raymond Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama

"A fundamental principle of nonviolence is that there is no such thing as defeat once a conflict is justly resolved, because there are no losers when justice is achieved."

(pg. 111, John Lewis in his "Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement", NY, NY. Harcourt Brace & Co., 1998).

As you can see in this UPDATE, there are many activities going on in our district and in our churches. Please send your congregation's news so it can be shared with the rest of the MO/ARK District.

Coming Events

Bethany Presidential Forum, Richmond IN	April 4, 5
Ministry Ethics Training, Warrensburg Cob	April 5
Venture Classes on-line: Deaconing in Small Congregations 9-11 a.m. The Gift of Grief 1-3 p.m.	April 12 April 12
Ministry Ethics Training, Cabool CoB	April 26
National Youth Sunday	May 4
Church Planting Conference, Richmond IN	May 15-17
Shalom Team Training, Spring Branch	May 24
Young Adult Conference, Keezletown, VA	May 23-25
Annual Conference, Columbus OH	July 2-6
National Youth Conference, Fort Collins CO	July 19-24
MO/ARK District Camp at Hammond Mill	August 3 – 9
MO/ARK District Conference at Windermere	Sept 19 - 20
Pastor Spouse Retreat – Spring Branch Church	October 24- 25

Tell us about your activities over the Easter Season or your plans for Summer Vacation Church School, congregational picnic outings, etc.