

UPDATE
Missouri/Arkansas District
Church of the Brethren
March 3, 2014



Children and Poverty Chosen as the Theme for Women's

Retreat: The women of Messiah and Warrensburg have put together an interesting program for the March 28,29 MO/ARK District Women's Retreat. Full details are found in the flier attached at the end of this UPDATE. Let's have all congregations send a delegation this year. It promises to be a wonderful experience.

Ride the bus to Annual Conference this summer!

MO/ARK persons are being invited to join the Western Plains bus to travel to Annual Conference in July. If you are looking for an easier way to make the trip, check out the details here. Roger and Carolyn Schrock took such bus to NOAC last year and highly recommend it as a fun and easy way to travel.

Bus travel from the plains will be provided to Annual Conference (July 2-6) in Columbus, Ohio this summer! "The Plains" bus will leave Wichita, Kan. on July 1 with pick-up stops in McPherson, Kansas City, and Missouri as needed and will return to Wichita on July 7. On the evenings of July 1 and 6, the group will stop for overnight stays at Country Inn and Suites (breakfast included) in Effingham, Ill.

At Annual Conference, 25 rooms have been reserved for our group at Drury Inn,

just next door to the Convention Center. Cost for each room is \$70 per person double occupancy, payable at conference. This includes hot breakfast and a substantial food bar from 5:30-7:00pm.

The initial bus deposit of \$50 is due by April 1. Mail to: David Fruth, 1116 Darlow Ct., McPherson KS 67460. The balance (TBD) is due by May 15. Depending on how many people take advantage of this opportunity, total cost of the bus travel will be \$225-\$300, which includes overnight stays in Effingham! So...fill up the bus!

For more information, contact David Fruth at davebonnie@cox.net, 620-245-0674 or the District Office at spdcb@sbcglobal.net, 620-241-4240.

For Annual Conference information and registration, go to www.brethren.org/ac.

Regional Youth Conference: Coming in March:

Called by God: Preparing for the Journey Together is the theme for the March 28-30, 2014 RYC to be held at McPherson College. Speakers and Musicians for the conference will be Jacob and Jerry Crouse from our Warrensburg congregation. The cost is \$65. Registration deadline is March 24.

Register online at:
www.mcpherson.edu/ryc/

Thank you for your Typhoon Contributions:

The District Leadership Team extended a challenge to the churches of the MO/ARK District to contribute to the emergency disaster fund for the work in the Philippines after their horrible Typhoon Haiyan last November. In this challenge that the District said it would match any contributions from the churches so their effect would be doubled. The response to that challenge was good with six churches and one anonymous donation coming for a total of \$1,985. The District Treasurer, Maurice Bosserman matched that with district funds so a check was sent to the Emergency Disaster Fund for a grand total of \$3,970. A record of that giving follows. Thank you for your generosity to help others in dire need.

Typhoon Haiyan Contributions:

Broadwater	\$100
Cabool	\$735
New Hope	\$250
Saint Joseph	\$100
Spring Branch	\$200
Warrensburg	\$500
Anonymous	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$1,985

Christy Crouse to Join Peace Travel Team:



Lovely day, folks! It's Christy here. I am a freshman at Truman State University in Missouri, pursuing a Political Science and Spanish double major and International Studies and Asian Studies minors. I chose these fields because I am fascinated by politics (it's the truth!) and I can't ever satiate my desire to learn more about other cultures, countries, and languages-- plus I love to travel. Right now I am studying both Spanish and Chinese, which are challenging, but tons of fun. Beyond this, I spend my time playing on the TSUnami ultimate frisbee team, playing club soccer, leading two bible studies, and having a blast with close friends. I also thoroughly enjoy sewing, gardening, learning to play guitar, and trying new foods. Throughout the years, I have attended Camp Hammond Mill, a Brethren camp in southern Missouri. This place is about as close to heaven as I can imagine; with people of all ages sharing time together apart from the normal stresses of life, it's truly a rejuvenating, unique experience. I can't thank God enough for the times I have had and the relationships I've made through that place. Furthermore, this summer I am pumped to be able to share the message of peace with others around the US, giving myself to the task of bringing a bit of heaven to each camp the team visits,

just like I've experienced through camp in the past.

The team is sponsored each year by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Church of the Brethren, the Ministry Office, the Office of Public Witness, the Outdoor Ministries Association, and On Earth Peace. The group of young adults spends the summer at camps across the denomination, teaching about peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Other members of the 2014 team are:

- Chris Bache of La Cañada, Calif., and La Verne Church of the Brethren
- Jake Frye of McPherson, Kan., and Monitor Church of the Brethren
- Shelley West of Union, Ohio, and Happy Corner Church of the Brethren.

Dates Set for Ministers Ethics Training and Fall Retreat: The Ministry Task Force (composed of Ethmer Erisman, Jason Frazer, Beth Gahm, and Carolyn Schrock) have been working hard to schedule events for our ministers.

2015 is the year for the Church of the Brethren Five-Year Ordination Review and Renewal. In preparation for this, mandatory **Ministerial Ethics Training** will be provided in MO/ARK. Training will be held at the Warrensburg Church on April 5 and also at the Cabool Church on April 26.

The training will be led by Lois Grove of Northern Plains District and Carolyn Schrock, MO/ARK DE. **Please make plans to attend one of these sessions.**

The **Fall Pastor/Spouse Retreat** will be held on October 24 and 25, again at the

Spring Branch Church. More details on this retreat will be coming, but mark your calendars now to save the dates.

Bethany Seminary's 6th Presidential Forum to be Held:

Bethany Seminary's Presidential Forum is scheduled for April 4-5, 2014. This year's forum, "Living Love Feast", will explore the long-held and deeply valued tradition we call love feast. Two scholars will examine this practice as it appears in scripture and its place in the expression of faith as a communal meal.

Denominational sisters and brothers will provide program and worship leadership and will offer five breakout sessions. Speakers include Shane Claiborne, Dr. Ruth Anne Reese, Dr. Janet Walton, and a drama by Ted Swartz will also be featured.

Roger Schrock of Cabool will be part of a panel presentation. He invites someone to ride along with him if interested in going. For more information, please visit www.bethanyseminary.edu/forum_2014 or call 765-983-1825.

March 8, Next Ventures

Opportunity: McPherson College offers its next course in the Ventures educational program on March 8. This will be an on-line course concerning prayer. The morning session is "Spiritual Direction and a Life of Prayer". Afternoon session is titled "Are You a Person of Prayer?" Register online at crains@mcperson.edu

Both the morning and afternoon sessions will be taught by Joshua Brockway. Brockway is the Directory for Spiritual Life and Discipleship, denominational staff of the Church of the Brethren.

Corrections to the Directory:

2014 MO/ARK District Directories were sent out mid- February. Thank you to those who have sent in the following corrections. Please mark these changes in

your directory. Keep the corrections coming.

Darlene Riley address: 3964 Hwy 364

Change of Address:

Cox, Woody & Mary
1926 Bluebird Way, West Plains, MO
65775 417-256-1005

Coming Events for 2014

Ventures Classes on-line:

Spiritual Direction & Life of Prayer 9-11 a.m.	March 8
Are You a Person of Prayer 1 PM – 3 p.m.	March 8

MO/ARK District Women’s Retreat, Peace Valley **March 28, 29**

Regional Youth Conference, McPherson, KS March 28-30

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.	April 12
The Gift of Grief 1-3 p.m.	April 12

Ministry Ethics Training, Cabool CoB **April 26**

National Youth Sunday May 4

Church Planting Conference, Richmond IN May 15-17

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**

District Women's Retreat

March 28-29, 2014

Peace Valley, Missouri

Children & Poverty:

What is our roll as Women of Faith?

Becky Baile Crouse will share the work she has done for her Doctorate and our Service Project is providing items from the **Children's Mercy Hospital Wish List** (see attachment)

Schedule:

Friday

3:00 - 5:30	Registration
5:30 - 6:30	Pot Luck Dinner
6:30 - 7:00	Hymn Sing and Worship
7:00 - 8:30	Presentation by Becky Crouse
8:30 - ???	Free time - movie, games, fellowship

Saturday

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00	Hymn Sing and Worship
9:00 - 10:30	Presentation by Becky Crouse
10:45 - 11:15	Small Group Sharing and Envisioning
11:15 - 12:00	Business Meeting
12:00 - 12:15	Closing Circle and Dedication of items brought
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch and Clean Up

Please bring bedding, towels, toiletries, a personal hot/cold drinking container and a dish to share for Friday's evening meal with leftovers served for Saturday's lunch.

Also bring something special from your childhood - toy, picture, book, memento, etc... so we can create a worship center that reflects our collective childhood.

We will collect donations for the use of the Community Building, Global Women's Project and the District Women's Fellowship Fund.

The host churches are Messiah & Warrensburg

Children's Mercy Hospital Wish List

Infants:

- rattles
- teethers
- board or cloth books
- toys with lights or music
- Fisher Price Little People sets - plane, bus, barn, house, zoo, etc.

Children:

- My Little Ponies
- Dr. Kits
- Action Figures - Batman, Spider-Man, Superman, Avengers, Transformers, Ninja Turtles
- Thomas Trains
- Uno playing cards
- Books - board books, Sound books, Look & Find books, and I Spy books
- Hot Wheels
- bubbles
- sidewalk Chalk
- jump rope

Teens:

- \$5.00 gift cards to Target/Wal-Mart, gas stations
- Electronic games for teenagers
- Camelbak water bottles
- Boy items - headphones, watches, wallets, cologne sets, basketballs, Footballs
- Girl items - nail polish, lip gloss, purses, watches, jewelry

Other:

- Disposable cameras
- Newly-released DVD's rated G, PG, PG-13
- Sharpies (multi-colored, fine and ultra-fine point)
- Fabric markers