

UPDATE
MO/ARK District
Church of the Brethren
May 2, 2014

A Purification

At the start of spring I open a trench in the ground. I put into it the winter's accumulation of paper, pages I do not want to read again, useless words, fragments, errors.

And I put into it the contents of the outhouse: light of the sun, growth of the ground, finished with one of their journeys.

To the sky, to the wind, then, and to the faithful trees, I confess my sins: that I have not been happy enough, considering my good luck; have listened to too much noise; have been inattentive to wonders; have lusted after praise.

And then upon the gathered refuse of mind and body, I close the trench, folding shut again the dark, the deathless earth. Beneath that seal the old escapes into the new.

--Wendell Berry in his "Collected Poems:
1957-1982

Remember to Pray for Bethany:

The District is praying for the Bethany Church during May. Please continue to pray for these needs:

--That we become open to God's Spirit to provide for the needs of the people within our community and world.

--We have been blessed with all the donations received by our local food pantry (Loaves and Fishes), which serves the Hardin and Stet region. Pray that new ideas would flourish as to how we can readily serve the hungry and homeless.

--There are several who need continued prayer in our nursing homes and those who are shut-in:

Dorothy Rubottom, Vera Williams, Margaret Wilson, Donnie Miller, and Bobbie O'Dell. Also, remember Allen White (who is at home), John Diehl (who is 95 and lives in Lawrence, KS) and Leva Penny (in and out of hospital).

--We lift up those who recently lost loved ones: the Families of Ronnie Rodgers; Kyle Rogers; Donna Bathgate; and Doug Woodmansee.

--Those undergoing treatments for diagnosed cancer...David Coats and Stacie Russell. Also, we give thanks for those who are currently in remission! Sandra Burk, Jim Burk, Brad White, and Jackie Duffett.

--Last but not least, we pray for all of our high school and college graduates, that God would show them His paths which lead to much success and happiness!

--Pastor Jason Frazer



Four Youth to Attend NYC:

Becky Baile Crouse has been planning with youth of our district to attend the National Youth Conference in July 19 – 24. The setting will be on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

Those who have registered to attend include: Mikayla Johnson and Julia Hodge from Spring Branch and Brie Monetti and Joelle Axton, friends of Christy Crouse, Warrensburg. Becky will be their driver and chaperone.

Three other Crouse family members will also be at NYC. Jerry will be there on behalf of the Mission and Ministry Board, Jacob is part of the NYC praise band, and Christy is a member of the Peace Travel Team that will also be there to offer leadership to the event. Thus MO/ARK will be well represented at NYC.

Adult Leaders Needed for Camp:

Tommie Leet has agreed to serve as Camp Manager and Brian Maddux will assist. Tommie, reports they are short-handed this year due to several who will be unable to return to Camp.

They are very much in need of councilors for both boys and girls. So some adults who have served in camp years before, we need you.

Tommie asks you to step up and accept the challenge to help out this year at camp. We need every one who can come even if you can come for three or four days. If you are the least bit interested, please give Tommie, a call. Her cell # is 816-225-3363. Her e-mail is: t-leet@hotmail.com.

Warrensburg (Mo.) Church of the Brethren will celebrate 100 Years:

The Warrensburg congregation will celebrate its 100th birthday Aug. 30-31 with the theme "Continuing the Work of Jesus: Celebrating 100 Years...Looking Back, Moving Forward." On Saturday, Aug. 30, an open house will be held from 4-6 p.m. followed by a Love Feast at 6 p.m. A youth worship and praise service will be held at 9 p.m. On Sunday, Aug. 31, the worship will begin at 10 a.m. with guest preacher, Sandy Bosserman, former district executive minister of the Missouri Arkansas District. A celebration luncheon will be held at noon. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. For lodging information or more details, contact bbcrouse@cmh.edu or 660-441-7427. The church is located at 802 East Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

News from Spring Branch:

One of Spring Branch Own Youth Studies for the Ministry and is Now Serving her Home Church.

Diana Smith's Ordination was celebrated on April 13th. Guest speakers Ethmer Erisman, Jim Tomlonson, Warren Campbell, and Carolyn Schrock led the Ordination service for Diana Smith. Diana and her twin sister Donna, grew up in the Spring Brand Church, while Warren Campbell, and was their Pastor. Warren

Campbell and Jim Tomlonson, shared memories of mentoring Diana Smith through her studies for the ministry. For health reasons Warren, began to feel that he should step back and he challenged Sister Diana to study for the ministry.

Diana accepted the challenge and graduated from the four year TRIM Program of the Church of the Brethren. There were 85 in all attending the ordination service, and many family members of Diana were in attendance for this day of Celebration.

Spring Branch to be the Scene of a Beautiful Church Wedding:

Brandi Maddux, daughter of Brian and Vanessa Maddux, will become the bride of Donald DeFosse, on May 3. A Wedding rehearsal was held on May 1 at the church. A surprise wedding shower was given Brandi and Don immediately following rehearsal.

Planting Quartet Provides Some Sweat-Equity at Broadwater Mid

April: Thank you—Gary/Jen Marron & Steve/Marie Froman

Yesterday, on that blustery Saturday afternoon-- A quartet of landscapers planted things that will bloom. Two pink dogwoods and two red maples--surround with mulch so they would be stable.

The pavilion now is adorned with two climbing roses that will be pretty and capture our noses. The boxwoods are small and have time to grow--gentler than the sticker filled holly of so long ago.

Now you can see the flag pole all dressed--with roses, and pavers, and logs we accessed. Hidden underneath the mulch that is its light cover, we hope to see flowers pop up before summer is over.

Lavender is planted in the pots atop the stairs--sore fingers from weeding didn't hinder her

there. Dig, rake, water, lift, create, and plant—all the relocated earthworms didn't take time to rant.

M. Froman

On Palm Sunday, the Broadwater church shared in Holy Communion together as Bro. Harold brought the message entitled "Claim the Victory." We appreciate the prayers of our district brothers and sisters.

Sincerely, Marie Froman

Good Job on Forms: It has been a season of filling out denominational forms and sending them to Elgin or other agencies. **Thank you** for your diligence on that.

There is just one form left and that is "Form A". It is a simple form asking for contact information for pastor and moderator. It was mailed to each church on April 1 and is due in Elgin by May 15. Please tend to that and then you can have a rest until fall when we will start all over!!!

Coming Events

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