

MARCH 2016



Together on the Journey with your District Executive Minister . . .

News and Notes:

I want to be together with you on the journey. Cathy is in the process of scheduling area meetings for me to visit with ordained and licensed ministers on the Tuesdays of April 19 through May 31. Cathy will notify all ministers of upcoming meetings along with an invitation as soon as final arrangements have been made for hosting. If you can't make the meeting that will be scheduled in your area, please feel free to attend a neighboring meeting.

In a decision approved by the district leadership team and Westminster Church of the Brethren, the district office will be moving from the Brethren Service Center (BSC) to the Westminster Church of the Brethren by June 1. The office will keep you posted on the progress of the move. There are three main reasons for moving. We moved to our current (second) location in the BSC in the fall of 2014 in order to save money, cutting our rent roughly in half. This current move will reduce our monthly rent from almost \$700 to \$350 a month and our monthly office-related expenses from around \$1,500 to \$1,250. We need to continue to cut costs. A second reason for moving is that our current space does not accommodate necessary functions like leadership team and other district meetings. As anyone who has been trapped behind the conference table will attest, the space is claustrophobic and nonfunctional. Jerry Karn, the BSC Building and Grounds Director, has been allowing us to use our previous, as of yet unoccupied space for some meetings, but it's unethical that we continue to do so. My office doesn't allow space for me to meet with another person without a desk between us. We will have two adjoining, remodeled office spaces at

Westminster, as well as the use of a large conference room across the hall that will more than accommodate our meeting needs. Finally, the BSC is up for sale, and our tenancy situation is unsettled. We envision being able to work out of Westminster for the foreseeable future. The location is central. Upgraded networking capability and necessary office equipment will be available. The building is handicapped accessible, with adequate parking. An entrance leads directly to stairs down which the district offices will be located. We're grateful to Westminster for their invitation and generosity in making this opportunity available.

A rain or shine ground-breaking service for our district-sponsored Habitat House is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the site at 103 North Cleveland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD. The cost of sponsorship is \$65,000, and we're hoping that each congregation can share at least \$1,000 toward making a family's dream of having a home a reality. We're asking every congregation to send at least one representative to that service, along with a congregational gift toward sponsorship. Because we need to meet a minimum one-third of our sponsorship amount by ground breaking, it would be very helpful if congregations let the district office know in advance what you anticipate bringing to that service. Please pray that God will draw forth the people and resources necessary to build and that God will bless the family (whom you'll be able to meet at that service) and the district as we build together with the vision that the house will be finished by Thanksgiving.

Finally, although we're still in Lent, I would like to say "Happy Easter" to each of you. The blessing of God raising Jesus from the dead is not just for tomorrow, at our death, but for today. Because Christ is alive and lives in us and is at work in our world, we can be raised and come alive, not just in the hour of our death, but today, now. May the life and joy of Easter be yours.

Together on the Journey,

Gene Hagenberger

We Are Able Work Camps

Registration for the 2016 Brethren Work Camps has started, and we'd like to highlight the "We Are Able" work camp. This work camp is for youth and young adults with intellectual disabilities and for young adults who serve as their assistants. Participants will serve at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD, where they will package materials for the Material Resources warehouse and the SERRV International Gift Shop. They will also go on fun recreational outings, such as bowling, attending a concert or movie, or visiting a nature center. We hope you will join us July 10-13 for an amazing experience!

Register at:

<http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/> before April 1st (make sure you register as a "We Are Able" Assistant if you are a young adult who wishes to serve as an assistant at this work camp).

If you have any questions about the "We Are Able" work camp or work camps in general, email Amanda McLearn-Montz at AMcLearn-Montz@brethren.org. Or you can call her at 847-429-4328.

Thank you!

Amanda McLearn-Montz

PLACEMENT UPDATE

Bethany:	Searching
Faithful Servants:	Pulpit supply
Friendship:	Preparing Profile
Welty	Searching
Woodbridge	Searching

DISTRICT CALENDAR

March

6	Meat Canning conference call 3:00 pm
10	P&A 6:00 pm / LCT 7:30 pm
12	CEEMT 8:30 am at Good Shepherd CoB Disaster Auction Dinner Benefit, 6:30 pm at Bush Creek CoB
19	Ground Breaking Ceremony for MAD Habitat for Humanity House, "Mustard Seed II" 11:00 am, Hagerstown, MD

March, cont.

27	Easter
28-April 6	Meat Canning Project at Christian Aid Ministries, Ephrata, PA

April

16	LT 10 am - 3 pm
21	P&A 4:30 pm

May

7	Disaster Auction, Westminster, MD
19	P&A 2:30 pm at Frederick CoB

**MEAT CANNING
MARCH 28, 2016 - APRIL 6, 2016
CHRISTIAN AID MINISTRIES
EPHRATA, PA**

**BE A VOLUNTEER
CALL TODAY!!!
410-635-8790**

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