

Wabash Church of the Brethren

645 Bond St., Wabash, IN 46992
260-563-5291 • office@wabashcob.org • www.wabashcob.org
Kay Gaier, pastor



How we show God's love...

A steward (as defined in the dictionary) is someone who manages the affairs of another's property or finances. Stewards are the legal trustees of the church. This year's Stewards Commission members are: Barb Miller, Audrey Hahn, Bethene Gill, Willie Cornett and Larry Jamerson.

**August
2018**

How do we show God's love through Stewards... As you might know, scripture calls us to be in stewardship of God's creation. But what does that mean, and how does it show love? Trying to balance the repairs and maintenance of the properties with an aging congregation can seem difficult on the surface. And yet, this congregation has always been very cooperative, generous even, when asked to help. When you dig deeper, you will see the evidence of that in: the gardens being weeded, and bushes being trimmed, the bathrooms (and the rest of the church!) being cleaned, making sure the lights are turned off and doors locked when you are the last to leave, letting Larry (or another commission member) know when you see a maintenance item that needs done (burned out lightbulbs, running toilets, flooding basement...), the list could go on. So many times, this is the commission that seems the most behind the scenes, but they do leave evidence behind if you look closely enough. And how does this show God's love? By making sure our facilities are ready, willing and able to answer the call when someone needs to use it. Currently, we house: Growing Grounds, Advantage Housing, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and HAWC on a regular basis. We are also available for family get-togethers, weddings, and funerals. The impact we have on others may not always be visibly obvious, but it is felt every day.—*Larry Jamerson*

Worship Schedule

August 5 Nature and Nurture
Scripture Genesis 1:9-13; Hebrews 11:3
Message Deb Peterson

August 12
Message Deb Peterson

August 19
Message Deb Peterson

August 26
Message Al Hohl

Prayers needed

Please hold in your hearts the following:

- members of the Executive and Search committees as well as board members for fruitful discernment during this transition period.
- Our youth, as many start a new chapter in their lives with new schools and addresses, and the parents they leave at home. Many other youth are continuing on their journey and have celebrated milestones.
- Those that have been mentioned in the bulletin insert as well as during Joys and Concerns
- All those who have not yet given voice to whatever may be troubling them.

New Memorial Committee

Friday July 6th the new committee members gathered. They are: Bethene Gill, John Kreps, Brenda Landis, Michelle Roudebush and Barb Miller.

The Memorial Committee ascertains how monies donated to the church in memory of loved ones should be allocated.

District Board Needs you!

They are currently seeking someone to serve on the Nominating and Personnel Committee. This would be for 1 term (3 years) and would be effective as of DC (September). It is comprised of 9 members. If interested, or needing additional information, please contact Karen Odiorne.

August 18th at 9:30am

Women's Fellowship will have breakfast at the home of Bethene Gill. Please RSVP to her at 563-2043. Join us and help plan the activities for the upcoming fall and winter months.



August Special Offering— Deacon's Helping Hand Fund

This fund is a discretionary account given to the Deacons to use when members of the congregation need a little help with finances.

Please extend a warm, Wabash welcome to our new interim pastor, Deb Peterson

Hello to all! A little about me: I have lived most of my life in Kosciusko County, growing up in Syracuse and living in North Webster for the last three years. I retired from pastoral ministry after nearly nine years in a church much like Wabash--small, devoted, caring and a love of the Lord. A rare bacterial virus and ensuing illness forced that retirement. That virus left me with two years of PTSD afterwards, short-term memory loss and a long recovery. But I knew God wasn't done with me yet. I continued to minister in the Rock Run Church of the Brethren in Goshen as a member. I have good listening skills and people still come to me for advice and counseling, I've preached when asked, taught Sunday School classes, presided over weddings and funerals these past years. Now I am extremely excited to be called out of retirement and humbled to be called to this next step in the journey of the Wabash congregation.



I am a people-person, I don't know a stranger. I love to laugh, participate in conversations about serious things as well as silly things. I am divorced and live alone with my new kitten I rescued, Feona. My daughter and her family live a mile from me and my son's family live in Elkhart. I have nine perfect grandchildren, five of who live within an hour's drive from me. Family is extremely important to me and not just my own. Each family unit, no matter how small or large, needs nurtured and encouraged. I enjoy being with all ages because from the youngest baby to the oldest adult, each has something to teach us if we look for it and listen.

I love being in and near any body of water, rivers, lakes and especially the ocean. I have a special heart for trees--I love them! I talk to them, rub their beautiful bark, I love the sound of the wind blowing through the trees' leaves. I believe I am connected to trees in a God-given way. After all, trees and I were created by the same God, we both have roots, we're both living beings and we have needs that only the other can provide--water from me, shade and reverence from the trees. I guess that's my philosophy of life. Every living thing on this earth is connected and gives to each other whatever purpose God assigned to each.

I was called to the ministry later in life. I was 40 and was licensed at 42. This year is the twentieth anniversary of my ordination. From the days preceding my licensing to now, I have never questioned this call to "set-apart" ministry. I believe all of Jesus' teachings in the gospels are still the best guidelines we have for living our lives. I believe the overarching teaching of the Bible can be summed up in one word: Love. Love. Simply love.

I am an eternal optimist, always looking for the positives in everything. I believe we all are a "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:9) and I will work beside you as we continue the important ministries you have already established. I look forward to getting to know each of you individually as we move forward together in this next chapter of our lives.

Deb

As servants of God, live as free people...Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God... (1 Peter 2:16-17)

Welcome

Dear South/Central Indiana Congregations,

Over the years there has become a more and more clear theological divide among the churches of Michigan District. At their last year's district conference the decision was made to divide the district with 7 more conservative congregations deciding to form the "Great Lakes District" and the remaining 14 more progressive and moderate congregations remaining as the Michigan District. This decision is not allowed by Church of the Brethren polity. Many communications and conversations over the months between Michigan entities, with the denominational leadership team, and more recently with Standing Committee, have made it plain that our polity does not allow for districts formed around theological statements or noncontiguous geographical boundaries.

In January, I began work as the ¼ time interim DE in Michigan. I have not made much progress in getting the two factions to talk together, much less work together. The Standing Committee decisions at this year's Annual Conference in Cincinnati left the "Great Lakes group" with two options: find a way to be a district together, or ask to divide by using the prescribed query procedures. Both options mean that the 21 congregations will need to be a district together for the next 2-plus years since a query cannot be presented at Annual Conference until 2020 at the earliest.

Following the Standing Committee decision I shared my anxiety with the Director of Ministry that ¼ time and sharing my time between the two districts is not getting us very far. This situation is of interest to many in the denomination because there are other districts facing some of the same divisions and plans to depart. After some anxious conversations the following proposal has emerged.

Michigan district, the Council of District Executives, and the denomination (General Secretary's office) will together contribute \$12,000 to South/Central Indiana district to hire an interim DE from now until the end of the year. I (Beth) will take a leave of absence from S/C till the end of 2018 with a few exceptions. I do plan to attend district board meetings and district conference since I anticipate returning to devote my time to S/C beginning in January of 2019. (You are indeed invited to dinner at Grandview Friday, September 14, and I promise there will be pie.)

Carol Spicher Waggy (see contact information below) is willing to serve as interim for the remainder of the year. She and I will be in contact on a regular basis while I shift my focus to working almost full time in the Michigan district between now and Christmas. Carol will work somewhere between ¼ and ½ time and do a portion of the work from her home in Goshen. The money in the S/C Ind. budget for mileage will cover her travel costs.

Earlier this week, Earl Doll, District board Chairperson; Rob Miller, District Board Vice Chairperson; and Cindy Dunk, District Moderator; had a phone call to affirm this plan. Kurt Borgmann, our Standing Committee delegate who served on a committee of Standing Committee to facilitate conversation with the Great Lakes group, sent his email blessing to the plan. The District Board will have the opportunity to affirm this decision at the August 6 board meeting.

I realize this is an unusual situation. I celebrate that I feel South/Central Indiana is in a healthy enough place to make this gift to their neighboring district and if something good can happen we may share a model with the denomination. Your history might make you especially willing to pray for the way forward in Michigan and I do covet your prayers!

Blessings,

Beth Sollenberger
District Executive Minister
South/Central Indiana District
Interim District Executive
Michigan District
260-982-8805 (S/C IN office)
574-238-9156 (cell)
Carol Waggy: 574-971-0143, ncwaggy@gmail.com



Over 50 children, youth, and adults gathered at the church on June 30 for the family fun night. Families who are separated through work release etc. were brought together to enjoy Mickey and Minnie/balloon art (provided by Tammie Mahan), water play, corn hole, parachute cooperative games, and more. A meal was served by Marti and Leroy, Kay, Carol and Dennis, with help from Murray. Some also received clothing. Appreciation was expressed.

August District Prayer Calendar

August 5 - Please pray with us for the Manchester COB and Atlantic Northeast District.

August 12 - Please pray with us for the Marion COB and Atlantic Southeast District.

August 19 - Please pray with us for the Mexico COB and Idaho District.

August 26 - Please pray with us for Northview COB and Illinois and Wisconsin District.

I'm proud of my church!

Please let me explain. Pride is not something we Brethren encourage, nor do I want to encourage the kind of pride that is self-centered, self-congratulatory, self-promoting. I also do not promote the kind of humility that is self-negating and destructive, inviting abuse. True humility is seeing oneself as God sees us—as God's child, created in God's image, as one valued enough for Jesus' mission of salvation. Christians should try to see themselves and others from God's perspective, for when we do there is no room for either the pride or humility that is narcissistic and negative.

The most common phrase of encouragement that my husband uses is "I'm proud of you!" It is meant as congratulations and support. It's what we might call Brethren pride.

So I am proud of my congregation. It is a healthy congregation, by no means perfect, but healthy. When we first joined this body of believers it was so family-oriented that we were the only persons in the entire congregation that did not have another relative in the membership. I am pleased to say that 30 years later we are a large church family that contains a lot of non-related nuclear families. We have all generations represented. We are involved in the community, supporting a local day care ministry as an example. It is a generous group that steps up to support those in need, giving way beyond the 10% of our budget that we have set a policy to maintain as outreach. Our modest endowment fund provides scholarships and various grants without arguments because of clear guidelines for its use. We are quite diverse in our politics but have not allowed that to divide us. We enjoy being together; some of us share a potluck meal every Sunday. I am proud of this congregation.

When I walked among you in this district as your Interim District Executive several years ago, there were a number of concerns waiting for your new District Executive Minister to help you address. I thank you for allowing me to return for these 6 months, and I want you to know that I am already proud of you and proud of your district leadership! I sense a more cooperative spirit as the Holy Spirit has moved among you. I am pleased to see the Brethren Leadership Institute in process and believe it to be addressing some of those earlier concerns around credentialing ministers. Bravo! What I hear and see so far is a healthier district. I look forward to worshipping with you and to assisting where I am able in placement and credentialing until Beth returns in 2019.

I am proud of you!

--Carol Spicher Waggy



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS
15th of every month**

NM Fire Department Pancake & Sausage Breakfast!

August 4 7am-11am

NM Fire Department

709 W. Main St, N. Manchester

Proceeds go towards new gear,
equipment, and training for our firefighters.

**Your Free Will donation
will be appreciated!**

For more information, please contact
the North Manchester Fire Department
at 982-8212



Sunday August 26—2pm MSO
performs *A Family Portrait*
composed by MU's Debra Lynn on
PBS 39

Tuesday August 28—3:30pm The
World Needs You VIA with President
Dave McFadden, Cordier Auditorium

DID YOU KNOW...

The bulletin board articles get
changed out every couple of
weeks. Be sure to check it out
for all the latest news from:



- ⇒ Manchester University
- ⇒ District Offices
- ⇒ Brethren Disaster Ministries
- ⇒ Global Food Crisis
- ⇒ Church of the Brethren, Nigeria
- ⇒ General Offices
- ⇒ Bethany Seminary
- ⇒ BVS The Volunteer
- ⇒ And many more!

UPCOMING BLI CLASSES

This fall marks the beginning of the third year of the 3-year rotation of classes of the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI). That means that a year from now we will be celebrating the graduation of those who have completed all 12 classes and other requirements.

BLI is structured so that new students can join any time, and anyone can audit individual classes.

The next class is *Teaching and Learning in the Church* and will be taught by **Aaron Gross**. The dates are August 25, September 1 and September 8; all sessions will be held at the Marion Church of the Brethren. Register any time!

In October and November, **Craig Alan Myers and Tim Morphew** will be teaching *Biblical Interpretation*.

Many thanks to **Don Fecher**, who has been the BLI administrator the last few months. **Tina Rieman** will be resuming that position for the rest of the year; she can be reached at BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com.

More information about BLI can be found at www.scindcob.org/BLI.html.

I attended the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference as the delegate of this church in early July. The gathering lasted most of four days in downtown Cincinnati. Several thousand Brethren were in attendance from all over the country, and some from the Nigerian Church of the Brethren and other countries where the Brethren are beginning churches. My time was mostly spent in business sessions. There were also four evening and a Sunday morning worship services. During "free" time, many, many educational options are available both over meal breaks and in the late evening. There is always an exhibit hall next to the business/worship venue with information presented by many Brethren agencies, including the opportunities to shop at the Brethren Press bookstore and buy fair trade merchandise and to donate blood. And you can quilt.

At the business sessions, we sat at assigned tables. I shared a table with a delegate from Northern Indiana, one from Ohio, one from Iowa, and three from Virginia, two of whom I already knew somewhat. Each morning business session began with Bible study and singing. The body received several new churches into fellowship. Church agencies, such as Bethany Seminary and On Earth Peace presented reports from the previous year. Among the old business was a study on Creation Care and how churches and individuals can best be stewards of our resources. Other items presented were a very interesting paper on Vitality and Viability and another on Ecumenism (how churches should be in fellowship with other denominations and other faiths).

One new business item addressed the larger denomination's responsibility to financially invest with companies that share our values. Another was a statement on becoming a global church, as we are more and more becoming. All of these items were approved soundly. As ever, there was much discussion and proposed amendments on all of these items from the floor, both reasonable and ludicrous. Some of the more trying to for me to hear were: the announcement that climate change is foretold in the Bible as part of God's judgement and therefore does not need to be addressed by the church; an inquiry as to why On Earth Peace was still a church agency since a majority of the delegates voted to remove it last year (a 2/3 majority was required); and the statement (by a pastor from our district) that we, in the church, should not be encouraged to engage in dialogue with people of other faiths because as neither group will be successful in converting the other, why bother?

One interesting change took place toward the beginning of the meetings. An item of unfinished business from last year had grown into the idea of formulating a new "compelling vision statement" for the church. The study recommended that the delegate body spend a considerable portion of the business time this year and next in working on this. Consequently, most of two mornings was spent on discussing/formulating some of our denominational beliefs. And the delegate body was encouraged to and did vote to suspend any new business for next year--that time to also be spent in similar discussion. There will also be discussions held throughout the denomination during the next year, which I'm sure we will be invited to participate in.

As always, a number of representatives were present from the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria and the Nigerian women sang at the start of one session. Moderator Samuel Sarpiya of Rockford, Illinois did an excellent job as moderator. Paul Munday of Fredrick, MD, was chosen as moderator elect, (his opponent being female). (Paul Schrock of Northview congregation in Indy and our former pastor Brandi Fix Liepelt were also on the ballot, though neither were elected.) The Annual Conference donated several thousand dollars and a huge amount of donated goods to a local agency that works with women in rehabilitation and their children.

I attended three of the worship services, in one of which the speaker was Roseanna McFadden, a Manchester graduate and pastor near Goshen. And the hymn singing, of course, was incredible.

I went to the Manchester College lunch, at which Dennis and Carol were honored with an Alumni Service award. I also attended two evening sessions, one having to do with the Brethren response to World War I and one having to do with the actions of white people and their churches and government towards native Americans.

Upon the encouragement of one of my tablemates, I quilted for the first time, on one of the quilts that was auctioned off for Disaster Relief on the last day.

Over 2000 people were registered for Annual Conference, almost 700 were delegates. About 560 pints of blood were donated. The quilt auction raised over \$8000.

I saw many old friends, rekindled some relationships from long ago, and made some new friends. I was reminded why the Church of the Brethren is so dear to me. And, despite our differences, how good it feels to be together as one body.

Next year, Annual Conference is in Greensboro, NC. I encourage any of you that want to understand the Church of the Brethren better to consider attending. It's an amazing experience.

Thank you, church, for allowing me to represent you. And thank you, Karen, for going to Germany so I could go in your place.

-Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett



THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT

In 2017, Church World Service distributed 4,612 clean-up buckets in several locations around the United States. We want to help replenish their supply and therefore are asking each congregation to fill at least one bucket and bring it to District Conference.

To help get you started, District Board member **Theresa Sites** and her husband Dennis have been traversing the district, delivering empty buckets to each congregation. Each bucket has a list of the clean-up supplies that need to go in it. If you are in need of a bucket and/or the list of items, please contact the district office.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2018 SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

WHEN: Saturday, September 15

WHERE: Grandview Church of the Brethren

WHAT:

- worship
- fellowship with sisters and brothers in the South/Central Indiana District
- reports from district committees and denominational agencies
- insight sessions
- dessert auction

Many thanks to those of you have returned the **District Conference Delegate Authorization** forms, which are due **August 1**. If you haven't seen the form, you can find it on the district website conference page, or request a paper copy from the district office.

Non-delegate registration forms are available the same way; those who register before **August 20** can avoid paying the late fee.

DESSERT AUCTION RETURNS

Erin Huiras will once again entertain us with his auctioneering skills at district conference. **Each congregation is asked to bring one dessert to be auctioned.**

Last year's donations included a tasty variety of desserts, along with creative ideas such as a "Making Memories with the Grandchildren" basket and a DeBrand Chocolate sampler and gift card.

Plan to leave the Brethren value of getting a good deal at the door; come prepared to bid often and generously!



Dessert Auction

Friday, September 14

Everyone is invited to participate in these events!

Grandview Church of the Brethren

1:00 pm Pastoral Self-Care Workshops with Dan Poole and Janet Ober Lambert*

5:30 pm Fellowship and Appetizers

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Rebecca Dali brings an update about Nigeria*

*CEUs available for those attending all sessions

CAMP MACK

O
R
N
E
R



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765
Email: info@campmack.org
Website: www.campmack.org

The Camp Mack Golf Outing is Saturday, August 11, at McCormick Creek Golf Course in Nappanee, Indiana. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. golfing starts at 8:30 a.m. with lunch at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$75 per player. Go online or call the camp office for a registration form. Can't play? Sponsorship categories range from \$100 to \$1000.

Mark your calendars to attend the Camp Mack Festival on Saturday, October 6th. Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to attend this community event. Free admission and parking.

Prepare now to support the Camp Mack Festival – provide a food or crafts booth, auction donations, share a demonstration, and/or offer to work a shift at Children's Activities, the Welcome Booth, or Parking.

Colony Camp is a great opportunity to experience summer fun with family and friends before everyone goes back to school! The cost is \$86 per family. Bring your RV, tent, or use one of the camp cabins; bring your own food and bedding; and enjoy a weekend at Camp Mack. Friday, August 17 to Sunday, August 19.

Labor Day Family Camp offers something for the entire family. Weekend includes age-appropriate classes and discussion groups, community worship, swimming, boating, crafts, and more. Cost is \$100 per family with additional fees for lodging and meals. Friday, August 31 to Monday, September 3.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grand Camp	July 29-30
Golf Outing	August 11
Colony Family Camp	Aug. 17-19
Sailing 101 Get-A-Way Day	Aug. 18
Prairie Flower Walk	Aug. 26
Labor Day Family Camp:	Aug 31- Sept 3

PRAYER REQUESTS: Camp leaders, campers returning home, and Family Camps.



CAMP MACK 24th Annual GOLF OUTING



McCormick Creek Golf Club

Nappanee, IN

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Registration at 8:00 am,

Tee off at 8:30 am, Lunch at 1:00 pm,

Camp Mack "scramble" style

\$75 per player



Door Prizes for anyone registered before August 1st,
plus other prizes including a Top Team award



Camp Alexander Mack

1113 E Camp Mack Rd

PO Box 158

Milford, IN 46542

574-658-4831

todd@campmack.org

8.50 x 11.00 in