

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



Here is what I'm thinking...

I think I have been talking about this long enough that most of you know my plans for the Worship Plan in May, but just in case you haven't heard (or really understood) I want to clue you in. I have clustered my unpaid weeks once again so that I can help with the care of my new grandchild. Last year at this time it was my daughter who was expecting a son and this year it is my son expecting a daughter. But this time, because I will be in Logansport and close by, I will still be able to attend worship. I offered to continue to preach during my unpaid weeks if I could share with the congregation sermons of some of my favorite preachers. The board agreed to this idea and I am excited for you to hear from these preachers I have come to appreciate so much. All of these preachers have books of published sermons and I will choose what I consider to be some of their best to enrich our worship time.

Barbara Brown Taylor has been a favorite of mine for as long as I have been interested in preaching. She is an Episcopal priest and a professor of Christian spirituality. She was recognized by Baylor University as one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English language. She is a gifted wordsmith and creative interpreter of the stories from scripture.

Walter Brueggeman was a noted Old Testament professor, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and prolific author of theological books. He is the one who has most helped me appreciate the value and gifts of the Old Testament. His writing and thinking always surprises and stretches me in my understanding of biblical texts and their impact on the New Testament church.

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran minister who comes from a history of serious addiction and is relatively new on the preaching/writing circuit. Her boldly honest style and combination of intelligent theology and earthy wit has made her my new favorite preacher and author. She is the preacher I would most like to be when I grow up.

So here's what I'm thinking... Come and be fed from the words of Our Sunday Best!

April/May 2016

Blessings,

Kay

Worship Schedule

April 17 Why we need church more than it needs us

Scripture Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19, Micah 4:1-2

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Why do we go to church? There are lots of reasons to sleep in or go out for breakfast, but why then do we go to church? Be honest—don't you often ask yourself this question when the alarm goes off on Sunday morning? I know our kids do. What do you tell them?

Our Sunday Best

April 24 Father can I tell your congregation how resurrection really feels?

Scripture Acts 9:1-19

Message Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber *Shared by Pastor Kay Gaier*

May 1 How Not to Hinder God

Scripture Acts 10: 9-35

Message Barabara Brown Taylor *Shared by Pastor Kay Gaier*

May 8 Newness from God That Unlearns Family

Scripture Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35, Revelation 21:3-5

Message Rev. Walter Brueggeman *Shared by Pastor Kay Gaier*

May 15 The Gospel of the Holy Spirit—Pentecost Sunday

Scripture Acts 2: 1-11

Message Barabara Brown Taylor *Shared by Pastor Kay Gaier*

May 22 Follow in Freedom

Scripture Luke 9:1-62, Galatians 5:1

Message Rev. Walter Brueggeman *Shared by Pastor Kay Gaier*

May 29 Sacred Space: Encounter

Scripture Galatians 1:11-24

Message Helen Beery

Prayers for:

Stan Miller continues to receive therapy for his constant headaches.

Solomi Titus is our girl from the group that was abducted from school in Nigeria. Please keep her and her family in your hearts and prayers. This is the 2 year anniversary (April 14) of the abductions. Please continue to pray for the girls, and their families, who have not been returned home yet.

Kay's family as they mourn the loss of Drew, and her mom Esther Domer.

Jack Poole & family as they mourn the loss of Bill Stout, Jack's father-in-law and member of the Nettle Creek CoB.

Jim & Bonnie Haughn as they travel back to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD in mid-April for Jim's treatment.

Jim Gaier had his wisdom teeth removed on 4/18. His jaw broke during surgery. They wired the broken part together and then used rubber bands to keep both jaws tightly together. They will stay like that and he will need to eat through a straw for 6-8 weeks. The Doctor is concerned that the jaw may not heal correctly and he will need a more major reconstructive surgery in the future.

In Support of the district, please include the following congregations in your prayers this month:

April 3 - Please pray with us for the **Four Mile COB**.

April 10 - Please pray with us for the **Grandview COB**.

April 17 - Please pray with us for the **Guernsey COB**.

April 24 - Please pray with us for **Brethren Benefit Trust**.

Movie and a Meal

Freedom Writers

Will be shown Sunday May 1st after church service.

All are welcome to stay, share a meal and watch the movie.

Summary: A young teacher inspires her class of at-risk students to learn tolerance, apply themselves, and pursue education beyond high school.



Women's Fellowship

Peabody's 18th Annual Tulip Festival is Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 3 pm. Peabody has been celebrating the Ageless Spirit for 85 years so this annual celebration in our anniversary year promises to be bigger and better than ever!

If you want to carpool, please be at the church by 9:30am. ALL are welcome to join us!



The Stewards Commission needs your help! Now that the Fish Fry is over, there is work that needs to be done outside. If you have a couple hours to spare during the week, or weekend, please see Karen Odiorne for a list of tasks that need done.



The organ that Hilda Huffman donated to the church is in need of a good home. It has sat unplayed for a few years and does require some work, but it is a good organ. If you know anyone who would be interested, please contact the office to make arrangements.

Annual Conference Early Information

Many wonderful opportunities are available for family members at Annual Conference in Greensboro! As well as many Annual Conference opportunities, families can enjoy museums and sightseeing in the area. Go to www.brethren.org/ac and follow the steps for family member registration. Annual Conference registration for Current High School and younger are free, but must be registered and receive a name tag. Online Delegate and Non-delegate registration ends June 6, 2016. Delegate and Non-delegate fees are higher for those waiting to register onsite in Greensboro.

Even if you are already registered as a Delegate or Non-delegate, you can return to the website to register family members, purchase an extra booklet, order meal event tickets, register children for activities and much more.



A big thank you to those who constructed shelving on the stage for Growing Grounds (GG) donations of clothing, bedding, and all manner of household items! Agencies, Judges, the Sheriff and others who work with incarcerated and released persons have given input to the GG steering committee during the two luncheons held at the church in March and April. The Church of the Brethren Global Women's Project has given a new \$3,000 grant to GG, thus helping those who are served and giving encouragement to all involved.

A big thank you to those who constructed shelving on

Church Women United's next meeting is Friday May 6th starting at 9:00am at the First United Methodist Church. This month's theme is the Fellowship of the Least Coins so be sure to bring all your pennies!

O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving. Dear God, accept the least coin "token of love." Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honor your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen



CAMP MACK

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E



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765

Email: info@campmack.org

Summer Staff and Volunteers Needed:

- Summer Staff: Persons at least 18 years old who love the Lord and are willing to serve and work hard.
- Volunteer Counselors or Support Staff willing to give of themselves without financial remuneration.
- Apply: Go to www.campmack.org and scroll down to the volunteer/employment bar at the right for employment, counselor, CIT or support staff applications.

Camp registrations are still open. Summer campers may now register with an additional late fee applied.

Volunteer Work days are April 4-6 and April 9: Cleaning, painting and repairs are needed to prepare camp for summer. Prairie Restoration Day is Saturday, April 9. Call Camp to register for either of these opportunities.

Spring Quilt Retreat: April 21-24. Very popular! Call Camp to see if there are still openings.

CTI Training: April 15-17. \$50 registration fee

Pastors Sabbath: April 5-6. Be Camp's guest. Leader is Carl and Roxane Hill

Register for the **5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run**. \$20 for 5K and \$10 for the Kids Fun Run. \$5 late fee after April 18th.

Upcoming Get-Away Days are designed to bring you to camp for a day or part of a day for a "mini-retreat." Check the website for a listing of programs, their descriptions, and fees

- May 7 Canoe the St. Joe River
- May 7 Wildflower Walk
- May 7 Dutch Oven Cooking

LOOKING AHEAD:

- May 1 5K Run Walk/Kids Fun Run
- May 2-5 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat
- May 5-7 Bird Watching Retreat
- May 13-14 Counselor Training

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray daily:
For the Camp Mack Staff and Volunteers.

Peace Week at MU

Manchester University welcomes the Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou and John Dominic Crossan for 2016 Peace Week

John Dominic Crossan has two VIA sessions and three class presentations, all of which are open to any who wish to attend:

Tuesday 4/19

3:30pm (Cordier) Jesus, God, and Imperial Violence

Wednesday 4/20

1pm (Academic Center 101) Jesus and the Question of God

3pm (Academic Center 101) Parable and Kingdom

7pm (Cordier) The Life of Jesus

Thursday 4/21 9:30am (Science Center 203)

Paul and the Challenge of Equality

Session Concert and Choir Concert

On Wednesday May 4, at 7:30pm in Cordier Auditorium The Manchester University Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble will perform a concert of some of their greatest hits. This performance will be recorded for the bands' first live album. The concert features narration by Dr. John Planer and soloist Kevin Friermood.

On Sunday May 8th at 3:00pm is the Choral Concert.



Samplers	June 9-11	Youth Camp	July 3-9
Beginners	June 12-14	Culinary	July 5-9
Archery	June 12-16	Seekers	July 10-15
Eco Adventure	June 12-17	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Grand Camp	June 16-18	Sailing	July 10-15
Dune Challenge	June 19-25	Followers	July 10-15
Seekers	June 26-July 1	Creative Arts	July 10-15
Finders	June 26-July 1	Grand Camp	July 31-Aug 2
Survivor	June 26-July 2	Dadirri	July 31- Aug 6
Samplers	July 3-5		
Seekers	July 3-8		
Finders	July 3-8		
Pedal & Paddle	July 3-9		

New Community Project Learning Tours

Looking for a mission trip? That's not us. But if it's a spirited and spiritually uplifting visit to another part of the world you're seeking, you're at the right place. And these trips aren't just for youth or just for "old people"--they're intergenerational experiences intended to challenge, change and renew us, while building relationships with our neighbors and a better appreciation for our amazing planet.

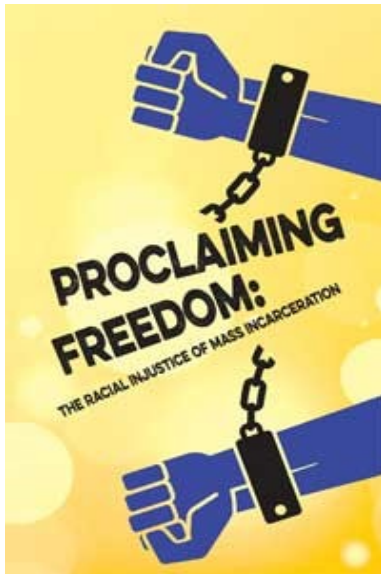
Additional information regarding each tour can be found on their website on the

[Learning Tours](#) page.

Ecuador: June 8-16, 2016

Dominican Republic: July 8-17, 2016

Denali/Kenai Fjords: July 26 - August 4, 2016



Christian Citizenship Seminar 2016 April 23-28, 2016

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CSS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in New York City through 12:00 (noon) on Thursday, April 28, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Please keep Anna and MiKayla in your thoughts and prayers during this week as they participate in this event.

2016 Work Camps

Blazing with Holiness

July 10-13, 2016, New Windsor, Maryland. Everyone has gifts to share!

In the summer, the Church of the Brethren provides opportunities for people to serve, worship, and have fun at workcamps. The We Are Able Workcamp is for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They will be joined by young adults without disabilities who will serve as assistants. At this workcamp, the participants and assistants will serve together at the Brethren Service Center. They will volunteer at the Material Resources warehouse and package fair trade products at SERRV. They will also have time for fun and fellowship together on recreational outings. Potential outings include visiting a nature center, attending a movie or concert, visiting a Maryland state park, and bowling.

During this workcamp, friendships and memories will be made. This workcamp gives everyone the opportunity to share their gifts, and both participants and assistants will grow and learn from their time serving together. However, We Are Able currently has a low registration number. In order to continue this ministry this summer, we need a few more participants and assistants. If you or someone you know is interested in attending the We Are Able Workcamp as a participant or assistant, go to www.brethren.org/workcamps to register. Registration has been extended and closes April 4, so sign up soon! If you have any questions about the We Are Able Workcamp, contact Church of the Brethren Workcamps at cobworkcamps@brethren.org. We hope that you will join us for this meaningful and fun experience in July!



Jr. High

Completed 6th – 8th grade

June 15-19 South Bend, Indiana

July 20-24 Elgin, Illinois

July 27-31 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

July 27-31 Roanoke, Virginia

Sr. High

Completed 9th grade – age 19

June 6-12 Washington, D.C.

June 13-19 New Orleans, Louisiana

June 21-27 Knox Area Rescue Ministries - Knoxville, Tennessee

July 10-16 Pine Ridge Reservation - Kyle, South Dakota

July 19-25 Santa Ana, California

July 31-August 6 ECHO - N. Fort Myers, Florida

August 8-14 Koinonia Farm - Americus, Georgia



Plan for Their Future

April 28, 2016, 7 p.m. at Everence,
1110 N. Main St., Goshen, IN

Join us for an informative evening about how to develop estate plans that benefit your loved one with disabilities. Presented by Randall Jacobs, J.D.

What we'll cover:

The latest in estate planning laws, including how to leave your legacy without jeopardizing your loved one's eligibility for government benefits

How charitable trusts can benefit heirs and charities

Please RSVP by April 14

to sue.massey@everence.com or (574) 533-9515 ext. 3307.
Light refreshments will be served.

A collaborative effort of the following agencies:

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

MDC Goldenrod

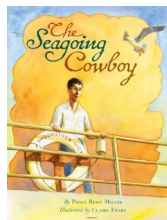
Oaklawn

Everence (Coordinating sponsor)

Many of you have heard of Dan West and the Heifer Project. Dan's vision of shipping livestock to countries devastated by war would begin the "trip of a lifetime" for over 7,000 young men. These adventurous volunteers came from all over the United States and Canada, and are the subject of a new children's picture book from Brethren Press, entitled *The Seagoing Cowboy*. Author Peggy Reiff Miller, the granddaughter of one such cowboy, takes us on a trip with the seagoing cowboys as they travel from the quiet countryside to the hustle and bustle of the docks. See the pitching and rolling of their ship. Meet the horses and heifers they tend. And see what they discover once they arrive.

Sunday April 24 Mary Ebey, daughter of one such cowboy Robert Ebey, will be here at church to bring us copies of the book. She was the college roommate of Linda Barkey. Another seagoing cowboy you might know is Guy Buch, father of Audrey Hahn.

If you ordered a book/s, please pay Mary \$12.60 per copy with cash or check (made to Mary Ebey). Mary will have some extra copies for sale, as long as they are available. If you won't be here on 4/24, you should give Linda Barkey your cash or check (made out to Mary Ebey) and Linda will get your book to you on May 1.



Retreats & Events

Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 16	5K Run/Walk	TBD
Sweetheart Banquet	Feb 13	Camp Mack Festival	Oct 1
Quilt Retreat	Feb 18-21	Father Son Retreat	Oct 8-9
Scrapbooking Retreat	Feb 18-21	Seasoned Citizen's	Oct 10-13
Team Leader Training	March 5	Quilt Retreat	Oct 13-16
Annual Dinner	March 11	Scrapbooking Retreat	Oct 27-30
Volunteer Work Days	March 14-16	Pastors Sabbath	Nov 1-3
Mother Daughter	March 19-20	Build a Drum	Nov 4-6
Volunteer Work Days	April 4-6	Volunteer Banquet	Nov 5
Pastors Sabbath	April 5-6	Volunteer Work Days	Nov 7-9
Prairie Restoration	April 9	New Years Eve	Dec 31-Jan 1
Volunteer Work Day	April 9	Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 14, 2017
CIT Training	April 15-17		
Quilt Retreat	April 21-24		
Seasoned Citizen's	May 2-5		
Bird Watching Retreat	May 5-7		
Counselor Training	May 13-14		
South Central Women	June 2-4		
Colony Camp	August 12-14		
Golf Outing	August TBD		
Labor Day Family Camp	Sept. 2-5		



Secret Sisters

Sunday May 8th is Mother's Day. Please remember her this month in your prayers and maybe a card or small gift that would celebrate being a woman.

Women's Fellowship

Please plan on joining us on Saturday May 21st at 12 noon at the Charley Creek Gardens to celebrate mothers and daughters. Plan on bringing a sack lunch to eat and a single-serving dessert to swap. After fellowship, a walk around the gardens is planned. A rain date will be scheduled later if necessary. Please RSVP to Karen Odiorne or Michelle Roudebush.

Special Offering April —Brethren Disaster Ministries

Inspired by Jesus, Brethren Disaster Ministries focuses on rebuilding homes, caring for children, and providing international relief by engaging our volunteers, supporters, and partners to serve communities recovering from disaster.

Brethren Disaster Ministries engages a network of volunteers to repair or rebuild damaged homes for disaster survivors who lack sufficient resources to hire a contractor or other paid labor. BDM's goal is to ease the trauma and foster recovery in disaster-stricken communities across the United States.

Children's Disaster Services meets the needs of children impacted by disaster by setting up temporary child care centers and using therapeutic activities and toys that stimulate imaginative play. Specially trained and certified volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence for children, as well as individualized consultation for parents about their child's unique emotional needs.

BDM also restores hope for countless of the most vulnerable disaster survivors around the world by supporting coordinated disaster relief efforts, mostly through faith-based international partners, wherever disaster strikes.



See page 12 for a letter from Cliff.

Pray for Carol and Norm Waggy who are serving with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) for several months as part of the Nigeria Crisis Response. Among other activities, Carol is preaching in EYN congregations and Norm is teaching a refresher course for dispensers and supervisors of EYN's Rural Health Program dispensaries. Pray for God's presence in these activities and for Carol and Norm's health and safety.



As April 14 marks the second anniversary of the abduction of 276 young women from their school in Chibok, pray for the families who still have no word on their daughters' fates. Pray for all the families in northeast Nigeria whose loved ones have been abducted.

Special Offering May —Global Women's Project

Each May, GWP invites you to honor or memorialize your mother, or another special mentor in your life, through our Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Here's how it works: you send a donation and a note to GWP with the name and address of the person(s) you want to honor and GWP will send a handwritten card to that person letting them know that you gave a gift in their name that will benefit women around the world. Great idea, right?

Sharing great love, a testimony from a NOAC attendee

By Debbie Eisenbise, director of Intergenerational Ministries

"Don't look for big things; just do small things with great love." —Mother Theresa

Sometimes all it takes is a simple request. The theme of National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) last September —“Then Jesus Told Them a Story”— inspired such a request. The goal: collect enough new picture books to give one to each of the 450 students at Junaluska Elementary School. This challenge was met with great generosity! It was a blessing to see the story unfold.

Jim and Libby Kinsey of Hope Church of the Brethren in Freeport, Mich., participated in the service project, making their donation and witnessing the presentation of those 450 books to Principal Sherri Arrington. Before going home, they volunteered to deliver two additional donations to Junaluska Elementary. Libby shared that the building was beautiful and relatively new, but state budget cuts severely impacted school programming.

Thank you note from a
Junaluska Elementary student.
Photo by Debbie Eisenbise

Libby and Jim had the opportunity to meet with the Principal Arrington, who was delighted with the gift of books from NOAC. “I feel so blessed,” said Principal Arrington. “I have told the story over and over of this remarkable event that occurred in the life of my school. When things have been incredibly tough— budget cuts, a charter school opening in town, and other struggles—your group [showed up]. In my 37 years of public education, I have never experienced such generosity and kindness.”

Jim and Libby's experience, which began at NOAC, inspired them to more service. Libby shares, “Our picture book donation was priceless, but I kept thinking about how strapped their budget had become, and how classroom libraries had been hit so hard.... Since little is nearer and dearer to our hearts than boosting literacy, Jim and I discussed our commitment on our way home: to get 200 new books into each third through fifth grade classroom by NOAC 2017.”

Since her retirement from 38 years of teaching, Libby regularly volunteers at the Scholastic Books warehouse, and is “paid” with boxes of new books. These books are now sent to children at Junaluska Elementary School. To increase their donation, Libby and Jim involved family, asking for additional donations to be made in lieu of adults exchanging gifts at Christmastime.

New books and the stories they tell lift children's spirits, help them make sense of this challenging world, and encourage them to read. What began at NOAC 2015, a simple act of sharing something small, will make a positive impact on the givers and receivers for years to come. It is in this way that a small request produces a great outpouring of God's love.

National Older Adult Conference is one of several conferences hosted by Congregational Life Ministries, a Core Ministry of the Church of the Brethren. Learn more about National Older Adult Conference 2015 at www.brethren.org/noac or support it and other life-changing ministries of your church at www.brethren.org/give .



-a message from Cliff Kindy, S/C Ind. BDM representative--

There are some changes on the disaster ministries stage. The project I had announced for West Virginia has been difficult. Funding has not come through for all the work that needs done so BDM is completing by Easter the work that can be done. The bridge repair project will continue there. Heavy equipment operators are needed.

A project just starting now is in Detroit, Michigan. Severe flooding from summer of 2014 led the United Methodist Church to provide repair funding through next October. Their flow of volunteers has ended so BDM is ready to start work in April on the 80 homes that have been through case management. Most of those are basements that may need mudded out and dried before they can be dry walled, painted and finished. S/C Indiana will mostly be helping to fill out the teams of fifteen that had already been assigned to West Virginia but now switched to Detroit. Interested? Are others ready to go on short notice for other weeks into next October?

The DRSI project in South Carolina in response to flooding is still on line. A maximum of twelve volunteers is the limit for that site. Volunteers need to provide their own food and do their own cooking. There is a \$50 fee per week per person for the housing and kitchen access at the church site; BDM can assist with this cost if needed. Volunteers need to have their own transportation to the job sites but a tool trailer is on the site and construction supervisor there as well. To see if your week of choice is available, contact Lana Landis by emailing her at <SCprojectdrsi@gmail.com> or by phone at 330-701-6042. This project is a joint effort between the Church of the Brethren and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Attention! The first week of August (1-7), the New Windsor office will be accepting requests to volunteer for disaster project weeks in 2017. Yes, next year is being scheduled, even though we don't yet know where those projects will be located. Congregations should let me know their desired week and alternate choice; there is no guarantee that we will get those specific weeks because there are many other congregations asking for weeks as well. This is our opportunity to schedule disaster ministries for our congregations next year!

Nine volunteers from three churches in our district completed a week in Colorado the third week of February. It was a beautiful week weather-wise and we worked on five sites, completing three of them. Plumbing, ceiling, electrical, starting a framed roof (that got called for lack of a permit), building porches and railing, decking, siding and watching wild life such as elk, muletail deer, mountain sheep and trying to see the two mountain lions that lived across the road from one site kept us busy. The Colorado work continues through this August. If you are interested, let me know and we can perhaps help to fill out some weeks that are short of fifteen volunteers.

Volunteer Marilyn Verbeck from Northview COB wrote, "It was fulfilling to see the other retirees so dedicated to the work needed during the week. It was a great group to work with. I enjoyed talking to Doris, the 82 [year-old] mother. She was so appreciative all the time. I tried to think how I would feel in this type of crisis. It would take a deep faith and trust that my life would get back to some normalcy. I have so much to be grateful for, especially good health, that I'm able to attend a mission trip and contribute a small part or touch in service to others. Also, I really enjoyed the beauty of the snow-capped mountains. I appreciated the afternoon trip to Estes Park and the wonders and sights of the Rocky Mountain National Park.

"I'm hoping that I will be able to attend another mission trip before I turn eighty years!!"

Displaced persons and refugees from their own countries are at the highest numbers ever. If your congregation is interested in assisting please check the updated website, www.BrethrenDisasterMinistries.org, and find the link on the left side of the page. Our denominational support of EYN in Nigeria continues as families are returning home with the enormous task of rebuilding their homes and lives.

Thank you for your support of disaster ministries. Remember that even if you are unable to go in person there is a fund to assist volunteers with travel expenses and your congregation is invited to help maintain that district disaster travel fund. Just send contributions to the district office designated for the disaster travel fund.

Thank you very much for your interest and support of this key Church of the Brethren ministry! Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, District Disaster Coordinator phone: 260-982-2971

Moderator's Memo

March 2016

Sisters and Brothers of the South/Central Indiana District,

In the January meeting of the District Conference Program & Arrangements Committee, we spent considerable time thinking and talking about ways that we could facilitate "Connecting" (the word adopted by the District Board to describe its motivational aspirations for the S/C Indiana District in 2016).

The P&A Committee decided that there would be value in hosting some type of event in the late-Winter/early-Spring timeframe that would bring people together from around the District to interact with each other in a fun, non-business atmosphere. That decision culminated in a live presentation of "12 Baskets and a Goat" by Ted & Company on February 26th -- and what an event it was!

The production, hosted by the Northview Congregation in Indianapolis, included a number of comedy sketches interspersed with live auctions of specially prepared baskets of bread (and related goodies) as a way of raising funds for Heifer International. Additional baskets were available for sale via silent auction in the fellowship area. Sponsorship shares for a variety of animals (ducks, goats, etc.) were also put up for auction during the show.

At least 18 of the S/C Indiana District congregations were represented among the 125 people (and one goat) in attendance, and more than \$6,000 was raised for Heifer International! There were lots of smiles, lots of laughter, lots of hugs and even a few tears in evidence. The success of the event completely surpassed my expectations, both in terms of the funds raised as well as the good connections that were made between those who came together on common ground for a common purpose.

I look forward to gathering with many of you again on September 17th for our Fall District Conference. Please note that the location of that conference has not yet been finalized.

Speaking of which...

We are about to begin preparing the ballot/slate for the 2016 conference, and we still have two open slots on the Nominating Committee (one from the North Section and one from the South Section). If you would like to participate as a member of the Nominating Committee, please let the District Office know, and we will fill those two slots from among those who express interest.

Please stay tuned for communication from the Nominating Committee (via the District Office) about which offices need to be filled for the 2016 ballot/slate. We encourage Church Boards and Congregations to submit names of qualified candidates to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

Paul Schrock

2016 District Conference Moderator