

WESTERN PLAINS DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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“Tell the People to Go Forward”

Sometimes it can be both frightening and exciting at the same time. Let me explain. You remember Moses saying to Pharaoh, *“Let my people go!”* Well, Pharaoh did, and the Israelites went. Right out into the desert. They were running away from a past that was draining them, expecting a future that had not yet appeared in any obvious way. Did they believe it yet? It was hard to say. At the first sight of the Egyptian army coming after them, they assumed the worst. Moses had all he could do to keep them on track. *“Fear not,”* Moses shouted out, *“stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today...”* (Exodus. 14:13a).

And then the Lord said to Moses, *“Tell the people to go forward.”* Now we've got to understand, “staying put” would mean facing the Egyptian army. But “forward” meant walking into the Red Sea. There wasn't any “forward” - unless they would put their faith in God's future for them. They couldn't see that future, but they had to begin to walk toward it. The people looked at the water and said, “No way!” God looked and said, “Yes, – a way. Moses, you lead them through.”

“And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left” (Exodus. 14:22).

Now here is where the “scary excitement” I mentioned comes in. Just imagine. Here you are in the middle of the sea; water walled up over your head in both directions. You can see the path, but you still don't know whether to believe it. If you balk, you're in big trouble. Hesitation means drowning. And, if you go back, you are in even bigger trouble. If, however, you keep on walking through the sea, you'll make it just fine.

Now that's why I often identify with the people of Israel - right there in the sea, between disaster and hope. And maybe those of us involved in personal and congregational transformation in Western Plains can identify, also. We hear God calling us to “move through the water.” We are hearing the Lord say, “Go forward!” Just going back may seem a little tempting, but we realize that is a more dangerous course. Yet, going forward threatens drowning. Still, when God calls us forward, we have to trust that God will open a way for us.

In short, God tells us to “go forward.” When we trust God's call, a way will open for us. *“Go forward!”*

Bob Dell



... to Russell and Edith Kiester for their many years of faithful service at Lybrook, NM, that has now ended. They came to Lybrook in November 1995 as Program Volunteers to oversee the property of Lybrook Mission and provided Christian ministry in many ways, including Sunday services at Tokahookaadí Church of the Brethren on the property.

... to George Eisele who served for six years (two terms) as the Western Plains District Standing Committee Delegate to Annual Conference. The Standing Committee has nominating, legislative, judicial, and envisioning responsibilities. Members also serve as a resource for interpreting Annual Conference concerns and actions in their districts. George has served with dedication in each of these capacities and his tenure is now ended.

... to the Garden City Congregation for serving as gracious hosts for the November 2008 District Board providing delicious meals, excellent accommodations and a delightful atmosphere for business, fellowship and worship. They also hosted the Lybrook Vision Committee in January.

... to Larry and Sandee Kitzel who served as District Disaster Coordinators since August 2006 and have resigned this position. They have done a commendable Job of recruiting volunteers for disasters both within the district and for disasters in Minnesota and Louisiana/Texas.

... to Michelle Eis who skillfully edited The Shepherd's Voice since 2002 and is now leaving this position. She also coordinated the volunteers who folded, labeled, and prepared for mailing the several hundred copies each month.

... to George Eisele who served ably as Peace Coordinator for the District for the last several years and has asked to be replaced.

... to the many others who give freely of their time and energy to serve on district committees and positions of leadership in planning and carrying out district ministries.

District Begins Search Process for New Leadership

As Ken and Elsie Holderread plan to complete their service as Co-District Executives at the end of 2009, the District's Executive Committee has named a search committee to help call new persons to District staff assignments. The plan outlined is first to search for a half-time District Executive; then to discern with the person called his/her gifts and the desired gifts, skill sets, scope and focus of the second major staff assignment; and then to search for the person to fill the second half-time staff position. The first position announcement was released on December 8 and applications are requested by February 7, 2009.

The Search Committee consists of Leon Neher, Joanna Smith, Lauren Worley, Judy Wrightsman, Cheryl Mishler, Sonja Griffith, Deb van Asselt, and chairperson Dale Minnich. The committee is assisted by Nancy Knepper, the Church of the Brethren's Coordinator of District Ministries.

The District Executive position is half-time and available January 1, 2010. The District foresees this position as being attractive to energetic, pioneering, spiritually-sensitive persons who are seeking an exciting and challenging calling.

The **FOCUS** of the position is to:

- Call forth a vision for the District and provide leadership for the transformation movement.
- Support congregational life (including a pastoral placement) through leadership of the Area Minister network.
- Give leadership to an emerging New Church Development movement.
- Assist the District search committee in calling additional staff person(s).
- Develop collegial team leadership relationships with all members of the District paid and volunteer staff.

The **QUALIFICATIONS** are the following:

- A vibrant Christian faith

- Membership and active participation in the Church of the Brethren
- Passion about the potential of the Church of the Brethren and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Positive pastoral experience in the Church of the Brethren with an M.Div. preferred
- Ability to serve as a spiritual leader of Western Plains District
- Understanding of the transformation in process in the Western Plains District and the ability and willingness to give leadership to this movement
- Understanding of and commitment to the Area Minister model of servicing congregational needs
- Commitment to a leadership style as team leader rather than a more authoritative style
- Ability to build strong bonds of shared ministry among the staff, area ministers, pastors and district leaders
- Good “big picture” management skills
- Commitment to Christian coaching and a good understanding of the principles and skill sets of coaching (or willingness to acquire these through professional growth at District expense)

To view the full position announcement and to see specifics about how to apply, go to the Western Plains Website (www.westernplainschurchofthebrethren.org) and click on District Organization and then on District Executives to find the announcement.

Please keep this important discernment process in your prayers.

Dale Minnich, Search Committee Chair

Transformed by Jesus to Make Disciples

Leadership for Transformation and the Future

This issue of “The Shepherd’s Voice” announces the opening for new district staff leadership to begin next year. Perhaps you will allow me to share some reflection about this transition from Elsie’s leadership and mine to the future.

1. There is a strong voice from the District for the transformation movement to continue into the future. This is gratifying. It affirms our leadership and is a real “buy in” to the vision of seeking God’s transformation. As do many of you, Elsie and I believe we see signs of God’s transforming work among us. We are glad this vision is alive and well. We believe in it. At the same time we believe new leadership may put a different and just as beneficial twist on it.
2. Western Plains District has made effective, creative use of retired church workers who reside here or have moved into the district in their retirement. This has been and is good for these persons. It has given opportunity for meaningful expression to their lives in ways that use their gifts, challenge them, give them affirmation, and keep them growing.

This experience has also been good for church in Western Plains. It has provided leadership from dedicated, experienced persons at a financial price the church can afford. God working through this group and other similar persons has been a positive influence to help develop a sense of renewal and transformation.

The announced job description for new leadership would lend itself to similar candidates for the future. This likely is a good way to go. It seems to be serving district needs well. There may be other creative ways to fill leadership needs.

3. Using older, retired persons does provide effective, creative, committed leadership. As one of the leaders in this category, however, I want to claim a particular set of blinders that limit me. I am rooted in my own formation that basically took place 40 years ago. That does not mean I can’t relate effectively with younger generations. However, it does mean I cannot fully enter their world or fully understand them. My leadership with them will not fully meet their needs into the future. I am not saying that older leadership is not helpful. I am saying that it must be sensitized to the fact that it, at best, can only call on younger persons to facilitate the development of vision for the future.
4. I believe the selection process (which by the way excludes me) will work. I believe the district selection committee is seeking God’s guidance and that God will provide needed guidance and new leadership.

Ken Holderread, District Co-Executive Minister

NOAC 2009

NOAC (National Older Adult Conference) will be held Sept. 7-11, 2009 in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The conference is being held this year to put it on an alternating schedule with National Youth Conference.

The theme for this year is "Legacies of Wisdom - Weaving Old and New" and will feature inspiring speakers, Bible study, music, singing, fellowship and interest groups. Look for registration materials sometime after March 2009.

Plans are to take a bus from Western Plains leaving Sept. 6 and returning Sept. 12. Information about costs will be forthcoming.

If you have interest in riding a bus to NOAC contact David Fruth, 1116 Darlow Ct., McPherson, KS 67460 phone - 620-245-0674 email - davebonnie@cox.net or Ed and June Switzer, 1115 Darlow Ct., McPherson, KS 67460 phone - 620-504-6141 email - ejswitzer@cox.net



The family of Carl Staub (St. John, KS) who died December 16. He is the father of Rita Suiter, a member of the District Board.

The family of Phil and Louie Baldwin Rieman, pastors of the Northview (Indianapolis, Ind.) congregation, were killed in a car accident December 26, 2008. They pastored previously in Northern Plains at the Ivester (Iowa) congregation and Wabash (Ind.), and were Brethren mission workers in Sudan from 1992-96.

The family Earl Traugher, who passed Sunday, December 21, 2008. Earl pastored the Fruitland (Idaho) congregation for more than thirty years, served as District Executive, served on the General Board from 1989-94, and had a passion for disaster ministry.

Foods Resource Bank

The Foods Resource Bank (FRB) was developed as a Christian response to world hunger. The organization promotes food-growing projects in the U.S. with the produce sold and uses the money to provide seed, fertilizer, tools, water and instruction in food production systems in developing countries that do not have adequate food supplies. Sixteen mainline Christian denominations in twenty U.S. states are involved in FRB programs.

The Presbyterian church of Hutchinson, and Church of the Brethren churches in Hutchinson, at Monitor and McPherson have sponsored an FRB project for the past two years. In 2007 Jay and Amy Warner along with Mary Ellen Howell near Monitor sponsored a wheat project and in 2008 Ellis and Rita Yoder of the Monitor church provided a field for a grain sorghum project. The Yoders will continue the

project in 2009 and 2010 with fields of soybeans and wheat.

In 2007 \$4,305.66 (matched by USAID for a total of \$8,611.32) was provided for programs in Guatemala and in 2008 \$9,773.59 (might be matched by USAID) was made available for use in Chota, Peru. The 2009 project will support food production systems in Malawi-Nkhoma.

The four churches involved provide financial support for local production expenses. The produce is sold and the money used in overseas programs. Grants for production expenses have been obtained over the past two years from Monsanto, Brethren Global Food Crisis program, Brethren Hunger Crisis Fund, and Stine Seed Company.

John Ward, Co-Chair of the local FRB Board.

Camp Mt. Hermon

Greetings to the churches of the Western Plains District! Last spring the trustees for Camp Mt. Hermon had their annual spring meeting, in this meeting several things were brought to our attention concerning the camp and its upkeep. We are fortunate, in our district, to have two church camps for our youth to attend, Camp Colorado and Camp Mt. Hermon.

As we are in the midst of a transformational movement in our district, let us not forget the important role these camps play in the development of our youth, in whom lies the future of our church and heritage. In the past, Camp Mt. Hermon has received funds from another church group who has rented the campground on an annual basis. This church has recently been able to build their own such campground which affects Camp Mt. Hermon through a loss in revenue. In an effort to bring in more such renters, as well as maintaining the existing buildings and grounds, the trustees have decided to set a fundraising goal of \$35,000. We know this is a lot of money

to ask for especially during the rough economic time we now find ourselves in. But if you see the kids at these camps...what they are learning about our Lord and His people, the ideas they are forming together for our denominations future, it is well worth the extra effort to continue making it possible for them to attend a Brethren summer church camp.

Over the past few years, we have all become familiar with the term "miraculous expectation," so we have set the goal and we leave the rest up to God. We are confident in expecting miracles to happen! If anyone would like to make a contribution please send it to the district office at: P.O. Box 394, McPherson, KS 67460. Please write Camp Mt. Hermon fundraiser on memo line. For more information and a full copy of this letter please go to www.campmthermon.org

Yours in Christ,
Joanna Smith
Camp Mt. Hermon Trust

Open Discussion about District Conference Location

(Continued from last summer)

Approximately 30 people from across the district participated in a come-and-go discussion about district conference location held from 12:00-2:00pm at the Siek Dining Room in the Hoffman Student Union on the Saturday of district conference last summer. The discussion was facilitated by then Moderator-elect Leslie Frye and district conference planning committee member Lisa Hazen.

They began by reviewing Article II. A. of the Western Plains District of the Church of the Brethren By-laws, which states:

District Conference is a mass meeting to which delegates and other interested persons from the member congregations gather in business sessions and for purposes of worship, education and fellowship.

Then they followed with the question:

"How can the Church of the Brethren Western Plains District choose where to *gather in business sessions and for purposes of worship, education and fellowship* that is fair, practical, convenient for planners as well as participants, encourages participation from across the district and reflects a wise use of resources?"

Participants were asked to share their thoughts and responses to a handful of questions. What they shared can be found below:

What will a good solution include (Values)?

- * Need to balance cost and convenience, keeping in mind the tangible vs. intangible.
- * Value relationships, so want our conference gatherings to be in locations that are accessible and invite participation from (among others): seniors, new Church Start People, young people w/families, people from across the district. We also want to honor connections we have with facilities such as McPherson College and the Cedars
- * Want flexibility across time, so we're not locked into a formula that may not make sense later.

What will a good process look like?

- * Assess shared and differing purposes of District Conference and the Gathering
- * Include link to decisions about where to have board meetings
- * Perhaps try to project location 5 years in advance

Who needs to be represented as we work toward a solution?

- * Different generations
- * People with various situations (single, family, retired)
- * Representatives from different geographic locations [urban, rural, Colorado, Kansas (east, central and west), Nebraska]
- * People from various ethnic groups in the district
- * People with varying mobility issues
- * Born & bred Brethren, as well as convinced Brethren

Where do we go from here?

At the 2007 District Conference, the delegate body voted to keep District Conference in McPherson in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Given that possible structural and/or by-laws changes will be coming to the 2009 District Conference, and staffing changes will be happening at the beginning of 2010, it makes sense to keep the district conference location discussion active, especially as it relates to the future of the Gathering and how the district board decides when and where to meet. Therefore, 2009 will be a time to continue the discussion and to begin to brainstorm possible solutions. To share your perspective, contact Leslie Frye (fryeL3j@earthlink.net, 620-241-1965) or Lisa Hazen (pastorlisahazen@mac.com, 316-263-0274). Look for updates in future issues of the Shepherd's Voice.

Prayers for Lybrook Community Ministries

An old question asks, "If you were going to found a mission, what one thing would be necessary to take?" The usual answers are such things as Bible, cross, candles, music, a vision, a sense of God's direction and Christ's love, dictionary of the language, a care for people, the courage of risk, and the like. One item, however, easy to carry, takes up no room, is perhaps most essential—prayer. Jesus' mission was sustained by his time alone in prayer.

The same question has come to the Lybrook Vision Committee, with slight revision. The question is as follows, "If you were going to **renew** a mission, what one thing would be necessary to take?" The answers might be that we still need the Bible, the voice of God, the presence of Christ, a compassionate attempt to understand the people and their needs, an ability to work with people, an ability to take risks, a vision,

and certainly, resources financial and spiritual. Yet, the other answer is essential for renewal—prayer!

The Lybrook Vision Committee is pleased and excited by the steps that are being taken to bring renewal to the Lybrook Mission! New hopes are being identified. All the things named above are happening and being used. So we ask for that one more vital and basic thing—your prayers during this year of 2009 (and beyond)! You will find prayer suggestions each month that the *Shepherd's Voice* is published. Please put these prayers on your list during your time of prayer each day. (And please do not neglect the other prayer needs of the district and its new church plant in Denver. its ministries and churches and camps and all its needs!) For Lybrook, however, we fervently ask you to pray as follows:

February: A prayer of thanks for the work that has been done in past years to keep the mission going and the new work that has been happening.

Sonja Griffith for the Lybrook Vision Committee

Women's Retreat in Colorado

Colorado women invite all district women and friends to attend the Women's Retreat March 27–29, 2009 in Allenspark, Colorado. The Retreat Center of the Highlands Presbyterian Camp is an awesome setting at the base of Mount Meeker. We will be meeting, sleeping, and eating in the handicapped accessible conference center. Ann Bach will lead us in the theme "Fill My Cup, O Lord." Those who wish to help with a service project will be knitting or crocheting 7" x 9" squares to be made later into blankets for a homeless women and children's shelter in Denver. The \$120 registration covers two night lodging and five meals, with linens furnished. A brochure is enclosed in this newsletter with more information. The registration is due no later than February 23, so don't delay in making your plans for this special opportunity to meditate, worship, and renew with other women of our district.

Men's Retreat in Great Bend, KS

Wichita men are hosts for the March 20-21 retreat at Heartland Center in Great Bend, KS. This is a handicapped accessible facility that is a warm and peaceful place to meet and fellowship, worship and sing together. Brother Stanley J. "Stan" Noffsinger will be sharing with us "The Journey of Life." Jim Neher will be directing the music. Look forward to singing in 4 part harmonies and even some bluegrass gospel--so bring those instruments along and your beautiful voices. Chris Stover-Brown, Wichita's student minister, will lead a session called Electronics in Worship. Barney Stephens will lead us in a project to help our camps. So we will be using our hands in helpful ways. The other men of Wichita First Church of the Brethren will be helping with all the above plus worship, fellowship, camaraderie and preparing treats to share with us all. The \$55 registration fee covers lodging, three meals, and a donation to Disaster Relief in lieu of speaker fees. Each church has a brochure and one is attached.

Young Adult Conference

May 23-25, 2009 (Memorial Day weekend) all young adults in the Church of the Brethren are invited to gather at Camp Swatara (north of Harrisburg, PA) for "The Journey of Discipleship." Leadership will include Greg Laszakovits, Dana Cassell, and Katie O'Donnell. The cost is \$90 prior to April 15. The Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office will send a letter to the home church of young adults who wish to request scholarship help from their church family.

Not only did Jesus call the Twelve to become His disciples, but He still calls us today. What is this journey of discipleship? What does it mean in today's culture to be a disciple of Jesus? What does that mean in terms of our daily decisions and lifestyle? Through worship, workshops, recreation, and relationships, we'll explore together what this journey of discipleship is about. Come and join in the search!

Christian Citizenship Invitation

"Are there slaves in our modern, technologically advanced world?" That's the question the McPherson Church youth group has been talking about all Fall, in response to the resolution passed at the 2008 Annual Conference. Later in the Fall, the Church of the Brethren

Youth/Young Adult Office announced the theme for the 2009 Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS): Modern-Day Slavery. Our youth were excited, and we have a good size group registered to attend. We'd like to invite other youth groups or youth to travel with us to CCS if they are attending.

CCS will be held April 25 to 30 in New York and Washington, D.C. Registration is \$350 through www.brethren.org (click on the word *Grow at the top*). We estimate travel/expenses to be at least \$300. In the past we've traveled out of Kansas City but this year flights out of Wichita appear to be competitive.

We'd love to travel with you to CCS! If you're interested, register for CCS right away, and let me know by February 1 so that we can work out travel arrangements. Thanks!

Blessings, Shawn Flory Replogle, McPherson.

2009 Annual Conference on the West Coast!

Plan now to attend the 223rd Recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren which will be held in San Diego, California, June 26-30, 2009.

Moderator David Shumate recently announced the conference theme statement: Corinthians 5:16-21.



THE OLD HAS GONE!
THE NEW HAS COME!
ALL IS FROM GOD!

II Corinthians 5:16-21

The Annual Conference Office has negotiated a special parking rate for attendees of Annual Conference in 2009 at the Town and Country Resort. The parking rate will be \$5 per day rather than the previously announced \$12 per day.

Housing and registration opens February 21. For more information go to www.brethren.org and click on "Annual Conference" at the bottom of the page.

BVS Updates

Ine Zuurmond of Bolsward, Holland, has recently undertaken a Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) assignment with Bridgeway in Lakewood, CO. Ine became connected with BVS through an agency called EIRENE, an international, ecumenical organization founded in 1957 by the Historic Peace Churches (which includes the Church of the Brethren), the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and European Christians who advocate non-violence.

Bridgeway Home for Pregnant Teens was started in 1986 to provide a loving home for pregnant teenagers. Bridgeway helps young mothers reach full and productive lives by providing them with the skills they need to survive in today's society. Included are programs addressing issues such as self-esteem, nutrition, child care, parenting, adoption options, prenatal care, resume writing, job skills, and drug abuse prevention.

Jillian Hutton of Hazleton, PA, has recently undertaken a BVS assignment with Trees for Life in Wichita, KS. Jillian is a 2008 graduate of Elizabethtown College with a B.A. in Religion and minors in Psychology and Peace Studies. She spent a semester abroad studying at Magee College in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Begun in India in 1983 and operating now in Guatemala as well, Trees for Life fights hunger by helping people in developing countries plant and care for food-bearing and fuel trees. Through funding, management, and know-how, the nonprofit organization emphasizes self-sufficiency. In India, for example, Trees for Life is fighting Vitamin A deficiency by promoting the Drumstick Tree, which has leaves rich in Vitamin A. In the US, an educational program known as the Trees for Life Adventure provides hands-on learning.

- a simple feast -

a musical drama about the Brethren by steve engle & frank ramirez

When a musical play rehearsal is interrupted by a church board meeting that falls apart in anger, one of the teen actors questions whether the Brethren really have anything to offer her. Can their production of "A Simple Feast" bring the participants back together to demonstrate that Brethren are still committed to live the love of Jesus no matter what the cost?

Commissioned and produced by the Church of the Brethren Southern PA District for the Tercentennial, this entertaining, educational, thought-provoking and timeless intergenerational musical is **intended for local church use** whether as live performance or DVD viewing. A Study Guide by Frank Ramirez is included. Sheet music and CD accompaniment will soon be available, as well as video clips on YouTube! We believe this is the first full-length "Brethren" creation in a "Broadway musical" genre.

The musical was premiered live on-stage at the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren in May 2008. Professionally videotaped with three cameras and edited by Steve Engle, a 35-minute DVD excerpt was presented twice at the Brethren Tercentennial Annual Conference, Richmond, VA July 2008. Over 1500 attended the two Sunday afternoon showings. Brethren Press sold out their initial supply of DVDs during the Conference.

The DVD menu is divided into chapter scenes as well as acts, making it flexible for Sunday School and Study Group use (a few scenes or one act at a time) as well as viewing the complete production which runs 1 hour 48 minutes. (Perhaps a "Meal and Matinee" after Sunday worship or a "Pizza" or "Popcorn and Movie Night." Also ideal for CBYF.)

Order from: www.brethrenpress.com 1-800-441-3712 \$15.00 plus shipping

For more information: Steve Engle 814-669-9012

email: englemedia@juno.com

web: www.dunkertownworkshop.com

Frank Ramirez 814-652-2634

email: frankramirez@embarqmail.com

District Calendar

2009

Jan. 24-28	Council of District Executives Winter Event Office closed
Feb. 9-11	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend Office closed
Feb. 27-28	Executive Committee (27) & District Board (28), Osage Church of the Brethren
March 20-21	Men's Retreat, Heartland Center, Great Bend
March 26-29	TRIM & EFSM orientation, Richmond, Ind.
March 27-29	Women's Retreat, Highlands Presbyterian Camp, Allenspark, Colo.
April 12	Easter
April 17-19	Regional Youth Conference, McPherson College
April 23-26	Cross Cultural Consultation & Celebration
April 25-30	Christian Citizenship Seminar
April 26-29	District Executive Professional Growth Office closed
May 3	National Youth Sunday
May 5	Ethics Training for pastors, location TBA
May 9	Executive Committee Conference Call
May 23-25	Young Adult Conference, Camp Swatara (Penn.)
May 31-June 6	Senior High Camp (CC) Junior High Camp (MH)
June 7-13	Junior Camp (CC) Senior High Camp (MH)
June 11-14	Brethren Academy course "Distinctive Marks of the Brethren," McPherson, KS
June 14-20	Junior High Camp (CC) Junior Camp (MH)
June 17	Ethics Training for Pastors, location to be announced
June 19-21	National Junior High Conference, Harrisonburg, Va.
June 21-25	Pre-Junior Camp (MH & CC)
June 26-28	Come Along with Me Camp (MH)
June 26-30	Annual Conference, San Diego, Calif.
July 13-16	TRIM & EFSM Orientation, Richmond, Ind.
July 30-31	Executive Committee (30) & District Board (31), McPherson, Kan.
July 31-Aug. 2	District Conference, McPherson, Kan.
Aug. 7-9	Senior High Weekend (MH)
Sept. 7-11	National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
Sept. 18-19	District Board Retreat
Oct. 12-14	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend (tentative)
Oct. 23-25	Gathering V, Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kan.
November 1	National Junior High Sunday
Nov. 6-7	Executive Committee (6) & District Board (7)

Future Dates

Oct. 22-24, 2010	Gathering VI
Oct. 21-23, 2011	Gathering VII (tentative date)

The Shepherd's Voice is published for church leaders, ministers, church board chairs, Christian Education directors, Youth Leaders, church commission chairs, and many others. We encourage your contributions. Deadlines are noted below. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint articles for congregational newsletters and bulletins. If you know someone in the above categories who is not receiving the newsletter, let us know.

Church of the Brethren Western Plains

District Office
P.O. Box 394
McPherson, KS 67460

Located in Beegly Hall
McPherson College campus
1600 E. Euclid

Mon 8:30am-3:30pm (Closed 12-1)
Tues 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wed Closed
Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Fri 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The answering machine will be on during hours when the office is closed.

Phone: (620) 241-4240
Email: wpcdb@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.westernplainschurchofthebrethren.org

District Executive Ministers
Ken & Elsie Holderread
Home: (620) 241-6930
Home: elsieken@sbcglobal.net

Please send all articles and address changes to the District Office.

If you wish to submit articles to the Shepherd's Voice, please read the following:

Next newsletter deadline: On or before Feb. 15th

- Articles should be sent to the district office: wpcdb@sbcglobal.net
- Articles should be no longer than 400 words. Please allow space for any submitted pictures. Note: Pictures will not be returned so make sure to send copies only.
- Information received after the 15th will be included in the next newsletter.
- If multiple copies of the same article are submitted, the last copy will be used and the others discarded.
- Outdated information will be discarded.

Space is limited so some articles may not be published.

The newsletter will be published the following months with combined months noted: Feb, March, April, May, June/July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec/Jan.

Current Distribution: 404
Plus 139 via email