



Church of the Brethren  
Western Plains District Office  
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# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6, AUGUST 2009

## TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

*Five Months Left*

There are five months remaining until our seven-year tenure as Western Plains District Co-Executive Ministers is over. During this time there seems to be considerable work to do to have the work where we hope it to be when we finish December 31.

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During these last few months of service as Elsie and I close out our ministry there are several things we hope to accomplish. Perhaps the most important is just that – close out our ministry as we turn it over to the new District Executive Minister, Sonja Griffith. We believe Sonja’s experience, training, and full participation in the District’s transformation movement are excellent qualifications for leading Western Plains District into the future.

The task for Elsie and me is to continue facilitating current district responsibilities in a way that effectively enables Sonja to pick them up as we finish. We will then want to get out of the way so that the District can flourish with her leadership.

This does not mean that we stop providing leadership now. It only means that the focus of our leadership changes a bit. We are so grateful that a new District Executive Minister has been named. This can facilitate a much smoother transition.

Our job includes facilitating decisions that will be made at District Conference concerning district structure reorganization and district leadership changes. There are issues with several congregations that need resolution before we leave office. Presently there are 12 scheduled district committee meetings and conferences within the district which require our presence and leadership. These all occur by November 17. Several more will be added. These include operational meetings, orientation and training and planning for the future.

# WPD WORKCAMP PARTICIPANTS

Western Plains youth, junior highs, and young adults participated in denominational workcamps this summer.

**Chicago:** partnering with York Center Church of the Brethren to help with the summer youth program and work with elderly and homeless in the community were McPherson youth: *Paul Masterson, Kristen Hoffman, Kameron Curry, Kaley Kinnamon*, and advisor *Jan Hurst*.

**Elgin:** volunteering at the denominational headquarters, working with local parks, homeless shelters, and food pantries were McPherson junior highs *Rebecca Ullom-Minnich, Sarah Ullom-Minnich, Devin Clark, Avery Goering, Kerrick van Asselt, Kyler Kinnamon, DeShawn Pfeiff*, and advisors *Rebecca Clark and Lisa Goering*.

**Kyle, S.Dakota:** serving as an advisor for the workshop at the Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation was *Derek Curry* (McPherson).

**St. Croix:** working at women’s shelters and on homes of some of the island’s economically disadvantaged were Wichita youth: *Tirza Heflin, Danielle Heflin, Colby Patton, Hannah Hotmar*, and advisors *Debra and Kirk Franklin*.

**Northern Ireland:** working with other young adults on projects for various social agencies was *Virginia Harness* of Wichita.

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## Church of the Brethren Western Plains District Office

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Mon 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (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.

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

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

Please e-mail articles and address changes to the District Office at [wpdcb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpdcb@sbcglobal.net)

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. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint articles for congregational newsletters and bulletins. If someone your know who is not receiving the newsletter, let us know. Notify the District Office if you wish to receive the newsletter via email.

# DIRECTORY CHANGES:

New email for Larry and Sandee Kitzel: slktzl65@gmail.com

p. 13 add newly created website for Community: [www.hutchcob.org](http://www.hutchcob.org)

p. 17 new address for Tók'ahookaadí: 10416 Hwy 550, HCR 17 Box 1100, Cuba, NM 87013

p. 17 add website for Salem: [www.salemcommunitychurch.net](http://www.salemcommunitychurch.net)

p.19 change address for Roger Cooper to 860 NW 30<sup>th</sup>

p. 20 change address for Wayne Crist to Gore County Medical Center, Long Term Care Facility, 520 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Quinter, KS 67752

p. 21 add Carolyn Gong, 14575 Crabapple Rd., Golden, CO 80401 phone: 303-997-8559 e-mail [carolyn\\_gong@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn_gong@yahoo.com)

p. 23 change address for Julie Liggett to 1918 Cindy Ct., Loveland CO 80537 phone: 970-669-1047

p. 23 change address for Sarah Mason to 33864 497<sup>th</sup> Street, Moulton, IA 52572-8414

p. 26 change Therrien address to 1500 W Martin, Cherryvale KS 67335

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# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in part-time team ministry? If so, consider the Hutchinson Community Church of the Brethren located in Hutchinson, Kansas. We invite you to join with us as we share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and praise and in service to others. We are seeking a bi-vocational individual to be part of our preaching team and to help guide our ministry to young adults and young families. Other areas of ministry could also be considered.

Visit our website at [www.hutchcob.org](http://www.hutchcob.org) for more information about us or contact Moderator, Ed Switzer @ 620-728-5804 or 620-504-6141.

During these next five months we will be offering leadership outside our district. Oregon-Washington District has requested us to speak at their district conference. Another denomination is inquiring about our transformation movement. I serve on two broader denominational committees that meet again before December 31.

Our desire is to complete a district procedures manual to help guide new staff. As Elsie and I make up the total staff, our leaving at the same time will be an abrupt loss of understanding of how the office and other district operations function. We want to help make a smooth transition for this end of district staff work.

Even though we will not be leaving our present home it will be important that we step aside when our tenure is over. It is necessary that you develop your relationship with Sonja and her staff that will enable the work of the district to newer and deeper levels of creativeness and faithfulness.

God bless us all and Western Plains District as we live these next five months together. Blessings.

*Ken Holderread*

*District Co-Executive/Minister*

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# PRAYERS FOR LYBROOK COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

August:

A grateful prayer that the Mission can provide water for so many who otherwise would have a hard time finding it. "Inasmuch as you have done this for my brothers and sisters, you have done it for me." May this water continue to meet the thirst of the people who come seeking it. And may those who come also find the living water of Christ to meet the thirst of their souls.

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bethany Seminary has several upcoming course offerings at Bethany for district ordination and licensing requirements, i.e. Church of the Brethren polity / practices / history classes. One is offered this fall semester (deadline is fast approaching!) and two in the spring, including a weekend intensive in Richmond, IN and a weekend intensive at the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, Elizabethtown, PA. For dates and description, see the **webpage:** <http://bethanyseminary.edu/educational-opportunities>

Remember, in order for students to attend one of these classes, they must apply as an Occasional student through *this* office (<http://bethanyseminary.edu/admissions/apply>), no later than four weeks prior to the start of the class. For members of the Church of the Brethren, 1/2 tuition is offered for any class taken at the Richmond campus (but this will be changing beginning in the 09-10 academic year!) -- this scholarship does come with volunteer hours.

**A Study of Judges** is an online course with Susan Jeffers; September 28-November 6, 2009. This is the study of the Old Testament book of Judges as if being read for the first time paying close attention to what the biblical text actually says and what it might mean. For more details: <http://www.read-thebible.org/SVMC-Judges.htm>.

# FAMILY CAMP

Greetings!! We are so excited about Family Camp this year, which is Labor Day weekend, September 4-6th. It will be taking place at the beautiful and peaceful camp grounds of Camp Mount Hermon with the theme of: "Out with the Old and In with the New!" based on the scripture from Isaiah 43:18-19A: *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* We have youth activities, crafts, breakout sessions, and of course, delicious meals made by Hazel Lauver!

To download the registration form, please go to [www.campmthermon.org](http://www.campmthermon.org).

The cost is \$15 per person per night, with a max of \$90 per family for the weekend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Joanna Smith: 785-448-4436, [cafemojo@hotmail.com](mailto:cafemojo@hotmail.com), or Lois Grummert: 785-817-7912, [sythra\\_82@hotmail.com](mailto:sythra_82@hotmail.com). Please send your registrations and fees to Lois Grummert, 3753 SE Fremont, Topeka, KS 66609.

The cut-off date for accepting registrations is August 21st. If you can not turn in your registration form in by that date, please contact Joanna or Lois! Family Camp is open to single, married, student, professor, young and old.

Remember, we are all part of God's family, so EVERYONE is welcome! Thank you and we hope to see you all at Family Camp this year!!

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# CONGRATULATIONS!



Rudy Lynn Jensen entered this world at 3:25 a.m., July 1, weighing in at 7 lbs 1 oz and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Jennifer and Justin. Keaton, Connor and Micah are awesome big brothers! Jennifer is our district youth minister.

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# WESTERN PLAINS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

While many persons from Western Plains attended Annual Conference in San Diego, an impressive list of persons was integrally involved:

- Shawn Flory Replogle (McPherson) served as moderator-elect and was consecrated as moderator at the end of the business sessions.
- Dan Masterson (McPherson) was the pianist for Annual Conference.
- Jan Hurst (McPherson) designed and created the beautiful Annual Conference banner.
- John Hoffman (Monitor) was one of the “messengers” for the conference officers to find people or deliver messages.
- Tony & Laura Snyder (Newton) were at the usher table helping recruit ushers for worship services.
- Dale Minnich (Newton) was elected chair of the denominational Mission and Ministry Board.
- Chris Whitacre (McPherson) also serves on the Mission and Ministry Board.
- Ken Frantz (Haxtun) is our Standing Committee delegate from the district and was involved in many pre-conference decisions on business items.
- Lisa Hazen (Wichita) and Connie Burkholder (Monitor) participated in a panel discussion on Sabbath rest at the Bethany Theological Seminary luncheon .
- Leslie Frye (Monitor), Coordinator of Ministry of Reconciliation, was one of the Ministry of Reconciliation observers during business sessions and was a presenter on a panel at an insight session on Jesus, the Prince of Peace, Our Nonviolent Commander-in-Chief.
- Emily Tyler (McPherson) co-directed youth and junior high activities.
- Dale and Beverly Minnich (Newton) received a “Caregivers Award” for outstanding service to others from Caring Ministries.
- Kelsi Beam (McPherson) was the top female runner in the 5K Fitness Challenge Run/Walk. Her sister, Katie, came in second and her mother, Lela, was in third place.

The McPherson College luncheon was well attended with President Michael Schneider speaking. The college also shared booth space with the other Brethren colleges.

# NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE

Youth from all over the denomination joined in a celebration of transformation at James Madison University on June 19-21. Eight hundred youth and advisors were “transformed inside out.” Ken Medema shared his musical talents during worship services and a concert on Saturday night. Youth shared stories of how God had been working in their lives and Ken would transform the story into a song.

Ted Swartz of Ted & Company entertained the conference on Friday and Saturday nights. Bible stories came to life with humor and drama.

Amy Messler, associate pastor at Waynesboro COB in Pennsylvania, shared an inspiring message on Sunday morning to bring conference to a close. Her stories included how God created each of us for a special purpose in life and how God can transform us from the inside out. From birth to adult we are transforming and growing in our faith. This transformation doesn’t happen overnight, it takes years.

Youth and advisors were encouraged to attend many workshops offered on Saturday. A reverse offering took place on Friday night. Youth were given \$10 to be given back when they left worship or they could take it home with them and do a project that would make the money multiply. These funds will be sent back to the Church of the Brethren and used for youth ministry, BVS and workcamps.

# BRETHREN WITNESS INITIATIVE 2009 LISTENING PROCESS

With the closing of the Brethren Witness/Washington Office the Global Mission Partnerships has developed a listening process. There are three ways you can have a “big voice” for peace and justice. **Electronic Survey** online at [www.brethren.org/witnesssurvey](http://www.brethren.org/witnesssurvey); **Personal Interviews** with past Annual Conference leadership, pastors and district executives; **Letters/E-mail** communications can be sent to Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Global Mission Partnerships, Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120, or by phone 800-323-8039 ext. 226 or email [jwittmeyer@brethren.org](mailto:jwittmeyer@brethren.org). Findings will be posted on Church of the Brethren website in late September.

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## FROM CONGREGATIONS

At the Newton congregation, through a spirit felt mission led by Cloyd Thomas, this is the second summer for the community garden, “Caring and Sharing,” that has doubled in size through positive interaction from neighbors and members. Last year there was over 300 pounds of fresh produce taken to the Newton Food Bank and we are all anxiously waiting to see this year’s yield. Also, in the fall they will have a final Garden Party to clean and rake out the old straw as they prepare the ground for the coming spring. And with prayers of thanksgiving they will share a banquet meal together from everyone’s favorite garden fresh dishes.

# DISTRICT OFFICE MOVES

The district office is now located in Miller Library on the McPherson College campus. We are one of the offices within the Career Services area on the main floor.

During the summer please call the district office (620-241-4240) before coming so we can meet you at the door. The library doors are locked until the new librarian arrives.

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## ONLINE BANKING & BILL PAY NOW AVAILABLE — COB CREDIT UNION

Check it out! Church of the Brethren Credit Union is excited to announce that you can now access your CoBCU accounts 24 hours a day from any Internet connection, with our new Online Banking and Bill Pay. The new online services allow Credit Union members to monitor their account balances; transfer funds among savings, checking, and Club accounts; submit Credit Union loan payments; and set up payees to handle such things as your auto insurance, cable television, and utility bills. You can even send your monthly tithe with online Bill Pay. Online Banking is available to all members of CoBCU, whether you have a savings account or both savings and checking accounts. But to use Bill Pay, you must have a checking account. If you are a Credit Union member but have not yet signed up for a checking account with debit card, all you need to do is deposit \$25 into the new account to open it. Once you have a checking account with CoBCU, you can easily sign up for online services and enroll in Bill Pay. And if you act now, you can receive a free box of checks with your new checking account. If you do not belong to the Credit Union, contact us about becoming a member. Credit Union membership is open to all members and employees of the Church of the Brethren and Church of the Brethren-affiliated institutions, agencies, and camps, as well as their immediate family members. To learn more about all the benefits available, contact CoBCU at 888-832-1383 or visit [www.cobcu.org](http://www.cobcu.org).

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## 2009

July 31-Aug. 2	District Conference, McPherson, Kan.
Aug. 7-9	Senior High Weekend (MH)
Aug. 22	Ethics Training for Pastors, Newton, Kan., 10 am-3:30 pm
Sept. 7-11	National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
Sept. 18-19	District Board Retreat, Holmesville, Neb.
Oct. 9-10	Disaster child care training, McPherson, Kan.
Oct. 12-14	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend
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), Wiley Colo.

## *Future Dates (2010)*

Feb. 8-10	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend, Kan.
March 12-13	Men's Retreat, Heartland Center, Great Bend, Kan.
March 19-20	Women's Retreat, Crosswind Conference Center, Hesston Kan
May 20-22	Church Plant Conference, Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.
July 29 – Aug. 1	District Conference, McPherson, Kan.
Sept. 27-19	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend, Kan.
Oct. 22-24	Gathering VI
Oct. 21-23, 2011	Gathering VII (tentative date)



## CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICE TRAINING IN MCPHERSON - OCT. 9-10 - SIGN UP NOW!

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) in New Windsor is sponsoring a special workshop for training child care workers to work with traumatized children on Oct. 9 and 10, Friday night through Saturday. These volunteers provide a safe environment and comforting presence for children impacted by traumatic events. Volunteers work with children whose families are jeopardized by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other types of disasters. Often, immediate concerns demand parents' attention - clean up, home repairs, filing insurance claims, sand-bagging, and so on. Parents' attention is diverted, causing children to be overlooked as all of them work through trauma. Participants in the workshop will sleep on cots and eat simple meals to simulate a disaster situation. Men, women, and youth are welcome to participate.

In 2001 and 2006, CDS volunteers worked with children at the World Trade Center in New York and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. During 9/11, the American Red Cross discovered Church of the Brethren Children's Disaster Services to be the only such service in the country. Since then, the Red Cross has collaborated in training events with Brethren. This ministry of our church is quite unique.

CDS training will take place at the McPherson First Church of the Brethren, 200 N. Carrie St. in McPherson, on Friday evening and Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Cost is \$45 per person. Call the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor as soon as possible to register for the workshop. Deadline: Sept. 24. To register or for further information, call (800) 451-4407, ext. 5.

# COACHING EXCITEMENT

*Jane Creswell to lead October training*

Spiritual and Life Coaching, when it is working well, has the capacity to invigorate both individuals and congregations. Over the last four years we have seen this in the Western Plains District as numerous pastors have learned basic coaching skills and then made themselves available as “coach” to congregational leadership throughout the district. These coaching relationships have been one of the central elements of the WPD Transformation Movement.

The power of the coaching process is in the fact that “the coach” enters the relationship not as an expert or overseer, but rather as a partner who is committed to the success of the person being coached (PBC). In the WPD Transformation Movement each congregation and pastor is seen as being the experts in their own situation. The coach, with their training in individual and group change, celebrates successes, reflects blind spots that lead to failure, help define concrete paths toward the future, and numerous other processes.

It has been my privilege to be the trainer/mentor of the WPD Coaches for the past four years and it's with a sense of excitement that I welcome **Jane Creswell** back to the front of the training room for our October training (October 12-14). Jane did the very first training with WPD coaches and her expertise and power as a coach is truly exciting!

Jane is a Master Certified Coach who worked for many years in IBM and then decided to make her services available to the church community. Jane has her own company, Internal Impact, and leads trainings across the country and world. She has also authored several books including *Christ Centered Coaching*, and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Coaching for Excellence*. (I found the “Idiot's Guide” useful in our SPE cohort's trip to India as a refresher in cross-cultural communication.) Ken Holderread will have “The Complete Idiot's Guide” available at District Conference for those who would like to do some prep work for our October meeting.

This training (October 12-14) at Great Bend will be a great opportunity to refocus and hone our coaching skills so we can each move to new levels of ef-

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fectiveness. The coaching segment of the Transformation Movement has enabled congregations across the District to experience new levels of growth and aliveness and, as with any skill, it's important to periodically get fresh perspectives and energy. This is something Jane will be able to give us!

I look forward to meeting and working with Jane as she brings a level of expertise that I'm sure will be stimulating and inspiring to us all! Put this date on your calendar now and make your plans to attend!

*Mike Burr*

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# CAMP COLORADO PROJECT

Attention all parents, friends, relatives of Junior Campers (just completed 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade) from Camp Colorado 2009. The Projects Unlimited auction will include a quilt made by Junior Camp participants. Each camper was asked to make a square that represents what camp means to them, or what they think of when they think of camp. It was then stitched together and made into a tie quilt. So come ready to bid big for a piece of Camp Colorado. Funds raised from this quilt will be donated to Camp Colorado.

Here's a sneak peek at the unfinished project.

