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# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 8, OCTOBER 2009

## MANAGERS OF GRACE

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*  
1 Corinthians 12:7 (NRSVA)

The Apostle Paul thinks of the Church as the body of Christ. That body is created, not by our decision to band together and form a larger body, but by the action of God through Christ in breathing the Spirit of Christ into the Church. Think Pentecost.

This means that we do not have to *make* ways for people called by Christ to belong to the body. God has done that. We call it the grace of God. God has graciously allowed us all to “drink of one spirit,” as Paul puts it (12:13). That graciously given Spirit shows up in an infinite variety of ways, however. So we are one in the Spirit but in a delightful variety of ways.

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What we see as differences of abilities are really the way that the grace of God expresses itself in the new community, the new body. Differences, uniqueness, abilities, are not individual possessions which allow individuals to excel over others, but are gifts given by God to enhance the working of the body of Christ.

This is important for us in two ways. As individual members of the body of Christ, we need always to be looking for ways in which the new Spirit of Jesus Christ and the grace of God can manifest itself in our actions. A personal commitment to discover and use our gifts for the glory of God and our neighbor's good is implied, also. Individually, we are "managers" or stewards of Grace.

A primary role of church "organization" is also to manage the grace given to us. God expects the church as the body of Christ to be doing the work of Jesus Christ (John 20:21). To accomplish that, we actively encourage the development and use of gifts ("manifestations of Grace"). But we also need to be alert to the possibility that God has gifted the congregation in ways that are not currently being used. When that happens, the ability of the body to do the work of Christ is weakened.

Both as individuals and together as the body of Christ, we are stewards of the great variety of ways that grace is given to us.

- *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSVA)

Robert Dell

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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 [wpcdb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpcdb@sbcglobal.net)

The Shepherd's Voice is published monthly with the exception of June/July and December/January combined issues. Deadline for material is the 15th of the previous month. It 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 you know who is not receiving the newsletter, let us know. **Notify the District Office if you wish to receive the newsletter via email.**



... to McPherson College and the McPherson Church of the Brethren for being wonderful hosts to our 2009 District Conference.

... to The Cedars for hosting and providing ice cream for our Friday evening social time. Your generosity is much appreciated. To Guitars, etc. from Monitor, the Funk sisters from Quinter, Roger Cooper and Tom Harrison from Eden Valley for the wonderful music program during that time.

... to Ed Switzer and Art Hoch who were our onsite coordinators and looked after our needs before, during, and after District Conference

... to Nancy Minns, who is registrar and greeter extraordinaire, for the monumental task she does so ably and cheerfully.

... to the many other volunteers who pitched in and helped things run so smoothly during our conference.

... to Jonathan Frye, Harold Groth, John Hoffman, Sarah Mason, Leon Neher, Bev Yoder, Sandi Sanborn, and our youth Nathan Frantz, Jamie Frye, and Eric Goering whose terms on the District Board have ended. Your dedication and service to the district are greatly appreciated. Thanks for sharing your time and gifts.

... to the many directors, nurses, and leaders who prayerfully and ably worked to make the 2009 camping season meaningful and fun for our children and youth.

# LISA'S LINES: BODYBUILDING

You are Christ's body—that's who you are!  
You must never forget this.

I Corinthians 12: 12-13, 27 The Message

Last spring, I started weight and strength training walking or biking a few days each week, and including a few wind sprints to be ready to play on the church softball team from May-July. I hit well for most of the season, and did fairly well on base-running.

But in the waning weeks of the season, I wasn't doing as much vigorous activity outside of softball. So muscle reverted to flab. High physical energy became moderate energy.

So this week, it's been back to the basic disciplines. Intentionally choose healthy foods. Drink lots water. Engage weight and strength training and brisk walking or biking 3 times per week. All these actions and exercises to build strength, extend endurance, increase flexibility, expand energy, and pursue health. After a few days of reclaiming these disciplines I find more strength, endurance, flexibility, and energy not only for my physical body, and accompanying emotional and spiritual health.

We, as Western Plains District, are a spiritual body, the body of Christ. Our call as a body is develop spiritual disciplines to build strength, extend endurance, increase flexibility, expand energy, and pursue the health of the body of Christ.

A season of transition lies ahead of us in the next six months. On Saturday evening, October 24, of The Gathering V, we will celebrate the faithful ministry of Ken and Elsie Holderread, as our District Executives since 2003. And on January 1, 2009 we will welcome Sonja Griffith as our new District Executive.

As we prepare the Body of Christ known as Western Plains District for "... such a time

as this," may we grow in strength by sharing each other's burdens; build endurance by listening to others more than we talk; increase flexibility by incorporating new visions beside old traditions; release our energy by reaching and stretching our common ministry into the neighborhoods of our church building and share the joy of Christ with the world.

Devoted to daily discipline of prayer and ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

Lisa

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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



## NYC REGISTRATION

Registration will begin on January 5, 2010 at 8 p.m. central time. The cost of early registration is \$425 and increases to \$450 after February 15. Registration will close on April 5. A deposit of \$200 is due at time of registration and balance due by April 5. Money is nonrefundable.

NYC t-shirts will be \$15 and can be ordered at the time of registration. NYC website is [www.2010nyc.org](http://www.2010nyc.org). Please inform your youth groups and start raising money now!! Stay tuned for information this fall on a district bus and district t-shirts! If you have any questions, please contact our District Minister of Youth, Jen Jensen, via email at [jenniferkay14@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferkay14@yahoo.com)!

## PRAYERS FOR LYBROOK COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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:

October: For the Lybrook Vision Committee, that it may continue to have a vision, inspired by God and led by the love of Christ, for this place in which hope can replace despair and faith can overcome doubt and joy can break out in the midst of sadness!

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# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Olathe Church of the Brethren is having their 2009 Chili Cook Off & Dinner on Saturday, October 24. Doors open at 5 p.m. with entries due at 5:30. Judging begins at 5:45 and the Big Chili Dinner begins following that.

Trinity, Sabetha: Labor Day weekend marked the 49th Annual Labor Day Coffee held at the Junction of Hwy 36 and 75, South of Sabetha. This ran 24 hours a day beginning Friday afternoon through Monday evening and was started by Rev. Russell Kiester, who was pastor at the Sabetha Church of the Brethren, as a way of providing an opportunity for rest and refreshment for the many people traveling over Labor Day, in a time when there were not restaurants or convenience stores. A special 50th celebration of this event is being planned for next year.

An Eternal Investment: Thelma Funderburg, a long-time member of Trinity Church of the Brethren and who loved children and taught Sunday school for over 75 years, left a monetary gift to the congregation upon her death. The congregation decided to use this as a ministry to children in her honor and memory and have created a "Community Awana" program. Leadership for this program involves people from the Sabetha, Morrill, and Fairview areas and members of the Church of the Brethren, Morrill Baptist, Big Lake, (Mo.) Baptist, Lutheran, Northridge, and Twin Oaks Free Evangelical Churches. The owner of the Sabetha American Legion Baseball 25-passenger bus has donated use of the bus as well as fuel. Twin Oaks has donated the use of their building. Children involved are from Sabetha, Bern, Oneida, Morrill, Fairview and Hamlin communities. The first night there were 80 participants.

Garden City Church of the Brethren through the Witness Commission donated 55 backpacks of school supplies to the Family Crisis Center in Garden City, Kan., for students. A large amount of supplies left over from filling backpacks was given to the Salvation Army. The school supplies were gathered at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday morning and prayers were offered for the children receiving these gifts before they were delivered.

Prairie View (Friend, Kan.) has plans for building a fellowship hall. The next steps will be to finalize the design and raise adequate funds.



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# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Caring for our children is a sacred trust. We cannot assume that because we are a church nothing can happen within our walls or at our activities. Caring Ministries, a part of the Mission and Ministry Board has three recommendations:

1. Every Church of the Brethren congregation, district, agency, ministry area, program and camp adopt and implement a child protection/child abuse prevention policy appropriate for its ministry setting
2. Church of the Brethren maintain resources to assist congregations, districts, agencies, ministry areas, programs and camps in developing child protection/child abuse prevention policies
3. The church continue to help strengthen families and ensure that parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skill, support, and resources to care for their children

Several years ago the District developed a set of policies for governing its work and each of our camps has child protection/child abuse prevention policies. We encourage each of you to develop policies and make sure anyone working within your ministries is aware of them and signs the appropriate forms.

If you need help developing a prevention policy the following website contains links to resources: [http://www.brethren.org/grow\\_family\\_ministries\\_child\\_protection\\_resources](http://www.brethren.org/grow_family_ministries_child_protection_resources)

# GATHERING SESSIONS TO BE WEBCAST

Through the initiative of denominational leaders Stan Dueck (Mission and Ministry Board) and Enten Eller (Bethany Theological Seminary) a number of the central events at the Gathering will be webcast this year.

This means that persons can participate in the events live on-line and that the segments will be recorded and available for on-line playback (for example in local congregations) at a future date. At this writing it appears that at least nine and perhaps as many as fifteen of the sessions will be webcast. As the Gathering date approaches (October 23-25) persons can check out webcast session availability by going to [www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/WPGathering2009](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/WPGathering2009).

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# CHURCH IN THE NEW JERSEY WAY!

In a recent conversation with our brother and sister, Steve and JoAnne Tuttle, they shared of an exciting venture. As many of you know, Steve and Jo are now living on the Atlantic seaboard on Brigantine Island, New Jersey. Recently they started a Bible Study on the seashore under Steve's leadership. This is now expanding to Sunday worship on the sea shore. Perhaps it's my imagination but could it be Steve and Jo are working with some kind of New Testament Gospel precedent here? Let us celebrate and pray for Steve and Jo in this exciting venture.

*Excerpted from The Quinter Quester*

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# NIGERIA MINISTRY UPDATE

Nathan and Jennifer Hosler of Elizabethtown, Pa., will begin serving in two new peace and reconciliation positions with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN-the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), working through the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships. The Hoslers are members of Chiques Church of the Brethren in Manheim, Pa. The Hoslers will fill joint positions as teacher of peace and reconciliation at Kulp Bible College and peace and reconciliation worker with EYN. Start date for their work was Aug. 16, with plans to travel to Nigeria in September.

# CAMPING UPDATES

## *Senior High Weekend*

For the 11<sup>th</sup> year Sonja Griffith led the young people of Western Plains District in a Senior High weekend camp at Mt. Hermon on August 7-9. The theme was "Prisons of the Body, Mind, and Spirit." The 17 young people who attended gave great thought to the whole idea of prison, taking the words of Jesus that he was appointed to free the oppressed and those in captivity. The weekend included a tour of the Wyandotte County Detention Center. Attendees realized that prisons can also be of our own making through our attitudes and decisions.

## *Family Camp*

"Out with the Old...In with the New"

Family camp was held at the beautiful campgrounds of Camp Mt. Hermon over Labor Day weekend. There were 77 campers in attendance from all over the district. Nancy Croucher from the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren led us all in crafts and did a beautiful job. We had excellent meals provided by our cooks, Hazel Lauver, Marj Burkholder and Dorothy Davidson. (Mike Patrick also turned out to be a great asset in the kitchen!) The youth workshops were led by Jen Jensen and Gloria Price, who always contribute so much to our campers! During the youth workshops, the Sr. High youth and adults got together for a much needed and open discussion on the Church. This was an enlightening time of discernment for all who participated. Saturday evening we all enjoyed a time of fun and nostalgia as we were led in camp songs by Annette and Silas Dell. Our campfire times were led by Ken Davidson and Jim Therrien and were very inspirational, as were our morning devotion times, led by Lois Grummert and Cathy Price. Phil Adams, of Independence, was our worship leader on Sunday morning and led us in a beautiful service on church growth and transformation. Kim Therrien opened up the morning service with songs and Gloria Price topped it all off with a fun filled children's story. It was a beautiful weekend with perfect weather, great fellowship and relaxing fun with our extended family in Christ. A big Thank-You to all who helped to make it a perfect retreat! We invite all of you to join us next year for another fun & intimate time with family and friends.

# TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

*Behold a New Thing – Do you Perceive it?*

With this as our theme for Gathering V October 23-25 we are getting a boat-load of emphasis on “new life” in Christ. What a fascinating focus for us!

The Annual Conference theme was “The Old is Gone, the New Has Come – All this is From God” from II Cor. 5:16-21, which emphasizes that if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation. We are being reconciled to Christ and are given the ministry of reconciliation.

Our District Conference theme was “Behold, I Make all Things New!” from Rev. 21:5. In her moderator’s address Leslie Frye emphasized the element of surprise in the newness of Christ’s presence by repeating several times, “Wow! I never saw that coming!”

Our theme for Gathering V is “Behold a New Thing – Do you Perceive it?” This comes from Isaiah 43:19, which emphasizes the newness we experience in Christ. It raises the question about our awareness of what is happening to us as it happens.

I encourage you before Gathering V to look up the texts for these three themes about being given new life in Christ. How are they alike? What differences do they offer? What inspiration is given to you as you open yourself to new life?

In Western Plains District over the past several years there have been experiences of “New Life.” In almost all of these they came as a surprise. I’m with Leslie, I did not see them coming. They weren’t expected, yet they were welcomed. They have come to the District as a whole – to congregations and to individuals.

What about the question, Do you perceive it? Does new life come if we do not perceive it? I’m inclined to believe not. An important value of Christian community is to point out “new life” to one another so it can be received, enjoyed, and called into more dynamic service.

The question, Do you perceive it? seems important. It causes us to open ourselves to look for newness in our experiences. It gives us a sparkle, vitality for the journey of life and mission.

Another question comes to mind, Can new life lose its newness? By the time we perceive its newness, is that when it starts to get stale?

Come to Gathering V in your quest to perceive “new life.” Together I believe we will see and experience signs of it.

*Ken Holderread*

*District Co-Executive/Minister*

# NEW WEBSITE FOR LYBOOK UNVEILED

A new website for Lybrook Community Ministries was unveiled this week in conjunction with a presentation on Lybrook at the National Older Adult Conference (NOAC). Response to the site, which will be updated frequently, has been gratifying. Enten Eller, Bethany Seminary, included the following in a communication to students and staff at both Bethany and Earlham School of Religion:

Many folks in the Church of the Brethren, especially churches in the western plains, have supported the Lybrook Navajo Mission in New Mexico in various ways over the past 55 years, and the Tokahookaadi Church of the Brethren that was formed there. I am pleased to share with you their website, which [recently] became active: [www.lybrookmission.org](http://www.lybrookmission.org) (this website--done by others--is worth the look, if only for the gorgeous photos!). Ken Frantz, a Bethany MDiv student, is currently a Lybrook board member, and shared this information with me. He notes that Lybrook, with its 50-acre campus, represents opportunities for individual or group spiritual retreat as well as a wide range of volunteer possibilities. It also raises the possibility of rich cross-cultural experiences within the Navajo culture. For more information, feel free to contact Ken at [frantke@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:frantke@bethanyseminary.edu) or his regular email, [frantz@dishmail.net](mailto:frantz@dishmail.net).

Other feedback includes:

“This site is great. I book marked it. I really want to visit now.”

“What a great website!”

“The site looks terrific!”

“Wow, great work!”

Please visit and let us know what you think, and please note the volunteer and other Lybrook opportunities that are currently available.

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## 2009

Oct. 9-10	Disaster child care training, McPherson, Kan.
Oct. 10	Camp Mount Hermon meeting for trustees and interested persons
Oct. 12-14	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend
Oct. 23	Final Ethics Training, Salina, Kan.
Oct. 23-25	Gathering V, Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kan.
November 1	National Junior High Sunday
Nov. 13-14	Executive Committee (13) & District Board (14), Wiley, Colo.

## Future Dates

Feb. 8-10, 2010	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend, Kan.
March 12-13, 2010	Men's Retreat, Heartland Center, Great Bend, Kan.
March 19-20, 2010	Women's Retreat, Crosswind Conference Center, Hesston Kan.
April 9-11, 2010	Regional Youth Conference, McPherson
May 20-22, 2010	Church Plant Conference, Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.
May 30-June 5, 2010	Sr. High Camp (CC)
June 3-7, 2010	Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Penn.
June 4-6, 2010	Come Along with Me Camp (MH)
June 6-12, 2010	Junior Camp (CC) Jr. High Camp (MH)
June 13-19, 2010	Jr. High Camp (CC) Sr. High Camp (MH)
June 20-26, 2010	Pre-Junior Camp (CC) Junior Camp (MH)
June 27-July 1, 2010	Pre-Junior (MH)
July 30 -Aug. 1, 2010	District Conference, McPherson, Kan.
Sept. 27-29, 2010	Pastor/Leader Training, Great Bend, Kan.
Oct. 22-24, 2010	Gathering VI
Oct. 21-23, 2011	Gathering VII (tentative date)

# DIRECTORY CHANGES

p. i & p. 21 new email for Sonja Griffith: [pastorsg@att.net](mailto:pastorsg@att.net)  
If there is mail to go specifically to the church, the new address there is [fc-cob@att.net](mailto:fc-cob@att.net).

p. 13 Remove Roger Cooper as Interim Ministry of Eden Valley.  
Add Tom Harrison as Interim Ministry of Eden Valley

p. 14 New email for First Central is [fccob@att.net](mailto:fccob@att.net)

p. 22 Add Tom Harrison, phone: 620-388-2923, email: [tomalannaharrison@gmail.com](mailto:tomalannaharrison@gmail.com)

p. 22 New address for John Hulce II: 835 N 400 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

p. 26 New address for Tracy Stoddart: 5136 Gander Road W, Dayton, OH 45424; phone is 937-789-8919

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# PASTORAL UPDATES

Tom Harrison has been hired to do interim ministry at Eden Valley Church of the Brethren in St. John, Kansas. If you were at District Conference you will remember Tom playing the piano to accompany Roger Cooper during the entertainment at the ice cream social.

Joyce Petry (Antelope Park pastor) will be on Sabbath Rest from September 21 – October 11. This is a time to relax mind, body, and soul in order to be filled, nourished, and freed from worry to be able to return to work with a renewed sense of joy.

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# WORLD MISSION OFFERING

The suggested date for the World mission offering is October 11. Many resources and worship items are available online at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

*Jesus rose from the table, wrapped a towel around himself,  
and began to wash his disciples' feet, setting an example for all to follow.  
Based on John 13*

# YOUTH RETREAT AT THE GATHERING V

## *What is the Gathering??*

A yearly retreat for people of all ages. The best part?? Youth have a rally during the retreat, doing their own thing and joining the Gathering for main sessions!

## *Who can come??*

Youth in grades 6-12

## *When & where???*

October 23 – 25 in Salina, Kansas at Webster Conference Center

## *How Much???*

\$60 before October 1 and \$75 after October 1

## *What will I do there??*

Hang with your friends, meet new people, try out a Ropes Course, do workshops with other youth lead by On Earth Peace, go to a concert by Seth Hendricks and his band, stay up late, have a late night pizza party... and much, much more!!

## *Behold what??*

“Behold...a new thing” is the theme of the weekend taken from Isaiah 43:18-21. We’ll find out throughout the weekend how *you* perceive a new thing!

## *Where do I sign up??*

Talk to your youth pastor or email Nancy Minns at [nancy\\_minns@hotmail.com](mailto:nancy_minns@hotmail.com) to register! Or email Jen Jensen at [jenniferkay14@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferkay14@yahoo.com) for more information!

How do you perceive it? **“Behold...a new thing!”**



# NYC YOUTHWORKERS NEEDED

The National Youth Conference Office is currently searching for youthworkers to help staff carry out the program and help with the details of the conference. It is not a job for those who want to “experience” NYC as you will often miss sessions, meals, or sleep. The district office has an informational letter and application form or contact Emily LaPrade, 847-742-5100 x283 or [elaprade@brethren.org](mailto:elaprade@brethren.org)

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HOLDERREADS PLANNED AT GATHERING

The District’s fifth Gathering conference on October 23-25 promises to be the best ever. On Saturday evening, several events are planned in recognition of Ken and Elsie, our District Executives, as they prepare to complete their service to Western Plains at the end of the year.

At 8:30 a Service of Celebration will be held with narrators and visual recalling God’s hand in creating a transformation movement in our District and especially celebrating Ken and Elsie’s ministry that has been so central to it. At 9:30 a reception in their honor will be held in the Coffeehouse area of the new multi-purpose building. All of this is at the Webster Conference Center, just north of I-70’s exit 253. Ken and Elsie will bring the message in worship Sunday morning.

If persons are coming in just for the evening festivities, please let Nancy Minns know (316-744-1939.) Nancy can help you make any necessary arrangements.

Other preachers and general session leaders for Gathering V include Jonathan Shively, Carol Mason, and Shawn Flory Replogle. Eleven workshops will be offered at the event as well as a youth retreat and children’s activities. Come and join us.