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Boulevard News

February 2011
Kreston Lipscomb, Pastor

First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Blvd. Springfield, IL 62703
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Witnessing Through the Media

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Our local church Witness Commission has made arrangements with WUIS Radio to begin sponsorship and announcements on February 27. The announcements will occur during the show "Being", public radio's conversation about religion, meaning, ethics and ideas. Sponsorship announcements will also be interspersed throughout the broadcast week. Stay tuned!

In addition to radio sponsorship, advertising space within the Springfield weekly *Illinois Times* is also being developed. This medium was used regularly about two decades ago.

What messages about faith, church life, Brethren witness & outreach do we wish to share? Witness Commission members, Rebecca Lipscomb, Shirley Anderson, and Allen Krall, are interested in knowing who might like to help with developing some of our messages for local media.

"If the Church Were Christian"

If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus is the most recent book by Quaker minister, Philip Gulley. In the book, the author explores the ways that the Christian church has lost its way. "If the church were Christian," Gulley argues, "affirming our potential would be more important than condemning our brokenness. If the church were Christian, inviting questions would be valued more than supplying answers."

A book discussion of this work will be offered starting in early March. Please indicate your interest in the discussion by contacting Pastor Kres or signing up at the church.

Philip Gulley will be speaking at a pre-Annual Conference dinner this summer and at the National Older Adult Conference in September.

You can learn more about
Philip Gulley by visiting
his website:
philipgulley.org.

Other Activities, Events & News to Note!

Congratulations! Congratulations and blessings to Terry Link. Terry was called, in December, to begin work as the new chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village in Girard, IL. Terry began his service with the Home in mid-January.

Leadership Meetings. Our Stewards, Witness and Nurture Commissions will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 15. The church board meeting will follow at 7:30 pm.

Vacation Bible School. Our 2011 Vacation Bible School (VBS) has been scheduled for June 26-30. Once again we will be partnering with Heartland Metropolitan Community Church. This year's theme is "*Children Caring for Creation.*" The VBS schedule will be from 6-7:30 pm each evening. More detailed information to come.

National Older Adult Conference. "*Passion and Purpose in a Changing World*" is the theme for the 2011 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC). The conference will be held September 5-9 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. NOAC is a Church of the Brethren conference offering inspiration, renewal and community for adults age 50 and older. Registration materials will be available in early March.

Don't Forget the February Lunch! Nurture Commission will host a lunch after worship on February 13.

More news and notes on page 4

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Our church's annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 5th, from 7:30 am until 11 am. The cost for this "*all you can eat*" breakfast is \$5 per adult and \$2 per child.

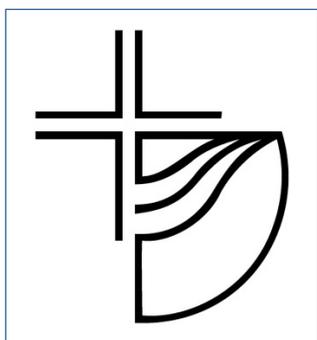
Volunteers are needed to assist the Stewards Commission on the day of the event. Volunteers can help with cooking, bussing tables, collecting tickets and money and a variety of other tasks.

Tickets have been printed and are available for sale. You may give your ticket sale money to Van Metzger or place it in the Sunday offering, clearly marked "Pancake & Sausage."

Proceeds benefit the 2011 general budget.

These are a sampling of activities and news we want you to know about.

Your support is appreciated!



District Youth Spring Retreat

This spring's District Youth Retreat will be held March 18-March 20 at Camp Emmaus just outside of Mt. Morris, IL. Youth currently in 9th through 12th grades may attend. The cost is \$30 per youth. There is no charge for advisors.

The guest speaker will be **Rick Polhamus**, a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), who has worked in the Middle East over the past 10 years. Rick has training and experience in violence reduction, conflict resolution and transformation, negotiation, and mediation.



Seth Hendricks of Mutual Kumquat will provide music and leadership. Seth is a songwriter, guitarist and has a Master's of Divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary. In 2006, Seth composed the theme song for National Youth Conference. He is currently the director of youth and music at Happy Corner CoB in Clayton, OH.

Registration deadline is March 11. Forms may be downloaded by youth and parents at www.cobyouth.org.

“Sharing Brings Joy” - One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 60 years through *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)* offerings, the Church of the Brethren has shared material resources with a hurting world. Our gifts to OGHS have enabled our denomination to share in ministries that offer:

*Comfort and hope to people around the world whose lives are ravaged by natural disaster, or suffering from the effects of civil unrest and war;

*Companionship and support when our workers around the globe provide educational support, household supplies and other aid to those whose lives are disrupted or displaced.

This year's OGHS theme is “Sharing Brings Joy: To Us, To Others, To God. Please give this March.

Your open hearts and hands will bring others joy, and make room for God to reach more fully into your own life.

*News and Notes continued
from page 2.*

New Open and Affirming Congregation. First Mennonite Church Champaign-Urbana has become the latest congregation to join the Supportive Communities Network as a congregation that is publicly affirming lgbt people. To learn more about this welcoming congregation, go to their website at www.fmc-cu.org.

2011 Progressive Brethren Gathering. The 2011 Gathering will take place in Elgin, IL from November 11-13.

Trip to Vietnam. Dennis and Van Metzger will be leaving on a COB sponsored trip to Vietnam in early March. Their daughter, Jocelyn Lewis, will be traveling with the group, as well.

Annual Conference Quilts

January 29, 2011

Greetings to you as we begin the New Year!

Many congregations have folks who continue the art of quilting. We have an opportunity to fulfill a request from our Annual Conference moderator as well as provide a contribution to our district. Moderator Robert Alley recently wrote each district requesting **“a comforter...This should be a pieced and knotted comforter (not a stitched quilt). Please make it colorful.”** It will be brought forth during one of the worship services at Annual Conference this year in Grand Rapids, MI and be displayed as part of our worship/business space. We hope to have many congregations create comforters. **One will be sent to Annual Conference;** the others will be displayed and auctioned off at District Conference this November to benefit the

District. Each comforter should fit a double or queen-sized bed and the dimensions should be 86 by 88 inches or 96 by 100 inches. **Projects should be completed by June 15.**

I hope you will discuss this with creative people in your church and accept the invitation to participate. Please notify me of your intention to participate by **March 15**, and I will gladly make arrangements to get your gift to the appropriate location. Thank you for your consideration in the creative project.

Ed Garrison, Standing Committee Representative,

Illinois/Wisconsin District

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Church of the Brethren

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“Are there folks from First Church who might be interested in working on a comforter?”

-Pastor Kres