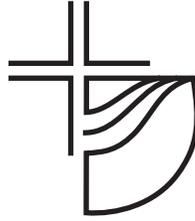


First Church of the Brethren



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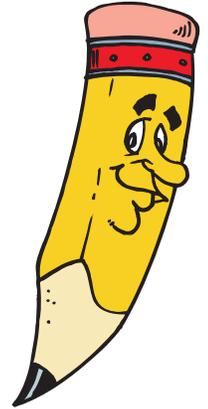
**Sunday Worship
July Worship**

- 2nd: Pastor Kres attending Annual Conference
Terry Link preaching
Text: Luke 24:44-53
Message: Stay Open
- 9th: Text: Galatians 3: 23-29
Message: Bound Together
- 16th: Text: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8
Message: Giving and Blessing
- 23rd To Be Announced
- 30th: Text: Ephesians 3:14-21
Message: Constructing Upwards
Bread and Cup Communion Service

Needed Supplies for Harvard Park

The Witness Commission of First Church of the Brethren has been in contact with administrators at Harvard Park School about specific needs the school may have. As a result, the commission is proposing a summer-long collection of supplies for Harvard Park Elementary School. The list of requested includes:

- wide-rule 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- 2 pocket folders, various colors, no clips
- pencils, ticonderoga or any that say real wood
- crayons, boxes of 16 or 24
- markers
- kleenex
- disposable cameras
- backpacks



A collection box has been placed near the rear of the sanctuary. Collected supplies will be taken to the school in August. Thanks for your help with this project.

Documentary on Conscientious Objectors

A Story about conscientious objectors and the Church of the Brethren in World War II is scheduled to be aired on PBS. It will be a part of the PBS History Detective Series and has been scheduled for July 10 at 9 pm. We are encouraged to check our local listings to confirm the time of the program for our area.

A Summer Picnic

Join your church friends and neighbors for a picnic and ice cream on the church lawn Friday, July 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Drinks and table services will be provided. Plan to bring a covered dish or ice cream, and a lawn chair if you wish. A sign up sheet/wish list will be available at the back of the sanctuary. See a member of the Nurture Commission--Paula H., Bonnie P., or Evelyn T.--if you have questions or suggestions.

"GROUNDHOGS AND PANTHERS?"

Saturday April 29th was a cool and misty day for the IL/WI District work day at Panther Creek Church of the Brethren. Although we did not see any panthers, nor a creek, we did hear about the groundhog that had lived in the crawlspace. Fortunately, it was long gone, because one of our party was already down the hatch and under the floor, stuffing insulation when Pastor Peter told the story!

Much work was accomplished this day both inside and out by the almost 50 people from 13 congregations that attended. After a warm welcome and a short history of the congregation we dug insulating, praying and then began our work. Wiring, plumbing, drywall, insulating, organizing the office/library, cloak room wall repair and exterior priming of the meetinghouse, tending the burn pile and weed trimming in the cemetery; it all started almost effortlessly as the workers were moved by the Spirit to their tasks.

After insulating, we went outside to help scrape and paint. We picked a wall, there was plenty for all, and in the company of Brothers and Sisters at work we hardly noticed the misting rain.

When it was time to move my ladder, I took a break to get a cup of coffee and check around. Work was in full swing inside and out, so back up the ladder I went. Later a wonderful luncheon and time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

After lunch, wandering around a little more with another cup of coffee, I began noticing some things. Like history coming to life. There is a large metal halo-type frame hanging from the ceiling near the kitchen door. Could this be a lantern holder? The oil lamp for it must have been huge! Imagining the room lit up for Love Feast, I could almost see the Brothers and Sisters gathered in their circles on either side of the room. Surely, this space we just

220th Annual Conference - in Des Moines

This year's Annual Conference will meet in Des Moines, IA, July 1-5. Moderator Ron Beachley, District Executive of the Western Pennsylvania District, has chosen the theme, "Together: Exercise Daily in God." The scripture for his theme is 1 Timothy 4:6-8. The Moderator has written: "Discipline was a hallmark of the early faith community. It appeared to be a natural part of commitment, because of the persecution faced by Jesus' followers. Dedication and commitment seem to be lacking from our lives and faith vocabulary. The church needs to be encouraged and challenged to greater commitment." A part of the "exercising daily" is a commitment to reading the New Testament.

The business sessions at Conference will be busy. Delegates will be asked to act on a number of items, including a query on Doing Church Business and a query on Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church. The study committee on a Multi-Ethnic Church is request-

Together: Conversations on Being the Church

Last year at Annual Conference, I learned of a discussion guide being developed for the Church of the Brethren, "Together: Conversations on Being the Church." I was intrigued with the thought of this conversation occurring throughout the country, so it was an easy request to say "yes" when Pastor Kres asked me to join a group on June 9 in Decatur to receive training on facilitating this discussion.

Along with Mary Bushnell, Terry Link and Dennis Metzger, I gathered with sisters and brothers from seven other Brethren congregations and spent a day in open and honest conversation about the church. The workshop was facilitated by Pastor Kres and Vicki Matheny of the Peoria con-

gregation. Even though I fully expected it to be a worthwhile use of a precious Saturday, my expectations were exceeded.

To share with others "what we felt was God's yearning for us as a church at this time" was thought-provoking and challenging. It was also enjoyable and comforting. In spite of conflicting opinions and perspectives, the spirit in which we gathered guided us in conversation bathed in love and respect.

We will be bringing this conversation to our church, and I hope that between now and then you will be thinking about God's yearning for us. The Church of the Brethren began as a conversation nearly three hundred years ago. That conversation continues and I hope you will consider joining in.

Joe Dunn

http://1.stcob.org/pdfFolder/06_06_June_IL_WS_Newsletter.pdf



"GROUNDHOGS AND PANTHERS?", continued

gathered at for lunch, was the same space in which others from long ago had also shared many a common meal.

Upstairs was abuzz with workers readying a classroom space. Walking through and into the attic behind, where the electricians had been working, I noticed a headboard and what appeared to be other bed parts. Could these have been used for travelers staying over, sleeping in the attic, during the week of Love Feast? Also nearby were some old pew parts. When was the last time you ever saw a worn out pew? Praise God - Amen and Amen.

Now back to my ladder and brush I go with the continuing mist. A few hours later, a cry went out that we were out of paint. Ten gallons of primer had been applied. Other tasks were finishing up. It was almost three o'clock. The time had come to clean our brushes, pack

up, say goodbye and to give a hug.

Surely my visioning does not accurately reflect the whole story from this workday experience. I do thank God for the opportunity to have been able to attend, to lend a hand, and am hoping for another. For another work day that we might return to Panther Creek for more of what God has in store.

Thank You District Deacons and Leadership Team for coordinating this event. Bless you Brothers and Sisters at Panther Creek for your loving hospitality.

May the Lord fill you and multiply you as only He can.

Terry Link

Storytelling Workshop and Performance

On July 8, 2006, Megan McKenna, internationally known author, lecturer, retreat leader and spiritual director will host a storytelling workshop entitled Many Worlds, One Story...One World, Many Stories. The workshop will be held at St. Joseph's Parish from 9 am until 1 pm. An evening storytelling performance will be held at St. Joseph's at 7 pm. The performance is entitled Sacred Stories of Peace, Communion and Blessings. Both sessions are being sponsored by Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society, Greater Springfield Inter-faith Association, St Joseph's Parish and the Illinois Arts Council.

The workshop (9am-1 pm) will be an inter-faith experience — how to tell stories that unite. Attendees will learn how to choose stories for groups, where to find them, and how to tell them. During the evening performance, Megan McKenna will tell stories of many nations, religions and cultures.

Megan McKenna, a native of New York City, has lived, visited, and gypsied through North and South America (especially Bolivia & Peru), Europe, Singapore, the Phillipines, Haiti, etc. She has been on the United States National Board of Pax Christi and in 2002 was appointed as Ambassador of Peace for Pax Christi.

The cost of the workshop is \$25.⁰⁰ The evening performance is \$10.⁰⁰ Both may be attended for \$30.⁰⁰ Please call 364-4858 for the workshop.

