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# Boulevard News

September 2009  
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## Children's Disaster Services Workshop

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Children's Disaster Services is offering a workshop to train volunteers in Virden, IL. on September 25-26. The worship will be held at the Virden Church of the Brethren (334 W. Dean St.). Charlot Cole is the local coordinator (217-370-5382).

Children's Disaster Services has been meeting the needs of children since 1980 and is a Church of the Brethren ministry working cooperatively with FEMA and the American Red Cross to provide care for children and families following disasters.

Cost for the workshop is \$45 for early registration or \$55 for registrations made less than three weeks before the workshop begins.

Volunteers provide a calm, safe, and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos that follows disaster by setting up and operating special child care centers in disaster locations. Parents are then able to apply for

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## Generation Why? Bible Studies

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*Brethren have been known as a people of the book (Bible). To be a people of the book, we need to know what's in the book.*

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*Generation Why? Bible Studies* encourage youth to grapple with faith issues in the context of a supportive church community. The various studies explore faith perspectives that value biblical study, service, peace, and discipleship. The language is straightforward and the topics/issues are reality based.

Beginning on Sunday, September 13 a youth Sunday school class will start meeting. The initial study will center on the topic: *How to Read the Bible*. The class is open to all of our youth.

Questions to be explored include: What kind of book is the Bible? What does it mean to us? How do people read the Bible?

The youth Sunday school class will meet from 9:30 until 10:20 am.

## The Vine and the Branches

Eugene Taylor Sutton, a preaching professor, wrote this about twenty years ago. “Someone once told me that churches unconsciously decide how large they will be...Congregations enter a comfort zone of ‘ideal size’ beyond which they will not move.”

I was thinking about this quote last week after visiting with one of our newer attendees. This person shared how wonderful it has been to worship here. There is a sense of delight in making connections with people. There is a feeling that this is a community and congregation for them.

The pastors I know are pleased to hear such comments. I am among them. One prays that the welcome and the openness of the congregation are experienced in a real way by others. This is, I believe, especially true for smaller-member churches. Many smaller-member congregations want to grow in numbers. But, many still want to be a small, intimate, close knit family. I have had people tell me (not the person mentioned above) “I just feel more at home with a smaller size faith-community.”

But, even smaller-member churches can grow and still retain a sense of a close knit family. That is, unless they have unconsciously decided on an ideal size. There is risk in growing. A congregation experiences potential change in its identity. It risks accepting the leadership of people who haven’t been around as long, as well as the “fellowship” which happens when people have journeyed

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assistance and begin to put their lives back together, knowing their children are safe.

Once the training is completed participants have the opportunity to become a certified Children’s Disaster Services volunteer by providing two personal references and a criminal and sexual offender background check.

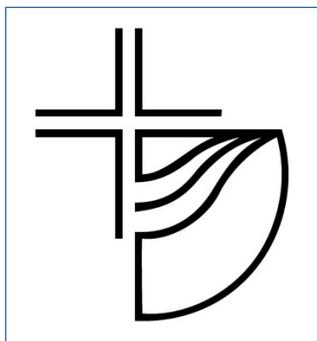
The Children’s Disaster Services office may be contacted at [cds@brethren.org](mailto:cds@brethren.org) or 1-800-451-4407, ext. 5. Go to [www.childrensdisasterservices.org](http://www.childrensdisasterservices.org) for information about the program.

(-this information was supplied by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Director of News Services, Church of the Brethren, Elgin, IL)

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*“Small member congregations can grow. We will be changed as God leads others to us.”*

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## Worship Opportunities in September

**Sunday, September 6: “What’s In Your Wallet?”** There is a commercial on TV that really grates on my nerves. It is a commercial for a credit card. I don’t remember which company airs the commercial (maybe I’ll remember by this Sunday). But the question, “What is in my/your wallet/purse” is an interesting one. You might want to check what’s in there before this Sunday. Oh, please read Psalm 121, also.

**Sunday, September 13: “Unless One Receives the Reign of God Like a Child.”** We’ll use Luke 18: 15-17 as the starting point for thinking about children, God, and Jesus’ suggestion that we become more childlike.

**Sunday, September 20: “You Are Not Alone” (Baptism and New Member Sunday.)** This is a morning to celebrate new life and belonging. Amy Scott and Mike Scott will be baptized and received into the membership of our faith community. A community potluck lunch will follow the service.

**Sunday, September 27: “Be of One Mind.”** Brethren have used the phrase, “the mind of Christ,” a lot. This morning we will take a look at that phrase with hopes that we might find some meaning from it. Bread and cup communion will be shared.  
Please read: Philippians 2: 1-5.



## National Youth Conference

*“More Than Meets the Eye” is the theme of next year’s National Youth Conference (NYC). NYC will take place July 17-22 at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO. It is open to all high school youth (and advisors) in the denomination.*

*Registration for NYC will begin January 5 at 8 pm Central time. The early registration cost for NYC is \$425. After February 15, registration will be \$450. Registration will close on April 5. A deposit of \$200 must be paid at the time of registration. The money is non-refundable. The balance is due by April 5.*

*The theme for NYC 2010 is taken from 2 Corinthians 4: 6-10, 16-18.*

*Youth who are interested in attending and their parents are asked to contact Pastor Kres.*

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*“We are able to do more than we ever expected because the presence of the living God made flesh in Jesus Christ moves in us and does great works through us.” (NYC Flyer)*

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together a long time.

I personally believe there is an important place for smaller-member churches. I also believe that as a small-member congregation we can grow. We will change as God leads others to us. What do you think?

Blessings,  
Pastor Kres

## News, Notes, etc.

**Congratulations.** Grace Sweatt recently completed a master's degree in social work.

**From the Stewards.** Our elevator passed state inspection last month. A sign is now posted in the elevator requiring younger children not to ride the elevator without an adult because of the open gate. Cost for inspection was \$120.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Fry.** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Fry will be held at Camp Emmanuel, near Astoria, IL. on Saturday, September 26, 2009. There will be an open house from 10 am - 3 pm. Lunch will be served from 11 am until 2 pm. The cost is a donation. A fishing derby for kids 12 and under is scheduled from 11 am until noon.



Church of the Brethren

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## Alternative Holiday Fair Dates.

At their August meeting, the Stewardship Commission set the dates of December 4 & 5, 2009 for our annual Holiday Fair. Fair trade items sold. Baked goods and lunch available may be purchased.

Look for future announcements for ways that you can help.

**District Conference.** District Conference flyers have been posted in the church house reminding us that this year's conference is November 6-8 at the Naperville Church of the Brethren. Registration forms are at the church. Our delegate fees have been paid. Non-delegates attend for free, but must register for insurance purposes. Registrations and meal requests are due by September 19.

**Dinner and Auction.** Pleasant Hill Village's annual dinner and auction has been scheduled for Saturday, October 17. A drawing will be held for a hand-quilt, queen size (90x108). Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. There will also be a silent auction. The home needs our donated goods for the auction. Tickets for the dinner-auction are available from Joan Boatz and Allen Krall.

**CROP Walk.** This year's Springfield Area CROP Walk will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Walk begins at 1:30 pm on the Capitol Steps at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Capitol. Jan Stoller will be serving as our local recruiter. We are looking for walkers and sponsors of the walkers. Sponsor forms will be available from September 6 until the walk. Last year we raised \$889 of the \$17,579.61.