

First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Boulevard, Springfield, IL 62703
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“Compass: A New Ministry Begins!”

First Church of the Brethren will become a *Community Partner* with Harvard Park Elementary School and the Family Service Center's COMPASS Program by providing the site, some volunteers, and other support for a new after-school program. The program is designed to assist homeless and low-income students from Harvard Park School.

Each Thursday of the week some 30+ students will walk from the school to our meetinghouse where they will follow a schedule that includes a snack time, help with homework, life skills lessons, and a family style dinner. The program will operate from 3:00-6:30 pm.

Family Service's Compass coordinator, Molly Berendt will be the site-director overseeing

the program. Evelyn Taylor will serve as our congregational contact person. We will need tutors/mentors, life skill instructors, people to help put the meals/snacks together, etc. Other volunteers will come from additional community partners, such as Harvard Park Baptist Church and Mt. Zion Apostolic Church.

Some volunteers will come from other agencies or groups in town, like the Rotary Club. Please watch for future announcements and volunteer forms. Better yet! Contact Evelyn Taylor and tell her you are interested in this new ministry.

We hope to start on Thursday, September 20th.



Preaching series on the Acts of the Apostles

A preaching series on the Acts of the Apostles will continue through August and the first of September. So far, we have celebrated Pentecost and met a variety of disciples from

the 2nd through the 12th chapters.

This month our worship will be focused on the “journeys” of Paul & Barnabas and Paul and
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“Bathed in Prayer” by Cyndi Fetcher

“If we as a people of faith value our children, we will recognize that one of our most significant responsibilities is to help them stay in touch with their spiritual selves.”
-Betty Shannon Cloyd

Last week I enjoyed three days at the triennial Children’s Spirituality Conference, held in River Forest, IL. The lectures, worship, and discussion implored participants to honor and respect children as people in their own right, people who have their own faith experiences, and their own understanding of prayer.

Each session began by

offering a new approach to prayer that we could suggest to children in our care. Jeff’s was one example: he shared that he writes a note card for each person or situation on his personal prayer list-adding scripture or jotting thoughts. During his prayer time, he reads through the cards and dwells with each person or situation.

Another example was

Mimi, who found that doodling expanded her prayer life. Following a practice from Sybil Macbeth’s *Praying in Color*, she found that drawing her prayers allowed her to focus on the big picture. “It’s not beautiful, but it’s mine, and it’s my conversation with God,” she said.

Shirley offered another idea. She sings her

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With Our Hands – Jr. High Workcamp

“Every summer the work camp program gives opportunities for youth all over the country to go somewhere different in areas of need,” said Cat Gong, work camp co-coordinator for 2012. “This year, Springfield, IL is one of those places.”

Cat made this statement on camera while standing in front of a rundown little house on 8th Street in Springfield. Behind her,

volunteers were busy carrying boxes of trash out of the house, and buckets of cleaning equipment into it. Grubby t-shirts were worn all around, as well as gloves to protect hands from mouse droppings, dirt, and grime.

All this was being filmed as a part of a recent local story on ABC News about deserted rental homes that are being repaired

and sold to new home owners. But in the discomfort of this smelly project, a few Brethren volunteers were comfortable telling the newscasters why they had signed up to serve. “It’s a chance for us to volunteer, to get out into the world, to do some good stewardship,” said one volunteer, “because in our

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Annual Conference Adopts Vision Statement

The 2012 Annual Conference delegates adopted a new vision statement for denominational-wide use through the year 2020. The statement reads as follows:

Through Scripture, Jesus

us calls us to live as courageous disciples by word and action: To surrender ourselves to God, to embrace one another, to express God’s love for all creation.

A variety of learning and worship resources have

been and will be developed around this statement.

An Annual Conference Wrap Up paper is available. Thanks to Rebecca Lipscomb for serving as our delegate the last two years.

With Our Hands (cont. from page 2)



Denomination we believe in showing the work of Jesus and the work of God with our hands instead of our words.”

(This is taken from eBrethren, Sharing Inspirational Stories of Brethren Stewards in action.)

To see the news story in full, visit this link <http://www.wics.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid>

[6296.shtml](#). To learn more about Church of the Brethren work camps for junior high youth, senior high youth, and young adults, visit www.brethren.org/workcamps.

***Note: This summer program has already expressed an interest in returning to Springfield.**

Preaching from Acts (continued from page 1)

Silas. A brief outline of the schedule follows:

August 12: Acts 13 begins by describing Paul and Barnabas’ mission trip to Cypress. Who among us doesn’t love a good mission trip? We feel needed and wanted. This morning’s message reminds us that some mission trips occur right in our own neighborhood.

August 19: The 14th

chapter of Acts begins with harsh treatment of Paul and Barnabas and then describes how well they were received in the town of Lystra. They were so well received the two were mistaken for gods. The message: “Remembering the One at the Center” of our life.

August 26: We read about Paul’s time in the great city of Athens in

chapter 17. While in Athens, he shares a message calling for repentance. Is the message of repentance needed today?

Worship is central to our life as a community of faith. May we be blessed by our time with God, each other, and the new friends who are led our way.

Men’s Breakfast: August 16

A Men’s Breakfast and time of fellowship and conversation is scheduled for Thursday, August 16 at 6:45 am. This will be a time for personal sharing about matters of faith and time to catch up with the events going on in our lives.

In Acts 27 and 28 we read about how Paul was on his way to Rome. But the trip did not go as planned. There was a shipwreck. This, as you can imagine, changed the plans. Some of our breakfast talk will be on sharing moments in our faith life when we

have encountered detours, shipwrecks, and disappointments. How have disappointments and troubles assisted you in becoming the person of faith you are today?

Question: Is God concerned more with where you are going or with who you are becoming?

First Church of the Brethren

Worship on Sunday at 10:30 am

Phone 217-523-5212

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District Conference Will Soon Be Here

Registration materials for the 2012 Illinois & Wisconsin District Church of the Brethren Conference will be arriving soon. This year the Virden Church of the Brethren is hosting the event November 2-4 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL. Registration will begin on Friday at 5:30 pm. Dan Ulrich will bring the evening sermon. Sunday morning worship will be at the Virden Church.

All attendees of the conference must register on the forms in the soon-to-be-arriving packets. First Church of the Brethren pays the delegate fees for our 4 delegates and provides a stipend to those delegates to assist with additional costs. Our delegates include our pastor, board chair, and two at-large delegates. If you are interested in serving as an at-large delegate please speak with Jane Carruthers or Pastor Kres. Fletcher Farrar is moderating this year's conference.

A Word of Thanks

A special word of thanks to the members of Heartland MCC for their participation in this summer's VBS program. Heartland provided teachers, assistants, materials, donations, music, and energy. We are grateful that once again we were able to partner with them for the summer Vacation Bible School.

Bathed in Prayer... (Continued from page 2)

prayers before bed, familiar hymns or childhood tunes. "Praying her songs" gives peace and connects her with a long line of followers of Jesus. "Let this conference be bathed in prayer," she prayed, reminding us to share our joys and concerns.

Through singing and teaching, research and prayer, those of us gathered at the Children's Conference were reminded again and again that the active, spiritual lives of children are happening *now*, and that we adults are invited to participate in loving

and respectful ways.

With all this in mind, Diana Garland prayed over the group in closing, "Give us visions for the future." May our future be one that cares deeply for the children in our midst.

Reprinted from the eBrethren newsletter June 22, 2012.

Cyndi Fetcher is managing editor of the Gather 'Round Sunday school curriculum, co-published by Brethren Press and MennoMedia.

***A note from Pastor Kres and the Nurture Commission: We will

continue, for the time being to offer a Sunday school class for our elementary age children during the worship hour. Children are in worship for about the first ten minutes. Then they are dismissed to class held in the children's room downstairs.

We need volunteer teachers/instructors! Classroom materials are provided. Our teaching volunteers provide the love, care, and prayer. Please sign up for this important task.