



Evergreen News

August 2016

Pastor Mick's Musings...

Summer Pleasures

Sunshine beaming golden heat
For lots of fun outdoors;
Vacations, for a sweet retreat
To mountains, plains and shores.

Kids in constant summer motion,
Free from teacher's rule,
Head to toe in suntan lotion,
At the beach or pool.

Inflatable rafts on which to float,
Camping and fishing gear,
Rowing or sailing or waterski
boat,
Tell us summer's here.

Things we can't do the rest of the
year
Are summer's special treasures;
Oh summer, summer, linger long,
And give us all your pleasures!

By Joanna Fuchs

"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
Acts 26:15-18

As you may already know, I was West Green Tree's delegate for Annual Conference this year held in Greensboro, NC. And as you may recall, there were some tough queries to be answered, which I will touch on now, and I will discuss in detail at a later date. I wanted to spend some time looking at where the Church of the Brethren is in this world and one experience in general that was a little disheartening.

Our National Moderator, Andy Murray from Stone Church, PA, gave his commencement speech to start off the conference. He gave some startling statistics that saddened me. It was a real eye opener but not too surprising. I have gone to three Annual Conferences representing you, the members of WGT, and not once, at any conference, has anyone mentioned anything about the state of the Church of the Brethren in tangible ways. Finally, in all honesty, Mr. Murray stated that, on any given Sunday, only 50,000 Brethren are worshiping in their churches. He also stated that we have lost 8,000 members since 2005 and many churches have closed their doors. This was all the information given to us and I was startled to see the reaction from those attending – nothing! There were murmurs in the crowd but no sense of urgency. To me, it was eye-opening! The Church of the Brethren is slowly dying but there seemed to be a sense of denial at the conference. And then we went on with the course of business. I was wondering why we were not addressing the fact that we were becoming irrelevant in the world. The Church of the Brethren do great things and there is a lot to be proud of that we do for the Lord. But the pervading question that consumed me all through the conference was, "why are we dying?" I have been praying and seeking the Lord for the answer to that question. I sense some things but have no answer yet. I am still seeking.

We went through our conference agenda and looked at some tough issues. One query was in regard to same-sex marriage. In the light of our national statements from 1987, 2004, and 2011, the Church of the Brethren still uphold the Scriptures that homosexuality is a sin and therefore marriage is between a man and woman. The query was sent to Standing Committee and they recommended that, in lieu of the previous statements on homosexuality, a pastor who performs a same-sex marriage would lose his or her credentials for one year. This is a controversial issue so it needed a 2/3's majority vote to pass. The recommendation was not passed by a vote of 55% for and 47% against. So it was voted to hand over the query to the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives for their evaluation and recommendations for Annual Conference 2017.

Another query was in regard the removal of On Earth Peace as a viable agency of the Church of the Brethren. The query stated that On Earth Peace was out of balance and represented a liberal, progressive movement with very little regard to the conservative congregants of our church body. It was late in the day on the last day of business so the query was voted on and sent to the Review and Evaluation Committee

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August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 WWW @ Brenda Axe's Home 7 pm	2 Men's Bible Study 7 pm Executive Committee Mtg. 7 pm	3 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	4	5	6
7 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Pew Communion both Services	8 Tiny Timbers Board Mtg. 7 pm WWW 7 pm	9 Commission Mtg. 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Board Mtg. 8 pm	10 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	11	12 Camp Swatara Weekend	13 Camp Swatara Weekend
14 Sunday School 9:15 am Combined Worship 10:30 am Camp Swatara Weekend	15 WWW 7 pm	16 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	17 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	18	19 Food With A Message	20
21 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Youth/Get Air & Pizza	22 WWW 7 pm	23 Sub Pick-up 5 pm Deacon Mtg. 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	24 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm  First Day of School Donegal	25	26	27
28 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	29 WWW 7 pm  First Day of School E-town	30 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	31 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm			

Creation Highlights



The Youth would like to thank the Church and every one who helped provide food and gear for Creation Festival as well as those who kept the youth in prayer during that time. They were excited to have an opportunity to attend Creation. At the end of June we had 5 Advisors and 11 youth travel to Mount Union PA for the festival. It was a great week! There were numerous speakers who provided spiritual encouragement and refreshment. It was a blessing to see many of the youth respond to the alter call and desire to seek a stronger relationship with God. The youth enjoyed attending many of their favorite musical

artists. On opening night, Heath Adamson presented the 23rd Psalms - he discussed how sometimes parts of our lives can feel like they are dead - but in reality, they are only dormant. He shared that the Valley of the Shadow of Death and the Green Pastures can in fact be the same thing. Sometimes God allows us to enter the valley so we can be reminded the Devil has already been defeated.

There was a theme that followed for the week - **Your story isn't over**. Even Peter, who denied Jesus 3 times, consistently reaffirmed his love of Jesus and followed Christ to places he might not have wanted to go. We are strong enough, WITH GOD, to handle the things we think we can not.



At creation festival there is always something going on if its listening to a band or a speaker or just hanging out, there is so much to do and so many ways to get closer to God.

I had a lot of fun this year. I got to hear some of my favorite bands and hear some new bands. I also gained a new favorite speaker who spoke powerfully on the crucifixion and braking free of your chains. The message was powerful and made you think, for me especially when he played parts from the passion of the Christ movie.

One of the most fun things to do is hike to the look out. You enjoy the beautiful sight of God's creation while hiking with friends and the view you come to is breath taking. To see the thousands of people is even more. There is also the fun game spike ball and fun obstacle courses and of course fair food.

Creation is different for everyone, what you learn or how you have fun. No matter what, you are having fun even when you are losing in the card game Scum. Creation is a fun and fulfilling time to spend with your friends and with God.

Shane Schwanger

Youth News

Summer is passing by quickly. As students enjoy some time away from school and hopefully enjoy some leisure, I am embracing and enjoying my new position. As I enjoy our time together getting better acquainted, my hope is to learn what the youth want from their times together as well as what they may need to draw closer to God.

I want to encourage intentional participation in God's story, ensuring life is not just happening to us. As we learn of Peter and John in Acts 4 – they were recognized for their boldness and known for having been with Jesus. May our time together with Jesus develop a character within us that emboldens us to live for God. My desire is for the youth of WGT to know the God of unfailing love in a way that becomes apparent in all facets of their lives.

Currently I am exploring some options in regards to curriculum, choosing something that is not only relevant but can foster further knowledge of God. We are also looking at possibilities for group activities for August and the fall. Our goal being to optimize our times together, including fun within a time dedicated to God.

I am grateful to serve a congregation that is committed to the future of Christ's followers, likewise for a group of volunteers that make even further sacrifices for this end. We appreciate your continued prayers for our youth and the ministry that seeks to serve them.

Shawn O'Brien

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who will give a response and recommendation at the next Annual conference.

But there was a spiritual side of the conference that was bothering me. Here we were doing business as usual and the dark spiritual vultures were circling us. We are obviously not where we are supposed to be if we are dying a slow death. I was walking around the exhibits and noticed that I, as a radical pietist, did not have much of a voice in any of the agencies and institutions represented on the exhibit floor. I am an evangelical who holds Scripture as the anchor of the faith and believe that Jesus is the only way, the only truth and the only life. I wanted to express my views with others who are like minded, and find material written by conservative pietist like me. But I found myself wanting. This is what I find very disheartening. It seems to me that we have lost our radical pietism that made the first eight brethren defy the Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed and even the Anabaptists by living out the literal meaning of baptism in the Bible and baptizing each other with full immersion. They were bold and courageous in their steadfast belief that Jesus was their Lord above all. This love of Jesus, this radical love of Jesus in disregard of government and institutions, was a movement that attracted so many so fast in the early days of our family of faith. They were the original house churches – meeting in homes and barns and later fields to express their love for Jesus and one another - no government, no politics, no institutions - just loving Jesus, peacefully, simply, together. I can't help but feel that we have lost our first love – Jesus.

It is disheartening, but all is not lost. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is for us and always will be. As I say almost every Sunday morning, "Jesus loves us with an everlasting love. God is still on the throne and pray changes things." I am certain that many, many Brethren feel the same way. So, for right now, I'm praying! Will you join me in praying for the Church of the Brethren. Jesus is sending us to rescue people to *"open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

Firmly in His grip,
Pastor Mick

Upcoming Education Classes

Discover West Green Tree classes will begin September 11th & run through October 16th. This is a new member orientation and a Sunday School Elective for folks interested in the history of the Church of the Brethren & West Green Tree. Please sign up at the information center. Autumn Saints, a Bible study geared towards folks 55+, will begin September 14th & run through December 7th, at 10 am each Wednesday. The study will be The Book of Hebrews - Christ-Perfect Sacrifice, Perfect Priest by John MacArthur. A sign up sheet can be found at the information center in the lobby. Sign up if you plan to attend so that we are prepared with a study guide for you.

First Wednesday

Mark your calendars for our first First Wednesday event on September 7th, at 6:30 pm. Come to enjoy good fellowship & a great meal. Please see Heather Haverkamp with questions.

Anniversaries

- 8/5 - George & Traci Clugston II
- 8/6 - Duane & Kathy Martin
- 8/9 - Glenn & Sylvia Weaver
- 8/17 - Justin & Nichole Hawthorne
- 8/23 - Matt & Stephanie Collman
- 8/24 - Doug & Sandy Brubaker
- 8/27 - Steve & Peggi Hiller
- 8/29 - Jim & Polly Shumate
- 8/29 - Randy & Anita Youtz
- 8/31 - Charles & Marilyn Keener

Birthdays

- 8/1 - Aaliyah Cannon
- 8/2 - Gary Dupler, Chris Metzler
- 8/3 - Brenda Axe, Noelle O'Brien
- 8/4 - Doug Brubaker
- 8/7 - Phyllis Becker
- 8/9 - Ralph Daniels, Jerry Huber, Sandra Kopp
- 8/10 - Sarah Kolp, Jeff Ziegler
- 8/12 - Grace Leonard
- 8/14 - Ken Drawbaugh
- 8/16 - Grace Fellenbaum
- 8/18 - Nicole Drescher
- 8/20 - Donna Weaver, RaErin Williams
- 8/21 - Robin Cicero
- 8/22 - James Hawthorne
- 8/23 - Tyra Cannon
- 8/25 - Walt Schwanger



August Servants

August Servants				
	August 7	Camp Swatara August 14	August 21	August 28
Scripture & Sermon	Acts 12	Acts 13	Acts 14	Acts 15
Pianist/Organist	Leslie Allen	Brenda Geib	Sylvia Weaver	Ryan Arndt
Special Music		Allison Huber		Kari Slater
Chorister	June Kolp		Glenn Weaver	Regena Tripp
Greeters 8 am	Duane & Kathy Martin	NO EARLY SERVICE	Jason & Kari Slater	Jerry & Julie Ruhl
Greeters 10:30 am	Charles & Tracy Drescher	Duane Bender & Jim Spickler	Laurie Hollinger & Luetta Hess	Don & Ruthie Hollinger
Welcome Center 8 am	Ralph Daniels	NO EARLY SERVICE	Julie Ramsey	Cindy Collins
Welcome Center 10:30 am	Holly Leonard	Colton & Brienna Brown	Ralph Daniels	Regena Tripp
Worship Leader				
Ushers	Youth	New Horizons SS Class	Faith Seekers SS Class	Sojourners SS Class
Deacons/Anointing	Clint & Julie Arndt	Dennis & Ann Saylor	June Kolp	Jeff & Dori Schwanger
Sound Room 8 am	Jerry Huber & Zane Seitz	NO EARLY SERVICE	Jerry Huber & Justin Arndt	Jerry Huber & Cody Dupler
Sound Room 10:30 am	Jeff & Shane Schwanger	Jason Leonard	Duane Martin & Jeff Schwanger	Jeff & Shane Schwanger
8 am Nursery/Toddler		NO EARLY SERVICE		
10:30 am Nursery/Toddler	Kathy Martin		Jason & Holly Leonard	Randy & Anita Youtz

June & July Stats

	June 19	June 26	July 3	July 10	July 17
Total Worship	163	158	104	174	122
Sunday School	103	117	54	None Reported	None Reported
General	\$4,245.00	\$4,639.20	\$4,438.00	\$4,549.00	\$3,615.00
Building					
Deacon			\$40.00	\$60.00	\$100.00
Seminary	\$100	\$270.00		\$365.00	\$225.00

Adventures in Uganda: Moving Time!

Hello church family! I hope this update finds you all doing well! I hope you're enjoying summertime! It's been hot and dry here so I'm sure it feels similar here to how it is at home. One nice thing though is that Uganda does not have humidity, so I'm very thankful about that! We really need rain though, so hopefully rainy season will begin soon! On the hot days here when the sun is beating down on me, I think about how back home we have so many escapes from the heat and ways to cool down – air conditioning, swimming pools, electric fans, ice cream, etc. Here in the village, none of those luxuries exist. I yearn for those things but I realize it's good to experience life without certain luxuries because it always reminds me of how blessed we are in America and to not take things for granted. It opens my eyes continuously to how so many people all over the world have to live and that we need to appreciate everything we've been given because it's all a gift from God. Sure it's okay to enjoy the simple luxuries we have in life, but it's always important to remember to thank God for them and not take them for granted! Just some food for thought!

I didn't include an update in last month's newsletter, so I'll fill you in on what has been happening over the past two months. The first term of school finished on May 13th and then we had a 3 week break from school. It was a short term for me because I only returned in April, but the 5 weeks that I taught went really well. I'm really enjoying the group of children that I have and it's been easier to teach them because they understand my English very well! So, I find my days are more filled with moments of joy than moments of frustration. That is an answer to prayer and I thank God for that!

On May 14th, I had a birthday party for 2 of the young boys in the village. One was my neighbor Emma, who is the brother to another teacher, and the other boy was his friend, Vicent. We enjoyed a huge feast with a bunch of their friends and fellow teachers and then the boys enjoyed watching the movie, *The Incredible Hulk*. Just like teenage boys in America, they love the Superhero movies!



The next day, I went back to Kampala to spend the 3 week school holiday there, and enjoy time with the other volunteers.

Then on the 21st, the other volunteers and I had the privilege of attending the wedding and reception ceremony of one of the staff members of Empower A Child. The wedding ceremony was mostly spoken in Luganda, so I didn't know much of what they were saying, but it was interesting to see how a wedding here compared to a typical wedding in the States. It was pretty similar to a wedding back home. The reception was also pretty similar with great food and a time of dancing. The only difference was that for the reception they had cultural dancers and drummers who performed for us, so that was fun to watch! They are very talented dancers and drummers!



During the school holiday, it was such a huge blessing to enjoy the small luxuries of the guesthouse in Kampala, spend time with the other volunteers, and have multiple opportunities to go out to eat with the team. A Pizza Hut just opened in Kampala, so of course, we wanted to eat there! And surprisingly, the pizza tasted about the same as it does back home, so that was a nice treat!

Then June 4th was a big day for the team and the entire Empower A Child organization. For a couple years, EAC has been building a guesthouse for the staff and volunteers in the village of Zirowbe,



Part of the guesthouse in the village

so we all can live there full-time and minister more to the children and people who live in the village. So, on June 4th, the house was finally ready and we all moved into the guesthouse!!! I moved all my belongings from my house in the teacher's quarters to a room in the guesthouse. Most of the staff and volunteers have to share a room, but they gave me my own small room! That was a HUGE blessing! I wasn't expecting it, so it was a nice surprise!

The house in itself is also a blessing. There are solar powered

lights in the rooms and outside. We also have a bathroom with a sink and running water, a flushing toilet and squatty, and a shower! Plus, the food that the cook makes is more than just posho, rice, and beans! Also, I am able to live with the other volunteers and staff members and I am so thankful for that. It's a feeling that I can't even describe. It was hard being in the village on my own and I wondered if and when the team would ever move to the village. Now that it's finally here, it is so wonderful. I would battle feelings of loneliness, but now those feelings are gone. We're like a family, spending time together, sharing our daily experiences, and encouraging one another. And even though I'm away from my family at home and I don't get to talk to them very often, being with the team helps to fill the void because they have become my second family. I thank God so much for these blessings and I praise Him for His goodness and faithfulness.



My room in the guesthouse!

The 2nd term of school started on June 6th and teaching continues to go well. I received new students and now I have 41 students! I have 19 boys and 22 girls! It's the largest amount of students that I've had so far but it's going really well. I don't know how it works out to teach that many children, but I definitely know that it's not me doing it on my own, but it's definitely God who is working through me and giving me the ability to teach. All my strength and patience comes from Him!! With that many children, I am just so thankful the students understand my directions, so it gives me the ability to help the new students if they don't quite understand my English. Sometimes though the children help each other and explain the directions to a new student who sits at their table, and that's so wonderful to see.

It's been very eventful these past two months and things are going so well. I just love to see God working through me and the other volunteers and how much He's using us now that we're all living full-time in the village. I just think of all the blessings that God has bestowed upon me during my entire time here so far and I'm just blown away by His love, goodness, and faithfulness. Even in the midst of frustrations and attacks of the Enemy, I know I have to stay focused on Jesus as I serve Him and let Him use me to continue to impact these children who need to know Him and His love.

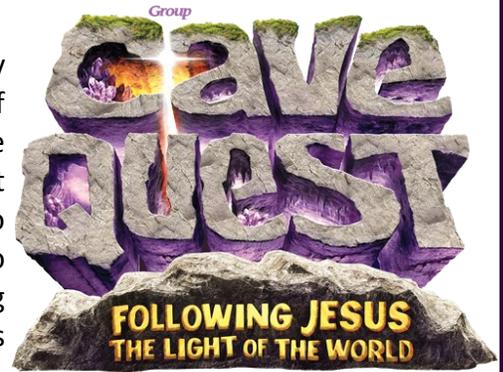
Thank you for your continued prayers and support! May God strengthen you as you serve Him also!

Blessings to you,
Kelsey Hollinger

Vacation Bible School

What an amazing God we serve! What an awesome church family we have! As I am writing this article we have finished 2 nights of VBS. We had 73 children preregistered and Monday evening we welcomed an additional 35 children. We have been learning about how Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, love and power to follow him. Throughout the week we are challenging the kids to learn more about Jesus love and also look at where they are seeing God Sightings. I have seen numerous God sightings personally this week. I am so blessed and overwhelmed by the way God continues to work through this outreach. For the first time in several years we are averaging over 100 kids a night. Our Primary group (1st & 2nd graders) has 34 students in it! I appreciate your prayers throughout the week. I also appreciate the help from each person volunteering. People coming on nights that they weren't signed up for, people stepping up and making adjustments to the volunteer assignments and especially everyone's flexibility and sacrifice of time with set up, during the week or cleaning up. This ministry is such a blessing to my family! Thank you for your continued support!

Allison Huber, VBS Director



District Conference

Each year, District Conference is held at Elizabethtown College. This year, West Green Tree has been asked to host the conference on Saturday, October 8th. What does this mean for us as a church family? It means we are in need of help! We are looking for folks to volunteer to be parking attendants, greeters, and ushers throughout the entire day.

If you feel this is something you would like to participate in, please contact Don & Donna Weaver. These folks have graciously volunteered to help coordinate our group of volunteers. They can't do this alone! Please contact them at 361-8044. They will also be seeking volunteers face to face...so be ready to say yes!



Camp Swatara

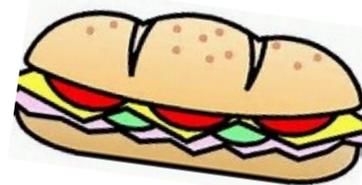
Camp Swatara Weekend will be held August 12th, 13th, & 14th this year. While many folks will be at the camp worshipping together, some of you will be here! Please take note, there will be a combined service on Sunday, August 14th, starting at 10:30 am. Sunday School will be held at 9:15 am as usual.

Upcoming Youth Event

Attention all youth! Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 21st for a youth event immediately following the 10:30 am service. Pizza will be provided & then we will head to Get Air! Cost is \$5 for youth group members, guests are \$10. See Shawn O'Brien with questions. To find out more about Get Air, check their website <http://getairharrisburg.com>.

Sub & Pretzel Sandwich Sale

Stacey Walmer, a woman who has been on the Prayer Chain for some time, is in need of surgery & they are holding a sub & pretzel sandwich sale to help offset costs of lodging for her husband who will need a place to stay while she is recovering in Ohio. Cindy Collins is the “go to” person for this fundraiser. If you would like to purchase subs or sandwiches, please sign up on the order forms on the bulletin board at the information center. Money is due in an envelope with your name on it to Cindy Collins’ mailbox by August 14th. She cannot submit your order without payment. Sub & sandwich pickup will be Tuesday, August 23rd, at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please see Cindy with questions!



Promotion Sunday

Promotion Sunday will be held Sunday, September 11th, during the Sunday School hour. If your child will be moving on to a new class, be sure to be here for this transition Sunday.

Contact Updates

Some recent updates in contact information. Please make appropriate changes in your directories.

Zac, Heidi & Nora Grove
3692 Roundtop Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Kathryn Gantz
Masonic Village
TCU 2901
600 Freemason Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

John, Amy, & Collin Burkhart
484 Arthurs Court
Nazareth, PA 17064

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many areas of the church that are in need of folks willing to volunteer a small amount of time.

**The Nursery/Toddler room is always in need of folks to volunteer, just one Sunday a quarter!

**There is also a need for Sunday School teachers for elementary grades & younger.

If you would like to work with either the Nursery/Toddler children or the Sunday School classes you will be required to obtain clearances. They are NOT hard to get & completely free! Please contact the church office for information on how to get these clearances so that you can help fill needs within your WGT Family.

The Sound Room is in need of folks to volunteer to work in there as well. Training will be provided! Please see Allison Huber if interested in serving in this area.

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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www.westgreentree.org

Our Purpose Statement
*“We intentionally develop friends of
Jesus Christ by sharing God’s love
through words and deeds.”*

Sunday Service Times:

Contemporary Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday Service Times:

Jr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm

Sr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm