



Evergreen News

August 2017

Pastor Mick's Musings...

I thought it would be best to share the two main recommendations from the 2017 Annual Conference. Please keep the Church of the Brethren in your prayers. We have some things to work out with our brothers and sisters in the national body. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to call me. I am honored and blessed to represent you at the Annual Conference and will do my best to stand for our beliefs and the authority of the Bible.

Report on 2017 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren Pastor Mick Allen

Shawn O'Brien and I are the delegate representatives West Green Tree Church of the Brethren for the 2017 Annual Conference. Although most of the business items discussed and voted upon were non-controversial, there were two in particular that caused friction with the church body.

Unfinished Business Item #4

The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Minister, Congregations and Districts.

This item of Business was from the 2016 query from the West Marva District which ask for resolution on the accountability of pastors who perform same sex marriages. Based on our Annual Conference Statements of Homosexuality in the past, the West Marva District felt the need for some type of disciplinary action for those pastors who perform and same sex marriage ceremony in the denomination. The resolution called to a polity change at the national level performing a same sex marriage is a matter of pastoral/ministerial misconduct and should have consequences. The 2016 Standing Committee recommended that the consequence for officiating or providing leadership at a same sex wedding is the termination the ministry credential of the one officiating or providing leadership at the same sex wedding. This shall be for a period of one year, pending review by the district ministerial leadership team.

The vote needed a two-thirds majority. It did not obtain that vote so the motion failed.

However, a motion was adopted on the floor to refer the concerns of the query to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations and districts. The recommendations would be brought to the 2017 Annual Conference.

The recommendation was the officiating of same sex by credentialed clergy shall be handled in the same way as any other report of ministerial conduct: If a district executive minister receives a report based on direct knowledge that a minister had performed a same gender marriage, the information shall be reported to the district's credentialing body as a matter of ministerial conduct. It will continue to be the standard practice among the district executives that the districts respect decisions concerning ministerial misconduct and removal of ordinations by other districts.

I voted "NO" on this because I believe that WGT would have liked to have seen a denominational response for all districts. One district may not consider performing a same sex marriage ceremony as having any ministerial misconduct. In fact, Pacific Northwest District introduced a new congregation whose

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Like You

Lord help me to be in
Your holy will;
Tell me what to do today;
Lead me in Your
righteousness;
Make me more like You,
I pray.
Guard me against this
corrupting world,
Its perverted priorities,
temptations, too.
Direct my mind toward Your
commands,
So I can focus my life on You.
Fill my heart with Your
light and love,
So I can assist those I
see in need;
With You as my role model,
let me be
Like You in thought and
word and deed.

By Joanna Fuchs

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Cook Book Sale!

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AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Executive Committee Mtg. 7 pm	2 Youth 7 pm	3 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	4	5 Pavilion/ Fellowship Hall Reserved
6 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	7 WWW Bible Study 7 pm	8 Commissions 7 pm Board 8 pm	9 Youth 7 pm Pastor Mick Vacation	10 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	11 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am Camp Swatara	12 Camp Swatara
13 Combined Service 9 am No Sunday School Camp Swatara	14 WWW Bible Study 7 pm Tiny Timbers Board 7 pm	15	16 Youth 7 pm	17 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	18	19
20 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Youth to Get Air	21 WWW Bible Study 7 pm	22 Deacon Mtg. 7 pm	23 Youth 7 pm Pastor Mick Vacation	27 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	25	6
27 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	28 WWW Bible Study 7 pm First Day of School EAHS & DSD	29	30 Youth 7 pm	31 Men's Bible Study 7 pm		

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pastor is gay. She is married to another female. So there is no disciplinary action taken by the Pacific Northwest District's credentialing body.

The recommendation passed and was approved by Annual Conference meaning that the districts will determine the consequences of officiating same sex marriages.

I believe that this will be very divisive in the near future for those more conservative churches in our denomination.

Unfinished Business Item #2 Review and Evaluation.

Recommendation #6 The Review and Evaluation Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that On Earth Peace no longer remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren.

The 2016 Annual Conference had two queries regarding whether or not On Earth Peace should remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren. On Earth Peace is a very progressive and liberal voice of the Church of the Brethren and describe themselves as having a prophetic voice for the church based on "New Light" from the Holy Spirit as a matter of conscience. The queries believe that On Earth Peace was in fact causing strife in the church causing divisiveness. In other words, On Earth Peace, as agency of peace, was causing anything but peace in our congregation. The queries were given to the Review and Evaluation Committee to study and bring back their recommendation to the 2017 Annual Conference.

This recommendation would change Church of the Brethren Polity so it needed a two-thirds majority vote. Vote was 370 "yes" and 280 "no." The vote carried a 56.9% of the total votes so the recommendation failed. On Earth Peace remains an agency of the Church of the Brethren. I voted "yes" because I do not believe that On Earth Peace represents the majority of the churches and they could have continued as an organization.

Agency status gives On Earth Peace the ability to write and recommend queries to the Annual Conference and also full representation of the denomination outside the church.

All for His glory, Pastor Mick

Recently I watched a movie where a son rejected his father's love for years until something brought them back together. I couldn't help but think I know how God feels when we reject him. I know God still loves us as the father in the movie still loved his son. When we feel like we are alone & no one cares, God is there. He loves us. When we are lost, He will help us find our way back God is always with us. When we cry & our hearts are broken, God will comfort us. We cannot see him but know he is with you. God never stops loving us even when we sin & reject him. I see Christ in my mind standing there with his arms open, beckoning us to come & receive the love he has for us. Run, my friends, run right to him without delay.

With Christian Love, Brenda Axe

VBS

As I am writing this article, we are just getting ready to kick off VBS. We had a record 75 kids pre-register this year! I am excited for what God has in store for this week. Thank you to everyone who helped out with VBS—decorating, donating snacks, volunteering your time for the week—I appreciate it! Together this outreach continues to be a success for our community. Until next year...

Allison, VBS Director

Kids Choir

Practice for Kids Choir will start in September. Practice will be from 10 am—10:15 am Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing once a month with dates to be determined. Families with children grades K - 5th keep your eyes peeled to the bulletin announcements for specifics regarding more specifics for the fall season.

Allison Huber

Summer Summer Summertime

By the time this goes to print, summer will be about half over. Some who are reading this are happy while others are beginning to feel a bit anxious as another school year draws near and warm temperature will eventually subside.

In early June, just before school ended, we took a break from our normal Wednesday routine. We decided we would all pile in a few cars and head down to Bainbridge. We took a stroll to the White Cliffs on the River Trail. Before returning to Elizabethtown, we enjoyed a tasty ice cream treat at Gi-Gi's.

Nothing says summer like a pool, mini golf and ice cream. WGT youth have had the opportunity to enjoy some summer activities that included all three of these. The Senior and Junior High students each had their own pool party as well as separate mini golf and ice cream outings.

In June, a group of youths along with adult leaders attended a work night at GAIN. GAIN, Global Aid Network, expresses Jesus' love in the toughest places on earth by relieving suffering, restoring dignity, and revealing hope. We assisted in a variety of activities centered on clothing. We handled the clothing from sorting all the way to packaging to be shipped to geographical locations in need. GAIN has seen a significant rise in demand, due in large to worldwide refugee situation. We ended the hot evening with slushies at Turkey Hill – 99 cents for 32 ounces!!!

We are looking forward to an outing at Get Air Trampoline Park as an end of summer vacation celebration. We will enjoy pizza on Sunday, August 20 before traveling to Get Air to enjoy trampolines and a ninja warrior course.

Our most recent Wednesday evening series was entitled If/Then. When Jesus talked about Himself, He would make statements like, "I am the Good Shepherd" and, "I am the bread of life." As strange as they sound, these statements give us a better picture of who Jesus is. Because if He is a shepherd, then we are His sheep. And if He is the bread of life, then we can be satisfied in Him. In this series, we discussed the way Jesus described Himself, and how it gives us a clue into who we are as well.

Through the summer, we have combined the Senior and Junior High for Sunday School. We most recently took a look at how God's choice to use people is not dependent upon them. We started at Abram and worked our way to John the Baptist, revealing God's story. God chose specific people to play a part at moving His story forward. Each of us have this same opportunity to play a part in God's story, building His kingdom.

We continue to desire your prayers and appreciate all your support. We are grateful for our wonderful couples that serve our youth. We strive to grow in our knowledge of the LORD, and through this knowledge live lives that make Him proud.

For Him,
Shawn



Anniversaries

- 8/5 - George & Traci Clugston II
- 8/6 - Duane & Kathy Martin
- 8/8 - Todd & Lisa Shelly
- 8/9 - Glenn & Sylvia Weaver
- 8/17 - Justin & Nichole Hawthorne
- 8/17 - Justin & Sarah Sheetz
- 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,
June Gerhart
- 8/12 - Grace Leonard
- 8/13 - Ned Stumpf
- 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 6	August 13 Camp Swatara Combined Service	August 20	August 27
Scripture & Sermon	Ephesians 6:10-20 A Mighty Warrior Pastor Mick	Cody Schwanger	Cody Schwanger	Ephesians 6:21-24 You Are Loved Pastor Mick
Pianist/Organist	Ryan Arndt	Brenda Geib	Leslie Allen	Ryan Arndt
Special Music	Allison Huber		Glenn Weaver	
Chorister	Regena Tripp	June Kolp	Glenn Weaver	Regena Tripp
Greeters 8 am	Marlin & Rose Hibshman	NONE	Barry & Sheila Miller	Adrienne & Grace Fellenbaum
Greeters 10:30 am	Matt & Heather Haverkamp	Charlie & Tracy Drescher	Dennis & Ann Saylor	Randy & Anita Youtz
Welcome Center 8 am	Leslie Allen	NONE	Sarah Clugston	Blaine Youtz
Welcome Center 10:30 am	Ralph Daniels	Todd & Lisa Shelly	Dennis & Ann Saylor	Randy & Anita Youtz
Worship Leader	Liane Sucharski	Donna Weaver	Dick Dickason	Zane Seitz
Ushers	Youth	New Horizons SS Class	Faith Seekers SS Class	Sojourners SS Class
Deacons/Anointing	Matt & Heather Haverkamp	June Kolp	Clint & Julie Arndt	Dennis & Ann Saylor
Sound Room 8 am	Jerry Huber & Zane Seitz	NONE	Jerry Huber & Nick Sieber	Jerry Huber & Justin Arndt
Sound Room 10:30 am	Duane Martin & Jason Leonard	Jerry & JJ Huber	Duane Martin & Jeff Schwanger	Duane Martin & Shane Schwanger
8 am Nursery/Toddler	Scott & Christie Farmer	NONE	Linda Spickler & Hailey Tippet	
10:30 am Nursery/Toddler	Phil & Donna Hollinger	Sarah Kolp & Nick Miller	Cindy Collins & Brenda Drawbaugh	Marilyn Keener & Nick Ellison

June & July Stats

	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16
Total Worship	143	114	163	None Reported
Sunday School	90	73	None Reported	None Reported
General	\$3,888.00	\$5,017.00	&6,059.00	\$3,591.00
Building		\$1,510.59		
Deacon		\$60.00		\$60.00
Seminary			\$100.00	

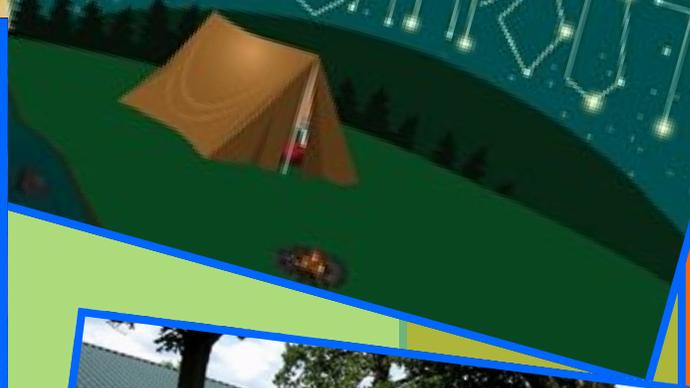
The Nurture Commission held its first All-Church Campout on Saturday June 24th. It was an evening of fellowship, relaxing by campfires, playing bingo and watching the movie "Zootopia" at dusk on the big screen. A hot breakfast was provided in the morning followed by an 8 am outdoor church service.

We want to give an extra big thank you to Dane Youtz and Nila and Dan Grose for stepping in and helping prepare breakfast. It was greatly appreciated.

We are planning on doing this event again next year and are open to suggestions/ideas to make this event bigger and better for all.



FALL CHURCH FAMILY CAMPOUT



740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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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