



# Shenandoah Update

JANUARY 15, 2010

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

## Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren

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Questions or announcements for inclusion in this newsletter?

Send by email to

[jdaggett@shencob.org](mailto:jdaggett@shencob.org).

To be removed from this distribution list, please email us at the above address.

## Haiti Earthquake Response

A special edition of the Shenandoah Update was sent out earlier today with information Church of the Brethren and Shenandoah District's response to this disaster. Please let us know if you have problems opening or using the bulletin insert that was included with that update. The content of the email and the insert is also available on our website

## Winter Youth Worship—January 24

Bring your youth group to Staunton Church of the Brethren on Sunday, January 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. for Winter Youth Worship! Make sure your youth and advisors see the attached flyer.

## Urgent!--Volunteers Needed February 14-20

Volunteers are needed for the Disaster Ministries project in Hammond, Indiana, the week of February 14-20. There are 13 seats available on the trip. Please call Jerry Ruff (540-447-0306) or Warren Rodeffer (540-471-7738) if you or anyone in your congregation is available to volunteer.

## Discerning Our Gifts Information Sessions

The Gifts Discernment and Calling Team of the Shenandoah District has spent hours in prayer and planning for their work of helping persons in our churches discern their gifts and calling for ministry. In order to interpret its purpose and work, the team will be in churches in four areas of the district during the first quarter of 2010 to share with pastors and lay persons about the beliefs, values and biblical basis that inform the work of gifts discernment and how it can be effectively used in your church and in our district. Each event will begin 3 p.m. and will conclude at 5 p.m. Choose the location and date that is best for you; no registration is required.

January 31	Friends Run Church
February 21	Pleasant Valley Church
March 7	Antioch Church
March 21	Cedar Grove-Ruckersville

The Gifts Discernment and Calling Team members are Charlie Kipps, John Jantzi, Janet Else, Wayne Pence, Matthew Fike & Bernie Fuska. You may call one of these persons or the District Office for more information.

## Upcoming Events

**Last Minute Middle East Service/Encounter Opportunity!** You are warmly welcomed to join the Nazareth/Bethlehem Work Group sponsored by Virginia Mennonite Missions and scheduled for May 7-24, 2010. This work group will volunteer their services at Nazareth Village, Nazareth, and at the International Center of Bethlehem at Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem. Group leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New

Testament, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and Les Horning, Pastor, Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship. Group size will be limited to 18. Registration is open to all interested persons on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested, please contact Dorothy Jean by phone at (540) 432-4276 or by e-mail at [weaverdj@emu.edu](mailto:weaverdj@emu.edu)) ASAP. **Registration deadline is January 30.**

**Divorce Care Group**—The Family Life Resource Center is sponsoring a video-based support group for separated and divorced persons which will meet from 7-8:30 weekly at the Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. Start date will be announced once we have enough folks signed up. There is no charge... but \$12.00 for the workbook. Contact for more information may be made through the office at FLRC at 540-434-8450.

**The Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to benefit its Community Needs Assistance Fund.** This fund is used to help area families, regardless of religious/church affiliation, with emergency needs like food and fuel. The dinner is Saturday, January 30 from 4 - 7pm at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Cost is \$7 per person, \$6 for seniors over 65, \$3 for children 6 and under. Please call Pleasant Valley Church (234-9921) to purchase tickets and help area families in need.

**Building Bridges: Connecting with New People, February 2 & 4**--Evangelism Webinar with Chip Arn sponsored by the Church of the Brethren Congregational Life Ministries Office. See the attached flyer for more information.

**The CrossRoads (Valley Brethren-Mennonite) Heritage Center will hold its annual dinner and meeting on Friday evening, February 5,** at 6:30 p.m., at the Lindale Mennonite Church, 625 Jesse Bennett Way, Linville, Va. Tickets are \$20 per person. To register, call (540) 438-1275 by Monday, February 1, and mail your deposit to CrossRoads, P.O. Box 1563, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. A picture show will highlight activities for 2009 and CrossRoads President Robert Alley will share a vision for the remainder of 2010. Snow date is February 12 ([info@vbmhc.org](mailto:info@vbmhc.org), [www.vbmhc.org](http://www.vbmhc.org)).

**Mandatory Ethics Training Seminar—March 12-13, Mill Creek Church**

All licensed and ordained ministers of the Church of the Brethren within the Shenandoah District are required to take an ethics training course every five years. These are required preparation for the every fifth year ordination renewal process. Shenandoah's training event will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 12 & 13 at the Mill Creek Church. This training event will include worship with a keynote address by Chris Bowman, pastor of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, on Friday evening and sessions on Friday and Saturday for pastors and lay leaders on both the Ministerial Ethics and Congregational Ethics papers. A registration form was sent out in last week's update and is available on our website.

**Roots and Fruits of Christian Peacemaking—March 17, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Linville Creek Church of the Brethren.** Christian peacemaking is central to the message of Christ. But too often it is not explored in depth, or stereotyped as something much too superficial. This six-hour seminar will provide a dynamic series of conversations about the Roots (foundations) and Fruits (vision and practice) of Christian peacemaking and nonviolence. It is appropriate for anyone interested in Christian peacemaking, including pastors, congregational peace leaders and rabble-rousers, church planters, and you! Participants will identify the context & needs for Christian peacemaking today, and the roots or heritage we draw on scripturally and spiritually (with a special focus on the Church of the Brethren, and

also more broadly). This day is a chance to examine a vision for Christian peacemaking that is relevant (addressing individual and community needs) and holistic (including personal spirituality, interpersonal relationships, and social engagement). Participants will also explore the need and possibility for strengthening mutual support among Christian-faith-rooted people of peace in the Shenandoah Valley. Resource person Matt Guynn is program director for On Earth Peace, an agency of the Church of the Brethren. Cost for the event is \$25 per person/\$15 per student (includes lunch). *CEUs are available for those ordained or licensed in the Church of the Brethren.* A registration form is attached.