

*District of Idaho & Western Montana
Church of the Brethren*



A Joyful Voice

Volume 2, Issue 5

December 2008

Sue Daniel, Editor



FOLLOW THE STAR . . .

FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 30, 2007

4:00 PM

BOISE VALLEY CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN

4721 STAR ROAD * MERIDIAN

**ENJOY AND PARTICIPATE IN
AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT,
SHARING AND PRAISING THE LORD
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

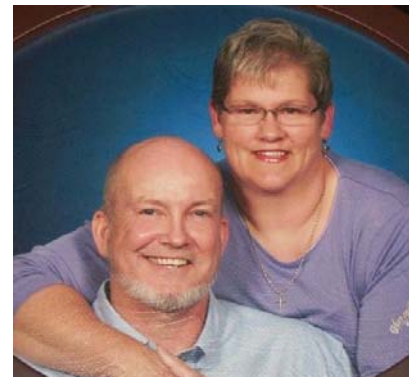
Each congregation is encouraged to share a
musical number, reading or skit

Contact Sue Daniel by December 23 to schedule
(442-7260 or IdahoAE@msn.com)

**BOISE VALLEY WILL SHARE INFORMATION AND
AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR
CAPITAL BUILDING CAMPAIGN,
"THE MIRACLE OF THE STARS"**

Fruitland Calls Pastor

Westward, Ho! Native Pennsylvanians Don and Cathy Morrison are about to embark on a journey across the country ~ from Dover, Pennsylvania to Fruitland, Idaho. The Fruitland congregation recently issued a pastoral call to Don, and he responded with a resounding "Yes!" Praise be to God!



Don Morrison is a licensed minister who comes from the Bermudian COB in East Berlin, PA. He has a passion for mission and evangelism ministry and is currently enrolled in the TRIM (Training in Ministry) program. Don and his wife, Cathy, will relocate to Fruitland in January. Cathy is currently pursuing her certificate in Christian counseling. She enjoys ministering with Don and in her spare time she likes quilting, card making, and scrap booking. Don and Cathy have 2 children: Joshua, residing in Pittsburgh; and Allyson who lives at home. Don is an RN and has been a nurse-administrator for the past 15 years. When he is not working or studying he enjoys spending time with friends and family and watching baseball or football. Don looks forward to serving as pastor in Fruitland where he has already fallen in love with the congregation and the church.

Please join Fruitland in welcoming the Morrisons and celebrating God's leading in this call.

Come walk with us . . . News from Jim and Pam Hardenbrook

The Idaho district continues its prayer, support and encouragement for our missionaries to the Sudan. Since their September 30th departure, Jim and Pam have traveled throughout the country visiting churches, representing the initiative, seeking financial support and participating in educational programs designed to help prepare them for their work in Sudan. They have communicated their activities, including praise and petition for various aspects of the initiative and personal issues, via an electronic newsletter. Excerpts from their 11/29/07 communiqué appear below.



Initiative's present status: Detour

Brad Borher, Sudan Initiative director and Merv Keeney, Global Mission Partnerships director have been working out the timing for our departure to South Sudan.

We, along with the Messick family, had been looking toward leaving in early February 2008. But circumstances surrounding a "little Messick," due to join the family in April, have led to a change of plans. We are experiencing such mixed emotions: great joy for that precious new life and deep sadness that the Messicks won't be going to Sudan with us. But in God's wisdom and timing, we claim Jeremiah 29:11 for Matt and Kristy: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future." With their love for the Lord and their passion for mission, we wouldn't be surprised to see the Messicks in mission service in the future.

All along, the plan has been for the initiative to send a team of at least two families to Sudan. We understand that another family is in the application process. If everything works out for them to join the Lead Team, that family should be ready to go by late summer.

Although we are eager to go, trusted advisors have suggested that it would be unwise for the two of us to go alone. With that advice in mind, we have been considering another option: a "detour," if you will.

Brad and Merv have proposed that while a second family is preparing to go to Sudan, the Hardenbrooks could serve short-term in Nigeria, teaching at Kulp Bible College.

The General Board funds two teaching positions at the college, and it happens that those positions are open at this time. Our work in Nigeria would be funded from an existing account, which means that the funds raised for the Sudan Initiative will be preserved solely for that mission.

This "detour" to Nigeria can benefit us in the following ways:

- Gain Africa experience
- Study the Nigerian church in preparation for establishing the church in Sudan
- Recruit Nigerian mission workers for the Sudan mission
- Enter Sudan as a team with other mission workers

So, if this Nigeria option works out for us, we will go to Nigeria in early February, teach through mid-July in the Bible college, participate in the Brethren Heritage Tour that Jim is facilitating in August, and then enter South Sudan in late August or early September.

Fundraising update – Thanking God for your generosity

Our hearts have been incredibly blessed by the generosity of God's people. We think we should let you know about the enthusiastic reception and abundant financial support we have received for our work in South Sudan. When we left Nampa on September 30, approximately \$8,000 had been given toward our support. That amount has increased exponentially over these past seven weeks! Our financial goals are being reached and our personal needs are being met day by day.

Website in the works

We recently met with a supporter from the Shenandoah District to talk about creating a website for the Sudan Initiative. This brilliant, generous young man has expertise in Web and computer technology and a passion for Christ's mission to the world. A website will be a fantastic communication tool for us. As our list of e-mail addresses multiplies (currently over 300 addresses), sending the newsletter via e-mail becomes increasingly cumbersome. Once this website is up and running, we will use it to publish our newsletter, as well as photos and other types of information about the mission.

Good News!!

~ from the Idaho congregations . . .



Boise Valley

- On Harvest Sunday, Nov. 18, Don and Joyce Tutor picked up 500 gift bags provided for the Mexico Children's Ministry, plus a \$200 offering toward gas to deliver them. Boise Valley's generous response to this ministry is appreciated.
- A Peace Study led by David Bethel on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. will conclude on December 2 with a challenge, "What can you and I do today?"
- Pastor Ed is encouraging 100% attendance on Dec. 2, the first Sunday of Advent. He will share two stories, "In the darkest night...what a change when the stars come out" and "what Jesus did with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish," and promises folks will not go home empty handed.

Bowmont Community

- Bowmont shined as hosts of the 2007 District Conference on September 14th and 15th with delicious meals and snacks, perfect weather for outdoor fellowship and gracious hospitality.
- We had a very successful and well attended Harvest Carnival on Oct. 31st, a free community outreach that Bowmont has hosted for the past 17 years. Co-directors this year were Lori Blattner and Debbie Lowber.
- We assembled and sent 8 packages filled with goodies to our adopted soldiers serving in Iraq for a Veterans Thanksgiving treat.
- Bowmont ladies put together 44 individual fruit/candy baskets, 33 of which were delivered to Sun Bridge Nursing Home for those seniors who don't get visits from family this time of year. Eleven were sent out with food baskets the Melba Senior Citizens put together for low income seniors in the Melba area.

Community Twin Falls

- Yvone Humphrey joined Community by baptism in November - BIG JOY!
- Pastor Kathryn has been working in Fruitland 3-4 days a week since September. It has been a blessing and an awesome experience to watch God draw these churches and congregations together.

Fruitland

- The Kids for Christ Club is growing and going strong. At the Thanksgiving worship service, the children presented a song, "Thank you God" thanking Him for the fruits of the Spirit which they have been studying.
- Kathryn Bausman services as Interim Pastor since mid-September have been appreciated.
- The Fruitland congregation eagerly anticipates the arrival of Pastor Don Morrison and wife Cathy in early January.
- Advent activities will include a children's program on December 16 and Love Feast on December 23.

Mountain View

- In November, Bethel Ministries, a Discipleship Transitional program for men out of prison held their graduation ceremony, graduating 12 men from the program. Brent Renke, Director of Corrections for the State of Idaho was the featured speaker. Bethel has opened its fourth house in Boise and plans to open a fifth house next spring. In seven years no graduates have re-offended, which means a total of 97% success for the program.
- Advent activities will include: December 1, 10 a.m., annual Hanging of the Greens: decoration of the church followed by a bowl of good hot chili; December 16, Mt. View Children will do a Christmas celebration presentation and Paul Grodiger and Alysia Stevens will be bringing a special musical presentation; Christmas caroling on December 18; our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 7:00 p.m. will include a special time of remembrance of those who have passed.
- December 30 Jim Schmidt will be the morning speaker as Pastor David and Deanna McKellip will be spending Christmas week in California with their children.

Nampa

- The Nampa congregation welcomed Bill and Sue Miller in late September following Bill's call to serve as Interim Pastor. An installation service was held for Pastor Bill and Don Hardenbrook, Interim Associate Pastor, on October 25.
- The Search Committee, faithfully continuing their work on the pastoral search, has been gathering information to complete the Congregational Profile.
- Special *Thanks* to Martin & Edith Gauby for their hard work on the newly re-organized library, complete with signs directing readers to various subjects. The collection includes Bibles, study helps, Brethren heritage, inspiration, prayer, devotionals, light reading and biographies. Books are available for check-out and people are encouraged to enjoy them.
- Nampa Advent activities include Musettes Concerts on Dec. 7 & 8, Christmas caroling, soup and games on Dec. 9, Sounds and Tastes of Christmas on Dec. 16, and Christmas eve services at 5:30 (Memorial Service), 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. A combined worship service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 23, at 10:30 a.m.

“Reverse Declining Membership”

Idaho Annual Conference Query

The 2007 Annual Conference adopted the query initiated by Nampa and the Idaho District which addresses the declining membership of our denomination and asks when and how the Church of the Brethren can halt and reverse this trend toward distinction. Annual Conference provided a response that included the following challenge to congregations and districts:

- **share stories of success with an emphasis placed upon encouragement, education and spiritual formation**

One way to work at reversing our denomination’s declining membership trend is to focus upon what is good and right in the Church of the Brethren. Share stories about how your congregation is actively living the Great Commission, reaching those outside the church and nurturing the spiritual formation of those within the fellowship.

Send a story about the ministry of your congregation to **Mary Ann Sedlecek, 11311 Missouri Ave., Nampa, ID 83686**. To glorify God and encourage others, these stories will be shared with Standing Committee and may be printed in whole or part in the district newsletter, *A Joyful Voice*.



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:11-12

Idaho/Brethren Disaster Ministries

- Seven Idahoans—Rex & Jenette Freeman, Bud & Dee Fillmore, Howard Garwick, Earl & Lois Traugher—recently returned from Disaster Ministries Director Training in New Windsor, Maryland. The Idaho District had the most directors of any district at the training session. On Friday the group had a full morning to wait until plane time and spent the morning at the Brethren Service Center warehouse sorting health kits to get them ready for shipment.
- Rex & Jenette will be project directors at Pearl River, Louisiana during the month of January. At least eleven (possibly more) Idaho Brethren volunteers are scheduled to work on the Pearl River project Jan. 6-12. Anyone interested in going with this group should contact Verl King at 208-463-4608.
- The Auction Committee extends a sincere “**THANKS**” to everyone who contributed to a successful event. The auction netted approximately \$23,000, including a \$7,500 contribution from an anonymous donor.



Wishing you the Joy, Peace and Christ-filled Spirit of the Holiday Season!

Celebrating 300 Years . . .

Church of the Brethren Anniversary Events:

Saturday, July 12 – Wednesday, July 16, 2008 — Annual Conference to be held in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Brethren Church will feature some joint celebratory events as well as separate time for each denomination to conduct its business.

Sunday, August 3, 2008 — Celebration Sunday. All congregations are encouraged to celebrate the 300th Anniversary in their own way. A variety of celebratory worship and educational resources will be provided in advance.

July 26- August 7, 2008—*Jim and Pam Hardenbrook will lead a tour beginning in Berlin and concluding in Zurich. The tour cost (not including round trip airfare) is \$2,239. Three days will be spent in the Schwarzenau area for the 300th Anniversary celebration.*



...Strengthen My Hands

They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." Nehemiah 6:9 (NIV)

The 2008 National Workcamp schedule offers a variety of opportunities for service, and again includes a Camp Stover Worksite ~ June 16-22.

Workcamps give us to opportunity to be the "hands of God" through our actions. They challenge us to take time out of our busy schedules and lives to *lend a helping hand* to others in the world. "God-blessed hands" have the ability to *bless, heal and pray* with others. Through a *handshake* we can offer the assurance of love and friendship.

Where will you leave your **HANDPRINT** this summer?

Are you **WILLING** to *touch* the needs and people of our world?

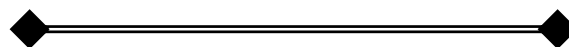
Are you **READY** to call upon God for strength for your hands?

Contact the district office or check out the website (www.brethren.org) for further information.

Bollinger Cabin Available

This year Camp Stover is going to experiment with having the Amsey Bollinger cabin available for use through the winter. Gary Sedlecek, Nampa, will be coordinating the schedule, and would love to hear thoughts or ideas from you.

One week (7 days) notice prior to use is required. Please contact the Nampa church office at 466-3321 for further details.



"On the Way"

**Camp Stover 2008
June 22-28**

**Guest Leadership: Jeff Carter, Pastor
Manassas, VA Church of the Brethren**

** Mark your calendars. 2008 Camp Stover dates are earlier than usual due to the 300th Anniversary Annual Conference schedule.

District of Idaho & Western Montana Church of the Brethren

Calendar of Events

2007

- Dec. 8 Jr. Hi/Youth/Young Adult Get-Together @ Mt. View
Dec. 30 Fifth Sunday Worship @ Boise Valley

2008 Church of the Brethren 300th Anniversary

- Jan. 3-5 Board of Directors Retreat @ Trinity Pines, Cascade
Jan. 6-12 Idaho Disaster Ministries Team in Pearl River, LA
Mar. 4 Board of Directors Meeting @ Mt. View
Jun. 16-22 National Workcamp @ Camp Stover
Jun. 22-28 Camp Stover
July 12-16 Annual Conference @ Richmond, VA
Aug. 3 300th Birthday Celebration Sunday
Aug. 11-15 National Young Adult Conference @ Estes Park, CO
Oct. 3-4 District Conference @ Fruitland



A Joyful Voice is a quarterly publication.
Please submit articles or items of interest
from congregations or individuals to:

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