

Greetings from Manchester! Our prayers are with you as your district gathers and discerns God's path for you in the months ahead.

It has been another full year in our first year as a university. About 1,260 undergraduate students studied in North Manchester—making full use of the new Academic Center—while nearly 65 professional students enrolled as the first class for the doctoral-level College of Pharmacy at a new facility in Fort Wayne. More than 275 students received their degrees at commencement in May.

Some of the particular highlights:

- Students, faculty, and staff are active in service, one of Manchester's core values. In 2012-2013, the University community registered more than 40,000 service hours. Manchester participated in the President's Interfaith Service Challenge for a second year, in a partnership between the Office of Volunteer Services and the Campus Interfaith Board.
- Manchester received its reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, a once-a-decade regional visit that thoroughly looks at all aspects of the university's programs and makes sure we are doing what we say we do. The reviews indicate that we are indeed doing it, and doing it well.
- Brethren numbers remained strong (about 6 percent of students), with a good first-year class. An active "Simply Brethren" group continued on campus, doing a variety of education, worship, and fellowship events through the year. Camp Mack Day took more than 50 people to the camp in September for a full day of events.
- A January Session class on "Brethren Heritage" led a group of six students to sites around the Midwest and out to Philadelphia and the Mid-Atlantic region to do hand-on learning about the roots of our faith and the ways it has been shaped over the decades.
- ROBOT—the "Radically Obedient Brethren Outreach Team"—took worship deputation trips to six congregations and assisted with a middle school retreat. The Powerhouse regional youth conference brought more than 80 youth and advisors to campus in November, with Josh Brockway as the keynote speaker. Staff attended all six Midwest district conferences and made a variety of other contacts.
- Speakers at the weekly chapel services this year included Annual Conference moderator Bob Krouse, New Community Project director David Radcliff, Christian Peacemaker Teams member Cliff Kindy, Youth/Young Adult Ministry director Becky Ullom, and a number of local pastors.
- Our "VIA" convocation series brought a variety of excellent speakers to campus, including noted Quaker author Philip Gulley, whose books include *If Grace Is True* and *If the Church Were Christian*, and a Peace Week play by actress/writer Kim Schultz on the situation of Iraqi refugees.
- Manchester welcomed a new Director of Alumni Relations, Jennifer Shepherd; a new Director of Development, Andrew Flamm; and a new Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing, Scott Ochander.

As we go into the next year, may our prayer be that of David in Psalm 143:10 (CEV): "You are my God. Show me what you want me to do, and let your gentle Spirit lead me in the right path."

Walt Wiltschek, Director of Church Relations