

Annual Conference Hotel Reservations and Non-delegate Registration open on Wednesday, February 25

While delegate registration opened on January 5, registration will open on February 25 for non-delegates at 12:00 noon central time. Hotel reservations for both delegates and non-delegates will also open at noon (central time) on Wednesday, February 25. To register as a non-delegate, go to www.brethren.org/ac and click on "Register Now"

After you have registered as a non-delegate for Annual Conference, you will immediately receive an automatic email that gives you a link to register for the hotel you prefer. This year there are two hotels in the Conference Block: Marriott Waterside (\$109/night) and Embassy Suites (\$114/night including breakfast for one). You can find more details about these two hotels on the Annual Conference website. Please do not telephone the hotels directly; they cannot give you the negotiated conference rate. Please register for Annual Conference and then use the link you will receive to book your hotel room. All delegates who are registered will automatically be emailed the link on February 25 to secure their hotel reservation. If you have any questions please call the Annual Conference Office at 847-429-4365.. If you have any questions please call the Annual Conference Office at 847-429-4365.

Adams County Property Updates

A team has been formed to negotiate the sale of part of our Adam's County property. This team is made up of five members of our District board and five members of the Friends of Woodland Altars. Legal counsel representing each group will also be a part of the team. These twelve people will meet with the Nature Conservancy to firm up details of the sale. These details will be presented for approval at a Special District Conference. The date and location of the Conference has not yet been determined. A blog page has been set up on our District website. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or comments please feel free to [Click here](#) join in the discussion.

Prayers for Nigerian Church and the Kidnapped Girls

Boko Haram have escalated not only their attacks, but have now gone beyond Nigerian borders to neighboring countries. More kidnappings are reported along with many killings. There are reports of several cities being taken by Boko Haram, some of these reports indicate that the Nigerian military has pushed back. U.S. Secretary of state, John Kerry, is currently visiting in Nigeria to discuss the situation with Nigerian officials. There are calls from these countries to work together to put an end to the violence. The Church of the Brethren is organizing efforts for temporary housing and supplying basic needs; mor information on these efforts can be found on the denominational website. Our prayers are still very much needed for this situation.

Donations are still being accepted for the Nigeria Crisis Fund which will be matched by an amount set aside by the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. [Click here](#) to donate online, or make out a check to Emergency Disaster Fund, noting Nigeria Crisis Fund in the memo line. Mail the check to: Emergency Disaster Fund Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Volunteers Needed: Crew of 26 for March

Brethren Disaster Ministries continues to work in New Jersey with Superstorm Sandy recovery. It's over two years now since the disaster, and many are still in need of housing. January 11-17 we sent a crew of eight volunteers, and we have a crew of twenty-six ready to go February 15-21. We now need volunteers for March 15-21 and May 24-30.

There is much to be done with the Sept. 1 deadline for completion of twelve houses in Toms River. To meet this need, a second house has opened for lodging volunteers, and our crew size is now increased to twenty-six. We need many workers! There is no monetary cost to the volunteers who serve. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [click here to email](#). Please consider this opportunity and share it with others.

The **2015 BDM schedule**, which is formatted so it can be used as a bulletin insert is available on the website. Please share this with your congregation.

Sewing Bee and Assembly of School Kits

On Saturday, January 24, brothers and sisters gathered to sew school bags and assemble school kits for Church World Service. Sixty-three bags were sewn, and 322 School Kits were assembled. These are ready to be shipped to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. The next Sewing Bee is scheduled for Saturday, March 7 at 9:00 AM at the Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine. Others are invited to bring scissors for cutting out baby gowns. We'll also be assembling School Kits, using the bags that have already been sewn. Come join in a time of fellowship and service. Lunch will be served.

Camping and Retreat Commission Updates

The Winter Youth Adventure that was scheduled in January was canceled due to low enrollment. Jon Keller still wants to have this event next year. We have reserved Camp Willson for the Presidents' Day weekend in 2016, hoping it will be a better time for high school students to take time for some fun in the snow and reflect on their faith journeys with Jon's leadership. The CRC will be addressing the issue of cost for the event. We are looking into some new and creative ways to help fund events that build our community of faith and make it affordable to families.

Look for a new Save-the-Date card announcing the CRC events for 2015.

2015 Camps have been set. Registration will open February 15. Applications will be on the web site. Hard copies will be sent to all churches for distribution.

There is a great need for volunteers in many areas of the camping program. We need counselors for all the camps. Since we do all our own cooking and baking, we need people to help with preparation and cleanup during the camp sessions. Talented people who like crafts, story telling, Bible study, nature talks, sports, are always great assets to the camping experience. If anyone has

some time this summer to volunteer, we need you! Contact Karen Dillon by phone, letter, email or even in person if you are interested.

Please keep Charlene Foster in your prayers as she recovers from heart surgery. She is doing well, but appreciates our support. She loves camp and plans to be a part of the 2015 camping season.

Oakland Dinner Theatre

The Oakland Church of the Brethren, 8058 Horatio-Harris Creek Road, Bradford (2 and a half miles north of Gettysburg, Ohio) will be presenting When Bullfrogs Sing Opera by Carl L. Williams (produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co.), as their 2015 Dinner Theater production. The play centers around two sisters who grew up in Bullfrog Waller, but Millicent left the country for the big-city life while Coreen stayed in the country as a cornbread and grits kinda' girl. Now meeting again, Millicent continues to make plans to advance up the social ladder while trying to keep her embarrassing past a secret. Coreen is now thinking of leaving Bullfrog Waller. Come and hear the bullfrog sounds as deceit and conceit ultimately reveal not just secrets but what matters most in this award-winning comedy.

Oakland's annual dinner theater is well known throughout the community. Those who attend are warmly greeted with valet parking, a wide variety of freshly prepared salads, entrees and desserts as well as wholesome entertainment that highlights the talents that exist within the congregation. John Dillon is the director. Nan Hottle is the producer. Rochelle Holsapple is dinner coordinator. The cast members are Amanda Sgro, Betty Byrd, Mike Hogg, Lynne Hanes, Joseph Helfrich, Holden Klingler, and Alison Helfrich.

The dates will be March 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 6:00 pm, cost of the dinner buffet and play will be \$22.00. On Sunday, March 8, dessert only will be served at 2:00pm with the play to follow at 3:00pm, cost of \$12.00. Cost for children 10 and under will be half price.

Reservations may be made from 4-8 pm with Brenda Coblentz at 937-548-1895.

Proceeds from the dinner theater production will help support Oakland's outreach projects.

In Memory . . .

C. Wendell Bohrer passed away Thursday, January 15, 2015 in Sebring, Fla., following a brief illness. Wendell is Debbie Wright's father (Andrew Wright's father-in-law).

A life-long servant of the church, Wendell was ordained in 1961 and served congregations in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio (interim pastor at Castine Church of the Brethren), and Florida, retiring in 2007. He served on the Church of the Brethren General Board in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Please hold Wendell's wife, Joan, and his children and grandchildren in your prayers during this difficult time. Condolences can be sent to Andrew and Debbie Wright at 502 West Lincoln Street, New Carlisle, OH 45344. Joan's address is: 245 Oak Avenue #419, Sebring, FL 33870-3632.