

# Denominational News

October 2011

# Atlantic Northeast District News

## Peace and Justice

The Church of the Brethren works to live out of our tradition as a historic peace church by seeking to become a living peace church, through the many issues of peace and justice.

The church and Christians are called by God to witness to the gospel of peace with such intensity that nations repent and history is changed. Less than a radical witness can only lead us to accept idols of materialism, blind nationalism, the glorification of military strength, dependence on technological solutions for human problems, and personal and national security at the expense of justice.



## District Conference

October 7-8

At Elizabethtown College

Moderator: David Stauffer  
"The Wisdom from Above"



The text upon which the theme is based is James 3:13-18. Friday evening will be a time of celebration with a choir made up of singers from many churches throughout the district.

On Saturday, two new fellowships and a new congregation will be welcomed. There will be reports, affirmation of leaders, adoption of a new ministry investment plan, consideration of updates to the by-laws and to a query on Military Chaplaincy.

It is the hope and expectation that in worship, business and fellowship, the Holy Spirit will guide us and that we will demonstrate the characteristics of people living with the wisdom that comes from above.

Our 2011 First Church delegates are: Craig Bracy, Kevin Derr and Walter Eckenrode.



PHILADELPHIA FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

# First Light

## First Church News

### Love Feast and Communion on October 2

On Sunday, October 2, Love Feast and Communion will be held as part of the morning Worship Service. Worship will begin as usual at 11:00 A.M. in the sanctuary.

At the conclusion of the Morning Service, the Communion Service will begin, followed by the Feet Washing Service.

A Communal meal will then be held in the social hall. The Bread and Cup Communion will conclude the Love Feast.

### Preaching Schedule

- October Love Feast and Communion  
Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath"
- October Exodus 20:12 "About Your Parents"
- October Exodus 20:13 "No Murder"
- October Exodus 20:14 "No Adultery"

### First Church Facts:

**Average Worship Attendance for September:**

**28**



# October 2011



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

						1
2 Love Feast and Communion 11:00 am 	3	4 Aid for Friends Cook-In 9:30 am 	5  Top of the Hill Open House 7:00 pm	6	7 Yom Kippur begins at sun-down ANE District Conference October 7-8 	8 Yom Kippur
9 Church Board Meeting after Morning Worship 	10	11	12  Bible Study 7:00 pm	13	14	15
16 Keystone Service of Remembrance 4:30 pm 	17	18	19 Congregational Business Meeting 7:30 pm 	20	21	22
23	24	25	26  Bible Study 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween Top of the Hill Halloween Party 9:30 am 					

# At A Glance:

## October Happenings



2-Love Feast and Communion at 11:00 A.M.

4-Aid for Friends Cook-In at 9:30 A.M.

5-Top of the Hill Open House at 7:00 P.M.

7-8-Atlantic Northeast District Conference at Leffler Chapel, at Elizabethtown College

9-Church Board Meeting after Worship

16-Keystone Hospice Service of Remembrance at 4:30 P.M.

19-Congregational Business Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

31-Halloween-Top of the Hill's Halloween Parade in the Social Hall



### Time to Step Down

Americans enjoy an abundance of freedoms. From what career we'll pursue to what we'll eat for lunch, we're constantly making decisions about what we want out of life. So it's hard to find peace when our plans go awry and our circumstances seem out of control.

A wise person suggested, "For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe." What if we stepped down, and let God be God? He created the universe after all. Shouldn't we trust him to run it?



## News You Need to Know

**Congregational Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 19  
7:30 P.M.

Please come and take part in the business of First Church!



**Senior Adult Fall Banquet**  
October 19 at 12:00 noon  
At Yoder's Family Restaurant  
in New Holland  
Cost: \$16.00 per person

You have a choice of either broasted chicken or beef tips over noodles, and the event will feature Jeff Raught from *Ted and Company TheaterWorks*. Please see the sheet in the narthex for more information.

**Aid for Friends Cook-In**  
Tuesday, October 4  
Starting at 9:30 A.M.



### Top of the Hill Day Care News

Top of the Hill will be holding its annual Open House on Wednesday, October 6, at 7:00 P.M. Parent and prospective day care parents will have the opportunity to meet in an informal setting. The curriculum and various activities will be explained, as well as tours of the classrooms.

Our annual field trips to Merrymead Farm are already scheduled for the month of October. Everyone enjoys the various activities and ice cream at Merrymead.



## October Birthdays

- 1 Jeanne Brown
- 2 Henry Eckenrode
- 2 Aleta Matthews
- 3 David Quinn
- 10 Ruth Hackman
- 16 Pat Derr
- 23 Karen Quinn
- 27 Shelia Hall



### + Christian Symbols +

#### Harp

This multi-stringed musical instrument is associated with David, who played to soothe King Saul and later wrote many psalms. The harp also represents praise music in general, as well as all the instruments people use to glorify God (see Psalm 71:22). The idea that angels play harps comes from Revelation 14:2 ("And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of ... harpists playing on their harps").



"No man ever got very high by pulling other people down....Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself."

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson



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PHILADELPHIA FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

# First Light

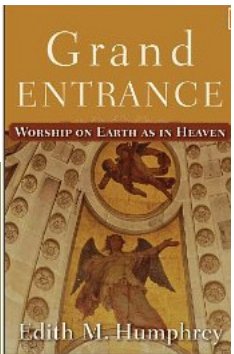
“When God’s people are in widespread, deep disagreement and crisis, then we need to go back to basics. In this case, the basics include thinking about what the church is, what worship is, and what or who worship is for” (Humphrey, P. 3 2011). These words come to us from Edith Humphrey’s recent work, “Grand Entrance: Worship on Earth as it is in Heaven.” While there are many issues that can be addressed from this perspective, including worship, it is true for any of the divisive issues that plague the global church today, as well as those issues that continue to be divisive within the Church of the Brethren.

While it may sound a bit simplistic to suggest that we need to go back to the basics, it is in truth sound advice. What after all is the primary purpose of the church, is it worship, evangelization, social change, political action or some other agenda that we would like to press? In truth, all of these need to be engaged by the church, we must attend to all the issues of life, but only one of these is at the forefront of what we are to be about as the church, and that is worship.

Imagine if you would, what our denomination would be like if we would spend more time in worship together, and genuinely made worship a priority in our local and national contexts. It is in this realization that we come to the conclusion that worship is not about us, what we enjoy or like, but about giving God honor, glory and praise. In this we can be united and bound together to honor and glorify God, and in so doing the issues that divide us become secondary. This is not to say that the issues that divide us are not important, they are, but neither are they a primary understanding of who we are as followers of Jesus Christ. They are secondary to the primary role of God’s people to actively be involved in genuine worship and praise of our God.

When we can recognize that our divisive tendencies are not our first order for being, then we will be able to work with each other in a renewed fashion. It will not make the secondary issues disappear, nor will it make hostile people become easy to get along with, but it will reorder the life of the church into the pattern in which it was intended to be, that we who follow Jesus are primarily about worshiping the Lord our God, and that all of our action and mission flows from this central reality. We do not worship God to attract other people to the church, we do not worship to unify the church, we do not worship to energize the faithful for evangelization. We worship because God is worthy of our worship, and in so doing our lives and the church is then reordered to reflect the kingdom of God. Jesus said this in a slightly different fashion, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Blessings,  
Kevin



Can we understand worship in a way that transcends style, relevance, and aesthetics? Taking into account the most contested issues of the "worship wars," Edith Humphrey shows how the act of entering into God's presence is central to all true Christian worship. Regardless of worship style, when we come into God's presence, we praise God alongside angels and with the whole of creation.

Seeking to reclaim the forgotten theme of worship as entry into God's presence, Humphrey shows its prominence in the Bible, providing an accessible but thorough study of the Old and New Testaments. She analyzes key moments in church history to show how worship developed in Eastern and Western churches. She also draws insights from healthy worshipping communities around the globe. The book offers practical guidance on leading worship today to worship leaders, pastors, thoughtful lay readers, and students.