



The Scroll

*Notes and News
from the
Brethren Academy for
Ministerial Leadership*

Vol.2, No. 1, Sept 2008

The Academy Graduates 21 Students at Annual Conference

At the 2008 Annual Conference in Richmond, VA, 17 TRIM and 4 EFSM students were recognized for completing their programs. We ask God's blessing on these servant leaders as they minister to others in the name of Jesus.

TRIM Students

Atlantic Northeast District
Robert Eshelman

Illinois Wisconsin District
Gilbert Crosby

South Central Indiana District
Charles Bell
Aaron Gross
James McDonald
Jeffrey Tomson

Northern Ohio District
James Sampson

Northern Plains District
Laura Leighton-Harris

Southern Ohio District
Shawn Wilges

Pacific Southwest District
Doris Dunham
Victoria Minyard

Middle Pennsylvania District
Patricia Muthler
Rebecca Zeek

Southern Pennsylvania District
Patricia Arendt

Shenandoah District
Todd Crowder
Keith Whitmer

Western Plains
Rick Schrag

EFSM Students

Shenandoah District
Bob Curns
Daniel King
Frank Tusing

Western Plains
Vernon Yoder



Plant Generously, Reap Bountifully!
Planta con Generosidad, Cosecha en Abundancia!

A Church Planting Training Event, May 15-17, 2008
Bethany Theological Seminary - Richmond, Indiana

I was not sure what to expect when Lois Grove “planted a seed” early in 2008. She asked me to consider attending a church planting training to be held at Bethany Seminary as a guest of the Northern Plains District. I accepted the offer and am so thankful for the experience. It was a super, spirit-filled, enthusiastic, positive, and informative event!

Each worship center focused on a small wheelbarrow showing the development of seeds. The first morning had soil and seeds, the second had small green sprouts, and the final worship had colorful blooms. The same scripture was read at each worship, I Corinthians 3:5-9. The text is Paul saying that “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gives the growth!” This theme—it is God that gives the growth—was emphasized throughout the weekend. We need to rely on God and trust in God for growth.

There were many workshops from which to choose. I will mention just a few of the thoughts and comments that inspired and challenged my thinking, from the workshop led by Wayne Pence on *The Centrality of Prayer*.

- Prayer is no preparation for the work; it IS the work.
- Prayer is the POWER SOURCE—you can tell a healthy congregation if it has more prayer meetings than business meetings.
- Personal prayer is important, but corporate prayer unleashes God’s power.

An optional activity was “Random Acts of Kindness”. I participated in giving away free bottles of water and cans of pop at a local grocery store. Slips of paper were given to each accepting person. The slips said, “This is our simple way of saying God loves you! Whether you’re longing to experience God’s love, or are already overflowing with it, know that God loves you.” Following this experience, I am thinking that we need to be doing more Random Acts of Kindness, we need to encourage and support those who are, and we need to be inventive in ways to surprise others with acts of kindness.

- Two authors and leaders on church planting, Tom Nebel and Gary Rohrmeyer, gave sermons and led some of the workshops. Gary’s sermon was based on Isaiah 64:1-12. He said that we need to be conduits for God’s redemptive flow, learn to wait on God, practice joyful integrity, conform to God’s standards, and acknowledge that we are impure before God. Gary stated that, “Prayer gives us a fresh sense of urgency.” Tom based his message on Psalm 90, where Moses is in wilderness WAITING! Later in the Psalm, Moses seems to be saying “Until soon becomes now, I’m OK”. Tom suggested that, “Change always starts on the fringes”. In the workshop Tom led, he gave suggestions for teaching tools. He stated that we need to
- pause to listen more than you talk.
 - avoid autobiographical listening.
 - learn to ask good questions, like Jesus, “Who do you say that I am?”
 - discover your options.

The closing gathering was a worship celebrating God’s activity in our emerging congregations. It was full of enthusiastic sharing of church “plants” and of churches experiencing revitalization! Jonathan Shively was the final speaker and stated, “We’re preparing for earthquakes in our denomination; God has something GREAT for you!”

I am thankful for the opportunity to visit Bethany Seminary—to see the beautiful quilt made by Rachel Brown, to worship in the chapel, and especially to meet and worship with other Brethren. Many are experiencing spiritual renewal and growth—some with multicultural involvement, some with campus ministries, some with deeper commitments to prayer and studies of the scripture, and others with congregations that are taking the time to look at the needs of the communities and then seeking, with God’s guidance, to serve those needs. I am wondering, “How can we help to serve those needs?”

Lois Kruse
Ivester Church of the Brethren
Northern Plains District



February TRIM Orientation

Leo Barnes - Mid-Atlantic District

Melissa Barnes - Mid-Atlantic District

Karen Eis - Northern IN District
(with her friend, Katie)

Laura Swann - Mid-Atlantic District

Misty Wintsch - Atlantic Northeast District



June TRIM/EFSM Orientation

Darrell Barr - Western Plains District

Keith Beckner - Virlina District

Patty Crumley - Illinois/Wisconsin District

Sarah Mason - Western Plains District

Peg McFadden - Western Plains District

Kristie Prejean - Southern Plains District

Bridget Thornburgh - Western Plains District

Joshua Leck - Western Plains District



New TRIM/EFSM Student Orientation

March 26 - 30, 2009

(Thursday - Sunday)

Registration Deadline: February 9, 2009

Team Ministry: An Old Concept in a New Context

Pastoral team ministry is not a new concept; it is an old concept that has been revisited in our congregation. About four years ago, the pastor of the Monitor Church of the Brethren moved out of state. Members of the congregation started conversing about Monitor's future. A typical pastoral search committee started the process of searching for a new minister for the congregation. Upon setting up that committee, many ideas were brought to the table and one stood out. *What about using the ministers in our own congregation and the people who have expressed interest in pursuing pastoral ministry?*

When the committee looked at the potential within the congregation, they noticed that there were two ordained ministers (one retired and one with another full-time job) and two licensed ministers (one with a full-time job and another with numerous other responsibilities). With that realization, conversations occurred with our Area Minister (someone who works with a cluster of congregations) who was familiar with the team ministry approach. A proposal was drafted and presented to the congregation. The congregation accepted the proposal and has been supportive of the team ministry since then. Each of the pastors preaches approximately once per month. One pastor handles most of the administration duties and serves as the contact, while another does most of the hospital and home visiting. Ministers receive a small stipend for pulpit supply as well as compensation for travel and educational expenses. This arrangement allows our small church's budget to be expanded into new ways of ministry through missions and other works. Four years later, the team has made several changes, had many conversations, added another minister in training (who has a full-time job), and has enjoyed working together.

One of the ministers in training is Sarah Mason. Feeling a call to ministry during college, Sarah has served on the pastoral team at Monitor, gaining insight and experience through the other ministers, the congregation and district training events. She chose the TRIM program for a more academic approach to ministry and eventually, she would like to pursue a Masters degree through Bethany. Sarah is also a full-time Early Childhood Special Education teacher and the flexibility of the TRIM program allows her to fit workshops and

classes into her schedule so she can pursue the calling she received in college. The pastoral team members have given her much needed support and time to pursue the work needed for TRIM.

Initially, Joshua Leck, another minister in training, chose Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) based on the recommendation of one of the ordained pastors. When he began reading about the program, he thought perhaps this was not the right choice. It appeared EFSM was targeted only for churches that need to train leadership from within, and Monitor already has so much leadership throughout our congregation. However, as he learned more about the program, it occurred to him that EFSM would be a great way to utilize the ample experience our congregation offers. He humbly realized that as the Minister in Training (MIT), he does not have to know the most within the training group, but he does plan to learn the most.

The creativity the Church of the Brethren exercises in training set-apart ministers is a strength. Our pastoral team reflects this flexibility with education including M.Div. and M.A.Th. degrees, and TRIM and EFSM programs. While the M.Div. may be the preferred choice, alternative programs have opened up opportunities within our team and church. Coupled with our different life experiences, this educational training makes for a dynamic and diverse team that reaches people we could not reach as individual pastors.

Submitted by Sarah Mason and Joshua Leck
Monitor Church of the Brethren
Western Plains District



Upcoming Academy Level Courses:

*Bethany Experience **Brethren College Experience
*courses noted as "SVMC" need to be registered for through the
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center at SVMC@etown.edu, 717-361-1450
Courses are open to TRIM students, pastors (earn 2 CEUs,) and all interested persons
TRIM designations: BT (Bible/Theology credit) MS (Ministry Skills credit)

2008:

**** "Church Leadership and Administration"**

Stone COB, Huntingdon, PA, Instructor Randy Yoder,
November 13-16, 2008 (SVMC) (MS)

2009:

* **"The Reality of the Unseen: An Overview of the Religions of the West and the Indian Subcontinent"**
(a study of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism) Bethany Theological Seminary,
Richmond, IN, Instructor Michael Hostetter,

January 26-29, daytime sessions (BT)

"The Theology of the Apostle Paul" *on line*, Instructor Craig Gandy,
Jan 12- Mar 6 (BT)

"The Church's Ministry with Children" *on line*,
Instructor Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Feb. 2 – March 27 (MS)

"Practical Peace Church Theology" Southern Ohio District,
Instructor Dean Johnson, Feb 26 – Mar 1 (BT)

"Ezekiel" *on line*, Instructor Susan Jeffers, Feb 16 – March 27, (SVMC) (BT)

"Introduction to New Testament" *on line*, Instructor Susan Jeffers,
Mar.16- May 1 (no class Holy Week) (BT)

* **"The Spiritual Life of the Pastor"** *on line*. Instructor Josh Brockway (MS)

** **"Psalms"** Stone COB, Huntingdon, PA, Instructor Robert Neff,
April 23-26 (SVMC) (BT)

* **"Passions of Youth, Practices of Christ"** Southern Pennsylvania District,
Instructor Russell Haitch, May 14-17 (MS)

** **"Distinctive Marks of the Brethren"** Western Plains District,
Instructor Kate Eisenbise, June 4-7 (BT)

"Introduction to Old Testament" *on line*, Instructor Craig Gandy,
summer or fall (BT)

Two other courses are in the works:

"Small Healthy Congregations" *on site*, Instructor Jim Kinsey, fall (MS)

"Pastoral Care" *on line*, fall (MS)

Registration brochures for these and other training opportunities are available through the
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
<http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy> or by calling 1-800-287-8822, ext 1824.

Introducing the New Academy Director

Julie Mader Hostetter began serving as the director of The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership on July 1, 2008. The Academy, a ministry training partnership of Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren, implements the TRIM and EFSM training programs, assists with the district ACTS training systems, and provides the two Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Lilly grant continuing education programs, Vital Pastors and Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership.



Julie received a B.S. in music education from Lebanon Valley College (PA) and her M.Div. from United Theological Seminary (OH). She has done post-graduate work through the Pohly Center for Supervisory Studies at UTS and is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program through the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development at Union-PSCE in Richmond, VA.

She has taught public school vocal music and worked with students of all ages in a variety of contexts. Over the years, her ministry positions have included Minister of Music and Education, co-pastor, pastoral administrator at United Seminary (1982-88; 2005-2008), interim executive director of an ecumenical agency and interim pastor at a new church start. One of the original Congregational Life Team coordinators for the CoB General Board, she worked primarily in the southeast and provided denomination-wide leadership and resources in Christian education.

Her husband, Michael, is pastor of the Salem CoB (OH). Their daughter, Kate, is on the residential staff at the TN School for the Deaf and lives in Knoxville with her husband, Rick. Their younger daughter, Abigail, is beginning her third year teaching senior high vocal music in Augusta county, VA.

Julie celebrated the 25th anniversary of her ordination in 2007 and is looking forward to many new opportunities for ministry and mission through the Brethren Academy!



A ministry training partnership of the
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