

Vol. 51 • Issue 4

## Inside

Greetings	1
Parish Paper	2
2014 Camping Schedules	4
District Conference	
Sand Bowl	4
Youth Event	5
Business Summary	
Election Results	6
Highlights	6
IRS 2014 Mileage	6
2014 Prayer Calendar	7
NYC: National Youth Conf.	8
T-Shirt Design	
PSWD Buss	
Year End Giving	8
December Office Hours	8

## www.pswdcob.org

**Editor:** Joe Vecchio  
Administrative Assistant  
FrontDesk@pswdcob.org

**Publisher:** Joe Detrick  
District Executive/Minister  
DE@pswdcob.org

New Life Subscriptions (a \$10 value) are **Free**. New Life, the newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren, is sent to all of our ministers, church officials, and others who request it.

**Address changes to:**  
Pacific Southwest District  
Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 219  
La Verne CA 91750-0219  
FAX (909) 392-4056  
Voice (909) 392-4049  
FrontDesk@pswdcob.org

## Greetings from Your Interim District Executive

I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our family has been living and working in Southern (PA) for the past twenty-five years. For the thirteen years I served the Southern Pennsylvania District as their Executive/Minister. After two years of refreshing retirement, I have been called to serve in PSWD as your Interim Executive/Minister. I look forward to this term of service as a partner with sisters and brothers who labor for the sake of Christ and the Church. I look forward to visiting congregations, pastors, district leadership, and ministry agencies, as time permits.

A significant part of my time will be spent assisting the PSWD Executive Board in this transitional period between the retirement of one executive, brother Don Booz, and the calling of a new District Executive, hopefully by the close of 2014. I will also work closely with the Ministry Commission supporting the work of calling, credentialing, placement, and ethics training. (Yes, 2014 is the year for ministerial ethics training in preparation for ordination recertification.)

As we journey through the joyous Christmas season and enter a New Year, one poignant illustration. Someone more creative than I, paraphrased Genesis 1:1 and wrote, "In the beginning was the tapestry. Jesus, the great weaver, wove together a rich and diverse fabric. All colors, all sizes and shapes went into the needlework. Cultures and traditions were woven in like gold and silver threads. Each variation contributed to a strong and beautiful whole." (From: *Sourcebook*)

When I think of our beloved church, I also think of a tapestry. Jesus, the great weaver, is weaving together a rich and diverse

fabric of laypersons, ministers, and congregations; district and national leaders; as well as a multitude of creative ministry agencies within PSWD, and within the wider church family of our beloved denomination. All of these woven together like gold and silver threads...each uniquely making a vital contribution as part of the Body of Christ.

This Christmas season, remember that God, the Master Weaver, who began a good work within us so long ago, will continue to weave us together according to God's perfect will. May God continue to weave us together - truly a rich and diverse fabric, to create joy and beauty and hope and compassion for all of God's children, everywhere! Amen!

Faithfully Yours,

*Joe Detrick*

Interim Executive/Minister



Joe Detrick

# THE PARISH PAPER

## IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller and Cynthia Woolever – [www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com)

December 2013 - Volume 21, Number 12

Copyright © 2013 by Cynthia Woolever

### Why a Sense of Belonging Matters

With our cultural emphasis on individuality, too many people are lonely and feel disconnected from others in their community. Because a sense of belonging can be linked to economic development, city planners and community organizers attempt to create environments where residents can enjoy a sense of belonging. Local churches also provide some of the fiber that weaves people together by offering them a place to belong and to be known.

Strong congregations organize in ways that help people feel close as they worship together, disclose life's joys and sorrows, and share their deepest beliefs. Strong congregations find approaches to encourage emotional attachment because having a sense of belonging is a basic human need. Psychologist Abraham Maslow, who wrote about the hierarchy of human needs, cited belonging as the third most important, coming after only physiological and safety needs. For worshipers, the sense of belonging is how individuals *experience* community. Intentionally fostering a sense of belonging among members is one of the weight-bearing walls in the structure of strong congregations.<sup>1</sup>

#### What Creates a Sense of Belonging?

Focusing on members' vertical relationship with God alone—with little attention to their horizontal relationships with other worshipers—slowly unravels the community's overall health. What exercises increase the congregation's heart rate?

*Offering friendship.* Close friendships generate feelings of belonging. One of the most important resources a congregation can offer to people is friendship. People flourish when we give them our time, attention, and acceptance. Unfortunately, congregations too often offer "help" to those in need without also offering friendship.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, worship services may be experienced in the same space, but the opportunity to make friends is not part of the equation. Strong churches create many avenues for people to learn the names and interests of others as well as group social time. Intentionally practicing multiple means for long-term members as well as newcomers to be known and to know

others is sacred work. As John O'Donohue asserts: "Friendship is the nature of God."<sup>3</sup>

The size of the congregation doesn't make a difference in whether people have close friends within the church or whether their participation is increasing or decreasing. Both large and small churches must engage in practices to address this fundamental human need.

*Helping worshipers grow spiritually.* When congregations help worshipers grow spiritually, they are also creating stronger bonds with others. Worshipers who are spiritually connected are also emotionally connected. The venue for spiritual growth varies but most people need to devote time to private devotional activities, seek to grow through worship service participation, learn from and with others in a small-group setting, and discover new truths through service and leadership. Frederick Buechner shares the conviction that "when faith stops changing and growing, it dies on its feet."<sup>4</sup> Congregations that fail to meet these needs of their members place them at spiritual risk.

*Creating opportunities for participation and service.* Worshiper involvement and participation that grows over time signal that the sense of attachment and belonging is also rising. People gain a sense of



satisfaction from contributing to the congregation's ministries and feel part of a team.

Typically, a sizable percentage show up at worship but sit in the bleachers during other church activities. In the average congregation, only one-third of the worshipers engage in at least four of these ways: attending services; joining a small group; holding a leadership position; being a part of church decision making; and regularly giving money. Some churches believe that they lose members because new attendees drift away not long after joining. But in truth, these newcomers never formed meaningful attachments. Effective congregations build assimilation bridges by which newcomers quickly bond to new friends, groups, and service opportunities.

*Meeting age and life cycle needs.* Congregations with a healthy heart—those with a high percentage of worshipers feeling a strong sense of belonging—recognize how younger worshipers connect to places (e.g., through sports teams or mission activities). Worshipers younger than forty-four years of age count on being emotionally attached to their congregation as a key ingredient for their commitment and involvement. At the same time, congregations cannot take older worshipers' attachment for granted. In fact, congregations with an older age profile tend to have lower overall scores on sense of belonging measures.

*Building positive engagement in the congregation's future vision.* When a congregation captures worshipers' imagination about the church's future ministry possibilities, worshipers also have a greater sense of belonging. They are able to envision what the faith community working together can accomplish with God's help. Further, they have been offered a stake in that future by committing to share their time and talents to make it happen. Everyone acts on the shared belief that the best years of the church's ministry lie ahead.

### When Being Friendly Is Not Enough

A true congregational strength consistently operates whether or not the worshipers or leadership are aware of it. Further, a real strength is embedded in the behaviors, beliefs, and values of the majority of worshipers. As a result, a number of worshipers can leave without diminishing this strength nor does it depend on a few key leaders. A genuine congregational strength gains momentum and muscle when it becomes central to the conscious identity of the congregation.

Without routine maintenance and regular exercise, the strength of a healthy sense of belonging among church members and the experience of community

quickly deteriorate. Strong congregations demonstrate four pathways to generating feelings of belonging. They:

- Develop groups that help people feel loved and give them the opportunity to express love for others.
- Promote friendships that give newcomers feelings of acceptance and self-esteem.
- Offer service or leadership roles and responsibilities that give people a sense of purpose, meaning, and positive self-identity.
- Present spiritual-growth experiences that deepen members' life-shaping values.

Each of these pathways are like load-bearing walls. Remove one or more of the walls and the structure is weaker and more vulnerable to mission failure.

### The Bottom Line

"The hunger to belong is not merely a desire to be attached to something. It is rather sensing that great transformation and discovery become possible when belonging is sheltered and true."<sup>5</sup> This description underscores why strong churches make possible the greatest individual transformations and discoveries of all. With the significance of belonging in mind, review the structure, practices, and rituals present in your current worship services, educational programs, small groups, ministry outreach, and decision-making processes.

- Does participation give people the chance to make friends and deepen their relationships with others?
- Does involvement foster greater spiritual growth and understanding?
- Does participation help people to learn more about the congregation's ministry vision and help them find a place to use their gifts toward that purpose?

1. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *Beyond the Ordinary* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004).
2. Christine Pohl, *Living into Community* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012), 170.
3. John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara* (New York: HarperCollins, 1997), 15.
4. Frederick Buechner, *Secrets in the Dark* (New York: HarperCollins, 2006), 173.
5. John O'Donohue, *Eternal Echoes* (New York: HarperCollins, 2009), 22.

Copyright © 2013 by Cynthia Woolever

[www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com)

Congregations within our PSWD jurisdiction do NOT have permission (a) to delete the copyright notice on page 2; (b) to re-write, paraphrase, or change the wording of sentences and paragraphs; or (c) to give ANY THIRD PARTY, – other than your staff and constituents, – permission to photocopy or reprint (in any quantity, no matter how small, whether for free distribution or for sale).



Content from: [www.pswdcob.org/youth/camps](http://www.pswdcob.org/youth/camps)



## Camp La Verne

6,900 feet above San Bernardino, CA  
 Contact Kathy Doramus  
 909-593-8836  
[www.camplaverne.org](http://www.camplaverne.org)

### Schedule

- February 1, 2014 – Annual Banquet
- February 15-17, 2014 – Winter Youth Camp
- July 20-26, 2014 – Jr High Camp (grades 6-8)
- July 27-Aug 2, 2014 – Sr High Camp (grades 9-12)
- To be announced – Junior Camp (grades 3-5)*

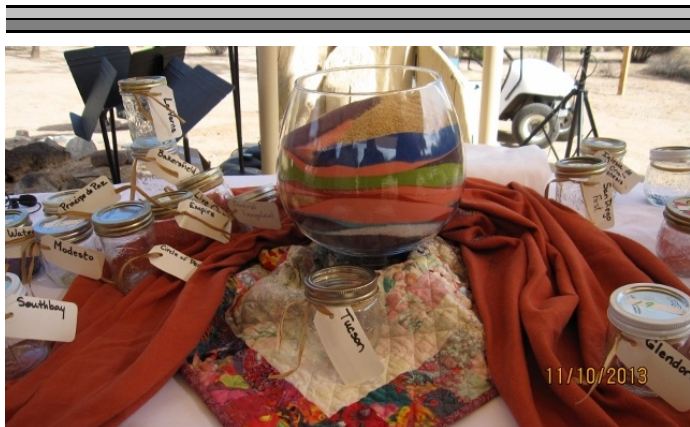


## Camp Peaceful Pines

6,500 feet on Sonora Pass in the Sierras  
 Contact Garry Pearson for information  
 530-758-0474  
[www.camppeacefulpines.org](http://www.camppeacefulpines.org)

### Schedule

- June 6-8, 2014 – Men’s Retreat Camp
- June 20-22, 2014 – Women’s Retreat Camp
- June 22-27, 2014 – *(to run concurrently)*  
 Junior Camp – Jr High Camp – Youth Camp
- July 18-25, 2014 – Family Camp
- July 25-30, 2014 – Discovery Camp
- August 9-10, 2014 – Beginners Camp
- August 15-17, 2014 – Married Couples Weekend



District Conference 2013, sand poured out for each congregation.  
 photo by Erin Matteson

## Events Nationwide

Nationally sponsored Workcamps: 11 choices!  
[www.brethren.org/workcamps](http://www.brethren.org/workcamps)

### Young Adult

- May 23-25, 2014 – National Young Adult Conference
- June 6-8, 2014 – Men’s Retreat Camp, Sierras, CA
- June 20-22, 2014 – Women’s Retreat Camp, Sierras, CA
- July 2-6, 2014 – Annual Conference, Columbus, OH
- July 6-12, 2014 – Song & Story Fest
- July 25-30, 2014 – Discovery Camp, Sierras, CA
- November 7-9, 2014 – District Conference, La Verne, CA

## Events Nationwide

### Youth

- July 19-24, 2014 – NYC: National Youth Camp in Ft. Collins, CO moves other youth events to 2015  
[www.brethren.org/nyc](http://www.brethren.org/nyc)  
[www.pswdcob.org/nyc](http://www.pswdcob.org/nyc)
- Next in 2015 – Youth Workcamps*
- Next in 2015 – Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS)*
- May 4, 2014 – National Youth Sunday
- July 2-6, 2014 – Annual Conference, Columbus, OH
- November 7-9, 2014 – District Conference, La Verne, CA

### Junior High

- Next in 2015 – National Jr High Conference, PA*  
[www.brethren.org/njhc](http://www.brethren.org/njhc)
- November 2, 2014 – National Jr. High Sunday
- November 7-9, 2014 – District Conference, La Verne, CA

Continuing the work of Jesus.  
 Peacefully. Simply. Together.

## PSWD Youth . . .

Dawna Welch, PSWD Youth Advisor  
[Youth@pswdcob.org](mailto:Youth@pswdcob.org)



### District Conference Youth Event

*Thank you 2013/2014 Youth Cabinet for your thoughtful preparation and excellent leadership at District Conference in Arizona!* You planed our meals, designed the weekend youth schedule, and made arrangements for sleeping at Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren. Each Youth Cabinet member developed and led specific activities during District Conference:

- **Leilah Floyd of Glendale** prepared and led the opening “Ice breaker” activities.
- **Jake Hoover of La Verne** led a “partner craft” creating friendship bracelets.
- **Rayna Harrison of La Verne** created a meditation for the Labyrinth.
- **Mollie Montgomery of Bakersfield** prepared a study of the Moderator’s theme for reflection.



(From left to right) Dawna Welch, Mollie Montgomery, Rayna Harrison, Jake Hoover are presented to the delegates.

Nine youth and three advisors attended District Conference 2013. Relationships between the youth of our district and the lucky adults who volunteer as advisors, continue to deepen because of the Youth Cabinet’s efforts. Their service is greatly appreciated!



Youth and Advisors at Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren

Mollie Montgomery of the Bakersfield Church of the Brethren who has served on the Youth Cabinet for three years during her Sophomore, Junior and Senior years of highschool. During her time on the cabinet I was impressed with Mollie’s maturity and sense of purpose as she took on more and more responsibility and tasks including serving as Chair of the Youth Cabinet leadership team. Mollie has a great sense of humor which she used to energize and occasionally redirect the group with bold but gentle authority! We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her service, leadership and friendship and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



Tracy Prmozich (at right) with youth after Sunday lunch.

**Tracy Primozich**, an ordained minister and current Admissions Director at **Bethany Theological Seminary**, attended District Conference and spent most of her time “hanging out” with the youth. Tracy enhanced our time with her outgoing, energetic and spontaneous leadership. In addition to simply spending time getting to know our youth, Tracy led a meaningful insight session called “Connecting and Disconnecting.” During this session Tracy had youth consider all the benefits and pitfalls of today’s technology and led them through spiritual practices that they could practice anytime/anywhere in their hectic, daily lives. Tracy is incredibly gifted and her passion for working with youth is obvious but perhaps more important, influential.

### Program Committee

As District Youth Advisor I am a member of the District Conference Program Committee. This year I served on the “worship planning team.” Helping to develop the worship services was a highlight of my District Conference experience this year. As a TRIM (Training in Ministry) student the experience of working with seasoned pastors Erin Matteson and Tom Hostetler was invaluable. I learned the importance of good planning and communication. The opportunity to be creative and collaborative with dedicated servants from all over our district was fulfilling and inspiring. I am grateful.

Questions? Call or email Dawna Welch

909-267-5477 [youth@pswdcob.org](mailto:youth@pswdcob.org)



# District Conference Business Summary

## Positions elected on 11/9/2013 for 2013 / 2014

- Moderator-Elect
  - Eric Bishop (La Verne)
- Nominating Committee
  - Joe Schechter (La Verne)
- Program Committee
  - Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
- District Board of Administration
- At-Large
  - Michael Boeger (Live Oak)
  - Lois Frantz (Empire)
  - Marye Martinez (Modesto)
  - Jim Totzke (Cornerstone, Reedley)
  - Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace/AZ)
- Southern California East Representative
  - Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz, Santa Ana)
- Youth & Young Adult Representatives
  - Robert Burke (Bakersfield)
  - Rayna Harrison (La Verne)
  - Sarah Henrichs (Circle of Peace)
- Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees
  - Marlyn "Lyn" Sylva (La Verne)



## Conference Highlights

Moderator Jim LeFever opened conference with Friday evening's message on the Church of the Brethren, "A Church with Roots – A Church with Wings." After worship Bethany Seminary President Jeff Carter greeted us all over ice cream.

Saturday's focus was business interspersed with insight sessions. Board Chair Don Fancher honored retiring District Executive Minister Don Booz with a book of letters from around the district. A slide show showed highlights from Don's PSWD service. After worship we held a reception in Don's honor. Worship focused on video presentations from district leaders discussing the work of the Church of the Brethren in PSWD today, with a hopeful look to the future.

The local volunteers from



Don Booz and the honored ordained ministers pray for the district's licensed ministers.

Copies of these items are available at:

[www.pswdcob.org/distconf](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf)

**Complete Business Book, 2013**

Large PDF File with 70 pages

**Minutes of Prior Year, 2012**

Delegates approved the prior minutes.

**Ministry Investment Plan 2014**

Delegates passed the Ministry Investment Plan.

**Strategic Plan Statement**

Delegates acknowledged the Board of Administration's "Strategic Plan Statement"

## 2014 IRS Mileage

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2014, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- ◆ 56 cents per mile for business miles driven.
- ◆ 23.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.
- ◆ 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

Additional information regarding ministerial service is available at:

[www.pswdcob.org/publications/ministerial-leadership-manual/](http://www.pswdcob.org/publications/ministerial-leadership-manual/)

Circle of Peace and Papago Buttes were inspirations throughout the weekend. Thank you Deb Merrifield-Carothers and Cathy Iacueli for facilitating everything.

Sunday morning worship was outside, in the desert, in the world. Each congregation placed a jar of colored sand in a large bowl (see photo on page 4). All of our unique members working together in the world. Dr. Jeffery Carter, President of Bethany Theological Seminary, closed our time with his message "Cleared for Take Off" a challenge to look beyond our roots and be the "Church with Wings."

## Pacific Southwest District 2014 Prayer Calendar

[www.pswdcob.org/events/prayer-calendar](http://www.pswdcob.org/events/prayer-calendar) (The web page has links to additional content) Congregations are encouraged to pray for the churches and events listed on the calendar. Begin on Sunday and continue through the week. One way to encourage use of this calendar is to list prayer topics in Sunday bulletins and/or in church newsletters.

### January

- January 5 – District Board, Program Committee, Stewards, Ministry (January 10-11)
- January 12 – Clergy Women’s Retreat (January 13-16)
- January 19 – Ministry Commission and our Licensed Ministers in training
- January 26 – Search process: Congregations & Pastors

### February

- February 2 – PSWD Youth Cabinet
- February 9 – Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)
- February 16 – Camp La Verne Winter Camp (Feb 15-27)
- February 23 – NACC: Credentialing Interviews (Spring)

### March

- March 2 – Circle of Peace Church (Peoria, AZ)
- March 9 – Cornerstone Community Church (Reedley)
- March 16 – GRC: Grant Review Committee
- March 23 – National Intercultural Gathering (March 28-30) at Príncipe de Paz, Santa Ana, CA
- March 30 – Glendale Church

### April

- April 6 – Hillcrest and Casa de Modesto
- April 13 – District Board Meeting (Spring)
- April 20 – Iglesia de Cristo Sion (church plant in Pomona)
- April 27 – Empire Church

### May

- May 4 – Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (South Central LA)
- May 11 – District Camps & Campers (Camp La Verne and Camp Peaceful Pines)
- May 18 – Bakersfield Church
- May 25 – YAC: Young Adult Conference (May 23-25)

### June

- June 1 – CPP District Men’s Retreat (June 6-7)
- June 8 – PSWD Pastors Retreat, Malibu, CA (June 9-13)
- June 15 – Live Oak Church
- June 22 – CPP District Women’s Retreat (June 20-21)
- June 29 – Annual Conference (July 2-6) Columbus, OH

### July

- July 6 – Glendora Church
- July 13 – District Conference Program Committee
- July 20 – NYC: National Youth Conference (July 19-24) [www.pswdcob.org/nyc](http://www.pswdcob.org/nyc)
- July 27 – Imperial Heights Church (South Central LA)

### August

- August 3 – District Board Meeting (Summer)
- August 10 – La Verne Church
- August 17 – New Harvest Community Church (Lindsay)
- August 24 – Laton Church
- August 31 – Modesto Church

### September

- September 7 – Papago Buttes Church (Scottsdale, AZ)
- September 14 – Pasadena Church
- September 21 – Paradise Church
- September 28 – Pomona Fellowship Church

### October

- October 5 – Prince of Peace Church (Sacramento)
- October 12 – Mission and Ministry Board & National Church of the Brethren Ministries
- October 19 – Príncipe de Paz Church of the Brethren (Santa Ana)
- October 26 – District Staff and District Conference preparations

### November

- November 2 – PSWD Pre-District Conference Workshop (November 6-7) at Hillcrest, La Verne CA
- November 9 – District Conference (November 7-9) Hillcrest
- November 16 – University of La Verne
- November 23 – Restoration Los Angeles (East LA)
- November 30 – San Diego First Church

### December

- December 7 – South Bay Church (Redondo Beach)
- December 14 – Tucson Church
- December 21 – Waterford Church
- December 28 – The Precious Gift of Jesus!

# New Life

Pacific Southwest District of the  
Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 219  
La Verne CA 91750-0219

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SAN DIMAS, CA  
PERMIT NO. 78

Address Service Requested

## NYC Bus & T-Shirt National Youth Conference

Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO  
July 19-24, 2014

The Pacific Southwest District NYC Steering Committee includes: Dawna Welch, Russ Matteson, Janet Ober and Becky Zapata. They are working out the details on bus transportation to Colorado.

## District Office Hours December 2013

**We will be closed December 24 – January 1  
Christmas Eve through New Year's Day**

While we are closed, messages left on voice mail at 909-392-4051 will be reviewed periodically.

Prior to Christmas, you can reach secretary Brenda Pérez at [secretary@pswdcob.org](mailto:secretary@pswdcob.org) or 909-392-4054

## Get on the Bus!!

\$50 reserves a seat for you on the PSWD bus (leaving from the La Verne Church of the Brethren on July 18, 2014) and a district T-shirt. Registration forms will be available in January on our web page at [www.pswdcob.org/nyc](http://www.pswdcob.org/nyc)

Please help with the design of the T-Shirt our youth will wear next summer. The design phase closes February 16, 2014. Details are on the web at [www.pswdcob.org/nyc](http://www.pswdcob.org/nyc)



## Year End Giving

For donations to be credited to the 2013 tax year, checks must be written and the envelope postmarked before 12/31/2013.

Web donations can also be made before year end at: [www.pswdcob.org/donate](http://www.pswdcob.org/donate)

**Thank you for your financial support of the programs you read about in *New Life*, and enjoy in your local congregation.**