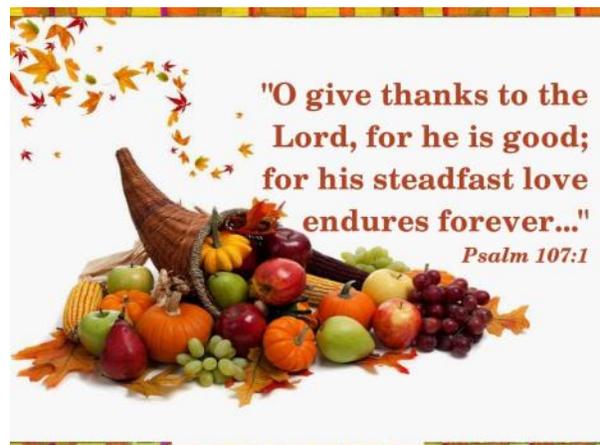


**WEST MARVA DISTRICT
MEMO
NOVEMBER 2017**

384 Dennett Road
Oakland, MD 21550
301-334-9270

Kendal Elmore, Executive Minister
J. Rogers Fike, Executive Minister Emeritus
Brenda Harvey, Administrative Assistant
www.westmarvachurches.org



**NATIONAL YOUTH
CONFERENCE
2018
JULY 21-26, 2018
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN JANUARY 18TH AT
6:00 PM CENTRAL TIME**

The registration fee is \$500.00. A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 must be paid at the time of registration. The balance is due by April 30th.

The conference will begin at noon Saturday and end at noon on Thursday. Meals, lodging and programming are included in the registration fee. All youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college (or age equivalent) at the time of NYC, are eligible to attend. All youth must be accompanied by an adult advisor. Please send at least one advisor for every five youth. If you are sending female youth, please send a female advisor and if you are sending male youth, please send a male advisor. All adult advisors must be a minimum of 22 years of age. Children of participants, advisors and staff are not eligible to attend NYC.

**“Like” the NYC2018 page on Facebook! [Fb.com/nyc2018](https://www.facebook.com/nyc2018)
Follow [@cobnyc2018](https://www.instagram.com/cobnyc2018) on Instagram**

Kendal's Korner

Why Are We Here?

There has been some recent discussion, including at our October 7, District Leadership Retreat, to clarify what our Mission as a district actually is...

The current Organizational Structure Document (also called Constitution and By-Laws) states the following:

PURPOSE OF THE DISTRICT

The West Marva District Churches exist to be obedient to, and reflect the Great Commandment and Great Commission texts:

Matthew 22:37-40 “³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” NKJV

Matthew 28:18-20 “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen” NKJV

Therefore, the purpose of the District shall be to: ASSIST in the planting of new congregations, as well as nurturing and resourcing existing congregations throughout the West Marva District.

ADMINISTER AND COORDINATE the activities of the Church of the Brethren among the churches of the District.

So, it seems to me, the question is “**How Are We Doing With This?**”

It can be said, “**Not too well...**” Based on the following information:

From 2010 to 2015 (The latest information available)... Take Note of the Following:

- **595 Fewer Morning Worshippers**
- **530 Fewer Sunday School Attenders**
- **\$629,443 Less Total Annual Giving**

Happily, this does not tell the whole story.

- Lives **ARE** being transformed in many places!
- The **Small Town Awaken Tours** have been producing great fruit for the Kingdom! Folks are accepting Christ at these events!
- Various **Mission Outreaches**, including **Evangelism, Disaster Response, Relief Ministries** are making a tremendous difference in many lives!
- **Young people are accepting Christ** as their Savior in both **Camp Galilee and Camp Hope!**
- **There are currently 16 persons** enrolled in our **West Marva Ministerial Training Program!**
- **Additionally**, whatever is going on in your church... numerous congregations are hosting Revival Meetings where congregations are being renewed spiritually.

Could... Should we be doing more? Of course.

- **Let's Pray and Listen for that still small voice of God...**
- **I believe He will speak to us!**
- **Will we Hear Him?**
- **Will we Trust Him?**
- **Will we Obey Him?**

We both can, and should!

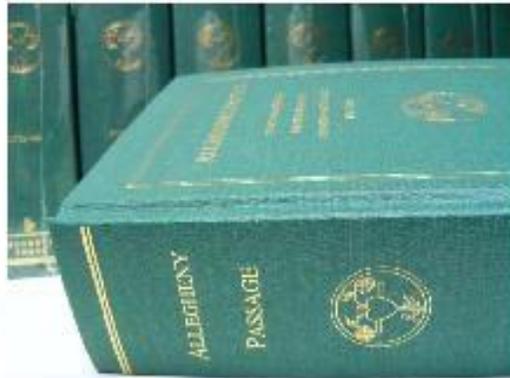
Blessings to all!

Kendal





25% OFF



Regular Price: ~~\$79.95~~

Now Only

\$59.95

Limited Time Only! Order at this price before January 31st!

The 2012 printing of ALLEGHENY PASSAGE;

The latest printing of ALLEGHENY PASSAGE CHURCHES AND FAMILIES OF THE WEST MARVA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, 1752-1990 by Emmert F. Bittinger, is being offered at a special price just in time for Christmas Gift Giving! In early 2012, a new printing of this historical and genealogical book of nearly 900 pages, which has been out of print for years, is now available!

Many copies of this invaluable publication have been sold for the Regular Price of \$79.95. We are pleased to offer them at the reduced price of \$59.95

To reserve a copy for yourself, your church library, for your children or grandchildren, send a check payable to the West Marva District and in the Memo line of the check, or in an attached note, designate it is for Allegheny Passage. Additionally, we will need your name, mailing address, phone number and your e-mail address if you have one. Orders will be filled within days of our receipt of your order with payment. There is an additional charge of \$6 for shipping and handling for those orders filled by mail. There is no additional charge for orders that are picked up at the Westport Church of the Brethren or the District Office in Oakland Maryland.

To receive your copy by mail, please add \$6, shipping and handling. You may use the form below for your convenience:

Please send _____ copies of the 2012 edition of Allegheny Passage.

I am enclosing: \$65.95 (\$59.95 + \$6 Shipping and Handling) for each copy.

OR

Please notify me when I can pick up _____ copies of the 2012 edition of Allegheny Passage. I am enclosing \$59.95 for each copy.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

USPS Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Remit to West Marva District Office; 384 Dennett Rd; Oakland MD 21550

Limited Time Only! Order at this price before January 31st!

West Marva Sends Much Needed Help to Hurricane Victims in Puerto Rico



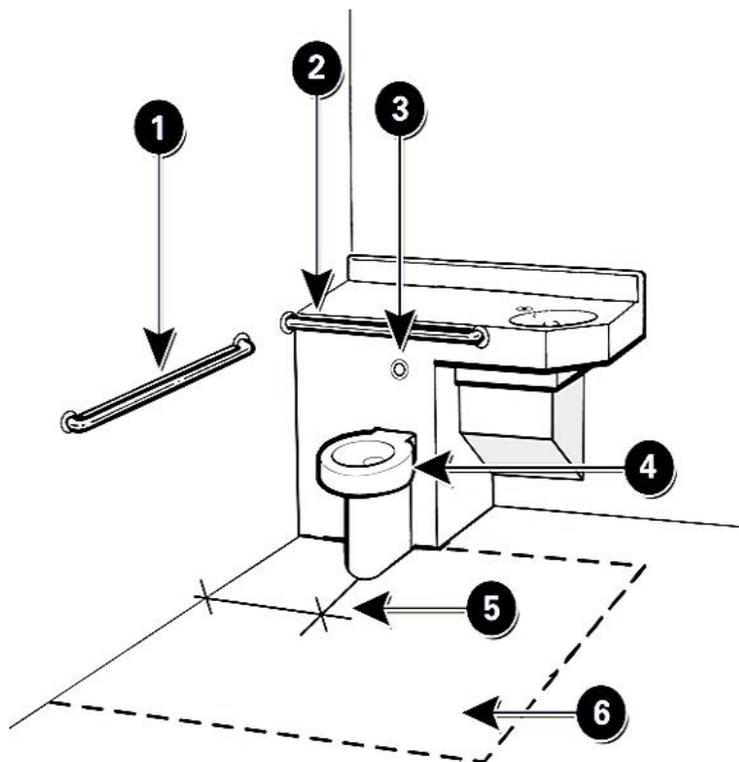
On Saturday, October 7, about 50 persons representing 29 West Marva Congregations, gathered at the Oak Park Church for a District Wide Leadership Retreat, led by John Jantzi, Executive Ministry of the neighboring Shenandoah District. **Grover Duling**, West Marva District Mission and Ministry Board Chair, shared with group that we had an opportunity to send money through the Office of Global Mission and Service to Puerto Rico. Grover was hopeful that \$7,000 could be raised over the week-end so that each of the 7 congregations could be given \$1,000 to address their most urgent needs, according to Roy Winter Director of Global Mission and Service. The great news is that at the time of this printing, we are pleased to report that **\$23,428.00 from 19 West Marva congregations and anonymous donors has been sent through the Oak Dale Church to be distributed! PRAISE JESUS!**

How “Accommodating” is YOUR Church Facility?

Many, if not most, of our congregations are doing a wonderful job of caring for those folks who attend worship with special needs. An imaginative array of accommodating “helps” are available to enable folks to get in and out of the church building, classrooms, etc. In many of our older buildings, smaller doorways can create problems that are very challenging. Ramps, stair-lifts, and even elevators in some meeting houses show how accommodating we can be!

There is another area that is often overlooked, that affects many who are not truly disabled, but who, nevertheless, need some assistance. Many of our older members have knee and hip problems, and the height of the toilet seat is an issue for them. The drawing below is from the Americans With Disabilities Act Web Site offers some helpful information. The following facts are related to this drawing:

1. **Side grab bar:** There is a grab bar on the adjacent side wall that is at least 40 inches long and from 33 to 36 inches above the floor.
2. **Rear grab bar:** There is a grab bar behind the toilet that is at least 36 inches long and from 33 to 36 inches above the floor.
3. **Flush valve:** should be located in reach range and be operable without tight grasping, twisting, or pinching.
4. **Toilet seat height:** The toilet seat needs to be from **17 to 19 inches above the floor** to permit transfers from wheelchairs, and assist folks with arthritis in knees and hips..
5. **Toilet centerline:** The toilet bowl needs to be centered 18 inches from the side wall, so that worshippers who need to may use the side grab bar.
6. **Clear floor space:** Adequate space is provided to approach the toilet from a variety of wheelchair transfer positions (i.e. diagonal or side approaches). Generally, the toilet needs to be placed within a 60-inch-wide by 59-inch-deep clear area of the floor.



Please, **UNDERSTAND THERE IS NO SUGGESTION HERE THAT ALL** of these dimensions need to be met in our church buildings... But a lot more people will be more comfortable using the bathrooms with higher toilet seats, and side rails. If there are questions, or even if assistance needed to improve your facilities, let us know here at the office, and we'll do what we can to help.

The Bread Basket — Paul W. Brubaker
WRONG FOCUS

The distraught husband stopped at the police barracks, wondering if they could help find his wife. "She went shopping yesterday and hasn't come home!" he blurted out. "What was her height?" asked the policeman. "I'm not sure — a little over five feet, I think." "What about your wife's weight?" "Don't know," came the answer. "Not slim — but not really fat either." "Color of her eyes?" queried the policeman. "Sort of brown — I think; never really noticed." "And her hair, what color is it?" was the next question. "How should I know? It changes a couple times a year; maybe dark brown now — I can't remember."

It was obvious that the policeman was becoming agitated with the worried husband's lack of knowledge regarding his wife. "So what kind of car was she driving?" "She wasn't in a car — she went in my truck." "Oh, so what kind of truck was it?" Here the desperate husband began to wax eloquent. "It was a 2016 pearl white Dodge Ram Limited 4X4 with 6.41 Hemi V8 engine, ordered with the RamBox bar and fridge option; red lighting; back-up and front camera; moose-hide leather heated and cooled seats; climate-controlled air-conditioning." The husband was clearly on a roll! "It has a custom-matching white cover for the bed; weather- tech floor mats; a trailing package with gold hitch; sunroof; a DVD with full GPS navigation; a satellite radio; Cobra 75WXST forty-channel CB radio; six cup holders; three USB ports; and four power-outlets. Oh, and I added special alloy wheels and off-road Toyo tires." The distressed husband began choking up. "Take it easy, sir," said the policeman, "we'll find your truck!"

If only this husband had known his wife as well as he knew his Dodge Ram! When looking at Jesus' friends Mary and Martha, it was *Mary* who knew Jesus better than her sister Martha. While Martha had a wrong focus and was "*distracted by all the preparations that had to be made*" (Luke 10:40), it was *Mary* who sat at Jesus' feet as an learner, reading his thoughts and innermost desires. *Mary definitely knew Jesus better!* The lesson? If you and I have been focusing on the wrong things, let's make the needed changes, remembering that Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Luke 10:38-42).

BRETHREN BITS from Betty's desk

KNOBLEY CHURCH

If we look back to the very early years of Brethren development, we learn originally, Knobley was within the territory of Beaver Run. Around 1849 when Greenland congregation was formed from Beaver Run, Emmert Bittinger writes in *Allegheny Passage* on page 298, the following explanation ... "Knobley became separate from Beaver Run and ... there was the understandable attachment to Greenland through numerous inter marriages that had taken place between Knobley and Greenland families."

Location of course also played a role ... "for Knobley located on the west side of New Creek and Knobley Mountains, in the Patterson Creek watershed south of Burlington..." was simply put—only a few ridges away from the Greenland settlement.

Apparently this division brought about "boundary issues." Minutes from 1879 show Beaver Run "agreed to a change of territorial boundaries." Again, in 1881 Minutes show Beaver Run decided to "extend the line ... with the Northwestern Turnpike (US Rt. 50) to the top of Allegheny Mountain to be accepted by the Greenland congregation."

Knobley Church is located just south of the Mineral County line in Grant County. The southern Patterson Creek area contained many Dunker and Dunker related families from the earliest times.

Before 1800 the area included some of the families belonging to the Leatherman, Arnold, Clark, Roderick, Staggs, Bane, Whipp, Snyder, Roberts, Martin and other clans. More "Brethren" families moved into the area between 1800 and 1850 according to Emmert Bittinger.

No records are available to show *exactly* when Brethren services started at Knobley. There were scattered Brethren families here long before the Civil War. Some may have attended services held in the area by Samuel and Daniel Arnold, the Leatherman preachers from Beaver Run, Lewis Roderick and Thomas J. Clark. An older historian in the area ... "stated by 1840 there was much church activity in the Knobley community..." (see page 299, *Allegheny Passage*) Keep in mind, rather than worshipping in established "churches" as has been mentioned in previous "Brethren Bits", generally, services were held in Brethren homes.

Some notable families whose descendants are yet today active members at Knobley can trace their lineage to Nicholas and Susanna (Roderick) Leatherman of Frederick County, Maryland who moved to near Headsville in the Beaver Run area in 1784.

One of their sons, Peter Leatherman purchased land on the east side of Knobley Mountain. The Leathermans intermarried with Likens, Rotrucks, Roberts, the George clan, McNemars, Ferrebees, and Staggs to name a few. Roger Leatherman who has served for twenty two years as pastor at Knobley is a direct descendant of these founding families. Roger carries on the tradition--one of many locals who have led this congregation over the years.

All these families were actively involved in the development and growth of Knobley Church. Many of their offspring married into the community and the stronghold of passing on good Christian values has clearly left its mark in this Knobley community.

Do you realize the first Knobley Church was built with a seating capacity of over 400 persons? How many of our West Marva churches can compare? Many of you reading this possibly have no idea of the location of Knobley—much less realize the size it originally was.

On October 11, 1876 a deed was recorded for the land of the Knobley Church house. The building, according to information given in *Allegheny Passage* was built the same year as the Beaver Run Church. Services had been held long before this official deed was recorded.

The church was erected on the same plan as Beaver Run. It was not brick or log. The main frames were however, hand-hewn (see page 309 of *Allegheny Passage*) and mortised into the plates above and below. It was approximately 30 by 70 feet. There were pine floor boards.

At each end, the floor was raised in steps—each of which held pews. There were two entrances, one for men and one for women. It was customary for the men and women to sit separately.

It may amaze you to learn in the 1881 Brethren Census of churches, Knobley had a total membership of 150. This would indicate to us, 150 "adults"—therefore, considering the amount of children in families during the 1880's—we understand why Knobley was constructed to seat four hundred persons.

(Continued in December)



WOMEN'S FALL RALLY UPDATE

The West Marva District Women's Fall Rally was held October 11^{at} at the Westernport Church. The theme for the Rally was an "Attitude of Gratitude". The scripture text was Philippians 4:11. "I am not saying this because I am in need; for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances".

Donna Kempfher, our Vice President welcomed everyone and Diane May, pastor of the Westernport Church had our opening prayer. Our prayers were with our President, Betty Wolford who was unable to attend. She and two of her sisters had traveled to Alaska to visit with their brother who was very ill. They returned home but received word later in the week that their brother had passed away so they traveled back to Alaska. Please keep Betty and her family in your prayers.

Our group decided to send our offerings for the day to Church World Service to assist with hurricane relief for Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. Those offerings totaled \$2,063.30.

Our speaker for the morning was Major General Melissa Rank, a native of Frostburg, MD. Her last assignment was the Assistant Air Force Surgeon, Nursing Services, Office of the Surgeon General headquarters, US Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base. Melissa shared with us that she had served a tour in Afghanistan. Melissa had such a sweet, gentle spirit and she touched our hearts and brought tears to our eyes with her thought provoking message on an "Attitude of Gratitude".

Small file cards were given to each person attending as they arrived. You were asked to write a special note to be collected in our "Basket of Gratitude". Donna Kempfher then gave the group an opportunity to express their gratitude or prayer concerns with the group and then read a number of the cards. She concluded this part of our program with a special prayer over our 'Basket of Gratitude'.

Nina Mason and Tammy Timbrook presented the District Women's Historical Booklet that they had been working on for over a year. The booklets were made available to those who had pre-ordered but additional copies are still available. It was decided that any profit from the sale of these booklets would be donated to the Children Protection Services Backpack program which is being sponsored by the Children's Assistance Team. We would once again like to take this opportunity to thank Nina and Tammy for all of their hard work in preparing the booklet.

A delicious lunch of numerous soups, sandwiches and desserts was prepared and served by the Westernport Church. There was an abundance of soup left so it was bottled and sold for \$5.00 per quart and all proceeds were donated to the CPS Backpack Program. The sales of the soups and books totaled \$285.00. During lunch the ladies were given opportunity to make a 'Blessing Jar'. We would like to share a special thank you to Faye Hetrick and others who provided the craft items.

Nina Mason installed the following officers: Donna Kempfher, President; Faye Hetrick, Vice-president; Brenda Harvey, Sec/Treasurer; Marcia Spaid, Chair of the Witness Commission and Gina Frazee, Nominating Committee member.

Numerous reports were shared following lunch. Diane May, reporting for the Children's Assistance Program, made copies of the letter that was sent to numerous schools across the district, available to anyone who knew a teacher who might know of a child who would benefit from this program. There were 18 churches represented with 55 in attendance. The Spring 2018 Rally will be held at the Tearcoat Church on May 9, 2018. Mary Berg, chair of the Witness Commission, reported that we had received 52 Hygiene Kits, 127 School Kits and 2 Clean-up Buckets. These kits were taken to New Windsor by Nova Stonesifer. We also received \$20.00 for Blanket money; \$158.00 for postage for the kits and \$100.00 was undesignated.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pine Grove Church for assisting with registration; the Locust Grove Church for their delicious morning refreshments; the Sandy Creek congregation and the Harman Church for their wonderful devotions. We would also like to thank Betty Dzubba and Jeanne Whitehair for their assistance with the music.

Church of the Brethren
West Marva District Office
384 Dennett Road
Oakland, MD 21550
NOVEMBER 2017 Issue

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IN GOD WE TRUST

District Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM; Kendal generally is in the office Monday-Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM and other times by appointment.

The West Marva District Churches exist to be obedient to, and reflect the Great Commandment and Great Commission texts:

Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” *NKJV*

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen” *NKJV*

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

23-24
27-December 1

District Office Closed—Thanksgiving
Brenda out of office—Vacation