

INTEREST GROUPS at *NOAC 2008*



Tuesday, September 2 1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

DISCOVERING YOURSELF IN OVERSEAS MISSION

What's happening in the Church of the Brethren mission program? Where are we serving? What are we doing? How can individuals be involved? Come discover for yourself!

Brad Bohrer

DIVE IN...“GET IT TOGETHER”...FLOAT IN CALM WATERS

This workshop is designed to share ideas about how to be organized about your “stuff” so that your spouse, family member, or estate trustee will have an easier time after your death. A guide for organization will be distributed that aids in gathering all the papers and information in one place. Being a single older adult led Myrna to develop a comprehensive binder where important papers can be gathered in one place – from certificates of auto ownership to burial wishes. If you dive in today to gather all your important documents together into one binder, then you can float in calm waters with the peace of mind that your estate trustee will have everything needed to follow your wishes and to settle your estate in a timely fashion.

Myrna Long Wheeler

FILM IS OPTIONAL

From lighting to framing to digital photography, this session will teach how to use your camera to achieve great photographic results. Then Brethren Benefit Trust invites participants to gather Wednesday evening at the Butterfly House with their photographs for feedback, fellowship, and discussion – and maybe even some healthy refreshments!

Nevin Dulabaum

FOR WE ARE STRANGERS NO MORE, BUT MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY...

Using song, book and film excerpts, along with scripture, story and prayer, come explore this turning-point when a stranger becomes family to us. Look at the specifics of what makes this happen. Learn how to intentionally use these dynamics to minister to changing neighborhoods...fellowship across cultures...and "do unto" the stranger as we would do to Christ Himself.

Carol Mason

HAVE YOU CALLED A PASTOR LATELY?

How long has it been since your congregation called someone to ministry? How can you transform your congregation into a "calling congregation?" What are the opportunities for ministry in today's world and how can your church help enhance ministry by encouraging people, youth through seniors, to think of ministry in new ways?

Fred Bernhard and Elizabeth Keller

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NOAC Interest Groups Tuesday, September 2 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. continued

HOW HETEROSEXISM HARMS THE CHURCH

While there has been a lot of conversation about homosexuality and “homosexual persons,” there has been very little conversation about how the church itself has been impacted by its exclusionary practices and treatment of lgbt people. This session will explore some of the dynamics of heterosexism, how they do harm to the church, and possible paths towards reconciliation and healing.

Carol Wise

IS THERE A TOMORROW FOR THE CoB?

In a day when there is talk of post-denominationalism, the death of the institutional church as we know it, and young adult disenchantment with current forms of church, what is our future? How can we rethink church, define how to invest in what deserves preservation, and let go of what we should freely abandon in order to make faith experience meaningful for tomorrow's generations?

Lowell Flory

JUMP INTO THE WATER – BRETHERN DISASTER MINISTRIES

Brethren don't just "Come to the Water," they jump in with both feet! While they don't make a big splash, the ripples have a life-changing impact on those they serve. The surprise is that the jump changes their lives, too. Come hear about Brethren Disaster Ministries – Rebuilding Homes, Children's Disaster Services, and Global Response – the work that is done for others and the way the lives of volunteers are changed in the process. Come ready to learn more about volunteering, but be careful – you just might get wet!

Judy Bezon and Roy Winter

LISTENING SKILLS FOR PASTORS, DEACONS...AND EVERYONE

Listening is an important key to human relationships. It is an essential skill for ministry, whether as a deacon, a pastor, or in any role. Listening is a gift we can give others and it is a spiritual discipline we can choose. Come to learn listening skills which will serve you well in your family, friendships, and ministry.

Joe and Dorothea Mason

LIVING AND PLANNING YOUR LIFE-LEGACY

Have you ever wondered how others will celebrate your life after you are deceased? What legacies--both material and spiritual--will you leave? Perhaps you have provided for the financial inheritance you will give...but have you considered the emotional inheritance you will give to those you care about the most? How would you like people to remember you? Will the 'manner of your living' be exemplified in the manner of your dying? Come share in this sometimes light-hearted, but serious and practical workshop that will help you consider your funeral and/or memorial worship service and the kind of life-legacy you wish to leave behind.

Carol Bowman and Ray Glick

NOAC Interest Groups Tuesday, September 2 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. continued

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CONSUMING

One person can make a difference! Discover how the values you hold can affect the purchases and choices you make.

Dennis Kingery

SPIRITUAL VITALITY

No matter what age we are, we have a need to grow and become more vital. When we are young, the physical vitality we have seems to be most important. As we grow older, however, it is our spirits which may grow more vital in preparation for the eternal life of that spirit. Come and explore ways to nourish your spirit as it develops greater vitality in your elder years.

Sonja Griffith

TAKING YOUR BELIEFS OUT OF THE CLOSET

It's fair to say that Christianity, including the Church of the Brethren, is in turmoil. The religious right and left seem to grow farther apart each day. Turns out, there are some excellent reasons for this divergence. Several progressive Brethren will outline what they really believe about the Bible, Jesus, and how Christianity is practiced. See if what they say is what you've come to believe, too!

Ken Kline Smeltzer

THE POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF FORGIVENESS

An exploration of the meaning and practice of Christian forgiveness in our lives and society today.

Donald Kraybill

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN IRAQ?

The war in Iraq has continued for more than five years now. The devastation of Iraq, the loss of life, and the economic, social, and political costs to the US continue to grow. How have we come to this point and what is likely to happen now? What *should* happen now?

David Waas

INTEREST GROUPS Wednesday, September 3 1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

ALL CAN BE HEARD

Scripture, prayer, and "mutual invitation" will be experienced to help us better understand what is required for the church to be alive to possibilities and to overcome the fear that change and inclusion conjure up.

Carol Yeazell

BVS: LOOKING TO OUR PAST TO INSPIRE OUR FUTURE

Brethren Volunteer Service is celebrating 60 years of service ministry opportunities. Share in the stories of seven decades of hope and transformation. Be open to contributing your own experience of BVS if you participated. All are welcome to share in the excitement.

Dan McFadden

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NOAC Interest Groups Wednesday, September 3 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. cont.

CLOWNS IN CHURCH?

What's the attraction and reasoning for clowns in church? Carol Bowman will demonstrate her transformation to "Kuceli" (Joy) – a Christian clown – while she shares the history of clowning, the theology behind clown ministry, and her personal sense of calling to share her gifts as a "fool for Christ." Attendees will be entertained and inspired by her ministry vignettes and will have an opportunity to "try it out" for themselves if they wish. Make-up provided and some costuming will be available – or bring your own!

Carol Bowman

DEDICATE YOUR SUFFERING!

In this session we will explore the traditional teachings about suffering and show how Christ taught us to deal with our own pain and suffering. Then we will have an experience of 'redemptive suffering' in which we, as St. Paul did, dedicate our suffering – as a group – for the wellbeing of others.

Jane Thibault

EATING FOR A LIFETIME

Eating for a Lifetime's mission is to provide excellent and innovative consultative and educational services in health-supportive cooking and eating so that people may reclaim their good health. They believe that food can heal us and that healthy food that tastes delicious is even better. Laura Pole, RN, MSN, Chef, will entertain, inform and treat you to samples!

Laura Pole

50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION

Come hear stories from the past 50 years – and before! – of women in ministry...and bring stories of your own to share!

Dana Cassell

HOW TO "READ" THE NEWS

How do we interpret the news we hear, see, or read? How do we find the facts amid the spin and counter-spin? David Waas is one who gathers information from many sources and is known for his ability to put it all together so that it makes sense. Come and learn some ways to approach news sources with your eyes open and your mind clear. In addition, we will look at some trustworthy sources of news which are outside the corporate mainstream.

David Waas

IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN TOO!

You will find yourself inspired as Nevin Dulabaum shares his story of successful weight loss and his journey to wellness with candor and humor. Nevin will offer suggestions for healthy eating and incorporating exercise, a peer network, and public accountability into your lifestyle.

Nevin Dulabaum

NOAC Interest Groups Wednesday, September 3 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. cont.

INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNICATION: ANOTHER WAY TO COME TO THE WATER!

In this session, we will explore some of the newer forms of technology, from pod casting and blogging to websites and wikis. Then we will discuss how these tools are beginning to play a role in communication and ponder those implications. We'll look at examples of how Bethany Seminary is using this technology to present its theological education and ministry preparation far beyond its own walls to many places...perhaps even to you or to those you know!

Enten Eller

LIVING WITHIN YOUR MEANS

Living on a fixed income can present challenges. This session offers a realistic approach to balancing and avoiding debt.

Dennis Kingery

NYC – THEN AND NOW: HOW HAVE YOUTH CHANGED?

National Youth Conference has always been a time for spiritual growth, and still is! We'll talk about that, as well as the National Study of Youth and Religion, the largest study ever done on this topic, to see what youth are thinking today about faith issues. And we'll talk about what all this means as you relate to your grandchildren and other young people.

Chris Douglas

PEACEMAKING PRIORITIES

On Earth Peace, the peace and reconciliation agency of the Church of the Brethren, is building a new vision to guide its work in upcoming years. Come see and hear some key elements of that vision, and bring your own vision of peacemaking to share with us. Most of the session will be dedicated to receiving comments on the new strategic priorities and suggestions of specific goals which might be part of the mission and ministry of On Earth Peace.

Bob Gross

SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Because movies often reflect the world in which we live, they give us a chance to observe and reflect on how we live as a people of this time, and how we live as Christ's people in the kingdom of God. Come and see segments of movies with discussion to follow.

Sonja Griffith

TAINTED WATERS: ELDER LGBT CHALLENGES

The challenges facing the estimated 2.9 million gay and lesbian elders include isolation, social ostracism, insensitive service providers, and legal and financial discrimination. At the same time, due to social changes in family structures and lifestyles, lgbt elders are leading the way in terms of what many non-lgbt people are now beginning to experience. This session will explore the strengths and challenges of lgbt elders and the role of the church community as an agent of stress and/or hope.

Carol Wise

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WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY

This update of prior NOAC workshops explores issues of wealth and health in retirement planning. This "Estate Planning 101" conversation will include wills versus trusts as planning tools, forms of holding property, special issues of IRA and retirement account planning estates and income tax issues, opportunities that gift-planning offers in a larger estate plan process, end-of-life medical documents, and other issues of legal and family significance.

Lowell Flory

NOAC INTEREST GROUPS Thurs., September 4 1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

HEY – HOW ABOUT A SABBATICAL AT YOUR SEMINARY?

Ever thought you might be feeling called to set-apart ministry or church leadership, but thought "I'm too old – or I'm too tired – or I want to golf!" Perhaps you've always felt called, but took different directions in your life instead. If so, NOW is the time to say YES! Allow yourself to imagine how you might take classes at Bethany Seminary, occasionally or regularly, at campus or online; or how you might volunteer at Bethany's guest house. Or find other surprising ways to become involved in the life of learning and leadership for the church.

Elizabeth Keller

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Do you know how your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will pay for their education? College tuition has increased an average of four percent each year, putting financial strains on students and parents. Learn about ways to set aside funds and prepare for the future.

Dennis Kingery

LET US PROCLAIM LOUDLY!

Learn how to make your church a household name. This session will include ways to increase your church's media exposure and tips on how to have your news published.

Nevin Dulabaum

NOW, WHERE DID I PUT MY KEYS!

Memory loss is something we fear as we grow older. We wonder if forgetting names or where we put our keys is the first sign of Alzheimer's disease, or are those expected changes in memory as we age? After a short introduction to memory and memory loss, we will learn and practice some fun ways to adapt and improve memory as our brains age.

Kim Ebersole

OLDER ADULTS SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH ACTS OF SERVICE

Learn what opportunities BVS offers for baby boomers and beyond to give back through service positions. Conversations will focus on where BVS is headed and how you can become involved in its ongoing-ministry of service.

Dan McFadden

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NOAC Interest Groups Thursday, September 4 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. cont.

REKINDLE YOUR SPIRIT – CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION

Dr. Sheperd continues his morning session with an interactive discussion about how to be proactive in rekindling our spirits. His humorous but thought-provoking approach will give participants strategies to accept responsibility for their own lives, to “come to the water” and not wait for the water to come to them.

Scott Sheperd

RETIREMENT AS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

What makes for a successful retirement? In fact we never fully retire since we always have a ministry. Yet our maturing years do involve transition. This interest group will focus on the spiritual growth factors that make the retirement transition purposeful and meaningful as opposed to one that is conflicted and fragmented.

Bill Cave

SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A FRIENDLY CHURCH?

Would visitors to your church think it is as friendly as you think it is? Join in conversation with this recognized long-term pastor and experienced practitioner and author on the subject of biblical hospitality and the welcome of your church.

Fred Bernhard

TAKING JESUS SERIOUSLY

So maybe you consider yourself a progressive Christian. So what! How do you put your faith into practice in a way that makes you any different from a secular humanist or a conservative evangelical? And how does your congregation live out its progressive leanings and be more welcoming to all types of people? Several progressive Brethren talk about how their lives and those of their congregation are affected by taking Jesus seriously.

Ken Kline Smeltzer

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN SUDAN INITIATIVE: SHARING THE LIVING WATER IN A THIRSTY LAND

This workshop will present an update on the Church of the Brethren's Sudan Initiative, including photos and reports from the field. Together we will explore roles that the Church of the Brethren hopes to play in walking with the people of Southern Sudan and sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus there...and how the church here can help.

Enten and Mary Eller

THEOLOGICAL GROUND FOR END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS

Always in history, dying has been too easy. Now, however, our technology has sometimes made dying too prolonged and difficult. As never before, then, we must consider from a faith perspective how we honor life and how we know when it is time to die. Come and consider the questions from a Biblical perspective.

Sonja Griffith

NOAC Interest Groups Thursday, September 4 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. cont.

VISIONS FOR OUR FOURTH CENTURY – WHAT IS THE CALL FOR A LIVING PEACE CHURCH?

Come hear from the staff leaders of the General Board, Bethany Theological Seminary, and On Earth Peace as they share their visions for the life and witness of the Church of the Brethren as a peace church. Bring your own vision, as well!

Stanley Noffsinger, Ruthann Knechel Johansen, and Bob Gross