

CENTRAL ALLEGHENY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023



Greetings from the Central Allegheny Executive Board

Brothers and sisters of the Central Allegheny Region. Thank you for being a part of CBC and for your continued support of our Region. At the national level, the Covenant Brethren Church is growing rapidly. We now have a total of 87 congregations and 149 credentialed ministers across the denomination. This includes eleven churches in Africa and one in Guatemala. God is adding to our numbers every month.

As a Region, we continue to grow as well. We now have twenty-four churches making us equal to the Southeast Region as the largest two Regions in the denomination. Our Regional Teams are working to develop programs of support for many areas of church needs.

There are many things happening across our Region, so be watching for the different activities that will be sent out by Rebecca Teets, our Regional Administrative Asst. One way to share information will be through this CAR Newsletter. This is the first of many to come to you, being sent out in the future every quarter. This Newsletter will contain items of interest for all the local churches, dates of upcoming events, news items from the local churches, and informational items from the National CBC Church. Please send any items of news from your church to Rebecca and she will put them in our quarterly Newsletter

The Region has received a grant from the National CBC Church to

support several areas of need in our Region. The total of the grant is \$15,000. These funds will be used as follows:

\$5,000 to support property repairs at Camp Galilee

\$5,000 to support the Union Rescue Mission building project

\$3,800 to support a program for "calling to set apart ministry"

\$1,200 for promotion of the camping program at Camp Galilee

May God richly bless each of you in your walk with Him. As you have questions or any need for support, PLEASE feel free to call me or any member of the Regional Leadership Team.

In all things we face we need to remember this scripture:

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is Love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16

Blessings,

Grover Duling, Regional Board Chair



A New Church joins our Region



As you pass Canaan Valley heading South, you come to a beautiful valley home to our Region's newest church family, Red Creek Church. On Sunday, January 29, the Central Allegheny Region welcomed both the Red Creek Bethel Church family and Pastor John Moyers into our Regional Church Family.

Pastor Appreciation Dinner



On Saturday, January 14, a group of about 40 pastors and executive board members of the Central Allegheny Region gathered for a pastor appreciation meal. The evening was full of good food, fellowship, and lots of laughs. Little business was presented to update the Pastor's and Executive Board about what is happening in the

Central Allegheny Region of CBC. A delicious meal was served by three wonderful Oakdale ladies and Marge Roy was prepared with jokes and games. After the event officially ended, fellowship continued. It was a lovely evening to celebrate the leadership here in our Central Allegheny Region. Many thanks to the hosts and to those who made the evening possible.



Left: Marge Roy explains candy wrapper game to pastors and wives.

Guatemala Mission Trip

I hardly know where to start to tell you of the blessing the team that just returned from Guatemala experienced during our short-term mission trip. The team included six leaders from the Covenant Brethren Church. During the trip, we made contact with a local church that wants to apply for membership in the Covenant Brethren Church denomination. Of course, this will be a process, and nothing is sure until the application is reviewed by the Ministry Committee and the Executive Board. The very fact that they are asking is exciting and points to the possibility of the CBC expanding into Central America. The team had many ministries. We hosted two game nights with about 130 youth in total, playing games, grilling double quarter pounders and sharing in worship and devotions led by Randy Shoemaker. Five youth expressed a desire to come to Christ.

One girl came to be prayed for after struggling with suicidal thoughts. She left that night praising God and in the arms of her youth leaders who promised to continue to offer her support. During the day, our dental team saw about 500 people. They did fillings, extractions, and cleanings. Their equipment had to be hauled in the back of a pick-up or on top of an SUV to some of the most remote mountain villages we have ever been to. At the same time, the rest of the team passed out 500 fifteen-pound bags of food and Bibles to various groups of people. These groups were organized by local pastors in different locations, one of which was extremely remote. It required crossing four creeks and a river while traveling down roads that were not much better than traveling in creek beds. The trip was almost five hours. During these stops, we installed wood burning cook stoves, twenty-four in all, that were vented with a flue pipe. That is very important because when people don't have anything like this, they cook in a smokey room over an open fire, breathing in the smoke. Over time the smoke wrecks their kidneys, lungs, and livers causing sickness and death even for the children. At each site the Gospel was shared by different CBC preachers through an interpreter. People with health issues were prayed for and God was glorified. On Sunday morning, Scott Kinnick and Grover Duling preached at the request of the church to share what CBC is all about. This came about because the local missionary, Adam Clemons, informed this church, which was already looking for a denomination to connect with, about what CBC stands for. Therefore, this meeting was arranged. After the worship service, they were asked to

pray for a young woman who is currently pregnant but had previously lost a child. We prayed for pastors, teenagers, and church leaders. During one time of amazing prayer, Grover felt led to call people to prayer in a special way. We knelt and prayed over ground, laying hands on that ground which is to be the future site of the church seeking CBC membership. It was a very moving moment for all the CBC leaders present. Each night the team met for devotions and to review the day. We laughed and cried and praised the Lord. It is impossible to share all that happened in those ten days. We saw God move, changing lives, expanding His work, and bringing joy where there had been despair. All of these things and the beautiful views we were privileged to see reminded us that God is AMAZING. It was a privilege to be a part of what He wanted to do.



Submitted by Craig Howard – Regional Executive Board Member

Union Rescue Mission

As some of you may already know, the Central Allegheny Region supports the Union Rescue Mission in Cumberland, MD. For most of our churches, this

particular ministry is one we are unable to handle on our own. The Union Rescue Mission provides that necessary support that the Word calls all Christians to take part in. Jesus says in Matthew 25, "***When you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me***"

The Union Rescue Mission was established in 1963 to aid the most desperate men, women and children in the Tri-State Area. It serves individuals from Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Annually, they shelter 18,000 bed nights for those seeking refuge, serve over 60,000 meals, provide a free weekly medical clinic for the homeless, and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ through Bible study and lecture formats. Their goal is to carry out the Matthew 25 call to help those in need, while equally carrying out the Mathew 28 call to make disciples.

David Ziler, CEO of the Union Rescue Mission, has made himself available to come speak about the future of the Union Rescue Mission at the churches in the Central Allegheny Region. We would like to encourage you to invite David to speak in your church to learn more about this amazing ministry. We are blessed to be a part of the plans they have for the future of their ministry. The present URM buildings are very old and past repair. The mission has purchased a new building and needs support to renovate it. The cost for this is about \$2,000,000. Please give Dave a call at 301-785-6271 and invite him to bring a Sunday morning message sharing this tremendous need.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,
Rebecca Teets and Grover Duling
Administrative Assistant, Executive
Board Chair
Central Allegheny Region of CBC

Happy Anniversary Camp Hope

We will be celebrating our 70th anniversary this year in 2023. The current site for Camp Hope was founded on the banks of Sugar Creek near Belington WV on March 3, 1953 on land donated by Lulu and T Ford Valentine. We will be celebrating our 70th anniversary with an open house Sunday May 21, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00. Walk around the campus and see what has changed over the years. Refreshments will be offered and a few local churches will provide activities for the children who attend that day. If you need help finding us you can plug in our address into google maps as 139 Camp Hope Rd, Belington WV 26250.

Our Summer Camp schedule this year is Youth (8th thru grad) July 9th thru 13th, Juniors (5-7th grade) July 16 -20th, and Primary (K-4th) July 23 thru 26th. New this year, on the last evening we will have a family dinner and the children will present a program and campfire before going home that night with the parents. We hope this will bring about more parental involvement.

God is bringing about some changes which will increase our effectiveness in serving the community and therefore the kingdom of God. We have withdrawn from COB and have incorporated as an independent Christian camp. As always, we will remain basically Brethren and Shiloh COB is stepping up with a lot of support and with workers. We will be doing an outreach to local community churches to expand our base. We have several new members on our planning committee who are stepping up in a big way, however we are still looking for a

trustee from CBC to join us. In conjunction with remaining old members and trustees, we have come to the conclusion that we need to replace our boys and girls dormitories with bathrooms inside those structures.

To that end we are doing ALOT of fundraising over the next few years. One of our trustees, pastor Kevin Leadbeater, and his church, Fellowship Assembly of God, are working tirelessly this spring. They sponsored a fundraiser for Valentines Day of chocolate dipped strawberries, pretzel rods and Oreo cookies. They made significant proceeds of which were donated 100 % to the Camp Hope building fund. We are also currently (March) doing a joint Spring Candy Egg sale, Cherrynut, Coconut, Maplenut and Peanut Butter. Fellowship AOG church are taking orders for candy eggs which will be ready by Friday April 7th. Also Lois Thibodeau, on the planning committee, and myself have been making eggs which have been placed in Maces Pharmacy in Philippi and Belington as well as in Moores Family Restaurant, owned by David Moore, our trustee from West Marva COB. Also Lois and I have also been able to sit out at a few locations with the eggs and at the Mylan Park vendor show in Morgantown, April 1st. As of today it looks like it will be a huge success. David Moores daughter also sponsored a spaghetti dinner at the restaurant on March 15th. And a soup and sandwich lunch will be sponsored in late April with lunches being taken out to local businesses.

Follow us on facebook at [camphopebelingtonwv](https://www.facebook.com/camphopebelingtonwv) or feel free to contact me, Jackie Henderson, 32 Snowball Bush Ln, Fairmont WV 26554 or phone 304-366-8345, our camp email address is also camphopebelingtonwv@gmail.com.

Article Submitted by Jackie Henderson

A Message from Camp Galilee

Greetings Camp Galilee Family, I hope this letter finds you well. Camp Galilee preparations are in full swing and we look forward to welcoming you "home" this summer. After a long winter the grounds of Camp Galilee are in desperate need of some TLC before our guests come to stay. As always before the start of camp there are various cleaning tasks that must occur as well as outside projects that need to be tackled. These projects include but are not limited to gardening, moving/gathering firewood, and leaf removal. Starting this Saturday, April 15th, Camp Galilee will host its first clean up day of the season. We plan to begin work around 9AM and will be there throughout the majority of the day. These days will then take place every weekend following and leading up to the start of camp. Anyone that has been a part of this project in years past can attest that there is simply too much for one person to do, therefore if you have any time and would like to stop by, your helping hands would be greatly appreciated- many hands make for light work!

I wanted to take the time to share a praise report with you. As many of you know, our bath house, particularly the boys bath house, has been in need of great repair for some time. Recently God has laid it upon the heart of a local business owner to take on this repair. Although I will not share the name of the business nor the owner, we could not be more thankful for his kindness and generosity. We know that these repairs will be used to further our ministry and our care for the campers that Christ sends our way.

As always, winter tends to bring with it the need for a new unexpected repair. Over the winter some damage occurred in our girls bathhouse, as the inner walls began to crumble due to trapped moisture. Although finances are very tight, we trust that here too our Father, the Provider, will meet our needs, in order to further His ministry.

I have been a part of Camp Galilee as both a camper, counselor, and now the manager for many years, and I can say without a shadow of a doubt that on those grounds, as in many other places, God is at work. We here at Camp Galilee cannot wait to see Him show up and show off this season, just as He has done in the past.

We thank you for your continued support and ask that you pray for us as we start on this new journey. Please pray for our Children, and future campers, so that their hearts might be prepared for the things that Christ has in store for them.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Elisabeth Thorne
Camp Galilee- Camp Manager

Upcoming Events

Pulpit Exchange Sunday May 21st, 2023 Please let Rebecca Teets know by May 1st if your church plans on participating in this event.

July 9-13 Camp Hope Youth Camp

July 16-20 Camp Hope Junior Camp

July 23-26 Camp Hope Primary Camp

July 7-9 Camp Galilee Primary Camp

July 10-15 Camp Galilee Youth Camp

July 16-22 Camp Galilee Junior High Camp

July 23-28 Camp Galilee Junior Camp

July 20-22 CBC National Annual Meeting and Worship Conference. Registration is open and available on the CBC website

<https://covenantbrethren.org/>

September 9 Central Allegheny Region Annual Meeting at Maple Spring Church.

September 10-12 Unite on the Rock at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds. A three night Christian Festival including guest speakers and music.

*Please contact Rebecca Teets at 304-735-3864 with any events your church is involved in that you'd like to see in future newsletters



“The Untapped Power Of Prayer”



“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James 5:16

James the half-brother of Jesus proclaimed, *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* The Greek word translated to the phrase *“effective, fervent”* in the NKJV is a word that means to be *“active”*, and *“efficient.”* The Greek word translated as *“avails”* is a word that means, to *have* (or *exercise*) *force* (literally or figuratively). A.T. Robertson further defined *“avails”* as *“has much force.”*

Are we as a church and are we as individual members of the body of Christ meeting up to these original language definitions of a prayer warrior? The power of prayer is an often-untapped resource supplied by the unlimited power of an omnipotent God. Throughout the Scripture, we have examples of prayer, we have instructions on how to pray, and Jesus even told us to pray. However, are we opening up the pipeline of prayer?



The Covenant Brethren Allegheny Region has a Facebook page where folks can get together and cast their cares upon the Lord. Also, this page can become a prayer closet where you can bring your prayer concerns as well as help carry the burden of prayer for others in need. On the Allegheny Region Facebook page, there will also be weekly devotionals, and prayer focuses for the month.

Prayer is one of the greatest resources a believer has because it rests in the unlimited power of an Almighty God.

Gather with us throughout the week to unleash the power of prayer as new prayer concerns are added daily.

To join our Covenant Brethren Allegheny Region Prayer Group Facebook page:

- 1.) Type out in your Facebook search engine: “Covenant Brethren Allegheny Region Prayer Group”.
- 2.) Push the like icon to join and follow the page.

To submit a prayer request:

- 1.) Click on the “Message” icon.
- 2.) Type out your message and send it.
- 3.) **Or**, you can reach out to any member of the Prayer Committee to post your prayer request to the Facebook page. The team members are Randy Shoemaker, Chris Leatherman, and Randy Cosner.
- 4.) After a quick review, your prayer requests will be posted to the page.

In a brief phone call with Brother Randy Shoemaker, he said: “*Prayer is the oil in the engine that keeps it all running.*” Let’s fire up our prayer engines and put the peddle to the metal.

I Peter 5:6-7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

Submitted by: *Pastor Thomas Rowan, Regional Publications Team Member*