



# Central Allegheny Region Newsletter

April 2025

## A note from our Regional Elder

Staying Focused on Jesus and His Kingdom  
Work

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name above all Names. I  
pray you all are well and as needed for  
healing and comfort.

As we step into the joyous season of Easter  
and the warmth of summer, I want to  
encourage each of you to remain steadfast in  
your devotion to Jesus and His Kingdom

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Building work. The celebration of Christ's resurrection is not merely a moment on the calendar—it is the foundation of our faith and the ongoing mission of the Church.

#### The Resurrection: Our Eternal Hope

Easter is the powerful reminder that Jesus conquered sin and death, offering us new life in Him. This victory should not only stir our hearts during the Easter season but should continually shape our lives and ministry. As we gather for worship, outreach, and fellowship, let us remember that we are called to be resurrection people—living in the power and promise of our risen Savior.

#### Staying Committed to Kingdom Work

As summer approaches, it can be easy to lose focus amid vacations, relaxation, and seasonal distractions. However, the work of the Kingdom does not pause. Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), and this mission remains urgent. Whether through summer Bible camps, community outreach, or acts of service, let us continue to be intentional in sharing the love and truth of Christ.

#### Encouragement for the Church

Keep Christ at the Center – In all that we do, let us prioritize our relationship with Jesus. Regular prayer, Bible study, and worship keep our hearts aligned with His purpose.

Engage in Fellowship – The summer season is a great time to strengthen relationships within the church through small groups, home gatherings, and discipleship opportunities.

Serve with Joy – Look for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in your community. Whether it's through outreach programs, mission trips, or simple acts of kindness, let your light shine.

Pray Without Ceasing – Continue to seek the Lord for wisdom, strength, and guidance. Pray for your church leaders, members, and the lost who need to hear the Gospel.

#### Pressing on Together

Hebrews 12:2 urges us to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” As we celebrate the resurrection and move into the months ahead, let us not grow weary but press on with renewed passion for His glory. The work we do for the Lord is never in vain, and He will continue to move mightily through His Church.

May we remain faithful in our calling, steadfast in our love for Christ, and diligent in advancing His Kingdom. I pray that this Easter and summer season will be one of great spiritual growth, revival, and impact for each of our Central Allegheny Covenant Brethren Churches.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Grover Duling, Regional CBC Elder



## Did you know?

Did you know that your pastor is a life-long learner and a diligent student of the Holy Bible? Many hours are spent every week preparing for the Sunday sermon. This requires searching Scripture; it also requires reading commentaries and researching scholarly literature. Our Pastors attend educational meetings and discussion groups throughout the year. A good example of this is The Brethren Bible Institute. This is a five-day college level program which is offered every July at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. Also, the Central Allegheny Region presents ministry classes on Saturdays several times a year. Please encourage your Pastors by supporting their efforts in continuing their ministry education.

### **A note from our Moderator**

Moderator's Report to C-A Region for February, 2025

It is a new year and the leadership of the Central Allegheny Region continues to focus our efforts on strengthening our churches. Of course, the Christmas season was a busy one for our churches. I hope that every one of you are now rededicating yourselves to the work before us in 2025! Below I will let you know what your Moderator has been up to.

I have been visiting with pastors and church board members. I have worked with our region's Elder, Grover Duling, on issues experienced by local church leadership and congregations. I have been honored to give support to pastors through personal visits and telephone conversations.

I have been blessed with opportunities to speak to congregations at Sunday services.

I was recently asked to work on reinvigorating the CBC Ministry Training Program. Creating a training program has been challenging and many hours of work has been accomplished by leaders of the Covenant Brethren Church. However,

implementing a denomination-wide program has experienced delays. I am happy to report that our region had several very good people complete the first two courses offered, and will be starting a new course this month.

2025 is the year for Ordination renewal. The advantages of credentialing pastors include encouraging continuing education, identifying issues that the pastor may have, oversight and accountability, and fellowship. All credentialed ministers must recertify. Ethics Training within the 2021 to 2025 time-period is also required. This training will be available at the CBC Annual Conference in July, and will be made available to those not attending the conference after July. Contact me with any questions, and please send me records of your educational activities (reporting form is on our website, or ask me to send you the form).

Your Region Annual Meeting Planning Team is already hard at work planning for the 2025 our conference in September.

Again, I am sincerely honored to serve our Lord and do whatever you ask of me that helps build the Kingdom. God bless you all.

**Submitted by Mark Jones, Moderator**

# Missions and Outreach



Our region is always working to further the kingdom of God. Through generous and willing hearts, so many throughout our region are out in the world being the hands and feet of Jesus to those who need him. There is not enough room in this issue to name all of the ways the members of our Region have been active in missions and outreach so I will do my best to highlight a few of the recent efforts supported by our region. Thank you all for your hearts to serve. Rebecca Teets, Publications Team

## Local Humanitarian Relief Work

Our Central Allegheny Regional Humanitarian Relief Work Team alongside the Brookside Helping Hands has been hard at work meeting the various needs of our local communities. To the right you will see a photo of an accessibility ramp that was recently built in the region. If you know of anyone within our Region who is in need of a ramp or other repairs to their homes, please

contact our Humanitarian Relief Work Team.





## The Lord inspires Mission support

What happens when God moves in a community for a mission opportunity? His will is unstoppable and support pours in where resources are limited. He multiplies the gifts of His people and blessings pour out upon his children. This was what happened with the Guatemala mission trip this year.

God's glory was on display long before the team ever left the US. Beginning with funding lagging behind previous years, God paved the way to provide in major financial ways. Enough donations came in to provide 43 stoves for people's homes. 350 food bags were packed and handed out to those in need. In addition to financial support, God laid on the hearts of his faithful to make clothing, knit and crochet toboggans, and build toy cars for the children of Guatemala.



After the framework had been laid, God called the mission team together who would go and minister to his children. 20 volunteers travelled together to Guatemala from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. During their time abroad, they were able to install stoves, distribute clothing, food and water filtration buckets, help facilitate an evening youth program, worship on Sunday with a local church, visit a children's home, build bunk beds for a family in need, and help facilitate dental work in villages. Every day was packed full of ministry, fellowship and giving all done in the name of Jesus.



Guatemala Mission Team 2025

The mission team returned home having accomplished so much but God wasn't finished yet. The team was able to leave some funds for the local church to continue to meet the needs of the community. As one final act of love, God multiplied this gift as only he can. Money was counted and placed in a bag, days after the team returned, the bag was opened and contained more money than was put in. The Lord truly brought together the various gifts of an entire community of believers working in unity to support His work in Guatemala. What a mighty God we serve.

### **The Trip of a Lifetime!**

Recently, the Chairman of our National Executive Board, Grover Duling, had the honor and privilege of being invited by Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, to participate in a shoe box distribution for 200 children in the Dominican Republic. Grover stated in no uncertain terms that it was one of the highlights of his life. Our partnership with Samaritan's Purse has continued to deepen with groups responding to disaster relief, large groups traveling to multiple locations to pack shoeboxes, and the continuation of financial support to needs around the world. All of these things and more prompted this coveted invitation.



What stood out to Grover was the emphasis on Jesus' message. Before they received the gifts, the children were told all of these gifts were from Jesus.





That people back in the United States had packed them, but they were from Jesus. Grover was on one of four teams. Each team went to four locations. One location his team went to was a training center where children who had already received gifts two weeks earlier were now going through the Greatest Journey discipleship program. He was impressed at how well organized it all was. Before any gifts were given out, the message of Jesus and salvation was shared with the children.



When it was time to give out the gifts, the children were asked to sit with their heads bowed and eyes closed and put their arms out on their laps. A team member would then come around and lay a package in their arms. They were not allowed to open them until all the children had received a package.







After the gifts were given out, it was a celebration of Jesus' love and goodness to them. The children laughed and played and thanked Jesus for his blessing. Grover had to help one little girl figure out how to wear her new sunglasses. They sang, they played, and they praised God for His Love. Could there be a better day in the life of a believer and a servant of God?

They then traveled to where 30 other children were being discipled in the Greatest Journey program. During this 12-week program, the children play games, sing, and learn what it means to receive Christ as savior. Who He is, what He did, and why He did it. Teachers receive special training to take students through this program, and it has such an impact on their lives that often entire families end up becoming Christians as a result of them taking what they learn home to their families. Even children who don't make it into the program curiously listened through the window to hear about this amazing story.



It is exciting for CBC to be a part of such an amazing ministry, one that is changing the lives of so many people across the world. Maybe you and your church have been a part of this ministry. Grover can testify that you are making an eternal difference in the lives around the world. Glory to God!!

**Submitted by Craig Howard – CAR Board Chair**

## **Regional Events**

### **Valentines Banquet for Pastors and Regional Leaders**



**In February, our Regional Leaders and Pastors along with their spouses were invited to an appreciation banquet. There they enjoyed wonderful food, fun games and lots of time to spend in fellowship with others.**



**The banquet was held at Oak Dale CBC where some of the youth alongside Allison Champ came together to serve the meal. Marge Roy entertained all with games and prizes.**



All-in-all it was a light and enjoyable evening where our region could love on their Pastors for sacrificing much to pursue God's call into ministry. Many thanks to our Pastors and their wives, and our Regional Leaders for pouring themselves into ministry.

## Church Events

Several churches in our Region have shared some of the successful events they have enjoyed over the last several months, a few are highlighted below.

Frostburg CBC enjoyed a Valentine's meal out at Sand Springs in Frostburg. They had an afternoon full of good food and fellowship.



Petersburg CBC has been busy serving their community over the past months. They held a spaghetti dinner for the Petersburg and Maysville VFD to show their appreciation as well as presenting them with a monetary donation.





The youth group completed a school drive where they set up in the community and collected donations and presented them to Petersburg and Maysville Elementary. The youth group along with the members filled shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse to send out all over the world. The church was in the Tri-County Fair Parade where we handed out flyers with scripture, upcoming events and service times. Submitted by Andrew Cosner.

## **Camp Galilee Information**

**Youth Camp 9th through just graduated from high school: July 6th through the 12th**

**Junior High Camp 6th through 8th: July 13th through 19th**

**Junior Camp 3rd through 5th grade: July 20th through July 25th**

**Primary Camp PreK through 2nd grade: July 25th through 27th**

**Family Camp: May 23rd through May 25th**

**Senior Citizen Retreat: June 3rd**

**Women's Retreat: August 22nd through 24th**

**Chain Breakers Recovery Retreat: September 19th through 21st**

## **Kid's Corner**

This month my kids have been tracking the development of eggs in an incubator with their teacher at school. Towards the end of the 21 days, we all got excited to see these tiny chicks hatch. Their fragile little bodies emerged from their shells and immediately needed care. They needed warmth that we had to provide with a heat lamp and they needed food and water. It made me think about how we also need care. Just like those tiny chicks, we need warmth and shelter. We need spiritual shelter and we can only find that in one place and that is beneath the wings of God.



Psalm 91:4 He will cover you  
with his feathers, and under his  
wings you will find refuge; his  
faithfulness will be your shield  
and rampart.

Remember to draw close to God  
when you feel you need his  
protection. Come to him and he  
will shield you under his wings.

Wh\_\_\_\_\_ dw\_\_\_\_s in the \_\_\_\_\_ter of the M\_\_t High will \_\_\_\_t in  
the sha\_\_w of the \_\_\_\_\_hty.

Try to fill in the blanks of this passage about God as our refuge. If you get stuck, try  
looking at Psalm 91:1.