

## Four Years and Counting...

*It's been over four years since the United States invaded Iraq, even longer since we entered Afghanistan. What does that mean for us as people of peace? What effect does this have on our communities and congregations? What would be the most responsible way to get out of this war? What are some practical ideas? Why do so many people from the U.S. seem oblivious to the thousands of lives lost because of this war? These are questions we posed to different persons around the denomination and asked them to share their thoughts about the war. In this issue of the newsletter we get a glimpse of this through reflections, prayers, and poems.*

### 'a candle in the darkness'

A hand holding a candle in the darkness was the central image for the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, which took place in Washington, DC, on Friday evening, March 16. Some 3,500 Christians gathered to repent of their complicity with the war and to seek the end of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. On Earth Peace and the Brethren Witness/Washington Office of the Church of the Brethren General Board were among the organizations sponsoring the witness. On Earth Peace staff Matt Guynn and Susanna Farahat provided logistics for a peacekeeper training before the event.

The witness marked the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It was attended by Church of the Brethren members from as far away as California and as close as Virginia, with Brethren also traveling from Kansas, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and New York, among others. More than 210 Brethren were identified as participating in the weekend including the Christian Peace Witness on Friday evening, a Brethren breakfast the next morning, and a march on the Pentagon Saturday afternoon, according to the

Brethren Witness/Washington Office.

The Christian Peace Witness began with an ecumenical worship service at the National Cathedral. Candles shone as they were carried into the cathedral's immense stone hall by representatives of fifteen denominations and more than thirty partner organizations, including Phil Jones, director of the Brethren Witness/Washington Office representing the General Board, and Verdena Lee, representing On Earth Peace.

Testimony and messages from U.S. soldiers, Iraqi citizens, Abu Ghraib detainees, and members of Christian Peacemaker Teams, were shared. "Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches," was the refrain repeated again and again.

One of the

preachers, Raphael G. Warnock of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, preached that, "Too often, the wrong question is being asked when people say, 'What can we do to keep from losing this war?' The danger is not that America may lose the war, but that America may lose its soul." In a month when the administration made a case for a temporary surge of U.S. troops in Iraq, Warnock said, "The surge we need is a  
*continued on page 2*



During the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, members and friends of Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren (Fort Wayne, IN) gathered for a quick picture with staff from On Earth Peace and the Brethren Witness/Washington Office.

# Christian Peace Witness for Iraq: 'a candle in the darkness'

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surge in truth-telling, a surge in the nonviolent army of the Lord.”

In a four-mile candlelight procession down the hill from the cathedral and surrounding the White House, participants expressed support for soldiers, a desire to end the occupation, and a prayer for the just rebuilding of Iraq. In a nonviolence training before the procession, participants spiritually prepared themselves to surround the White House with the light of Christ, and some prepared to risk arrest by entering restricted space around the White House.

At the White House, 222 people were arrested including at least four members of the Church of the Brethren – Esther Mohler Ho, Phil Jones, Phil Rieman, and Illana Naylor. Esther Ho later reflected, “I decided to participate in the civil disobedience so that my trip would have the strongest impact against the war. My primary motivation comes from the example Jesus gave us by being

arrested and going to the cross in obedience to God. I felt humbled and honored that my congregation initiated the idea of my going to the witness and paid my way.” She is a member of Fellowship in Christ Church of the Brethren in Fremont, California.

At least sixty Brethren and friends joined together for breakfast following the witness, organized by the Brethren Witness/Washington Office at Washington City Church of the Brethren. Art Gish, recently returned from working with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Iraq, was the keynote speaker. He and his wife Peggy Gish have rotated in and out of Iraq and Hebron as members of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Brethren at the breakfast collected more than \$480 for the work of CPT and \$120 in support of the fines given to the four Brethren who were arrested, according to the Brethren Witness/ Washington Office.

*Matt Guynn*



## Persistence in Prayer for Peace

While major events like the Christian Peace Witness can be moments of media focus, spiritual formation for nonviolent followers of Jesus requires long-term organizing and prayer at the congregational level. The trip to Washington was the culmination of such a process for Janice Kulp Long, pastor for congregational life at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who accompanied a delegation of ten members and friends of her congregation.

In the months leading up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, Beacon Heights formed a group called Persistence in Prayer for Peace. “Initially, we were very focused on sharing our own personal commitments and connecting around praying for the situation in Iraq,” Long reported. “We grew into a group that educates itself on the issues, calling ourselves to be faithful and persistent in being involved – from writing letters to actively participating in public witness, a whole variety of things. The group has become a space where we know that we have support and that there are others who are aware of what we are doing for peace. It has been really helpful to know a group of people that are also called to have this peace commitment be an ongoing part of our faith journey.”

The Beacon Heights group studied the work of theologian Walter Wink, participated in local groups with witnesses related to the Iraq war, and participated in other community peace events. “All along, it has been my vision to see this group continue to grow in involvement and activity,” Long said. “To have ten people commit to go to this national witness felt like clearly another step of being persistent for peace.”

Is witnessing in the streets the only way to work for peace? “No,” said Long, but added, “Being in the streets is a way of witnessing with our physical presence, where we find our spirits called and engaged,” she said. “It’s a way of joining with others to make a call for the awareness of injustice and alternative possibilities in our world. Peace groups and Christians who take that seriously are a megaphone that help to amplify that message for our world.”

# Reflections on Our Wars and Where We Go From Here



Merle Crouse

## ***T*he scene in Iraq**

3,240 American military personnel have died; thousands have been wounded and maimed in body, mind, and spirit. No one knows how many Iraqis have died. Over two million Iraqis have fled their dangerous homeland. Old religious animosities are re-ignited: neighbor against neighbor; bitter conflict and hatred within the Muslim community. Americans who went as liberators are seen as the enemy.

### ***Today's news from Iraq***

1. In Talafar, 80 killed, 85 wounded: Shiites vs. Sunnis.

2. U.S. officials continuously optimistic as 30,000 additional troops force a crackdown in Baghdad.

3. Detention centers are severely crowded since the crackdown, most prisoners held without evidence.

4. In Fallujah, suicide bombers detonate trucks of chlorine, wounding 15.

5. At least 44 people killed elsewhere today, mostly by car bombings.

(The Orlando Sentinel, page A3, March 29, 2007)

### ***Our other wars in the Middle East***

We hardly mention the complex war in Afghanistan with American and NATO troops facing a rejuvenated Taliban and an undeterred Al Qaeda, war lords, the drug trade, and a long history of violence.

We hardly mention the Israeli/Palestinian conflict where the United

States is a key player. The Arabs say there is no hope for peace in the Muslim world without an even-handed settlement in Palestine.

### ***What do we do as peace people in the United States?***

#### ***What is God's will for these times?***

1. Keep the faith. Be Jesus people. Pray for peace. Be visible for peace. Vote for peace.

2. Be a caring, healing influence for families whose loved ones are killed or affected by service in the wars.

3. Re-examine the American pride and arrogance expressed in public discourse and lurking in our own souls. We are a segment of the world family. We cannot go it alone. We are not entitled to a position of power and privilege.

4. Call for fiscal responsibility by U.S. government and military. How much more of the nation's resources can be poured down the rat-hole of unwinnable wars and unwise, untrustworthy decision-making?

5. Work for a stop to the wars and to military solutions for people problems. Encourage the resolution of differences by talking, listening, and negotiating for the good of all the people.

6. Beware of voices that give narrow, partisan perspectives. Curb our own prejudices and seek the truth.

#### *A Prayer*

O loving and just God,  
Help us to know your will for these times.

Forgive us for our pride and prejudice that impede

Your will being done.

Use us as peacemakers in this world  
In the Spirit of Jesus.

Amen.

*Merle Crouse, New Covenant  
Church of the Brethren (Gotha, FL),  
and member of the Atlantic Southeast  
District Action for Peace Team*

## Truth Darkly Spoken

Truth is again darkly spoken  
when such well dressed thugs  
on deep pocketed retainer  
ride blood to power.

Dissent is dismissed,  
discouraged  
and then disappeared;  
for truth is war's first casualty  
an ancient declared.

As voices from Pilate's  
Pavement  
repeat Caesar's lie,  
echoing another serpent  
quote, "You will not die."

Then is truth pushed to the  
margins –  
shadows and alleys,  
in woodlands deep by  
moonless night,  
even underground.

Look to a sunrise yet coming  
when truth well rooted  
unfurls leaves from tender  
shoot  
in unshaded light.

*Tom Wagner, Muskegon (MI)  
Church of the Brethren*

# What About the Children?



Melissa Bennett with one-year-old son Jude

I sat on my front porch today enjoying sunshine, a cool breeze, and wonderful time with my family. Reflecting over these past four years, I can almost mark time by the events of my own life since then... a new job, a new home, and a new baby... and I give thanks for feeling so blessed.

As I hear the sounds of an ice cream truck in the neighborhood and children playing games across the street, I know that I live a comfortable, privileged life. It is not extravagant. But it is relatively safe. I do not have to worry each day about curfews or raids on my home,

suicide bombers or family arrests. Knowing this leaves me feeling worlds away from Iraq. It would be easy to live my life each day without a thought about this war in which our country is embroiled. I am aware what a privilege it is to even be able to confess that notion.

But as much as I may want to shut out the destruction and devastation of war, the God I serve calls me to live another way and I wonder how the families in Iraq have marked their time these past four years. I think most especially about sleep-deprived mothers... lacking in sleep not because they have babies crying out for their mother's breast but because they live each moment uncertain about the safety and future of their children. And I think about the children, the beautiful,

wonderful children who know horrors greater than I can ever imagine.

It is challenging to think about Iraq. Not only does my heart ache and break at the thought of all the life lost or destroyed, I feel stumped and frustrated about what to do. It is clear that we (the U.S. and its military) should never have been there in the first place. But now that we've been there for over four years, now that we've left this country and its economy completely decimated, it feels unfair to Iraq's children to just pick up stakes and leave them to pick up the pieces. What is the answer? I do not know. All that I know is that all children deserve the right to mark time by laughter and game playing, not bombs and funerals.

*Melissa Bennett,  
co-pastor, Beacon Heights  
Church of the Brethren (Fort Wayne, IN)*

**I think most especially about sleep-deprived mothers... lacking in sleep not because they have babies crying out for their mother's breast but because they live each moment uncertain about the safety and future of their children.**

**Allah**, Allah Akbar,  
a mother cries,  
Grief and anger wet her eyes.  
The child she holds to withered breast  
hungry, sick and weak – at last  
its suffering ends. The baby dies.

Allah is greater – a father sighs – than all the wealth that  
oil buys,  
crushed underfoot this hope holds fast:  
Allah Akbar.

Above the shepherds' village flies  
the bomber fleet to terrorize  
Moslem, Christian – here the least  
of them my brothers, sisters lost.  
Each broken body testifies  
Allah Akbar.

*Carolyn S. Scarr, Trinity United Methodist Church  
(Berkeley, CA)*

## Prince of Peace

god bless america, land of the free  
our great country, 'tis of thee  
god is on our side, fighting evil regimes  
this god does not mind the unsettling sound of painful screams  
as a mother sees her child's body taken off the plane in a bag  
killed while protecting the holiness of our grand ole american flag  
a young child weeps with great fear in her eyes  
she's a terrorist, they told us. we obediently fed into their lies.  
we watch in horror as the war takes the life  
of another daughter and son  
in the name of god, we will continue to fight till freedom is won  
Her Creation destroyed, which out of Compassion She bore  
the Prince of Peace, whose name we call upon in times of war

*Carrie Fry-Miller, Beacon Heights  
Church of the Brethren (Fort Wayne, IN)*

## LOVE

At the Goshen City Church of the Brethren, we held a prayer vigil in our chapel shortly before the war began.

As pastor, I remember entering the room in a disheartened, quasi-nauseous state. Each one present sensed the weighty heaviness of the night. War was imminent. What would it mean that we gathered and prayed... was there any real point? Should we instead simply moan in distress or shuffle on home, a disheartened people?...

Four years later, my heart continues to ache. The death toll has moved into the thousands... soldiers... Iraqi children... condemned leaders... each tenderly cradled in LOVE. True, God's love oft feels remote in the realities of human agony and the stench of death. But LOVE remains beyond war's fierce scarring... beyond the vicious downward spiral that bores inside the mire of politics and greed. LOVE will sustain.

*Yvonne Riege, pastor,  
Goshen City (IN)  
Church of the Brethren*

Over four years have passed since the senseless war in Iraq began – and nearly six years have passed since the equally senseless terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, and questions arise. So where do we stand, as Brethren, as Christians, as humans? On war, on terrorism, on peace? Where should we stand? Why aren't we doing more? Why are the bullets still flying? Why are the bombs still going off?

Actually, as important as all these questions are, they miss the point. There is only one real question, for us as Brethren anyway. It's a trite question, but it's the right one – what would Jesus do?

The danger is in the neatness of identifications. There has been a great deal said about our identity as a peace church. I thought the matter was put best by two minds I respect, Christina Bucher and David Eller, at a conference earlier in this decade on the Brethren as a 21st Century peace church, held at Bridgewater College. Both Bucher and Eller stated that historically and

biblically there's no reason to consider the Church of the Brethren as a peace church. We are a Jesus church. It's all about discipleship.

If we call ourselves a peace church, our concern with Jesus – and other religious

leaders – is the extent to which they back up our peace arguments. If we are a Jesus church, the real question is – how well are we doing in following Jesus, teaching Jesus, living, breathing, and serving Jesus?

For now we are stuck with the irony that the current Iraqi war remains invisible in plain sight. This contrasts with my memory of the Vietnam War. The nightly news shocked us with searing images of the dead, the wounded, the destruction, summary



Frank Ramirez

executions, screaming children fleeing from napalm. Impossible to forget.

Now we struggle to remember. The war has taken too long, been fought on false pretenses, to leave any vestige of faith or hope for many. Our attention span has shrunk. Perhaps we have simply too much access to too little of substance. The network half-hour show is no longer Must-See-TV.

And the Brethren response? Brethren have always been conflicted in times of war. We remained loyal to the British

during the Revolutionary War, grateful for the religious freedom we'd been granted in the colonies. John Kline lamented the coming Civil War, but saw it as inevitable and perhaps even necessary to cleanse the country from the sin

of slavery. Fearing imprisonment, church leaders abandoned youth who struggled to find ways to avoid military service in World War I.

Alas.

Is it too childish to suggest that instead of speaking for Jesus, we might listen, humbly, to the words of the gospels and the stirring of the Spirit within our hearts? Is it too late?

What would Jesus do?

*Frank Ramirez, pastor, Everett (PA)  
Church of the Brethren*

**... there's no reason to consider the Church of the Brethren as a peace church. We are a Jesus church. It's all about discipleship.**

# Meet My Friend Amal



Amal and her children

Four years ago, at age 78, I made a choice that changed, and, more importantly, enriched my life. During the Christmas season before the Iraq war began in March, I went with a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Iraq.

Now, as an eighty-two-year-old woman I receive regular e-mail messages from a woman who lives in both Baghdad and Amman, Jordan. Amal Maseer, an Iraqi artist, has become my good friend. She shares about her life and even includes e-mail pictures of her children.

*My dearest Anne, I hope you well and thank you so much! You ask about my children – Abeer is the oldest girl – 15 years. You know also Omar, 10 years old boy, then Anoush (Ali) 8 years.*

*About the job. I don't have any job – only I survive on selling my paintings. Safaa, my husband, have no job. There are no jobs in Amman – especially for Iraqi people – no refugee status...*

Last week one of the pictures showed eight-year-old Ali with head and facial bandages, bruises and cuts, following a recent bombing on a Baghdad street.

*Today my child Ali hurt in last car bomb, the drivers were too crazy and one of them go into Ali. He is in hospital now...*

Amal sends her oil paintings to me in various ways. I sell them to my friends, and at gatherings of folks interested in peace. She is torn between living in Jordan and in Baghdad. She knows Jordan is safer for her children, but her relatives live in Baghdad. Some of the relatives live in the home where I first met her, which our bombs mostly destroyed. At that time we got to see her studio where she served us tea and pastries.

Amal tries! Oh, how she tries! She is currently trying to get work as an Iraqi journalist in Amman, Jordan.

*Yesterday I went to the Jordan border... I tried to get into Amman as a journalist...*

*Also my children to continue in Amman schools... and I have apartment rented in Amman...*

*But unfortunately now the Jordanian police don't allow Iraqis – even the journalists – to enter Amman...*

What a world we live in! In January 2003, I reveled in walking through the beautiful streets of Baghdad, thrilled at seeing the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers and the palm trees. The shrill call to prayer from the minaret nearby woke me in the morning. We visited mosques and Christian churches. I wrote in my travel diary – “the IRAQIS are so friendly!” But that was before our “shock and awe” campaign! What a difference as I watch the news on TV!

*I must go to Baghdad early because my sister call me at 2 o'clock in morning... told me that my brother-in-law died yesterday by the latest explosion. My children blame me that they didn't see their uncle before he died... this is the second uncle for them killed. The children insist to go to Baghdad. They say: “why we are here and we couldn't see our uncles?” I really don't know how I explain to them why I'm here to save them from pain and danger. Oh, all of that because of Bush's glory and his freedom! He bring only death for us and for our people who we love... I'm writing this with my tears...*

*Thank you so much for your feeling... we are today surviving from car taxi bombed near us... We wanted to ride but at last minute we change our mind to walk... Then after two minutes it bombed 100 meter from us. Today we survived by miracle.*

*We helped wounded people and others holding the pieces of bodies – it was awful view I ever seen! Also the borders closed now... I'm waiting for them to open the borders and then I'll go to Amman... Baghdad looks like grave land.*

*... Yesterday there were big car bomb near our house in front of the hospital – I was in the hospital when it happened... with my niece Zainab and her little boy baby when it happened... The damage in the hospital – all the glass which came to my hand and my feet. It is miracle to survive...*

*We saw the wounded and the dead bodies...  
Love and peace, Amal*

Amal has become for me one tiny window through which I view the four years of war and destruction in Iraq.

*Anne Albright, McPherson (KS)  
Church of the Brethren*



Carol Hunter

Four years ago, I stood in a March wind in Cincinnati with an estimated million people across the world protesting a looming war – and wondered why the generation who lived through Vietnam and now sat in Congress seemed unable to learn fundamental political lessons. Last Monday I stood with smaller numbers, remembering those who had died in this latest version of war, a war sold to the U.S. people as a just war-defying “pre-emptive strike” with the time-tested arguments of war for democracy and security. And I wondered what, if anything, peacemakers had learned about stopping war.

Perhaps one reason that the general population seems unmoved by this war is that violence is so deeply embedded in our culture as to only merit comment when it is extreme or personal. Those who carry this nation into war draw on a long list of cultural reinforcements for their position that wars are necessary and that good things can come from war. We are taught that we are “free” only because we fought the Revolutionary War (are we freer than the Canadians who didn’t fight Britain?). We are taught that slaves are free only because of a civil war, ignoring that the British Empire ended slavery by an act of Parliament more than 30 years before the U.S. 13th amendment. We have national monuments and holidays to celebrate and remember wars. Our

media images and themes, even our patterns of family interactions and many dominant religious tenants, all reinforce the idea that a selective use of violence is both effective and necessary in creating a “peaceful” society. While the peace and global studies program in which I teach has been challenged for not teaching enough about the positive aspects of war, to my knowledge none of our military academies have ever been challenged to defend the effectiveness of war in achieving peace. In short, the untested cultural assumption of violence as redemptive, violence as inevitable, reigns unquestioned, predisposing us towards accepting violence in all aspects of our society.

Banners at the marches proclaimed, “War is not the answer.” Perhaps as peacemakers our strategy needs to be more pro-active, more clearly demonstrating that answers to violence and injustice can be found in decision-making based on how a choice affects “the least of these,” and that love can indeed, “cast out fear.” Movements toward greater democracy – participation by people in the decisions that affect them directly – bring greater

peace. But the political climate since World War II and the Cold War has been towards centralized power, decision-making by executives rather than congress (much less by “the people”), and a bifurcation of analysis which reduces to “you’re with us or against us,” making it more important that alternatives be ones that are visible, rather than theoretical. Two directions are key: **non-cooperation with injustice**

**in all its forms** – funding and profits for war, militarism, sexism, racism, corporations that pollute and exploit workers (to suggest a few), and **creating positive**

**alternatives** – alternative health care, communities of caring, local economies, buying fair trade, socially responsible investing, sustainable housing and energy, creating a world we want to live in. The possibilities are limited only by our own creativity and courage as we actively engage with a Godly, counter-cultural vision of peace, love, compassion and “no poor among you.”

*Carol Hunter, Richmond (IN)  
Church of the Brethren,  
and professor in the peace and global  
studies program at Earlham College*

**Perhaps as peacemakers our strategy needs to be more pro-active, more clearly demonstrating that answers to violence and injustice can be found in decision-making based on how a choice affects “the least of these,” and that love can indeed, “cast out fear.”**

**O**h Christ who has made us one,  
Help us to live out your work here in this place.  
Savior, we trust you to allow us to become your hands and feet.  
Energize us to carry the Good News out into our hurting world.  
Make us friends with our enemies.  
Help us to be reconcilers with and for all who live in enmity.  
Give us courage to carry on your work of making us all one.  
Help us begin right now.  
By loving you, we can live out the “peace on earth” which the angels sang.  
For we have become reconcilers in your name, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen

*Lorene Moore, pastor, Root River (MN) Church of the Brethren*

# Wake up America!



Sadie Hyppolite

America has been at war for over four years. And it seems as if things are not getting any better; if anything, things are getting worse. Because of the war, the cost of living has gone up: gas prices are at an all-time high; it is harder for people to buy the necessities they need to survive; and, above all, innocent people are losing their lives, and families are being torn apart.

I believe that Americans are not too knowledgeable about what is really going on in Iraq. The government and the media have fixed it to seem as if the war is not as serious as it really is. They put stories about Anna Nicole Smith or other celebrities on the news in order to hide what is really going on in the Middle East. The people who are really knowledgeable are those who are losing the people they love.

The government is investing a lot of money in this war when there are many other ways the money could be used more effectively. Many schools are being closed because of insufficient funds. Scholarships are being cut. Financial aid for college students is being cut. I am a 19-year-old college student in New York City. The money used to fund the war could be better used in insuring the education of my generation and the generations to follow. Paying for school is hard, and with all the cutbacks in

scholarships and grants, it will be harder for students to pursue higher education. Many find jobs to pay for their tuition, and end up dropping out of school altogether because they cannot pay for the classes or purchase the books. Many people also enlist with Selective Service with the notion that they will be able to get a college degree after serving for a few years. The war will end up ruining the lives of millions of not only Americans, but of people all over the world.

I believe that Americans like to hear gossip. It seems as if Americans have been more preoccupied with scandals that are going on with celebrities than with the thousands who have already lost their lives, and the thousands more who will end up losing their lives due to this so-called "war on terrorism." They would rather hear about something that is tangible and easy to talk about, than to hear about how many people die every second. It is easier to act as if nothing is going on. But everyone is either directly or indirectly affected by this war. I believe one day something will happen to open up the eyes of those who seem oblivious to what is really going on. With the help of God, the American public will be able to wake up and take action against this war.

*Sadie V. Hyppolite, Brooklyn (NY)  
Haitian Church of the Brethren*

## Military Strategy

Here's an idea  
let's reinstate the draft  
and make it illegal  
for anyone under the age  
of 62 to serve in combat  
high ranking officers can  
be no older than 21  
instead of parents sending  
their children to war  
grandchildren will send their  
grandparents

The rationale is simple:  
the old folks aren't going  
to live much longer anyhow  
and besides . . . this plan will help  
solve the problem of what  
to do about Social Security  
and Medicare

*Ken Gibble  
(who recently turned 65),  
Hagerstown (MD)  
Church of the Brethren*

Position Opening

### Communications Staff

Part-time position

Writing – Editing – News Services – Publicity

On Earth Peace

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## Calendar

### May 4-5, 11-12

*Christian Conciliation and Mediation*  
Crest Manor Church of the Brethren  
South Bend, Indiana

### May 16, 7:00-8:30 pm EDT

### May 17, 1:00-2:30 pm EDT

*Encountering Recruitment*  
*Networking Calls*

### June 24-30

*Song & Story Fest*  
Inspiration Hills, Burbank, Ohio

### June 30, 1:30-4:30 pm

*Exploring Consensus Decision-Making*  
*3-hour pre-conference workshop*  
Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio

### June 30-July 4

*Annual Conference*  
Cleveland, Ohio

### August 31-September 3

*Family Peace Camp*  
Camp Ithiel, Gotha, Florida

### September 6-8

*Caring Ministries Conference*  
Lititz Church of the Brethren  
Lititz, Pennsylvania

### October 8-10

*Western Plains Matthew 18*  
*Training for Trainers and*  
*Shalom Team Training*  
Great Bend, Kansas

### November 3

*Peaceful Family Playshop*  
Oakton Church of the Brethren  
Vienna, Virginia

### November 4

*Holiday Stress Survival Workshop*  
Long Green Valley  
Church of the Brethren  
Glenn Arm, Maryland

### November 14-16

*Appreciative Inquiry/Practitioner*  
*Consultation*  
Camp Mack, Milford, Indiana

*Information available on these programs and much more at [www.onearthpeace.org](http://www.onearthpeace.org)*

## Staff Change for On Earth Peace

On Earth Peace announces a staff change in the organization. The Executive Committee has approved a request from Barbara Saylor, Co-Director, for a reassignment of job responsibilities, dropping her role as Co-Director, and reducing her work to half-time. Barb will continue as Coordinator of Communications. Board Chair Bev Weaver shares, "On Earth Peace is blessed by the many talents that Barb Saylor brings to this peacemaking ministry. We appreciate Barb's desire to balance her various roles including being a mother as she makes this adjustment from full-time to part-time. Fortunately, Barb will continue in some of her roles with On Earth Peace, especially related to Communications. And Bob Gross is willing to move from a shared Co-Director's role to that of a solo Director." This change will be effective May 1.

In related news, Barb will be moving with her family to the Bay area in California in late April. Her husband Mark has accepted the call to be CEO of Seva ([www.seva.org](http://www.seva.org)) in Berkeley, California. After May 1, Barb can be reached at her home office: 5192 Carriage Drive, El Sobrante, CA 94803; 510-275-9960; [bsaylor\\_oepe@brethren.org](mailto:bsaylor_oepe@brethren.org).

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## Board of Directors

October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

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# Inspiration Hills Song and Story Fest

The Arc of the Universe: Bending Toward Eco-Justice?

**June 24 – 30, 2007**  
**Inspiration Hills – Burbank, Ohio**

*A unique Family Camp (co-sponsored by On Earth Peace) featuring Brethren musicians and storytellers  
in the glacial hills and valleys of northern Ohio*

As we gather in a land so visibly impacted by the glaciers of long ago,  
we are called to recognize the impact that we humans are making upon the earth today.

### **Storytellers and Workshop Leaders**

Susanna Farahat, Bob Gross, Kathy Guisewite, Jonathan Hunter, Jim Lehman

### **Campfire, Workshop, and Concert Musicians**

Bill Joliff, Brian Kruschwitz & LuAnne Harley, Lee Krähenbühl, Peg Lehman, Jan, John, & Melinda Long  
Mutual Kumquat: Chris Good, Seth Hendricks, Drue Jones, & Ben Long  
Shen Fine: Brent Holl & Shannon Dove

*For more information and to register, visit [www.brethren.org/oeпа/programs/special/song-story-fest](http://www.brethren.org/oeпа/programs/special/song-story-fest),  
e-mail [oeпа\\_oeпа@brethren.org](mailto:oeпа_oeпа@brethren.org), or call 410-635-8704.*

## Mission Statement

On Earth Peace Assembly is a movement grounded in the Church of the Brethren dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus Christ in renewing and living out our biblical and denominational heritage of peace. Our purpose, through religious and educational activities, is to empower people to discern the things that make for peace – in ourselves, within families, in our global environment, among nations – and to advocate peace and justice, seeking the realization of God's will on earth as it is in heaven.



On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc.

P.O. Box 188

New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

410-635-8704

Address Service Requested

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