

FB FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

“Discipling the head, heart, and hands”

Issue 85

Fall 2007

THE NEW CONSERVATIVES

by Melvin Lehman

Those of us who grew up in the 1960's are known as the baby boomers. In childhood our generation felt the cool shades of the early Cold War and the fear of the "Red Scare." We experienced the tension of the Cuban Missile Crisis and were rudely awakened by the assassination of a president. As teenagers we were horrified by the graphic scenes of a war half-way around the world that confused the average American. Many of our brothers and sisters spent time away from home doing a stint of 1-W in obedience to the laws of the land. We experienced the intoxicating effects of the free-spirited rebellious 60's. Many of us attended public schools and so were exposed to the spirit of the age, and there we drank from the cisterns of the popular ideas of the day. Some survived. Many succumbed.

Against this backdrop of popular culture, our own Mennonite communities were convulsed by movements within and without during the 1960's. The solidarity in the conservative Mennonite Church was challenged and finally broken along the fault-lines of these movements.

There was significant disintegration from the mid-60's through the early 70's. Conferences dissolved or experienced an administrative metamorphosis that weakened their solidarity. New "alliances" and alignments emerged. Most of this activity was clothed in the garb of "liberal" or "conservative" terminology and practice. In spite of the obvious relativity of these terms, it could be argued that for a while they had real content and real meaning.

In my opinion as the years have gone by, the content and the meaning of these ideas have become increasingly obscure.

I remember those days as if they were but yesterday. With clarity I recall my instinctive reaction to the boldest of Mennonite liberal thought and practice. Young and as inexperienced as I was, I knew that this was not the path for me and my family. But the answers were

continued on page 494

TEACHER RETREAT

Friday - Sunday,

October 12-14, 2007

Faith Builders is offering a weekend of relaxation, refreshment, and networking with other teachers October 12-14. We invite teachers who have taught 5 years or more to a weekend of connecting with other long-term teachers.



- Location: Laurelville Mennonite Center in Mount Pleasant, PA, southeast of Pittsburgh.
- Staff: The weekend will be hosted by the faculty, staff, and administration of Faith Builders Christian School – Gerald Miller, Sharon Yoder, Anna Zehr, Vivian Mast, Melvin Lehman, Esther Bean, Amos Stoltzfus, Javan Bender, Steven Brubaker, and Matthew Mast.
- Purpose: To provide a context for renewal of energy and vision as teachers.
- Included: Relaxed interaction, group discussions, short presentations, brainstorming sessions, delightful meals, recreation, and more.

Call the main office or email fbep@fbep.org for more information or an application.

The Teacher Retreat schedule is also posted on our blog at www.fbep.org/blog.

Inside this issue

Teacher Retreat.....	494
Technology Colloquy	495
Winter Term.....	495
Summer Term Report.....	496
Teachers Week Report	496
Western Man Study Tour	498
Financial Report.....	497
Funding Projects	497
Personnel Needs	499

Faith Builders is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. See page 494.

Apply
Now!



SPECIAL PERSONNEL NEED:
ADMINISTRATOR OF OPERATIONS

Faith Builders is looking for an Administrator of Operations. Please pray with us for this important assignment. The Administrator of Operations (AO) needs proficiency in the following areas:

1. People management
2. Business and financial management

This administrator has oversight of the following departments at Faith Builders: business office, physical plant and fleet (maintenance), technology services, and food services.

If you have interest in this position please send a resume. If you wish to recommend someone for this position, please send us their contact information and a brief reason for the recommendation. Email: srb@fbep.org; Fax: 814-789-3396; Address: PO Box 127, Guys Mills, PA 16327.

continued from page 493

not easy and some decisions not all that clear. Conservative thought and practice had its flaws and snares too that could potentially militate against a genuine spirituality. Giving all due respect to some of our friends who chose differently, my wife and I chose a decidedly conservative path...some may call it moderately conservative. Why? Well, we found that most people on this path took the Word of the Lord seriously. If God said so, then so it is! Of course many inconsistencies can be pointed out and they ought not to be ignored. Nevertheless, a commitment to Jesus as Lord and the subsequent understanding of the call to obedience seemed to my wife and me to be a good "rule" to live by. It was and is our desire that our children and grandchildren would walk in the same path.

Recently, it occurred to me that conservative Mennonite practice has developed along several different lines of thought. There is what may be called the Old Conservatism that has sought diligently to maintain certain baselines at all costs. There is much to be respected and appreciated in this general stream of thought. In my years of work at Faith Builders, I have become increasingly aware that there is also a New Conservatism that I believe has emerged and found expression in many communities across North America. I coin the term "New Conser-

vatism" to make the point that this stream of activity is rooted in mid 20th-century conservatism and for the most part rejects the primary premises of the liberalizing movements of the 60's and 70's. It clearly is a reaction to the static nature of some conservative practice and at the same time is unwilling to follow in the steps of the old liberal movements.

I became aware of all this through my acquaintance with students at Faith Builders. I feel quite privileged to have the opportunity to interact with some of the finest young people in the world. I have found them to be young men and ladies of sterling character who truly seek a good path. They are not rebels. They have a deep desire to serve God in their communities in significant ways by building on the work of those who labored before them. They respect their elders. They are dismayed when they see the lack of genuine spirituality and frustrated when caught in the middle of petty "political" intrigues. They are attracted to a vibrant, alive conservative way of life. They come alive when presented with a compelling vision for how they can contribute to the cause of the Kingdom in their home communities. They want good things and solid leadership to lead in good directions.

What are the distinguishing marks of this New Conservative stream of thought and practice?

APPLY NOW!

Faith Builders is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year, which begins in August of 2008.

We plan to accept the following students:

- **10 Students** for TAP (Teacher Apprenticing Program).
- **7 Students** for MAP (Ministry Apprenticing Program).

If you would like additional information on either program, please contact us.

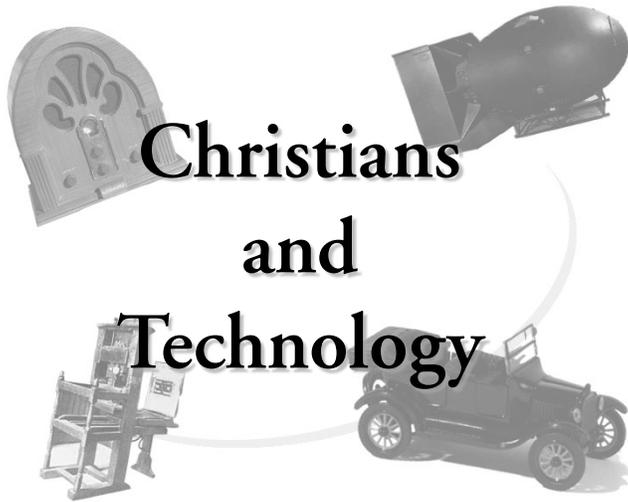
You may also apply for a tuition scholarship when you submit your student application. A limited number of scholarships are available, so apply early.

Download a student application from www.fbep.org or call our office to request one.

First, the New Conservative **appreciates traditional practice**. He does not react nor rebel simply because something is traditional in nature. In fact, he values it and gives it due respect knowing that the stabilizing traditions of a culture have grown up for a reason. Those reasons should not be lightly discarded even when they do not make immediate sense. On the other hand he does not venerate and idolize tradition in and of itself, knowing that such a position can potentially lead to spiritual deadness and passivity.

Second, the New Conservative **rejects**

COLLOQUY 2008



February 2, 2008, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Science has been wildly successful over the last two centuries. J.P. Moreland observed that our ancestors living at the time of the civil war had more in common with Abraham than with us. The explosion of technology has multiplied the opportunities available to the community of followers of Christ. It has also increased the challenges facing the Christian community. Each era of the church has had its defining issues – perhaps technology is that for today’s church. This is the subject of the 2008 Colloquy.

We are planning a different approach to this colloquy. Instead of the presentation of papers to a large audience, we are envisioning a smaller gathering of people who wish to engage with the topic. There will be shorter presentations highlighting the issues, followed by small group interaction. Rather than interacting with the conclusions of individual speakers, we would like to work together toward understanding. Our desire is to gather for this purpose a number of people from across our communities: pastors, patriarchs, business people, Bible students, technology specialists, parents, and young people. We invite you to consider participating in this work. To bring fruition to the day’s work, a small group from Faith Builders plans to produce a summary booklet.

If you would like to participate in this working colloquy, please email fbep@fbep.org or call 814-789-4518.

Note: No lodging will be available at Faith Builders. Lunch and supper will be served. A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

authoritarianism without relationship as a means of church discipline and maintenance of traditional practices. He believes in Church authority to be sure and seeks a healthy platform for the exercise thereof; the Scriptures are clear on this and must not be ignored. Through diligent Bible teaching and exposition the New Conservative leader builds conviction and respect for doctrine and

practice. He recognizes that a compelling Bible-based vision that is taught patiently and personally to the next generation will outrun an impersonal authoritarianism over the long haul.

Third, the New Conservative **seeks to respect and honor other Bible-believing groups**. He sees no reason to build unnecessary walls of exclusion because of differences in application and prac-

WINTER TERM 2008

Plan now to attend
the Winter Term
at Faith Builders!

Jan 7 - Feb 8, 2008

In 2008, we are offering a variety of classes on subjects such as Reading the Bible, Interpersonal Relationships, Growing into a Godly Woman, and Nonresistance. If you have not received the Winter Term 2008 Brochure and Application, please call 814-789-4518 or email fbep@fbep.org for more information. You may also download the application from www.fbep.org/downloads.html. If you have any questions about Winter Term, please call or email us.

The FB Winter Term is open to married couples and singles, businessmen and farmers, college students and pastors, first-time students and seasoned citizens.

The faculty this year includes Stephen Byler, John Coblenz, Brandon Mullet, Marie Mullet, Stephen Russell, Sharon Yoder, and Steven Brubaker.

He seeks to build bridges in keeping with Jesus’ command to love one another and seek unity of heart and soul.

Fourth, the New Conservative **values a Christian education**; he encourages focused training for the good of the Church. He respects the inherent dangers of education in the same manner as the inherent danger of wealth is feared. Christian education is not an enemy but rather an ally in the work of the Kingdom. In all of this, he understands that all educational efforts and understandings must be seen in the light of the fear of God and the



"The Teacher's Influence in the Community," Melvin Lehman's keynote sessions at Teachers Week 2007, emphasized the teacher's role in assisting the church in shaping culture. "At the core of every alive and healthy Christian community," he stated, "is the assembled body of believers who stand at attention under the command of Jesus Christ." Melvin's recorded sessions, available from Christian Learning Resource, continue to be a popular inspiration for Mennonite educators.

TEACHERS WEEK REPORT

About 225 teachers gathered for Teachers Week, July 31 to August 3, at Faith Builders. We regret that we could not accommodate the last several dozen who wanted to attend. Next year we plan to have enough space for everyone.

A wide variety of topics and workshops were presented: school culture, science collections, learning styles, questions, recess, diet and alertness, motivation, upper-grade Phys Ed, discipline, song leading, and classroom atmosphere. In addition, a special learning track for principals was well received.

Judging by the interest and enthusiasm of this year's Teachers Week participants, a lot of students from Alaska to Honduras, to Manitoba, to Mississippi, to California should benefit.

To order Melvin Lehman's keynote sessions on tape or CD, call Christian Learning Resource at 814-789-4769 or email clr@fbep.org. His accompanying PowerPoint presentations are also available for download from www.fbep.org/blog.

SUMMER TERM REPORT

Summer Term 2007 was a great time of hard work, interaction with other teachers, and learning. Over 50 men and women joined us during the month of July for classes on teaching, mathematics, science, music, and literature. Most of these people teach in schools around the country. This excites us! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the men and women who teach the coming generation in our communities.

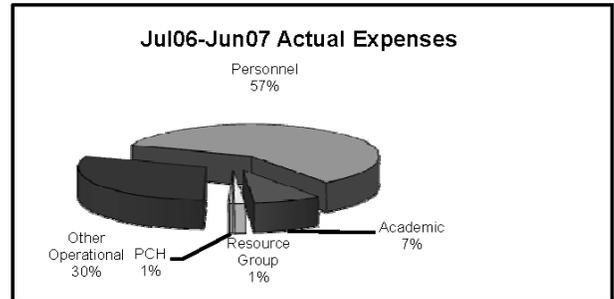
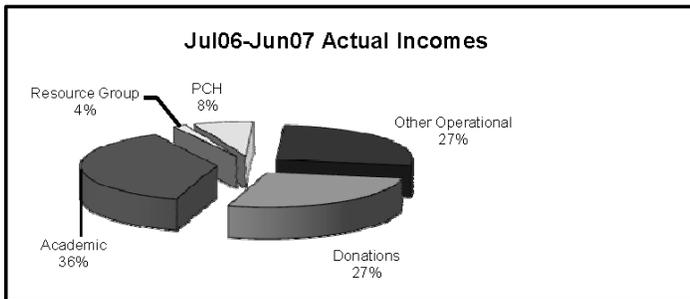
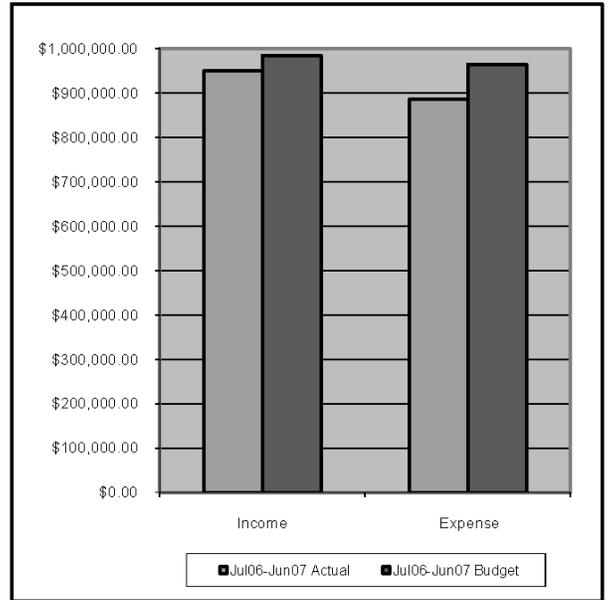
A few highlights from Summer Term:

- Discussions with other teachers.
- Read-alouds in Children's Lit.
- Mr. Schmucker's chapel talk on lessons learned while teaching in public school.
- "The Duck Song" at Talent Night.

We are planning now for Summer Term 2008. We'd be delighted to have you join us next July!

FB FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Jul06-Jun07 Actual</u>	<u>Jul06-Jun07 Budget</u>
Income		
Donations	\$255,999.35	\$294,175.00
Academic Incon	\$358,472.22	\$282,925.00
ResrcGrp Inconr	\$14,543.59	\$35,100.00
PCH Income	\$66,305.35	\$87,900.00
Other Operation	\$254,705.81	\$285,000.00
Total Income	\$950,026.32	\$985,100.00
Expense		
Personnel Exp.	\$526,662.27	\$532,667.21
Academic Exp.	\$75,927.33	\$73,525.00
ResrcGrp Exper	\$11,781.19	\$31,800.00
PCH Expense	\$3,738.61	\$11,445.00
Other Operation	\$267,502.91	\$315,545.00
Total Expense	\$885,612.31	\$964,982.21
Net Income	\$64,414.01	\$20,117.79



PROJECTS THAT NEED FUNDING

- To complete Kitchen Renovation & purchase equipment—\$36,500

\$60,000 - \$23,500 = \$36,500
TOTAL - RECEIVED = NEEDED

- To replace current Phone System—\$19,300

\$20,000 - \$700 = \$19,300
TOTAL - RECEIVED = NEEDED

- To complete Phase I on Student Center: electrical, drywall, ceiling—\$51,000

\$175,000 - \$124,000 = \$51,000
TOTAL - RECEIVED = NEEDED

continued from page 495
wisdom of the Cross.

Fifth, the New Conservative **believes that separation from the world in thought and practice begins in the heart and affects every area of life not just arbitrarily selected areas.** Non-conformity cannot be dictated but must be a reality if the Christian community wishes to prosper in the 21st century. Rather than a static, tradition-based non-conformity, he seeks an **active counter-culture lifestyle** and boldly bears the name of Christ while identifying himself as a fellow human being with his non-Christian neighbors. He does not fear interacting with culture from his Christ-inspired counter-cultural position.

Sixth, the New Conservative **longs for meaningful Christian community as a basis for personal growth and effective mission activity.** This is most clearly seen in “cell group” movements (or more generically “small groups”), increased congregational involvement in church administration, various approaches to serious discipleship programs, finding personal mentors, and “church planting” mission efforts. It may be noted that the New Conservative young person generally feels negative about large concentrations of Mennonites in large communities. They tend to look out from their large communities with desire to have impact in out of the way places through small communities that have a personal touch.

I make these observations not to endorse them in every respect or to create controversy in respect to their validity or non-validity. I offer them here because I think these positions are unwittingly defining the future of many of our communities. While I view these general positions positively, I am increasingly concerned about how we can make significant changes in the way we think and practice without thoughtfulness and prayerfulness. It is very dangerous when things “just happen” by default over time rather than by deliberate decision based on Bible principles and couched in the

WESTERN MAN STUDY TOUR

Next summer, Faith Builders is offering a Western Man Study Tour in Europe with an emphasis on Church History. The objective of this course is to introduce our students to the contemporary settings of the various major influences in our religious, cultural, economic and political development. In each case we will visit the sites of historically important events.



Dirk Willems rescues his pursuer.

The itinerary is open to change at this point, but the general framework is in place. We will see sites that apply to the time just before the Reformation, Reformation sites, Anabaptist sites in Holland, northern Germany and Switzerland, and various places of importance both to Protestant and Catholic churches. There will be time for some relaxation as well, including the Swiss Federal Yodeling Festival. Most of our lodging will be in “bed and breakfasts” and part of the delight will be getting to know Europeans personally.

Itinerary

- July 6-12: Arrive in Amsterdam, visit various Anabaptist sites, Menno’s area of ministry, Muenster, Cologne, Rhine Cruise, Church with Russian Mennonite Bruedergemeinde in Hamm.
- July 13-19: Luther’s Wittenburg, Zinzendorf’s Herrnhut, possibly Cracow, Hus’s Prague, Passau (home of the *Ausbund*), Marburg (site of Luther and Zwingli’s debate).
- July 20-26: Tyrol, Innsbruck, Trent—site of the Catholic Reform Council, Munich, Dachau, Schwarzwald, Rotenburg ob der Tauber.
- July 27-August 2: Luzern, Swiss Federal Yodeling Festival, Geneva, Zurich, Taize, Lourdes, possibly Paris.

Assigned reading and study questions will be done before the trip. During the tour, a journal will be kept of each day’s happenings and the student’s impressions. At the end of the tour, each participant will need to write a paper detailing what he learned.

Enrollment is limited to eight students. Sign up soon!

Cost

- Tuition: \$330
- Cost for 4 weeks: \$3200 (Includes tickets, van rental, gas, lodging, entrance fees)
- Books: \$50
- Food and souvenirs are the responsibility of each student. Breakfast will be provided most days.
- Estimated Total (subject to change): \$3580

Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door at Wittenburg Church, shown below.



FBEP BOARD MEMBERS

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FBEP PASTORAL COUNCIL

Howard Brubaker, John Coblenz, Sr., Ernest Hochstetler, Roy Longenecker.

FB CALENDAR

Teacher Retreat.....	Oct 12-14, 2007
Men's Music Weekend.....	Nov 9-11, 2007
Thanksgiving Break.....	Nov 21-Nov 27, 2007
FB Chorale Christmas Program.....	Dec 9, 2007
Final Exams.....	Dec 11-12, 2007
Mentoring.....	Dec 13-14, 2007
<i>Winter Short Term</i>	
Orientation & Registration ..	7:00 PM, Jan 7, 2008
First Day of Classes	Jan 8, 2008
Technology Colloquy	Feb 2, 2008
Last Day of Classes.....	Feb 8, 2008
Choir Programs.....	Feb 9-10, 2008
<i>Spring Semester 2008</i>	
Mentoring.....	Feb 13-15, 2008
Classes Begin.....	Feb 18, 2008
FB Board Meeting.....	Feb 23, 2008
Easter - Spring Break	Mar 20-25, 2008
Worldviews Workshop	Mar 29-30, 2008
Chorale Spring Program... ..	4:00 PM, May 11, 2008
Final Exams.....	May 12-13, 2008
Mentoring.....	May 14-15, 2008
Commencement.....	7:00 PM, May 16, 2008
Choir Tour	May 17-26, 2008

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Kitchen: June 2008, (2) August 2008
- Domestic: Jan. 2008
- Maintenance Volunteer: Spring 2008

wisdom of the ages.

I have the growing sense that the jury is still out in respect to what I am calling the New Conservative perspective. These so-called New Conservatives have yet to demonstrate that they have adequate infrastructure to achieve sustainability over

NEWS FROM FAITH BUILDERS

Welcome to:

- » Javan Bender, Dean of Men, FBCS teacher, Mifflinburg, PA, Aug.
- » Juanita Burkholder, Kitchen, Danville, PA, Aug.
- » Joel Butikofer, TAP, Richland Center, WI, Aug.
- » Laura Calancea, MAP, Romania, Aug.
- » Arthur Derweiler, TAP, Colon, MI, Aug.
- » Laverne Glick, TAP, Gap, PA, Aug.
- » Brenda Kuhns, MAP, Arcola, IL, Aug.
- » Ruth Anna Kuhns, TAP, Belleville, PA, Aug.
- » Javan Lapp, MAP, Gordonville, PA, Aug.
- » Yvonne Lapp, MAP, Romney, WV, Aug.
- » Leann Lauver, TAP, Mifflintown, PA, Aug.
- » Heather Martin, MAP, Chambersburg, PA, Aug.
- » Tim Miller, MAP, Meadville, PA, Aug.
- » Diana Riehl, TAP, Lewisburg, PA, Aug.
- » Lynford Slabaugh, Maintenance, Nappanee, IN, Aug.
- » Julie Stoltzfus, TAP, Lewisburg, PA, Aug.
- » Marla Stoltzfus, TAP, Honey Brook, PA, Aug.
- » Leon Troyer, TAP, Bourbon, IN, Aug.
- » Emily Turner, MAP, Woodburn, OR, Aug.
- » Angela Yoder, Kitchen, Partridge, KS, Aug.
- » Byron Yoder, MAP, Meyersdale, PA, Aug.

- » Dennis Yoder, MAP, Millington, MD, Aug.
- » Anna Zehr, FBCS teacher, Bremen, IN, Aug.

Farewell to:

- » William & Sylvia Miller, terminating as Administrator of Operations, June.
- » Milo & Mary Sue Zehr, on sabbatical this year in Denver, PA, Aug.
- » Carolyn Good, Baden, ON, short-term kitchen help, June.
- » Jolene Reiff, Manheim, PA, short-term kitchen help, June.
- » Javan Bender, TAP, Mifflinburg, PA, July.
- » Rhoda Hostetler, TAP, Chambersburg, PA, July.
- » Keith Nisley, TAP, Madison, VA, July.
- » Libby Turner, TAP, Woodburn, OR, July.
- » Bettina Yoder, TAP, Stanardsville, VA, July.

Births

- » Barry & Christa (Wadel) Thrush, 3rd child & daughter, Sophia Linn, July 11.
- » Brent & Carol (Yoder) Bear, Randall Isaiah, 2nd child, 1st son, July 26.

Engagements

- » Phil Nisley & Laura Shafer.

Weddings

- » Paul Hurst & Thelma Good, July 21.

the long haul. For example, the second point made in this essay suggests that the New Conservatives view authority differently than did the Old Conservatives. But it is obvious that no movement has ever achieved sustainability over centuries without an adequate center of authority to give definition to its ideas. Personally, I think the New Conservatives have some work to do here both in thought and practice. Or one could look at point 3 on “respecting other Bible-believing groups” and note how this can quickly turn into a deadly ecumenism that assumes we will all get to heaven by and by somehow. This too must be understood and resisted steadfastly. And then too, I note that point 5 has often been used as a neat argument to open the way and even give credence to a crass worldliness. As much as I personally am in agreement with the New Conservative understanding, I feel compelled to put forth the warning that without careful thought and prayer

coupled with the resolve to come to terms with the inherent weaknesses cited herein, this movement is not sustainable.

Finally, I apologize for not being able to think of a better word than “New Conservative” to define the stream of thought that I have attempted to identify. I personally have a deep respect for the contributions of the “Old Conservative” positions during the 20th century and have no desire to devalue that contribution by suggesting there is a “new” way that we must follow. The path that leads to God is an old path that many saints have trod before us. We are brethren with them...and shall always be as we walk in the ways of the Lord.



Indebted to all...

Melvin B Lehman
FBEP Director



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Contact us...

-  **By Phone** 814-789-4518
-  **By Fax** 814-789-3396
-  **By E-mail** fbep@fbep.org
-  **By Mail** PO Box 127
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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BY MELVIN B. LEHMAN

TEACHER RETREAT

TECH COLLOQUY

WINTER TERM INFO

WESTERN MAN STUDY
TOUR

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