

## Local 300th Anniversary ...

From March 14-16, the **300th Anniversary Brethren Traveling Historical Display** may be viewed free of charge at the **Middlebury Church of the Brethren**. On loan from The Brethren Church, a sister denomination headquartered in Ashland, Ohio, the display covers three centuries of church history with artifacts, pictures and documents. The historical display will be available to the public on **Friday, March 14, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** in the church fellowship hall. At 7:00 p.m., Dr. James Hollinger of Goshen, representing the Tercentenary Planning Committee of The Brethren Church, will give a brief talk. Dr. Hollinger and host pastor Dan Petry will be available throughout the evening to further interpret the display and answer questions. Hours on **Saturday, March 15, will be from 8:30-11:30 a.m.**, coinciding with a meeting of the Michiana Historical Society being held at the church. At 9:30 a.m. Rev. John Tomlonson, historian and ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, will give a brief lecture, "Beginnings of Brethren Congregations in Michiana". At 10:30 a.m. Dr. James Hollinger will present "Brethren History: An Overview of the 300 Years", followed by a time for questions and discussion. On Sunday, March 16, the display will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The church will host an old-fashioned brethren service at 9:00 a.m., with a cappella singing and separate seating for men and women. "Alexander Mack", founder of the brethren movement, will be the main speaker. Host pastors Dan Petry and Rich Troyer will also give brief exhortations. All attendees are encouraged, but not required, to wear black clothes or period costumes. At 10:30 a.m. the congregation will be encouraged to browse the historical display. A carry-in dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a beard-judging contest sponsored by the church's Fellowship Commission. The historical display will then remain open until 3:00 p.m. It is hoped that many area members of the six major Brethren denominations will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about their heritage. The church is located at 507 West Bristol Avenue (C.R. 8), one half mile northwest of downtown Middlebury. E-mail: [mcob@mcob.org](mailto:mcob@mcob.org). Website: [www.mcob.org](http://www.mcob.org). Fax: 574-825-4835

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**Annual Conference 2008** has some very special things in store commemorating **the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren**. The **Middlebury Church of the Brethren** is partnering with **Donatti Tours** in sponsoring a **voyage to Richmond** in July of 2008 so you can be a part of the celebration without having to worry about accommodations, traffic, parking, or the price of gas. Our luxury Cardinal coach will depart the Middlebury Church of the Brethren parking lot early on Friday morning, July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will spend Friday evening in beautiful Lancaster County enjoying a Pennsylvania Dutch dinner and then taking in a play at the Sight & Sound Theater entitled *In the Beginning*. On Saturday following a drive-through tour of Washington DC with a professional walk-on guide, we will arrive at Conference in time for the opening worship service and performance by the National Christian Choir. The package cost of \$325 includes round-trip transportation, Friday night's meal and play ticket, Friday's overnight lodging, Saturday's breakfast and tour of Washington DC, and daily shuttle service to and from the convention center. (This package is based on two or more occupants to a room. Individuals will pay slightly more.) Our accommodations at Annual Conference are already reserved – you won't need to bother with making reservations. (*Delegates should go ahead and pre-register for Conference, but not housing.*) Daily breakfasts are provided at our hotel, but registration fees, lodging and other meals while at Conference will be the individual's expense. Brochures will be mailed to interested parties in February, with reservation forms and down payment due March 1<sup>st</sup>. E-mail [donattitours@verizon.net](mailto:donattitours@verizon.net) or call Patti Weirich at Middlebury Church of the Brethren (574-825-2955) if you would like to be added to the mailing list. We'd love to have you join us!