

Brethren  
Volunteering  
in Service  
to the World

*Bridgewater Church of the Brethren*

## *Bridgewater, Virginia*

### B V S Statement of Purpose -- July 1948

- To serve human need – physical, economic, emotional, and spiritual.
- To serve the cause of peace by witnessing for “a way of life that takes away the occasion for all “war” and by giving youth a unique opportunity to grow together in the philosophy and the skills of peacemaking.
- To serve the church by deepening commitment, by developing skilled leaders, by encouraging life commitment to vocations of service to the church, by strengthening her peace testimony, by widening the horizons of the local church, by developing across the brotherhood a spirit of unity and destiny which comes to those who work together for common purposes, by giving pacifists the right to retain deferment from the draft and by setting a pattern which may be useful if CO’s are ever drafted.
- To serve the volunteer by giving him/her an opportunity to witness by example for the way of love and against the way of materialism and war, by giving constructive guidance as he/she chooses his/her vocation by helping him/her to grow, in a fellowship of likeminded youth to seek more earnestly through discussion and practice the real meaning of the Way of Jesus for his/her entire life.

## *A History of Brethren Volunteer Service*

(adapted by Don Remnant from *Living the Story, 50 Years of Brethren Volunteer Service*, by James H. Lehman, 1998)

Colorado Springs, Colorado Annual Conference, June 15-20, 1948. CPS had recently been disbanded. Youth continued their interest in volunteer service with a motion to establish a volunteer program for young people. No opposition was recorded.

By July 1948, a volunteerism planning committee was established, developing a statement of purpose. Training was considered an important part of volunteering, with emphasis on serving human need and the cause of peace as well as on the development of church leadership and personal growth for the volunteers.

By September, the first training unit was ready to begin. Three months of training at New Windsor included half of each day sorting and bailing clothing for overseas relief, with the rest of the day spent in lectures, discussions, Bible study, worship and small group experiences – a pattern which would last for 20 years. Projects in the first ten years included community service, medical assistance, material aid, overseas relief and refugee work, and home missions.

In the fifties training was reduced to two months and a week of practice project was added in the middle.

In 1952, BVS was approved for alternative service placement, and during the Viet Nam era more than half of all volunteers were doing their alternative service through BVS. Many of these were from different denominations. In the sixties, there was an increase of projects at retirement homes, child care programs, and inner cities, as well as placements in the National Institutes of Health as research subjects. In 1968, BVS began accepting conscientious objectors from the Federal Republic of Germany. Training included volunteers going off the New Windsor campus to seek someone in the community to work for a day.

Projects in the seventies became more complex as the skills and experience of the volunteers increased. Projects of community organization, Native American projects, and expanded inner city work – projects that focused on social justice – became more common. Training units were no longer stationed at New Windsor, but became mobile units, moving in the BVS bus to different locations for each week of training. Training time was reduced to one month since volunteers no longer spent half of each day packing clothes, but this also meant that they would have to cook their own meals. Mobile units permitted more visibility in churches around the country and allowed for guest leaders from different locations.

Post-30 units were begun in 1973 and lasted for a few years.

From Discipleship units of 1975-76, a BVS Peace Team was begun, with four volunteers traveling to various Brethren summer camps. This has changed form but continues to the present.

In 1976, the first Brethren Revival Fellowship BVS unit was established with training and project supervision by BRF leaders.

Projects had more emphasis on community organization and social action. More overseas projects in Europe, Africa, Central America, and Southeast Asia opened up.

In the 1980s the median age of volunteers was higher, with more college educated volunteers. Issues of peace, justice, and the environment influenced project development. Shelters for battered women and children were also added to the project options.

By 1984, orientation was reduced to three weeks and training units ceased to be mobile, with the location varying from one unit to the next. The number of other- denomination and other-country volunteers increased.

Since the early 1980s, BVS has increasingly sent volunteers into trouble spots around the world – Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Bosnia, Central America – allowing volunteers to put into practice the Brethren ideas of nonviolence and peacemaking.

In the 1990s volunteers began doing hospice work in programs to help people with AIDS. As government welfare programs diminished, more help was needed in homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

In 50 years of BVS, 5,376 volunteers have been placed in projects around the globe. Relationships have been built across barriers of religion, race, language, and economic status. Equally, volunteers have been challenged to learn about themselves and to grow.

\*As of January 2013, 65 years later, Unit Number 300 and over 7,000 volunteers have served in Brethren Volunteer Service.

## **Why Civilian Public Service?**

By Clarence E. Quay

The Bible has a lot to say about the subject of "peace." One of the Ten Commandments is: "You shall not kill." At the birth of Jesus the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is well pleased." In the Sermon on the mount, Jesus declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Saint Paul wrote, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in the one body." (Col. 3:15)

In the 305-year life of the Church of the Brethren their only creed has been the New Testament. It is from the New Testament that the Church of the Brethren takes its position on peace. A theme that occurs frequently on the teaching of peace is: "War is totally contrary to the teachings and example of Jesus Christ."

During the American Revolutionary War, Brethren encountered much hostility and hardship because of their stand on peace. In 1778, Christopher Sauer, a Brethren printer in Germantown, Pennsylvania, was arrested, shamefully treated, and deprived of all his property. During the Civil War and World War I many church members were persecuted and property taken from them. Some were imprisoned and others left the State of Virginia in order that they may not be pressed into military service all because of their belief in the teachings of the Prince of Peace.

Prior to World War II representatives of the Church of the Brethren, Society of Friends, Mennonites and other peace groups met several times. Representatives of the three historic peace churches met frequently with government leaders to make their positions on peace known, and to "Urge that any legislation outlining conscription would include provision for people conscientiously opposed to any form of military duty." (Vol. 1, Brethren Encyclopedia, p. 316)

In September, 1940, the Selective Service Act provided that registrants for the draft who were conscientiously opposed to military duty "by reason of religious training and belief," should be assigned to "work of national importance under civilian direction." On February 6, 1941, an executive order by President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the director of the Selective Service System to establish the program that became known as Civilian Public Service. (CPS)

The Church of the Brethren had 14 base camps and many special projects. The men sent to these camps received no pay from the government. The church maintained the camps and provided the meals, while the "work of national importance" was directed by a project superintendent representing the cooperative government agency (U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Public Health Service, etc.)

The Brethren Encyclopedia reports (Vol. 1, page 316), "By Oct., 1945, the population of the Brethren units had reached almost 2,000 men, of whom 1,119 were Brethren from several different Brethren groups. The Church of the Brethren contributed more than \$1,300,000, in addition to large amounts of food and clothing, for the operation and administration of Brethren units."

Why Civilian Public Service? The historic peace churches were aware of the hardships they may have to endure if conscription were enacted. They were aware of previous persecutions family and church members had suffered. They informed the government that many of those opposed to military duty would work at constructive projects that would be an alternative to military service. Civilian Public Service was the result of these discussions with the government.

The experience gained in the CPS program contributed to government and church planning for a different alternative service program in the 1950's and to the founding of Brethren Volunteer Service in 1948.

### Alphabetical Listing of Participants

The following pages contain in alphabetical order Brethren Volunteer Service, Civilian Public Service, and Alternative Service alumni. The criteria used to determine who to include were first, that the person was officially in BVS, CPS, or Alternative Service and, second, that the person was at some time a member of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The committee agreed it was time to update the records and to include all of the church family of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren.

In the listings, Church of the Brethren is abbreviated by the letters “COB”. If BVS doubled as alternative service, the words ‘Alt. Service” appears in the listing. The item “*Bridgewater COB*” contains the years the person was a member of the church family.



## **Donna {Wills} Adams**

*Spouse: Gilbert*

### **BVS Unit 179 – June 1987 – June 1988**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: From 1982 to 1987

Project: Hoyleton Children's Home, Hoyleton, IL

Description: The home was a residential treatment program for teens. I was part of the recreation department. I worked with the girls in small group and one-on-one settings. I also led the Tuesday night worship service which was open to all residents.

## **John G. Barr**

*Spouse: Ann - deceased 1/2012*

### **BVS Unit 55 – Alt. Service July 1962 – June 1965**

Home Church: Was "floating" between congregations

Bridgewater COB: Since 1968

Project: Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria

Description: I taught piano, directed the high school choir, taught a general music class in middle school and directed an instrumental ensemble. I also assisted in dormitory duties for regular house parents.

## **Johnny Barr**

### **BVS Unit 214 – September 1994 – September 1997**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1985

Projects: Trees for Life, Wichita, KS & BVS office, Elgin, IL

Description: Specifically all of my service work was "behind the scenes" at both projects, whether I was processing Tree Kit orders, BVS applications, designing brochures, or planning youth activities. I came to terms with the fact that either of my projects yielded little immediate results. A lot of my work planted seeds that slowly grew to benefit others.

## **Donna Reeves {Miller} Bowman**

### **BVS Unit 114 – July 1975**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1965

Project: Dundalk Youth Center, Baltimore, MD

Description:

*(No information received)*

## **John Evans Bowman**

*Spouse: Virginia*

### **CPS – October 1942 – April 11, 1946**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Until late 1940's

Projects: Camp Kane, PA; North Manchester, IN, COB office, Elgin, IL; Hopewell Farm, MD; and Mental Hospital, Newtown, CT

Description: At Manchester he was with a group studying overseas relief. In Elgin he worked in the office of the Brethren Service Committee.

## **David L. Brightbill**

*Spouse: Grace - deceased*

### **BVS Unit 13 – September 1951 – April 1954**

Home Church: Highland Avenue COB, Elgin, IL

Bridgewater COB: Since 1994

Projects: Kassel, Germany (14 months), WCC refugee camp service team (8 months) and Vienna, Austria (4 months)

Description: In Kassel I lived with a German family and helped on construction of the Brethren Service headquarters. The refugee camp international team did manual labor, including installing latrines and septic systems in refugee camps in France, Belgium, and Austria. In Vienna I helped rebuild the evangelical school which later became the Karlschule Project.

**Grace {Dibert} Brightbill** - *deceased 2003*

**BVS Unit 10 – March 1951 – March 1952**

Home Church: Snake Spring Valley COB, Everett, PA

Bridgewater COB: 1994 – 2003

Project: Federal Reformatory for Women, Alderson, WV

Description: I worked with the inmates on their work project, visited them in their cottages in the evening, playing cards, did needlework, and helped them write letters. Our role was to try to be their friend and help them in any way we could.

**Doris {Myers} Brubaker**

*Spouse: Henry*

**BVS Unit 1 – September 1948 – September 1949**

Home Church: Bridgewater CO, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Until 1951

Project: Peace Caravanning, Virginia and West Virginia

Description:

**Kim {May} Capasso**

*Spouse: Rod*

**BVS Unit 161 – May 1983 – May 1984**

Home Church: Dayton COB, Dayton, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1994

Project: Bar 41 Ranch, Wilbur, Washington

Description: A ranch for handicapped children in summer. Worked with community program for elderly, participated in church bell choir and ladies quartet. Stationed in New York lower east side Manhattan for “Another Way”, and Elgin for training.

**Allen M. Clague, JR.**

*Spouse: Naoma*

**Alternative Service – March 1955 – March 1957**

Home Church: West Richmond COB, Richmond, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1992 – 1994, since 2000

Project: Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA

Description: I worked as a nurse in the operating room of the medical college.

## **John W. Clayton**

*Spouse: Frances - deceased*

### **CPS – June 1941 – November 1945**

Home Church: Westernport COB, Westernport, MD

Bridgewater COB: Since 1988

Projects: Grottoes, VA, (1 month), Kane, PA (2 years), Veterans Hospital, Lyons, NJ (2 years. 5 months)

Description: In Grottoes I dug post holes, de tasseled corn and worked as a typist in the ranger's office. In Kane I did tree inventories, planted trees, helped with forest fire cleanups, and cooked and baked for about 50 men. In Lyons I worked as an attendant on different hospital wards including suicidal and bed patients.

## **Neva A. Clayton**

### **BVS Unit 116 – September 1975 – August 1978**

Home Church: Oakton COB, Vienna, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1987 – 1992

Project: Agricultural exchange program, Lublin, Poland

Description: I taught English at the University of Marie Curie Sktodowska to students majoring in English. I also taught chemical engineers who needed English to help them read/translate foreign papers related to their work. An average of six Polish farmers/agriculturists were able to spend a year in the U.S. for each year I was in Poland.

## **Maurice Click**

*Spouse: Lois*

### **CPS – March 1944 – June 1948**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Until 1951

Projects: Wellston, MI; Cascade Locks, OR; and Castaner, Puerto Rico

Description: At Wellston I helped with pine seed germination tests. At Cascade Locks I worked in the office, including finances and payroll. In Castaner I was treasurer/buyer for the hospital. This included weekly trips to the city to buy drugs, groceries, and whatever else was needed.

## **Olive {Bagwell} Critzer**

**BVS Unit 89 – October 1970 – November 1971**

Home Church: Covington COB, Covington, OH

Bridgewater COB: 1997 – 2002

Project: Sebring Manor, Sebring, FL

Description: I staffed the front reception desk, answered the switchboard, and operated the elevator.

## **Walter Crull**

*Spouse: Wilma*

**BVS Unit 32 – Alt. Service – September 1956 – August 1958**

Home Church: Wabash COB, Wabash, IN

Bridgewater COB: 1970 – 1990

Projects: Flat Creek Mission, Flat Creek, KY; Heifer Project, New Windsor, MD

Description: At Flat Creek I did maintenance of all kinds and drove the pickup truck to transport children for Sunday School. At Heifer Project I made banners, some promotional material, and other art work. I also did some office work, like recording contributions. I helped load 21 heifers on a plane to go to Germany.

## **Wilma J. {Wampler} Crull**

*Spouse: Walt*

**BVS Unit 31 – June 1956 – June 1957**

Home Church: Petersburg COB, Petersburg, WV

Bridgewater COB: 1970 – 1990

Project: Flat Creek Mission, Flat Creek, KY

Description: My responsibilities included helping to plan and lead the Sunday School and Sunday services in four locations. I rode horseback to one of the Sunday Schools. I helped with the youth group and Vacation Bible Schools. I visited people in the community and assisted with various mission activities.

## **Walter Daggett**

*Spouse: Ann*

**BVS Unit 32 – October 1956 – June 1958**

Home Church: Hammond Street Congregational, Bangor, ME

Bridgewater COB: Since 1971

Projects: Karlsschule, Vienna, Austria and Linz, Austria

Description: The project in Vienna was to rebuild the Karlsschule school. I was the head cook there. In Linz, Austria I worked in material aid.

## **Sonya {Kaufman} Eller**

*Spouse: Wendell*

### **BVS Unit 20 – September 1953 – September 1954**

Home Church: Walnut Grove COB, Johnstown, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1994

Project: Flat Creek Mission, Flat Creek, KY

Description: I hiked up and down the hollers visiting families, teaching Sunday School, and holding worship services and vacation Bible schools, holding prayer meetings at their homes and going to “wakes”. At the mission church I led singing for worship. The mission was also a farm; so I milked the cow and goats and fed all the animals.

## **Fonda {Hinton} Erdman**

*Spouse: Walter*

### **BVS Unit 59 – July 1963 – July 1964**

Home Church: Luray COB, Luray, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2010

Project: Lybrook Navajo Mission, Cuba, NM

Description: My responsibilities were varied. I worked with adults, children, and youth. There were many problems with adults and youth drinking alcohol. This was a different experience for me as I did not know much about American Natives. I am very thankful and grateful for the time I spent at Lybrook. A time in my life I knew I would never forget and thanked God for that great opportunity. Dine’ – “*the people*” – Navajo.

## **Sharon Flaten**

### **BVS Unit 277 – September 2007 – August 2010**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1998

Projects: Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Work Camp Coordinator, and Recruitment Volunteer for BVS, Elgin, IL

Description: Organized and led week - long service - oriented trips for youth and young adults. These work camps took place all over the country during the summer months as recruitment Volunteer for

BVS, I travelled to camps, colleges, conferences and churches talking with people of all ages about what BVS and what it has to offer, and what an awesome experience it truly is.

## **David E. Flora**

*Spouse: Mabel*

### **CPS – May 1943 – April 1946**

Home Church: Fraternity COB, Winston-Salem, NC

Bridgewater COB: Since 1997

Projects: Lyndhurst, VA, #29, Bedford, NC #121, three cattle boat trips, and survey crew

Description: At Lyndhurst I did maintenance and was in charge of the shop. I helped prepare Camp Bedford for the move from Lyndhurst. Between camps I worked with a survey crew transferring land from the Forest Service to the Park Service. I made three trips overseas on UNRRA cattle boats to Italy and Poland.

## **Philip Flory**

*Spouse: Dawn - deceased 2010*

### **CO – BVS – December 1971 – December 1972**

Home Church: Waynesboro COB, Waynesboro, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1989

Project: The Palms, Florida Brethren Homes, Inc., Sebring, FL

Description: During the first six months I started a resident activities program, transported residents to appointments, and performed general maintenance duties. During the last six months I became an assistant to the Business Manager (Earl Seese) and did bookkeeping and payroll services.

## **Seth Flory**

### **BVS Unit 263 – January 2005**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1997

Project: Camp Alexander Mack, Milford, IN

Description:

## **Greg Geisert**

*Spouse: Margaret*

### **BVS Unit 79 – Alt. Service July 1968 – July 1970**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1964 – 1991

Projects: Normal control patient, NIH, Bethesda, MD and Home for the Aged, Windber, PA

Description: At NIH I worked on the Fibrolite study of the affects when exercising on clotting of blood. Outside at Windber I picked up trash and helped raze a building. Inside I did research projects for the administrator, some general office work like getting residents to endorse monthly welfare checks, and began my interest in bookkeeping.

## **Ray Glick**

*Spouse: Sandra*

### **BVS Unit 31 – Alt. Service June 1956 – July 1958**

Home Church: Summit COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1989

Project: Istanbul, Turkey

Description: My work was with Bulgarian refugees. They were housed on a farm where we could produce some of our own food and occupy the men's time until they could be resettled in the free world. My task was to oversee the workings of the farm. We raised small grain, chickens, hogs, and sheep.

## **Lavonne {Ikenberry} Grubb**

### **BVS Unit 28 – September 1955 – 1957**

### **BVS Older Adult Unit 238 – May 2000**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Until 1960

Projects: Germany and Austria

Description: One year working with East German Refugees in Berlin, nine months working with Hungarian refugees in Austria and six weeks directing a work camp in Germany.

*Older Adult Unit 238 – Project:* Elizabeth House, Pasadena, CA



## **Peter Haynes**

*Spouse: Karen*

### **BVS Unit 136 – September 1978 – September 1979**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1970 – 1979

Project: Peace Caravan, Reba Place Fellowship, Evanston, IL

Description: I worked with a Mennonite partner and we did peace education work in Brethren and Mennonite churches and in Friends meetings throughout the mid-west. I met my future wife, who served in Hutchinson, KS, in our orientation unit. We burned up the phone lines and mail routes leading to Hutchinson.

## **Ruthanna Hoff** - *deceased 1991*

### **BVS Unit 13 – December 1951 – 1954**

Home Church: Pipe Creek COB, Union Bridge, MD

Bridgewater COB: Since 1990

Project: Flat Creek Mission, Flat Creek, KY

Description: She worked a lot with children and youth programs, women's club, did lots of visitation, taught piano to some who were interested. After BVS she went to training school and McPherson College. She then returned to Flat Creek for approximately ten more years.

## **David R. Holl**

### **BVS Unit 84 – Alt. Service July 1969**

### **BVS Older Adult Unit 288 – Summer of 2010**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1965 – 1983, since 2012

Projects: National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD; CWS New Windsor, MD; Houston, TX; Modesto, CA; Sisseston-Wahpeton Sioux Indian Reservation, Laketon Health Center, SD

Description: Most of my time I was a Church World Service warehouseman. In the last summer I was a senior counselor for a summer camp for Indian children on an Indian reservation.

**Dennis A. Holl** - *deceased*

**BVS Unit 120 – February 1976**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1965 – 1987

Project: Morrison Cove Retirement Home, Martinsburg, PA

Description: Various activities

**Harold Jennings** - *deceased 2/2012*

**CPS – October 1941 – December 1945**

Home Church: Brownsville COB, Brownsville, MD

Bridgewater COB: Since 1992

Projects: Forestry, Kane, PA; Forestry, Santa Barbara, CA; Mental Hospital, Lynchburg, VA

Description: During the first two assignments, I helped maintain the National Forest by replacing trees and building roads. The most significant accomplishment at the hospital was the major change brought about in the care of America's mentally ill. I also made three trips overseas as a sea going cowboy.

**Demetra {Heckman} Johnson**

*Spouse: Paul*

**BVS Unit 214 – October 1994 – 1996**

Home Church: Richmond, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2010

Project: On Earth Peace Assembly, New Windsor, MD

Description:

*(No information received)*

**William R. (Bill) Johnson**

*Spouse: Lois*

**CPS – December 1942 – July 1946**

Home Church: Lebanon COB, Mt. Sidney, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2001

Projects: Marienville, PA (5 months), Magnolia, AR (3 months), Castaner General Hospital, Castaner, Puerto Rico

Description: In Marienville I did timber stand improvement, thinning trees and working up felled trees. Magnolia was a cooking school.

In Castaner I was chief cook and camp buyer. I also helped in my off time with construction projects, gave hook worm medicine, and helped in the delivery room.

**Wayne Judd**

*Spouse: Patricia*

**BVS Unit 45 – December 1959 – December 1960**

Home Church: Luray COB, Luray, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1979 – 1989, since 2002

Project: Community Service Center, Rapid City, SD

Description: I served in “Indian” Center, sponsored by the local County Council of Churches, assisting Indian people (Lakota) in making the transition from reservation to city life.

**Melvin Keim**

*Spouse: Dorothy*

**Alternative Service – 1958 – 1960**

Home Church: Mennonite Church, Madison, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2000

Project: Construction, Hospital, School

Description: Learning Language (Tshilvba). Supervisor of construction of a school and maternity hospital. Traveled to East Africa, Rwanda and Burndi.

**Carson Kiracofe**

*Spouse: Sharon*

**BVS Unit 75 – Alt. Service - July 1967 – July 1969**

Home Church: Sangerville COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1970

Project: Church World Service, Houston, TX

Description: I helped pack medical supplies and clothing for overseas relief. The Houston center was similar to New Windsor, MD, but on a lot smaller scale.

**Ada {Fridley} Longenecker**

*Spouse: Stephen*

**BVS Unit 109 – July 1974 – July 1975**

Home Church: Mount Morris COB, Mount Morris, IL

Bridgewater COB: Since 1989

Project: Church of the Brethren Home, Windber, PA

Description: My project involved assisting with the activities programs during the first two months and then I worked in the social service department for the rest of the year. I assisted the staff case worker with admissions and social problems that the residents had.

## **Lewis W. Longenecker**

**BVS Unit 244 – July 2001 – July 2002**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1989

Project: Community Family Life Services, Washington, DC

Description: As an employment counselor, I interviewed clients for job placement or vocational training; assisted with resume preparation, job search and interview techniques; tracked client progress and performed office duties. I also volunteered in the after school tutoring program with inner-city children.

## **Stephen Longenecker**

*Spouse: Ada*

**BVS Unit 109 – July 1974 – August 1975**

Home Church: Lititz COB, Lititz, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1989

Project: Church of the Brethren Washington Office, Washington, DC

Description: I was a staff assistant. The office serves as a liaison between the federal government and the denomination. I had specific responsibility for foreign policy issues and military spending, i.e. peace concerns, including Viet Nam.

## **Steven W. Martindale**

*Spouse: Claire*

**BVS Unit 178 – May 1987 – May 1988**

Home Church: Oak Grove COB, Roanoke, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1991

Project: Habitat for Humanity International Office, Americus, GA

Description: After three weeks orientation in Chicago I went to the project site in Americus, GA. I was involved with home construction and in-kind solicitation from businesses nationwide.

**Floyd R. Mason** - *deceased*                      *Spouse: Kathryn*

**CPS – May 1942 – February 1946**

Home Church: Bridgewater Church of the Brethren

Bridgewater COB: 1940 – 1942, since 1991

Projects: Soil Conservation Service, Magnolia, AR; Patuxent Research Center, Dept. of Interior, Bowie, MD; and Lynchburg State Colony, Lynchburg, VA

Description: Most of my time was at the Lynchburg State Colony. I worked primarily as a receptionist and office clerk, but sometime as a cook and sometime doing patient supervision.

**Michael Mason**

**Alternative Service – July 1970 – July 1972**

Home Church: Arlington COB, Arlington, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2003

Project: Norristown State Hospital, Norristown, PA

Description: Psychiatric Aide working on wards with patients in maximum security facility. Supervision, security, dispensing medications, and cleaning.

**Olin Mason** - *deceased 1992*

**CPS – December 1944 – 1946**

**BVS Unit 10 – March 1951 – August 1952**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: at least until 1950

Projects: Wellston, MI #42, detached service #34, Cascade Locks, OR, #21, Bowie, MD #34 and North Avenue Community Center, Fresno project, CA

Description: Director of the Fresno project, CA.

**Bob G. May**

*Spouse: Loreen*

**BVS Unit 37 – December 1957 – December 1959**

Home Church: Sugar Creek West COB, Lima, Ohio

Bridgewater COB: Since 2000

Projects: New Windsor, MD and West Side Christian Parish, Chicago, IL

Description: Working with teenage gangs to get them off the streets into our youth center which was an old tall truck garage.

**Loreen L. {Johnson} May**

*Spouse: Bob*

**BVS Unit 40 – September 1958 – September 1959**

Home Church: Oakdale COB, Scherr, WV

Bridgewater COB: Since 2000

Project: Chicago, IL

Description: Taught English to Chinese women, First Church of the Brethren, Chicago, IL. West Side Christian Parish: I provided activities for middle and elementary school children.

*{BVS unit 40 had over 60 volunteers. They were divided into two groups for training A & B groups – I was in the B unit group.}*

**Robert H. McKay** - *deceased-12/2011*

*Spouse: Charlotte*

**CPS – June 1942 – February 1946**

Home Church: University Park COB, Hyattsville, MD

Bridgewater COB: 1993 – 2011

Projects: Lyndhurst, VA #27, Florida hookworm project.

Description: I did a variety of work. The principal project at Camp Lyndhurst was working on the Blue Ridge Parkway. At CPS 27 it was sanitation work, camp farming, and a short stint at cooking. Now I regret not paying more attention to the fact that our country was involved in a terrible war.

**Brian Messler**

*Spouse: Amy*

**BVS Unit 205 – January 1993 – February 1994**

Home Church: Friendship COB, Linthicum Heights, MD

Bridgewater COB: 1993 – 1998

Projects: Brethren Woods Camp and Retreat Center, Keezletown, VA

Description: I did maintenance work for nine months and was a counselor for three months. The official title was Assistant Program Director. The more I look back on it the more it becomes one of the best years for me. It taught me to remain focused and never give up.

## **Angela Miller**

**BVS Unit 212 – July 1994 – July 1995**

Home Church: Ankeny COB, Ankeny, IA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1993

Project: Catholic Worker House, San Antonio, TX

Description: The CWH is a homeless shelter providing transitional housing for four families with children in times of crisis. Week days at lunch it also provided a soup line for 50 – 100 people. I cooked, did housekeeping and maintenance repairs, served as a social worker, conflict mediator, authority figure, and friend to all who came through.

## **Lawrence Wright Miller**

**BVS Unit 114 – July 1975**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1964 – 1980

Project: Dundalk Youth Center, Baltimore, MD

Description: We were house parents for a group home of teen-age boys. These boys had been through the juvenile system and had been removed from their homes because of family dysfunction. We were responsible for the day to day care of the boys and were charged with making the project as much like a home as possible.

## **Madelyn Miller**

**BVS Unit 37 – December 1957 – December 1958**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Until 1960

Projects: NIH, Bethesda, MD, Modesto, CA

Description: Lived at National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, on the Hemophilia wing as a blood donor for ongoing research. While at the Modesto project I was a playground attendant on a small playground in the migrant area in Modesto. My BVS experiences gave me a break in my college pursuits to serve in areas of need.

## **Myron S. Miller**

*Spouse: Dorothy*

### **CPS – April 1943 – May 1946**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: until ?

Projects: Forestry, Marienville, PA; Forestry, Waldport, OR; and Hopewell Farm, Williamsport, MD

Description: I began in the forest camps by planting trees, clearing roads, and occasionally fighting fires. I then moved into cooking. I helped close the camp at Marienville, then went to Hopewell farm where I served mainly as a cook, however I finished my service as director of the unit.

## **Andy Miracle**

### **BVS Unit 262 – October 2004 – December 2005**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1994 – 2009

Project: The Board's Brethren Witness/Wash Office, DC

Description: Working in the Brethren Witness/Washington Office, our efforts sought to represent the Church in DC as well as to keep the congregation informed of pertinent political issues. To facilitate these goals, I wrote and edited for newsletters and various outreach literature and participated with inter-religious working groups to manage policy strategy and lobbying efforts. Additionally, I facilitated workshops at district and national conferences and delivered presentations to congregational bodies.

## **Betty {Young} Neher - deceased 7/2011**

### **BVS Unit 7 – June 1950 – March 1952**

Home Church: Donnels Creek COB, North Hampton, OH

Bridgewater COB: 1961 – 2011

Project: Brethren Service Commission, Kassel, Germany

Description: Most of the time I did secretarial work in the German office of Brethren Service Commission. I worked in a children's home in Bad Soden for two months, helping care for the children, giving baths, braiding hair, and cleaning their rooms. I also worked in the kitchen and did a week of night duty.



## **Christa Neher**

**BVS Unit 142 – November 1979 – December 1980**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1970

Project: Friendship House Daycare Center, Hatfield COB, PA

Description: I was a teacher in the daycare center and served as the cook during the last month.

## **Dean Neher**

*Spouse: Betty - deceased*

**BVS Unit 3 – June 1949 – August 1951**

Home Church: Osage COB, McCune, KS

Bridgewater COB: Since 1961

Projects: Brethren Service Commission, Kassel, Germany; Haid refugee camp, Linz, Austria; World Council of Churches project, Ioannina, Greece.

Description: I was in the first group of BVS'ers sent to Europe. In Germany the work was varied and included distributing food and clothing. In Austria I helped build a children's playground in a refugee camp. In Greece the project was agricultural rehabilitation following the communist civil war.

## **Rebekah {Seilhamer} Overman**

*Spouse: Michael*

**BVS Unit 236 – October 1999 – November 2001**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB Since 1982

Projects: Oakland Elizabeth House, Oakland, CA; and Trees for Life, Wichita, Kansas

Description: As a live-in volunteer at Oakland Elizabeth House I aided in the operation of the transitional house, planned children's activities and supported women moving from homeless to independent living. At Trees for Life I did office work and field testing of interactive software.

## **Clarence E. Quay**

*Spouse: Mary- deceased*

### **CPS – May 1942 – March 1946**

Home Church: Parker Ford COB, Parker Ford, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1997

Projects: Lyndhurst, VA; Missoula, MT; Bedford, VA; Belden, CA; Oneida, NY

Description: In New York I was a dairy herd improvement tester. In the rest of the camps the main emphasis was to put out forest fires. I volunteered to be a Smoke Jumper. In Montana I was a Smoke Jumper for two summers. In 1943, sixty of us covered the North western section of the United States.

## **Lynn {Ellenberger} Quay**

*Spouse: Jeff*

### **BVS Unit 157 – September 1982 – January 1984**

Home Church: Plumcreek COB, Shelocta, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1997

Projects: Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD; and Child Care Center, Hutchinson, KS

Description: The first six months at New Windsor I worked in the Refugee Resettlement Office doing a variety of tasks. The second six months were spent providing mail service to the Service Center. In Kansas I provided direct hands-on care to the children and helped with the program planning.

## **Don Remnant**

*Spouse: Gladys*

### **BVS Unit 92 – July 1971 – August 1972**

Home Church: Prince of Peace COB, Kettering, OH

Bridgewater COB: Since 1981

Projects: Community Action Program, Warrenton, VA; Brethren Home, Neffsville, PA; and Camp Swatara, Bethel, PA

Description: I began in the Community Youth Center which soon disbanded when federal funding was reshuffled. At the Brethren Home I served in a variety of odd jobs, including maintenance, chauffeuring, running errands, orderly, and grounds keeping. At Camp Swatara I was a counselor and worked on the maintenance staff.

## **Gladys {Akers} Remnant**

*Spouse: Don*

**BVS Unit 123 – September 1976 – August 1977**

Home Church: Manassas COB, Manassas, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1978

Project: Mother Goose Child Development Center, Elgin, IL

Description: I served as a teacher's aide with the 3 and 4 year old class, but also taught some. We served economically disadvantaged children, mostly from single-parent homes with ethnic and minority backgrounds.

## **James S. (Jim) Replogle**

*Spouse: Rebecca*

**BVS Unit 68 – October 1965 – October 1967**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1985

Projects: Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD and Manchester College, North Manchester, IN

Description: I opened the printing facilities at both organizations.

New Windsor was a one-person shop. Manchester College had two full time persons plus 10 to 15 students.

## **Rebecca A. {Eller} Replogle**

*Spouse: James*

**BVS Unit 68 – October 1965 – October 1966**

Home Church: Oakland COB, Gettysburg, OH

Bridgewater COB: Since 1985

Projects: National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD and Garfield Park COB pre-school program, Elgin, IL

Description: For 3 months I was a medical "control patient" for immunological studies and lab assistant to the doctor. In Chicago I set up and supervised the Garfield Park pre-school program. On weekends I drove the BVS bus to pick up Bethany Hospital nurses. I met Dr. Martin Luther King and participated in the summer 1966 Chicago civil rights marches.

## **Shawn Replogle**

*Spouse: Alison*

### **BVS Unit 202 – July 1992 – August 1994**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Virginia, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1984 – 1998

Project: Youth/Young Adult Ministry office, Church of the Brethren, Elgin, IL

Description: As the 1993 National Youth Work Camps coordinator, I designed, planned and implemented twelve work camps located all over North America. As the coordinator of the 1994 National Youth Conference I designed, planned, and implemented this quadrennial gathering with over 4,000 youth and advisors in attendance. I also supported other Church of the Brethren youth programs.

## **Mark Riddle**

### **BVS Unit 187 – April 1989 – November 1990**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1977 – 1992

Project: Alaska Children's Services, Anchorage, AK

Description: I served as a residential treatment specialist in a facility for troubled youth, boys and girls ages 7-17. I was specifically assigned to the recreation department, and supervised daily recreation. In addition I was responsible for the weekly newsletter and also for arranging community/cultural activities – anything from opera to putt-putt golf.

## **Seilhamer, Carolyn {Fifer}**

*Spouse: Larry*

### **BVS Unit 63 – July 1964 – 1966**

Home Church: Summit COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1982 – 1995

Projects: Switzerland; Gallneukirchen, Austria; Purkersdorf, Austria

Description: I worked on a Swiss farm the fall of 1964. Then in January, 1965, I moved to Gallneukirchen near Linz, Austria in an institution for mentally and physically handicapped children. In June 1965 I moved to Purkersdorf near Vienna, Austria, to a home for the elderly.

## **Larry Shank**

**BVS Unit 100 – November 1972 – August 1974**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1965 – 1993

Project: YMCA of Cecil County, MD

Description: I served as janitor, bus-driver, day camp counselor, and program assistant for the YMCA. The “Y” served both low income and more affluent residents of Cecil County. An interesting sidelight: As a CO I had an ex-marine executive director and played softball on a team sponsored by the American Legion.

## **Ralph Shively**

*Spouse: Catherine*

**CPS – December 1942 – March 1946**

Home Church: Muncie COB, Muncie, IN

Bridgewater COB: Since 1996

Projects: U.S. Forest Service, Wellston, NE, #42

Description: In 1944 I was assigned to the administrative office of a dairy herd unit covering parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. In 1946 I was assigned to a cattle boat that took cattle for relief purposes to Greece, Cyprus, and Israel under the jurisdiction of UNRRA.

## **Fred Showalter**

**Alternative Service – 1966 – 1968**

Home Church: Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Dayton, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1990

Project: Norristown, PA, mental hospital

Description: Worked on buildings and grounds maintenance for two-year period. Military draft was in effect at that time. Young men 18 or older had to serve a minimum two years or obtain draft board approval to serve in alternative service. Vietnam war was in full swing and was a very difficult time for our nation and families. The war was extremely unpopular and erected tremendous unrest in our inner cities and the country as a whole.

**Juanita M. Flory Simmons** - *deceased*

**BVS Unit 190 – September 1989 – 1992**

Home Church: Nokesville COB, Nokesville, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1997 – 1999

Projects: Kansas State Industrial Reformatory, Hutchinson, KS;  
New Windsor Service Center, New Windsor, MD

Description: At KSIR I was secretary to the Chaplains' Office. I did general secretarial work as well as scheduling counseling sessions for outside chaplains with inmates to assure they had privacy. At New Windsor, as hostess, I was responsible to see that the rooms were ready for guests and making guests feel comfortable.

**Samuel L. Simmons**

*Spouse: Delores*

**BVS Unit 35 – Alt. Service – June 1957 – October 1959**

Home Church: Sangerville COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1968

Project: Garkida, Nigeria, West Africa

Description: I was an engineering specialist responsible for installation and maintenance of equipment in three hospitals (two general and one leprosarium), a motor pool, power plants, and water supplies for hospitals and residences. I directly supervised electricians, mechanics, and native helper crews.

**Loren S. Simpson** - *deceased*

**CPS – October 1943 – January 1946**

Home Church: Hagerstown COB, Hagerstown, MD

Bridgewater COB: 1985 – 1996

Projects: Base Camp, Bedford, VA; Mental Institution, Sykesville, MD; Colony Institution for Retarded, Lynchburg, VA; and Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD

Description: He was the Personnel Director at New Winsor. Loren enjoyed all of his CPS experiences except base camp. His motivation was his desire to help people. It was during this time that his desire to help young people crystallized into a decision to become certified as a high school counselor.

**Howard D. Smith** - *deceased – 2010*

**CPS – August 1943 – April 1946**

Home Church: Elk Run COB, Churchville, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1983 – 2010

Projects: U.S. Forestry Service camp, Kane, PA; University of Maryland Experiment Station, College Park, MD.

Description: At Kane I worked building roads in a virgin timber area plus some maintenance of camp grounds. At College Park I cleared land near the dairy barns, then worked in a soils laboratory on campus and assisted with field test plots in different parts of the state.

**Wendell Smith**

*Spouse: Elaine*

**CPS – July 1943 - July 1946**

Home Church: Elk Run COB, Churchville, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1996

Projects: Forest Service Program, Camp Marienville, PA; Dairy Dept., Universality of Maryland, College Park MD, #116

Description: For three months I worked at “Timber Stand Improvement” where crews cut and split wild cherry and beech for a chemical factory. For 33 months I worked in a milk plant. Three of us CPSers ran the bottling plant, delivered milk over campus, made ice cream, ran their ice cream store, and set up experiments for students.

**Hope {Woodard} Staton**

*Spouse: Clarke*

**BVS Unit 239 – June 2002**

Home Church: Roanoke, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2009

Project: San Antonio Catholic Worker House, San Antonio, Texas

Description:

*(No information received)*

## **Elaine R. Stauffer**

**BVS Unit 28 – September 1955 – September 1957**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1950 – 1957

Project: Germany – Kassel House

Description:

(No information received)

## **Craig Stevens**

**BVS Unit 75 – July 1967 – July 1968**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB:

Project: Fahrney Keedy Home, Boonsboro, MD

(No information received)

## **Galen Stinebaug** - *deceased*

**CPS – August 1942 – March 1946**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1946 – 1958

Projects: Connecticut State Hospital; Salamonie State Forest, Lagro, IN

Description: At the Connecticut State Hospital he worked as an orderly or nurse.

## **Richard “Dick” Stutzman**

*Spouse: Carolyn*

**BVS Unit 84 – Alt. Service – July 1969 – August 1971**

Home Church: Winter Park COB, Winter Park, FL

Bridgewater COB: Since 1981

Projects: Normal control volunteer, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD; and Youth leader, Tabea Gemeinde, Berlin, Germany



Description: As a normal control, I worked in the NIH library while on three or four studies about liver functions, weight control, and strict dietary restrictions. In Germany I worked with about 200 youth in Kellerclubs (basement clubs) as they organized themselves for afternoon and evening meetings, dances, games, and mingling.

## **Margaret {Wampler} Thomason**

**BVS Unit 44 – September 1959 – 1962**

Home Church: Bassett COB, Bassett, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2002

Projects: Kassel Haus, Kassel, Germany; Aqadir earthquake relief, Agadir, Morocco, Summer Workcamp, Greece

Description:

*(No Information received – Check the large blue notebook in our church library and read the article that Kermit Thomasson wrote in 1993)*

## **R. Jan Thompson**

*Spouse: Roma Jo Mickey*

**BVS Unit 25 – Alt. Serv. – December 1954 – December 1956**

Home Church: West Milton Ohio COB, Ludlow Falls, OH

Bridgewater COB: Since 2008

Projects: National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD and Karlsschule, Vienna, Austria

Description: NIH, one month, human guinea pig – medical research. Vienna, Austria, Evangelische Hilfswerk (Lutheran welfare) 3 months: Making and shipping food and clothing packages to refugee families living in camps and some in their individual homes. Evangelische Karlsschule Reconstruction – 20 months. Rebuilding of a Lutheran school that was destroyed in WWII because it was designed by a famous architect, the local government required it to be rebuilt to original design. I-W's provided labor; church paid for materials.

**Roma Jo {Mickey} Thompson** *Spouse: R. Jan*

**BVS Unit 25 – December 1954 – November 1955**

Home Church: East McKeesport COB, Irwin, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since 2008

Projects: Washington, DC and Flat Creek, KY

Description: Washington, D.C. I was John Eberly's secretary – we went and took notes at hearings which discussed "The Universal Military Training Bill". I took notes in short hand and John took notes in long hand. The notes were then sent to Elgin to be included with Pastors packets sent to all Pastors frequently. Flat Creek, KY, Nina and Allen Weldy were the hosts. The BVS girls taught religious education in the local public schools, taught Sunday School, visited church families and a girls club after school one day a week, etc.

**Philip E. Trout** - *deceased*

*Spouse: Nancy*

**CPS – January 1943 – June 1946**

Home Church: Ninth Street COB, Roanoke, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1974 – 1986

Projects: Kane, PA; Marienville, PA; Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD; Susanville, CA; and Church World Service, New Windsor, MD

Description: In Kane and Marienville he did firefighting. At Johns Hopkins he was in an experimental starvation unit.

**Claire {Gilbert} Ulrich** - *deceased 1/2011*

**BVS Unit 32 – September 1956 – August 1958**

Home Church: Springfield COB, Springfield, OR

Bridgewater COB: 1958 – 2011

Project: Pilot House, Baltimore, MD

Description: Pilot House was a remodeled row house in an urban renewal area. It was a showcase for what could be done with a run-down house, so we had many visitors. My contribution was to serve as household manager organizing cooking, cleaning, laundry, and shopping for the volunteers who lived there.

## **Dale Ulrich**

*Spouse: Claire*

### **BVS Unit 32 – Alt. Service – September 1956 – August 1958**

Home Church: Springfield COB, Springfield, OR

Bridgewater COB: Since 1958

Project: Baltimore BVS Unit, Baltimore, MD

Description: I directed the work of 4 to 13 BVS'ers in slum rehabilitation projects. We worked with poor homeowners to help them fix up their homes, with two community centers to provide recreation and daycare, with playlot supervision, with church people to provide "fresh air" opportunities, and with government officials.

## **Norman D. Wagenschein - deceased 2011**

### **CPS – May 1942 – February 1946**

Home Church: Non-denominational Church, Yoakum, TX

Bridgewater COB: 1982 – 2011

Projects: Soil Conservation Camp, Magnolia, AR, and Lynchburg Colony, Lynchburg, VA

Description: At Magnolia I did maintenance of government vehicles. I started at the colony as a ward attendant until they found out that I knew something about machinery. Then I was assigned to the maintenance department doing plumbing, electrical work, welding, and machine work.

## **D. Eugene Wampler**

### **BVS Unit 28 – September 1955 – August 1957**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1945 – 1946 and 1950 – 1960

Projects: Kassel Germany and Linz Austria

September – December 1955, New Windsor Service Center: training and service work. December 1955, Kassel Germany: orientation and assignment. January 1956 – June 1957, Linz Austria: office work (correspondence and financial management) and supervised material aid to refugees. June – August 1957, Kassel Germany: coordinated international work camp, material aid to refugees.

Description: The draft was part of a young man's life in the mid-1950's but one could obtain a deferment as a conscientious objector. While such a deferment was difficult to obtain in some parts of the country, it was routine for Brethren boys in Rockingham County. In addition, there was a student deferment as long as we were in college. But during my sophomore year at Bridgewater I decided to take two years in BVS as a time to clarify what I wanted to do with my life. BVS was a rich experience, giving me exposure to another culture, the satisfaction of doing something that was a real benefit to others and sharing new experiences with new friends. Because of the military draft, quite a number of young men volunteered which meant that quite a number of young women did as well. So there was a lively social atmosphere. Some of those friendships have lasted until today. BVS also helped me develop confidence that I could deal successfully with new problems and responsibilities.

## **Emily Wampler**

**BVS Unit 262 – September 2004 – September 2006**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1994

Projects: CooperRiis, Mill Spring, NC; BVS Office, Assistant to the Director, Elgin, IL

Description: CooperRiis is a residential farm community for people with mental illness. I lived on the farm as did most of the staff and residents. We all shared the ups and downs of life together. Aug. 5, 2005 – The BVS office administers the whole BVS program including recruiting, training, placing and supporting of volunteers. The volunteers living in Elgin and working at the church officers shared a big volunteer house in an old part of the city.

**Fred W. Wampler** - deceased 4/2013

*Spouse: Josephine*

**Alternative Service – about 1958 – 1967**

Home Church: Lancaster COB, Lancaster, PA

Bridgewater COB: 2002 – 2013

Projects: Mission Hospital in Bulsar, India Mission Hospital in Dahanu, India

Description: The hospital in Bulsar was closed about three years after I arrived. I was sent to Dahanu Road which was a flourishing hospital with a midwifery/nursing training course. I worked as medical superintendent doing general medicine and surgery. I taught abnormal obstetrics in Gujarati language to the students.

**Virginia “Ginny” {Bittinger} Whitten** *Spouse: Hugh*

**Volunteered with BVS Project – November 1990 – July 1991**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1988

Project: A cooperative project of the Church of the Brethren and the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Description: My husband and I taught English as a second language in three Prague locations: two ECCB churches and the ECCB Seminary. We had all adults, ages 14-60, from beginners to advanced. We made many friends of the wonderful Czech people with tongue-twister names (for us of course).

**Hugh Whitten**

*Spouse: Ginny*

**Volunteered with BVS Project – November 1990 – July 1991**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: Since 1988

Project: A cooperative project of the Church of the Brethren and the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Description: My wife and I taught English as a second language in three Prague locations: two ECCB churches and the ECCB Seminary. We had all adults, ages 14-60 from beginners to advanced. Prague is an old city; the New Town Hall was built in the 1500's. We made many wonderful friends.

**Wandamay {Hilbert} Williams** - *deceased*

**BVS Unit 46 – March 1960**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB:

Project: Pilot House, Baltimore, MD

Description:

**Cindi {Dellett} Wion**

*Spouse: Tim*

**BVS Unit 200 – January 1992 – October 1993**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: 1979 – 1996

Projects: Queen Louise Home for Children, St. Croix; USVI and Harmony Hill, Union, WA August.-Oct. 1993

Description: My husband and I served as cottage parents for abused and/or neglected children, ages 2 to 12, from the USVI. We lived in the cottage with the children and made sure all of their needs were taken care of. At Harmony Hill we assisted in the daily operations of the wellness and learning Retreat Center.

**Galen W. Wolfe** - *deceased*

**CPS – February 1943 – May 1946**

Home Church: Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

Bridgewater COB: About 1940 to 1955

Projects: Coast and Geodetic Survey, various locations in the southwest United States.

Description: He was a member of a group that surveyed many of the areas of the United States that had never been done before.

**Ralph Wolfe**

**CPS – February 1942 – May 1946**

*(No information received)*

## **Amanda {Beckwith} Zepp**

*Spouse: Chris*

### **Volunteered – BVS Project September 2002**

Home Church: Lancaster COB, Lancaster, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since January 2007

Project: Gould Farm, Monterey, Massachusetts

Description: Gould Farm is the first residential therapeutic community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental illness move toward recovery, health, and greater independence through community living, meaningful work, and individual clinical care. In a supportive community environment made up of residents, staff, and families, the farm helps adults with mental illness begin to rebuild and regain their lives, and it remains rooted in the belief that a society is healthiest when its most vulnerable members are enabled to thrive.

I was on the residential team for the majority of my time on the farm. My role involved overnights in the guest houses to provide support and to distribute medications. During the daytime hours I helped in planning activities on the farm for both guest and staff and volunteers, transporting guests to and from appointments, participating in staff and volunteer and residential team meetings, and for the last several months I was responsible for the scheduling of our residential team. I also helped with child care for the staff during the first half of the year, for 1-2 days a week.

## **Christopher “Chris” Zepp**

*Spouse: Amanda*

### **Volunteered – BVS Project September 2002**

Home Church: Lancaster, PA

Bridgewater COB: Since January 2007

Project: Gould Farm, Monterey, Massachusetts

Description: Gould Farm is the first residential therapeutic community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental illness move toward recovery, health, and greater independence through community living, meaningful work, and individual clinical care. In a supportive community environment made up of residents, staff, and families, the farm helps adults with mental illness begin to rebuild and regain their lives, and it remains rooted in the belief a society is healthiest when its most vulnerable members are enabled to thrive. My year-long role was to serve as a volunteer work program leader on the farm team, offering support and guidance to

guests throughout the program work day, as well as attending to necessary farm responsibilities beyond the work program such as milking the cows, bailing hay, processing firewood, fixing equipment, etc. I also served as a short-term and occasional volunteer staff for the residential team near the end of my stay at the farm.



**Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Church**  
**Members who served in Brethren Volunteer Service**  
**and/or Alternative Service**

*\* Grew up attending the Bridgewater Church of the  
Brethren*

*\*Adams, Donna [Wills] – Unit 179*

Barr, John G. – Unit 55

*\*Barr, Johnny – Unit 214*

Bowman, Donna Reeves [Miller] – Unit 114

Brightbill, David – Unit 13

Brightbill, Grace [Dibert] – Unit 13

Brubaker, Doris [Myer] – Unit 1

Capasso, Kim [May] – Unit 161

Clayton, Neva A. – Unit 116

Clague, Allen M. – Alt. Service

Critzer, Olive B. [Bagwell] – Unit 89

Crull, Walter – Unit 32 – Alt. Service

Crull, Wilma J. [Wampler] – Unit 31

Daggett, Walter – Unit 32

Eller, Sonya [Kaufman] – Unit 20

Erdman, Fonda [Hinton] – Unit 59

Flaten, Sharon – Unit 277

Flory, Phil – CO, served at a BVS project

*\*Flory, Seth – Unit 263*

*\*Geisert, Gregory – Unit 79 – Alt. Service*

Glick, Ray – Unit 31 – Alt. Service

*\*Grubb, Lavonne [Ikenberry] – Unit 28*

*Older Adult Unit 238*

*\*Haynes, Peter – Unit 136*

Hoff, Ruthanna – Unit 13

*\*Holl, David R. – Unit 84 – Alt. Service  
Older Adult Unit 288*

*\*Holl, Dennis A. – Unit 120*

Johnson, Demetra [Heckman] – Unit 214

Judd, J. Wayne – Unit 45

Kiracofe, Carson – Unit 75 – Alt. Service

Longenecker, Ada [Fridley] – Unit 109

*\*Longenecker, Lewis W. – Unit 244*

Longenecker, Steven – Unit 109

Martindale, Steve – Unit 178

May, Bob G. – Unit 37

May, Loreen L. [Johnson] – Unit 40

Mason, Michael – Alt. Service

Mason, Olin – Unit 10

Messler, Brian – Unit 205

Miller, Angela – Unit 212

Miller, Lawrence Wright – Unit 114

Miller, Madelyn – Unit 37

*\*Miracle, Andy – Unit 262*

Neher, Betty [Young] – Unit 7

*\*Neher, Christa – Unit 142*

Neher, Dean – Unit 3

Overman, Rebekah [Seihamer] – Unit 236

Quay, Lynn [Ellenberger] – Unit 157

Remnant, Don – Unit 92

Remnant, Gladys [Akers] – Unit 123

Replogle, James S. – Unit 68

Replogle, Rebecca [Eller] – Unit 68

*\*Replogle, Shawn – Unit 202*

*\*Riddle, Mark – Unit 187*

*\*Seilhamer, Carolyn [Fifer] – Unit 63*

*\*Shank, Larry – Unit 100*

Showalter, Fred – Alt. Service

Simmons, Juanita M. Flory – Unit 190

Simmons, S. L. – Unit 35 – Alt. Service

Staton, Hope [Woodard] – Unit 239

Stauffer, Elaine R. – Unit 28

*\*Stevens, Craig – Unit 75*

Stutzman, Dick – Unit 84 – Alt. Service

Thomasson, Margaret [Wampler] – Unit 44

Thompson, R. Jan – Unit 25

Thompson, Roma Jo [Mickey] – Unit 25

Ulrich, Claire [Gilbert] – Unit 32

Ulrich, Dale – Unit 32

Wampler, D. Eugene – Unit 28

*\*Wampler, Emily – Unit 262*

Wampler, Fred W. – Alt. Service

Whitten, Ginny [Bittinger] – served with CoB & the Evan.  
Church of Czech.

Whitten, Hugh – served with CoB & the Evan. Church of  
Czech.

Williams, Wandamay [Hilbert] – Unit 46

*\*Wion, Cindi [Dellett] – Unit 200*

Zepp, Amanda [Beckwith] – served at a BVS project

Zepp, Christopher – served at a BVS project

**Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Church**  
**Members who served in Civilian Public Service**

Bowman, John Evans – 1942  
Clayton, John W. – 1941  
Click, Maurice – 1944  
Flora, David E. – 1943  
Jennings, Harold – 1941  
Johnson, William R. “Bill” – 1942  
Mason, Floyd R. – 1942  
Mason, Olin – 1944  
McKay, Robert H. – 1942  
Miller, Myron S. – 1943  
Quay, Clarence E. – 1942  
Shively, Ralph – 1942  
Simpson, Loren S. – 1943  
Smith, Harold D. – 1943  
Smith, Wendell – 1946  
Stinebaug, Galen – 1942  
Trout, Philip E. – 1943  
Wagenschein, Norman D. – 1942  
Wolfe, Galen W. – 1943  
Wolfe, Ralph – 1942