

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord

In 1777 a stone building, 30 feet by 25 feet with walls two feet deep, was erected for the purpose of the early Brethren to come together for worship. Because it is located in the village of Pricetown, it is known as the Pricetown Meeting House. There were other buildings built earlier than this one, but this one has been standing throughout all these years. Later a 16 by 16 foot room was added to enable the folk to have a Love Feast together.

Throughout the more recent years the Mohrsville congregation has been maintaining the building, using the funds received at the annual Pricetown Meeting House gathering. But these funds are not sufficient to preserve the historic meeting house.

We want to invite you, the members of the Atlantic Northeast District, to participate in the preservation of this historic building, thus preserving not only the building, but a piece of our history. We are designating **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**, as the day for all the congregations of our District to receive a love offering, so that we might preserve the Pricetown Meeting House. Please note the special coupon with the enclosed brochure, using it to remit your payment as instructed on the coupon. **If September 26 is not suitable for your congregation, please set your own date sometime this Fall.**

Not only do we encourage you to give a love offering, but also to plan a time to visit the Pricetown Meeting House, to enable you to see and learn more of our special history.

In Jesus' Name and in appreciation for our Heritage,

The ANE Historical Committee

David Fuchs, Chair;
Jobie Riley, Levi Ziegler; Kay Weaver, District liaison

Mohrsville Church of the Brethren

Ron Kunkel, Trustee Chair

PRICETOWN MEETING HOUSE



*The oldest unaltered Meeting
House in America still stands in a
little village in Berks County PA*

History of the Pricetown Meeting House

Erected in 1777, this little stone church stands as a testament to those early Brethren who settled here from Germany and Holland. A number of similar styled meeting houses were built earlier than this one. However, most have disappeared or have been remodeled so extensively that they are no longer able to be recognized. But this meeting house remains unchanged and will stand as it is shown here for many years to come.

It is a plain 30' X 25' single story building with a 16' X 16' addition; both parts are constructed from rough stone. The walls are nearly two feet thick and have outlasted a number of shingled roofs. The addition was erected to serve as kitchen for the Love Feasts that were held there even up to the early part of the last century. The last Love Feast served there was during the 300th. anniversary of the Church of The Brethren in 2008.



About the year 1776 Martin Gaube, one of the most enthusiastic early Brethren was of the opinion that the church could do more work if it had a regular building in which to worship. He purchased a parcel of land from Conrad Price, who then owned all of the lands now known as Pricetown. Gaube began constructing a building on this tract of land around the year 1775, and two years later the meeting house was completed. Services were held in there about seven times a year by itinerant ministers. In 1807 Martin Gaube deeded this meeting house which sets on an acre of ground along with its attached cemetery to the Baptist Society. From 1807 to 1830 the church flourished but by 1832 not a single member remained in the township. In 1867 a new meeting house was built near Mohrsville on land owned by Jacob Yoder. This became known as the Maiden creek Church of the Brethren now known as the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren. After the Mohrsville meeting house was remodeled in 1899, the Pricetown church was used only a few times a year. Today services are held the first Sunday in June at the Pricetown Meeting House.



Elam and Naomi Fox, pictured on the left and below, have served as caretakers of the Pricetown Meeting House over the last 30 years. Besides cleaning the building and mowing the grass around the building they also were there to greet visitors who would come to tour the Meeting House. Repairs and maintenance is managed by the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren Trustees and volunteers. Various groups from the Brethren and from outside our denomination come to the meeting house to tour or to have a worship service throughout the year.

The Pricetown Meeting House is available for touring by contacting the Mohrsville Church office at 610-926-5167.

The history of the Pricetown Meeting House can be found in various books like the History of the Church of the Brethren, The Brethren Encyclopedia and by visiting our website at www.mohbrethchurch.com.



What we need



The Pricetown Meeting House is in need of painting and some minor repairs. The costs of these repairs exceeds the monies that remain in the Pricetown maintenance account. Over the past several years a number of repairs and projects have depleted the monies set aside for upkeep of this historical site. Funding for these projects comes from offerings collected at our annual June service or from gifts received by visiting tour groups. For many years this was sufficient to maintain the building. However rising costs and fewer funds received complicated by tighter budgets has diminished the funds available.

We are prayerfully requesting assistance from the many churches in our Atlantic Northeast-District to aid with the preservation of this historical site. We are asking that Sunday, September 26, 2010 be called Pricetown Sunday and each church hold a love offering. The monies collected should take care of our immediate need of \$4,500 for painting and the repair of the windows and shutters. Additional monies will be used later to repair some floor joists inside the structure. What is not used for repairs will be used to continue to maintain the building well into the future.

The Pricetown Meeting House is a precious piece of our history and you can share in preserving it for future generations. Please post this in your church and let's all come together on September 26 to celebrate this piece of our history.

The Congregation of _____

Supports Pricetown Sunday with a Love Fund offering of \$_____

Please cut off this section and submit to

Mohrsville COB
1542 Shoey Rd.
Mohrsville, PA 19541
610-926-5167

Please mark memo on check as Pricetown Sunday

God Bless You!!



Mohrsville Church of the Brethren
1542 Shoey Rd.
Mohrsville PA, 19541
www.mohbrethchurch@epix.net

