



# Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

Centered in Christ, Building Connections, Sharing God's Love

Above: Youth Ministry Council attendees listening to Michelle Hershberger.

## Ministry Matters:

YOUTH AND REAL WORLD THEOLOGY

**What** could be better than Florida in January? Mennonite Church USA, **Youth Ministry Council: The Gathering 2016** was held in Orlando, Fla., from January 30-February 1, with 42 youth workers from across Mennonite Church USA meeting to network, encourage one another, worship together, and explore approaches to faith formation through real-life scenarios.

The theme for the weekend was: "Ministry Matters: Youth and Real World Theology." Michelle Hershberger from Hesston College, shared seven Anabaptist distinctives. What does that make us as Anabaptists distinct?

1. *Different kind of Bible*—we read the Bible in a Christ-centered way.
2. *Different kind of Jesus*—His life and teaching are important, not just his death and resurrection.
3. *Different kind of church*—we discern truth together.

4. *Different kind of power*—leadership that values others and works towards consensus.
5. *Different kind of love*—love for everyone including our enemies.
6. *Different kind of service*—we "minister with" and not "ministry to" each other.
7. *Different kind of witness*—we live out our faith as a genuine reflection of the transformation in our lives.

It was with these distinctives in mind that we wrestled with various real life case studies related to youth and young adult ministry. Here are some of my take home learnings.

**First**, youth ministry does matter as we connect and relate to youth in our congregation and communities by the way we walk with youth who are so busy and need to make difficult choices in their busyness. It matters as we bring Jesus into the lives of youth by loving and serving them. This ministry does matter.

**Second**, we do not do ministry alone. We need each other as we navigate

youth ministry in today's culture. This was confirmed as all the case studies we studied were relevant to all of us no matter where we lived. What is better than Florida in January? Ministry that matters!

~ Dwight Rohrer, Neffsville Mennonite

*I had a good time doing something out of my routine: worshipping and networking with a wonderful group of people, and overall feeling quite excited about Anabaptist belief and the privilege to teach and show young people what Anabaptism is all about! While our group times were wonderful, informative, and anointed, another reason I wanted to attend this year was because Orlando, Florida, is where the next MC USA Convention will be held on July 4-8, 2017! On Sunday evening, we took a tour of where the youth and delegates will meet in the Convention Center. I believe this next convention will be "hot" (Florida in summer), a lot of fun, and delicious! So, youth and delegates and friends, you will just have to come and see what I mean!*

~ Rachel Mast, Conestoga Mennonite

### HIGHLIGHTS



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8 2016 Bible Quizzing

## Currents

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## ACC Moderator's Reflections

John Denlinger,  
ACC Moderator

So I still have the tunes of *The Sound of Music*, presented by LMS Theatre, running through my head and one of those is "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" (in no particular order):

~ Springtime and the beauty of the smells, sights and sounds of new life bursting forth in God's creation.

~ Lenten Season that takes me places I don't normally choose to go and then culminates in the rituals and practices of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then the Miracle, Mystery and Majesty of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

~ March Madness (NCAA Basketball Tournament).

~ Sharing a hot cup of coffee or a cold drink and great conversations around a campfire.

~ The sights and sounds of children laughing and playing, particularly my (great) grandchildren.

~ The smells of freshly cut grass and hay.

~ Grilling and sitting around an outside fire making smores.

~ Planting flowers and seeds, and spreading fresh mulch.

~ Waking my motorcycle from its winter hibernation, baseball, walks in the woods or in the sand by the beach.

~ Seeing my neighbors again after being cooped inside all winter.

~ The end of school with commencement and graduation ceremonies.



~ Learning And Sharing Together, and Serving And Listening Together with my local church family, my conference church family, and my denominational church family.

~ An incredibly gifted servant leadership team for an incredibly gifted ACC! Thanks be to God!

~ ACC Spring Assembly at Frazer Mennonite Church on April 16.

The list could go on but our beloved editor Lois Ann Mast said, "Keep this short, John." So I conclude with these words: Together we at ACC are the *face of God for such a time as this* as we celebrate who we are, whose we are, what we believe, and how we are doing that, which makes all the difference in the world for others to see. May it be so!

**CENTERED IN CHRIST  
BUILDING CONNECTIONS  
SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

- John Denlinger, ACC Moderator  
Ridgeview Mennonite Church

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Landis Homes



## Meet ACC Leaders and Staff

ACC  
AT WORK



ACC leaders at a recent board meeting at Conference offices: (standing, left to right): Joanne Dietzel, Rachel Mast, John Denlinger, Merv Stoltzfus, Dwight Rohrer, Redeat Abebe, Steve Musselman, and Jon Carlson; (front row, left to right): Ken Martin, Brook Musselman, and Chad Martin

**Over** the past several months, the staff of Atlantic Coast Conference has experienced some significant changes involving new faces and new roles. For all members of this team, the Executive Committee worked to identify candidates who would:

- ~ Exemplify our shared Anabaptist Christian values
- ~ Model the diversity of our Conference
- ~ Bring skills and capacities to serve our congregations and our credentialed leaders
- ~ Honor our history and heritage while being open to God's desired future for our life

On January 1, **Merv Stoltzfus** stepped in as Executive Conference Minister. Having served with ACC since 1991, Merv brings a depth and breadth of wisdom and experience to his new role as Executive Conference Minister. He desires to see pastors and lay leaders be successful in their ministry responsibilities, and encourages healthy practices for leadership teams so that they might lead effectively. Developing the gifts of all persons is a ministry priority. As Executive Conference Minister, Merv will relate with congregations and leaders, lead the staff team, and work closely with the Executive Committee to establish vision and priorities for Conference life. He will continue his

oversight of the same congregations he has been serving. In addition, he will relate with First Mennonite and Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship in New York City, as well as the Mennonite Congregation of Boston, Mass., and Frazer Mennonite. His role is full-time.

**Joanne Dietzel** was hired as an additional Conference Minister relating with the congregations to which Warren Tyson previously gave care. She joins the Conference Staff team after 21 years with Lancaster Mennonite Conference, where she supervised staff, assisted with board work, coordinated annual meetings, and much more. A member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Joanne desires that pastors and lay leaders not only do their best in carrying out ministry responsibilities, but that they do so with joy and a passion for Christ's church. She holds a certificate in Pastoral Studies from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and is energized by learning to know people and hearing their stories as well as encouraging people in their life journey. Her role is half time.

For several years, ACC has provided oversight for our New York City churches through a collaborative effort with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. A shared strategic  
(continued on page 7)



Merv Stoltzfus



Joanne Dietzel



Sylvia Shirk



Vonetta Storbakken is co-founder of the Radical Living Christian community, a cohousing community organized under Mennonite Church USA-ACC. Vonetta lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband Jason, and they are the proud parents of three children.

ACC  
Leadership  
Transitions

# Radically *Loving* Those in Our Communities

**My** name is Vonetta Storbakken. I was born in Guyana and have lived mostly in New York City since emigrating here at age 11. I attended SUNY-Stonybrook where I earned a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts with a minor in Business. I also hold a master's degree from Pratt Institute in Urban Environmental Systems Management.

I came to ACC via my husband, Jason Storbakken. We founded Radical Living, a Christian cohousing community in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Jason was seeking a denominational body to align our community and with which he might be ordained. It was during that process that we came to know and appreciate the work of Warren Tyson and Sandra Perez, both of whom hold special places in our hearts.

After several years of building community in our neighborhood, I decided to put my master's degree to work and start a non-profit. After more than a year of working with pro-bono attorneys, we launched the Radical Living non-profit (which in many ways is a spin-off of the intentional community). My focus in developing the non-profit is to initially work with local faith communities (e.g., churches, but eventually also synagogues and mosques) to help them assess the environmental impact of their neighborhood, evaluate the cleaning agents they use, and educate their staff on

environmental stewardship, i.e., using safe cleaning supplies, but also creating community gardens, etc.

Recently, I was installed as the chairperson of the ACC Peace and Justice Committee. It is a blessing and honor to convene this committee and serve the congregations of ACC. As chair of the committee, my vision is to help ACC and its congregations to fulfill its mission in regards to peace and justice.

It is important to begin the spiritual formation of congregants from toddler to senior citizen, especially in regards to becoming active peace agents in their communities and world. It is important to critically engage in open and healthy dialogue on topics pertinent to society today. We must be absolutely and adamantly opposed to militarization abroad and in our police forces; we must recognize that Christ consistently identifies with the poor and oppressed, and if Jesus says that "the prostitutes and tax collectors" are in front of the religious folks on their way into heaven, we need to find ways to move beyond a rhetoric of tolerance and toward language and actions of embrace and inclusion, as well as formerly incarcerated and undocumented immigrants.

Let us explore ways to radically love and include those who society and the church has too long excluded.

~ Vonetta Storbakken, *Radical Living*

## ACC Leadership Beginnings:

**Joanne Dietzel** (Dan) was hired as a part-time Conference Minister, beginning in February. Joanne brings many years of conference experience from her time as Conference Coordinator of Lancaster Mennonite Conference. She is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church.

**Dwight Rohrer** (Jenny) was hired as Conference Youth Minister beginning in February. He will work for ACC one day per week as he continues his role as Associate/Youth Pastor of Neffsville Mennonite Church. He is a member of Neffsville.

**Sylvia Shirk** was hired as Conference Minister for New York City beginning in February. She will relate with five congregations in the city on a per diem basis. She is the Cluster Convener for the New York Cluster and Pastor of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship.

**Beth Good** (Clair) was approved for ordination credential transfer to ACC from Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Beth serves as Health Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee and Co-pastor of Vision Columbia with her husband Clair. She is a member of Vision Columbia.

**Elizabeth Soto Albrecht** (Frank) was approved for ordination credential transfer to ACC from Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Elizabeth serves as Professor of Practice at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She is a member of Laurel Street Mennonite Church.

## ACC Leadership Ending:

**Ezra Tice** (Joan) ended his term as Intentional Interim Pastor at Oley Valley Mennonite Church. He is currently serving as Intentional Interim Pastor of Newville Mennonite Church.

~ by Brook Musselman, *Conference Coordinator*

# Youth are not a **blank slate**

**IF** I were to use a word to describe the fighting about the forbearance resolution within the Mennonite Church, I think I would use “childish,” (which is saying a lot, because I’m still a child).

It seems to me that many adults in the church are going out of their way to upset those who do not agree with them. Passive aggressive facebook posts that “slyly” call out the “others” are constantly popping up on my newsfeed. I have seen people leave church services or conversations because they were not in their favor.

I think that many adults want the chance to speak their opinion, but when it comes to listening to the other side they are quick to cover their ears.

This type of approach is problematic when it is applied to adult-youth discussions. I cannot tell you how many times I have been stuck in a car or classroom setting where the adult present felt the need to form my developing opinion for me. Long-winded rants, coming from either side of the LGBTQ topic are never helpful when the person speaking gives no opportunity for discussion.

Youth are not a blank slate. They are on their own journey of figuring out what is right and wrong. And while they are seeking guidance, they do not need to be overwhelmed with a one-sided viewpoint.

What youth need are two-sided discussions—forums where they can voice their opinion and thoughts without fear of repercussions.

Resources that represent each side of the issue should also be made accessible to youth. The Mennonite Church should be teaching its youth how to navigate through these difficult conversations with the love of God, and love for each other, despite differences.

As a youth myself, I want to learn how to really listen to those with different ideals than me. I want to learn how to both listen and reply in love, so that I may be a beneficial piece of the Mennonite Church. But I have never been given the opportunity to listen and respond. If the Church can implement these types of conversations, future generations will have the tools to work through this issue and any other issues that may arise.

I have a lot of hope in the future of the Mennonite Church. We are going through a hard time right now, but I have faith that God will follow through. I believe that one day we will come together once again and be able to solve any problem, through the grace of God. But before any of that happens we need to prepare our youth to be resilient through even the most difficult times.

The youth of MCUSA want to make a difference, but we need to make sure they stick around the Mennonite Church long enough to do so.

~Abigail King  
Ridgeview Mennonite  
writer of this new column in Currents

**MCUSA youth want to make a difference, but we need to make sure they stick around the Mennonite Church long enough to do so.**



*Abigail King is a senior at Lancaster Mennonite High School and attends Ridgeview Mennonite Church. She serves on the ACC Youth Committee as well as the Youth Planning Committee for Mennonite Convention 2017.*

The Gathering Place is a website for Anabaptist youth leaders to connect at: [www.thegatheringplace.us](http://www.thegatheringplace.us)  
This article written by Abigail King was published in the column “Engage” on The Gathering Place.



# NEWS & NOTES

News, notes, and announcements may be sent to Currents editor: [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net)



Becky Hess

## Anabaptist healthcare professionals:

Come to the Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) 2016 Annual Gathering, the weekend of June 17-19, 2016 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. The theme is “Wholeness and Holiness: Views from the Mountaintop.” Featured speaker is noted Denver psychiatrist, professor, and author, Abraham Nussbaum, speaking on “The Renewal of Medicine and Christian Spirituality.” Registration deadline is April 15, 2016; details at [www.mennohealth.org/gathering](http://www.mennohealth.org/gathering) or call 1-888-406-3643.

**Mennonite Church USA Convention** is scheduled for July 4-8, 2017, in Orlando, Florida, with the theme *Love is a Verb*. The convention planning team is hard at work, collaborating with leaders and church members all across the country, to help ensure that Orlando 2017 is a meaningful and important event for all ages.

**Becky Hess**, Neffsville Mennonite, recently assumed the role of Human Resources Director at Eastern Mennonite Missions. In this role, Hess leads the Human Resources team, the appointment process for EMM workers, and member care for EMM personnel, including crisis and trauma care. She says, “My heart and mind were drawn to EMM by the concept of ‘going where the church is not . . . yet,’ reaching unreached peoples. I was drawn to this particular role at EMM because connecting and deep listening enliven my soul, and I’m passionate about people understanding God is present.”

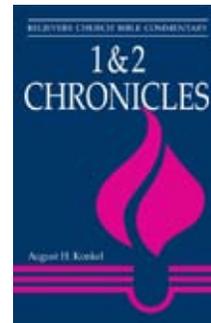


## How do you grow servant leaders?

Plant the seed for service! Since 1970, nearly 300 service alumni have become pastors.

Explore Mennonite Mission Network’s NEW service website (<https://serve.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Pages/default.aspx>) to learn more about opportunities that await our future church leaders!

**Educational Grants** are available for graduate students in healthcare professions from Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF). Learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. Deadline for 2016-17 academic year is May 15, 2016. For details and application form, see <http://mennohealth.org/SET>, email [info@mennohealth.org](mailto:info@mennohealth.org), or call 1-888-406-3643.



**Believers Church Bible Commentary**, volume 30, titled *1 & 2 Chronicles*, is an exemplary resource for those who seek to be the people of God. Published by Herald Press, this Biblical commentary from an

Anabaptist perspective is for all who seek to understand the original message of Scriptures and its meaning for today!



Resource Advocates representing the 21 conferences in Mennonite Church USA recently attended the annual MC USA annual meeting—this time in Leesburg, Virginia. Above, Nancy Kauffman, Denominational Minister of MC USA is sharing as one of the resource leaders. Lois Ann Mast is ACC’s Resource Advocate.

## Meet ACC Leaders and Staff

(continued from page 3)

review identified some key weakness in that model, creating opportunity for more effective Conference ministry for New York City congregations. **Sylvia Shirk**, who serves as pastor of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship, will serve as Conference Minister to five congregations in New York City on a marginal-time basis. She studied at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and graduated from Episcopal Divinity School and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Her fluency in Spanish, French, and Hatian Creole helps her effectively minister in diverse contexts.

Following Merv's move to the Executive Conference Minister position, his youth responsibilities have been divided between **Brook Musselman**, current Conference Coordinator, and **Dwight Roher**, who has been active in youth ministry for several decades, serving Neffsville Mennonite Church since 1999. Dwight's experience and passion will be a wonderful asset as he resources congregational youth ministry staff and connects with MCUSA youth ministry activities. Neffsville has agreed to share a portion of Dwight's time with ACC and evaluate the arrangement after one

year. Having served ACC since 2014, Brook is increasing his time commitment to full-time and taking on additional administrative responsibilities for youth ministry.

**Cindy Petersheim** began her role as the new CRM Council Coordinator late in 2015. Cindy brings her background in charitable estate planning, major gifts, annual fund, and donor relations to her volunteer role with the Conference Related Ministries Council. The CRM Council works to develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships between Conference and agencies that work in human services, healthcare, retirement, education, Christian camping, and other areas of community service.

**Njoki Njoroge** continues her role as Financial Secretary, coordinating accounts payable, donations, and other financial record keeping. She notes that this role has deepened her knowledge and understanding of how God uses His people to minister to others in different capacities.

Also remaining in her role is **Lois Ann Mast**, *Currents* Editor & MC USA Resource Advocate. Her role as Editor helps to connect congregations to each other and to Conference.

As part of Mennonite Church USA, Atlantic Coast Conference is experiencing the same transitions and challenges as other area conferences, and we believe this team will offer steady, wise, and effective leadership as we journey forward together.

~ Brook Musselman



Brook  
Musselman



Dwight Roher



Cindy  
Petersheim



Njoki Njoroge

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Clergy Breakfast

Thursday, May 19, 2016

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.



Landis Communities invite you, along with other clergy and lay leaders from your congregation, to a breakfast planned for Thursday, May 19, 2016, at Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543.

The theme for the morning is: **Pastoral Care for Seniors Experiencing Mental Illness and Dementia**. Input will come from a number of experts in the field as well as time for questions and conversation.

Mark your calendars now and registration will be coming soon. Questions? Contact Larry Guengerich (717-381-3526) or LGuengerich@LandisCommunities.org



**ACC Currents** accepts advertising from ACC members and Anabaptist-related organizations at these rates:

2" x2" size = \$50.00

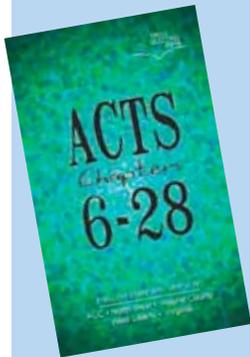
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Camera-ready artwork should be sent to [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net) along with your name and address so that an invoice can be mailed.

# ACC QUIZZING

## BIBLE QUIZZING 2016



**Another** year of ACC Bible Quizzing is quickly coming to an end. This year we had 56 teams from 23 churches competing each Sunday evening from mid-January through early March.

After the regular season, teams competed in a round-robin tournament to determine the best team from the ACC leagues. On March 17, all 56 teams traveled to Kidron, Ohio, to compete against four other area leagues from Ohio and Virginia for a weekend-long tournament.

Each week teams of four to six youth study 100 verses of text. This year's text came from Acts 6-28. Each night of the eight-week regular season, teams quizzed two to three matches of 15 questions each from that week's text. In the tournaments, questions came from the entire text from the year.

Some quizzers participated for the fun social environment while others devoted every waking hour to studying to earn a coveted "top 50" spot. This year, quizzers enjoyed (they did not!) learning all the Greek towns that Paul visited,

and had to clarify whether they meant John the apostle, John the Baptist, or John Mark, plus whether the footnotes clarified the ninth hour as 3:00 p.m. They also spent a significant amount of time in scripture, not just learning the facts, but taking on the example of the early disciples like Stephen and Paul and the commitment with which they lived out their faith.

You did great, Quizzers!

~ Brook Musselman

### \$\$\$ CURRENCY CORNER \$\$\$

As you may know, the ACC fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. This is a busy time for the Property and Finance Committee as we continue to monitor our current year income and expense as well as prepare a budget for the coming year. Our instruction from the Executive Committee was to plan on a flat budget for the coming year. While our expenses for the current year are well within budget, our income is under budget, meaning we have a deficit of \$16,170.50 as of January 31. If your congregation has not yet made any contributions this year or if you are planning to make additional contributions, would you please consider doing so before June 30? Also, we are happy to accept contributions from individuals and other conference related ministries who wish to support our work.

We would really like to start off our new year with a positive balance in our general reserve fund. There are many exciting things happening within ACC and much to look forward to with our new staff in place. But we need your financial help to make things happen. Thank you.

- Ken Martin, ACC Treasurer  
Forest Hills Mennonite

April 16, 2016

### ACC Spring Assembly

Frazer Mennonite Church, Frazer, Pa.  
See last page of this Currents for more information, or contact Brook Musselman at 717-394-8107; atlanticcoastconference@gmail.com

## SPRING ASSEMBLY

Save this date



Steeple View Lofts



Adult Day Services



Children's Learning Center at Landis Homes

## CONFERENCE RELATED MINISTRIES

### Landis Communities

1001 E.  
Oregon Road  
Lititz, PA 17543

717-381-3500

Following  
God's call  
to creatively  
serve the  
diverse needs  
and interests  
of older adults  
by developing  
opportunities  
and  
collaborative  
relationships.

**The** Mission Statement of Landis Communities is straightforward. "Following God's call to creatively serve the diverse needs and interests of older adults by developing opportunities and collaborative relationships." That is more than an aspirational goal. We strive to embed this into all that we do. Our five guiding values shape us and are expressed in many tangible ways.

We are guided by **Joy**. We are nurturing an atmosphere which is positive, hopeful, and thankful, while delighting in serving others, fulfilling responsibilities and celebrating life. Recently this was made clear by some team members at **Landis Homes**. A couple was celebrating their anniversary, but each was living in different levels of care, due to their health needs. Team members helped one of the spouses plan a surprise for the other, leading to smiles and tears of joy.

**Compassion** is another of our guiding values. A recent call to **Landis at Home** exemplifies this well. The family of a client in a wheelchair called late in the week wondering if it would be possible for the person to be brought to a family reunion that weekend. Even though schedules were already set, the team found a driver and aide who were able to reschedule what they had planned and make it possible for this person to be with their family.

**Integrity** is critical to how we relate to all our clients and residents. That means following the myriad of rules and reporting requirements. In each of the last two years, **Welsh Mountain Home** has had zero deficiencies when surveyed by those watching how they care for residents. That is a great accomplishment and shows the high level of integrity we all strive to reach.

**Stewardship** of all we have been tasked with managing is also a guiding value. Across the organization, we are using and exploring technologies that are able to monitor and control energy consumption. From motion sensitive lights to geothermal heating and cooling, we actively seek out ways to carefully use resources and maximize their effectiveness.

**Community** comes in many forms across Landis Communities. At **Steeple View Lofts** in downtown Lancaster, the residents have formed a Resident's Council. Recently this group held a Progressive Dinner where residents were able to meet neighbors and interact as they moved from floor to floor enjoying the food and fellowship.

We are grateful for all the ways you are connected with Landis Communities. We look forward to continuing to live into our goal of "Enriching Lives throughout our comforting "live at home" services and "feel at home" communities." We welcome connecting with you at any time!



Mountain View Terrace

## Mennonite Home Communities

1520 Harrisburg  
Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601

717-393-1301

[www.mennonite  
home.org](http://www.mennonitehome.org)

A continuing care retirement community providing care to senior adults with a tradition of care spanning 100 years. Services include cottage and apartment residences, assisted living, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.



Left to right:  
**Leslie Weik**,  
Community Life  
Coordinator for  
Reed Run; **Kathy  
Markward**,  
Director of  
Community Life;  
**Cynthia Acosta-  
Torres**, Community  
Life Coordinator  
for Meadow Run;  
**Emily Chronister**,  
Community Life  
Coordinator for  
Swarr Run; with  
residents **Bill and  
Leona Anderson**  
and **Dorothy Berrier**.

## Mennonite Home Communities Introduces Music and Memory (SM) Program

**Mennonite** Home Communities is proud to offer the MUSIC & MEMORY(SM) program to residents in our households in healthcare. As a certified provider, Mennonite Home Communities joins a handful of other local organizations who participate.

MUSIC & MEMORY is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of older adults through digital music technology, vastly improving their quality of life. Mennonite Home team members are trained in how to create personalized playlists using iPods shuffles. Through the gift of music, those struggling with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other cognitive and physical challenges can reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories.

"With this program, we can provide for individuals who have enjoyed music throughout their lives," explains Kathy Markward, Director of Community Life at Mennonite Home. "They can listen to their favorite songs that are unique and significant to them as a person. As I have continued to learn more about dementia, it is amazing how

for many, an area of the brain can still recognize their favorite songs from the past, which is something the disease has not taken away."

The program started with about ten residents in healthcare households. Mennonite Home is still in the early stages of instituting this program and hopes to continue to grow it into the future. Staff use iPod shuffles to download playlists, often involving family members in the process. Residents keep the iPod shuffles for as long as they are able to use them and then they are re-used for other residents who could also benefit.

"Ideally we would like to have about 30 more iPod shuffles so we could serve even more of our residents," says Kathy Markward. Initially, the program organizers provided Mennonite Home with enough iPod shuffles to get started with the program in August 2015. However, as the program is taking off, more are needed.

New or used working iPod shuffles may be donated to Mennonite Home, 1520 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster PA 17601 to the attention of Kathy Markward. Individuals donating should provide their name and address to be sent a thank you and tax receipt.

## ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

**Black Rock Retreat**  
1345 Kirkwood Pike  
Quarryville, PA 17566  
Phone: 800-858-9299  
Fax: 717-786-6022  
info@blackrockretreat.com  
www.blackrockretreat.com  
Retreat facilities for churches and other Christian organizations, a summer camp program for youth, an outdoor education program for public & Christian schools, a challenge ropes course, and road scholar programs for seniors.

**Camp Deerpark, Inc.**  
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Westbrookville, NY 12785  
Phone: 845-754-8669  
Fax: 845-754-8217  
info@campdeerpark.org  
www.campdeerpark.org  
A ministry of the New York City Mennonite churches, founded in 1969. Mission is to empower youth to serve Christ in the city. Summer children's camps.

**Camp Hebron**  
957 Camp Hebron Road  
Halifax, PA 17032  
Phone: 800-864-7747  
Fax: 717-896-3391  
hebron@camphebron.org  
Web site: www.camphebron.org  
Changing lives since 1957, this camping and retreat ministry offers a variety of overnight camps and year-round events for all ages where people connect with God, nature, and each other.

**Choice Books PA**  
121 S. Main Street  
Manheim, PA 17545  
Phone: 717-665-3933  
Fax: 717-665-3059  
info@pa.choicebooks.org  
Web site: www.choicebooks.org

**Eastern Mennonite Missions**  
53 West Brandt Blvd.  
P.O. Box 458  
Salunga, PA 17538-0458  
Phone: 717-898-2251  
Fax: 717-898-8092  
info@emm.org  
www.emm.org  
Equips, sends and supports almost 200 workers in 39 countries, focusing particularly where the church is weak or nonexistent.

**Friendship Community**  
1149 East Oregon Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
Phone: 717-656-2466

Fax: 717-656-0459  
office@friendshipcommunity.net  
www.friendshipcommunity.net  
A non-profit, Christian ministry serving people with developmental disabilities. Since 1972, Friendship has offered residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services.

**Garden Spot Village**  
433 South Kinzer Avenue  
New Holland, PA 17557  
Phone: 717-355-6000  
Fax: 717-355-6006  
info@gardenspotvillage.org  
www.gardenspotvillage.org  
Carriage Homes, Cottages, Apartments, Assisted Living, Memory Support, Skilled Nursing Households, Adult Day Services, Garden Spot Village At Home, Center for Health.

**Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust**  
6133 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
gmht@meetinghouse.info  
www.meetinghouse.info  
Site of the first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America called "The Gateway of American Mennonitism," through which most North American Mennonites have symbolically passed.

**Harmonies Music Ministry**  
34 W. Eby Road  
Leola, PA 17540  
Phone: 717-656-2749  
office@harmonies.org  
www.harmonies.org  
Committed to creating new Christian music resources for the church worldwide through performance, resource development, leadership training, and product creation.

**Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation**  
2160 Lincoln Highway East #13  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
Phone: 717-669-2957  
Kairos@on-the-journey.org  
www.on-the-journey.org  
Provides programs in spiritual formation and spiritual direction from September to May in weekend retreats. Other opportunities include day retreats and experiential prayer sessions in congregational settings.

**Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society**  
2215 Millstream Road  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
Phone: 717-393-9745  
Fax: 717-393-8751  
lmhs@lmhs.org  
www.lmhs.org  
Educates, inspires, and promotes the history, beliefs, and lifestyle of the Mennonite expression of the Anabaptist tradition. Offers educational programs and a library/archives, bookstore, and museum.

**Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS)**  
2176 Lincoln Highway East  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
Phone: (717) 299-0436  
Fax: (717) 509-4088  
thomasjr@lancastermennonite.org  
www.lancastermennonite.org  
Serves over 1,500 students at:  
• Hershey Campus, K-12  
• Kraybill Campus, PreK-8  
• Lancaster Campus, 6-12  
• Locust Grove Campus, PreK-6  
• New Danville Campus, PreK-5

**Landis Communities**  
1001 E. Oregon Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
Phones: 717-381-3500  
Fax: 717-569-5203  
info@landishomes.org  
www.landiscommunities.org  
Following God's call to creatively serve the diverse needs and interests of older adults by developing opportunities and collaborative relationships.

**Laurelville Mennonite Church Center**  
941 Laurelville Lane  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
Phone: 800-839-1021  
info@laurelville.org  
www.laurelville.org  
Conference center specializing in retreat services and innovative programming.

**Mennonite Home Communities**  
1520 Harrisburg Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-393-1301  
Fax: 717-509-2823  
mhash@mennonitehome.org  
www.mennonitehome.org  
A continuing care retirement community (CCRC) providing care to senior adults with a tradition of care spanning 100 years. Services include cottage and apartment residences, assisted living, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.

**New Person Ministries**  
PO Box 223  
Reading, PA 19607  
Phone: 610-777-2222  
info@newperson.org  
www.newpersonministries.org  
Helps ex-offenders build new lives and provides community reentry services.

**No Longer Alone Ministries**  
630 Janet Ave.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-390-4891  
office@nlam.org  
Inspired by Christ's love, No Longer Alone Ministries provides professional services that build hope and empower individuals and families experiencing mental illness.

**Reservoir Hill House of Peace**  
2401 Eutaw Place  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
An outreach ministry of the North Baltimore Mennonite Church that includes a Brethren Voluntary Service unit, Asylum Seekers Housing Network, New Lens, as well as housing for residents committed to the mission of RHHP.

**Tabor Community Services**  
308 East King Street,  
PO Box 1676  
Lancaster, PA 17608-1676  
Phone: 717-397-5182  
info@tabornet.org  
www.tabor.net  
Celebrating 45 years of rebuilding lives and community by teaching skills to solve housing and financial problems.

**Tel Hai Retirement Community**  
1200 Tel Hai Circle  
P.O. Box 190  
Honey Brook, PA 19344  
Phone: 610-273-9333  
Fax: 610-273-4141  
info@telhai.org  
www.telhai.org  
Tel Hai is a nationally accredited, nonprofit provider of services for senior adults. For over 60 years, they have provided health care, housing, and services to enhance residents' quality of life in cottage and apartment residences, personal care, Adult Day Services, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.

**The City School (formerly Philadelphia Mennonite H.S.)**  
860 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1996  
Phone: 215-769-5363  
office@pmhsonline.org  
http://cityschool.org/  
Founded in 1997 for grades 9-12 interested in pursuing college.

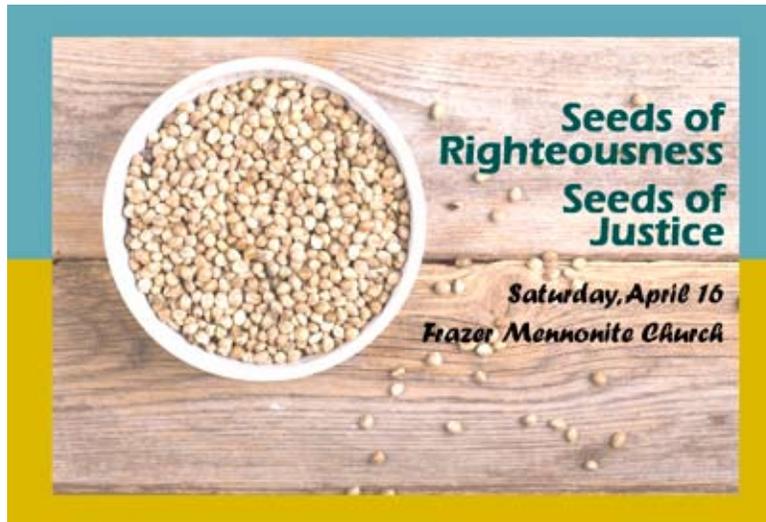
## SPRING ASSEMBLY

Frazer  
Mennonite  
Church



Rev. Alex Awad

“He who  
supplies seed  
to the sower  
and bread  
for food  
will supply  
and multiply  
your seed  
for sowing  
and  
increase  
the harvest  
of your  
righteousness.”



**At** the Mennonite Church USA convention last summer, a resolution entitled “A Statement of Support for our Palestinian and Israeli Partners in Peacemaking” was passed that named three actions to undertake as a church body before the next meeting in 2017.

As a symbol of support for the denomination and to bring about discussion regarding our part in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, we will spend time at our upcoming delegate meeting on these three prescribed actions.

**1)** The first action is to understand more fully the social, economic, and political context in which our partners and the people of that region live, work, and play. To share this, we have invited Rev. Alex Awad, pastor in East Jerusalem and professor, dean of students, and board member of Bethlehem Bible College. As a young man, Rev. Awad was impacted by the death of his father in the 1948 hostilities and by the Christian example of his mother. He says of the time, “As a young boy, I was proud of being a Christian in a school where 95% of the boys came from Muslim families. The teachings of our Lord Jesus influenced my life early on, and I became consumed with the desire to see my fellow Palestinians share the *faith* and *hope* that brought so much comfort to my family and me in our sufferings. I began praying for God to send missionaries to my people, and God’s answer was simple: “Why don’t you go?” Rev. Awad will share with us about the Christian communities in Palestine/Israel, his experience with the conflict, and the signs of hope that he sees in the region.

**2)** The second action is to reflect on our own theological and political understandings of the land of Israel-Palestine. This aspect of the resolution was added largely because of the message of the

“Kairos Palestine” document, which was written by Palestinian Christian leaders to Christians in the West pleading for our attention, compassion, and help, in addition to our prayers. They ask that we examine positions we may hold that “support certain unjust political options with regard to the Palestinian people.” For this discussion, we will use a new Bible study / study guide released by the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network (MennoPIN). This guide will help us examine the conflict with Jesus’ “pro-people” approach where all people are loved and cared for and violence by each side is denounced.

**3)** The third action is to discern ways we can seek a more just future for all peoples of Israel and Palestine. Numerous individuals from our conference have visited the Holy Land and seen the conflict firsthand. Some of our congregations and denominational agencies are involved in meaningful ministries in the area. Each of our lives connects to this conflict in some way. We want to hear stories of how God is moving in the area, how we can support the Christians living and doing ministry amidst the struggle, and how we can both pray and act for the peace of the region.

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul praises the Corinthian Church for its willingness to support the believers in Jerusalem. He says, “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” During our day together, we will explore our own understandings of the world and our theology as well as ways to support the Church in Israel/Palestine. Come and join us on April 16 at Frazer Mennonite Church. ~Brook Musselman