

Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Attendees at North Baltimore Mennonite Church on a Sunday morning.

North Baltimore Celebrates 25 Years

HIGHLIGHTS



4 MCC—East Coast



6 Beyond Ourselves
Iraqi children



12 Ridgeview Mennonite Church

On the first Sunday of 2012, North Baltimore Mennonite Church celebrated 25 years since its first public meeting for worship. Well-wishers from across the country sent their greetings. A potluck meal and storytelling, complete with photos of early meetings, were enjoyed.

We were also privileged to have several friends back “home” who were present for the first service, in addition to the one current

member (Paul Schlitz) who has been with us since day one. Five people shared reflections from various chapters of the church’s life. Ruby Lehman, who together with her late husband Robert hosted the original Bible study group, offered reflections of the “home fellowship days.”

Dr. Don Martin reminisced about the early years of worship and growth. Kent Clemens helped us re-live our most painful chapter concerning the disappearance and death of Alicia Showalter, whose murder near Culpeper, Virginia, became national news. New member, Tom Harsha, challenged us to dream God’s dream for tomorrow’s NBMC.

The highlight of the day, however, was the sharing of our first pastor-couple Frank and Evelyn Nice. The Nices originally moved to Baltimore for Evelyn to complete a master’s degree in counseling at Loyola University, but

soon after their arrival, ACC invited them to lead the church planting effort. They served for ten years in Baltimore, building a strong core of worshipping people and a network of small groups—elements that are still central to the DNA of the congregation.

North Baltimore Church was one of the early congregations to be planted as part of “Vision ’95,” the church-wide drive to plant 500

churches in ten years. The success of “Vision ’95” was more modest than its goals, with 100 churches planted. Of those churches, about a third grew to maturity. North Baltimore’s ministry was one of the brighter lights of those efforts.

North Baltimore birthed a Mennonite

Voluntary Service unit, assisted in a city-wide homeless shelter ministry, began two Ten Thousand Villages stores and an Asylum Seekers ministry, and sent out numerous mission workers through the years.

As we begin our second 25 years, NBMC is a vibrant congregation of young families, young adults, and lots of youth and children. After plateauing for a few years, we are again growing, averaging about 100 on most Sundays. The fastest growing group in the church is adults between 22 and 30. NBMC is a fun place to be on Sunday mornings!



North Baltimore Mennonite Church

Lois Ann Mast
Editor

Lois Whisler
Contributing Editor

Keith Wilson
Contributing Editor

ISSN 0199-7440
published quarterly
by the Atlantic
Coast Conference,
2257 Old
Philadelphia Pike,
Lancaster, PA
17602; currents@
atlanticcoast
conference.net

Currents seeks to
inspire and inform
how God is working
in congregations and
related ministries
of Atlantic Coast
Conference of the
Mennonite Church
USA.

Contributions of
stories from congre-
gations, organiza-
tions, and photos
can be sent to:
Editor Lois Ann
Mast, 219 Mill
Road, Morgantown,
PA 19543-9516;
currents@atlantic
coastconference.net

All material for
publication in the
July-September 2012
CURRENTS
should reach the
editor by
June 10, 2012.

Atlantic Coast Conference

2257 Old
Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA
17602

1-717-394-8107
1-800-238-0126

office@atlantic
coastconference.net

ACC Moderator's Reflections



Harry Jarrett
Conference Moderator
Neffville Mennonite

There are many these days who are talking, writing, and preaching about Sabbath. About how we should *Cease, Rest, Embrace, and Feast* one day in seven. I am doing the same in my ministry. But what about the other six days in the week? What should we do with them? Well, the same passage that talks about Sabbath says that six days a week we are called by God to work worshipfully.

David W. Miller of Laity Leadership Institute was studying Biblical Hebrew in seminary when he discovered the Biblical understanding of work described in Exodus 20.

"As I was slogging through Hebrew vocabulary, I came across the word *avodah*. The root of that word is translated three ways in the Old Testament. Sometimes it is translated to mean 'work' as in a job; other times *avodah* is translated to mean 'worship' as in worshipping God; the third translation means 'service' as in serving others. That is what my whole calling is about: *avodah*," said Miller.

"Whether one is a secretary or a CEO, our work itself can be a form of honoring God, of worshipping God, and of serving neighbor. It combines the vertical and the horizontal. This concept has ignited me ever since," he said.

Another more well-known father of faith who thought a lot about how we are to spend our work week in worshipful ways is Brother Lawrence. He wrote the book *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

In the monastery, Brother Lawrence was assigned the full-time, lifelong job of dish duty! He decided to take this most mundane of tasks and turn it into the chance to go deep with God. Over the years he developed "a habitual, silent, secret conversation with God" to the result of a soul at rest who could joyfully proclaim, "there is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful, than that of a continual conversation with God." Remember, that joy is in the midst of washing dishes most of the day, every day! There is even one place in the book when he says that his times of experiencing God's presence while doing dishes were just as powerful as any worship service he would attend!

Most of us have jobs. Some are more mundane than others. Some of us get paid for our work while others of us are very busy

at "work" but do not receive a paycheck for our efforts. Regardless of what you consider to be your "work," God invites you to enter into your workweek in a way that acknowledges God's presence with you. God is there as much as God is with you on Sabbath. Somehow we need to begin to notice God's presence while we work.

How to practice:

1. Integrate faith and work through attention to personal virtue, business ethics, and to broader questions of social and economic justice.

2. Become a servant leader by serving greater societal purposes and needs. Discover that work is a calling. Put the employee, coworker, or family first, the company or extended family second, and the shareholders or friends third.

3. Openly practice your spirituality at work through interior disciplines, practices, and habits (e.g. prayer, meditation, contemplation) that provide comfort, healing, and strengthen the soul to handle the rigors of the workplace. People are watching you even if they are not joining you.

4. Express or communicate your faith tradition and worldview to others at work. This expression may manifest itself in word, deed, or attire and the goal may be to persuade others to join your faith tradition or adopt your worldview. Basically, live "out loud" who you are.

Soon we will gather together as a conference at our annual Spring Assembly. We will gather to *Cease, Rest, Embrace, and Feast*. We will reflect on how we are going about our work in the other "six days" as a conference. We will do this in the presence of God and one another. We will reflect on the work we have done, the work that we desire to do, and purposely plan together how we can do that work worshipfully so that God's healing and hope might be made known to those we meet.

Pastor Harry Jarrett writes about faith and spiritual practices at <http://treesofmamre.com>

Priorities and Church Planting

This past autumn, I was privileged to attend the ACC fall meeting and participate in a process of agreeing on four priorities for ACC conference life and witness. These priorities provide powerful testimony to the Spirit working among the churches, and their delegates, in creating a series of priorities that define and add value to the life and work of the ACC and our member congregations. Each of these priorities shapes my ministry of coordinating and encouraging new church development.

Defining and articulating unity in Christ, the first priority, is especially important for church planting. In the past, our temptation has been to assume that we all believed the same thing about the church and about Jesus. Today, in a postmodern, post-Christendom environment, church planting has to begin with unity in Christ. In other settings, I have talked about the difference between “planting institutions” and “planting gospel.” Beginning with the effort to define and articulate unity in Christ is an invitation to put things in the right order: Jesus → Mission → Church.

The second priority of the ACC, adequately resourcing pastors so that they can function effectively, is also central to the purposes of church planting. Resourcing pastors to spot missional leaders and to call out leaders to plant additional churches is a skill and an art. I would be very open to facilitating a pastor’s group within ACC that desired to develop skills in calling and equipping missional leaders.

It did not escape me that the third priority’s formulation: pursue, welcome, include, and utilize new groups as God brings them into conference kingdom work, generated some passionate discussion. Such a formulation could be interpreted as yet another attempt for the church to act imperially and attempt to control what the Spirit of God might be trying to do. My appreciation of this priority is to accept the possibility that God is at work among many

different peoples—different ethnicities, different cultures, different races, different classes, different ages—and that all of those differences can find a place in ACC. This priority invites us all to actively recruit new faces and new voices for kingdom work through the agency of ACC. Such active invitation (i.e., pursuit, welcome, inclusion, and utilization) will likely transform ACC in ways we cannot yet predict.

The final priority, to become more active participants of MCUSA, also has church planting implications. ACC cooperates with seven other MCUSA area conferences across the Atlantic Northeast in church planting—sharing best practices, encouraging each other, and sponsoring an annual training event. All eight area conferences work closely with MCUSA staff, and participate in ongoing dialogue together about our efforts.

The priorities of ACC all speak into how and why we do church planting. It is a gift for me to have the priorities to navigate by as I seek to serve ACC in developing more churches that are both missional and Anabaptist.

~ Jeff Wright, *Urban Expression North America/ACC New Church Development Coordinator; churchplanting@atlanticcoastconference.net; 888-777-4842*

ACC Leadership Transitions

Rachel E. Mast (Daniel), minister of youth and young adults, Conestoga Mennonite Church, Morgantown, Pa., approved for a license for specific ministry; license and installation service held on January 8, 2012.

Jared K. Stoltzfus (Liz), director of youth, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., approved for a license for specific ministry; licensing service held February 5, 2012, at which time Becky Degan, music and worship director, and Jared were licensed. Jared began service as youth director at Forest Hills on September 1, 2011.

~ Warren Tyson, *Executive Conference Minister Forest Hills Mennonite*



Jeff Wright

Planting Peace Churches

Sept. 21-22,
2012

Sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast Conferences of Mennonite Church USA, this event will be held at Washington Community Fellowship in Washington, D.C., for church planters, missional leaders, pastors, and interested persons. Web registration and more details coming on-line soon.



MCC East Coast
immigration
counselor
Sara Mateo-Deo
Elmont, N.Y.

*“You listen
to people’s
experiences,”
Mateo-Deo
said.
“Sometimes
you cry with
them, and
sometimes you
laugh with
them.”*

*“We are
called to
serve. We
are called to
bring peace
and spread
the name
of Jesus
around.”*

~ Grant Rissler

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in the East Coast

With the support of churches and individuals in the East Coast, including many from ACC, MCC continues its work of relief, development, and peace *in the name of Christ* here at home and in about 60 countries.

On January 1, Bruce Campbell-Janz of East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church began a three-year term as executive director of MCC East Coast. Campbell-Janz succeeds Ruth Keidel Clemens of ACC’s North Baltimore Mennonite Church, now serving as MCC U.S. program director.

Board chair Jim Shenk noted MCC East Coast’s commitment “to more fully engage our urban constituents in ways that help to unleash their gifts and resources.”

This was evident in a small storefront beside the First Haitian Church of the Brethren in Brooklyn, when one day each week MCC East Coast immigration counselors Sara Mateo-Deo and Sylvia Shirk supported Lutheran Social Services staff helping Haitians apply for Temporary Protective Status following the 2010 earthquake.

MCC East Coast supported Mateo-Deo, a member of Mennonite Evangelical Tabernacle in Queens, and Shirk, pastor of ACC’s Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship, in this work from spring 2010 to the present.

In late March, as part of MCC’s effort to discern God’s call in the 21st century, MCC officially adopted a new structure, concluding the revisioning and restructuring process known as New Wine/New Wineskins. The process successfully:

- developed a shared statement of vision (available at mcc.org/about/purpose)
- created a new structure that enables MCC to better accomplish its mission and maintain an equitable partnership between MCC Canada and MCC U.S.
- strengthened accountability to the Anabaptist denominations that own MCC (Canada, U.S.)
- clarified commitment to a global Anabaptist service vision through participation in the developing Global Anabaptist Service Network.

The headquarters of MCC U.S. remains in Akron, Pa., but as work was transferred from Akron to regional, Canadian, and international locations, 32 persons working in Akron lost their jobs. Amidst these changes, the core of MCC remains the same—as a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches MCC shares God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

~ Grant Rissler, MCC East Coast-Ephrata

CURRENCY CORNER

When talking to individuals at ACC churches in various settings, I am asked at times: “What does the Atlantic Coast Conference do for the churches?” Our Conference and its Ministers provide support and services that often go unnoticed. Listed here are a few:

- Provide support and counsel for our pastors.
- Make themselves available for conflict resolution.
- Give direction and counsel when congregations and pastors are in transition.
- Encourage and support new church plants. There were three new ones in 2011.
- Make scholarship study grants available to new pastors completing studies of Mennonite Anabaptist leadership courses to meet ordination requirements.
- Partner with member churches and organizations helping to finance outreach projects through Nickels for Neighbors.
- Authorize and review ministry credentials for pastors in the 35 churches that are in our conference.
- Support, encourage, and promote the youth Bible quizzing program conducted in the many of the Conference churches and the broader Mennonite Church.

Church life within the Conference and as it relates to the broader Mennonite Church USA would be less vibrant, aware, and connected to the world around us without these services.

Thank you for continued support through interest, prayers, and finances of the Conference ministers and staff who provide these important activities.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster

Living With *Diversity*

We live in a contentious era. This is most apparent on the political scene, at national, state and local levels. It is apparent also in the church. The poles are tugging at us to the point where we are concerned; will the center—beliefs that we hold in common—hold or will we shatter into oblivion?

Civilization is evolving and we are evolving with it, although we are uncertain what we are evolving into. We are even uncertain what we should hold onto and what we should let go. This much is certain—change is inevitable.

In our lifetime, the church has been confronted with such contentious issues as the definition and sanctity of marriage, the role of women in ministry, and the prayer veiling for women. Now member churches are wrestling with differences over Biblical interpretation, music, worship styles, and sexual issues. All this in a context where the time needed to adequately work through these issues is not available.

In short, we are re-defining what it means to be Anabaptist Christians in our time. We search the scriptures, and it is right that we should, but we do not all come to the same conclusions.

That is where the atmosphere gets contentious, and the deeper our convictions, the greater the contentions. Some are so troubled they choose to absent themselves only to be confronted with the same issues in the new setting—along with their inability to deal with polarities and contention constructively.

The answer is not to avoid our differences and wish they would go away. They will not! Should some disappear, new ones will surely replace them. Here are a few suggestions to help us maintain a sense of Christian community.

1) Let's stop demonizing and regarding persons who disagree with us as an enemy who needs to be destroyed. The best way to get rid of an enemy, we know, is to make him/her into a friend. The inverse is as true—stop making friends into enemies because they differ with us.

2) Let's stop regarding persons who disagree with us as opponents who are wrong and need

to be set straight, through church discipline if necessary. Live and let live. Let God and experience be the judge.

3) Let's stop ignoring, avoiding, or minimally tolerating persons who disagree with us. That is what destroys brother/sisterhood and sows discord within the congregation.

4) Let's stop assuming that all compromise is wrong. That is the attitude that leads to gridlock. It is far better to learn to arrive at solutions through collaboration and avoid the hurtful win/lose syndrome.

The quality of our fellowship is determined by our ability to sit in the same church bench, to participate in communion, and take a genuinely caring attitude toward a member who disagrees with us.

Hear Paul speaking to the Romans: "Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they say or do something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently." Romans 14:1 (*The Message*)

~ Edgar Stoesz, Akron Mennonite



Edgar Stoesz

"We are re-defining what it means to be Anabaptist Christians in our time."

~ Edgar Stoesz

Save the date!

From generation to generation

1962-2012

We tell of God's love and faithfulness

Ridgeview Mennonite Church
50th Anniversary

Sunday, June 10, 2012

9:00 a.m.
Stories of God's Work in
and through Ridgeview

10:30 a.m.
Celebrating God's Love & Faithfulness

12:00 noon
Amish Turkey Dinner

6:30 p.m.
Celebration of Music

You are part of God's story at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. Join in this 50th year anniversary celebration.

3723 Ridge Road, Gordonville, PA 17529
(717) 768-3143 <http://www.ridgeviewmennonite.net>

Watch for more details!

ACC Ladies . . . on May 5, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., serve at Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service at MCC Resource Center, Ephrata. Ages 11 to 99 are welcome. Go green and bring your own cup, bowl, and spoon along with a pint of chicken corn or vegetable soup to share with everyone.



Elizabeth Landis

Elizabeth Landis is the new LMS Assistant Principal for the Lancaster Campus beginning July 1, 2012. A LMS graduate, she received a Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies in 2002, followed by certification in Conflict Transformation with an emphasis in Restorative Justice in Education from Eastern Mennonite University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Leadership for Teaching and Learning through Millersville University and attends Blossom Hill Mennonite.

News, notes, and announcements may be sent to *Currents* editor, Lois Ann Mast 219 Mill Road Morgantown, PA 19543; or e-mailed to: currents@atlanticcoastconference.net

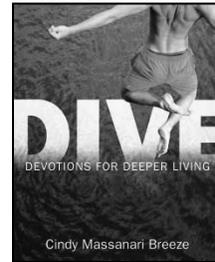
Beyond Ourselves, four Lancaster County professional musicians, are teaming up with Lancaster-based Voices of Cecilia to present their 5th benefit concert Saturday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church. The concert will benefit the Early Childhood Education Center in Erbil, Iraq, which Mennonite Central Committee supports through its Global Family program. The center, run by Iraq's Christian



Iraqi children

community, provides a nurturing environment where Muslim and Christian children explore music and art in addition to their regular class work. All monies raised through a free-will offering will go to Mennonite Central Committee. All of the musicians' rehearsals are on a volunteer basis as well.

Beyond Ourselves



DIVE: Devotions for Deeper Living by Cindy Massanari Breeze, looks at a variety of issues important to youth who want to grow in their relationship with God. Woven

through more than 100 meditations is the guarantee of God's unconditional love and acceptance, the assurance that each young person is a worthwhile creation, and the challenge to courageously grow in faith.

On the Way is a new online newsletter by Mennonite Church USA to start conversations about how the church is living out its vision and mission, with the goal that these conversations will help all parts of the church to learn from each other. The first issue in February 2012 contained a link to a video of Ervin Stutzman, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, explaining the vision for the newsletter which can be viewed at: www.mennoniteusa.org/on-the-way/ Issues will be released in both English and Spanish about every six weeks.

Service Adventure gives youth the opportunity to live in community with other young adults and a unit leader or couple while you learn more about what it means to serve God and each other. Visit Service.MennoniteMission.net for more information.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is designated for the month of April. Your congregation can be proactive in helping to prevent child abuse. Doves' Nest has developed several resources including a bulletin insert to empower and equip faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches and communities. Check: <http://dovesnest.net>.

Christian Formation Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 2012. This resource by MennoMedia and Mennonite Education Association is accessed at www.MennoniteEducation.org/Sunday. Resources from previous years and the 2012 resource are flexible and can be used on any Sunday.

The Anabaptists Were Right

California pastor Rick Warren and Anabaptist historian Abraham Friesen were the featured speakers at the third annual “Anabaptism and Contemporary Baptists Conference” held on the campus of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, on Jan. 30-31, 2012.

The conference, which drew more than 500 people, featured recent scholarship on the Radical Reformation by SWBTS graduate students and open reflection on the relevance of the Anabaptist movement for the South Baptist church today.

Warren, the well-known pastor of the Saddleback congregation and author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, was effusive in his praise for the impact of Anabaptist thought on his ministry. In 1981, after a year of working eighteen-hour days trying to establish a new congregation in the rapidly growing community of Lake Forest, Calif., Warren said he was exhausted and depressed.

Then, while on a retreat of prayer and fasting in the desert, he began to read the writings of the sixteenth-century Anabaptists.

“That encounter,” he told the gathering, “transformed my ministry. Almost everything we do at Saddleback we stole from the Anabaptists.”

“I have studied the Anabaptists all my life,” Warren said, “and I believe they were right. The roots of the global missions are not in the magisterial reformers; they are in the Radical Reformation.”

Warren went on to express deep appreciation for the Anabaptist influence on contemporary Baptist understandings of mission, discipleship, and ecclesiology.

In his welcome to the conference, Paige Patterson, president of the SWBTS and one of the architects of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1980s, echoed Warren’s words. “Baptists are indebted more to the radical reformers

than to the magisterial reformers,” he said.

In January 2010, Patterson inaugurated the first annual Radical Reformation Day at SWBTS, in commemoration of the original Anabaptist baptisms in Zurich on January 21, 1525.

In addition to presentations by Baptist scholars on various Anabaptist theologians such as Hans Denck, Michael Sattler, Leonard Schiemer, and especially Balthasar Hubmaier, Abraham Friesen, a Mennonite Brethren historian from Fresno, California, gave the major address for Mennonites.

In the conclusion of his address, Rick Warren admonished Baptist pastors assembled at the gathering, to “study the Anabaptists. They have more than you could possibly imagine. We have in these great saints and martyrs an understanding of what it means to be Christ-like that nobody else has understood so clearly.”

~ John D. Roth, Goshen College

“The roots of the global missions are not in the magisterial reformers; they are in the Radical Reformation.”

~ John D. Roth



Serving You at Home

Personal Care & Supportive Services

Landis at Home

717-509-5800

www.landisathome.org

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

2" x 2" size = \$50.00

3" x 3" size = \$75.00

4" x 4" size = \$100.00

Camera-ready artwork should be sent to mast@masthof.com along with your name and address so that an invoice can be mailed.

CONNECTIONS

Forward births, marriages, and deaths to:

Lois Ann Mast
219 Mill Road
Morgantown, PA
19543
currents@atlantic
coastconference.net

EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

Currents Editor
Lois Ann Mast
219 Mill Road
Morgantown,
PA 19543

or e-mailed to:
currents@
atlanticcoast
conference.net

Development Director at Camp Hebron

Camp Hebron has an immediate opening for Development Director. Primary responsibility for developing and nurturing relationships with those who love and support Camp's life-changing ministry. Half-time salaried position. For more information or to apply, go to www.camphebron.org or contact Lanny Millette, Executive Director (millette@camphebron.org; 717-896-3441 x102).

Births

Christopher Evan Barnes born Dec. 27, 2011, twin son of Thad and Char Barnes (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Patrick James Barnes born Dec. 27, 2011, twin son of Thad and Char Barnes (Maple Grove Mennonite).

April 20-22, 2012
**North Baltimore
Mennonite Church
25th Anniversary**
410-467-8947

April 21, 2012
**ACC Spring
Assembly Celebration
and Vision Dinner**
Ridgeview Mennonite
9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Register at ACC's web-
site or call Keith Wilson
at 800-238-0126.

April 25, 2012
LMS Golf Tournament
717-299-0436, ext. 706
www.lancastermennonite.org

April 26-28, 2012
LMS Musical

Marriage

Chad Steller (Neffsville Mennonite) married **Janine Del Tufo** on February 18, 2012.

Deaths

Mary Ellen Newcomer, 70 (Neffsville Mennonite) died on Feb. 25, 2012, wife of James L. Newcomer. She was the dau. of the late Walter H. and Myrtle Penn Aschendorf.

Ellen R. Ranck, 79 (Sandy Hill Community) died on Feb. 16, 2012, wife of Floyd H. Ranck. She was the dau. of the late Aaron L. and Elva R. (Kauffman) Engel.

Catherine Taylor, 95 (Conestoga Mennonite) died on November 4, 2011. She was the widow of Glenn Taylor.

Thomas S. Yoder, 91 (Zion Mennonite) died on January 31, 2012, husband of Fannie Y. (Kurtz) Yoder. He was the son of the late John H. and Anna (Stoltzfus) Yoder.

"The King and I"
299-0436, ext. 340
www.lancastermennonite.org

April 29, 2012
"Consider the Lilies"
Hour-long passion play
Garden Spot Village
Chapel
7:00 p.m.
717-355-6000

May 14, 2012
LMS Spring Concert
7:00 p.m.
717-299-0436, ext. 343

May 17, 2012
**Clergy Breakfast at
Landis Homes**
"Memory Loss and
Dementia" panel
West View Community
Room, Landis Homes
Lititz, Pa.
7:30-9:00 a.m.
R.S.V.P. by May 4 to
ggingrich@landishomes.org, or call
717-381-3510

June 2, 2012
Pedal to Preserve
Bicycle event to benefit

Lancaster Farmlands Trust
Garden Spot Village
Six-, 20-, and 51-mile
Register (\$30) at
www.active.com
717-687-8484

June 10, 2012
**Ridgeview Mennonite
50th Anniversary**
717-768-3143

September 21-22, 2012
Planting Peace Churches
Washington
Community Fellowship

CAMP HEBRON
CONNECT! with God, Nature & Each Other.

**KIDS HAVE A BLAST WHILE
ENCOUNTERING GOD IN HIS CREATION,**



**GRADES
1-12**

**FAMILIES
TOO!**

INVEST IN YOUR CHILD'S SPIRITUAL LIFE,

WWW.CAMPHEBRON.ORG

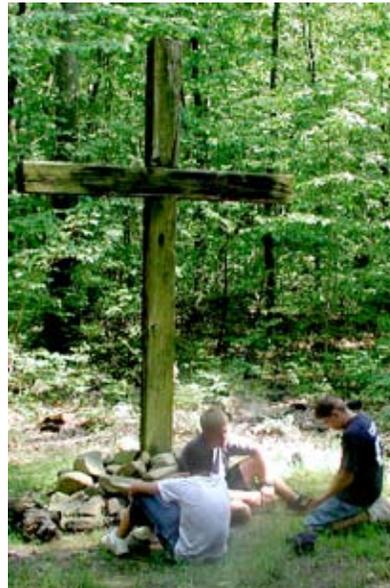
Changed for Eternity

Most of us can remember a specific time and place where the reality of God’s wonderful, loving gift became real to us. For many this time and place occurs in a camp environment. Dean Sauder, a teacher at Lancaster Mennonite High School, told us that he has each of his students write a spiritual journey paper. He noted that the Christian camp was frequently the place where youth made decisions for Jesus, second only to parents/family as the primary spiritual influence.

In the early days of Camp Hebron, the focus was on urban ministry. A few years ago I spoke with a man who, with tears in his eyes, described the night around the campfire when God’s love was shared and God tugged at his heart. That night his life was changed and he found a focus that helped him to rise out of a difficult life and offer something back to others. He eventually became a camp counselor himself and serves the church in various ways even today.

Another individual described the life-changing impact that a summer staff role had for him as he learned how to serve. Today he is president of a Christian university and a proponent of camping ministry both as an evangelistic tool for the church and also as a training ground for the leaders of tomorrow.

This past summer, I witnessed a profound change as a young teenage girl came with her family to Family Camp. I was aware that her parents were ready to sign the paperwork for their divorce and the family was in turmoil. Not surprisingly, she was acting out and placing herself in difficult and compromising situations. This forced her parents to work together, although it also increased the tension for



all. The parents were so frustrated that they were preparing to leave Camp on the second day. That night an older teen took this young lady under her wing and began to minister to her deeper needs. In the course of their conversation, she made a life-changing commitment to follow Christ and seek a life of purity until marriage. Her parents were dumbfounded when she told them she needed a new wardrobe since most of what she had was not God-honoring. She spent the rest of the week seeking discipleship and was so spiritually hungry that she returned for another week of youth camp at Camp Hebron.

It strikes me that our high-tech, whirlwind culture seems to want to pull our children and youth away from the Christian camp and place the emphasis on things like sports, achievement and travel. The next generation needs to meet God in a new and powerful way. Camp Hebron is a place of connection—with God, with nature, and with each other. We need to encourage them to take the time away and listen for His voice. When He changes a life, it is changed for eternity, and that is no small thing.

~ Lanny Millette



Camp
 Hebron

957 Camp
 Hebron Road

Halifax, PA
 17032

800-864-7747

www.camp
 hebron.org

*“God is at
 work on this
 holy ground
 calling His
 children to
 Himself.”*

~ Lanny Millette

Landis Communities

1001 East
Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543

717-569-3271
717-581-3935

www.landiscommunities.org

“The adding of the Landis Communities structure more fully reflects our ongoing and new efforts. It gives guidance and leadership to Landis Homes and all other existing and planned individual entities. It is in keeping with the board’s mandate to provide care to people across a larger spectrum of health needs and financial resources.”

*~ John Eby
Board Chair*



Updated residential living entrance and dining areas now offer new dining venues, improved pedestrian traffic flow and upgraded interior finishes.

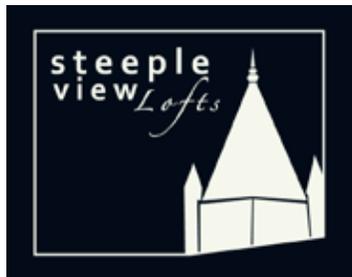


Landis Homes will begin taking reservations for the next phase of Residential Living Expansion this Spring. In line with our Strategic Plan, we have nearly filled the existing new construction before moving on to the next phase. Additional Hybrid Homes and Cottages are also scheduled. If you would like more information or a tour, please contact us.

~ Larry Guengerich, Director of Communications and Church Relations



A view from Steeple View Lofts for persons age 55 and over in the heart of downtown Lancaster, Pa., planned by Landis Communities. With no advance fee, these apartments will be strictly a monthly rental with access to Landis at Home if desired. In the classic warehouse style, these lofts will have high ceilings, large windows, and exposed brick, and will be a fantastic place to live. In addition to the apartments, the first floor will serve as retail space for rent. We see Steeple View Lofts as a continued part of our stewardship of resources by changing a space that is not being used into an exciting place to live and work in Lancaster city.



“Our mission remains to serve aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching their lives in communities of Christ-like love. That will not change. Our guiding values of JOY, COMPASSION, INTEGRITY, STEWARDSHIP, and COMMUNITY will not only stay in place for Landis Homes but will guide all our efforts.”

*~ Larry Zook
President and CEO*

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 use by churches and other Christian organizations, a Summer Camp program for youth, an Outdoor Education program for Public & Christian schools, a Challenge Ropes Course, Road Scholar programs for seniors.

Camp Deerpark, Inc.

200 Brandt Road, P.O. Box 394
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
E-mail: 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 more than 200 workers in 40 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 offers residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services.

Garden Spot Village

433 S. Kinzer Ave.,
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.
Germantown, 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 Area Council of Mennonite Schools (LACMS)

2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 299-0436
Geographical organization of elementary and secondary schools whose administrators work to strengthen the Mennonite expression of Christian faith in the schools and who meet regularly to inspire and resource one another.

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:

- Kraybill Campus, PreK-8
- Lancaster Campus, 6-12
- Locust Grove Campus, PreK-8
- New Danville Campus, PreK-5

Landis Homes

1001 E. Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
Phones: 717-569-3271
717-581-3935
Fax: 717-569-5203
info@landishomes.org
www.landiscommunities.org
Serves aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching them in a Christ-like community. Residential living, assisted living, healthcare, rehab, adult day care services, special care for persons with memory loss, at-home care, and child day care.

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

941 Laurelville Lane
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone: 800-839-1021
John@laurelville.org
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.

No Longer Alone Ministries

630 Janet Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: 717-390-4891
Fax: 717-390-4894
blong@nlam.org
www.nlam.org
No Longer Alone Ministries provides supportive, caring services for individuals and families experiencing significant mental illness, as an expression of Christ's love.

Philadelphia Mennonite High School

860 North 24th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1996
Phone: 215-769-5363
office@pmhsonline.org
http://pmhsonline.org
Founded in 1997 for grades 9-12 interested in pursuing college.

Reservoir Hill House of Peace

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

Tel Hai Retirement Community

1200 Tel Hai Circle, P.O. Box 190
Honey Brook, PA 19344
Phone: 610-273-9333
Fax: 610-273-4141
jswartz@telhai.org
www.telhai.org
Tel Hai is a nationally accredited, nonprofit provider of services for senior adults. For over 50 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.



ACC's Spring Assembly at Ridgeview Mennonite

Part of ACC's Spring Assembly will include an evening Vision Dinner with speakers Jason and Vonetta Storbakken from Radical Living Community in Brooklyn, N.Y. Radical Living (some of the members are pictured on the left) is a cohousing community, a multicultural, intergenerational and ecumenical community of artists, workers and students that includes singles and families. The several households are located within a one-block radius of each other, and function as one community with a couple dozen members.

"In essence we are dedicated to living a meditative, prophetic, and prayerful life, centered in Christ, engaged in our neighborhood, concerned with social justice, and led by the Holy Spirit."

- Jason Storbakken

ACC's Spring Assembly and Vision Dinner for 2012 is combined this year with both held at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, 3723 Ridge Road, Gordonville, Pa. The Assembly will begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration opening at 8:30 a.m. Please register for both the Assembly and the Vision Dinner (no charge) by going on-line at www.atlanticcoastconference.net or by calling Keith Wilson at 1-800-238-0126.

Everyone is invited to attend this full day of worship, discernment, and resourcing. If you cannot attend, you can register on-line as a Digital Delegate which provides an online opportunity to participate in the activities of the Assembly without being physically present. Watch the video feed of the day and have

conversation via an online chat room. Check out <http://acc.digitaldelegate.net/>

Additional fellowship, inspiration, music, and a fabulous dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Vision Dinner. Jason Storbakken, pastor and church planter of Radical Living Community in Brooklyn, NY, and his wife Vonetta will share following the dinner with the evening concluding at 7:30 p.m. Funds raised will nourish the church planting vision of Atlantic Coast Conference. Jeff Wright, ACC New Church Development Coordinator, relates to at least five ACC church planters as well as three existing churches developing a church planting vision or going through redevelopment themselves.



Photo credits: Dale D. Gehman.

ACC Bible Quiz Winners

Forty-four youth teams from ACC and other surrounding conferences studied, memorized, and quizzed from the book of John the past few months. Above are the 2012 winners, left to right: Gehmans 1 (left) won first place and Petra 3 (right) won second place. Good job!!!

