



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Participants in Susan Beaumont's class at ACC's Fall Assembly in October at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church.

Stories of Resilience

HIGHLIGHTS



1 Stories ... Resilience



5 César Garcia (right), new General Secretary of Mennonite World Conf.



8 Phoenix, Ariz., skyline

When I arrived at the Mennonite Women Dinner on October 21 and chose a seat beside someone I did not know, it was pleasant to immediately recognize that it was someone I did have an acquaintance with from a prior gathering. As time went on, the friendly women around me increased my knowledge of their worlds. Since much of our lives are similar to others' challenges, it certainly is comforting to know we are not alone.

This chatting with the neighbor next to you, or across the table, opened up more ways to learn about each other's families and lives. They were very friendly ladies from churches I have heard about—but never visited.

Two violinists serenaded us as we awaited a tasty fall dinner. Singing hymns together as women was delightful, and the quartet of twin sisters warmed our hearts and made us smile.

Then, Joy Sawatzky's stories began ... stories, all true, from around the globe—stories of resilience. As Joy donned a brightly colored scarf, a different one for each story, we went with her to the 1800s, and to Africa where stories of resilience abounded, strengthening and empowering women with the ability to provide for their families. On to a story of a mother and daughter exchanging a big yellow shirt back and forth for many



Joy Sawatzky shared stories using different colored scarves at the Mennonite Women dinner on October 21, 2011. Credit: Marie Snavely, Blossom Hill Mennonite Church.

years, hidden in places to be found in each others' homes, but without exchanging words about it! "It does not take eloquence to let others know they are loved."

Joy's story of her own life struck me the most ... I could relate to the visual of the stacking dolls ... from the tallest doll to the smallest figure doll (without any features.)

As she opened the largest doll, she described herself as:

- ... The competent professional
- ... The good enough mom
- ... The appropriate wife
- ... The smart-enough student
- ... The spiritual-enough Christian
- ... The teen who fit in

(continued on page 3)

Currents

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Julie Dunst (Zion Mennonite), member of ACC Executive Committee, shared this devotional in an Executive Committee meeting.

How “Mennonite” Are We?

As we reflect on the birth of Christ, we see both the unlikely and the unimaginable happening.

What would we do with an unmarried young woman pregnant, not by accident, but by God’s design, giving birth in a lowly manger?

How do we reconcile that the “good news” was proclaimed to shepherds in a field instead of to the leaders in the temple?

What do we learn from Jesus’ ignoble birth, and what does it say about who we are and how we “do church”?

From the time of the annunciation to the crucifixion, Jesus revealed himself to people being themselves, just where they were, often without fanfare or ceremony. He still does today. How, then, are we to emulate His posture?

Throughout the centuries, the church has struggled with this. What do we do with those who appear beneath us, or not like us? Who do we let in? How far do we let them in? Do they need to become like us? Where do we draw the line?

As 2011 draws to a close, Atlantic Coast Conference and congregations find ourselves

Quizzing 2012!

As we begin a new year filled with hopes, dreams, and wishes, many of our youth begin to anticipate a new season surrounding the activities of quizzing!

This year our material for study will be found in the Gospel of *John*. Our youth will read, digest, and learn the smallest of details found in these chapters as they gather weekly to prepare for the Sunday evening events. We pray that the words from the page will influence their thoughts, choices, and change their lives!

We are grateful for the continued dedicated leadership given by Fred and Chris Hertzler.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

asking these same questions?

How “Mennonite” are we? How “Mennonite” should we be? What do we do with those in leadership dealing with gender issues? Who is asking to be released, who is asking to join and why?”

While these are valid questions, let’s bring ourselves back to that manger. Jesus born in such a way that everyone can approach him—even the animals. There was none lower. Each person today can also approach the Christ child regardless of their station in life. The message was clear to the shepherds, tidings of exceeding great joy without a need to fear.

How do we bring this message of hope and faith out of the temples and into the field?

Our mission today is to spread the message about hope, faith, and exceeding great joy to all. May it be so today and as we journey into 2012.



Fred and Chris Hertzler

Their organizational skills have been foundational to the success of this activity. In addition, the many staff who faithfully serve each week

(continued on page 3)



Violinists Erin Kauffman and Janelle Preheim playing a prelude.
Credit: Marie Snavely, Blossom Hill Mennonite.

Stories of Resilience

(continued from page 1)

- ... The obedient daughter
- ... The cooperative child

All of these descriptions were when she was trying to work hard

to please God in a special way. Finally she realized God loved her without any expectations, which she compared to the smallest doll, with no features.

... The beloved *daughter* who God loved from the first song .. without any expectations ...

Then in putting the dolls back together again, she named the real parts of herself that God loved ... from the smallest figure back to the tallest.

She was Broken.

She was Blessed.

She was Called.

She was Creative.

She was Gifted.

She was Passionate.

She was Seeking.

She was Sought by God.

Her stories were a *gift* to me.

~ Christine Shenk, Hope Community Church of Fleetwood

Quizzing 2012 (continued from page 2)

have a profound influence on the experience of our teenagers. The majority of our staff are persons who recognize the benefits of their own experience and now desire to provide a positive atmosphere for youth today. We feel blessed when considering how the quizzing experience continues to regenerate the needed persons to fill our staff positions.

Our teams represent the congregations from Atlantic Coast and Lancaster Conference, plus a few other churches from our region. Certainly, an aspect of quizzing that has intrigue is the formed relationships and the community that is realized as youth and adults gather weekly. There is a rhythm to the experience that is helpful to the building of life-long relationships. A strong sense of community is one of our values and many have developed strong relationships through the quizzing experience!

This year, our youth will be experiencing the stories of Jesus' life, his thought, purpose, and desires for all humanity. We pray that they catch a glimpse of what God has for them and the value of their lives, individually and in community. May we sense God with us as we gather and may we all be changed through the study and learning's of the scriptures from the book of John!

~ Merv R. Stoltzfus, Ridgeview Mennonite

GOD AT WORK

First Quiz

January 22
at
Lancaster
Mennonite
High
at 6:30 p.m.

Quiz Coaches
will meet on
January 17 at
Hinkletown
Mennonite
Church
at 7:00 p.m.

Check out
accquizzing.org
for 2012 schedule.



MONIQUA ACOSTA

Lancaster Mennonite School
Class of 1994

**LMS WAS A DEFINING
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR
MONIQUA ACOSTA.**

She says, "At my former school, I was just getting by with the bare minimum and not applying myself to my full potential. At LMS, something clicked. I was intrigued by the delight the teachers had to teach their subjects and to teach me as a person. A seed was planted for learning and sharing with others."

"I am truly BLESSED that the SEED planted in my soul at LMS continues to BLOSSOM."



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FEB. 6
6-8:30 P.M.
All Grades

Mission Festival Joins Crop Walk



Rev. Dr.
Craig Goodwin

The annual Mission Festival for Akron Mennonite Church was held in partnership with Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS) and the Akron/Ephrata Hunger Crop Walk on October 15-16, 2011.

The Festival began with a community meal on Saturday evening at the Ephrata Recreation Center. Approximately 160 people from various congregations including Akron Mennonite, Ephrata Church of the Brethren, and Zion Lutheran in Akron, and staff and board members of EASS attended the dinner on Saturday night.

EASS was recognized for 40 years of service to the community and Akron/Ephrata Crop Walk for 35 years of participating in the annual Crop Walk.

Rev. Dr. Craig Goodwin, a Presbyterian pastor from Spokane, Wash., spoke on the theme of Food, Faith, and Hunger. In 2008 Pastor Goodwin and his family embarked on a year-long experiment to consume only what was local, used, homegrown, or homemade. Goodwin shares this story of how his family stumbled onto the cultural cutting edge of locavores, backyard chickens, farmers' markets, simple living, and going green in his 2011 book, *Year of Plenty*.

Having a meal in a recreation center rather than in a church opened the opportunity for an ecumenical event which included a broad spectrum of the community.

Tom Swalwell, Director of EASS, shared a video showing how the social service agency has provided food, clothing, furniture, Meals on Wheels, help with tax

preparation and other services over the last 40 years.

Delores Neuber (Ephrata Church of the Brethren) shared a video on how Crop Walk works to help alleviate hunger locally and around the world.

Matt Lenahan (Pastor of Zion Lutheran church in Akron) introduced a new program called Power Paks. Local children who qualify for free school lunches also benefit from the Power Paks program, which provides food on weekends.

Reverend Craig Goodwin preached the sermon at Akron Church on Sunday morning and after lunch, 121 walkers from the Akron/Ephrata community participated in the Crop Walk.

We were all blessed by connecting with a broad spectrum of our community.

~ Bob Wyble, Akron Mennonite

CURRENCY CORNER

Most, if not all, of us are aware of the high costs related to medical care these days. For many, if they can afford the costs at all, it has become one of the larger items in the family budget. The Corinthian Plan designed and put into operation by Mennonite Church USA through Everence provides affordable health care for pastors and their families in many of the smaller congregations across the church. For this plan to work, larger churches, conference organizations, and church leadership offices need to buy health care coverage through the Corinthian Plan.

Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) buys health care coverage for its employees through the Corinthian Plan. We feel this is a good investment since at least three pastors and their families, in smaller congregations within the 35 churches making up ACC, are able to have health care coverage in this plan that they otherwise could not afford.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer
Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster



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Nickels for Neighbors for Camp and Nursery School

This year Nickels for Neighbors raised \$4,698.35. The first \$4,000 will go to Camp Hebron for scholarships for summer camp. This will make it possible for kids who could otherwise not afford summer camp, to enjoy a week at Camp Hebron. It also means these kids will hear about Jesus and spend a week with counselors and staffers who will live out Christianity showing them the love of Christ. Please pray for the campers who will receive scholarships this summer.

The remaining Nickels for Neighbors money was intended to be divided between Camp Deerpark (in need of a new bus) and The Training Station Preschool at Crossway Church in Ocean City, Md. (in need of new windows).

However, it turns out that Camp Deerpark's need for a bus is an all-or-nothing situation. They need to either buy a new vehicle now or else repair the old one.

Because of this, Ken Bontrager of Camp Deerpark has graciously requested that all remaining money go to The Training Station. So \$698.35 is headed to Ocean City.

Our total giving was down this year compared to previous years. This money always goes to worthy causes, and we like the idea of our children involved in giving and in seeing our churches come together to meet a goal. Next year we will attempt to publicize Nickels for Neighbors a little better and see if the giving can increase.

~ Bob Murr, Bethel Mennonite

Women and Preschool Assembly

The 34th Annual Women and Preschool Assembly was held on October 18, 2011, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church with 29 women attending. Keynote speakers, Eugene and Nancy Forrey, presented helpful advice on healthy communications between ourselves and those around us. There are many ways people communicate and as Christians, we should aim to respond to each other in ways that reflect God's love.

Rita Richards also shared in a workshop about ways to lead a balanced life for today's busy women. She provided practical advice,

helpful as we keep up with society's fast pace.

Along with the speakers, Pamela Armstrong-Pautz, director of Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services, shared about the organization and the many ways in which they are helping to meet the needs of those in the surrounding community. An offering was taken to benefit this much needed program.

The day also provided the attendees a chance to share ideas over a delicious lunch. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the event!

~ Kori Jantzen, Forest Hills Mennonite

Mennonite World Conference New Leader Visits Pennsylvania

For the first time in history, a leader from the global South is now the General Secretary of the Mennonite World Conference (MWC), effective January 1, 2012. Replacing Larry Miller, César García of Bogotá, Columbia, will visit Mennonite churches in the U.S during the month of January 2012.

On Wednesday evening, January 25, at 7:00 p.m., César García will speak at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa. The next morning, he will speak in chapel at Lancaster Mennonite School.

"I am excited about the possibility of serving in the leadership of MWC with the purpose of praying, thinking, and acting as part of Christ's global church," García said, following his acceptance of the call. "God is glorified when the multicultural interdependency of his church is evidenced in our way of doing theology, practicing ecclesiology, and bearing Christian witness in the world."



César García with his two daughters, Paula and Maria, and wife Sandra (right).

ACC YOUTH

Put this date
on your
calendar!

2012
Fall Youth
Retreat

September
14-16, 2012

at
Refreshing
Mountain
Camp,
Stevens, Pa.

Resource
Speaker:
Michele
Hershberger
from
Hesston College

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

Beginning with this issue, **CURRENTS** will be published quarterly instead of bimonthly.

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.

Beth Jarrett was recently appointed to Mennonite Missions Network's Board. She will serve in this national role representing Neffsville Mennonite Church and Atlantic Coast Conference. Thank you, Beth!

"Case for Christian Pacifism and Peacebuilding" continuing education class, sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Seminary—Lancaster and Garden Spot Village, is scheduled weekly from March 12 through April 16, 2012. Dr. Mark Wenger, director of pastoral studies at EMS, will teach the course. The registration of \$25 includes a textbook and six sessions. Register by February 29, 2012. Call Barbara Hoekstra at 717-355-6159 or bhoekstra@gardenspotvillage.org.

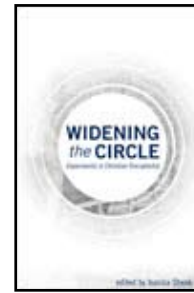
Speakers List at Landis Homes was recently updated. Local congregations and community groups can make use of Landis Homes employees and board members to speak to groups on a variety of topics including aging, stewardship, health and wellness, church history, and more. Visit the Speakers Resource Listing page on the website at www.landishomes.org or call 717-381-3510 to request a brochure.

Hannah Martin of Greencastle, Pa., began a one-year service term with the Service Adventure program of Mennonite Mission Network in August 2011. She is living in community with other young adults in a unit house in Albuquerque, N.M. Martin is the daughter of Chloe Grasse and Linford Martin and attends Hebron Mennonite Church in Hagerstown, Md., part of ACC. In this program of Mennonite Mission Network,

young adults, ages 17-20, live in a household community, with a leader, for 10 months in cities and towns across the United States. Since 1989, Service Adventure participants have served in medical clinics, tutored children, worked with senior citizens, repaired old housing, and helped meet additional needs

across North America. They have visited new cities; experienced different people, foods and cultures; climbed mountains and camped in

deserts; attended concerts, lectures, and college events. More information about Service Adventure is available online at: www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/SA.



Widening the Circle: Experiments in Christian Discipleship is hot off the press. In the last half-century, a growing number of North Americans have been smitten with an Anabaptist-Mennonite vision of church and mission. Often coming from outside

the Mennonite mainstream, they have formed communities with others of like mind and sought to live out their radical faith. But in the process, they often bump up against the institutional church that has housed the radical vision for generations. The stories and reflections offered in *Widening the Circle* explore that creative tension. The result is a rich showcase of Jesus-centered discipleship—windows into what the future church can look like.

Discounted online courses from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., will be cut in half for first-time online students under a new arrangement that will begin with the spring semester. To be eligible for the discount, students must be taking their first online course from AMBS and must not be enrolled in any theological education program. The 50% discount is for tuition only, but registration and online course application fees will be waived; student service fees will be charged. Courses include "Biblical Foundations of Peace and Justice" taught by Mary Schertz, professor of New Testament; and "Turnaround Strategies for Churches" taught by Gerald Shenk, sessional instructor. To learn more and register for a course, visit www.ambs.edu/academics/courses.

Eastern Mennonite Seminary also offers two courses online "Interpreting the Biblical Text" and "Pastoral Care" For the first time, online courses are now available for "participation audit," which means that those who do not want credit may take courses for an audit at half-price. To learn more about these courses or distance learning through EMS, visit www.emu.edu/seminary/distance-learning.

The *Pattern* is Not Set

I have far more questions than answers. Most wise people I have met, especially those more advanced in years than I, suggest that wisdom has little to do with possessing answers. It has more to do with asking the right questions and making this a prayerful act of trust. So, today I pose more questions than answers.

One of my favorite writers, the late Madeleine L'Engle, writes in her sci-fi meets Old Testament novel *Many Waters*, that "the pattern is not set." She is referring to God's plan for the world and every person in it, particularly as it related to the great flood.

So where does the will of God intersect the actions of human beings who have been given free will?

When does God allow something to occur?

When does God intervene in the world of human time, space, and matter to cause or prevent an occurrence?

I find the Old Testament instances of God literally having a change of mind and disposition to be alarming. It seems to me that we don't often discuss this because it presents possibly unanswerable questions.

If God is omnipotent, and God gets what God wants . . . then were the tsunami and earthquake in Japan or the flooding and hurricane recently in the U.S. direct actions of God? Or does God simply allow those things to take place?

What about when people and their will is concerned . . . this is even more complicated.

In Christian conversation, it is not uncommon to hear people speak of times of great pain inflicted by a fellow human being as "God's will."

If someone is abused as a child, should they in adolescence be taught that "God has his reasons," and that if it happened it must have been God's will?

I don't think so.

It is God's will that we follow after God's heart.

How?

According to Jesus, by loving God and loving one another.

There is no magical formula for discerning God's will about what breakfast cereal to choose one morning, or which route to take to work.

Certainly, a chain of events set in motion as a result of these choices could cause unforeseeable problems, but God is not watching and waiting for me to choose wrongly at every turn.

God's will is moving ever toward the completion of the Kingdom, toward the re-creation, and restoration.

When I choose in each moment to love God and love everyone else, I have no reason for anxiety about whether or not I am following God's will.

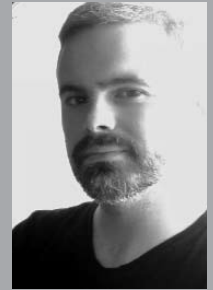
ACC Leadership Transitions

Douglas Friesen (Tina), associate pastor, Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa. was approved for ordination on November 11, 2011. He has served as a licensed pastor at Blossom Hill since February 2005. A date for Doug's ordination will be forthcoming. The Friesen family resides in Brownstown, Pa.

Becky Degan (Michael), worship and music director, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., was approved on November 11, 2022, to be licensed for specific ministry. Becky came on staff at Forest Hills in 2006. The date for Becky's licensing service is yet being decided. The Degan family reside in Akron, Pa.

Steve Fretz (Lori), pastor at Cedar Grove Mennonite Church, Greencastle, Pa., ordination released to the care of the congregation following a congregational vote to leave ACC and MC USA affiliation. (Follow-up note: Steve ended his service with Cedar Grove as of November 30 as result of insufficient votes following an affirmation vote by members).

~ Warren Tyson, Executive Conference Minister



ACC's
Conference
Coordinator
Keith Wilson

WISDOM
has more to
do
with asking
the right
questions
than
possessing
the right
answers!

CONNECTIONS

Forward births, marriages, and deaths to:

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EVENTS & MORE

Events may be sent to:

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or e-mailed to:
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Births

Jameson Jeffrey Brubaker born Nov. 10, 2011, son of Jade and Jamie Brubaker (Neffsville Mennonite)

Aria Gabrielle Byler born November 10, 2011, dau. of Seth and Glenda Byler (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Judd Paul Lusby and **Darren Jeffrey Lusby**, twin sons were born August 30, 2011, sons of Joe and Kristen Lusby (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Hannah Elizabeth Petersheim born December 4, 2011, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Mast) Petersheim (Conestoga Mennonite).

Autumn Elise Rohrer born October 25, 2011, dau. of Jason and Sarah Rohrer (Ridgeview Mennonite).

Isabel Ann Shifflett born December 6, 2011, dau. of Rose Stratman and Shawn Shifflett (Sandy Hill Community Church).

Marriage

Matthew Stutzman (Oley Valley Mennonite) married **Stephanie Snyder** on November 19, 2011.

Deaths

Myron L. Ebersole, 86 (Akron Mennonite) died on December 8, 2011. He was the husband of Geraldine Ann (Hartman) Ebersole.

Kenneth Horning, Sr., 76 (Alsace Christian Fellowship) died on July 7, 2011. He was the husband of Selena G. (Mast) Horning.

Donald E. Ranck, 84 (Forest Hills Mennonite) died on November 1, 2011. He was the husband of Kathleen Martin Ranck.

MC USA Convention in Phoenix

The journey to our biennial convention in Phoenix scheduled for July 1-6, 2013, begins with an understanding of who we are as defined by God's Word and it ends with the hope of who we want to be as we seek to follow Christ. Undoubtedly, we will carry many things as our church moves towards this gathering next summer.

Over the next 500+ days, the staff of Mennonite Church USA is making plans for this gathering. Youth groups will raise money, and delegates will begin drafting opinions. In some ways the decision of attending or not attending this particular gathering is a journey within itself, primarily because of how Arizona has chosen to relate to recent immigrants.

As we read the words of Paul, we find that we are all sojourners seeking a place to belong, just as the immigrants from Mexico coming north into Arizona. Some might say that Paul himself suggests the new Christ-like form which is somewhat separate from both the religious and secular laws that create hostile distinctions.

We struggle, fight, and rebel against the place in which we live. We don't fully belong. We fight against one another because of differences in skin color, sexual orientation, language, gender, and heritage. And we fail to acknowledge the reconciling nature of Christ and do not support our fellow immigrants with whom we share Christian citizenship.

Aside from the normal logistical, social, and financial discussions that most of us have when making the decision about participating in the biennial convention for Phoenix 2013, I would encourage us to wrestle not against flesh, blood, and political punditry, but to wrestle with the Word of God. We must wrestle with who we are as Christians, and how our Anabaptist theology shapes our work and witness in the world. This witness and work reaches far beyond 5½ days in July of 2013.

The following scriptures will help shape our spiritual journey towards Phoenix 2013 and beyond: Psalm 24:1; Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 5:1-5; and Ephesians 2:14-22. Blessings to you all, as we allow the Word of God to shape us. ~ *Glen Guyton, MC USA*



Lancaster Mennonite High School's residence hall is home to many international students.

Lancaster Mennonite School

2176 Lincoln Highway East

Lancaster, PA 17602

717-299-0436

www.lancastermennonite.org



Polly Yixin Zhang



Mr. Xiaodong Fan

LMS: A Missional Center

After decades of envisioning mission as something done outside our communities, it is a change to see that God is bringing the world to our congregations, and to us here at Lancaster Mennonite School.

Almost 70 years after Lancaster Mennonite was founded to serve primarily Mennonite families, the school now is embracing a broader mission. Today LMS is a missional center of the Church that has the opportunity to teach Anabaptist values to many students who are not from Mennonite congregations. This year, 62.3% of LMS students fit that category.

According to Superintendent J. Richard Thomas, this trend is in line with the missional vision of Mennonite Church USA: "We see ourselves as being sponsored by the Church for the sake of the community and the world. We are still called to serve Mennonite students as an extension of Mennonite congregations, but our vision has broadened to include students (both locally and from around the world) who are not from traditional Mennonite circles."

While some see diversity—whether in a congregation or a school—as a threat to Mennonite identity, Lancaster Mennonite School welcomes the opportunity to tell the world, "This is who we are. This is why we think it is important. We would love

to have you become part of this." The word "world" is not an overstatement, for LMS currently hosts more than 100 international students.

LMS students outside the U.S. represent 14 countries, with most coming from China and Korea. Some have had no exposure to Christianity, but most want to learn about Jesus. Teacher Xiaodong Fan teaches an "Introduction to Christianity" class for students who do not have enough background to start with Lancaster Mennonite's usual Bible curriculum. From China and coming to faith at Goshen College, Mr. Fan is well-suited to bridging cultural gaps in explaining Christianity in their own language.

One Chinese student, Polly Yixin Zhang, says, "The greatest thing that happened during my years at LMH was I began believing in God. Here I first knew about God, had my first Bible class, and got my first Bible."

Testimonies like this are spreading by word-of-mouth beyond traditional Mennonite communities.

Superintendent J. Richard Thomas says, "Loving the world as God loves the world is the basis for building global connections and understanding each other. And it's an integral part of an LMS education."

~ Gary Hiller, LMS Director of Marketing

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Connie McMullin, front left, and Beth Rogers hold Styrofoam items, while Dart Container's Jerry Rousseau, back left, holds items made from recycled Styrofoam like picture frames and clipboards. Nelson Kling, Woodcrest Villa Retirement Community CEO, is also pictured. *Courtesy: Lancaster Newspapers.*

Woodcrest Villa Residents Reach Notable Milestone: Donating Two Tons of Styrofoam for Recycling

Woodcrest Villa residents celebrated a rather unusual milestone on November 4, 2011—collecting 10,000 pounds (five tons) of polystyrene for recycling. From 2003 to present day, residents had collected, packed, and delivered clean used dinnerware and packing material to the polystyrene recycling plant at Dart Container Corporation in Leola.

During a special ceremony, Nan Rush, Vice President of Residential Living, and J. Nelson Kling, President of Mennonite Home Communities, presented Beth with the Woodcrest Villa Treasured Volunteer Award for her efforts. Jerry Rousseau, Recycling Coordinator for Dart Corporation, also presented Beth and Woodcrest Villa with a plaque signifying their ongoing hard work.

The whole endeavor started nearly eight years ago when residents Connie McMullin and Beth Rogers jointly spearheaded the effort. Beth had previously recycled Styrofoam when she lived in New York. When she moved to Woodcrest Villa, she connected with Connie and shared her commitment to recycling and her desire to start such an effort again.

Connie supported Beth's idea and encouraged her to propose the concept to Resident Council which also supported the idea. Connie and Beth then set up collection and storage points throughout the community.

The first delivery to Dart was 12 pounds. Shipments increased steadily over the eight years and now average 50 pounds every three weeks, culminating with the current total of 10,000 pounds. Beth has tracked all of the deliveries and Connie has delivered everything to Dart.

In addition to Connie and Beth, more than 20 residents have volunteered to help pack the storeroom boxes serving for the most part over the full eight years. Many more residents have also participated by donating their polystyrene for recycling, helping to keep it out of the waste stream.

In the past, Woodcrest Villa had taken interested residents on a tour to Dart Container to see what the recycling process entails. First it is loaded into a hopper and then fed to crushers. The disks of crushed polystyrene enter a grinder where they are turned to powder. The powder is melted into a liquid which is then expelled into cold water bath and comes out as plastic beads or droplets. This is bagged, boxed, and shipped to various manufacturers of hard polystyrene items.

The Styrofoam recycling project is just one of the many ways in which Woodcrest Villa residents give back to the larger community. Through their Going Green Initiative, residents also participate by conserving electricity, reducing paper usage, and being mindful of their use and recycling of other resources.

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-6

Landis Homes

1001 E. Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
Phones: 717-569-3271
717-581-3935
Fax: 717-569-5203
info@landishomes.org
www.landishomes.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.

Forest Hills Set to “Form New Disciples!”

“Youth group should not just be a place we ship our kids off to once a week for some corny activity (although having fun is certainly important). Youth group and youth ministry is about so much more. It is about forming disciples—forming followers of Christ. These are easy words to say but hard words to live. I hope that when teens leave high school, their faith will not be the same. I hope that it will be a faith that matters, a faith that propels them into the world to love and serve others,” says Jared Stoltzfus.

Forest Hills Mennonite recently made several staff changes. Jared Stoltzfus became the church’s Youth Director this past August, and Cheryl Hollinger was ordained by ACC as the church’s Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Nurture on October 30, 2011.

In his role as Youth Director, Jared will give leadership to developing and articulating vision for the youth program that includes high schoolers from the church and many of their friends from the community. Jared states, “I am excited about this new position, and as I think about what is to come, one word keeps coming to mind—disciple.”

Jared grew up in Parkesburg, Pa., and after graduating from Octorara High School, he attended Eastern University, St. Davids, Pa., where he received a Bachelor’s Degree in theology in 2008. After graduation, Jared moved to Harrisonburg Va., where he furthered his studies at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and received his M. Div. Degree from EMS in 2011.

Jared says that he has felt a strong call to pastoral ministry for a long time. He credits his youth leader with planting the seeds for this call. He says, “I was given the chance to take risks and test my gifts and callings. From that point on, I knew where God was calling me.” Jared’s call was affirmed through his experiences at seminary; others have also spoken to affirm that call.

Jared’s pastoral experience includes one year of interning at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg and developing

a small group program and serving on the Leadership Team at RISE, a new church plant in Harrisonburg.

In his free time, Jared enjoys reading and spending time with his wife, Elizabeth, a native of Lebanon County, Pa., and their six family pets. While living in Virginia, he loved hiking in the beautiful Shenandoah National Park.

Cheryl Hollinger joined the Forest Hills Mennonite Church staff in December 2005 as Spiritual Formation and Nurture Director. With the new credentialing, her responsibilities will continue to include giving leadership to the education and nurture programs of the church such as the Sunday School program, Winter Bible School, Wednesday evening clubs, and activities for children in kindergarten through high school, the KIDS Church and Tot Time Sunday worship programs, and the Adopt-a-Student program for college students.

After receiving her degree in Early Childhood Education from Eastern Mennonite University, Cheryl taught school in Virginia. Later, she and her husband, Joe Hollinger, and their three sons, spent 11 years as Church Development Workers in Wales, U.K. Cheryl says, “When I left Wales six years ago, life felt uncertain. I had lived out my lifelong dream of being a missionary and couldn’t imagine how life could ever be that meaningful again. . . . Out of my sense of loss and uncertainty, I prayed, ‘Lord, show me your niche for me here in Lancaster, and help me thrive once again.’ Within four months I found myself in a church setting (Forest Hills) that encouraged and affirmed my gifting as a church leader.”

That led to her pursuit of a master’s degree in church leadership. Through a time of soul searching, excellent seminary classes, ongoing conversations with church leaders and a two-year licensure period, she came to understand that God has been calling her into pastoral ministry. The ordination service on October 30 was a culmination of both her call and the church’s affirmation of her gifts.

In her free time Cheryl enjoys long walks, journaling, conversations with friends, and good books.

~ Norma Stauffer, Forest Hills Mennonite



Jared Stoltzfus
and
Cheryl Hollinger
at
Forest Hills
Mennonite

“Youth
ministry
is about
forming
disciples—
forming
followers
of
Christ.”