

# Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: 2010 Graduation at Lancaster Mennonite High School. Courtesy: Jonathan Charles.

## HIGHLIGHTS



1 Oversight Ministry Team Installed in NYC



7 Jon and Sheila Henson and son Micah



12 Prayer Shawl Ministry



En esta foto (delante) / In this photo (front): Ruth Wenger of North Bronx Mennonite; Nicolas Angustia of Iglesia Menonita Unida de Avivamiento; Sonni Carrion, Sandra Perez and Celso Jaime of Evangelica Garifuna; (detrás / back): Moises Angustia of Iglesia Menonita Unida de Avivamiento; Confesor Linares of Primera Iglesia Menonita de Brooklyn; Al Taylor of Infinity Mennonite; Sylvia Shirk of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship; and Ben Stevens of King of Glory Tabernacle. Credit: Grant Rissler

## New "Oversight Ministry Team" in New York City

~ Serving both ACC and Lancaster Mennonite Churches ~

**Sonni** Carrion de la Primera Iglesia Menonita de Brooklyn, y Sandra Perez de Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship fueron licenciadas e instaladas como miembros del nuevo Equipo del Ministerio de Supervisión que da apoyo a los pastores de las iglesias de la Ciudad de Nueva York que pertenecen a CCA (ACC) y a la Conferencia Menonita de Lancaster. Los pastores Nicolas Angustia y Celso Jaime representan a la Conferencia Menonita de Lancaster en este equipo. Representantes de 14 de las 15 iglesias menonitas de la Ciudad de Nueva York se juntaron para este evento especial celebración llevada a cabo el 23 de abril en la Primera Iglesia Menonita de Brooklyn.

**Sonni** Carrion from First Mennonite Church of Brooklyn, and Sandra Perez from Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship were licensed and installed as members of a new Oversight Ministry Team giving support to pastors in New York City churches belonging to ACC and Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Pastors Nicolas Angustia and Celso Jaime represent Lancaster Mennonite Conference on the team. Representatives from 14 of the 15 New York City Mennonite churches joined in the special celebration on April 23, at First Mennonite Church of Brooklyn.

- Sylvia Shirk, Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship

# Currents

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John Weber  
Conference Moderator  
Akron Mennonite

# Moderator's Reflections

**Maybe** it's just me, but it sure seems everybody is concerned with staying in touch with somebody these days. Well, maybe not everybody, but from what I see and hear, many people appear to be constantly using an electronic device to be in conversation with others. Increasingly, I see people using cell phones while driving, I see other folks, and not just young people, on the phone and texting waiting in line or while shopping. I have even seen a person texting on a Sunday morning in church during the service. Maybe they were "communicating" with God! Just about everywhere, people seem to have a need to be in conversation.

The whole social networking craze has taken staying connected to a new level. Staying connected supports a basic social and emotional need to be accepted. This we share universally with the rest of humanity. The very foundation of religious experience is a connection to a transcendent reality. I believe the scriptures reveal a God interested in establishing a connection to the created. The church is in the mission of connecting people to God through Christ. In the New Testament Jesus provides the way for us to connect with God.

As a people, Mennonites have traditionally valued being connected to family and church. We strengthen our connections through prayer, through reading scripture, in fellowship (attending church) and being open to the Holy Spirit in our daily living. The need to be socially connected should be

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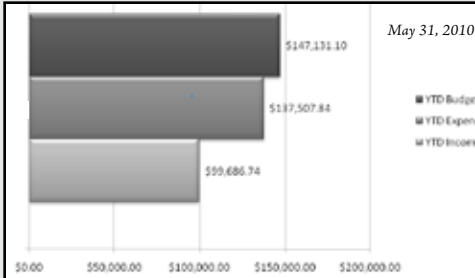
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4" x 4" size = \$100.00

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

affirmed while at the same time we also need to be mindful of staying connected to the church and to the Lord of the church, Christ Jesus.

As conference leaders, both ACC ministers/staff and members of the Executive Committee, we want to strengthen our connections to ACC congregations and to our denomination—MC USA. To do so ACC has signed up with the commercial service "Constant Contact". The service makes it possible for Conference to have more frequent contact with pastors, conference delegates, and members in an electronic newsletter format. More frequent and brief contacts with announcements and information has the potential to strengthen our relationships and help equip each other to more faithfully fulfill God's purposes in the world. We look forward to strengthening our connections.



## CURRENCY CORNER

The other day I read this passage in Psalms: "If riches increase, do not set your heart on them," Psalm 62:10b. It struck me that this was a good reminder for us at any time and especially in these days. With the economy in question, unemployment high, and the financial markets fluctuating up and down, there is a lot of uncertainty.

Being rich is relative compared to the state of others. Most, if not all of us, are viewed as rich by many in the world. Can we hold the blessings that God has sent our way in such a way as to be grateful without setting our heart on them? There is so much we do not control. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico reminds us of our limitations every day. Truly the eternal things of God are where we set our heart.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer  
Community Mennonite, Lancaster



# Welcoming Immigrants

**Two** hours of story sharing, prayer, and letter writing in solidarity with recent immigrants occurred on May 2, 2010, at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. Speaking in Spanish and English, participants shared from personal experiences about the struggles that recent immigrants face in U.S. society.

**Maribel**, originally from El Salvador, spoke of her difficult five-week journey to California. "We came [to the United States] to support our families," she said. "I needed to sustain my mother and my father. I came [to this vigil] to be of support and to pray to my Creator to touch the hearts of the government to give us a chance to be legal."

**Enrique**, originally from Mexico, but living in the U.S. for more than a decade, shared about the pain of not being able to return to Mexico before his father died out of fear that because he is undocumented, he would be unable to return to be with his family. Many were concerned about the recent laws passed in Arizona that could encourage racial profiling and target undocumented immigrants.

**Hector**, also from Mexico, shared his feeling that "an animal is often better treated in the U.S. than someone who is undocumented."

"Jesus has shown us that we should welcome the immigrant," said **Liliana**, originally from Colombia and a local school teacher. "We need to take action [to be welcoming], through prayer like we are here, but also by writing letters and peacefully being part of public demonstrations."

**Floridalma**, originally from Guatemala, noted that three members of her family are undocumented and two are natural born citizens, giving rise to fear of facing separation some day. "Despite these challenges," she continued, "I am happy because I know Christ and have a church community around me."

Following the sharing, participants broke into smaller groups for a time of intensive prayer, remembering those traveling through the deserts of the Southwest and

those affected by the new law passed in Arizona.

After a closing prayer as a whole group, participants lingered to write postcards to Congressional representatives and President Obama (postcards can be downloaded from [peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigpostcard.pdf](http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigpostcard.pdf)).

The card quotes from the Mennonite Church USA statement on immigration: "As Christians, we believe we are called to welcome these sojourners in our congregations and communities, especially as our government creates increasingly harsh immigration laws in the name of fighting terrorism." It also cites important scriptures such as Leviticus 19:33-34 that instructs, "do not mistreat an alien."

The event, organized by the ACC Peace and Justice Committee, was one of nearly a dozen vigils held by Mennonite churches across the country on the May 1 weekend.

Manhattan (NY) Mennonite Fellowship (MMF) also organized two vigils, one at their church retreat at Camp Deerpark on May 1 and one as part of their regular Sunday evening service on May 2.

At Camp Deerpark, children helped create a chalk mural on the driveway that said "God's Love has No Borders."

Speakers at the Sunday service included the Pastor Confesor Linares of Primera Iglesia Mennonita de Brooklyn and Linda Hood of MMF spoke about Irish immigrants to New York, whose music she performs. At both events participants spent time in prayer and also signing postcards to elected officials.

- Grant Rissler,  
Community Mennonite,  
Lancaster

## Immigration Prayer Vigils

More information on the issue of immigration and what it means for our churches to welcome the stranger, please contact the ACC Peace and Justice Committee through Grant Rissler at: [grantern@yahoo.com](mailto:grantern@yahoo.com)



## ACC Ministry Transitions

PEACE  
SUNDAY  
2010  
is Sept. 19  
with the  
theme:  
“Fear Not”  
selected by the  
Peace and Jus-  
tice Support  
Network of  
MC USA.  
Children’s  
activities,  
graphics, and  
other seeds of  
inspiration are  
all available  
online at  
<http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/psunday10>

**Jon Carlson** (Lyn) was licensed toward ordination and installed as pastor at Oley Valley Mennonite Church, Oley, Pa., on Sunday, June 6, 2010. Jon functioned briefly as a pastor intern under Graham Cyster and Steve Musselman’s supervision prior to the Ministerial Leadership Committee approving his licensure. Jon and his wife were members of the Zion Mennonite Church in Birdsboro.

**Sonni Carrion** (Andres) was licensed for specific ministry and installed as an oversight minister of the NYC Oversight Ministry Team (OMT). Sonni and Andres and their two children have been key lay leaders at Primera Iglesia Menonita, Brooklyn, N.Y., for many years. Sonni’s role on the OMT includes staff assistance for communication, education curriculum, providing counsel, and working alongside other oversight ministers.

**Susan Gascho-Cooke** (Teman) was installed as lead pastor at Community Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa., on Sunday, June 6. Previous to accepting the pastorate at CMCL, Susan served as a pastor at Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship and a chaplain at a hospital in Atlanta, Ga. Susan’s previous experience also includes a year of work relating to PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience).

**Jon Henson** (Sheila) was licensed toward ordination and installed as associate pastor at Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Atglen, Pa., on June 6. Jon grew up at Petra Christian Fellowship, a former ACC church. He and his family lived in Wyoming prior to moving back to the Lancaster area to accept the assignment at Maple Grove Mennonite Church.

**Confesor Linares** (Miledys) was licensed and installed as pastor at Primera Iglesia Menonita, Brooklyn, N.Y., on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Confesor was the first ACC pastor installed since the NYC Oversight

Ministry Team was installed in April 2010. Confesor and Miledys have several adult children who are currently living in the Dominican Republic. They previously attended United Revival Mennonite Church, a Lancaster Conference member church in Brooklyn.

**Mark L. Miller** (Brenda) was approved June 7 for license toward ordination as associate pastor at Emmanuel’s House of Prayer, Healing and Hope, Reinholds, Pa. Mark’s gifts of leadership were affirmed a couple years ago as he began to work alongside Pastor Barbara Horst at Emmanuel Church. A date for Mark’s licensing has not yet been determined.

**Joe Miller** (Robin) was approved for license toward ordination as associate chaplain at Tel Hai Retirement Community on May 7, 2010. Joe was previously licensed by Lancaster Conference in July 2009. The family has since started to attend and become members at Conestoga Mennonite Church; therefore, the request that ACC license Joe for his ongoing ministry at Tel Hai.

**Sandra Perez** was licensed for specific ministry and installed as an oversight minister of the NYC Oversight Ministry Team (OMT). Sandra is a member of the Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship congregation in Manhattan, N.Y. Sandra’s role on the OMT includes a teaching ministry, especially in the area of conflict transformation and immigration challenges. Sandra has worked a number of years as a staff member of MCC and Lutheran Social Services.

The other two members of the four-member NYC Oversight Ministry Team are: Nicolas Angustia (team leader), also pastor at United Revival Mennonite Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Celso Jaime, pastor of Evangelical Garifuna Church, Bronx, N.Y. Both ministers and their congregations are members of Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

~ Warren L. Tyson,  
Executive Conference Minister

# Are We Shining Like an Illuminating ?

I have always loved Philippians 2:12-18 finding Paul's language a bit more whimsical and mystical than usual. The doctrinal clinician we sometimes see gives way to the side of Paul that yields this deeply passionate and moving inspiration.

Here in the epistle to the Philippians, Paul seems caught up in the moment, full of compassionate concern for the community of believers. I imagine him perhaps hungry and weary in his jail cell, beginning to catch the vision of the big picture to which his life has been poured like a drink offering. Perhaps he dreamed of a movement that would spread, and with it the earth-shattering, freedom bringing, power-system crippling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This passage is part of a chapter which is an earnest plea for unity, and the means toward that unity is humility. This core of Christ's teaching and model is the mystery by which we give away all to find what really matters. This principle seems to hold true from micro to macro in a fascinating way. The smaller we perceive ourselves in context of the whole, the larger, more brilliant, and ultimately more satisfying and awe-inspiring the whole becomes.

We humans have such a propensity for arrogant certainty on nearly all matters. Paul's use of stars as an image calls to mind a truly cosmic example. As Paul was writing this letter, the accepted wisdom and theory of the cosmos

would have been the Greek one wherein all the heavenly bodies moved in perfect circles, and all revolved around an unmoving earth. Long after that, Copernicus suggested that the sun might be at the center, and then years later Johannes Kepler labored over calculations showing that the math only worked if orbits were elliptical. No one took much notice of these radical theories until Galileo built a telescope and saw that Jupiter had moons circling around it, insinuating that earth was not the only body in the cosmos privileged to have something circling it. He was tried and convicted by the inquisition for this attempt to usurp "spiritual" authority.

Layer upon layer, human self-centeredness (literally!) was humbled by discovery, and governments railed violently against each progressive revelation of our smallness. Finally, early in the last century, Edwin Hubble peered through a huge telescope on Mt. Wilson in Calif. and observed an object beyond our own Milky Way galaxy. Not only was there something else out there, but there were countless other galaxies full of stars like our own sun. Feeling small yet?

Each step further back that we take, removing ourselves from an assumed centrality (even if we Anabaptists have a theology that better reflects Paul's vision), the picture gets bigger and more majestic. Governments and people over millenia have repeatedly collided with a reality that is at first frightening, and then awe inspiring and ultimately motivating. We should heed Paul's plea to humble ourselves in the context of our Kingdom of God community.

What if our demeanor and attitudes in our families, small groups, congregational meetings, conference and denominational interactions began to reflect this sense of awe and accurate perspective?

It is only then that the beautiful work can truly take place, and we shine like stars; not solitary stars in a virtually empty solar system, but stars which work with other stars to create a far more illuminating network of lights like the Milky Way, or a few billion other galaxies.

## RIISING TIDE



ACC's  
Conference  
Coordinator  
Keith Wilson  
with his wife  
and two  
children.

Are we  
creating  
an  
illuminating  
network  
of lights in  
combination  
with the  
other  
bright stars  
in our  
congrega-  
tion?

**CONNECT!**  
@ CAMP HEBRON

TAKE TIME AWAY  
WITH THE KIDS

- FATHER/SON CANOE TRIP
- ROCK CLIMBING WEEKEND
- MOUNTAIN BIKE WEEKEND
- WEEKEND RIDERS (HORSE)
- MOTHER/DAUGHTER SLUMBER PARTY

WWW.CAMPHEBRON.ORG

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](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net)

**ACC Chaplains Cluster.** A new ACC Chaplains Cluster group has recently formed. Dawn Yoder Harms convened the first meeting. The group plans to meet every other month with the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 28, at 8:00 a.m. at Chaplain Donna Shenk's home in Akron.

**Puerto Rico.** Praise God for the new generation of young people who are willing to serve God in Puerto Rico. In April 2009, Raul Rivera was installed as a licensed pastor at the Cayey Mennonite Church, and then in April 2010, Jose Luis Vargas was installed as a licensed pastor at Betania Mennonite Church. More recently, a young lady was interviewed to be installed as pastor at a church Botijas in the town of Orocovis in the mountains of Puerto Rico. - *Ray Pacheco*

**Art Needed.** Mennonite Church USA will incorporate artwork from artists in the Mennonite community to be displayed in the spaces within and around the new Mennonite Church USA Elkhart campus office building. There are opportunities both to earn an art commission or to donate work. Go online to submit an art proposal: [www.MennoniteUSA.org/JoiningTogether/Art](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org/JoiningTogether/Art)

## BRIDGES TO CROSS

**MC USA Convention.** It is not too early to start getting excited about Pittsburgh 2011—next year's Mennonite Church USA convention! The first promotional video for Pittsburgh 2011 can be accessed at website [www.mennoniteusa.org/convention](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention), or via YouTube (search under Pittsburgh 2011 Mennonite convention.)

**Cards to Gulf Coast Residents** affected by the oil spill are being collected and forwarded by Mennonite Disaster Service. This is an opportunity to let these families know that we are thinking and praying for them. Address cards to "Gulf Coast Residents" and send them directly to: Mennonite Disaster Service, Care and Prayer Cards, 1018 Main St., Akron, PA 17501. Once your card is received, it will be delivered to individuals in communities along the Gulf who are directly impacted by the oil spill.

**Women in Preschool** with Loice Oobi Byler from Freedom in Him Ministries will speak at this Oct. 18 event. Time is 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Cheryl Weaver at 717-687-7122 or [weavercj@verizon.net](mailto:weavercj@verizon.net) for more information.

**ACC Mennonite Women Fall Gathering and Dinner** is scheduled for Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Forest Hills Mennonite Church. Women of all ages are invited to come and enjoy wonderful fellowship, a catered meal (\$15 per person) and sharing by Marlene Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Weaver on gracefully and joyfully moving through life transitions. For more information or to register, contact Ruth Ann Martin, 336 Sun Valley Drive, Leola, PA 17540, phone 717-656-8028 or [razmartin@frontiernet.net](mailto:razmartin@frontiernet.net)



### The Hummingbird

creatures that fly  
are amazing to me  
the way they twitter and flutter  
float and hover  
like the hummingbird  
that surprises me  
piercing my garden with its long nose  
prodding  
the purple blooms of my planter

floating effortlessly  
over green foliage  
from one flower to another  
with the precision and speed  
of a helicopter

oh, that I could have  
eyes to see  
the One who created  
the loveliness of these

~ Beth Jarrett, Sept. 2009,  
Neffsville Mennonite

# Constancy and Change

As I write this article, high school and college students are graduating and moving on to the next phase in their lives—some to jobs and others to further education. These times of transition often fill young adults with both excitement and trepidation. Most aspects of their lives are changing at once, from new housing arrangements and social activities to redefined relationships and adjusted daily routines.

Although a young adult's life might seem to be in complete upheaval, one thing remains constant—God. Hopefully, support from the home church is also steady, regardless of the young adult's ability to attend frequently. Distance or inflexible work schedules can inhibit regular attendance; so, too, can a desire to explore other churches or to seek independence from the parents' church.

Nevertheless, every church needs to

maintain contact with its young adults as they go through major life changes. A note from a former Sunday School teacher, a care package, and updates on church happenings are a few ways to remind young adults that the congregation continues to see them as beloved members of the church family. When young adults feel wanted, they are more likely to remain involved in a church, whether or not it is their home congregation.

The best way to draw young adults to the church is never to lose them in the first place. Fond memories of children's Bible School and youth group activities, continued relationships with a trusted mentor or teacher, and the spiritual warmth of a healthy congregation will encourage a young adult to stay connected.

Although many young adults eventually join a church other than their parents', support from their home church during times of transition will strengthen their walk with the Lord and their bonds with His people.



Jessica Shirk



## The Hensons at Maple Grove

**The decision** to move from Pawell, Wyoming, to Atglen, Pennsylvania, was clear for Jon Henson and his wife Sheila. They felt several strong confirmations

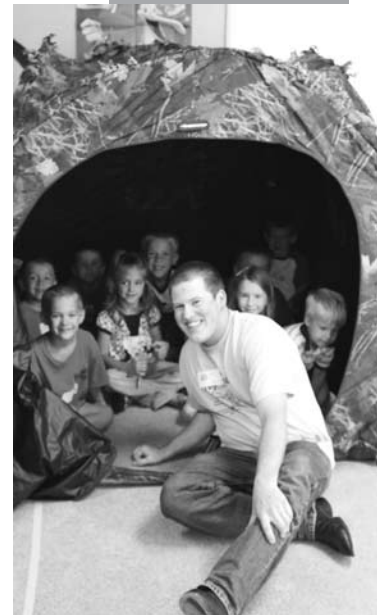
from God leading them to the Maple Grove Mennonite Congregation in Atglen with both having family in the Lancaster County area. Starting a young family themselves, Jon and Sheila saw value in living close to parents and grandparents and wanted their one-year-old son Micah to benefit from his extended family.

It was "moving home" for both Jon and Sheila. Sheila Charles grew up in Bowmansville. When he was eleven years old, Jon moved to the Bowmansville area with his parents, Darryl and Joyce Henson, after his father became an Assistant Pastor at Petra Christian Fellowship. Prior to Petra, his father was a pastor for two churches in Alberta, Canada.

Jon felt an early calling to be a pastor when he was 13-14 years old, which was verified during a week at Tel Hai Summer Camp. Upon graduating from high school in 2002, Jon participated in the Discipleship Training School in Meeteetse, Wyoming, under the Youth With A Mission program; then in 2003, joined the YWAM staff in Wyoming as the Assistant Director of Missions and Adventures; later became Youth Pastor for nearly three years; and then married Sheila whom he had met in Garden Spot High School's Future Farmers of America program.

Jon is enthusiastic about serving at Maple Grove as the Associate Pastor with a youth and young adult focus. He has goals to help young people "become spiritual leaders as they step into their callings in the church and the community." He sees busy schedules as a challenge to youth today and hopes to guide them as they "find balance in their lives and learn to focus on Christ, keeping Him first." Jon was installed as Associate Pastor on June 6, 2010.

- Marilyn Hershey, Maple Grove Mennonite



Jon Henson relating with the children.

Send births, marriages, and deaths to:

Lois Ann Mast  
219 Mill Road  
Morgantown, PA  
19543

currents@atlantic  
coastconference.  
net

## Births

**Lucas Widders Denlinger** born May 14, 2010, son of Jeremiah and Kristine Denlinger (Ridgeview Mennonite).

**Zoe Megan Ressler** born May 21, 2010, dau. of Matt and Laura Ressler (Maple Grove Mennonite).

**Theodore Shenk Zook** born May 10, 2010, son of Steve and Charity (Shenk) Zook (Akron Mennonite).

**Are we missing a marriage, birth, or death from your congregation?**

Send to the address on the left.

## Marriages

**Chelsey King** (Maple Grove Mennonite) married **Bret Davis** (Maple Grove Mennonite) on May 23, 2010.

**Dale Hertzler** (Forest Hills Mennonite) married **Karen Bauman** on May 22, 2010.

**Alicia Martin** (Forest Hills), dau. of Arleta and Ken Martin, married **Ben Beitzel** at Springs Mennonite Church on June 19, 2010.

**Ashlee Rohrer** (Neffsville Mennonite), dau. of Roger and Kandy Rohrer, married **Jeremy Hoover** on May 1, 2010.

**John Thomas** (Ridgeview Mennonite), son of Dick and Joyce Thomas, married **Tandi Book** on April 24, 2010.

## Deaths

**Sadie B. Smoker**, 80 (Sandy Hill Community) died May 20, 2010, the wife of Mervin Z. Smoker. She was the dau. of Stephen E. and Barbara (Beiler) Stoltzfus.

**Gladys Stoesz**, 78 (Akron Mennonite) died April 20, 2010, the wife of Edgar Stoesz. She was the dau. of Henry G. and Maria Dick of Mt. Lake, Minn. Gladys was one of the founding members of Akron Mennonite.

**Samuel E. Wenger**, 72 (Akron Mennonite) died in a vehicle accident on May 15, 2010, the wife of Ruth Arlene (Derstine) Wenger. He was the son of Samuel Stoner and Ella Mae (Esbenshade) Wenger.

## EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

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Morgantown,  
PA 19543

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

July 1, 2010  
**"Choosing the Right Therapist for You"**  
No Longer Alone Min.  
630 Janet Ave., B103  
Lancaster, Pa.  
6:30 p.m.  
717-390-4891

July 25, 2010  
**"How to Build a Support System"**  
No Longer Alone  
Church House of Lancaster Br. in Christ  
6:30 p.m.  
717-390-4891

July 27  
**"Caregiver Support in Making Transitions with Care Needs"**  
Candy Yingling  
7:00 p.m.  
Landis Homes  
Warwick Room  
717-581-3939

July 30-31  
**Into the Woods**  
Broadway musical  
Garden Spot Village  
Chapel, 7:00 p.m.  
717-355-6500

August 5, 2010  
**"The Power of Optimism"**  
No Longer Alone Min.

630 Janet Ave., B103  
Lancaster, Pa.  
6:30 p.m.  
717-390-4891

September 18, 2010  
**Encore: The Festival**  
Music, crafts, food, ...  
717-989-2300  
610-286-9124

September 21, 2010  
**ACC Vision Dinner**  
6:15 p.m.  
More details to follow.

September 24-26  
**250th Anniversary Conestoga Mennonite**  
Morgantown, Pa.  
John Roth of Goshen  
College as speaker  
610-286-9124

October 8-9, 2010  
**ANEC Church Planters Resource**  
Hosted in the Baltimore area; sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast Conferences of MC USA

October 18, 2010  
**Women and Preschool Assembly**  
Speaker: Loice Oobi Byler  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Strasburg Mennonite  
Cost: \$10.00  
717-293-9852  
high852@verizon.net

October 23, 2010  
**ACC Fall Assembly Celebration**  
Forest Hills Mennonite

**EXTREME WORSHIP**  
The first Tuesday of every month.  
Maple Grove Mennonite Church  
549 Swan Road, Atglen, Pa 19310  
Starts at 7pm  
Snack immediately following  
College  
Youth  
Teens  
Young Adults  
PRAISE HIM WITH THE STRINGS  
PSALM 150 4





Abram (Ted Swartz) and Jeff Raught (the Angel Gabriel, Ridgeview Mennonite member) discuss God's covenant in a sketch during Narrative: Re-discovering the Sacred, a drama worship resource program at Laurelville. Photo Credit: Brian Paff.

# Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

CONFERENCE  
RELATED  
MINISTRIES



Laurelville  
Mennonite Church Center

Laurelville  
Mennonite  
Church  
Center

941 Laurelville  
Lane  
Mt. Pleasant, PA  
15666

724-423-2438  
800-839-1021

## {Re}Connect

Camps are not merely a place where you can get away from everything, though. They are also a place for connections, for relationship, for community. Families can relax together while their children play. Newly formed friendships can develop over conversation on matters of faith and life. Friends separated by distance or time can reconnect during a game of softball. Laurelville's most populated places are dining tables (where people linger in conversation long after places have been cleared) and fire rings (where stories and laughter typically fill the night way past bedtime)—both testimonies to the fertile ground for community camps offer.

## Renew

At camps, you will find a space for renewal as well as the resources to encourage the process. Camping ministries hope every individual who visits will be spiritually nourished, returning home with new perspectives and energies. Laurelville programs cater to holistic faith development, the arts and environmental sustainability; find one that speaks to your passions, or design your own getaway that addresses your needs more fully.

Camps are certainly special places. We hope that for many of you, they continue to meet your deepest needs for retreat, community, and renewal.

- Brian Paff, Laurelville  
Director of Communications

Right: Philip Hosler places leaves in a puddle during Beyond Words, a program catering to spirituality and art. Photo Credit: Lowell Brown.



**You** might have fond memories of childhood summers spent as a camper. Perhaps you can recall songs you learned, pranks you pulled, friendships you made. Maybe you remember camp for your first night away from home, your first hike, your first crush...maybe even your first kiss.

For some of you, these memories can be traced back to Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. For others, perhaps it is Camp Deerpark, Black Rock Retreat, Camp Hebron or somewhere else entirely.

Wherever your memories and connections lie, we at Laurelville are delighted to partner with ACC as a conference related ministry and with other camps and retreat centers in offering you a place where you can rediscover what your soul needs.

"How do camps provide for my deepest needs?" you ask. Take a moment to consider these three vital needs camps and conference centers address, and then figure out when you can schedule your next camp outing.

## Retreat

Camps represent a chance to get away. Away from bills and busyness and chores. Away from clutter and daily routines and worries. Here you can rock the morning away with a cup of coffee and sit around a campfire until the embers only glow. Here you find a place to retreat from anything and everything that stands between you and the peace God promises. Each year, thousands of individuals come to Laurelville with their churches groups, extended families, and businesses and organizations for this very reason: to get away.



No  
Longer  
Alone  
Ministries

630 Janet Ave.  
Lancaster, PA  
17601  
717-390-4891

[www.nlam.org](http://www.nlam.org)

# Resounding Joy

## An Evening of Music for Instrument and Voice

**OUR MISSION:** No Longer Alone Ministries provides supportive, caring services to individuals experiencing significant mental illness and their families, as an expression of Christ's love.

### No Longer Alone Ministries

(NLAM) is pleased to present Resounding Joy: An Evening Of Music For Instrument And Voice. This dynamic concert will be held Friday, August 6, 2010, 7:30 PM, at Lancaster Mennonite School Fine Arts Center, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The public is invited to attend at no charge. A freewill offering will be received to benefit NLAM.

Five musicians will join to perform a vivid collection of music: Rev. Jean-Christophe Robert, award-winning French oboist, winner of the First Prize of the Conservatories of Paris; David Hoagland, clarinetist and music educator; New York Philharmonic violist Dr. Peter Kenote; accomplished soprano Rebekah Kenote; and Dr. Neal Harnly at the piano.

In ensemble and as soloists, these artists will bring a broad selection of works, including music from the baroque period, a sparkling mid-romantic song, and an intricate



Hear "Resounding Joy" on August 6 to benefit NLAM.

late-romantic trio. The concert will end with Dr. Harnly's hearty arrangements of three spirituals and Amazing Grace performed by the five musicians in concert.

Dr. Harnly has planned this annual concert ten of its twelve years to benefit No Longer Alone Ministries. Local performers, as well as those from as far away as France, London, Canada, California, Maine and New York, have come to share their musical gifts to benefit the cause of battling mental illness.

When not at the office or at home composing music, Dr. Harnly continues to actively perform as pianist and accompanist, using his musical gifts to further the worship ministry of Mount Joy Mennonite Church.

Bring your love of music and your compassionate generosity to this inspirational evening.

For more information regarding the concert and our ministry, please call No Longer Alone Ministries at 717-390-4891 or visit our website at [www.nlam.org](http://www.nlam.org).



David Hoagland



Neal Harnly



Rebekah Kenote



Jean-Christophe Robert



Peter Kenote

# ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

## **Black Rock Retreat**

1345 Kirkwood Pike  
Quarryville, PA 17566  
Phone: 800-858-9299  
Fax: 717-786-6022  
E-mail: main@blackrockretreat.com  
Web site: 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, and Exploritas programs for senior adults.*

## **Camp Deerpark, Inc.**

200 Brandt Road, P.O. Box 394  
Westbrookville, NY 12785  
Phone: 845-754-8669  
Fax: 845-754-8217  
E-mail: info@campdeerpark.org  
Web site: www.campdeer

*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  
E-mail: 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  
E-mail: info@emm.org  
Web site: 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  
E-mail: gstoltzfus@friendshipcommunity.net

*Web site: 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  
E-mail: info@gardenspotvillage.org

*Web site: 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.*

## **Kairos School of Spiritual Formation**

2160 Lincoln Highway East #13  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
Phone: 717-669-2957  
E-mail: Kairos@on-the-journey.org  
Web site: www.on-the-journey.org

*As a Christian organization with Anabaptist roots, Kairos 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  
E-mail: lmhs@lmhs.org  
Web site: www.lmhs.org  
*Mission is to educate and inspire Mennonite families, congregations, and the broader*

*community through promotion of 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  
*LACMS is a geographical organization of elementary and secondary schools whose administrators work collectively 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) 299-0823

E-mail: thomasjr@lancastermennonite.org  
Web site: 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  
E-mail: info@landishomes.org  
Web site: www.landishomes.org  
*Serving aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching their lives in a Christ-like community. Services include 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  
E-mail: John@laurelville.org  
Laurelville.org  
Web site: www.laurelville.org  
*Find the growth and renewal your spirit needs at Laurelville, a 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  
E-mail: mhash@mennonitehome.org  
Web site: 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  
E-mail: blong@nlam.org  
Website: www.nlam.org  
*No Longer Alone Ministries, as an expression of Christ's love, provides supportive caring services to individuals experiencing significant mental illness and their families.*

## **Reservoir Hill House of Peace (RHHP)**

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  
E-mail: jswartz@telhai.org  
Web site: 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, assisted living, Adult Day Services, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.*



# Prayer Shawl Ministry Is Wrapped With God's Love

Ladies at Forest Hills Mennonite Church creating prayer shawls! Left to right: Maddie Sollenberger, Becky Siegrist, and Anita Beidler.

*Credit: Don Beidler.*

There is an old saying "Our Hands are God's Hands." Through the shawl knitting ministry, we learn to trust the truth that God works through us when we care for friends and strangers alike.

**Some** Forest Hill knitters have talked for several years about starting a knitting ministry. The purpose of a prayer shawl ministry (PSM) is to knit God's love, care, and warmth into shawls for persons who need the touch of God and fellow human beings.

Our PSM was "born" last fall when we announced a time for interested persons to meet. It is so inspiring to see women (so far no men have joined us) who already knit or want to learn to knit, desiring to be part of this type of ministry.

We meet informally once a month on the third Monday evening and share and talk as we knit. We help those who are learning how to knit, or help each other if we get to a point where we need help.

At the end of the evening, we take the shawls that have been completed since our last meeting and pray for them as we pass them around our circle, holding them in our hands.

Darlene Umble, owner of Olde Peddler Wools in Morgantown is involved in this ministry and has generously supplied yarn at cost for us to use.

As we knit, we use different patterns for the shawls. There is significance in the basic pattern of K3 P3 (knit 3, purl 3) as we learned through the book *Knitting into the Mystery* by Susan Izard and Susan Jorgensen.

The pattern of threes can be found in every religion and society. Human existence has three stages: birth, life and death. Time has three divisions: past, present and future. The panorama of color is based on three

primary colors. The human being has three parts: body, mind and spirit. The virtues frequently mentioned together are faith, hope and love. The rhythm of the waltz is 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3.

And so, as we cast on the first stitches we begin to pray for the person who will receive the shawl. As we finish the shawl, we are still holding the person we are knitting for in our prayers. We pray for God's embracing love to encompass the person. By the time the person receives it, the shawl is filled with prayers for that individual. When they wrap themselves in it, they can feel the warmth and love that the prayers and yarn have become.

Part of the journey of prayer and faith is to recognize that we may never know how our love and care will touch or change another person's life. Instead we are invited to offer others our compassion and let whatever happens, happen.

Whether or not we know the people who will receive them, knitting shawls deepens our understanding of God's presence in our lives and also invites us to care for our neighbors with thanksgiving and joy.

After the shawls are blessed, we attach a prayer card to the shawl, with the name of the person it is going to, the name of the person who knit it, a special blessing for the person receiving it and a prayer printed on the back of the card. The shawls are kept in a closet in a Sunday School room, available for the care team to give out as they minister to persons from our church and community.

It has been most exciting to see God use the shawls to bless those who are experiencing a difficult time. It seemed we had barely finished the first ones and they were going out the door faster than we could complete them!

Yes, it is very special to have something tangible that helps a person to feel the arms and love of God and others wrapped around them.

- Becky Siegrist, Forest Hills Mennonite