



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: On May 27, 2011, Jason Storbakken was licensed as pastor for "Radical Living"—a new ACC church community.

Radical Living

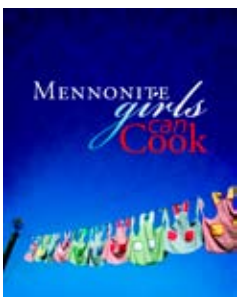


Members of "Radical Living"—a new ACC church community in Brooklyn, New York.

HIGHLIGHTS



4 Drummers at Crispus Attucks



6 Mennonite Girls Can Cook



12 Jack Hubley & hawk

As a boy, I grew up listening to my grandfather tell stories about our Hutterite ancestors. I was enthralled by his stories of martyrs (some of whom were distant relatives), but it was his stories of their way of life that intrigued me the most.

The Hutterites are the most communal of all the Anabaptists and, as my grandfather explained, they hold all things in common just like the first Christians in the Book of Acts. They are absolute pacifists and apocalyptic in their worldview.

Although my grandfather is occasionally critical of the Hutterite way of life—our ancestors have lived alongside, but outside the colonies for many generations—it was really the stories he shared with me as a boy that planted in me the desire to seek radical Christian community.

While the desire for Christian community was planted in me as a boy, it took considerable time to take root in my life. It was not until my early 20s that I learned the practicalities of community. While

attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I lived at the International Cooperative House for three years. It was there that I learned the fundamentals of communal living, such as shared work and holding a common vision.

After graduating, I eventually settled in Brooklyn, New York, where I met my wife and together we began to ardently seek Christ's headship over our lives. We regularly attended church, and yet we still longed to be active participants in the living body of Jesus Christ (i.e. the Church). We came to the realization that instead of making church a weekly destination we would, as directed throughout the scriptures (1 Cor. 12:12-27), seek to be the Church. Thus, in August 2007, we opened our home to other followers of Jesus.

Vonetta, my wife, christened the community Radical Living. "Radical" is a word that means "relating to the root." The term "radical" also gives homage to the Radical Reformation. We sought a return to primitive Christianity,
(continued on page 3)

Currents

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John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

ACC Moderator's Reflections

Lately, I have been thinking a good bit about larger church gatherings as I look forward to the Mennonite Church USA event in Pittsburgh in July. Many persons invest lots of hard work and behind-the-scenes planning and resources into these church gatherings. This is also true of Atlantic Coast Conference sessions as well. For persons who have the time and can afford attending, these gatherings are times of worship, connecting with friends, and discussing issues facing the church.

There is always a tension between structuring gatherings for conducting church business/passing resolutions which some see as boring and the need for discernment (a.k.a. discussion), which is perceived by others as exciting. As I look forward to Pittsburgh, I hope to be doing some of both. Both are important; however, it would appear that the symbolism of Pittsburgh, with over 700 bridges and the assembly's theme of "Bridges to the Cross" calls for a time of coming together in Christ by spanning the differences that tend to divide the church. If I am not mistaken, the planners for Pittsburgh included lots of time for discernment rather than the passing of resolutions. At least that's the intention, since it is billed as an "experiment".

In the selected scripture of II Corinthians 5:16-20 for Pittsburgh, Paul appeals to us that God is reconciling the world through Christ and that we too have this ministry of reconciliation.

One wonders if reconciliation best takes place through passing resolutions and conducting church business or whether the work of Christ best takes place in the process of discernment as we carefully listen to those who may disagree with us on certain issues. By carefully listening to one another, we create conditions where persons feel understood which in turn allows room for the Holy Spirit to bring about reconciliation.

In Acts 15, we have the account of a church council held in Jerusalem to discuss

the matter of whether non-Jewish Christians needed to be circumcised in order to be accepted in the community as was the custom of the Hebrew people. According to the account, there was strong disagreement that was dividing the young church. Major leaders like Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and James as well as the "whole assembly" weighed in on the question. The circumcision issue was discussed at length until it "seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us" to admit new believers without being circumcised. This would imply both the process of discussion and resolution was at work.

I would suggest the Jerusalem Council serve as our model, and the bridges of Pittsburgh serve as the symbol for all our ACC and Mennonite Church USA Conferences. There never will be a shortage of issues that require discernment as the church engages in its ministry of reconciliation. The II Corinthians 5 scripture lays out the objective for us to be Christ's ambassadors in the work of reconciling one another to God and to each other. This will take lots of time, lots of listening to each other, and lots of love (grace) in order to cross the bridges that tend to divide the church.

I trust we will always look back to both the ACC and Mennonite Church USA gatherings as times of worship and times of reconciling discernment to cross our bridges in a manner that "... seems good to the Holy Spirit and us."

* * *

Fall Assembly Celebration

... Not Business as Usual!

THIS FALL'S ACC ASSEMBLY theme will be, *Where Are We Going? Heading Home Together*. Assembly will be held on October 21-22, 2011, at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church. All are welcome to attend Friday for *Conference Tending Congregations*, a time of resourcing for pastors and leaders. Saturday will be the time for *Congregations Tending Conference* as we gather for inspiration, conversation, and discernment. Please visit www.atlanticcoastconference.net and watch your bulletin for more information.



Radical Living members meet with community friends (Franciscan friars, nuns, bruderhof, and new monastics) several times a year.

Radical Living

(continued from page 1)

and especially to the event that gave birth to the early church, so that we might then advance. We hoped to share our lives with others in a spirit of love and service.

Almost as soon as we launched the co-housing community, our brownstone was filled, and soon thereafter two other houses on the block were converted to community houses. Within a year, Radical Living had three community houses, and the beginnings of genuine friendships with one another and with our neighbor.

Due to the fact that my wife and I are an interracial couple—she is Afro-Guyanese and I am Euro-American—we strive to maintain a diverse membership in the community. We seek to be a multicultural, intergenerational and ecumenical community (Revelation 5:9) that seeks to embody Jesus' presence, particularly in our neighborhood.

In an effort to retain that which we've learned as well to provide structure and sustainability for our community, we have created a "Praxis of Radical Living." We recognize the necessity and danger of structure, and establish structures not as a prescription for community but as a description of how we function. This helps us foster a community of compassion, spiritual formation and kingdom-building, and also holds us accountable to the mission and vision of Radical Living.

As a community we have also come to understand that leadership is a function and not a title. We have realized that we are all leaders in certain areas and we are followers in other areas, and that there needs to be a space for both.

Although our community is non-hierarchical, there are several positions that require greater responsibility. The treasurer of our community is in charge of balancing the common purse, writing checks for various expenses, and reporting to the community. Persons in the community have their own finances, yet we also share a common purse.

We receive many guests—our hospitality coordinator welcomes them, maintains the hospitality calendar, and keeps the guest room in order. We have a finance ministry that works with the treasurer, a loaves and fish ministry that buys food for our shared pantry, and a neighborhood ministry that helps to organize neighborhood events in partnership with local churches, the block association, and other groups.

The rhythm of Radical Living consists of prayer, study, shared meals, and fellowship. The purpose of our rhythm is to express our love to God and to our neighbor through Jesus Christ. All of our gatherings are open to neighbors, visitors, friends and strangers, and we welcome all who would like to participate in our rhythm of community. Our rhythm changes seasonally.

*- Jason Storbakken, Radical Living Pastor
32 Hart Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206
www.radicalivingnyc.com; 212-444-2701*

Although Radical Living is a young co-housing community, they have deep roots.

We join with them in praying that they will grow as a community and make a way for the Kingdom of God to enter into their corner of the world in Brooklyn, New York.

Opportunity to help with labor and money to assist an ACC congregation relate with their community and at the same time bless the Crispus Attucks Community Center!

Grace Ubuntu Furthering God's Kingdom

In the Fall of 2010, Grace Ubuntu Fellowship (GUF) found a home after many years of pulling up tent stakes and wandering from one rental property to another in Lancaster City. We had a modest building fund built up from within and generous contributors without, many in ACC. Yet we had no prospect of owning a building in which we might utilize these funds for furthering God's Kingdom.

Last Fall, we began a unique agreement with Crispus Attucks Community Center (CACC) requiring mutual trust and kinship. It has proved to be the unconventional solution. Unable to afford a large monthly rent, GUF realized that perhaps traditional ownership of a building was not where God's vision lay. Since then we have been

worshipping at CACC and are blessed to be linked to the community there through involvement in their programs.

We used our building fund to oversee badly-needed repairs to the Center. The early June blast of summer heat warned us of the hot months to come, and CACC has no air conditioning in the main spaces used for summer programming with neighborhood youth. Estimates for installing a central air system, at around \$20-25,000 are far beyond the capacity of our remaining building fund, but we want to help find a way to see this need met for a vital downtown organization.

Can you help? Please email me: keithw@atlanticcoastconference.net if you have any ideas or dollars. Thank you!

~ Keith D. Wilson, Grace Ubuntu Fellowship

Are You Pickin' Up What I'm Layin' Down, God?

The world is a mess, from my 7th grade viewpoint

Politicians fightin' over money (and my future)

Folks rebuilding in Japan

Even you guys, my parents, not always gettin' along

My own peeps not the best examples of friendship

God, where are we headed?

Are you pickin' up what I'm layin' down here, God?

And God tells me

Chill-lax, my man

Look at that beautiful bloomin' tree

At your crazy cat on its back, sprawled in sunshine

See my face in your family, in friends and even enemies,

Best buds or bullies, all my people

I am here, I got your back.

Believe, my child, Believe and Live!

The above poem was written by Beth and Julian Graybill who are active in the life of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster where Beth serves on the worship committee. Julian is age 13.

CURRENCY CORNER

King David, based on his life observations, in Psalms 37 presents a fairly length comparison of righteous to unrighteous persons. Throughout this psalm, many observations are presented. Some characteristics have to do with handling of resources. Verse 21 says, "...the righteous are generous and keep on giving..." and verse 26 "...they are ever giving liberally..." Even in these challenging economic times may we continue to be faithful in our generosity and giving.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer
Community Mennonite Church
of Lancaster

Eastern Mennonite University is seeking applicants for a half-time position of **Program Development & Marketing Associate at EMU in Lancaster, Pa.** The candidate will oversee the research, development, and implementation of non-traditional, cutting-edge, undergraduate program opportunities for traditional age college students consistent with the larger mission and vision of the university. Must be passionate about EMU at Lancaster's unique identity. S/he collaborates with EMU marketing department to implement social and traditional media strategies that position EMU at Lancaster effectively with key audiences. S/he serves as the liaison for the EMU at Lancaster programs to main campus advancement division. Must have strong interpersonal communication skills, ability to set priorities and to work for more than one person or department, knowledge of and skills in educational program development, experience in marketing and promotion and strong oral and written communication skills. Submit application, resume and three references to: hr@emu.edu. For more information visit our website at www.emu.edu/humanresources. Persons who bring diversity are encouraged to apply. EOE.



Jessica Shirk

Hearing from the “Fabulously Singles”

Waves of Change

As I write this article, the countdown to my wedding stands at 32 days. When I began writing this column two and a half years ago, I was a “fabulously-single” young adult, to quote a fellow member of ACC’s Young Adult Task Force. I was involved in a variety of ministries at Ridgeview Mennonite, and passionate about young adults and their participation in the church.

And then, quite unexpectedly, I met a wonderful Christian man. He has encouraged me in many aspects of my life, especially in my relationship with God. On Christmas Day, he proposed to me and I accepted.

While my status as a fabulously-single young adult has changed, my passion for the church has not; and while I would like to continue writing, I believe that it is time for me to hand this column

over to another young adult (or two).

I know that there are young adults in ACC who are passionate about their faith and relating to the church. They have lots of energy and great ideas! But, no matter what our age, we do have demands on our time—will we allow “time” to keep us from “blessing” others and being blessed?

I urge you to tap the shoulder of a young adult in your congregation who you think might be interested in sharing the responsibilities of writing this column. Contact *Currents* Editor Lois Ann Mast at currents@atlanticcoastconference.net

Thank you for reading “Fresh Water” and for sharing your thoughts with me.

~ Jessica Shirk, Ridgeview Mennonite

ACC Leadership Transitions

Steve Crane (Francesca), pastor, Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Atglen, Pa., ordination approved May 31. Steve was previously ordained in the American Baptist Church USA and along with his wife served in American Baptist missions in Brazil and several interim pastorates. Steve began serving as Maple Grove’s interim pastor in May 2007.

Linda Helmus (Dave), associate pastor of Christian education and young family life, Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa., ordination approved May 31. An ordination service is scheduled for Sunday, July 24, 4:00 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church.

Calvin Yoder (Lorie), ordination transfer approved May 31, from Atlantic Coast to Lancaster Conference.

~ Warren Tyson, Executive Conference Minister
Forest Hills Mennonite

Fulltime Youth Ministry Position: Eastern District and Franconia Conferences of Mennonite Church USA and Christopher Dock Mennonite High School are seeking a full-time youth minister with ability to work collaboratively in diverse settings. The successful candidate will partner with and resource those who minister to youth, inviting our youth to become radical followers of Jesus Christ, mentor youth in context of a supportive church community and empower youth to offer God’s healing and hope to the world. An undergraduate degree and extended ministry experience preferred. Please send a resume to Conrad Swartzentruber at cjswartzentruber@dockhs.org.



Saturday, September 10

7:00 a.m. Yard Sale, Share-A-Meal & Silent Auction begins

8:30 a.m. Benefit Auction begins

WJTL’s ‘Kid’s Cookie Break’ Live at 9:00 a.m.
BBQ Chicken for Eat-in & Take-out

www.landishomes.org ✦ 717-569-3271

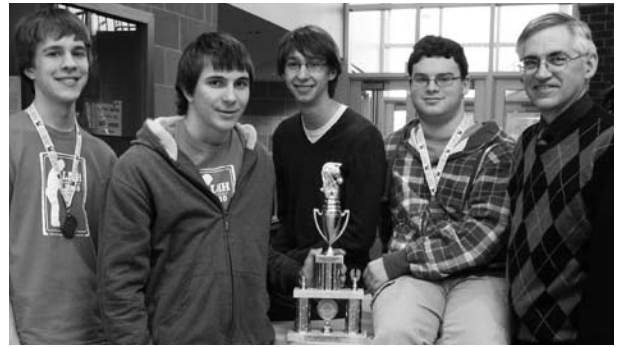
News, notes, and announcements may be sent to *Currents* editor, Lois Ann Mast 219 Mill Road Morgantown, PA 19543; or e-mailed to: currents@atlanticcoastconference.net

MCC East Coast Youth Service Day

Join youth from ACC and Lancaster Conference on August 8, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at the MCC Material Resources Center in Ephrata, Pa. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your own lunch. This is a great opportunity for youth to do practical work preparing material aid for shipment to needy areas around the world. RSVP: Lisa Heft, 717-733-2847, lheft@mcc.org.

Mennonite Church USA

Receive e-mail news from Mennonite Church USA every Monday (when there is news). Subscribe by e-mailing mcusanews@mennoniteusa.org.



Chess players (left to right): Jonathan Bender, Peter Weida, Benjamin Bauman, John David Satriale, and Advisor Merle Reinford.

State Chess Champion

Attends Community Mennonite

During the State Chess Championship held March 5 and 6 at the Carlisle Convention Center, Lancaster Mennonite High School senior Peter Weida tied for second best player in the state of Pennsylvania and was the top 12th grader in the state. Weida played in the highest division and won four of his five matches. Weida is the son of Elizabeth Brubaker-Weida, Lancaster, and Thomas Weida, Lititz. Peter attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. Weida finished his high school career as the top rated player in the Lancaster Scholastic Chess League for the sixth consecutive year, an unprecedented feat in the league. His career league record was 85 wins, six losses, and six ties. Four of the six losses occurred when he was in seventh grade. According to adviser Merle Reinford, Weida is the strongest player he has ever coached.



Graduation Speakers at LMS

Jason Spicher from Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, was one of the grad speakers at LMS this past year. Above, left to right: Emily Shank, Barbara Moses (principal at Philadelphia Mennonite High School), Jason Spicher, and Saier Zeng.

Healing & Hope

Banner with Mennonite Church USA's theme plus related hardware (21.5"x72" size) available to be customized for your church: FreeDesign@MennoniteUSA.org

Mennonite Girls Can Cook

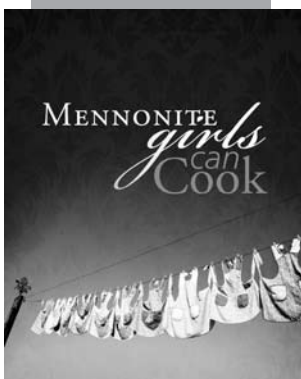
Three years ago, Lovella Schellenberg started a blog to record her thoughts, memories and recipes from her Mennonite heritage. It proved so popular that she invited other women to join her. The result: The blog Mennonite Girls Can Cook. Now the popular blog—over 1.6 million visits since 2008—is also a beautiful book that celebrates hospitality, blessing, sharing, friendship and good food. Royalties will go to charity to feed hungry children. Published by Mennonite Publishing Network, the book sells for \$24.99.

Bookworm Frolic

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is holding its 31st annual "Bookworm Frolic" from Wednesday, August 17, through Saturday, August 20. With nearly 50,000 books on sale, volunteers are appreciated in a variety of tasks over the four days. If interested, contact Thomas Neufeld (of CMCL) at tneufeld@lmhs.org or 717-682-9321.

Meno Acontecer

Subscribe to this free monthly Spanish language electronic magazine—a joint effort of Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education, *The Mennonite*, and Iglesia Menonita Hispana. Join the mailing list by e-mailing: MenoAcontecer@themennonite.org



Converting our Inner Atheist

Best-selling author Anne Rice was raised as a Roman Catholic, but spent several decades as an atheist, during which time she wrote her famous *Vampire Chronicles*. After returning to Jesus, she has said that during all those years, she had been a “Christ-haunted atheist.”

I believe this can work the other way around too. Do you have an atheist soul haunting a Christian mind? What do you believe? Do you know what you believe? When asked questions like these, we begin to access our three-pound squishy tangle of approximately 100 billion neurons and 1,000 trillion synaptic connections, which act as the world’s most complicated hard drive.

We instantly flip through our catalogue of dogmas, doctrines, Bible verses, sermon illustrations. The problem is that somewhere in and around this gooey computer, floats a soul with a mysteriously different operating system.

I can memorize a book about a doctrine of grace, but if experience has taught my soul a lie like, “God cannot possibly forgive me,” then I do not and cannot really believe in the enormity of God’s grace.

Just as our brain records facts, our souls seem to learn something each time a parent gratuitously punishes, each time a fellow human denigrates another.

My soul was imprinted with crippling misinformation about God when children ridiculed me on the bus; when I or others heard “wimp, dork, fat, pizza-face, poor, or faggot.” Our naïve souls sponge these things up because experience is by far the most effective teacher.

I can memorize a book about a doctrine of grace, but if experience has taught my soul a lie like, “God cannot possibly forgive me,” then I do not and cannot really believe in the enormity of God’s grace. Deep down, beneath thought,

word, and doctrine, my soul refuses this because experience has proved that I am unlovable or unforgivable. Therefore, God is unloving and unforgiving.

Experiences exert powerful influence; influence that may trump what we believe in our heads. Some of us are *believers* in our convinced minds, but *lost atheists* in our heart of hearts. Jesus came among such heart-sick atheists. They had lost their God in their rules and intellectual understandings. Jesus came and declared that the kingdom had arrived in his flesh; that God is available to be personally touched and known. To experience God in the flesh is to finally believe.

Genuinely feeling Jesus’ loving embrace, our souls and minds unite, laying aside their disagreements. This is where we find our healing, our salvation.

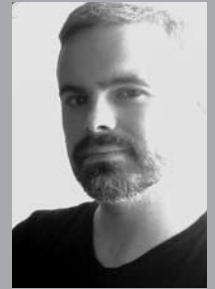
You see, for me experiencing God is not optional if I am to remain a Christian. If I have an intellectual battle or inquiry within myself to make a factual proof of my faith . . . the skeptical side will win because I know too much. I must experience God to remain a Christian. And praise God, I do!

Again and again, the direct touch of a loving God re-teaches my wounded soul to believe. All of the most brilliant atheistic reasoning could not teach Anne Rice’s soul to forget her experience of God in childhood. What if too much time is spent obsessing about and focusing on the intellectual understanding of our faith? What if more, or even all, of that precious time were spent in the transforming embrace of God? For me, this happens in prayer, in worship, in nature, and often most powerfully when I am with my brothers and sisters at Grace Ubuntu Fellowship.

Only God in the flesh can heal and make us truly believers in a God of grace, love, and redemption. I believe, forgive my unbelief.

~ Keith Wilson

Grace Ubuntu Fellowship



ACC's
Conference
Coordinator
Keith Wilson

Experiencing God is not optional if I am to remain a Christian.

Forward
births,
marriages,
and deaths to:

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EVENTS & MORE

Items may be
sent to:

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currents@
atlanticcoast
conference.net

Births

Madison Grace McNear born May 10, 2011, dau. of Corey and Theresa (Nolt) McNear (Akron Mennonite).

Thomas Alfredo Berg born May 29, 2011, son of Fred and Beth (Douple) Berg (Akron Mennonite).

Deaths

Ivan "Earl" Bowman, 79, (Akron Mennonite) died on May 29, 2011, son of the late Ivan and Eva (Martin) Bowman and husband of Irma (Ebersole) Bowman.

Hanna B. Stoltzfus, 94 (Maple Grove Mennonite) died on May 30, 2011, son of the late Daniel S. and Lizzie Fisher Kauffman and wife of the late Harold A. Stoltzfus.

September 13, 2011
ACC Vision Dinner
6:15 p.m.
Shady Maple
East Earl, Pa.

October 21, 2011
**ACC Congregational
Leadership Training**
morning and afternoon
Blossom Hill
Mennonite Church
Lancaster, Pa.

October 21, 2011
**ACC Mennonite
Women Annual Dinner**
Friday evening
Joy Sawatzky, storyteller
and chaplain at Souder-
ton Mennonite Home

October 22, 2011
**ACC Annual Assembly
Celebration**
Blossom Hill
Mennonite Church
"Where Are We Going?
Heading Home
Together

I Turned Away

I turned away, I turned my back
and tried to ignore Your presence,
I paid no attention. I tried not to look,
But still You were there in a sense.

But I made up my mind, I made my choice
Of Satan I knew no fear.
I went for that free life, that selfish life,
And in Jesus' eye was a tear.

That gentle evil pulled and prodded
Said, "You're secure, you're safe."
What else could you want, you've comfort and ease,
Why would you want His grace?

Knowing it was false, knowing it was wrong,
I allowed my soul to grow dimmer,
Smaller and smaller that tiny light,
Now just barely a glimmer.

And emptiness was a part of my life
That day my soul went away.

I cried and sobbed as evil stood by
In his calm and soothing way.

The years went by, I knew no peace,
And my sinful course had been run,
I could not end my life like this,
My God, what have I done?

Thinking I was all alone
Having turned away from Him,
Something inside said, "Do what's right . . .
If only one step at a time."

A touch of hope was in my heart,
Then disaster struck once more.
All was lost, nothing was left,
Just a blackness and despair.



Peggy Jones

I was deep in that pit of nothingness,
Not knowing what to do,
When, read those words written in red,
Came the answer strong and true!

I read those words and so many more
About this Father who loved us all,
And into my darkness, there came a Light
That gave peace to my broken soul.

I begged His forgiveness, confessed my sins,
Cried . . . I thought You were gone forever . . .
Why didn't You tell me that You were still there?
And with love, He just smiled and said,
"You weren't ready."

- Peggy Jones, Zion Mennonite

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org



*ACC Moderator
John Weber handing
a Certificate of
Membership to Glenn
Lehman, Director of
Harmonies.*

Harmonies Music Ministry

Now an ACC Conference Related Ministry

A rousing rendition of “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” opened the 2011 Harmonies Annual Hymn Sing held at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church this March. Two hundred and ninety voices filled the hall—a perfect example of the Harmonies mission to inspire vibrant hymn singing. With Stanley Godshall at the podium and Beth Peachey at the piano, it looked natural and easy. And it was. Because behind the scene lay lots of preparation.

Atlantic Coast Conference invited the music ministry, Harmonies, to affiliate as a related ministry. On April 30, moderator John Weber presented a certificate of membership to Glenn Lehman, director of Harmonies. Glenn is also the organist at Neffsville Mennonite Church.

What is Harmonies? What work can it do among ACC churches?

In recent years, Harmonies has been a launching pad for groups such as Sons of the Day, Shekinah, the Kraybill Campus Singing Boys, and the Valley Table Singers, as well as master song leaders Marcy Hostetler, John Horst, and many others.

Earlier, the focus on promoting hymn singing had taken the form of the Table Singers. Starting in 1987, that popular group gave programs based on 20th century Mennonite hymnals. They made numerous recordings.

Harmonies also works to present our singing heritage and values tracing back to Anabaptist origins, providing ways for outside audiences to connect to these treasures.

By building up a unique database of Old Order singing, Harmonies has been able to contribute sound files to six public media documentaries, in as many years, on topics ranging from immigration to forgiveness. Harmonies has also recovered in CD format treasures of early 20th century singing, such as Mennonite Hour recordings and Eastern Mennonite College oratorios.

Harmonies Workshop was founded in 1987 to provide resources to song leaders. Harmonies has a long history of involvement with ACC churches and looks with joy to serving in the future.

Landis Homes

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www.landis
homes.org



Jack Hubley
and his hawk.



Judy Witmer, COO of Hildebrandt Learning Centers, Kori Constein, preschool teacher, Helena Dueck, quilt artist, Jo Ann Pringle (center) director, and Larry Zook, Landis Homes president. Center children are Aiden Gross, Jasmine Robertson, Hope Broich, and Max Schaub posing with the wall hanging commissioned by Landis Homes to honor the center on receiving national accreditation.

Landis Homes has been serving senior adults on the grounds of their 100-acre retirement community near Lititz, Pa., since 1964. Over 650 people are residents of Landis Homes in cottages and apartments as well as those receiving personal care and healthcare. What some people don't realize is that Landis Homes also serves persons of varying ages in the larger Lancaster community in several additional ways.

Landis Homes has two adult day services centers which serve about 100 older adults each week with stimulating programming, companionship, and a noon meal. One of the centers is specially designed to offer support for those persons with memory loss. The program which has been operating since 1989 is jointly sponsored by the Lancaster County Office of Aging.

A Children's Learning Center which opened in 2004 offers day care through pre-school opportunities for families with children from six weeks to five years old. In addition the NAEYC accredited center, which is managed by Hildebrandt Learning Centers, there is a three-month day camp in the summer months for school aged children from kindergarten through grade six.

Since 2007, Landis at Home is extending home care and support services to adults who

Landis Homes Serves Persons in the Neighborhood

live beyond the campus in their own homes. "More and more people, as they age, are exercising the choice to stay in their homes rather than move to a retirement community," says Director of Home & Community Services, Faith Hoover.

Landis at Home provides personal care, transportation, homemaking, bathing, dressing, companionship and medicinal reminders to persons of all ages living in their private homes within a 10-15

mile radius of Landis Homes campus on East Oregon Road, Lititz. Services are available for a few hours or for an extended period of time.

Landis Homes also is the site for monthly support group meetings for the larger community. One is for caregivers of persons with memory loss and the other is for families affected by Parkinson's disease.

Still another service to an off campus audience is the Arthritis Aquatics classes that are held several times a week by a certified trainer at the indoor therapy pool.

Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning[®] offers college level courses and educational events for mature persons two semesters each year for over 200 persons living both on and off the retirement community campus.

Another resource that many congregations have taken advantage of is the Speakers Resource Listing which is on the Landis Homes website under Community Services. Topics from Aging and Memory Loss, to Computer Skills and Financial Planning are offered as a community service.

To find out more about any of these programs, readers may call Landis Homes at 717-569-3271 or visit the website at landishomes.org.

- Deb Laws-Landis

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) 299-0823
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
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, as an expression of Christ's love, provides supportive caring services to individuals experiencing significant mental illness and their families.

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.



“The Church is Not Just a Family in Name”

Jean Hunsecker with husband Clair, and two Forest Hills friends, Linda Tyson and Eleanor Glick. Credit: Joe Hollinger.



Tom Overly (left) with Marv Zook (right) just days before the transplant surgery. Credit: Joe Hollinger.

“A little self-sacrifice is not a big deal!”

“When the Spirit moves, stuff that’s not normal starts to happen,” said Pastor Chuck Goertz as he reflected upon the recent kidney transplants of two Forest Hills members, Jean Hunsecker and Tom Overly.

Jean was diagnosed with End Stage Kidney Disease in 2004, and was placed on an active transplant list early this year. Tom’s kidney disease was discovered during a routine physical in 2010. After a follow-up angiogram damaged his right kidney, Tom started on dialysis.

As soon as Forest Hills members heard of Jean and Tom’s need, nine people came forward to be tested as possible organ donors. Marv Zook was discovered

to be a near perfect match for Tom. Marv said his decision to be tested came down to, “I would want someone to do it for me. If I believe in what the cross symbolizes, then a little self-sacrifice is not a big deal.”

Jean, Tom, and Marv received prayer shawls from the Forest Hills Prayer Shawl Ministry Team prior to surgery. They and their spouses acknowledged they were humbled and energized by the outpouring of support from the congregation.

Jean received a cadaver kidney on May 1. She said, “Knowing I was surrounded by prayers, I had complete peace for whatever lay ahead.” Tom, who had surgery ten days later, also recalls the prayers and practical acts of help received. “The church is not just a family in name,” he said. “It is my family.”

Tom’s wife Ann, whose first husband died of kidney disease, admits there were some low moments. “I can’t express how important family and friends were at this time,” she confessed. “People came out of the woodwork to pray.”

In a recent testimony, Jean gave voice to the joy everyone felt, “It was fitting that my room number following surgery was 606,” she said. “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

- Cheryl Hollinger
Forest Hills Mennonite



Ann (in red) and Tom Overly and Marv and Lori Zook (on their left) surrounded by Forest Hill members and family members. Notice the matching prayer shawls knitted by our Prayer Shawl Ministry Team.

Credit: Joe Hollinger.