



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Youth participating at ACC's Fall Youth Retreat. Credit: Jon Carlson.

"I Hope You Dance"

by Rebecca Eldridge, Ridgeview Mennonite

HIGHLIGHTS



4 Sabbath Retreat



5 Church Planting



12 Native American Apology

Are you willing to dance with the Spirit? What is the special thing that we are called to do to change the world? Does the company you keep share the same goals and values? What will you take a stand for? These are a few of the questions that Leonard Dow asked at ACC's Fall Youth Retreat on September 17-19 at Refreshing Mountain Camp.

Our walk with God is like a dance (compared to a wave). We have the choice to go with the Spirit or to sit it out and ignore the Spirit. To dance well, cooperation is needed from both ends. But, it is also okay at times to mess up because the Spirit is there to help catch us and put us back on track.

A lot of youth have a Facebook page. Some have a few people, but others have

500-600 people considered to be friends. I have a question for you though, "How many of those are truly your friends?"

Each one has a different standard of what makes a friend, but God's standard is that a true friend will lay down his/her life for you. Knowing that, how many friends do you have by God's standards???

On Sunday morning, Leonard shared that friends are just like family to you; they respect you for who you are and what you stand for; they are intentionally given to you by God. No matter if they agree with you, they are there to encourage you through everything.

Today, people can move far away, but they are still near via Skype, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

(continued on page 3)



Worship Band from Holly Grove Mennonite Church shared their life "dance" as they led worship at the ACC Youth Retreat in September. What a great way to share their talents and gifts! Credit: Jon Carlson.

Currents

Volume 31, Issue 6

Lois Ann Mast
Editor

Jessica Shirk
Contributing Editor

Lois Whisler
Contributing Editor

Keith Wilson
Contributing Editor

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

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

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

All material for
publication in the
January-February
2011 CURRENTS
should reach the
editor by December
15, 2010.

Atlantic Coast Conference

2257 Old
Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA
17602

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

office@atlantic
coastconference.net



John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

ACC Moderator's Reflections

Perhaps you have noticed that in many of our older and more established congregations there are fewer young adults present. If you haven't noticed, take a look around the church next Sunday and see just how many persons ages 20-40 are in the congregation!

This is certainly not the case in every ACC congregation or for all Christian churches across the country for that matter. Many newer and more urban churches actually have a good number of young adult worshipers in attendance.

God's spirit can be present in any group of two or three who gather for worship and fellowship in Christ's name no matter the ages of those present.

I believe for the church to be faithful to God's purposes in our world, we need to be concerned for this growing trend and listen very carefully to what the younger persons are saying. Otherwise, the strength, vitality and richness of our congregations are in jeopardy.

I am sure there are many reasons that vary from one congregation to another for the declining attendance of persons ages 20-40. We older, more seasoned members (50+) must begin by careful listening!

As a small beginning, the ACC Fall Assembly held at Forest Hills Mennonite on October 23 focused on the theme "Celebrating the Edge." The program included a panel of young adults responding to their concerns for the church. Keith Wilson, ACC Coordinator and chair of the recently formed Young Adult Task Force, delivered the main

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.

meditation. We look forward to the work of this committee and their recommendations to the Executive Committee on how to create greater involvement of younger persons in the life and witness of our conference.

Mennonite Church USA is also taking a step in addressing this issue by creating a full time denominational youth and young adult staff position.

In our own conference, Merv Stoltzfus, one of the conference ministers, devotes a portion of his time to youth. Under Merv's leadership over the years, the popularity of quizzing and youth retreats has grown significantly. As a result, the presence of middle and high school youth in our congregations remains strong and active. For this we are grateful.

How congregations respond to incorporating and strengthening the presence of younger adults and might I add, the presence of racial and ethnic persons, will clearly impact the viability of the church to fulfill God's mission in the world.

... WE MUST CALL OUR YOUNG
ADULTS INTO CHURCH LEADERSHIP,
PROVIDE TRAINING, AND CRE-
DENTIALING TO DO GOD'S WORK.

The scripture notes that older women and men dream while the young see visions. Perhaps it is long over due to seriously bring younger persons of both genders into the very leadership of the congregation.

Our brightest and most talented younger persons need to be welcomed into the church and allowed to follow their visions.

As a community we must be calling our young adults into church leadership, providing training, and credentialing to do God's work.

Church structures and those who currently have positions of authority need to embrace the necessary changes for greater transformation.

We can trust God's presence and the discernment process in taking this step.

Change happens.
It always has!

ACC
Fall
Youth
Retreat

Theme:
“When We
Are Young”

Speaker
Leonard Dow
is pastor
at Oxford Circle
Mennonite
Church in North
Philadelphia.
He spoke
at the 2009
Youth
Convention
in Columbus,
Ohio.



Speaker Leonard Dow leading the youth in an enthusiastic “wave.” Credit: Jon Carlson.

I Hope You Dance *(continued from page 1)*

Good friends will have disagreements, but getting through these challenges shows that you can get through anything with them! **F**amily, **R**espect, **I**ntentional, **E**ncouraging, **N**ear **D**isagreements, are the characteristics that a true **FRIEND** should have!

Leonard Dow told the story about little Ruby Bridges—the first African American girl to enter a white school. She walked to school every day with people watching her and yelling rude things at her. Not once did she say or do anything back. She did her best in school and achieved big things. What she did at age six was to take a really big stand for what she wanted.

So, I have to wonder, what will you stand



The “Giant Swing” enjoyed by many at ACC’s Youth Fall Retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp.

Credit: Jon Carlson.

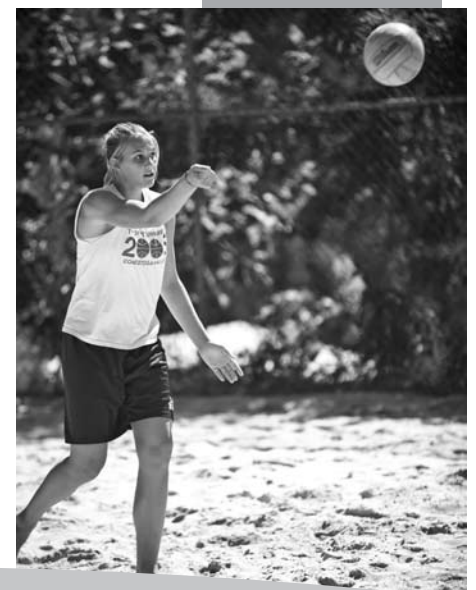
for? How will you change the world? Who is really your friend? Are you willing to dance with the Spirit? What really is your dance?

Over 200 youth and youth leaders from ACC congregations attended the ACC annual fall youth retreat. Resource Speaker, Leonard Dow, shared during the four worship times on the theme, “When We Are Young.” He referred to Biblical stories of God at work in the lives of youth, and encouraged us to believe that God still desires to work in the lives of youth today!

We were blessed with beautiful weather all weekend which allowed for fabulous outdoor activity. Youth and leaders enjoyed the new zip lines, and the “Giant Swing” during activity times. There’s nothing like a late night zip line ride with only Tiki torches lighting the line! For the brave, there was the 10:00 p.m swim both nights in the 65° pool.

We are very blessed to have this faith-forming tradition for our youth.

~ Merv Stoltzfus, Conference Youth Pastor, Ridgeview Mennonite



Voice
Lessons

More
Mother-
Daughter
Challenges

With

Barbara
Longenecker

Marilyn
Denlinger

Gwen Wenger
Peachey



Barbara Longenecker, Marilyn Denlinger, and Gwen Wenger Peachey.

Three mothers will present "What We Learned about Sexual Orientation that We Never Anticipated, but Are Grateful to Know," on November 13, 2010, at the Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

Marilyn Denlinger, Barbara Longenecker, and Gwen Wenger Peachey will share about living with sexual diversity and describe their lives as mothers of lesbian daughters. This is the first of the '10-'11 series of three Women's Sabbath Retreats under the theme of Voice Lessons: More Mother-Daughter Challenges. The mothers add, "As we journeyed with our daughters, we learned from their challenges about acceptance of them as they are created by God. Each of us tells our own story as we moved from shock at our daughter's revelation of her sexuality to our affirmation of her self-worth and gifts."

Marilyn, a member of Neffsville Mennonite Church, is a retired registered nurse. She and her husband of nearly 50 years, Ray, have a one grown son and daughter. Marilyn enjoys volunteering, regular exercise, flower gardening, reading and traveling.

Barbara's nursing and parenting experiences provided valuable lessons. Most recently she worked as an end-of-life nurse with Hospice of Lancaster County. Barbara and husband Charles now live at Landis Homes, enjoying retirement and volunteering. They attend New Holland Mennonite Church.

Gwen, a retired elementary school teacher, and her husband, Urbane, helped to organize Connecting Families, a support group of parents and GLBT individuals which meets yearly for a weekend

Women's Sabbath Retreat Continues Mother-Daughter Series

retreat. An avid reader, cross-word puzzler, and grandma, Gwen attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster and sings with the Lancaster Chamber Singers.

Throughout this retreat series, we will learn about renewed voice as women find their way together. Envisioned by a gathering of Anabaptist women in ministry, these retreats are open to all women of any age. The 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday retreats (Nov 13, Jan 29 [adoption], March 12 [sudden loss]) are an invitation to rest, reflect, and remember Whose we are. A light lunch is included.

For further information, contact facilitators Nan Garber (kngarber80@pa.net, 717-367-2369); Sharon Kraybill (sjkgraybill@paonline.com, 717-293-9641) or Mary Lou Weaver Houser (mlouweaverhouser@verizon.net, 717-872-2848). Registration/payment requested by November 7.

Jointly Sponsored by
Adventist WholeHealth Network
Tel Hai Retirement Community

USING CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES FOR A HEALTH MINISTRY TO BENEFIT YOUR CONGREGATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Where do members of your congregation turn when they have medical concerns but no insurance? How about members of the community? Can your congregation be a practical, hands-on, neighborhood ministry in an area of rapidly growing need? This breakfast and presentation provides clergy, church leaders, and anyone interested in faith-based community health with the opportunity to explore a congregational health ministry including "Nurse in the Congregation" programs. We'll answer questions like, *Why would I want a ministry of health in my congregation? What is a "Nurse in the Congregation"? What would it look like? How do I get started?*

FEATURING:

A Nurse in the Congregation? And Other Models... Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Coordinator of the Berks Parish Nurse Network, presents scriptural support for ministries of healing, the role and function of parish nurses today, and resources available for developing and sustaining an effective health ministry

A Day in the Life... Local parish nurses relate experiences from their ministry

A Vision for a Medical Clinic... Lois Ann Mast, coordinator for the recently begun Twin Valley Medical Clinic

This program is FREE of charge!

Adventist WholeHealth Network will be available to schedule a no-cost assessment of your congregation's needs for a congregational health ministry.

WHEN: November 11, 2010

Time: 8:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast and Presentation

Who Should Come? Clergy, church leaders, nurses

WHERE: Tel Hai Retirement Community
1200 Tel Hai Circle
Honey Brook, PA

RSVP: By Wednesday, Nov 3rd by calling 610-273-9333 ext 2009 or e-mail jmiller@telhai.org



On this
rock
I will build
my
church.

Matthew 16:18



Persons from eight states and one Canadian province attended the Church Planters Resource event. Credit: Melanie Hess.

Church Planters Resource Met in Baltimore

A Church Planters Resource event was sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast Conferences (ANEC) of Mennonite Church USA in October 2010 in Baltimore, Md. The gathering was a great blessing for all in attendance and provided a means for church planters hearing excellent teaching, listening to stories of God's call to church planting by a number of church planters, and also praying for each other in our various ministries.

Attendees came from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, California, and Ontario. Worship service languages included Spanish, Creole/French, Amharic, Korean, Garifuna, and English. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Baltimore provided wonderful hosting for the event including an ethnic Ethiopian meal for Saturday's lunch.

A number of church planters voiced desire for future resource events that are similar where church planters learn from each other and hear teaching to grow an Anabaptist missional church planting vision. Jeff Wright, the main presenter, provided excellent teaching that was much appreciated across the numerous language and ethnic groups.

A generous grant was given by Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA executive leadership to support this regional church planters event. ~ Warren Tyson, executive conference minister



Left to right: Melanie Hess (*Mennonite reporter*), Keith Weaver (*Lancaster Mennonite Conference moderator*), Robinson Fondong (*Christian Missionary Fellowship pastor*), Darrell Baer (*Franklin Conference pastor*), and Dave Greiser (*North Baltimore pastor*).



Warren Tyson and Keith Weaver praying with Bernard Sejour, a Haitian church planter in Philadelphia. Credit: Linda Tyson.



Linda Tyson sharing with Sam Walters of Grace Ubuntu Fellowship. Credit: Warren Tyson



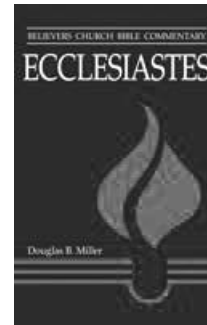
Jeff Wright

ACC's Annual Vision Dinner will feature speaker Jeff Wright (Urban Expression North America) at Shady Maple on Monday, November 8, at 6:15 p.m. Register online at atlanticcoastconference.net or e-mail keithw@atlanticcoastconference.net or phone 717-394-8107. Jeff Wright, representing Urban Expression North America, will bring an inspiring message on sharing the Gospel from a missional Anabaptist perspective. Jeff was ordained in the Mennonite Church and has over 30 years of ministry experience. His current vocation is a pastor, urban community development executive, and church planting/missional church consultant. In 2009, having completed 20 years of service in regional and denominational church leadership as one of the founders of both the Center for Anabaptist Leadership, and the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, Jeff returned to pastoral ministry. He now serves as pastor of the Madison Street Church in Riverside, California. This urban, missional, Anabaptist congregation has developed a variety of ministries to reach out to the heart of the city.

All Mennonite Church USA congregations will receive a free copy of the new Herald Press book *Let the Children Come: Preparing Faith Communities to End Child Abuse and Neglect*, thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor. The donor said, "I can't write a book on this topic, but I can help distribute this book to other churches so they can prevent what happened in my family." In a letter that accompanies the free copies, Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Ervin Stutzman commends the book, adding that as followers of Jesus "we want [children] to come to know him through our programs and activities—and also to be safe and secure in our churches. *Let the Children Come* can help us make sure that is the case." *Let the Children Come* was written by Jeanette Harder and is available for \$12.99 from Herald Press at www.mpn.net/letthechildrencome or by calling 1-800-245-7894.

High School Essay Contest grand prize of \$500 and three regional prizes of \$100 each is available for students to explore the relationship between faith and public policy. Presented by the Washington Office of Mennonite Central Committee U.S., this contest promotes church-wide awareness of public

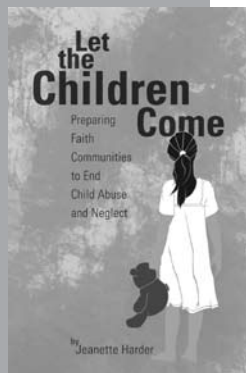
policy issues by highlighting perspectives of Anabaptist youth. Students can choose to write about Palestine and Israel, immigration, or military spending. All essays must be submitted by December 17. The contest is open to youth of high school age who are Mennonite, Brethren in Christ, or Anabaptist, and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools. More information, including instructions about where to send completed essays, is available at washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays.



Ecclesiastes, the latest book in the Herald Press Believers Church Bible Commentary series reveals some new thoughts. We have been told in our past that the message of the book of Ecclesiastes is that "life is meaningless and vain." But is that what

the author is really saying? Not according to Douglas B. Miller, who says that we have been mistranslating the Hebrew word *hebel*. Miller contends—what the author of Ecclesiastes is really saying is that life is like a vapor, but people can face it by cultivating contentment, embracing community and generosity, advocating for the oppressed, showing prudence toward those in power, and, especially, enjoying God's gifts of work and pleasure. While conceding that this view is "certainly grim," Miller notes that "the author has not given up hope. He advises his readers how to make the most of their lives in the midst of such realities."

Skilled volunteers are invited to assist in building the Mennonite Church USA Elkhart offices which will also include offices for Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Education Agency, *The Mennonite*, and Mennonite Publishing Network. Volunteers are invited to help throughout various phases of the construction process through October 2011. Skills needed include framing, finish carpentry, cabinet installation, electrical, plumbing, masonry, drywall hanging and finishing, landscaping, concrete and painting. Housing will be arranged as needed. You can find schedule information and apply to volunteer on the project website: www.mennoniteusa.org/JoiningTogether.



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

ACC Leadership Transitions

Michelle Armster was ordained for Christian ministry at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church on Sunday, October 24, 2010. Michelle currently is serving as co-pastor at St. Andrew United Church of Christ, Lancaster. She also serves as co-director of MCC Conciliation Services. Michelle remains an active member of the Blossom Hill congregation and participates in the Lancaster cluster of ACC pastors.

Samuel Wanjau (Ruth) was approved for ordination by the ACC Ministerial Leadership Committee on Monday, August 31. Sam has served as founding pastor of the African Community Church of Lancaster (ACCL) since September 2001. He also is an individual and family therapist associated with Philhaven Behavioral Services. While serving as pastor at ACCL, Sam continues ministry connections with numerous churches and leaders in his native country of Kenya. Sam was originally ordained to Christian ministry through the African Inland Mission Association. A service date to formally recognize Sam's ordination held by ACC is yet to be confirmed.

Mark Weidner (Kay) started serving as "bridge pastor" at the Ridgeview Mennonite Church as of October 1. Mark and his wife Kay are members of the Akron Mennonite Church. Mark's previous ministry experiences have included serving as a pastor in several congregations and staff member at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind.

Ray Yoder (Edna) completed an 18-month intentional interim pastorate with the Ridgeview Mennonite Church as of September 30. Ray's interim leadership was commended for his skills and spiritual vitality while guiding the congregation through evaluation of current ministries and anticipated arrival of a new long-term pastor in the near future.

Jeff Wright (Debbie) started serving October 1 as New Church Development Coach for Atlantic Coast Conference on a .25% employed time. This new position is meant to

strengthen ACC's position coming alongside and coaching church planters and new church starts affiliated with ACC. Jeff has been serving in a similar ¼-time position relating to Eastern District Conference since February 2009. Jeff brings history of coaching and guiding new churches that are affiliated with Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference representing a diverse ethnic and cultural history. Jeff serves as a part-time pastor at Madison Street Church, a Brethren in Christ congregation in Riverside, Calif. Jeff has been working closely with Urban Expression U.K., a ministry founded by Stuart Murray. Stuart and Jeff have been developing a ministry extension of Urban Expression in the U.S. called Urban Expression N. A. While living in Riverside, Jeff makes monthly trips to the eastern U.S. to meet with church planters one-on-one and has set up a toll-free phone connection for individuals to reach him. Part of Jeff's role with ACC is also to provide teaching and coaching for established churches interested in multiplication through church planting. Jeff can be reached at urban.anabaptist@gmail.com, 888-777-4842 or 951-687-6821 (office).

~ Warren Tyson, executive conference minister

Native American Apology

(continued on page 9)

We all have a context from which we emerge into adulthood, and it is fruitless to wallow in guilt and shame for wrongs perpetrated by our ancestors (spiritual or physical). However, as Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray suggested, we should be convicted by our understanding of justice to refuse to benefit from these wrongs. I don't know exactly how we do this. I have a great deal to reflect on and more history to read, more river-cane and antler arrows to make. I am left with a sense of awe and humility at the dignity and spiritual authority exhibited by a people who have been so profoundly wronged.

~ Keith Wilson, Conference Coordinator

NEW LEADERS



Michelle Armster



Samuel Wanjau



Mark Weidner



Jeff Wright

CONNECTIONS

Send births, marriages, and deaths to:

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

Births

Arianna Frederick born September 17, 2010, dau. of Dan and Jenna Frederick (Zion Mennonite).

Gabriel Noel Mongeau born September 26, 2010, son of Dan and Sarah Mongeau (Blossom Hill Mennonite).

Marriages

Dale Stoltzfus (Maple Grove Mennonite) married **Alisha Goss** (Maple Grove Mennonite) on October 2, 2010.

Dale Weaver (Neffsville Mennonite) married **Ashlee Keeports** (Neffsville Mennonite) on October 23, 2010.

Death

Grace E. Redcay, 90 (Forest Hills Mennonite) died on September 15, 2010, wife of the late Elmer Redcay and daughter of the late Amos and Mary (Miller) Brooks.

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

Please send to address on the left.

EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

Currents Editor:
Lois Ann Mast
219 Mill Road
Morgantown, PA
19543
or e-mailed to:
currents@atlanticcoast
conference.net

One of the highlights at Conestoga's recent 250th Anniversary was the singing schools! On December 5, join Conestoga members in a Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing in singing favorite carols.

November 8, 2010

ACC's Annual Vision Dinner

Jeff Wright, speaker
Shady Maple
Monday, November 8,
at 6:15 p.m.

November 18-20, 2010

Neil Simon's Fools

Fun comedy at LMHS
Fine Arts Center
Lancaster, Pa.
717-299-0426, #340

November 20, 2010

Men's Harmony Concert

Friendship Community
is hosting a free concert.
7:00 p.m. at Forest Hills
Mennonite Church
717-656-2466, ext 165

November 20, 2010

Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills

LMHS Fine Arts
Center, Lancaster, Pa.
717-823-2027

December 3-4, 2010

Silent Sanctuary Retreat

Black Rock Retreat
Meet God in solitude
and silence with Steve &
Ann Weaver, resources.
1-800-858-9299

December 5, 2010

Community Christmas Carol

Hymn Sing

Sing the old favorites
including "The Message"
Conestoga Mennonite
6:00 p.m.

December 12, 2010

Mennonite Children's

Choir of Lancaster
Akron Mennonite
6:00 p.m.

December 15, 2010

Live Nativity Scene
with Christmas carols
Garden Spot Village
Chapel
717-355-6007
cmusselman@garden-
spotvillage.org

December 16, 2010

LMS Middle School Christmas Concert

LMHS Fine Arts
Center, Lancaster, Pa.
7:00 p.m.
717-299-0436, #340

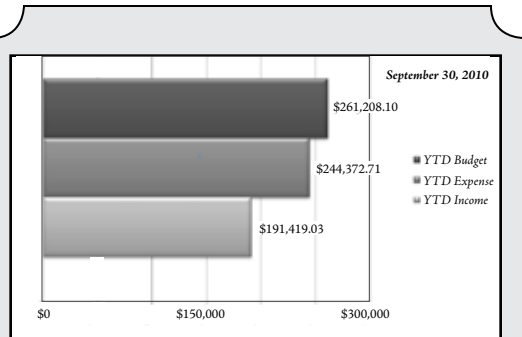
December 19, 2010

LMS Annual Christmas Concert

LMHS Fine Arts
Center, Lancaster, Pa.
3:00 p.m.
717-299-0436, #340

December 27-29, 2010

Jr. High Winter Retreat
6th-8th graders for
exhilarating winter fun
1-800-858-9299



CURRENCY CORNER

Thanksgiving season is here and we think of being thankful to God for all the blessing he sends our way. For some, this year, the material blessing may not seem so great if a job has been lost or if the debt and house values do not match up.

When you look at how the words "thanks" and "thanksgiving" are used in the Bible, it seems that they are not tied so much to giving thanks for specific material possessions or things. Instead the thankfulness is directed more toward being thankful to God for his existence and our privilege to relate to God. An example of this is Psalm 100:4 NRSV "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name".

This great God that we can relate to truly has unlimited resources. He loves his children and notices everything that happens to them. Remember Psalm 24:1 NRSV "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer
Community Mennonite
Church of Lancaster



Members meeting around the sewing machines (standing, from left) Nancy Jenkins, Jo Kircher, Shirley Walton, and (seated from left) Susie Stoltzfus, Irene Hertzler, Dorry Smith, and Betty Shankweiler. Not pictured: Arlene Leete.

SEW Creative Stitchers Take on New Projects

Since their founding in the fall of 2009, the SEW Creative Stitchers of Tel Hai have kept themselves busy with a myriad of projects benefitting others.

In their sewing meetings on Monday mornings, they have sewn pillow cases for pediatric cancer patients and the Paoli Hospital's breast cancer support group and created child-sized hand-tied quilts for the youngsters under the protection of the Domestic Violence Center in West Chester. In the past months, new projects have come to their attention.

Group leader, Mary Margaret Ciccone (Shirley Walton's daughter), is an ER nurse at an eight-bed emergency center which is part of a county nursing home in rural Georgia.

The Retreat Home in Monticello was cited as one of 29 nursing homes in Georgia to receive a five-star rating from state inspectors. The needs of the 60 long-term care residents have been shared with the SEW Creative members who responded by creating catheter bag covers, calming blankets, and colorful pillow cases for mailing to their residents. Tel Hai residents and staff also provided

items identified on a "wish list" provided by The Retreat's nursing staff.

Boxes of items are mailed every few months and the recipients have said it "feels like Christmas" every time one arrives. The mailings are coordinated though Tel Hai's Volunteer Services Director, Daphne Dampman Hurst. During the month of October 2010, Tel Hai residents and staff also collected new winter hats, gloves and scarves for the residents of The Retreat Home.

Closer to home, the sewers are providing residents of Heather Gardens, Tel Hai's secure care facility, with cloth coasters lined with impervious material to protect furniture from spills, placemats for the local Meals On Wheels recipients, and quilts for local veterans. New projects are often suggested in monthly meetings of the Calico Cutters quilting group of which Mrs. Walton is a member.

The SEW Creative group is happiest when making a difference for someone else. It seems there is no reason to doubt they will find new projects to keep their nimble fingers busy.

~ Sue Garthwaite, Public Relations Coordinator

Tel Hai
Retirement
Community

1200 Tel Hai
Circle
P.O. Box 190

Honey Brook
PA 19344

610-273-9333
(phone)

610-273-4141
(fax)

www.telhai.org
(web site)


Tel Hai
Redefining Retirement™

Landis Homes

1001 East
Oregon Road
Lititz, PA
17543

717-569-3271
(phone)

717-569-5203
(fax)

www.
landishomes.
org
(web site)



Landis Homes Shows Earth Care by Building Sustainably

Landis Homes, which opened in 1964, continues on a journey to be a good steward for the 110 acres of its campus located in the heart of Lancaster County farmland. This year with the opening of the south campus to new residents in cottage and hybrid homes, this pursuit has taken a new turn.

“We felt at home right away,” said Ruth Weaver in the cottage home she and her husband, Richard moved into on June 21, 2010. They are joined by residents in 22 more cottage homes—which are the first built on campus in the past 15 years. These are also the first homes on campus to incorporate new green building methods. These include:

- ♦ **Geothermal Heat Pumps:** Collects heat from within the earth during the winter and displaces heat back to the earth during the summer for cooling using an underground piping or “loop” system with approximately 70% of the energy used being renewable.
- ♦ **Tubular Day-lighting:** Brings daylight in to dark spaces so that residents can switch off electric lights during the day and enjoy the efficient and healthful natural lighting.
- ♦ **Rainwater Harvesting:** Collecting and storing rainwater from roofs of homes using rain barrels to reduce the use of domestic water for irrigating plants and storm water runoff.
- ♦ **Solar Attic Fans:** Uses the power of the sun to provide attic ventilation and costs nothing to operate.

In October, new neighbors to the cottage homes began moving into the hybrid homes next door which use the same sustainable building materials and practices.

The new hybrid homes received national recognition at the 2009 Design for Aging competition in the green/sustainable design category.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA)



Pictured at the October 15, 2010, Ribbon Cutting for the Hybrid Homes (front row): Connie Stauffer, Larry Zook, Linford Good, Donna Mack Sherk of Landis Homes, are joined by business partners from Benchmark Construction, RLPS Architects, RGS Assoc Land Planners, and M&T Bank.

invited architects, designers, researchers and providers to submit projects and research for consideration in *Design for Aging Review*, 10th edition.

Two Landis Homes team members, Linford Good and Chris Kennel, received Green Advantage® Certification following a training session and preparation for taking a qualifying exam. Green Advantage’s mission is to certify building organizations and practitioners nationally and internationally.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, provides a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. The certification achieved by Good and Kennel contributes to Landis Homes’ pursuit of a LEED rating. Good, in his role as Vice-President of Planning & Marketing and Kennel as Director of Construction Services give oversight to the construction.

These new homes will be the first of many in the area to achieve LEED certification. While the cottage homes in this first of three building phases are reserved, there is availability in the hybrid homes and in the cottage homes slated for the coming phases. Call Residency Planning for more information at 717-581-3935.

ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

Black Rock Retreat

1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 800-858-9299
Fax: 717-786-6022
E-mail: info@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, 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
E-mail: info@campdeerpark.org
Web site: 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
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: office@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.

Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust

6133 Germantown Ave.
Germantown, PA 19144
E-mail: gmht@meetinghouse.info
Web site: www.meetinghouse.info
Site of the first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America, it has been called "The Gateway of American Mennonitism," through which most North American Mennonites have symbolically passed.

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, inspire, and promote 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, personal care, Adult Day Services, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.



A Reflection on the Lancaster Roots 300 Native American Apology

Lloyd Hoover, Steve Lapp, Keith Wilson, and J. Richard Thomas delivered the Mennonite apology.

“I pray that the groups at work on these relationships will take meaningful actions, and that we might raise a generation, in light of dramatically shifting realities, who understands humans, land, and justice more fully.”

~ Keith Wilson

A quiet wildlife-rich marsh gives birth to a sleepy time-forgotten river called the Little Choptank which feeds the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland’s Eastern shore. I have been visiting a falling-apart small cottage on that quiet estuary since I was born.

My grandparents retired there that same year, but that house and the several wooded acres surrounding it were purchased by my great-grandfather in 1938. A century earlier, the land was part of the region’s largest plantation where many hundreds of slaves enriched the white landowners. That legacy began around 1610 when Europeans began “discovering” lands along the Chesapeake Bay.

While basking in the largely untouched tranquility of that place about one year ago, I began reading books which hinted at the murky human history, the blood that called out from the earth I easily shared with deer, heron, and fox.

I began to think about the land itself, how I see it today, the European concept of property, and the wealth that my ancestors would have seen in a plot of land, versus the communal sustenance that Native Americans would have seen. This protracted reflection even inspired me to take up some primitive skills, making simple bows and arrows from local materials.

I have been grieving as I wonder about the disappeared people whose feet walked where I stood to fish, the people who nourished themselves on the ancestors of the blue

crab and perch I now catch and eat. I also felt a growing sense of responsibility regarding the dark history to which I am an heir, whether I like it or not. So I was honored, even though it was really the result of an afterthought and someone else’s scheduling conflict that I was asked to be present at an ecumenical apology to Native Americans in Lancaster.

I represented Atlantic Coast Conference alongside representatives of other local Mennonites as well as Presbyterians and Quakers. My blood heritage is Presbyterian in recent centuries, York County Quaker a few centuries before that, but I am now an Anabaptist by choice. So it was that I read the words of our shared Mennonite apology for a failure to speak out for justice on behalf of the 20 Conestoga Indians massacred in Lancaster by the Paxton Boys in 1763. I shared in apologizing for Mennonite complicity and even active involvement in the taking of land, and in the poaching of reservation game.

The experience was powerful and tangible for me. I was able, as a recent non-ethnic Mennonite, to take part in apologizing for a history I am otherwise disconnected from. I realize that any European American today shares in this historical injustice. What mattered far more to me on that day than the words prepared by Mennonites, Quakers, and Presbyterians (after all, Christians are professionals at feeling guilty), were the generous and honest spirits of the Native American individuals sharing from their hearts in response. While speaking forthrightly about 791 treaties which have been made and broken, these men and women wept with us and offered forgiveness to us, as it has been offered to all of us by our Creator.

(continued on page 7)



Chief Goodheart
(J.R. Boyd from
the Lakota/Dakota
Sioux)