



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Participants enjoying the 11 music groups and hymnsing at Maple Grove's 2010 "Music in the Meadow."

"Music in the Meadow" at Maple Grove Mennonite

HIGHLIGHTS



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12 Conestoga's 250th Anniversary

Nearly 80 years ago, Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Atglen, Pa., hosted Open Air Singings that took place annually in the Joseph Kennel woods from 1933 to the 1960s. In 1950 there were 7,500 men, women, and children coming to sing praises to their Creator.

In 2008, Kenneth Umble, a great-nephew of Joseph Kennel decided to bring the open air atmosphere back to Maple Grove Mennonite as "Music in the Meadow" (MITM). July 11, 2010, marked the third consecutive "Music in the Meadow" since the 40+ year drought of open-air hymn singing.

The music has changed since the earlier years of acapella and hymnbook singings, but the praises have remained the same. This year, there were 11 music groups that participated throughout the day ranging from gospel, bluegrass gospel, quartet, Christian rock bands, and the grand finale with "The Birdsongs," a popular family

singing group from Nashville, Tenn.

Umble estimates there were "150 people who attended throughout the afternoon and when the Birdsongs were on stage, that nearly doubled." He was pleased with the turnout. MITM Committee strives to connect "music of different styles" with "people of all ages from ages 9 to 90." Congregational members, visitors from neighboring churches, and persons from the community, line the meadow with lawn chairs, tarps, and blankets for an afternoon of relaxation and worship.

In between performances from various music groups, members of the Maple Grove Congregation provided congregational singing to encourage a "hymn-sing" rather than "performance" atmosphere. Umble has fond childhood memories of the open air singings and distinctly remembers the Sandy Hill Quartet as his "first quartet group that sparked my interest during my younger years."

- Marilyn Hershey, Maple Grove Mennonite



Currents

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John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

ACC Moderator's Reflections

Many people living in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, are aware of the publicity given to the event that it has been 300 years (1710-2010) since several Mennonite immigrants from Switzerland settled in the Lancaster area. As some in the community celebrate this anniversary, others perhaps say, "So what?"

The arrival of Mennonites has had a huge impact upon the demographic and economic development of the Lancaster area and regions beyond Pennsylvania. Actually, the first immigrants to this area were referred to as Swiss Brethren or sometimes as Mennists. These Swiss pioneering men and women established themselves in agriculture and related industries, becoming quite well-to-do financially. They also invested considerable effort into gathering for worship in homes and later built church buildings and established religious institutions, including church conferences.

Many of today's Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) members are descendants of these pioneering immigrants, while others consider themselves to be spiritual descendants. All of us, however, should reflect upon what meaning or lessons can be learned from this 300th anniversary both as a church and as individuals. Reflections can go in both backward and forward directions. We need to do both!

In looking back 300 years, we notice a patchwork of Mennonite church faithfulness and disregard. The Mennonite people seem to have learned the devastating effects that

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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.

war has upon nations and that God purposes for all people to live in peace. Mennonites, on the other hand, have not always applied the principles of peacemaking to issues facing their own fellowships, given the wide diversity of Anabaptist-Mennonite related congregations in the area.

We can also observe that over the course of 300 years, the racial/ethnic membership has fortunately begun to move beyond its white European origins. Mennonites from the Lancaster area have literally scattered over the globe establishing churches. Numbers have increased. Our conference efforts at planting new congregations along the eastern US north-south corridor by recently hiring a part-time church planter coach, continues this outward trend. In looking ahead, we are challenged in scripture to expand God's banquet table. Some persons in the past, however, have not always felt welcomed to the table and left for other fellowships.

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THAT ALL
OF US HAVE AT ONE TIME OR
ANOTHER BEEN IMMIGRANTS. . . ?

In looking ahead, I have difficulty imagining 300 years, much less 485 since the first rebaptism in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525. It feels much easier to ask questions of the future than to make statements. Will the core Anabaptist values that Stuart Murray identifies in his most recent book *The Naked Anabaptist* continue to characterize Mennonites? Will strangers and sojourners (immigrants) and people unlike ourselves be welcomed at God's table? Have we forgotten that all of us have at one time or another been immigrants in a land that was home only to the Native Americans? Will people pay attention to the Jesus they see in our lives through the 21st century and beyond? What questions do you have when reflecting on 300 years?

Let's take comfort in the assurance that this human enterprise we call humanity is a world of God's creation not ours, and His spirit will certainly call out pioneers to carry the message forward, whether it be 30 (age of ACC) or 300 years.

North Baltimore Mennonite Church: Already, and Not Yet

by Pastor Dave Greiser

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Mennonite Church set a goal to plant 500 new congregations (Vision '95) in a period of ten years. While this ambitious goal was not met, and many of the newly-planted churches did not thrive, North Baltimore Mennonite Church qualifies as a success story.

North Baltimore Church was the product of the prayers and ministry of Frank and Evelyn Nice and the mission committee of the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Nices had previously pioneered a new church in Durham, North Carolina. They settled in Baltimore, teaming with one other Mennonite couple in the area, Robert and Ruby Lehman.

Frank and Evelyn's gifts in friendship and hospitality enabled a small group Bible study to form, and eventually this group began meeting for worship on Sundays. When a small Church of the Brethren in the Roland Park community decided to close its doors, the fledgling North Baltimore fellowship purchased the building.

The congregation grew steadily through the faithful pastoral care of the Nices. With Frank's retirement in 1997, James and Faith Wenger, veteran missionaries and urban church developers, were called from Fresno, California, to assume leadership with a particular focus on starting outreach ministries.

During the Wengers' ten-year pastorate, most of the ministries which the church carries out today were begun. The former Youth Evangelism Service (YES) building, a large house in Reservoir Hill, became available when the YES program was moved. Renamed Reservoir Hill House of Peace, the center eventually became home to a Voluntary Service unit, an MCC office, a residence for persons seeking political asylum, as well as assorted programs for youth.

Also during the Wengers' time, the congregation enabled two Ten Thousand Villages stores to open, and became involved in housing homeless families through the Interfaith Housing Network.

The congregation began supporting Baltimore Young Life ministries, as well as international mission work in Burundi, Nepal, and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile the congregation grew steadily to its present size of 110 adults and children.

When the Wengers retired in 2008, David Bartow served a term as interim pastor, helping the church to discern its future direction. As director of Hesston College's pastoral ministries program, David moved to Baltimore in late December 2009 to serve as pastor.

Sunday guests at North Baltimore will find a young, growing congregation composed largely of young families, young adults, youth and children, with a smattering of "mature" saints. About half the congregation has previous experience in Mennonite churches. The rest of the church comprises varied religious experiences.

Like many urban churches, there is genuine social, theological, and political diversity at North Baltimore. Since most of us have come here from other places, the congregation works hard at becoming one another's family in the city. Seven small groups meet in homes during the week, many of them focusing on Bible study and all of them fostering mutual care.

In the coming days several challenges face NBMC. First, what is our relationship to our affluent neighborhood of Roland Park? The congregation needs to wrestle with what it means to be placed by God in this setting. Second, how can we staff and motivate our current ministries while looking ahead to what God is yet calling us to do? Baltimore is a city of universities. How can we provide a spiritual home for the many bright, questioning young adults all around us?

Revelation 21 and 22 tells us that, while the world began in a garden, it is moving toward becoming a great city—the New Jerusalem on earth. The ministry of North Baltimore Mennonite Church offers a setting for being the Kingdom of God on earth—already, and not yet.

CHURCH
LIFE



North
Baltimore
Mennonite

4615 Roland
Avenue
Baltimore, MD
21212

410-467-8947

Pastor
Dave Greiser

pastor@
enbmc.org

Praise God for
a great year of
learning and
growth for our
four VSers.

Pray for our
upcoming
series of studies
and teaching
on worship .
Pray that God
would lead us
in a renewed
experience of
God's presence
among us.

Mennonite Church USA Services ...



YouthGuide is a free downloadable resource to help congregations nurture spiritual growth in high school youth. YouthGuide helps congregations look at the big picture as they plan learning activities—whether in Sunday school or in other settings—to make sure youth get a comprehensive grounding in Bible, Anabaptist/Mennonite theology and history, and habits of Christian living over their four years of high school. Find it at www.mpn.net/youthguide.

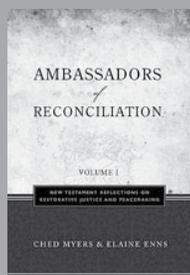
Close to Home Pamphlets. Reach out with two new pamphlets from the *Close to Home* series: *Dealing with Infertility* and *Dealing with Bipolar Disorder*. Find out more and learn how this whole series can help you minister to those dealing with difficult issues at www.mpn.net/closetohome.



Peace Lamps are available from the Peace and Justice Support Network for congregations who don't yet have them. Though they don't cost any money, PJSN would love to receive in return photos of lamp dedications and prayers for peace used with the lamps. To request a lamp, contact Krista Martin at KristaM@MennoniteUSA.org.

The Naked Anabaptist removes the familiar “clothes” of Mennonite or Amish traditions, and reveals the core components of Anabaptism. It's a way of following Jesus that challenges, disturbs, and inspires us, summoning us to wholehearted discipleship and worship. Encourage study groups, Sunday school classes, and individuals to read this book, and catch a vision for living a life of radical faith! www.mpn.net/nakedanabaptist

Ambassadors of Reconciliation. In preparation for Pittsburgh 2011 which will focus on our call to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:16-20), Interchurch Relations recommends the work of Elaine Enns and Ched Myers. In a two-volume series Enns and Myers, members of Pasadena Mennonite Church, share the biblical foundations for restorative justice and provide lived examples.



Kids Can Make Peace, the first unit in the new Kids Can Club series, includes 10 active sessions inviting children grades 1-5 to become God's peacemakers, and to live peacefully with creation, self, God, and others. Each session includes gathering and singing, Bible story and discussion, hands-on crafts and activities, and games related to the theme. Also included are ideas for opening and closing activities, memory verses, snacks, and additional resources and craft ideas. Materials are adaptable to kindergarten or junior youth. Watch www.mpn.net/kidscanclub for more information, coming soon!

ACC Ministry Transitions

James “Jim” Ralph (Anna) was installed as pastor at the Ark Bible Chapel, Boyertown, Pa., on August 15, 2010. Jim and Anna's previous assignments included a recent term with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Ethiopia. Previous pastorates included an ACC church plant in the Berwyn area, Rockhill Mennonite, and Bally Mennonite, both Franconia Conference member churches.

Jacqueline Hoover (Jon) was licensed toward ordination as a teacher and consultant of inter-religious studies. Jacqueline, and her husband Jon, have been free-lance instructors in Islamic Studies and Muslim-Christian relations in Cairo and Beirut. The family is now located in Nottingham, UK with teaching roles in England as well as the Near East. Jacqueline and Jon are members of the Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Gordonville, Pa.

Quinn Aeschliman (Karla) terminated as associate pastor at Cedar Grove Mennonite Church, Greencastle, Pa., effective August 27, 2010. Quinn served as associate pastor at Cedar Grove since August 2008.

- Warren Tyson, executive conference minister

2010-2011 Women's Sabbath Retreats

Back by popular demand, *Voice Lessons: Mother-Daughter Challenges* is the continuing theme for the 2010-2011 three-retreat series which meets Saturdays 10:00-4:00 at the Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

Three new topics will be presented by mothers and daughters:

November 13 - Marilyn Denlinger, Barbara Longenecker, and Gwen Peachey—living with sexual diversity

January 29 - Arbutus Sider and Sonya Smith—adoption and birth family quest

March 12 - Jan and Heidi Siemens—sudden loss of husband/father

When daughters befriend mothers or mothers, as exemplars, pioneer difficult terrain, both are forever changed. This requires intentional practice. Voice lessons do.

Envisioned by a gathering of Anabaptist women in ministry, the retreat series welcomes women of all ages to rest, reflect, and remember Whose we are. The Saturday retreats offer input, silence, personal nurture, and fellowship. A light lunch is provided.

For more information and registration forms, contact Sharon Kraybill at sjkraybill@paonline.com, 717-293-9641, Nan Garber at kngarber80@pa.net, 717-426-4384, or Mary Lou Weaver Houser at mlouweaverhouser@verizon.net, 717-872-2848.

Women and Preschool Assembly

The Women and Preschool annual Assembly will be held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at Strasburg Mennonite Church, Strasburg, Pa. This year will feature keynote speaker Loice Robi Byler, a member of West End Mennonite Church. Her topic will be expanded in a workshop, along with speakers Marlene Kauffman relating to our adult children, and Julie Kobi who will present projects for having children help in the kitchen. In addition, an offering will be taken to support "No Longer Alone Ministries".

Registration for the Assembly begins at 9:00 a.m. and will include refreshments. The \$10.00 fee includes the Keynote, workshops, lunch, and childcare. The event will conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Registration forms will arrive at ACC churches in early September. Any individuals inquiring about the assembly may contact Cheryl Weaver by email: weavercj@verizon.net.

ACC Women's Dinner at Forest Hills

This year's ACC Women's Dinner will feature Marlene Weaver and her daughter Anne W. Kaufman who will share on "Later Life Transitions." This gathering is for all women of all ages.

Date is Friday evening, October 22 at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola. Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are due by October 15. Please contact: Ruth Ann Martin, 336 Sun Valley Drive, Leola, PA 17540 (717-656-8028 or razmartin@frontiernet.net).

Cost is \$15.00 per person with checks payable to ACC Mennonite Women.

WOMEN'S
EVENTS

Voice
Lessons

Mother-
Daughter
Challenges



Ted & Company

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

Ted & Company will present “Just Give Em The News” on December 11 and 12 at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. This is the new Christmas show from Ted & Company co-written by Ted Swartz & Jeff Raught (Ridgeview Mennonite). An original, delightfully askew, musical look at the first Christmas. Jeff and Ted weave original songs, inspired piano playing (Jeff, not Ted) and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas stories. So what did Zechariah sound like before his temper rendered him mute? Did Gabriel ever tire of needing to tell people to “Fear not”? Did Mary ever...?

Also, check out Ted & Company’s performance on October 23 (see sidebar on page 7).

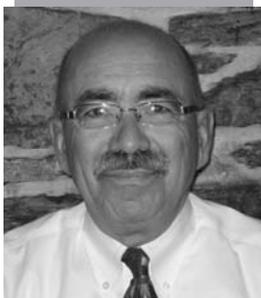
John Powell, a church relations worker with Mennonite Mission Network, is coming to Ridgeview Mennonite Church on Nov. 12-14. He will provide instruction and teaching about engaging congregations in communities in which they live. An invitation is extended for associated and neighboring church workers and lay leaders to join Ridgeview in this time of learning. Because a relatively high level of coordination will be necessary, please contact Ridgeview Mennonite Church via email (ridgeviewchurch@frontiernet.net) for additional information and to make a reservation.

Leon Miller was appointed on July 15, 2010, by the ACC Executive Committee to fill the position of Conference-Related Ministries (CRM) Council Coordinator. Leon replaces Bob Wyble who served as the first coordinator of the CRM Council since its inception in 2005. Leon and his wife Sandy are members of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster. Leon graduated from Eastern Mennonite University in 1968 with a BA in Psychology. He was the owner of Allegra Print and Imaging in Lancaster for 22 years, a business he sold as part of a retirement plan. He states his current employment is a “fun retirement job driving charter

bus for Elite Coach in Ephrata.” Hobbies include tennis, biking, skiing, and singing. He also enjoys leading singing at CMCL from time to time.

Donna Mack Shenk (Akron Mennonite) was recently appointed as the new Director of Pastoral Care and Church Relations at Landis Homes Retirement Community in Lititz. “I am blessed to be joining the Landis Homes, as I fully embrace the vision, mission and guiding values of this community,” says Donna. “I look forward to learning and serving together as we follow Christ in all of life.”

Kairos Retreat Opportunities. Sharon Landis, retreat leader and spiritual director, leads silent retreat weekends for Kairos at the Jesuit Center. This is an invitation for you to settle in and open yourself to the heart of God. These weekends are designed to support you whether you are new to silent retreats, or a seasoned retreatant—and everyone in between. Each retreatant will have the option of meeting with a spiritual director. Contemplative group prayer is offered throughout the weekend. Register now online or with the Kairos office, for the September 10-12, October 1-3, or November 5-7 weekends. See: www.on-the-journey.org/index/Program-Overview/Retreats.



Leon Miller

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— Lauren

Prospective Student Day — Oct. 11

“LMS is a land of incredible opportunity!”

www.LancasterMennonite.org



Jessica Shirk

**Tattered
&
Worn:**

An Eccentric
Look at the
Good Book

Starring
Ted Swartz
and Jeff Raught
at the Scottish
Rite Cathedral,
Reading, Pa.,
on
October 23,
2010

~
Hilarious,
poignant,
and
powerful!
~

pierministry.com

What's in a Name?

If your church has a program or ministry designed specifically for young adults, what do you call it? Better yet, how does your congregation define a young adult? Answering these two seemingly-simple questions is essential to avoid frustration and embarrassment for both the planners and the participants.

Some congregations include everyone who has finished high school but has not yet married and had children, while others focus on single folks between 18 and 22 or 25. Certainly, the demographics of the congregation play a role in its definition of young adults, but other factors contribute as well.

A church located near a university might develop a "College and Careers" Sunday School class. Would young adults who choose not to attend college feel welcome? A congregation with many newlyweds in their early 20's could create a "Young Marrieds" group with older couples as mentors. Where would single young

adults connect? (Hint: renaming the group "Pairs and Spares" is NOT a good idea.) Planning a coffeehouse night can include a wide range of ages and relationship status, if the organizers recognize that a 19-year-old art student, a couple in their mid-20's, and a 32-year-old unmarried waitress might not have similar tastes in music or topics of conversation and thus plan accordingly.

Of course, it is quite possible that such a diverse group of young adults might fully enjoy each other's company. I raise these questions not to suggest that churches establish a program for every possible station in life but to generate discussion.

Any ministry will be far more effective when it has a clear purpose. No congregation can be all things for all people, unless the mission is simply to glorify God, to edify believers, and to share the Good News. When a church's focus is on these three tenets, everyone will feel needed and wanted, even those elusive young adults.

Fall Youth Retreat

ACC's Fall Youth Retreat is scheduled for September 17-19 at Refreshing Mountain Camp. Speaker Leonard Dow will focus on the theme, "When We Are Young."

Leonard will use a number of stories of young persons in scripture to highlight how God used them and how they followed after God's calling.

He wants youth to realize that God desires to use them and develop their leadership gifts now for the purposes of the church. Not "some day," but "TODAY!"

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

We anticipate an exciting and challenging weekend. Hope you can join us! Registration forms were sent mid-July.

Xtreme Worship

Youth and Young adults are invited to an Xtreme Worship evening of electrifying music, spiritual inspiration, and fellowship at Maple Grove Mennonite Church on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 pm. Audible Truth will lead in praise and worship. The guest speaker is Associate Pastor Jon Henson of Maple Grove Mennonite Church.

This is not an experience designed only for Maple Grove Church, but rather to strengthen the faith of the young adult Christians in the area. Our hope is that it will energize young adults for ministry and service.

Maple Grove Mennonite is located just north of Atglen, PA at 549 Swan Road. Xtreme Worship is held the first Tuesday of each month. Call 610-593-6658 for more information.

Send births, marriages, and deaths to:

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

Births

Emma Elizabeth Brown born June 21, 2010, dau. of Dale and Jennie Brown (Bethel Mennonite).

Susanna Christine Loud born July 11, 2010, dau. of Fred and Andrea Loud (Forest Hills Mennonite).

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

Send to address on the left.

Marriages

Nathan Horst (Ridgeview Mennonite) son of Elton and Sherlyn Horst, married **Sarah Lauer** on July 10, 2010.

Dustin Lapp (Ridgeview Mennonite), son of Ron and Darlene Lapp, married **Kristin Post** on July 10, 2010.

Amy Sherman (Forest Hills Mennonite), dau. of Bob and Anne Sherman, married **Paul McHenry** on July 31, 2010.

Eric Yoder (Ridgeview Mennonite), son of Nelson and Pat Yoder, married **Kaitlin Black** on August 13, 2010.

Deaths

Glen D. Lapp, 40 (Community Mennonite) was murdered on August 5, 2010, while serving on a medical team in Afghanistan under Mennonite Central Committee.

Ira Nissley, 40 (Conestoga Mennonite) died August 8, 2010, the husband of Minerva Gehman Nissley. He was the son of Harvey S. and Emma (Slaubaugh) Nissley.

EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

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PA 19543
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currents@atlanticcoast
conference.net

September 17-18, 2010
Black Rock Retreat Bike-a-thon
From Black Rock to Rehoboth Bay, Del.
www.blackrockretreat.com/bikeathon

September 17-18, 2010
LMS Alumni Athletic Weekend
Lancaster Campus
www.lancastermennonite.org or call
717-299-0436, #706

September 26, 2010
How to Access Behavioral Health Services
No Longer Alone Family Support Group at Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
717-390-4891

October 7, 2010
Nutrition and Mental Health
No Longer Alone Ministries at 630 Janet Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
12:00 noon
717-390-4891

October 9, 2010
Garden Spot Village Fall Festival/Auction
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
717-355-6000

October 11, 2010
Prospective Student Day on LMS's four campuses (Kraybill,

Lancaster, Locust Grove, New Danville)
Register for a visit at
717-299-0436, #312

October 12, 2010
Black Rock Retreat Fall Banquet
6:15 p.m.
Palm Court, Willow Valley Resort
1-800-858-9299
office@blackrockretreat.com

October 17, 2010
LMS Fall Open House
1:00-3:00 p.m.
717-299-0436, #312

October 18, 2010
Women and Preschool Assembly
Speaker: Loice 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
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. (registration)

October 23, 2010
Tattered & Worn
Ted & Company are giving a performance in Reading, Pa., at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Free-will donation.
pierministry.com

October 24, 2010
I am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help!
No Longer Alone Family Support Group
717-390-4891

NOTE:
The ACC Vision Dinner has been postponed from September to November . . . more details forthcoming soon.

CURRENCY CORNER

A scripture verse caught my eye recently: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." I Peter 4:10 (NRSV) This verse connects sharing our gifts (abilities and resources) to the way we value the grace of God. God is generous with his grace toward us enabling us to be generous with our gifts to others.

In 2009 during a year of economic challenges, Atlantic Coast Conference churches and individuals gave generously of their abilities and resources. ACC ended the year with a \$13,305 positive balance of income greater than expense.

Thank you to all for your continued support of the conference ministries. The staff and executive committee look for ways to continue serving the churches. May we be good stewards of the abundant grace of God.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer
Community Mennonite of
Lancaster

An Unquenchable Thirst To Follow Christ



Glen D. Lapp was a member of Community Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa.

Photo credit: MCC

Mennonite Central Committee worker, Glen D. Lapp, was only 40 years old when he was murdered while serving on a medical team in Afghanistan.

Showing Christ's love and compassion and the Biblical call to peacemaking, Glen lived the Gospel that he believed. A family member commented that, "Glen was full of life with an enormous spirit. His three great passions near to his heart: he sought to help meet the needs of those less fortunate especially in developing countries; he had an unquenchable thirst for adventure; and he was constantly on a quest for wisdom and knowledge. The opportunity to serve in Afghanistan was a perfect fit for him, and the realization of his passions."

Others shared, "Before Glen went to Afghanistan, we discussed the possibility of his death. We all were at peace with his decision to serve there. Although his absence is painful, we would not for one moment deny him the great fulfillment that his work there brought him. His gentleness, love, grace, and kindness is and always will be a blessing to us all."

At Glen's memorial service, his friends and family all agreed that Glen led an abundant life. Comments included, "He had a kind heart, a seriousness of purpose, a deep desire to do good and help those the world had forgotten. But he also knew how to enjoy life, laugh, play bluegrass music with friends or ride his bike across the country with his cousin.

But that abundant life was cut short on Aug. 5, when Lapp and nine other aid workers were killed in Afghanistan. Local police said robbery might have been the motive. However, the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the murder of Lapp and other members of this Christian medical team.

About 900 people filled the church on a rainy afternoon. They were led by Lapp's parents, Marvin and Mary Lapp, his brothers, Ernie and Jerry, and his three nieces and nephews.

While there were plenty of grief and tears during the service, the family wanted everyone to celebrate Glen Lapp's life.

"Glen packed more into 40 years than most people pack into a lifetime," his sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Francescani, said during an interview before the service.

Lapp loved to play guitar and sing, especially bluegrass so his memorial service included plenty of music.

The "Singing Cousins," a group of friends and relatives which often performs at Lapp family gatherings, sang "Amazing Grace," and his bluegrass friends played a number of tunes, including "I'll Fly Away."

John Williamson, a fellow MCC worker, had visited Lapp in Afghanistan in July. He spoke during the service: "Glen had a very peaceful nature, living in very tense surroundings. Being around Glen, I felt I was on holy ground. It's hard to put a finger on why. He didn't seem concerned for his own safety. Glen was a part of the body of Christ. I don't doubt he loved even those who killed him."

"If there is a little peace to come from his death, it's knowing he was there doing what he loved," his older brother, Jerry Lapp, said during the service.

During his eulogy, Joe Lapp noted that "just because Glen was caring didn't mean he was soft." "If you're hot, pedal harder, it will cool you off. If you're cold, pedal harder, it will warm you up. If you're tired, pedal harder, you'll be done sooner," he said with a laugh. "That combination of caring and toughness allowed him to thrive in Afghanistan."

Working with the International Assistance Mission, an MCC partner, Lapp aided a team providing eye care and other medical aid to isolated Afghan villagers.

In a recent report about his Afghan experience to MCC, Lapp wrote, "The main thing that expats can do is to be a presence in the country. Treating people with respect and with love and trying to be a little bit of Christ in this part of the world."

Kairos
School of
Spiritual
Formation

2160 Lincoln
Hwy East #13

Lancaster, PA
17602

Kairos@on-the-
journey.org

www.on-the-
journey.org

Kairos:

School of Spiritual Formation

Year One Formation: Why would you or anyone else make the commitment to attend a formation program? Especially when that means carving out time to be there one weekend a month?

Janet Stoltzfus, member at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, took the plunge two years ago. She says, "I followed a yearning to go deeper with God. I was amazed how images and words came to me month after month that built upon each other. Being at the Jesuit Center became like a 'spiritual Disneyland' for me. Senses are stirred there to bring us closer to God."

Friendship with God and others at Kairos is unique. Hearing teachers and guest presenters share deeply out of their lives is moving. Faith-sharing creates strong bonds between students in the class. The silence and being alone during walks or while praying in a chapel or outdoors enlivens our images of God and renews our souls.

Kairos has a unique gift of blending traditions and prayer forms in everyday living.

Spiritual Guidance for pastors is a program that combines Christian practices with life in the congregation. Two classes (one in Carlisle and one in Telford) give pastors a day of retreat away from the church office to be with God and other ministers.

Beth Jarrett, Associate Pastor at Neffsville Mennonite Church, attended three years. Why? Even though she had formation classes at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, she acknowledges that she received rest, practice in contemplative prayer and nurture in being with other pastors.

Ron Adams, Pastor, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church writes: "Pastors can easily get caught up in the managing and creation of programs, and attending to the therapeutic needs of their members. Much more difficult, and arguably more important, is attending to the spiritual formation of the



Faculty on retreat. Row 1: Richard Weaver, Sharon Kraybill; Row 2: Phil Horst, Marcus Pomeroy, Linford King; Row 3: Peg Cromer, Mary Luquette, Cheryl Lehman; Row 4: Ellen Kanagy, Sr. Marcy Springer, retreat leader, Deb Brensinger, Barry Young, Mary Etta King (Absent: Nancy Brubaker, Terry Brensinger, Eldon Fry, Sharon Landis, Jean Lengacher, Lori Young).

congregation and its members. The Spiritual Guidance class at Kairos called me back to that primary pastoral task, and equipped and encouraged me to see it as the center of my calling. The class provided thoughtful instruction in the company of companions in congregational ministry, along with ample time for personal reflection and prayer. I highly recommend the class to all engaged in pastoral ministry."

The website (www.on-the-journey.org) has more information on this class and retreats in general. You may register for a day (Saturday Kairos Times) or for a weekend to experience the depth of God's love.

SPECIAL EVENT:

*Paula D'Arcy was a woman
who had life planned
for herself and family
until they were hit by a drunk driver.*

*Her husband and daughter
died in the crash leaving her alone
until her baby daughter
was born seven months later.*

*Paula tells her story in
Gift of the Red Bird.*

*She will speak on Saturday, October 30,
at 7:00 pm at Neffsville Mennonite Church
helping us see God
in the daily stuff of life.*

*Come listen to the wisdom
she has gained in simply living.*

 PAULA D'ARCY

Waking Up to This Day

Seeing the Beauty Right Before Us

7:00 p.m.
October 30, 2010
Neffsville Mennonite Church
2371 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601



A free-will offering will be received during the event to support the ongoing ministry of Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation

AUTHOR'S RECEPTION WITH PAULA D'ARCY
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Neffsville Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$50 per person
Reservations required only for author's reception by October 20: call (717) 669-2957, email office@on-the-journey.org, or register on-line www.on-the-journey.org

Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation
717-669-2957 www.on-the-journey.org

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, and Road Scholar 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.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.

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
Phone: 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: jschwartz@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,

Conestoga Through 250 Years

Conestoga Mennonite Church

2779 Main Street
Morgantown, PA
19543

610-286-9124
conestogamc@dejazzd.com



John D. Roth

Registrations are
needed for Friday
and Saturday
morning field trips.
Call the church office
sat 610-286-9124.

The oldest ACC congregation is Conestoga Mennonite Church at Morgantown, Pa., begun in 1760 when Hooley, Mast, and Hertzler families moved from northern Berks County, Pa., to the headwaters of the Conestoga River—later to become Morgantown. They were soon followed by Yoder, Reichenbach, Kauffman, Lapp, and Lantz families.

In 1982, Conestoga celebrated 100 years of worshiping in a meeting-house. Before 1882, these Amish-Mennonite families met for worship in their homes.

The congregation grew to 472 members in the 1940s. With a missional vision, they started Rock Mennonite (later Hopewell Mennonite and now Hopewell Community Church), Oley Mennonite, Zion Mennonite, Rockville Mennonite, and later Ark Bible Chapel.

To celebrate the faithfulness of God at work through Conestoga members, the congregation is hosting a 250th Anniversary weekend on September 24-26 with an all-day bus field trip to northern Berks County on Friday, September 24, and a half-day field trip of the Conestoga Valley on Saturday morning.

A singing school, quilting bee, displays and exhibits, a mission walk, tours of our old church building that now houses a ReUzit Shoppe, and other activities will take place on Saturday afternoon.

In addition, Professor John D. Roth from Goshen College (Professor of History, Editor of *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*, and Director of the Mennonite Historical Library) will speak on the following topics:



Pastor Bob learning how to stitch Conestoga's Anniversary Quilt that includes every current attendee's name as well as a photo of the church.

"That You May be One": Sixteenth Century Catholicism and Rumbblings of Radical Reform in Switzerland - by John Roth on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m.

"Sermon on the Mount" - by Beverly (Stoltzfus) Kreider on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

"By Whose Authority..." An Anabaptist Understanding of the Sermon on the Mount - by John Roth on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Sharing by Present and Past Conestoga Members, Singing School, and Conestoga Instrumental Ensemble - Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

"Planting Sequoias: Why I am Hopeful About the Future of the Anabaptist-Mennonite Tradition" - John Roth on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. followed by weekend response by Pastor Bob Petersheim

We welcome everyone to join with us during this time of reflection and celebration of God at work through the Anabaptist family.

Meals will be provided between sessions, so come and enjoy the fellowship and be inspired by the sharing to consider where God is leading each of us in our specific congregation.