

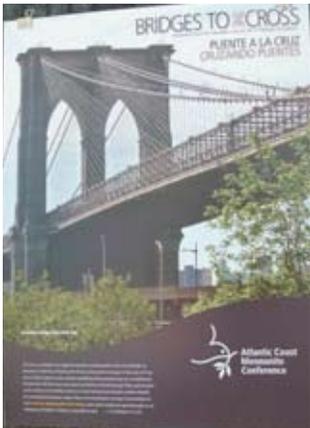


Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Commissioning of Moderator Dick Thomas and Moderator-elect Elizabeth Soto Albrecht at the MC USA Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa.

HIGHLIGHTS



MC USA Convention
ACC poster



MC USA Convention
Jim S. Amstutz
Akron Mennonite Pastor
Speaker at two seminars



Warren Tyson and John Weber shared at the MC USA Convention about ACC's involvement with the Puerto Rico Mennonites joining ACC.

I really enjoyed attending the Mennonite Church USA Convention this summer. Not growing up in the Mennonite tradition, it was a first-time experience for me, and I was amazed at the number of people gathered for the same reason—to learn and grow in their faith and to learn to help others do the same.

One thing that I noticed about the Convention the very first day was that everyone seemed to know everyone else. I enjoyed listening and trying to make connections. It was a wonderful time of connecting, meeting new people, learning, and having fun.

During the Convention, I learned to know the youth much better. It was a great time for me to step out and be myself more comfortably with them. There were plenty of fun times as well as more serious moments. The youth made things fun with playing

the cup game at meals, escalator jump frog, elevator parties, running to get good seats in worship, exploring the city, and many other things that I will always remember.

The youth were also challenged by the speakers and chose to share with each other some hardships present in their lives—I also

will always remember their comfort level with each other in sharing, praying, and being there for everyone in the group. This is one great group of youth

the church has that I was privileged to have the opportunity to work with.

Though I will be taking lots of memories of Convention and the youth with me, I will also take back what I learned throughout this experience. I was both challenged and affirmed in the calling I feel God has for my life. At times during the week, I had trouble picturing myself in the position of a youth

(continued on page 3)



This Mennonite Church USA Convention reflection was written by Rachel Harris, Youth Ministry Intern at Neffsville Mennonite Church this past summer. She is a senior at Bluffton University.

Currents

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John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

ACC Moderator's Reflections

The second important reason you should consider attending the October assembly is to receive a blessing as you hear the stories and discover where and how God is at work among Atlantic Coast congregations.

The conference planners have intentionally structured the program to hear responses from attendees by allowing more opportunities for table talk. Your voice and the voice of delegates are needed now more than ever as we seek to discover what God's spirit is calling us to become as persons and congregations. By our collective voice or by our silence, we are answering the question, "What does it mean to be follower of Jesus in today's culture?"

The apostle Paul reminded the early believers not to neglect gathering. I invite you to give and receive a blessing by attending the ACC Fall Assembly at Blossom Hill on October 21-22. Visit the conference web site www.atlanticcoastconference.net for more information and registration.

Thanks for accepting my challenge to read the whole piece.

In the Thursday morning youth session at the MC USA Convention reported by Rebecca on the next page, we also heard from the mother who shared her story of recovery from addictions of perfectionism and control. I'd never thought of "perfectionism and control" as addictions, but as she shared, I saw the truth in her story.

Some of the lessons this brave mother-daughter team shared were: we are loved simply because we "ARE;" our shame and guilt are overcome only by God's love and grace; the first step of the long journey to recovery, healing, and hope is to admit the brokenness and pain; and only God can heal the hole in one's heart.

This was a powerful morning as the healing and hope from Jesus flowed like a river over this assembly of God's children. We began the journey across the bridge.

~ Carol Wenger, Ridgeview

If you are reading this piece and are a member of an Atlantic Coast Conference congregation and have never attended one of the two assemblies each year, I invite you to continue reading. This message is for you!

I want to extend an invitation to you to set aside Friday and Saturday, October 21-22 to attend either one or two days of ACC's Fall Assembly at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, 333 Delp Road in Lancaster, PA.

On Friday, there will be a Leadership Resource Seminar all day for pastors, church treasurers, finance persons, and lay members on stewardship presented by Beryl Jantzi of Everence. Another seminar will also be taking place on Friday for identifying church strategies for pastors, elders, church boards/council members, and laypersons, presented by Susan Beaumont of the Alban Institute. The Beaumont seminar does have a \$35.00 registration fee. On Friday evening, the ACC Mennonite Women's Dinner and meeting is planned.

A gathering of congregational delegates, pastors, and church members will take place on Saturday as a time of worship, table group discernment, and telling of one another's stories of how God is at work among the churches. The session includes a brief time for business/reporting.

By now you are perhaps thinking, why should I care about attending the Fall Assembly? There are two important reasons why you might care. First; Atlantic Coast Conference is the gathering of congregations to discuss the issues and direction for our member churches. Think of ACC as a verb in that it takes place when congregations are meeting. It's much like the Anabaptist concept of church. It happens when persons are gathered. It's not the building. In a similar manner, ACC happens when congregations meet. It's not a bureaucracy. You are part of the body called church and your voice needs to be heard in order to find our way as a conference.



Singing and worshipping together was special at the MC USA Convention. Above Nelson and Pat Yoder (Ridgeview) are in the middle with daughter, Krista, to Nelson's left.

(continued from page 1)

pastor. However, as the week progressed and ended, there was no doubt in my mind that I definitely want to be involved in youth's lives and their decisions in their spiritual lives.

Convention made clear to me that youth are energizing to me—I feel God's pleasure when I am interacting with the youth, especially when talking with them about how God has been moving in them or speaking to them. It is just awesome to hear youth share about God moments in their lives.

I am so grateful for the opportunity of going to Convention because it was a huge step in my relationships with the youth and also in my own discerning process. ~ Rachel Harris



One of the many local restaurants near the Convention Center offered "Anabaptist sandwiches."

A Well-Kept Secret . . .

Addiction, what is it? The Thursday morning youth session speakers at the MC USA Convention were a mother and daughter team speaking on addiction, drug use, and emotions. For the daughter, it all started with the feeling of not fitting in leaving a longing to fill a big hole in her heart. At the age of sixteen she took up drinking to fill that hole.

After a while she could not numb the pain and began to think of ways to die. She was angry at God.

One day she had a vision of a car accident where she discovered that her family and friends all gave up on her. That was it! She agreed to enter rehab with the help of her family and friends. It was not easy, but she made it through and returned home.

At the end of this session, everyone was encouraged to write down a secret on paper—something that no one knows about. People were available to pray with anyone who was interested. ~ Rebecca Eldridge, Ridgeview



Ridgeview Mennonite Youth in the Convention Center looking out over the river!

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.

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



Clemens



Ressler

The **ACC Fall Youth Retreat**, is scheduled for Sept. 14-16, at Refreshing Mt. Camp. The resource speaker is Nate Stucky.

The Women's Sabbath Retreats that have been held since 2002 will hold their Grand Finale at Forest Hills Mennonite Church on Saturday, September 17, from 1-3 p.m. If you've ever participated in one of these retreats, you are invited to this afternoon of reflection and dreaming about future horizons. No fee, but reservations are required. Call Sharon at 717-293-9641.

Mennonite Church USA Convention in Pittsburgh may be over, but you can still enjoy many of the activities available from Mission Network, including cooking show recipe cards, children's activities, video clips and more! Visit this page to find downloads from this year's convention: <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Pittsburgh/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Ruth Keidel Clemens, a member of North Baltimore Mennonite Church, is the new Program Director for MCC U.S. administering MCC's international program. She will lead the domestic programs in the U.S. and conjointly lead the international programs with Willie Reimer, Program Director of MCC Canada. Clemens was Executive Director of MCC East Coast since 2007. Her new position begins on September 1, 2011.

Patrick Ressler, a senior music major at Goshen College, participated in the college's Ministry Inquiry Program this past summer working at Germantown (Pa.) Mennonite Church. Ressler is a member of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.

Shaping Your Family's Future, a curriculum helping individuals take stock of the influence of their families of origin on their parenting styles, is testing whether to create a DVD format. The curriculum targets newly expectant parents. Burton Buller has been contracted by Philhaven to serve as producer. See an 18-minute pilot online at http://www.shapingyourfamily.org/SYFF_video and take a survey that will help decide the viability of the project. "This survey is essential to this project moving forward," says Buller.

Mennonite Church USA seeks a full-time **Convention Planning Coordinator** to be a part of its Convention Planning team.

Responsibilities include coordinating events and activities related to the biennial Mennonite Church USA Convention. For more information visit <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/NationalOffices/Jobs/tabid/533/Default.aspx>

The **34th Women and Preschool Assembly** will be held on October 18, 2011, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola. This year's event features Keynote Speakers Gene and Nancy Forrey. They will share on "Speaking the Truth in Love—Healthy Communications and Relationships" and then expand on that topic in a workshop. Other workshops will also be offered by Rhoda Charles on "Service Projects for Young Families" and Rita Richards on "A Busy Woman's Guide for a Wholesome Life". Registration (cost is \$10.00) will begin at 9:00 a.m. Child care will be provided, and a light luncheon will be served at 11:30. To order a 2010-2013 speaker directory (cost \$10), call 717-859-4083, or email jantzen@dejazzd.com.

"Business as a Calling—Enduring Values: Lasting Impact" is the theme for MEDA's annual conference on Nov. 3-6—four days of inspiration, information, networking, and fun! Go to businessasacalling.org for full descriptions of plenary sessions, seminars, tours and on-line registration, or call 1-800-665-7026 for more information.

"Shaped to Share" is the theme for the September 13, 2011, ACC 2011 Vision Dinner at Shady Maple Banquet. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., the evening will be filled with inspiration, and worship. Speakers include Jason and Vonetta Storbakken, the founders of Radical Living, an Anabaptist Christian community in Brooklyn, N.Y. Proceeds raised at the Vision dinner will help support ACC's church planting vision. Please visit atlanticcoastconference.net, email keithw@atlanticcoastconference.net, or call 717-394-8107 to register. We are also seeking table sponsors to help offset costs so that funds raised can go directly to church planting.



ACC Leadership Transitions

H. Wesley Boyer (Lois), retired pastor, ordination transfer from Franconia Conference to Atlantic Coast Conference on June 30. Wes and Lois are members at Conestoga Mennonite Church, Morgantown, Pa. They are currently giving leadership to the small group ministry of the congregation. The Boyers recently completed two years of voluntary service serving as host couple of the Mennonite Guest House in Nairobi, Kenya.

Nancy Frey (Bruce Yoder), pastor at Mennonite Congregation of Boston, Cambridge, Mass., ordination approved June 30. An ordination service is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, at MCOB. Nancy and Bruce served nine years as missionaries appointed through Mennonite Mission Network. Their long-range plans are to return to an overseas assignment when Bruce finishes graduate studies in 2012.

Sandra Wiens (Bob Harms), chaplain from Guilford, Conn., providing counsel and support for female inmates in a nearby prison, approved for license toward ordination on June 30. Sandra and Bob both grew up in the Mennonite Brethren denomination. Sandra completed a M.Div. from Associated Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN. Sandra and Bob are in the process of securing associate membership with an ACC church in New York City.

Cheryl Hollinger (Joe), Christian Formation and Nurture director, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., ordination approved August 2. Ordination is set for 3:00 p.m. on October 30 at Forest Hills Church. Cheryl and Joe worked many years in Wales as Eastern Mennonite Missions missionaries.

~ Warren Tyson, Executive Conference Minister, Forest Hills Mennonite

CURRENCY CORNER

Atlantic Coast Conference needs to receive 12% more than last year in church giving from August through December of 2011 in order to achieve a balanced operational budget for 2011. Funds received in the last five months last year were \$140,000. This year funds from the churches needs to be \$157,000 to make the 12% increase. Conference depends almost solely on church funding to support its ministries. More than 80% of the total operating budget comes from the churches.

Because over 75% of the operational budget goes to conference ministry and administration costs, it is difficult to reduce expenses further than they have already been reduced without directly reducing the support and services to the churches. The conference services are what you as churches fund. Thank you for being an ACC partner helping fulfill ACC's mission of being Centered in Christ, Building Connections, Sharing God's Love.

- Delbert Seitz, ACC Treasurer
Community Mennonite of Lancaster

GOD AT WORK

Shaped To Share

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand..."

Jeremiah 18:6

Have you signed up for ACC's 2011 Vision Dinner?



Plan to attend!

Business as a Calling 2011

Enduring Values: Lasting Impact

November 3-6 • Lancaster, PA

Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

MEDA

Hear from notable presenters and learn about MEDA's programs around the world! Plus, fascinating tours and dozens of seminars! Full descriptions at:

www.businessasacalling.org



"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and

Plan to
attend
the ACC
Fall
Assembly

at

Blossom
Hill
Mennonite
Church

on

October
21-22

FORMED IN 1978 WITH 38 CONGREGATIONS
AROUND AN ORIGINAL VISION

"UNITY AND DIVERSITY"

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THAT
SAME VISION IN 2012 AND BEYOND**

OUR COMMITMENT: We will stand unified in the midst of our diversity. We will not degrade ourselves, others or God by even entertaining the idea that we are unable to find the way through; for we have the Spirit's help.

OUR SITUATION: We see our diversity as an opportunity and not an obstacle. We see it as a blessing not a curse. We expect to get through this time together. We are sure that we are able to find our way through with the Spirit's help. We witness that we already have everything we need in our midst to get through this time together and that we will arrive soon in a more abundant place. We desire to head home together.

**FOUR OPPORTUNITIES WE WILL PURSUE
IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:**

Opportunity #1: We will BETTER DEFINE AND ARTICULATE WHAT "UNITY IN CHRIST" MEANS, with and for Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA congregations.

Opportunity #2: We will ADEQUATELY RESOURCE OUR PASTORS so that they can function effectively.

Opportunity #3: We will PURSUE, WELCOME, INCLUDE, AND UTILIZE NEW GROUPS in manageable and responsible ways as God brings them into our conference kingdom work.

Opportunity #4: We will BECOME MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKING AND WORKINGS OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA in the world.

**Atlantic Coast Conference Fall Assembly
Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, 3**

Each year in the fall, Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA congregations will convene to converse and discern together our common future. We will gather at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church around the theme "Unity and Diversity." The story that we will find ourselves in will be the story of our journey and the inspirational letter sent to them recorded in the book of Acts.

Friday, October 21, 2011

—Conference Tending Congregations—



Susan Beaumont has been involved in the development of leaders and organizations for 25+ years. Prior to joining the Alban Institute, she served as Area Minister in the American Baptist Churches.



Beryl Jantzi is the stewardship education director for Everence. He was previously a church relations manager for Everence. He has 20+ years experience as a pastor, leading four different churches in Virginia and in Pennsylvania.



Friday Evening is ACC's Fall Mennonite Women's Dinner with feature speaker **Joy Sawatzky**, chaplain at Souderton Mennonite Home and advocate for Bridge of Hope National.



not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11

Assembly Celebration – October 21-22 2011 33 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

Mennonite Church USA gathers to inspire each other, together as a Conference. This year we will gather at the theme: **Where are we going? Heading Home Together.** We will explore well-known passages of the Jewish exiles in Babylon and Jeremiah 29.

Saturday, October 22, 2011
— Congregations Tending Conference —

- 7:30-9:00 - Breakfast Business/Reporting Session
- 8:45-9:15 - Extended Worship
- 9:15-9:30 - Corporate Worship
- 9:30 - Opening Our Day Together
- 9:45-11:45 - Our Time Together: Inspiration, Conversation, Discernment
- 11:45 - Review of Ballot
- 11:55 - Voting on all Conference Agenda Items
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:15 - Continuing our Time Together
- 3:30 - Closing

THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE MORE....

- ~ Worship
- ~ Conversation
- ~ Collaboration
- ~ Purposeful Planning

REGISTER NOW!



<http://accfallassembly2011.eventbrite.com/>

GET CONNECTED

-  <http://www.facebook.com/AccMcusa>
-  <http://twitter.com/AccMcusa>
-  <http://www.youtube.com/user/accmcusa>
-  <http://vimeo.com/accmcusa>
-  <http://www.atlanticcoastconference.net/>

CAN'T BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT?
JOIN IN LIVE ONLINE:

<http://acc.digitaldelegate.net/>

See the last page of this *Currents* for an “ad” about ACC’s Fall Mennonite Women’s Dinner on Friday evening!

CONNECTIONS

Forward births, marriages, and deaths to:

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

Births

Alliah Renea Bontrager born July 17, 2011, dau. of Joshua and Liz Bontrager (Akron Mennonite).

Greyden Keirn born July 3, 2011, son of Gary and Sara Keirn (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Karolina Grace King born July 23, 2011, dau. of Matt and Missy King (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Rylan David Lapp born June 25, 2011, son of Dustin and Kristin Lapp (Forest Hills Mennonite).

Gracelyn Emmaline Stiger born July 23, 2011, dau. of Caleb and Lindsey Stiger (Neffsville Mennonite).

Marriages

Randy Hess married **Jessica Shirk** (Ridgeview Mennonite) on July 16, 2011. Jessica wrote the "Fresh Waters" column in the *Currents* for the past 2.5 years.

Matthew Howe married **Jennifer Umble** (Maple Grove Mennonite) on July 16, 2011.

Cody King (Maple Grove Mennonite) married **Stephanie Buohl** on July 10, 2011.

Jason Long (Forest Hills Mennonite), married **Kristen Keese** on July 23, 2011.

Adam Ranck (Ridgeview Mennonite) married **Megan Rice** on July 30, 2011.

Brooke Tanner (Neffsville Mennonite) married **Jeremiah Coyne** (Neffsville Mennonite) on June 26, 2011.

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.

Margaret Derstine, 83 (Forest Hills Mennonite) died on June 21, 2011, dau. of Herbert A. and Lillian B. Godshall Derstine.

Jim Millen, 79 (Akron Mennonite) died on July 2, 2011, wife of Carolyn Joyce Millen. Jim was a charter member of Akron Mennonite.

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.

Marie Elizabeth Yoder, 94 (Ridgeview Mennonite) died on July 25, 2011, dau. of the late Samuel and Salome (Stoltzfus) Smoker and wife of the late Eli J. Yoder.

EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

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219 Mill Road
Morgantown,
PA 19543

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

September 9
Hebron School Banquet
Conestoga Mennonite
Morgantown, Pa.
6:00 p.m.
484-798-8556

September 10
Fellowship Day at Landis Homes
Benefit Auction & Chicken BBQ
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
717-569-3271

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

September 22, 2011
Friendship Community Art Reception
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Harvest View at
Landis Homes
717-381-3550

September 25, 2011
Getting and Keeping Affordable Housing
No Longer Alone Ministries with
Tammy Martin
Tabor speaker
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Lancaster Brethren in
Christ Church

October 6, 2011
Black Rock Retreat Fall Banquet
6:00 p.m.
Doubletree Inn at
Willow Valley
717-529-3232
office@blackrock
retreat.com

October 8, 2011
Fall Festival Benefit Auction
10:00 a.m.
Garden Spot Village
Benevolent Fund
New Holland, Pa.
717-355-6000

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

October 23, 2011
Overcoming Addictions
No Longer Alone

Ministries with Ralph
Whitaker as speaker
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Lancaster Brethren in
Christ Church

November 3-6
**Business as a Calling—
Enduring Values:
Lasting Impact**
MEDA's annual
convention
Lancaster, Pa.
businessasacalling.org
1-800-665-7026

November 17-19, 2011
**Up the Down Staircase
LMS Fall Drama**
7:30 p.m.
717-299-0436, ext. 340

November 18-19, 2011
LMS Fall Festival and Homecoming
BBQ, 5K Run/Walk,
basketball tournament,
car show, dinner, auction
717-299-0436, ext. 701.



October 9, 2010, public acknowledgment service at First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Honoring and Healing: A Journey with the American Indian Community

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:8 (NIV)

Bartolomé de las Casas was a Spanish priest who, in the early 1500s, travelled to the Caribbean to acquire wealth. He had a conversion experience just before Pentecost Sunday in 1514 in which he confronted his own failings. He began to decry the system of enslavement, abuse and violence committed against Indian communities by Spanish colonizers. From that time on, he became an ardent advocate of the Indians in the courts of Spain and across Spanish colonial governments in the Americas.

In the past two years, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) has been on a journey with the American Indian community along two paths. One path has led to honoring American Indian peoples for the ways in which they enrich the communities in which they live, including Lancaster County. The other path has led to taking initial steps toward healing deep wounds of injustice committed against these communities over centuries. Honoring and healing has occurred through storytelling, educational, and ceremonial events.

During an October 9, 2010, service at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster City, representatives of Presbyterian, Quaker, and Mennonite churches, as well as governmental officials, apologized for actions that resulted in the removal and annihilation of Susquehannock communities from Lancaster County 200 to 300 years ago. Some tribal representatives extended forgiveness, while others requested time to consult with their communities. Through tears and

smiles, glimpses of healing could be seen in the faces of over 250 who participated in the event.

On November 1, 2010, at the Lititz Moravian Congregation, a combined five-member panel of American Indians and researchers told stories that enlightened an audience of over 200 about the history of removal of Indian communities from the Lancaster County region, and the complex set of relationships that tribal communities experienced with different European settlers such as the Quakers, Mennonites, Moravians and Presbyterians.

In a series of educational events conducted on June 1, 15 and 22, 2011, at Garden Spot Village, three different panel groups of American Indian and Mennonite historians deliberated on various facets of American Indian history to audiences of 65 to 105. They explained how the “doctrine of discovery” has shaped laws affecting tribes from colonization to the present. They spoke about positive encounters between European colonizers and Indian tribes, but also about horrific genocidal actions that a militia group from Pennsylvania committed against an entire Christian Indian community in Ohio. They also described the promise of William Penn’s “holy experiment” in Pennsylvania that ultimately failed miserably for lack of political support.

LMHS also promoted a lecture on the Carlisle Indian School that the Circle Legacy Center sponsored on Friday, August 13, 2011, at Community Mennonite Church in Lancaster. Barb Landis, biographer of the School at the Cumberland County Historical Society, provided specific names of families and organizations, many of them Mennonite, who participated in the Outing System in which Indian youth were placed among host families in Lancaster County as a way to immerse these youth into white culture.

The question I ask myself is: What is the role that LMHS and its supporting Mennonite conferences and congregations should play through these present interactions with the American Indian community? I believe the role is to honor and heal. This specifically means to partner with this community to create spaces for storytelling, restoration and advocacy. Power has been misused to extinguish the life flame of tribal communities. Mennonites are not exempt. Like Bartolomé de las Casas, we must decide. Can we truly become ardent agents of God’s justice and reconciling love with the American Indian people in our midst? I believe we can.

~ Rolando L. Santiago, Director
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

CONFERENCE
RELATED
MINISTRIES



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Society

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98.net

http://pmhs
98.org



Rashida



Philadelphia Mennonite High School

A Solid Foundation

*PMHS Class of 2007 at the
2009 Annual Alumni Dinner.
Rashida is third from the right.*

Rashida's parents were always trying to find a way to get her access to a good education and spiritual development. She had always shown a great aptitude for rigorous learning. But her parents wondered if they could get her both? As a result, Rashida has been in private school all her life. Sanctuary Academy provided an affordable K-8 private school education. But after graduation, her parents were faced with the same issue again. An older member of their church recommended Philadelphia Mennonite High School (PMHS) to her parents. "After coming in for an interview and a tour, my parents were impressed and knew that I would like it here," she says.

While at PMHS, Rashida learned many life skills that have given her a strong foundation. "In addition to preparing me academically, I was also spiritually equipped. I knew that I was getting the best education and I appreciated the small faith community. It indeed was a blessing to be able to express my love for God and receive a good education in one place. Teachers like the late Mrs. Seretny and Mr. Hunsberger made science and math easy to learn and taught it from a Christian perspective," Rashida says. She enjoyed the relationships she developed with classmates and teachers and the flexibility provided through the school's enrichment programs. Every Tuesday afternoon in her senior year, Rashida learned how to screen-print fabric at the Fabric Workshop

and Museum. She also did her senior apprenticeship at United Bank because she was interested in business. These kinds of opportunities are why Rashida recommends PMHS for any student seeking growth in their life.

Rashida graduated from PMHS in 2007 and enrolled at Penn State University. "I feel that PMHS helped me expand my horizons and prepared me well for the college experience. In addition to my classes, I had access to a diverse body of teachers and students," she says. She thought she would study business but an internship in her junior year changed that. For one year, she worked at Temple University's Time Out Intergenerational Program. This experience allowed her to work with the elderly and gave her exposure to advocacy, housing and justice issues in relation to this group. She switched her major and graduated from Penn State this year with a Bachelor's degree in Psychological and Social Science.

This Fall, she is starting a graduate program in Community/Clinical Counseling at Eastern University. Although she works at United Bank, she is looking for a position in her field. "I want to be a clinical counselor in the gerontology field, helping the elderly advocate for themselves," Rashida says. She stands on a solid foundation and we are excited that she is interested in others doing this as well.

~ Ron Tinsley
Communications Director

ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

Black Rock Retreat

1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 800-858-9299
Fax: 717-786-6022
info@blackrockretreat.com
www.blackrockretreat.com
Retreat Facilities for use by churches and other Christian organizations, a Summer Camp program for youth, an Outdoor Education program for Public & Christian schools, a Challenge Ropes Course, Road Scholar programs for seniors.

Camp Deerpark, Inc.

200 Brandt Road, P.O. Box 394
Westbrookville, NY 12785
Phone: 845-754-8669
Fax: 845-754-8217
info@campdeerpark.org
www.campdeerpark.org
A ministry of the New York City Mennonite churches, founded in 1969. Mission is to empower youth to serve Christ in the city. Summer children's camps.

Camp Hebron

957 Camp Hebron Road
Halifax, PA 17032
Phone: 800-864-7747;
Fax: 717-896-3391
hebron@camphebron.org
Web site: www.camphebron.org
Changing lives since 1957, this camping and retreat ministry offers a variety of overnight camps and year-round events for all ages where people connect with God, nature, and each other.

Choice Books PA

121 S. Main Street
Manheim, PA 17545
Phone: 717-665-3933
Fax: 717-665-3059
E-mail: info@pa.choicebooks.org
Web site: www.choicebooks.org

Eastern Mennonite Missions

53 West Brandt Blvd.
P.O. Box 458
Salunga, PA 17538-0458
Phone: 717-898-2251
Fax: 717-898-8092
info@emm.org
www.emm.org
Equips, sends and supports more than 200 workers in 40 countries, focusing particularly where the church is weak or nonexistent.

Friendship Community

1149 East Oregon Road

Lititz, PA 17543
Phone: 717-656-2466
Fax: 717-656-0459
office@friendshipcommunity.net
www.friendshipcommunity.net
A non-profit, Christian ministry serving people with developmental disabilities. Since 1972, Friendship offers residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services.

Garden Spot Village

433 S. Kinzer Ave.,
New Holland, PA 17557
Phone: 717-355-6000
Fax: 717-355-6006
info@gardenspotvillage.org
www.gardenspotvillage.org
Carriage Homes, Cottages, Apartments, Assisted Living, Memory Support, Skilled Nursing Households, Adult Day Services, Garden Spot Village At Home, Center for Health.

Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust

6133 Germantown Ave.
Germantown, PA 19144
gmht@meetinghouse.info
www.meetinghouse.info
Site of the first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America called "The Gateway of American Mennonitism," through which most North American Mennonites have symbolically passed.

Harmonies Music Ministry

34 W. Eby Road
Leola, PA 17540
Phone: 717-656-2749
office@harmonies.org
www.harmonies.org
Committed to creating new Christian music resources for the church worldwide through performance, resource development, leadership training, and product creation.

Kairos School of Spiritual Formation

2160 Lincoln Highway East #13
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-669-2957
Kairos@on-the-journey.org
www.on-the-journey.org
Provides programs in spiritual formation and spiritual direction from September to May in weekend retreats. Other opportunities include day retreats and experiential prayer sessions in congregational settings.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

2215 Millstream Road
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-393-9745
Fax: 717-393-8751
lmhs@lmhs.org
www.lmhs.org
Educates, inspires, and promotes the history, beliefs, and lifestyle of the Mennonite expression of the Anabaptist tradition. Offers educational programs and a library/archives, bookstore, and museum.

Lancaster Area Council of Mennonite Schools (LACMS)

2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 299-0436
Geographical organization of elementary and secondary schools whose administrators work to strengthen the Mennonite expression of Christian faith in the schools and who meet regularly to inspire and resource one another.

Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS)

2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 299-0436
Fax: (717) 509-4088
thomasjr@lancastermennonite.org
www.lancastermennonite.org
Serves over 1,500 students at:

- Kraybill Campus, PreK-8
- Lancaster Campus, 6-12
- Locust Grove Campus, PreK-8
- New Danville Campus, PreK-6

Landis Homes

1001 E. Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
Phones: 717-569-3271
717-581-3935
Fax: 717-569-5203
info@landishomes.org
www.landishomes.org
Serves aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching them in a Christ-like community. Residential living, assisted living, healthcare, rehab, adult day care services, special care for persons with memory loss, at-home care, and child day care.

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

941 Laurelville Lane
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone: 800-839-1021
John@laurelville.org
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@pmhs98.net
http://pmhs98.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.



Warren Tyson (left) with Dick Thomas at Dick's MC USA moderators' commissioning at Ridgeview Mennonite—his home congregation. Credit: Hillary Thomas.

The Ridgeview congregation pledged to stand by Dick in this calling and to encourage and pray for him.

Actually all ACC congregations will be praying for you as well, Dick!

On Sunday, July 31, J. Richard “Dick” Thomas was commissioned as Moderator for Mennonite Church USA at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. Dick had already been commissioned on July 9 in front of the delegate assembly at the end of the Pittsburgh Convention, but this time was unique because it was in front of his home congregation.

Ridgeview’s pastor, Mick Sommers, preached from Isaiah 55:1-9. Mick explained that this passage is an invitation to Israel and to all who are desperate and have nothing to give. The call of the passage is to stop laboring and attempting to buy that which can’t really satisfy, but to take what God freely gives. The food Isaiah is referring to will truly satisfy and will fill our “God tank” through the Spirit of God.

Mick encouraged both Dick and Elizabeth DeSoto (Moderator-Elect) in their leadership roles of MC USA to call the church to a deep level of being church together and to work to bring about God’s kingdom. His prayer was that they would know fully the richness of God’s blessings of sitting at God’s banquet.

Warren Tyson, ACC Minister, and Linford King, MC USA Denomination Minister, shared in the commissioning of Dick. Dick renewed his baptismal vows. He also committed to trust in God’s care, to keep a discipline of prayer and scrip-

Thomas Commissioned as MC USA Moderator

ture study, to strive to grow in love for those that he serves and to seek to represent the gospel he professes with a Christ-like attitude. Many surrounded Dick and his wife, Joyce, laying their hands on them and leading in prayers.

After the prayer time, Mick presented Dick and Joyce with a dancing flame candle from Ridgeview, a prayer shawl made by Bonnie Stutzman, and Warren presented a wood-fired pot from ACC made by Chad Martin, Assoc. Pastor of Community Mennonite Church (Lancaster, Pa.). In a note, Chad referred to wood firing as a humble process much like that of ministry.

Dick thanked the Ridgeview congregation for their involvement in his life on a weekly basis. He recognized his parents in the audience and thanked them for being the first to teach him the inclusive love of God. He also thanked Miles Yoder as he takes extra responsibilities as the Assistant Superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite School while Dick, Superintendent of LMS, fulfills this role. Dick mentioned that he also looks forward to working with Moderator Elect, Elizabeth DeSoto, also from Lancaster, Pa. ~ *Jill Heine, Ridgeview*



Atlantic Coast Conference

Fall Women's Dinner

“... Plans to give you Hope and a Future.” — Jeremiah 29:11

Stories of hope and resilience

October 21, 2011
 Blossom Hill Mennonite
 333 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA
 6:00pm—Gathering, 6:30pm—Dinner

\$15 per person
 RSVP to Ruth Ann Martin
 phone: 717-656-8028 or
 e-mail: razmartin@frontiernet.net

Bring a friend and widen our fellowship!





Joy Sawatzky

Joy's life journey has taken her to live in 7 states and countries, and through 8 career changes—all seemingly in preparation for this work of storytelling. She uses all kinds of storytelling to lead the listener into discovering hope and resilience for their own lives, while letting God's grace and love shine through.

Offering Project

LAVORP
 (Lancaster Area Victim Offender Reconciliation)

Sponsored by
 Atlantic Coast Conference—Mennonite Women