



# Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Children and Youth Advent Service at North Baltimore Mennonite. Credit: Jeannie Eshleman, NBMC.

## A Prayer for the New Year

by Edgar Stoesz, Akron Mennonite

*For the year that is ending I say THANK YOU . . .*

- ~ for family and friends who support me
- ~ for a Christian faith that sustains me
- ~ for a church that strives to fulfill its calling
- ~ for a land of opportunity and freedom
- ~ for health and energy to address my everyday
- ~ for memories that give me perspective
- ~ for challenges that stretch me
- ~ for shelter and daily sustenance
- ~ for the beauty and resiliency of creation
- ~ for worthy causes through which to address need.

*For the year that is dawning I say PLEASE, Lord, in your mercy grant me . . .*

- ~ a consciousness that God's spirit is in me
- ~ a love of God and the creation God has put in our care
- ~ a heart that responds generously to the needs that surround me
- ~ an optimistic spirit that believes tomorrow can be better than today
- ~ a mind that is open to learn and new ways of thinking
- ~ a humility that treats other as I want to be treated
- ~ a courage that reaches for what some think is impossible
- ~ a respect for what has preceded me
- ~ a willingness to accept the world as it is and work to improve it
- ~ a grateful and loving heart that is open to you and others.

*Amen.*



Hebron Mennonite. Credit: Rebecca Martin.



Landisville Mennonite. Credit: Emma Burkhardt.

## HIGHLIGHTS



3 Puerto Rico



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12 ACC Fall Assembly

## Advent in ACC Churches



James Street Mennonite. Credit: Stan Shantz.



Laurel Street Mennonite. Credit: Angela Dietzel.

## Currents

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## ACC Moderator's Reflections

John Denlinger,  
ACC Moderator

## Journey Forward With Hope

**Experiencing** the ending of one year and the beginning of another year provides a natural time for us to reflect and project. What is it that you remember about 2018, and what is it that you look forward to in 2019?

This question can be asked of us as individuals, as families, as congregations, and as Atlantic Coast Conference. From our perspective as Atlantic Coast Conference leaders, 2018 has been a time of growth and a time of relative stability as compared to the previous two years where we experienced lots of change. In all of this, we have clearly seen God at work. With Christ at the Center, we build connections with each other and with others in our communities across the street and around the world. As followers of Christ, we are commanded to incarnate the love and light of Christ in our daily lives so that others come to know and follow Jesus.

July 2-6, 2019, are the dates of our Mennonite Convention in Kansas City. This is a time for us to gather together with our brothers and sisters from across the United States to worship and fellowship. It is an exciting time of re-connecting with Jesus and others.

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

I encourage you to participate in this year's MennoCon2019. We are provided with the opportunity to broaden our experiences of our Mennonite Anabaptist Christian faith. We will meet others who might do some things a bit differently or believe some things a bit differently, but will find that we have much to celebrate in our commonalities.

Glen Guyton, our new Executive Director of the Mennonite Church, reminds us that everything that we do as followers of Jesus should flow out of our Worship together!

In this New Year, we have been invited as Mennonite Church USA to interact with a new but familiar message that has been called *Journey Forward*. *Journey Forward* invites us to covenant together to:

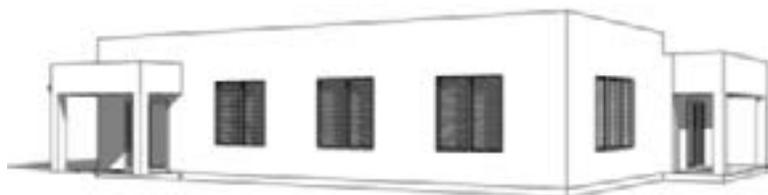
Follow Jesus, Witness to God's Peace, and Experience Transformation. There is a 12 Week Study Guide printed online under MC USA that can be downloaded and used for small groups, Sunday School classes, and worship themes. Jon Carlson, pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church helped to write this study guide, so if you have questions you can ask him.

May we as individuals, families, congregations and as Atlantic Coast Conference covenant together in this New Year of 2019 to Follow Jesus, Witness to God's Peace so that we can Experience Transformation and make a difference in our families and our neighborhoods across the street and around the world. May it be so!

- John Denlinger, ACC Moderator  
Ridgeview Mennonite



# God Answers Prayers— Rebuilding in Puerto Rico



**On** September 20, 2017, Iglesia Evangélica Menonita del Calvario (La Plata Mennonite Church) lost its beloved Children’s Education building (La Casita Del Niños) in Hurricane Maria’s category four winds that hit Puerto Rico. This building had been used for 45+ years for Sunday School and week-long summer vacation Bible Schools for children from the local areas.

Pepito the puppet was an important part of the Children’s Church of La Plata Mennonite Church. As the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) crew was doing their final clean-up at the site, this dear puppet was found among the debris of the old wooden building. As Eileen Rolon (our Region I MDS coordinator of the Aibonito area and member of the Aibonito Church) and I stood visiting with one of the church leaders, I spotted something on top of the wood remains. I said out loud, “Is that one of the puppets the church used at the Children’s Church?”

Pepito, the puppet, had survived the hurricane, but the members of the church did not see it when they were cleaning up the building a few days before the MDS crew came to do tear-down. A girl came running with the two-foot long puppet. Pepito had a white shirt and printed in red letters on the front was, “God answers prayers.” The church leader told us of all the fun the kids used to have when Pepito performed at their puppet show at the Children’s Church.

Eileen shared with me that the ministry of the Children’s Church and well-known summer Bible camp has been going on for many years. She had first become a Christian when she attended the one week-long summer vacation camp as a child. Like many other children in the neighborhood, she was recruited for this large event the church in La Plata had planned. Today this ministry is over 45 years old, serving over 150 children from all around the La

Plata region each summer. The Children’s Church building is the main location for this community service program.

La Plata Church is proud to offer this service to the community’s children. Its’ members were saddened to see the building destroyed. Now five months before the summer vacation Bible camp they are holding out hope that they can continue to plan for this annual event.

MDS, Neffsville Mennonite Church, La Plata Church, and other partnering congregations are committed to assist the church to rebuild the Children’s Church by spring 2019. They will use cement to make it earthquake and hurricane proof so it can be used as a community shelter for the next natural disaster. The partners are hoping to provide much of the muscle needed to complete this project, and MDS will be fielding teams of volunteers throughout 2019. They are also raising funds to cover the estimated \$100,000 cost of supplies for this project.

This rebuilt facility will make many children happy and will restore this legacy of the La Plata children’s ministry. It will bring back sweet memories to Eileen and many others who met and were loved by Jesus at this site. It will allow the church to continue its beloved ministry to the community and allow Pepito to perform again, bringing joy back to the children, even if the puppet has stained marks on its face and clothes. And together with MDS, we will say: **“God answers prayers.”**

Those interested in joining teams or contributing financially to this project can visit: <https://mds.mennonite.net/puerto-rico/> or contact Phil Hostetter (717-799-0598, philhostetter@juno.com).

~ Elizabeth Soto  
and Brook Musselman

God  
answers  
prayers!!





\$0

\$141,296.71 (contributed so far)

\$500,000

## Open For Business: ACC's Congregational Leadership Fund

The  
ACC  
Spring  
Assembly  
will be  
held at  
Landisville  
Mennonite  
on  
April 27.  
2019.

In January, the first funds from ACC's growing Congregational Leadership Fund (CLF) will be approved for disbursement. Although we are only a little over a quarter of the way to the fund's target amount of \$500,000, numerous individuals have designated a portion of their gifts to the fund for immediate use, allowing the conference to finance education and leadership projects even as we continue raising dollars for the endowment. The grants received thus far request financial aid for the primary and continuing education of pastors, but this is only part of the fund's scope. Grants will be given for three categories of need:

**Continuing education assistance** for pastors or lay leaders who would like assistance paying for education to assist the ministry and leadership capacity of the congregation

**Short-term congregational leadership needs** for congregations needing financial assistance with a temporary leadership need such as a stipend for an interim pastor, coaching or facilitation through new or difficult circumstances, or other transitional needs

**Faith formation initiatives and leadership development assistance** for congregations wishing to expand or initiate projects that equip future leaders and grow disciples of Jesus; we encourage creative ministry on the part of congregations!

The next review of CLF applications will take place in June 2019 for disbursement of funds in July. The application form can be found at <http://atlanticcoastconference.net/resources-2/documents/> and should be submitted to the ACC office by early June.



Indonesia  
2021

06-11  
07 2021



Global  
Youth  
Summit  
meets  
July 2-5,  
2021.

bersama-sama mengikuti Yesus melintas batas  
sesarengan ngetut wuri Gusti Yesus nratas wewates  
following Jesus together across barriers  
seguir a Jesús juntos, superando las barreras  
suivre Jésus ensemble à travers les frontières



Mennonite  
World  
Conference  
meets  
in Semarang,  
Indonesia,  
July 6-11, 2021!

## Finding God in *Silence*

**As** I write this, I am five days and 30 minutes away from finishing my fifth semester at Goshen College (but it's not like I'm counting). It feels almost impossible that a) I'm even in college—I feel like I should still have to sit in a car seat; b) this time next year, I will have completed my degree in Journalism; and c) I will have managed to actually pass all of my classes (assuming I do).

Like most college students at the end of a semester, I am exhausted. I need a nap—or 30. Papers, projects, exams, and more have filled my every thought and I am ready for a break.

As an ambitious young woman, I often push myself too hard. I agonize over my grades and stress myself out. It is a bad habit that I am recognizing more and more about myself as I continue my college career. And I am sure, if I am not careful, it will be a bad habit that will follow me into adulthood and my career.

I have tried to be proactive about this nasty habit. I try to prioritize downtime—time for just me, and no one else, when I can read or write for pleasure instead of for classes. I have also found peace and rest in silence, in finding a quiet spot to just sit and reflect.

Those moments of silence—with no distractions—have been sweet and so restorative. I first discovered the impact of silence after reading several of Thomas Merton's works. Merton once wrote, "Silence... can be presence, awareness, unification, self-discovery."

After spending a day at a silent retreat last year, I felt drawn to stay silent. It is addicting, once you start. In those silent moments, I often find peace. I find rest. I find God. My anxieties about success fall away and I focus on what really matters. My heart finds rest in silence.

While reading about silence and rest, I stumbled upon a verse which spoke to me. Matthew 11:28-30 says "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I find God in the silence. Maybe you don't, and that is okay. But for me, silence is where I find my peace. Where God "gives me rest."

I encourage you to try it out—to take a few moments and sit in silence and let the worries of the world fall away. Hopefully, like me, you will find the rest you need.

- Abigail King, Ridgeview Mennonite

*Abigail King is a junior at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana, and is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church. She served on the Youth Planning Committee for Mennonite Convention 2017.*

## ACC Leadership Transitions

### Beginnings:

**Michael Howes'** (Sue Conrad) ordination was recognized from Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Michael most recently served at Lancaster Church of the Brethren as Pastor of Youth and Faith Development. Michael and Sue are members of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church.

**Audrey & Robert Kanagy** were installed as copastors of Ridgeview Mennonite Church on October 21. Their ordinations were recognized from Lancaster Mennonite Conference where they served at Living Light Mennonite Church, Washington Boro, Pa.

**Karen Sensenig's** (Ken) ordination was recognized from Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Karen most recently served as pastor at Habecker Mennonite Church. She is a member of Laurel Street Mennonite Church.

### Endings:

**Salomon Arias's** ordination was retired in November. Salomon served as pastor of Promilenio Iglesia Menonita Cristiana since 1983.

**Lowell Gerber's** (Lois) ordination was retired in November. Lowell's credential was transferred from Lancaster Mennonite Conference in 2017. He most recently served as interim pastor of New Danville Mennonite Church and as pastor of Lititz Mennonite Church. Lowell continues to volunteer with the Mennonite Information Center.

**Bob Murr** (Lois) resigned as pastor of Bethel (Gettysburg) Mennonite Church in November. He had served in this role since 2004.

**Liliana Potes** ended her role as pastor at Primera Iglesia Menonita, Brooklyn NY in October. She will continue attending Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship. ~ Reported by Brook Musselman, Conference Coordinator

News & Notes may be sent to Currents editor: [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net)

**Volunteers Needed for Monday Night Community Meal**



**East Chestnut Street Mennonite (ECS)** currently has a need for additional congregations or Sunday School classes, businesses, social groups, or other teams to help provide meals and services for their community meal ministry in 2019.

Since 2002, ECS has provided a space for a weekly Monday Night Community Meal prepared and served by East Chestnut Street teams, local churches, and/or businesses. They serve 125 to 175 people on the average each week. Typical meals include: entrée, starch/potato/rice, vegetable or salad, fruit, dessert, and milk. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for coffee. Meals are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. Clean-up is usually accomplished by 7:15 p.m. Usually, there is an average of 12 to 14 volunteers with at least one coordinator to perform/oversee cooking and service.

If you have an interest in providing this Christ-like hospitality, please contact Greg Henning, ECS Monday Night Community Meal Coordinator at 717-397-9963, or [henning18@msn.com](mailto:henning18@msn.com).

**Youth Venture** is announcing four locations to serve and learn in 2019! Teams of youth ages 15-22 and their adult leaders will join in the ministries around the world. These two- to three-week-long trips are in June or July. For more information or to apply, visit the Youth Venture website at <https://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Youth%20Venture> or contact Jolene VonGunten with any questions at [jolenev@mennonitemission.net](mailto:jolenev@mennonitemission.net).

**2019 Stewardship University** is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2019, at Calvary Church. Practical workshops on Creation Justice; Eat to Beat Stress; Eradicating Poverty; Human Trafficking; Investing in

Giftings of Others; Building Family Resilience; Open Secrets of Classism, Racism, and Sexism in the Church; What Makes Worship “Anabaptist” in 2019?; and Women and Money. Register at [StewardshipUniversity.com](http://StewardshipUniversity.com)

**Larger Everence Scholarships** are available in 2019 for students who are Everence members (or their parents are members) and are enrolled as an undergraduate or in a trade school the Fall of 2019. Apply now for scholarships (\$1,000-\$3,000)—deadline is February 28, 2019. Visit [everence.com/college-scholarships](http://everence.com/college-scholarships) for the guideline and an application.

**Reduced Car Loans** for anyone buying a hybrid or fuel-efficient car to show care for God’s earth. Everence Federal Credit Union is offering a discounted loan rate as low as 3.24% for “green” vehicles. Check out [everence.com/auto-loans](http://everence.com/auto-loans).

**Anabaptist high school students** can win \$750 by writing for the MCC Washington Office Essay Contest. This year’s topics include gun violence, immigration, and North Korea. Anabaptist youth who are of high school age within the U.S. and Puerto Rico are eligible to enter. The deadline for submitting essays is January 25, 2019. Check out: [mcc.org/essay-contest](http://mcc.org/essay-contest).

**Building Faith**, a ministry of Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), provides a simple, usable resource for parents of young children who want active and effective ways to help their children build faith. Sign up to receive monthly emails that will include a concept, a verse, an activity, a prayer, and further resources. Some weeks will have multiple activities and some just one, depending on the theme and the point of the church year. Check: [www.http://buildingfaithmecn.weebly.com/](http://www.http://buildingfaithmecn.weebly.com/)

**ACC Currents** accepts advertising from ACC members and Anabaptist-related organizations at these rates:

- 2" x2" size = \$50.00
- 3" x3" size = \$75.00
- 4" x4" size = \$100.00

Camera-ready artwork should be sent to [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net) along with your name and address so that an invoice can be mailed.



News & Notes may be sent to Currents editor: [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net)



## Standing up for what is right!

Eileen Sabel, pictured in the wheelchair on the left, was waiting to board a SEPTA bus at the same stop where Gabriel Bangert, age 16, and his classmates (also pictured) were also waiting after taking exams at The City School, Philadelphia. When Eileen was refused a spot on the bus equipped to serve disabled passengers, Bangert appealed to the bus driver to let her on. When the appeals were not successful, Bangert said, "If you won't let her on, at least give me an answer as to why, or else I am getting off." In protest, Bangert and all of his friends got off the bus in support of Sabel! A news article was later printed titled "Woman in wheelchair barred from boarding SEPTA bus." Thank you, Gabriel, and your friends for *standing up for what is right!*



**Zion Mennonite, Birdsboro** on Saturday, September 15, along with three other local churches (Abundant Life, Birdsboro Church of the Nazarene, and Hopewell Christian Fellowship), hosted the second annual *Love Loud* event in Birdsboro. *Love Loud* is an effort by these local churches to show God's love to their community. The day included many services and performances all offered to the community free of charge.

Zion's 21 volunteers joined about 170 total volunteers in serving over 750 guests who received 100 haircuts, 375 bags of groceries, 50 back massages, and 50 job leads. There were lots of hot dogs and drinks given away and many games played with the children in the Kid's Zone. Participants also had access to family portraits, used clothing, and health screenings. There were many effective conversations and prayers at the addiction recovery and prayer tents. There was live worship music throughout the day along with testimonies of God's grace, a reptile exhibition, and an appearance by



## the "World's Strongest Redneck."

It was a good day of interacting with the community. Hopefully, it planted seeds for the gospel and for further relationships with the local churches involved.

~ Steve Musselman, Zion Mennonite, Birdsboro

# ACROSS THE CHURCH



Fellowship Sunday

Download resources from:

<https://mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*New pastors in attendance at the Fall ACC Assembly.*

**World Fellowship Sunday** is an opportunity to remind our communities of faith that we are all part of one body made up of many tribes, languages, and nations (Rev. 7:9). Each year, Anabaptist-related churches across the globe use a common theme in their service on the Sunday nearest January 21.

On this date in 1525, the first baptism took place in Zurich, Switzerland. We celebrate that, in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the cultural and national boundaries that separate us have been overcome by the cross.

Materials for 2019 were prepared by Latin American church leaders on the theme "Justice on the Journey: Migration and the Anabaptist-Mennonite Story" from the texts Leviticus 19:33-34, Luke 4:18-21, and 1 Peter 2:11-12.

Nearly 500 years ago, Anabaptists were persecuted because they claimed primary citizenship in God's kingdom. Anabaptists recently celebrated 100 years of presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin America is experiencing a large displacement crisis, where organized crime, violence and poverty are forcing thousands to flee their homes. Migrants, including Anabaptists, face hardship as they seek safety. Our churches are investing in missional outreach to these vulnerable people.

It is not easy to be or have been displaced, nor is it easy to welcome these strangers. God is faithful in the midst of these stories of uprootedness and change. Download the resource (see column on left) to celebrate World Fellowship Sunday in your local congregation with the global Anabaptist family in January or at whatever time is convenient.

*Saturday, April 27, 2019*  
**ACC Spring Assembly**  
Landisville Mennonite Church  
Landisville, Pa.

*Sunday, January 13, 2019*  
**2019 Youth Bible Quizzing** begins on the Gospel of Matthew at Petra. Check the following website in case of bad weather: <https://accquizzing.org/schedules/revise-2019-quizzing-material-dates/> The Invitational will take place in West Liberty, Ohio, on March 15-17, 2019.

### \$\$\$ CURRENCY CORNER \$\$\$

October 31, 2018 marks the end of the first four months of our fiscal year. This is the most recent financial report I have at this time. As of this date, income has exceeded expenses by \$5,724.09. You may recall that we are projecting a surplus for the full fiscal year of \$36,250.00. Our income generally increases in the winter and spring months, so I feel good about where we are at the end of the first four months.

Words cannot express how thankful I am for the generous financial support that ACC continues to receive from individuals and our member congregations.

On behalf of the ACC staff and executive committee, **THANK YOU** for your faithful support.

~ Ken Martin, ACC Treasurer, Forest Hills



## Planting the Seed of Service

**Informing** the family that I would be leaving on another administrative trip of several weeks was often the hardest part of being an MCC global program administrator. This time it was doubly difficult because I would be departing the day after Christmas, leaving my wife and two pre-school aged children to celebrate the holidays without me.

To draw our children deeper into my work and to *plant the seed of service* in their hearts, I told them about the poor children I would visit. This led me to ask them if they would like to select one of the gifts we had just given them for me to give, on their behalf, to a child in Haiti? I am surprised now that I asked that of them. There was no threat or promised reward. Just an invitation to give a gift to a needy child.

Within hours, our son came with his little yellow car and offered it without comment. I received it with mixed feelings, knowing how much he had wanted that car. I thanked him and promised to bring a picture of the car and its new owner.

Upon arrival in Haiti, I asked MCC workers to suggest who the recipient should be. Without hesitation they suggested a boy, maybe eight years old, almost blind, and not expected to see another Christmas. With my camera at the ready I presented the yellow car to him. He received it reluctantly, hardly knowing what to do with it. Before long he was seen clutching it to himself after having played with it on the dry ground.

When I returned home, I was very eager to share the picture with our son. He appeared to appreciate it, but offered few comments.

Twenty years later, that son and his wife launched into a life of service, beginning with a three-year term of MCC service in Haiti. The *seed of service* had been planted and bore good fruit.

~ Edgar Stoesz, Akron Mennonite

### *The Bible Unwrapped; Making Sense of Scripture Today* by Meghan Good

Many people have questions about Scripture they are too afraid to ask. Are all the stories of the Bible true? What about all the books that got left out? What do we make of all that violence? What do we do when biblical authors seem to disagree? And what if we encounter situations the Bible doesn't address? Good helps readers delve into issues like biblical authority, literary genre, and Christ-centered hermeneutics.

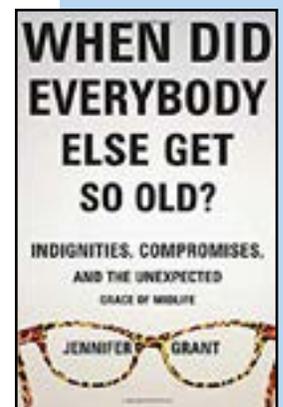
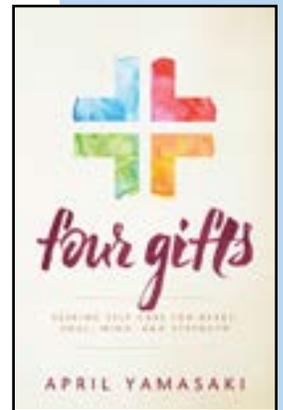
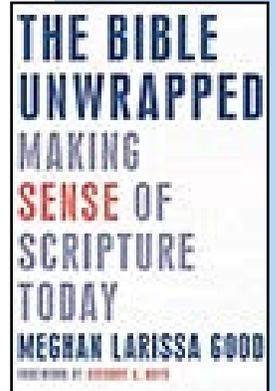
### *Four Gifts: Seeking Self-Care for Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength* by April Yamasaki

In *Four Gifts*, Yamasaki addresses questions about self-care drawing on the ancient scriptural command to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In this fast-paced world, we need to meet our own needs, set priorities, and find true rest. Shares personal stories, biblical and theological insights, questions for reflection, and practical ideas for self-care.

### *When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? Indignities, Compromises, and the Unexpected Grace of Midlife* by Jennifer Grant

This unflinching and spirited look at the transitions of midlife shares about the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes unique to the middle years: from the emptying nest to the physical effects of aging. Grant acknowledges the complexities and loss inherent in midlife and tells stories of sustaining disappointment, taking hard blows to the ego, undergoing a crisis of faith, and grieving the deaths not only of illusions but of loved ones. Yet she illuminates the confidence and grace that this season of life can also bring. Magnetic, good-humored, and full of hope in the sustaining power of the Spirit, this is a good-read for anyone facing the flux and flow of middle age.

WINTER  
READING



BRIDGE  
OF HOPE

P.O. Box 304  
Exton, PA 19341

866-670-HOPE



**Bridge** of Hope was born 30 years ago in an Atlantic Coast Conference church, when Pastor Andy Leatherman preached on the book of Nehemiah and encouraged the congregation to “get eyeball to eyeball with the ruins around us.” He challenged the church to seek ways of rebuilding communities and lives. Bridge of Hope co-founders, Sandy Lewis and Linda Witmer, were sitting in the congregation that Sunday—and shared with the congregation their vision for how churches can help homeless women and children. Out of that vision and sermon, Bridge of Hope was born, beginning in Lancaster and Chester Counties, Pa., and today with 19 locations across 13 states.



Bridge of Hope is partnering with churches to be good neighbors, resolving family homelessness and being a community of hope. Bridge of Hope can support your church in reaching out to a family facing homelessness. Over the years, many

ACC churches have served as Neighboring Volunteers (what used to be called mentoring groups). If there is not a Bridge of Hope in your community, we can help your church start one. Visit [ww.bridgeofhopeinc.org](http://ww.bridgeofhopeinc.org) to learn more.

Jasmina left an abusive relationship and secured temporary shelter for herself and her two young boys, and then applied for the Bridge of Hope program. Right away she knew that her Bridge of Hope Neighboring Volunteers wanted to see her thrive, and they helped with groceries,

# Churches Respond Homelessness Ends Hope Begins

clothing, and encouragement—“God gave me a second family.” Now she wants to help other women by paying forward the help she has received.

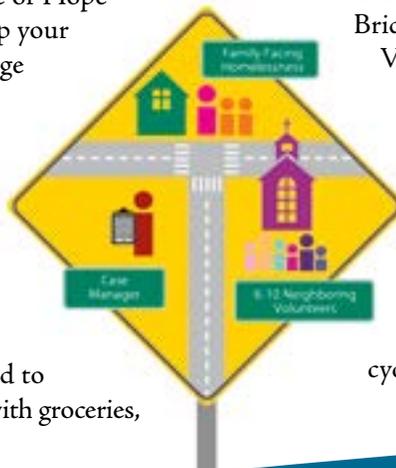
## *The Face of Homelessness: Women & Children*

The average age of a homeless child in our country is six years of age. The average family facing homelessness is headed by a 20 to 30-year old single mother with two young children. The financial burden of single parenthood puts many below poverty level. A lack of education and affordable housing, stagnant wages in service-sector jobs, and the high cost of childcare exacerbate the situation. For many families, homelessness is precipitated by domestic violence or trauma.

## *The Bridge of Hope Solution*

With Neighboring Volunteers from churches like you, Bridge of Hope is helping families overcome homelessness. Bridge of Hope partners with churches to provide 6-10 Neighboring Volunteers who help a family locate safe, permanent housing they can afford (with rental assistance provided on a decreasing basis), find a job or train for a career that will improve their financial position, and work with a case-manager to address trauma and other barriers to personal and family wellness. What is unique about Bridge of Hope is the Neighboring Volunteers, who provide tangible and relational support to help end homelessness, and increase family resilience and self-worth. Bridge of Hope is not a short-term fix, but a long-term solution of healing, housing and hope for families, ending what otherwise could be a cycle of homelessness.

~ Edith Yoder



## 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 churches, Christian organizations, youth summer camp, outdoor ed. school program, & seniors.*

### **Bridge of Hope**

P.O. Box 304  
Exton, PA 19341  
Phone: 610-280-0280;  
866-670-HOPE  
www.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
*Serves families facing homelessness, primarily single mothers with children, in 13 states.*

### **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  
*Ministry of the N.Y.C. Mennonite churches, founded in 1969; with mission to empower youth to serve 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  
www.camphebron.org  
*Changing lives since 1957, this ministry offers a variety of overnight camps and year-round events for all ages to 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  
info@pa.choicebooks.org  
www.choicebooks.org  
*Reaching People for Christ, One Book at a Time.*

### **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 and supports 200 workers in 39 countries, focusing particularly where the church is weak or nonexistent.*

### **EMU at Lancaster**

1846 Charter Lane, P.O. Box 10936  
Lancaster, PA 17605  
Phone: 717-397-5190  
lancaster@emu.edu  
www.emu.edu/lancaster  
*Community, Flexibility, and Convenience as we educate adult learners in Lancaster for 30 years*

### **Friendship Community**

1149 East Oregon Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
Phone: 717-656-2466  
Fax: 717-656-0459  
office@friendshipcommunity.net  
www.friendshipcommunity.net  
*Non-profit, Christian ministry serving residential services for developmental disabled since 1972.*

### **Garden Spot Village**

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

### **Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust**

6133 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
gmht@meetinghouse.info  
www.meetinghouse.info  
*Site of first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America.*

### **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 world-wide through performance, resource development, and leadership training.*

### **Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation**

301 St. Thomas Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-669-2957  
office@KAIROSjourney.org  
www.kairosjourney.org  
*Programs in spiritual formation and spiritual direction 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 Anabaptist tradition. Library, bookstore, museum.*

### **Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS)**

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

- Hershey Campus, K-12
- Kraybill Campus, PreK-8
- Lancaster Campus, 6-12
- Locust Grove Campus, PreK-6
- New Danville Campus, PreK-5

### **Landis Communities**

1001 E. Oregon Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
Phone: 717-381-3500  
Fax: 717-569-5203  
info@landishomes.org  
www.landiscommunities.org  
*Following God's call to creatively serve the diverse needs and interests of older adults by developing opportunities and collaborative relationships.*

### **Mennonite Home Communities**

1520 Harrisburg Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-393-1301  
Fax: 717-509-2823  
mhash@mennonitehome.org  
www.mennonitehome.org  
*Providing care to seniors for 100 years in cottage and apartment residences, assisted living, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.*

### **New Holland Early Learning Center**

18 Western Avenue  
New Holland, PA 17557  
Phone: 717-354-4440  
wcoleman@nhelc.org  
www.creatingcommunityforkids.com  
*Creating community for kids.*

### **New Person Ministries**

P.O. Box 223  
Reading, PA 19607  
Phone: 610-777-2222  
info@newperson.org  
www.newpersonministries.org  
*Helps ex-offenders build new lives and provides community reentry services.*

### **No Longer Alone Ministries**

630 Janet Ave.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-390-4891  
office@nlam.org  
*NLAM provides professional services to build hope to individuals and families experiencing mental illness.*

### **Reservoir Hill House of Peace**

2401 Eutaw Place  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
*Outreach ministry of NBMC that includes a Brethren Voluntary Service unit, Asylum Seekers Housing Network, New Lens, and housing.*

### **Tabor Community Services**

308 East King Street, P.O. Box 1676  
Lancaster, PA 17608-1676  
Phone: 717-397-5182  
info@tabornet.org  
www.tabor.net  
*Celebrates 45 years of rebuilding lives and community by teaching skills to solve housing and financial problems.*

### **Tel Hai Retirement Community**

1200 Tel Hai Circle, P. O. Box 190  
Honey Brook, PA 19344  
Phone: 610-273-9333  
info@telhai.org  
www.telhai.org  
*Cottage and Apartment residences, Personal Care, Adult Day Services, health care, and rehabilitative therapies for 60+ years*

### **The City School (formerly Philadelphia Mennonite H.S.)**

860 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1996  
Phone: 215-769-5363  
kwieder@cityschool.org  
http://cityschool.org/  
*Trains and disciples students, bringing light to the city—one child at a time preparing students since 1968. Founded in 1997 for grades 9-12.*

### **The Shalom Project**

P.O. Box 1132  
Lancaster, PA 17608  
Phone: 267-222-0730  
nathan@shalomlancaster.org  
*One-year voluntary service program serving full-time internships, experiencing and extending God's shalom (wholeness and peace).*

### **WellSpan Philhaven**

283 South Butler Rd., P.O. Box 550  
Mt. Gretna, PA 1706  
717-273-8871  
*Behavioral health organization with 54 programs and 27 care locations treating the mind for 66 years.*

# FALL ASSEMBLY

Assembly was held at Akron Mennonite

## Centering, Building, Sharing: Celebrating

ACC celebrated 40 years of walking together with God at the 2018 Fall Assembly



*Gusto singing is always appreciated at Assemblies!*



*Speakers sharing at the Men's Banquet.*



*Joanne Dietzel sharing with Nickels for Neighbors recipients.*



*Fellowship at the Ladies' Banquet.*



*Story-telling on days gone by in ACC.*



*The City School students blessed adults and children with songs.*



*Historical Time Line for ACC.*



*The Children's Assembly helped to collect the final collection for "Nickels for Neighbors."*