

Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Ladies at work at the 2009 Chatter, Chow, & Service.

Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service

HIGHLIGHTS



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Kathy Weaver Wenger and Heidi Stoltzfus (Conestoga Mennonite) speaking at the 2009 Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service.

Credit of all photos on this page: Jan Mast.

Women from ACC and Lancaster Conference will gather together on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at MCC's Material Resources Center at Akron, Pa.

This service event is for women from 10 to 100 years of age as we work on MCC projects and enjoy soup for lunch. And, we learn from one another as we work side by side.

Bring a pint of chicken corn or beef vegetable soup to share for lunch. The rest of the meal will be provided, although ladies are welcome to "go green" and bring your own mug, bowl, and utensils.

Pre-registration is not necessary. Just come and enjoy this time of chatter, chow, and cheerful service!



Currents

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John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

Moderator's Reflections

Last month the Mennonite Educators biennial conference held in Pittsburgh explored the theme of "Stepping Out of the Boat" based on the Matthew 14:22-36 text. Wilma Bailey, professor of Hebrew and Aramaic Scripture at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, challenged elementary and secondary educators in her keynote address to learn from the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the stormy sea.

Of all the disciples in the boat, it was Peter who acted on faith and courageously stepped out of the security of the boat into the stormy waters to make his way to Jesus. Peter quickly discovered that he was doing fine walking on the water until becoming distracted by fear from the stormy waters around him. At the point Peter took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink. To Peter's fortune Jesus was there for his rescue.

As individuals, congregations, and a conference, we are often more like the disciples who remained in the boat preferring security rather than like Peter who acted upon faith.

The world around us can appear messy and uncertain resulting in our fear of acting upon faith and walking towards Jesus. However, Peter's example is a powerful lesson that as we place our complete trust in God's sustaining presence, great things can be accomplished. Dr. Bailey cited the example of conscientious objectors during World War II as exercising faith by stepping out of the boat and serving in Civilian Public Service (CPS)

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camps rather than kill another human being.

Many established congregations face uncertain times with aging and declining membership resulting in what will most likely be smaller offerings. As a conference we need to ask ourselves what are the boats that individuals and congregations need to step out of in order to respond to Jesus' mission. Jesus continues to call us out of the security of our boats and invites us by faith to step into unknown waters. Staying in the boat during stormy times may not in reality be all that secure an alternative.

From whatever boat we find ourselves in or however we perceived the storm, let's learn from Peter's example. He acted first out of a passion for Christ. May our love for Christ motivate us to leave the perceived security of the status quo and step into the messiness of our world to move toward the Savior who calms the storm.

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

Bethel Mennonite

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Gettysburg, PA
17325

717-677-8057

Pastor
Robert Murr

[bmurr@
ddogcom.net](mailto:bmurr@ddogcom.net)



Our largest outreach event this year was held the evening of December 23 when we invited everyone from the Gettysburg homeless shelter to dinner at our church. It was a full house (above). After the delicious meal and a short time of worship, we distributed Christmas gifts (requested gift ideas and clothing sizes ahead of time). Oh, the joy of blessing persons not as fortunate as we are—and we made new friends! It certainly is more joyful to give than receive.



Sunday school is a significant ministry to adults, youth and children. In this photo Lois Whisler teaches a class of first and second graders.

Bethel Mennonite

Part of being the church God has called us to be is drawing closer to God and closer to each other. We seem to be pretty good at that part, but we have found that we aren't doing as well with outreach. We also know that too many of our kids are growing up and leaving the church. So some of our emphasis in the past year has been on our youth and children, and on reaching out to the unchurched. We continue to seek ways God wants us to reach out to the needy, and we believe God will grow His Church as we are obedient.



Children's story—a kids' sermon offered once a month during the Sunday morning worship hour.



One Sunday a year, we worship at a nearby park attracting persons who do not regularly attend.

Julie Ross has appeared on the Today Show and Oprah. She is the author of *How to Hug a Porcupine: Negotiating the Prickly Points of the Tween Years*.

Practical Parenting Seminar

Parents need encouragement that they are doing the right thing in parenting, and also to receive practical advice on how to do better. Studies show that parenting education reduces stress in parent/child relationships and increases the chance of raising relationally healthy children.

On March 12-13, 2010, Neffsville Mennonite Church, in partnership with Saint Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church and Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, will host Julie Ross, Executive Director of Parenting Horizons and a nationally known author and speaker, for a Practical Parenting Seminar and Workshop.

This Practical Parenting Seminar and Workshop will be hosted at Neffsville Mennonite Church located at 2371 Lititz Pike, Lancaster PA 17601 in three sessions. The cost is \$35.00 per adult. All materials, a Saturday lunch, and free childcare (infant to fifth grade) are included. For safety reasons, parents will need to bring boxed or bagged lunches for their children.

Registration is required for this Seminar and Workshop and space is limited. To register go to www.neffmc.org email parenting@neffmc.org or call 717-569-0012 ext. 7.

ACC's Spring Assembly for 2010 will be held on April 17 at CrossWay Church in Ocean City, Maryland. A bus has been reserved to transport all those who wish to travel from the Lancaster area. Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, will be the keynote speaker.

SISTER'S DAY CAFÉ

Saturday March 13, 2010
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Mennonite Church

As sisters in faith, we reach beyond conference and geographical boundaries as we see in each other our common bond in Jesus. Kathy Weaver-Wenger will speak on sharing our life stories at levels that go beyond the superficial and yet in ways where women feel safe. As women of faith, as women in the church, how do we know when to appropriately share and how do we create safe, trusted spaces for others to do so? Honest conversations that reveal how God is working in our lives now and how He has healed past wounds release God's power and wisdom and bring healing and hope to others. Enjoy a coffee-house setting and brunch menu. There is no cost to attend. Call 717-335-3107 with questions.



Buckets for Haiti

Ida Schelle, a longtime member of Cedar Grove passed away in 2009, and left a bequest that was divided among the WMSC (Women's Missionary and Service Commission) and the missions commission. Using money from that bequest, members at Cedar Grove gathered on

Saturday, February 13, 2010, to fill 210 Relief Buckets for MCC/Haiti earthquake. The work was enjoyed by all ages at the Cumberland Valley Relief Center (CVRC). - Shirley Hoover, Cedar Grove Mennonite



Forest Hills Sweetheart Youth Banquet



Outside the snow was piled high around the church parking lot. Inside there was snow piled as well . . . fake snow that is.

On Saturday evening, February 13, the members of the Forest Hills MYF (youth group) hosted their bi-annual Sweetheart Banquet. A fundraising tradition since 1989, the dinner has grown over the years to become a huge, all-out themed event. In past incarnations, the church fellowship hall has been a western dude ranch, a tropical jungle, a Mexican hacienda, and a renaissance castle to name a few. Due to a slow economy, this year's decorations may have been scaled back but the church members who attended the dinner at the Swiss Ski lodge "Chalet Waldenburg" were still in for a treat!

The MYF normally prepare for this big event for several weeks, but because of all the real snow, their work days were reduced to five! Despite the time crunch, the youth created an amazing winter wonderland—from the realistic ski lift tickets, the wintery (Christmas tree) forested hors d'oeuvres area, the fellowship hall decked out as the inside of a Swiss Chalet, to the Swiss cuisine-inspired meal and the chocolate fountain for dessert.

The youth were the focus for this event: they served the meals, wrote the humorous drama, and hosted the audience participation games . . . the youth advisors and some parents worked behind the scenes cooking and directing the night's activities.

It was a lot of hard work, and a very long and busy day, but the MYF seemed to enjoy it just as much as the guests did! Proceeds from this fundraiser benefited the upcoming youth group's service week in July. A group of 24 youth and advisors will be serving with YouthWorks, a youth mission organization that serves the youth and communities in the Adirondack Park area of upstate New York.

- Jackie and Don Nelson
Forest Hills Mennonite

Forest Hills MYF hosted their bi-annual Sweetheart Banquet on February 13, 2010.

ACC Ministry Transition



Dave Greiser

David Greiser (Anita) was installed as pastor at North Baltimore Mennonite Church on January 17, 2010. Previous to accepting this assignment, Dave served as director of the Pastoral Ministries program at Hesston College, Hesston,

Kansas. Dave's previous pastorates included assignments in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Chicago, Ill.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Souderton, Pa.

~ Warren L. Tyson, executive conference minister



Eduard Klassen, international and respected musician of sacred and traditional music, will present a concert at Hopewell Mennonite Church, Reading, on March 20 at 7:00 p.m. For more information: 610-790-7028

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

School of Biblical Theology. Learn the languages of the Bible: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic. Study the whole Bible in three years starting in the Spring of 2010 at Hopewell Mennonite Church (45 S 6th St, Reading, PA). For more information contact Pastor-Frantz@dejazzd.com or call (610) 790-7028.

Martyrs Mirror Exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Young Center at Elizabethtown College. Open until June 30, it tells the story of the various editions of the Anabaptist martyrs in recognition of the 350th anniversary of its first publication in Dutch in 1660. Mennonites in Pennsylvania translated the *Martyrs Mirror* into German and printed it at the Ephrata Cloisters. The book became influential, especially among the Amish, but also among Mennonites and Brethren. The exhibit is usually available weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., but first call 717-361-1470.

Donna Mast (Forest Hills) is on the adult convention planning committee for the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2011. Let's pray for Donna and the other planners as we anticipate attending this event next July 4-9, 2011. The theme is "Bridges to (the) Cross" based on the 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 Scripture text.

Micah Kulp, son of Donald and Charlotte Kulp of Salunga, attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster and recently left for Peru on SST as a student of Goshen College.



Above: Several NYC Mennonite leaders from ACC are included on this picture of Mennonite leaders in New York City handing a check for Haiti relief to Fred Kauffman, MCC East Coast staff member. The ACC persons are Sylvia Shirk (pastor, MMF), Sonni Carrion (First MC, Brooklyn), and Sandra Perez (MMF member).

ACC Executive Board recently appointed **Lois Ann Mast** to serve as the **ACC Resource Advocate**. Nineteen of these resource persons (out of the 21 conferences across MC USA) recently met at Baltimore, Maryland, to receive information and training in the vast array of resources that Mennonite agencies create and then encourage congregations to access them.

ACC Executive Board also has appointed **Frantz Santiago** as ACC representative to the **MCC East Coast Board** which is one of four regional MCC offices in the U.S. serving the area from Maine to Florida as well as Puerto Rico.



The Bäeretwil Church Choir from Bäeretwil, Switzerland is coming to Neffsville Mennonite Church on Tuesday evening, April 20, 2010. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Bäeretwil is the site of the nearby Täuferhöhle (Anabaptist Cave) which was a hiding place for Anabaptist preaching and singing in the 1500s and 1600s. Photo by Peter Schmid.

Is Promptness Valued in our Church Family?

Punctuality is both a value and a gift. Some people and groups emphasize timeliness more than others do, and some folks seem better able to arrive on time and to stay on schedule. Western culture places a higher importance on promptness than do African cultures. In any case, though, the importance of punctuality is often situational.

In business settings, arriving on time is imperative. In social circles, being a few minutes late is often preferable to arriving early. With the advent of cell phones, however, many people believe that running late is acceptable in any circumstance, as long as they call the other party to notify them of the situation.

How does this new philosophy affect the church? Although its primary emphasis is on worship, church also includes aspects of both business and social gatherings. Which church functions should insist on promptness, then, and which should take a more casual stance on timeliness?

Respect for others' time is clearly important, and following a schedule helps to ensure that all of the essentials are covered, especially in meetings. Worship services often contain sacred moments which are lost when someone enters the sanctuary and disrupts the stillness. When, though, do we extend grace to the latecomers? Do we turn around and glare at tardy worshipers who miss the opening hymn, or do we smile and scoot over in the pew in thankfulness that they arrived at all?

Young adults seem to struggle with punctuality more than older members of the church. I am not condoning tardiness, even though I am guilty of it more often than I prefer to admit. My concern is that they desire to show up and to be involved rather than stay at home because they might be a few minutes late. Do the actions of the congregation encourage its young adults to arrive earlier because they are a valued part of the church family?



Jessica Shirk

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster (CMCL)

will present a Nite of Music on May 15, 7:00 p.m., at its parent church, Akron Mennonite, as part of its 25th anniversary celebration. Larry Penner says that the music will be as diverse as the congregation's background and will feature jazz, bluegrass, chamber music, and additional "aural curiosities." "Over the years," Penner adds, "CMCL has tried to live the big tent philosophy of being church, and the musical lineup will take the same approach."

The concert is also a fundraiser for a dental clinic to be established in an old print shop adjacent to the church, which CMCL acquired in 2006.

CMCL was founded in 1985 as a church plant of Akron Mennonite. Its attendees, which include about 240 adult members and 120 children, come from Mennonite as well as non-Mennonite and non-Christian backgrounds. In 1986 the group purchased its present building from AT&T, thereby saving an historic downtown structure from slated demolition. In 2000, it expanded the facility by adding a new Christian Education wing.

Other anniversary events include creative expressions by children and youth on their appreciation for CMCL, a guest sermon by first pastor Vern Rempel on July 25 and a timeline of the congregation's history that will be displayed in the sanctuary. The yearlong celebration will culminate in an intergenerational New Year's Eve party on December 31, 2010.

- Rod Houser, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster



CMCL
Nite of Music
at Akron
Mennonite
on May 15.

Send births, marriages, and deaths to:

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EVENTS
& MORE

Items may be sent to:

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PA 19543
or e-mailed to:
currents@
atlanticcoast
conference.net

Births

Madelyn Sierra Albright born November 17, 2009, dau. of David and Melissa Albright (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Benjamin Daniel Kuhns, born December 14, 2009, son of David and Melanie Kuhns (Akron Mennonite)

Aaron Christopher Long, born February 3, 2009, son of David and Joy Long (Neffsville Mennonite)

Hailey Amber Nolt born November 16, 2009, dau. of Ryan and Pat Nolt (Forest Hills Mennonite).

Thomas Schlosser born September 14, 2009, son of Erik and Holly Schlosser (Forest Hills Mennonite).

Marriage

Maray Horning (Conestoga Mennonite), dau. of Robert and Karen Horning, married **Joe Zimmerman** on February 5, 2010.

Kevin Yoder (Ridgeview Mennonite), son of Nelson and Pat Yoder, married **Rachel Clever** on October 24, 2009.

Deaths

Peter J. Dyck, 95 (Akron Mennonite) died January 4, 2010, was born in Lysanderhöb, Russia, and died in Scottsdale, Pa. He and wife, Elfrieda, helped to shape MCC international programming during and after World War II.

J. Edwin Rohrer, 60, (Ridgeview Mennonite) died December 30, 2009, the son of F. Edwin & Marion (Ranck) Rohrer. In addition to his parents, Ed is survived by his wife, Linda (King) Rohrer, daughter Kelly (Rohrer) Smith, granddaughter Ella Morgan, and a brother Roger M. Rohrer.

Jeffrey Wayne Stoltzfus, 20, (Maple Grove Mennonite) died December 19, 2009, the son of Abram M. and Anna Mae (Stoltzfoos) Stoltzfus.

Jeremy Kent Stoltzfus, 22, (Akron Mennonite) died January 8, 2010, the son of Dale and Beth (Schafer) Stoltzfus.

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

Send these to the address on the left.

March 6
Stewardship University
Lancaster Mennonite School
1-800-494-6622

March 13
Sister's Day Café
Emmanuel Mennonite
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

March 13
Women's Sabbath Retreat
Forest Hills Mennonite
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

March 15-19
Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders
Lombard Mennonite Peace Center
630-627-0507

March 20
EMM Youth Rally Concert
Rapper/youth pastor
Lancaster Mennonite School Fine Arts Center
7:00 p.m.

March 20
Singing Boys of Pennsylvania and Keystone Girls Choir

Garden Spot Village
7:00 p.m.
717-355-6000

March 26
LMHS Open House
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

April 10
2nd Annual Marathon
Garden Spot Village
8:00 a.m.
717-355-6000

April 10
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society Annual Banquet
Steve Nolt, speaker
Yoder's Restaurant

April 9-11
Women in Conversation: Living a Life of Gratitude Retreat
Megan Ramer, speaker
Laurelville Retreat Ctr.
800-839-1021

April 16-18
Scrapbooking Retreat
Tel Hai Camp
610-273-3969

April 17
Red Rose City Chorus Sweet Adelines Int.
Garden Spot Village

7:00 p.m.
717-355-6000

April 17
ACC Spring Delegate Meeting
CrossWay Church
Ocean City, Md.

April 20
Pastor's Breakfast
"Seasons of Life: Accepting Loss and Change"
Landis Homes
8:00 a.m.
717-381-3510

April 29-May 1
High Button Shoes
Student drama at LMHS

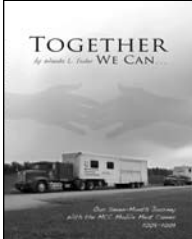
\$8.00 and \$10.00
717-299-0436, ext. 340

June 4
Landis Homes Benefit Golf Tournament
Foxchase Golf Club
717-509-5490
giftplanning@landishomes.org

October 18, 2010
Women and Preschool Assembly
Speaker: Loice Oobi Byler
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Strasburg Mennonite
Cost: \$10.00
717-293-9852
high852@verizon.net

New Book . . .

Together We Can
by Wanda L. Yoder



This is the story of a seven-month journey (over 200 color photos) with the MCC mobile meat canner traveling to 37 sites in 15 states and provinces. With the help of many, they canned 566,984 cans of meat sent to needy around the world.

\$20.00 + \$4.00 shipping from Masthof, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543.

“Tender” Green Leaves

by John Coats
Eastern Mennonite Mission
worker in Cambodia

Photo credit:
Debbie Coats.



“Why did I get only one child, and on top of that he is stupid and slow and won’t listen? Please teach [and fix] my son.”

It was clear to me that this mother had said such words to her son many times. Often parents say to us, “Take my son and teach him to read and write, and teach him to listen to me.”

We live in a very rural area in southeastern Cambodia. In the middle of the rainy season, the landscape is completely covered with the beautiful hues of green rice, dotted with villages and tall sugar palm trees. It has no electric lines, no telephone lines, no billboards, no paved roads, no pollution, and no factories.

When visitors come, they often remark how beautiful and peaceful our village is. But after living here more than ten years, we have discovered it is not so peaceful; the beautiful landscape holds a very broken society.

For many years, my wife Debbie and I have worked on the many immediate and obvious physical needs. In more recent years, however, we have felt God leading us to focus more on people’s hearts and minds.

Though initially very suspicious of Christianity, the local authorities granted us permission in 2008 to launch a small pilot project focusing on children’s character training—even though we said we would be teaching the children Christian principles and values.

I was particularly surprised when one man, the local political head of the Buddhist temples and the national party’s local branch, said to me, “This is a much more effective way for you to make followers, working with tender

green leaves, rather than old dried leaves.” Amazing church planting advice from the one official who used to persecute local Christians more than anyone else!

We selected a village and approached the poorest parents in it, inviting them to send their children to our program. We told them we would be teaching character using Christian teachings; we would also provide some reading and writing tutoring. To our surprise, they all accepted our invitation, even though nearly all were non-Christians.

Our staff meet with the children twice a week to teach about a specific character trait (such as honesty or respect of others), tell a Bible story, and play games. We are not shy about our faith. We want folks to understand that God created us, he designed the family, and he tells us how to make it work. Our aim is to plant seeds of God’s love and teach God’s intended created order. Then Lord willing, the families will develop into loving Christian families.

We recently received government permission to expand into another village. We pray for God’s help and the help of God’s willing workers.

John and Debbie Coats along with their children, Micah and Jesse, serve with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Cambodia.



Eastern
Mennonite
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together with Christ,
transforming the world

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Lancaster Mennonite

Students converse with mission workers in Kosovo and Colombia

In January 2010, Lancaster Mennonite High School's Global Christianity students had face-to-face conversations with mission workers in Kosovo and Colombia—without leaving their Lancaster County classroom.

Skype, a software application that allows users to make voice calls and do video conferencing over the Internet, was the vehicle that made it all possible.

To prepare for the Skype session, LMS teacher J. W. Sprunger and his 45 students researched possible candidates from Mennonite agencies and other sources. After the list of candidates was pared down to several, the students formulated questions such as "What is it like to be a Christian where you live?" "Do politics affect people's religious view in your country?" "As Christian peacemakers, how do you respond to acts of violence?" and "What kind of persecution do Christians experience in your country?"

"What is it like to be a Christian where you live?"

Peter Stucky, pastor of the Teusaquillo Mennonite Church in Bogotá, Colombia, "visited" Sprunger's morning class. He gave the students a picture of how his church ministers to families who have lost their homes due to conflict between political groups. When the refugees flee to Bogotá, his church helps some relocate to Canada. Stucky also described the educational system in Colombia where children are limited to morning, afternoon or evening classes.

In Sprunger's afternoon class, students met Peder Wiegner, a peace development worker completing a Mennonite Central Committee assignment in Prishtina, Kosovo. They learned that Wiegner's work involves relating to local peace groups and building relationships with Kosovar Albanian and



Lancaster Mennonite High School Bible teacher J. W. Sprunger and his Global Christianity students learn about life in Kosovo as they chat "live" with missions worker Peder Wiegner during a recent Skype session

Servian groups in an attempt to promote justice, peace and reconciliation. Students also learned that persecution in Kosovo is culturally or ethnically motivated rather than related to religion.

Sprunger said that having students hear firsthand what these persons are experiencing in another country is important in helping them connect with Christians around the globe.

"All of a sudden these students are going to remember Bogotá and Kosovo," he said. "This all becomes much more real when you're talking with someone rather than doing a Google search."

Sprunger said the process itself is valuable as students grapple with questions about Christianity. And having the students involved in planning the sessions really increases ownership. One Korean student said eagerly, "Hey, if we call Korea, I can translate."

Global Christianity replaces Heritage of the Christian Church. The new course, which grew out of dialogue with students, helps students better connect with the growing global Christian community. It offers a wider variety of faith stories that help students understand the Anabaptist movement, and it illustrates how Christians from different traditions can value and learn from each other in the body of Christ.

Bible/social studies instructional area leader Sheri Wenger said the effort to be more global is "essential to truly meet the school's mission statement of preparing students to change the world."

ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

Black Rock Retreat

1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 800-858-9299
Fax: 717-786-6022
E-mail: main@blackrockretreat.com
Web site: www.blackrockretreat.com

Spreading the gospel of Jesus and strengthening His church through retreat facilities, summer camp programs, and outdoor education programs.

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

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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: gstoltzfus@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 four campuses:

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

Landis Homes

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

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 (NBMC) that includes a Mennonite Voluntary Service unit, Asylum Seekers Housing Network, Kids on the Hill, and other community programs, as well as housing for residents committed to the mission of RHHP.

Tel Hai Retirement Community

1200 Tel Hai Circle, P.O. Box 190
Honey Brook, PA 19344
Phone: 610-273-9333
Fax: 610-273-4141
E-mail: jswartz@telhai.org
Web site: www.telhai.org
Tel Hai is a nationally accredited, nonprofit provider of services for senior adults. For over 50 years, they have provided health care, housing, and services to enhance residents' quality of life in cottage and apartment residences, assisted living,

ACC Clusters

Morgantown
Lancaster
Greencastle
Atglen/Eastern Shore
New York City
Youth/Assoc. Pastors
Retired Ministers

Next CURRENTS will
feature another Cluster.

The congregation is the
basic unit of ACC. . . .
The congregation is
central to the life and
witness of the church
and finds broader
meaning as it becomes
part of the larger
church family.

- ACC bylaws

While the congregation
is basic, congregations
are also part of a larger
whole with mutual
accountability. ACC's
principle task is to serve
member churches—
clusters have been
formed to provide
fellowship for pastors
including a forum for
Bible Study, prayer,
and discussion; to further
conference unity and
cohesiveness; and to
deepen relationships
among ACC leaders.



Lancaster Cluster (front row, left to right): Doug Friesen from Blossom Hill; Michelle Dula from Blossom Hill; Chuck Goertz from Forest Hills; Michelle Armster from St. Andrew United Church of Christ; and Harry Jarrett from Neffsville. Back Row: Cheryl Hollinger from Forest Hills; Jane Hooper Peifer from Blossom Hill; Linda Helmus from Neffsville; Chad Martin from Community Mennonite; and Warren Tyson, ACC Executive Conference Minister.

ACC's LANCASTER CLUSTER

African Community
Akron Mennonite
Blossom Hill Mennonite
Community Mennonite
Forest Hills Mennonite
Grace Ubuntu
Neffsville Mennonite
Ridgeview Mennonite

ACC's Lancaster Cluster

Lancaster Cluster has provided a wonderful way for me to become acquainted with the Conference more quickly than I ever would be able to do by just attending the bi-annual conference meetings. I very much appreciate the community (affirmation and accountability) that I feel when we gather—reminding me that Blossom Hill is just a part of God's work in this place. - *Jane Peifer, Blossom Hill Mennonite*

The cluster meetings are a congenial, caring place where we laugh, listen, and support each other. I appreciate the level playing field that does not favor gender or position. - *Linda Helmus, Neffsville Mennonite*

I am deeply, deeply grateful for the collegial relationships I have formed through the ACC Lancaster Cluster. I have always felt welcome there, and it continues to be a place where I can share open and honestly about challenges in ministry. These relationships have sustained me through challenging transitions in my own congregation. And it has been a helpful place for celebrating common ground amongst a group of very diverse congregations. I consider these folks my mentors and my friends. Similarly, Warren's presence in that group has

been significant; I have gotten to know him on a more personal level in that context, and vice versa. - *Chad Martin, Community Mennonite*

As a person relatively new to professional ministry, I have found the cluster meeting with ACC pastors to be helpful on many levels. Hearing stories which acknowledge the reality of both struggles and joys in ministry provides insight and encouragement, and brings authenticity to leadership. Sharing resource ideas, personal spiritual growth tools, and praying for one another has also been a welcomed blessing. Additionally, I value the connectedness I now feel to other churches within our conference because of the ACC cluster. - *Cheryl Hollinger, Forest Hills Mennonite*

The Lancaster Cluster has been one of my primary peer groups for the past 8½ years. We have experienced some significant turnover, yet each group finds a way to build trust and share pastoral challenges and mutual concerns. I appreciate the way we are finding our way through some difficult conversations facing our congregations this year. - *Jim Amstutz, Akron Mennonite*