



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: The 2011 top 60 quizzers in ACC. We commend you for studying and memorizing God's Word! Credit: Dale Gebman.

HIGHLIGHTS



5 Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service



6 Petra 2 Quiz Team



12 Spring Assembly at Immanuel in NYC



A New Church is Born

Praying for the new leaders in Delaware (left to right): Sam Walters, ACC Conference Minister Warren Tyson, Collette Weir standing beside her husband Howard Weir, Synda Senior, Minister Douglas Senior, and Deacon Seymour Williams. Credit: Candace Smith, Great Joy Christian Fellowship.

ACC welcomed a new Mennonite congregation, Great Joy Christian Fellowship in Bear, Delaware, on March 27, 2011. A long-time vision became reality for Pastor Howard Wier, his wife, Collette and friend, Douglas Senior, who ten years ago discussed the potential of beginning a Mennonite ministry in Delaware. After serving in ministry with other church organizations for several years, Weir's desire to return to his Mennonite roots took him to Samuel Walters (a friend and mentor).

An abandoned church building at 154 Bear Christiana Road was discovered by Collette. As a result of the encouragement of Jeff Wright and Warren Tyson, that building is now the home of Great Joy Christian Fellowship!

Pastor Weir says, "What a mighty deed the Lord has formed among us—Great Joy Christian Fellowship is up and running! God has allowed us to see the birth of this new ministry and has reconnected us with our roots founded in Good Tidings Mennonite Church in Kingston, Jamaica."

Great Joy Christian Fellowship got its name from Luke 2:10-11, "Behold I give you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people . . ."

Over 70 persons were welcomed by Pastor Howard Weir to the spirited opening service on March 27. On April 10, Executive Conference Minister Warren Tyson performed the licensing.

The current service schedule is Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening Bible Study and prayer at 7:30 p.m. Other areas of ministry will include men's fellowship, women's fellowship, children and youth ministry, community events and outreach, including Single Christian Women's Association led by friend and supporter Pastor Sue Diamond.

The congregation is grateful for the interest that ACC has shown in assisting this church birth and offers a warm welcome to ACC and other community members to stop by as you can.

- Candace Smith, Great Joy Christian Fellowship
- Pastor Samuel Walters, friend and mentor

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John Weber
Conference Moderator
Akron Mennonite

ACC Moderator's Reflections

The lingering winter is finally gone and the evidences of spring and new life are bursting out everywhere. I don't know if it's just my impression, but other people seem to have especially welcomed the warmth, new growth, and the hope of spring this year. Maybe because spring was a long time coming!

The hope of a spring began many weeks ago with tiny emerging buds on trees, bushes and early spring flowers. In fact, the buds were already set late fall and early winter.

Might the slow transformation of the seasons fit as a metaphor for what may in fact be happening in MC USA and Atlantic Coast Conference? It fits for me!

Some signs are emerging in the life and witness of the church that make me think that a spring-like transformation may be approaching. Granted it depends on where one looks and how one reads the signs. I am increasingly encouraged by several recent experiences and observations. This is a change for me since much winter remains. "Not all the contentious issues that members sincerely hold differing opinions of surrounding sexual orientation, immigration, economic disparity and divergent theologies are resolved"

Consider some signs of spring in our church. Bridges of fellowship are being established between ACC and the Argentina and Puerto Rico Mennonite Churches. My wife Janet and I personally experienced the recent excitement in the Puerto Rico Mennonite Convention for a renewed relationship with MC USA and ACC after a several years separation from the denomination.

Consider also the number of fellowship groups just within the last year coming to MC USA conferences seeking membership. In ACC, three new fellowships are forming: a house church named Hiwet Legeta Church meeting as two cells in the Lancaster and Philadelphia areas for Ethiopian immigrants; Great Joy Christian Fellowship in Bear, Del.; and Radical Living in Bronx, N.Y. Lancaster

Mennonite Conference recently welcomed the Bhutanese Nepali Church and the French Church for Revival into their conference. The same developments are taking place in a number of other MC USA conferences. God seems to be bringing diverse immigrant and urban groups into the church. Mennonite World Conference is also welcoming a growing global Anabaptist fellowship.

In addition to the growing number of new fellowships, I also observed a hopeful sign at the spring MC USA Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) meeting in Archbold, Ohio. The CLC is a three-day gathering of all MC USA conference moderators and executive conference ministers to discuss church matters. The gender and racial/ethnic composition was the highest ever including a near 50-50% men and women attendance. Despite our sharing on complex church issues, there was a sense of joy and hope not always present at previous meetings.

Last fall's ACC Assembly at Forest Hills Mennonite Church had the highest participation of young adults in the program that anyone could recall.

Has spring sprung in our denomination and conference? Maybe it is too early to tell for sure, but we can see hopeful signs. Spring will indeed come if the church seeks to be invitational to new groups, incarnational with lives of obedience to Christ, and reconciliational to breaking down walls that separate God's people

* * *

"Thank you, ACC, for your generous donations from both ACC and many of the congregations during the past fiscal year. We gratefully appreciate the support. Blessings to you and your staff as together we work at our calling as a missional church."

~ Marty Lehman, Mennonite Church
USA Communications Director

What Qualities are Important for Church Leadership?

Reflecting on qualities for church leaders brings stories to my mind of how I was raised. The Bible was important to our family. My mother told me Bible stories as she worked at her sewing machine. She was a Sunday School, music, and Bible teacher all her life. My father was an evangelist, pastor, and school principal until his death.

For both Sara Jane's and my education, our parents helped us to attend church schools. We were trained for "Christian service" (for Christ and the Church).

In college, I decided I wanted to do something other than teach school. I had no idea what that might be, maybe preach, but what else? I could not break the mold.

My local church—Mt. Pleasant Mennonite in Virginia—wanted its own school rather than bus their children to a public school where they would be pressured to absorb "God and country enthusiasm." So I was asked to begin a church school and teach. Little did we know then that God would later call Sara Jane to teach in that same school while I was in CPS Camp during World War II. After the war, while we were again involved in Mt. Pleasant Mennonite School, God called us to the mission field in Ethiopia.

Reflections on what seems to me as important when God calls (not in order of importance):

- Commit yourself to God unreservedly.
- Sharpen your tools carefully for His work.
- Seek God's will in prayer.
- Know your Bible.
- Be careful to live a good moral life.
- Listen carefully when others speak.
- Be a servant leader.
- Hold your "umbrella" with due respect.
- Be a good follower when others lead.
- Live meekly and humbly.
- Seek wisdom from God and your fellows.
- Love your work.
- Cultivate good friends.
- Take initiatives bravely.
- Ask questions with an open mind.

- Welcome new friends.
- Communicate clearly.
- Listen intently to varying points of view.
- Avoid hurtful remarks.
- Acknowledge your mistakes.
- Be quick to seek forgiveness.
- Freely forgive others with love.
- Give God glory with frequent thanksgiving.
- Attend church regularly.

Some time ago, one of our children described me as a "generous orthodox" person. I have come to love this classification. To me it means that I accept the Biblical presentation of Jesus Christ as Son of God, Lord and Savior of His Church and His world. But I also seek to listen openly to persons who may differ from my understandings of right and wrong. My aim is to love all people especially followers of Christ Jesus.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 15:35. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given us." Romans 5:5.

- Chester Wenger, Blossom Hill Mennonite



Chester (93) and Sara Jane Wenger (88) raised eight children in Ethiopia and the Lancaster areas. They continue to actively support church and Kingdom activities through family, congregation, and multiple ministries.

- Mark Wenger, son

Sara Jane Weaver's parents were among the founding members of North End Mennonite Church (now Blossom Hill) in the early 1930s. Sara Jane later met her husband of 66 years, Chester Wenger, at Eastern Mennonite College. She worked as a schoolteacher after college, and Chester served with Civilian Public Service in Virginia and New Jersey before they were married in 1944. In 1949, they sailed to Ethiopia with their three young daughters as missionaries with Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. During their 17 years in Ethiopia, they helped to start the Bible Academy in Nazareth and participated in the founding of the Meserete Kristos Church. In 1966, they moved to Lancaster. Chester served as Director of Home Ministries for EMBMC and served as pastor of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church from 1980-1990. In addition to helping Chester with leadership at Blossom Hill, Sara Jane worked as a schoolteacher and ran flower and produce stands at several farmers' markets. They continue to live in their home along Old Philadelphia Pike in Smoketown where Chester grows amazing flowers, vegetables, and grapes.

- Jane Peifer, Blossom Hill Mennonite

Argentina Partnerships Renewed

On February 11, six people embarked on a relationship-building trip to South America. Representing three ACC churches, Akron Mennonite, Neffsville Mennonite, and Ridgeview Mennonite, we visited over a dozen churches in the grasslands of Argentina, deepening ties established in 2003.

Jim and Lorraine Amstutz (Akron), and Jim and Romaine Erb (Neffsville) worked their way west from Buenos Aires along Route 5, that route being the focus of church planting begun in the 1920s. In fact, the town of Tres Lomas, just south of Route 5, established a Mennonite church in 1925, even before a Catholic church, the only church recognized by the government, was built.

Bob Martin (Ridgeview) and Dean Smith (Neffsville) took a more northerly track, visiting churches and new church plants above the Route 5 corridor. We all covered numerous kilometers visiting the far-flung ministries of these very active Mennonite congregations. Imagine traveling from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Akron, Ohio, to visit a young couple you are mentoring as they attempt to start a church.

Sergio Curto, pastor of the Mennonite congregation in Carlos Casares, routinely takes time away from his family, his congregation, and his job, to make the six-hour trip to Villa Mercedes to do just that. The passion for ministry and outreach runs deep!

Bob Martin and I spent several days visiting with pastor Amer Oyanguren and his brother Daniel, also a pastor. In a driving tour of the barrios, or neighborhoods, of the town of General Villegas, Daniel expressed his deep desire to establish a community center in the midst of the government housing projects of the town. The government will sell a house to you at a reduced, affordable rate, or even give you a building lot and materials to build your own house. They do not, however, provide training in other areas of life, thus allowing you to escape the endless spiral of poverty. Daniel would like to fill that gap. "We must teach them how to live, as well as give them the Gospel" he states. He would start



An example of the types of houses people would build when they took the land, but sold some or all of the materials given them. These are especially the people Daniel Oyanguren would like to minister to through the community center." Credit: Dean Smith.

building the center tomorrow if he could find the funds to buy building materials, he said. Where he finds the energy and time mystifies me. He somehow balances being a husband and father, and pastoring a church with a full-time job and running a construction company.

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, co-director for the Mennonite Central Committee office on Justice & Peacebuilding, facilitated a workshop on restorative justice at the Bragado Mennonite Church in Bragado, Argentina, on February 19.

After the workshop, there was a meeting of the partnership in which a new covenant of cooperation was signed for the next three years. One participant pointed out "Peace without justice is neither peace, nor justice."

My first experience in Argentina was a very positive one. I was encouraged by their commitment to God and each other. I was challenged by their passion for community outreach and the creative ways they do that. Jim Amstutz observed that they "Do much with very little, and we do little with very much." I am also concerned by the numerous health concerns facing these bi-vocational pastors. Please remember them in prayer as they pour themselves into their families, churches, and vocations.

We returned to the United States on February 22 tired from the travel, but energized by the relationships built and renewed.

~ Dean Smith, Neffsville Mennonite



*Front row:
Romaine and Jim
Erb, Lorraine
Amstutz.*

*Back row: Dean
Smith, Bob Mar-
tin, Jim Amstutz.
Credit: Diana Erb.*

ACC
Clusters of
partnership
churches
send
representa-
tives to the
Argentine
Mennonite
churches in
their VEMZO
group (Vision
Evangelis-
tica Misionera
de la Zona
Oeste).

Newcomers In Your Congregation

How do you treat newcomers to your congregation? Do you warmly welcome them as guests, treat them politely as visitors, or barely tolerate them as interlopers? Does their age or appearance affect your level of hospitality?

Newcomers rarely begin attending a particular church out of pure chance or randomness. Usually, but not always, they have a connection to someone who already attends that church. Does your congregation—not just the greeters or hospitality team—make an effort to introduce themselves to each unfamiliar face, even if that person appears to know a regular attendee?

When you meet new folks and learn a little about who they are, do you think, “I’m glad you feel welcome here, and I hope you return so that we can become better acquainted?” Or,

do you think, “Great! You have skills in x, y, and z, and we could really use someone like you.”

Jesus commended Mary because she valued relationships over tasks, and He encouraged Martha to learn from her sister. The work of the church is important, but we must remember that the people we serve are more important than the act of service itself. Jesus did not “use” His followers; rather, He drew out their natural abilities and nurtured them into leaders.

In our hectic, self-centered society, people yearn for a sense of belonging. Let us consider our hospitality and regard newcomers as potential members of our branch of God’s family. After all, we are all His children.

~ Jessica Shirk, Ridgeview Mennonite



Jessica Shirk

People
yearn for
a sense of
belonging!

ACC Leadership Transitions

Redeat Abebe (Zemedkun Baykeda) was approved for license toward ordination on March 17 as pastor and church planter developing Hiwet Legeta Church, a cell-based church in Lancaster and Philadelphia regions. Hiwet Legeta (Life for the Lord) Church is an Amharic language group reaching out to Ethiopian households and individuals. Redeat and Zemedkun and their family are relating to the Neffsville Mennonite congregation.

Michelle Dula (Andy) was ordained to Christian ministry on May 8 at Akron Mennonite Church, Akron, Pa. Michelle serves as associate pastor of congregational life at Akron.

Katy Heinzl (Eric Ebert) was licensed toward ordination on April 17, not March 20 as reported in the last issue of *Currents*. Katy is currently completing her CPE residency serving as a chaplain with Hospice of Lancaster County.

Credentials have been released to the care of Emmanuel’s House of Prayer, Healing, and Hope, at Reinholds, Pa., effective March 17, 2011, due to the Emmanuel congregation withdrawing from ACC and MC USA affiliation: Nilson J. Assis (ordination); Barbara L. Horst (ordination); and Mark L. Miller (license toward ordination).



Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service

Another eventful day of cheerful service by ladies from both ACC and Lancaster Conference blessed not only the participants but also the items they produced. On Saturday morning, April 9, 2011, women from age 10 and up chattered in cheerful service before chowing the delicious lunch of soup!

ACC Quizzers are Winners:

Studying the Lives of Esther and Joseph

"I value the Bible knowledge that you gain (from quizzing,) said Matt Trost, Virginia quizzing program coordinator and quizzer from 1989-1994 with Bethel Mennonite from West Liberty, Ohio, "It enables you to understand more about God and yourself, and it provides the groundwork for discipleship."

On March 26, 2011, the 37th annual Bible Quiz Invitational was held at Lancaster Mennonite School with the ACC quizzing program hosting the event. Seventy-seven teams, representing 45 churches with 405 quizzers, 88 staff, and approximately 115 coaches from Ohio,

Virginia, and eastern Pennsylvania competed. This represents the Atlantic Coast Conference, Lancaster Conference, Virginia Conference, and the Ohio Conference.

"The first official invitational," says Don Yoder, "was the weekend of March 9, 1974."

"The idea of an end-of-year tournament is phenomenal, says Kevin J. Nofzinger, who quizzed

for Lockport Mennonite (Northwest Ohio) 1986-'89, "and the fact that it has gone on for so long is astounding. The big 'Quiz Invitational' ironically is held in the month of March, often the same time as 'March Madness' of the NCAA basketball post-season tournament lore. The Invitational produces a special kind of 'madness' in those who are passionate about quizzing. For young people from Jr. High age through college age, it is a weekend to connect with other Christian youth from different areas who have spent months poring over the same scripture passages and lamenting incorrect answers!"

"Overall, I believe the significance is that it [Invitational Quiz Tournament] provides a rich social and theological environment," says Merv Stoltzfus, ACC Youth Pastor. "This offers a positive impact in many ways for our youth . . . some known today and some to be discovered tomorrow."

On Saturday morning, after 255 matches the three remaining teams were Calvary 3, Lockport 2, and Petra 1.

On March 27, after a set of worship songs, Calvary 3 and Lockport 2—the two teams remaining in the loser's bracket—went head-to-head in front of an audience of 700. Lockport 2 was defeated and took 3rd place. Calvary moved on to face the undefeated Petra 1. Calvary 3 would have to beat Petra 1 twice in a row in order to take first place in the tournament. Calvary 3 won the first match easily.

"Going into this morning we were quite excited since the odds were in our favor," said Petra 1 quiz coaches, Dave Jensen and Deb Henson. "We knew that in order to be beat, that Calvary 3 would have to beat us twice, which can be a difficult task for anyone to beat the same team twice in a row. Our first match against Calvary, unfortunately, did not go quite as planned. Simply put, we beat ourselves by making quick buzzes and giving the other team several bonus questions."

With both Calvary 3 and Petra 1 tied at only one loss, the final match between the two teams would determine which team would ultimately be the champion.

The match was a tug-a-war with the lead going back and forth. After question 13, with two questions left in the match, the score was Calvary 3—75 and Petra 1—55.

"Go Petra!" yelled Shaun Martin, a quizzer for Ridgeview Mennonite, who was watching the match with the rest of his team.

"Question number 15, the final question," said Jason Mansfield quiz master from Northwest Ohio. "Who forgot?" A beep issued from Drew Stoltzfus, the Petra 1 quizzer who was needed to get the team bonus. "Who forgot?" Stoltzfus repeated, pondering. "Joseph," he said several seconds later. "That's correct," said the quiz master.

With that answer Petra 1 got their team bonus, which lifted their score to 95, beating Calvary 3 and becoming the 2011 Invitational Tournament champion.

"The realization at the end of the year that win or lose in the matches," says Gary Steiner, 20+ years coaching for Orrville Mennonite Church (Wayne County Ohio), "we are all winners for the time spent reading, studying and discussing how to apply God's Word to our lives and drawing closer to God."

~ Dale D. Gehman



Slate Hill 1
Quiz Team

Credit:
Dale Gehman

The following is adapted from reflections on my own journey out of a dogmatic Protestantism. I have removed much of the more personal aspects to create a more condensed article.

Truth and Grace. Don't they sound lovely together, standing side by side like two strong pillars of orthodoxy providing balance? How many churches attempt to incorporate both into their names or mission statements?

Truth and grace are complementary in a way that makes them seem somehow traditionally male and female. Truth tells it like it is. Truth "mans up" and draws his broadsword when times are difficult and when his wife, Grace, just isn't tough enough. Grace watches him affectionately and occasionally suggests that he might be well-served by a little more sleep, or a little more forethought before beheading mortal enemies such as Doubt, Gray Area, and Questionable Doctrine. She does her best to tend to collateral damage after the battle is over, with no winner in sight.

Absolute Truth either is or is not, but its very existence and veracity do not teach us anything about how, when, and if we should wield it. No matter how certain and right we may be in our understanding, are we to use truth as a weapon or as a tool of discernment?

Suppose we begin by accurately interpreting Biblical truth despite the fact that Biblical scholars have earnestly tried and failed for 2,000 or so years to agree on what this means. The next step seems so often to be seeking opportunities to bludgeon the daylight out of what we consider to be Truth's enemies. We range about, carrying a club to *inflict* truth whenever given an opening to do battle with the age old Goliath, error. I used this strategy to help me survive the insecurities of high school. Like any good Calvinist, I was aware of grace. However, grace always came *after* truth. I learned too late that often we swing this club outwardly and inwardly with equal ferocity. So in high school and beyond I swung mightily away at my own heart because I thought nothing would dispatch secret sinful thoughts

more effectively than a good pounding. After walloping the erroneous evildoers without or within, I would reluctantly lay the weapon down and used the fabric-softener-fresh terry cloth of grace to dab the bloody injuries.

Truth was real and full of power to me. Truth remained effective so long as I maintained a sufficiently blind, arrogant and confident spiritual disposition. If I reassured myself of the absolute certainty of all doctrines I held dear, I could discern each little splinter in every eye encountered, and practice unlicensed ophthalmological surgery right then and there.

Yes, grace was important, but merely as a symbolic afterthought, a lip-service and concession to God's bafflingly expansive love. I didn't get it. Grace and truth: they are not mutually exclusive to God. Let us not pretend to espouse the former while self-righteously brandishing the latter.

~ Keith Wilson, *Grace Ubuntu Fellowship*



ACC's
Conference
Coordinator
Keith Wilson
with his wife
and two
children.

CURRENCY CORNER

The Atlantic Coast Conference ministers and staff continue to faithfully serve and facilitate the churches on the east coast from Maryland/Delaware to Boston and New York City areas. Conference ministry staff support and resource church planting and individual church growth. Many times they are called upon for counsel and advice from local church ministers and other involved church leadership.

ACC churches have faithfully supported the ACC coordinating and leadership activities with prayers, interest, and finances to carry out this mission. We are grateful for this financial support. In an effort to be financially responsible, the conference budget for 2011 was kept at the same total dollar amount as 2010. Since the 2010 income budget was not reached, additional funds are needed to support the current ministry.

In order to fund the current program, average dollar support per member from the churches will need to increase about four dollars (\$4) per member. As in all averages, some churches will do more and some may increase less. The need is for all churches to support the conference with some dollar amount; the small churches with 50 members or less \$300 to \$500 and others increasing their support amounts up toward the \$70 average per member or above. Thanks for being an ACC partner helping to fulfill ACC's mission of being **Centered in Christ, Building Connections, Sharing God's Love.**

- Delbert Seitz, *ACC Treasurer, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster*

CONNECTIONS

Forward births, marriages, and deaths to:

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Births

Ellie Yen Burkholder born April 18, 2011, dau. of Dan and Amy Martin Burkholder (Akron Mennonite).

Mackenzie Grace Henson born April 17, 2011, dau. of Pastor Jon and Sheila Henson (Maple Grove Mennonite).

Elivia Fae Moyer born April 19, 2011, dau. of David and Starla Moyer (Akron Mennonite).

Deaths

Seth Ebersole, 84 (Akron Mennonite) died on April 12, 2011, son of the late Benjamin and Laura (Hertzler) Ebersole, and husband of Virginia (Metzler) Ebersole.

Vera Martin Landis, 86 (Neffsville Mennonite) died on April 18, 2011, dau. of the late Jacob Martin and Elsie (Denlinger) Martin, and wife of the late Raymond Landis.

Esther W. Overgaard, 91 (Forest Hills Mennonite) died on March 24, 2011, daughter of the late Jacob B. and Mable (Good) Weiler, and wife of Walter C. Overgaard.

Sarah Yoder Scott, 86 (Conestoga Mennonite) died March 27, 2011, daughter of David and Emma (Stoltzfus) Yoder, and wife of the late William I. Scott.

Paul M. Smucker, 84, (Sandy Hill Community) died March 29, 2011, son of the late John E. and Anna M. Smucker, and husband of Elma Glick Smucker.

Minnie A. Stoltzfus, 89, (Ridgeview Mennonite) died on April 14, 2011, dau. of the late Levi and Lydia (Peachey) Yoder, and wife of the late Mark P. Stoltzfus.

EVENTS & MORE

Items may be sent to:

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May 10, 2011
"The Ways of the Nudge: New Ways of Thinking About Evangelism"

Len Sweet, noted author, theologian
8:00-11:30 a.m.
breakfast & seminar
717-355-6159
Garden Spot Village

May 13-14, 2011
Kraybill Campus Auction

Pig roast, auction,
Candy drop, quilts
717-653-5236

May 14, 2011
18th Annual Breakfast & Auction
Friendship Community
Lititz, Pa.
717-656-2466, #165

May 15, 2011
Lancaster Mennonite School Open House Spring Concert
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Concert begins at 3:00

May 19-21, 2011
MCC Damascas Road Anti-Racism Analysis Training

Sunnyside Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa.
<http://antiracism.mcc.org>

May 21, 2011
Benefit Auction for Black Rock Retreat
Quarryville, Pa., at the Fairgrounds
1-800-858-9299
www.blackrockretreat.com

May 22, 2011
No Longer Alone Ministries Family Support Group
Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church
"Understanding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder"
717-390-4891

May 24, 2011
Family Caregiver Fair
Westview Community Room, Landis Homes
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Open House of New Hybrid Homes & Cottage Homes and Adult Day Services in Eden West
717-569-3271
www.landishomes.org

June 3, 2011
Benefit Golf Tournament for Adult Day Services at Landis Homes
Fox Chase Golf Club
717-509-5490

June 11, 2011
Spring Farm Day at Landis Homes
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

East Pavilion Area
Animals, tractor display and parade, Gospel music, food, square dancing, pie auction.
717-569-3271
www.landishomes.org

June 18, 2011
Garden Spot Village Yard Sale
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
717-355-6000



The logo for "Created to Praise" features the words "Created" and "Praise" in a cursive script, with a large number "2" between them.

Created to Praise is a week-long arts day camp scheduled for July 25-29 at Neffsville Mennonite Church. Students who will be in grades 4-9 in September will choose from a variety of classes including chalk art, drawing, handbells, keyboard to organ, clay, baking, and many more. There is a tuition charge, but financial assistance is available. This week is an opportunity to explore and develop the gifts God has given you! Check the web site at neffmc.org for registration information!



GARDEN SPOT
VILLAGE



A GARDEN SPOT COMMUNITY



The Blind Boys of Alabama, of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, will headline the concert at “Encore: The Festival” on June 4 at Garden Spot Village.

Garden Spot Village Announces “Encore: The Festival”

The largest generation in history views their retirement years not as an end, but as a new beginning. Garden Spot Village applauds that spirit. To encourage “Boomers” to tap into the possibilities, Garden Spot will host the first “Encore: The Festival” on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on its 104-acre campus at 433 S. Kinzer Ave. in New Holland.

“Encore is a day-long celebration of vitality, focused on living and aging well,” said John Farber, chief operating officer at Garden Spot Village.

A combination of conference and street festival, the event will feature best-selling authors and Grammy® award-winning entertainers, as well as local and regional talent, as well as local and regional experts—plus artisans and fine crafts, restaurant-quality food purveyors and other vendors.

The Blind Boys of Alabama, winners of five Grammy Awards and inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, will headline an evening concert. Vocalist Jimmy Carter joined the group when it was founded in

1939 and is still touring with the band.

“Most of our speakers, workshop leaders and entertainers are 50-plus and celebrating their life,” says Farber. “When we hit 50, we may not be kids anymore, but we have a lot of life experience and energy to shape our future and do the things we’ve always wanted to do. There are a lot of misconceptions about the 50-plus years that we hope this festival helps to shatter.”

Keynote speakers include Dan Buettner, author of *The Blue Zone: Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who’ve Lived the Longest*, and Leonard Sweet, futurist, preacher and author of *The Gospel According to Starbucks* and other titles. These and other presenters were selected to encourage and inspire.

“We have put together a program that is focused on Anabaptist values and reflects our organization’s mission,” said Chet Yoder, director of pastoral services at Garden Spot Village.

For more information and tickets, visit www.EncoreTheFestival.org.

Garden
Spot
Village

433 South
Kinzer Avenue

New Holland,
PA 17557

717-355-6000

www.gardenspotvillage.org



Woodcrest Villa Critters members display a few of the 500 blankets they have made for the local community.

Woodcrest Villa Critters Warm Up Local Community

Five years and 500 blankets ago, the Woodcrest Villa Critters got their start. A group of knitters and crocheters, the Critters are a busy bunch. Pat Smith, one of the original organizers and members, recalls that the group's original goal was to make three blankets in a year. They had no problem surpassing that modest goal within a few weeks and have proceeded to eclipse it as they spread joy and warmth across the local community.

The Critters organized in 2006 after being inspired by Warm Up! America, an outreach effort encouraging volunteers across the country to make and assemble blankets for the less fortunate. Typically, about 42 squares are used to make an adult afghan and

slightly less for children's and infant's blankets.

Each volunteer knitter or crocheter at Woodcrest Villa works on the small squares—some making dozens at a time. The group then collects the squares and puts them together to make blankets. In the beginning, the Critters included several dozen Woodcrest Villa residents. Several of the original Critters now live at Mennonite Home, but maintain a connection with their friends at Woodcrest Villa by continuing to knit or crochet afghan squares.

Through the years they have donated 231 adult blankets, 119 youth blankets, 126 baby blankets and 19 lap blankets for a total of 501. Organizations that have benefited from the Critters' talents and generosity include: Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women, Corner of Hope, Claire House, Conestoga View, Water Street Rescue Mission, Milagro House, United Veterans Administration Beacon House, Tabor Communities, Mom's House, Mennonite Home, New Life for Girls, COBYs, Head Start, Cambridge House and local families in need.

Later in April, the Critters will present the official 500th afghan to the Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women.



Woodcrest Villa Critters founders (left to right) Pat Smith, Betty Nixdorf and Ginny Chambers, display the 500th blanket made by their active group. This blanket will be donated to the Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women.

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 Workshop

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) 299-0823
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@pmhsonline.org
http://pmhsonline.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.

WHAT is God Up To?

Walking in Step With God's Heartbeat



Left: Participating in a Prayer Walk was one of the highlights on April 30 at the ACC Spring Assembly at Immanuel Community Church in Flushing, N.Y.



Ask God for laborers of harvest; ask Him for His purpose; then anticipate God providing!

Challenged to listen to God in fresh ways, ACC Assembly attendees gathered at Immanuel Community Church in New York City to listen to what God is doing across ACC.

Amidst the business reports, accepting new CRMs, approving Puerto Rico Mennonite Convention as ACC associate members, announcing the new Nickels for Neighbors project recipients, participating in an afternoon prayer walk, and hearing reports from recent church plants, Assembly participants were blessed! Delegates also gave approval to the request of Immanuel's House of Prayer, Healing and Hope to withdraw from membership in ACC and MC USA.

Immanuel Pastor Mark Perri, Pastor Jason Storbakken of Radical Living in Brooklyn, Pastor Redeat Abebe of Hiwet Legeta Church in both Lancaster and Philadelphia, Pastor Howard Weir of Great Joy Christian Fellowship in Delaware, Manhattan Pastor Sylvia Shirk, and Neffsville Pastor Harry Jarrett shared "Snippets of God's Action."

Jeff Wright, ACC's New Church Development Coach and Consultant, presented two goals: 1) ACC adopt a bias for church planting as we ask ourselves why aren't we church planting—not why should we? and 2) Facilitate new ways to "be" church.

In order to accomplish this vision, we need to pray—and pray we did as we walked the streets of Flushing where 150 different languages are spoken! Our continued prayer is that we can carry this command and "gift" to pray back to our home congregations!

- Lois Ann Mast, Conestoga Mennonite

ACC moderator John Weber (right) welcoming Ray Pacheco from the Puerto Rico Mennonite Convention unanimously affirmed as ACC associate members at the Assembly.

