

Connecting with Hans Peter Neufeld

Hans-Peter lives a unique life of peace and contentment. He spends most of his time in his wood working shop with sunshine dancing across the south windows. He has no deadlines, no answering machine, gives no estimates for his work. As he stops to gaze out the window, his mind travels across time and many miles to his childhood. He is seven years old and helping with the potato harvest in the fields of his family farm. The sun shines brightly in Germany in the 1930s, just like it shines in Akron in 2012. He remembers how life for a young boy can quickly change. Hans was helping with potatoes and beets when he looked up from the fields to see war planes overhead. His life would never be the same.

Hans, the youngest of four children, joined the family of Helmut and Trude Neufeld on March 17, 1931. He was spoiled as a small child and



says that he's still spoiled by his siblings! His extended family lived nearby and life "couldn't be better," as Hans recalls. The farm provided almost everything they needed. They all worked

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FEBRUARY 2012

Worship Series

| | |
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| February 5 | Jim S. Amstutz |
| February 12 | Melody Rupley |
| February 19 | Jim S. Amstutz |
| February 26 | Michelle Dula |

WORSHIP NOTES BY MICHELLE DULA

The church calendar during the month of February contains Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Recognizing the season of Lent was not something that most of us paid any attention to in our growing up years. My only childhood memory of Lent was that the school lunch calendar changed to fish sandwiches on Friday to accommodate the students who were Catholic. I was not a big fan of those sandwiches. These days I look for-

ward to the Lenten season. Lent has sometimes been compared to a housecleaning of the soul. I like that image. I think it is helpful from time to time to look into the windows of our souls to see what cobwebs have developed because of spiritual practices that have grown stale. Perhaps our soul is in disarray because we've been too busy to attend to its care. The season of Lent provides us with a chance to take inventory.

(continues on Page 3)

(Hans Peter Neufeld continues from page 1) hard and were very happy. Hans walked to a local elementary school. He was an excellent student who was chosen to go to a boarding school. This was part of Hitler's plan to choose the best students in Deutschland for a superior education, the foundation of his superior race. Hans was unhappy there, and let his grades fall so that he could return home to attend school in Elbing.

When the war escalated, Hans was taken with his classmates by train to a safer place. With only his backpack, he left for the unknown, settling into two rooms, one for sleep, the other for study. As the Russian front moved closer, these boys were packed into a cattle car of a freight train. Traveling west for three weeks, they survived on one teaspoon of honey daily. In middle Germany Hans was taken in by a family who shared what little they had. How did Hans survive? "Take it as it comes, make the best of it."

Meanwhile, back home in Elbing, as the front line moved to the farm, the Neufeld women hastily packed a wagon with household items, including a brush for the horses, locked the door of their farmhouse with the large iron key, and began the uncharted journey of refugees to the west. Father Helmut had been taken earlier to serve his country and was now a prisoner of war. After many months of survival against the odds, the family found shelter in the western zone, not far from where Hans was living in the Russian zone. With the help of the Red Cross, the family reunited in 1946. Within one month, both father and son had found their family. Hans has no doubt that "the Lord kept an eye on me." He had been separated from his family for seven years.

Care packages from far off America were arriving in those days after the war. Finding the name Sensenig in a package, Trude wrote a thank you note. This was the beginning of a friendship and correspondence that lasted for five years. Edna Sensenig sent fabric for Trude to make suits and dresses for the family. It was a big decision in 1951 when Hans and family immigrated to the United States. They were met by Titus and Edna Sensenig of Ephrata who welcomed them with lodging and work. Hans remembers his first job, at age 21, was washing dishes at Spring Glen Kitchen. Even after all that Hans had been through, he found this new life challenging. New food, new language, new people and customs were all part of the adjustment.

Without time to adjust to this new life, Hans was drafted in 1953, even though he was not yet a US citizen. The Neufeld men were building their parents' house and he was granted time to help finish that project. Hans obtained conscientious objection status and spent his service time at Mont Alto, south of Chambersburg.

It was during this time that he met Glenn Baer, who told him about a German refugee family, newly arrived in Hagerstown. Eager to make German connections, Hans went along with Glenn, and there he met a lovely young lady Antoinette Klassen, who won his heart. They were married in 1956 and began their life together in an apartment in Ephrata.

Hans returned to work for his former contractor, Harvey Sauder until 1961, when he left to begin his own contracting business. He built the houses for his siblings and later for his children. Over the years he built and remodeled many houses and churches, as well as Ura Gingerich's shoe factory. He took pride in his work and was well known for his quality workmanship.

Hans and Toni were blessed with four children: Carla, Peter, Lisa, and Philip. They began coming to AMC when Carla was MYF age because there was no group for her at Bethel Mennonite in Lancaster. During these years they also opened their home to foster children. This was a passion for Toni who had lost four siblings during the war and spent time in an orphanage. Hans and Toni adopted three of the many foster children: Tim, Carmen, and Amy.

The Neufeld family experienced a huge loss in 1968 when Peter, age 10, suffered a brain tumor. The trauma of his illness and death took its toll on the family. Losing a child, they learned, is ongoing grief.

More recent years found Hans-Peter retiring to care for Toni after her debilitating stroke in 1996. He made adjustments for her to spend her last years at home where she wanted to be. He took care of her as well as the housekeeping. His patient and abiding love for his wife and companion were solid until the day she died after 13 years in his care. The family gathered for her passing and it was a peaceful transition to a better life.

Hans continues to give back now as he has for many years. He volunteers at the Material Resource Center where he helps prepare comforters and other supplies before they are shipped abroad. He recalls the time when he was the recipient of this same gift of generosity from MCC sixty years ago. His ongoing gifts to AMC as well as MDS are the offerings of his wood working skills. It was Hans-Peter who built the first addition of classrooms and annex at AMC. And even today he continues to build furniture for Diamond Street Early Childhood Center.

Hans-Peter takes nothing for granted. He gives thanks for his good life and feels deep gratitude for family who surround him after all of these years. He and his three siblings, Gertrude (Habegger), Helmut, and Else, all live here and gather for Sunday dinner. Separated for years during the war, *(continues on Page 3)*

(Hans Peter Neufeld continues from Page 2)

they are at this stage of life, back together. His children are close by, and he delights in keeping up with activities of his eleven grandchildren, and he recently welcomed a great grandchild.

Hans-Peter continues to live in the house that he built on Third Street in Akron, with children living next door. He uses the same horse hair brush, saved from his family farm in Germany, to clean the sawdust in his shop. He knows that he is still here because the Lord had other plans for him. He continues to give back in many ways.

~Priscilla Ziegler, February 2012

(Worship Notes continues from Page 1)

One spiritual practice that people often try to incorporate during the season of Lent is to give up something that they enjoy that is not good for them like chocolate, soda, and sweets. I suppose this denial of self ultimately reminds them daily of the reason why they are giving something up. It makes us more mindful of our spiritual journey. I once heard a pastor who wished that each person in her congregation for Lent would give up just one opinion. (P.S. It was not an AMC pastor, past or present!)

A couple of years ago this idea for Lent came across my desk: Give up unhealthy thoughts during Lent! This idea came from writer, Elizabeth Gilbert. She writes, "I am assuming custodial responsibility for the maintenance of my own soul...I can choose my thoughts...a radically new idea for me...I will not harbor (give refuge/safety to) unhealthy thoughts anymore." She clarifies, "Be vigilant in noticing diminishing thoughts and repeat this vow: 'I will not harbor unhealthy thoughts anymore.'" She held this image of sending these thoughts back out to sea. She sought to turn away all warships carrying sinful, selfish, abusive, enslaving, belittling, revenge-filled, bitter, racist, paralyzing perfectionistic, greedy, harshly critical, excessive over-achieving, hurried, impatient, lazy, false-guilt thoughts that would attack and prevent God's peace from ruling her heart and mind (Philippians 4:7). She gives this warning, "These thoughts are often harbored for reasons that SEEM legitimate." What a novel idea.

Worship this Lenten season will focus not so much on things we should give up but on things we want to keep. The focus will be on covenants with God. We will hear from Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and Moses as we journey closer to Holy Week. These people were not so different than we are. Covenants were made. Covenants were broken. Yet, God was present through it all, continually striving to draw everyone to a better way. So as we enter into this Lenten season, let us think about what we have covenanted with God as part of our proclamation that we will follow Jesus wherever he goes. Let us consider what things we may want to give up for Lent...or what things we may want to add to our lives that will help remind us of our covenant, our commitment to following Christ.

One thing you may want to add is an intentional remembrance of Good Friday. The worship committee debated whether or not to plan a Good Friday service but instead decided to provide a service that could be done in your home with your family or with your small group/house church. Stay tuned for when and where to receive this information closer to the time. As Lent approaches, be mindful of what you may want to give up or what you may want to add to your life to make this a transformative time in your spiritual journey. We trust that God will honor this covenant.

How involved are AMCs?

In 2011 we had 56 worship services in which many persons were involved:

- 10 persons led hymns as song leader
- 26 persons led as worship leader
- 25 persons led the children's time
- 94 persons read scripture
- 16 persons prayed the prayers of the people
- 55 persons provided music for gathering, offertory, and/or hymn accompaniment
- 21 persons sang a special musical piece
- The Men's choir (approx. 22 members) sang 9 times
- The Adult choir (approx. 22 members) sang 9 times

~Pat Martin



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Diane Gehman
Janet Weber
- 2 Al Claassen
Barbara Weaver
- 4 Dale Stoltzfus
- 5 Lorri Hardin
- 6 Lauren Dixon
Lori Shaeffer
- 8 Melanie Baer Drescher
- 9 Karen King
- 11 Virginia Ebersole
- 13 Helena Dueck
Desirae Stauffer
Elexa Stauffer
- 15 Alverta Martin
- 18 Delmar Zimmerman
- 19 Anna Clemens
Lynette Meck
Anna Mae Voth
Annie Wise
- 20 Adrienne Yoder
- 21 John Gingerich
- 22 Viola Weber
- 24 Josh Gingerich
- 25 Adam Glick
Becky Ream
Phillip Rutt
- 27 Chris Martin
Kathleen Sensenig
Makena Zimmerman
- 28 Mataya Chap
Anna Mae Weaver

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (AND THEIR PARENTS)



Everence College Scholarship 2012-2013

Investing in an education can be one of life's biggest expenses, but it also represents one of your family's most valuable assets. Through the Everence College Scholarship program, our goal is to assist our members in paying for the cost of higher education as well as provide a benefit that will last a lifetime.

Equally important, the Everence College Scholarship is a valuable opportunity to encourage people

to see the connection between money and faith. It also recognizes students who are committed to academic achievement and to expressing their faith values in the wider world.

For the 2012-2013 academic year, eligible students can receive a \$500 college scholarship award from their local Everence office. Winners from each region will then be nominated for our national competition, making students eligible for one of four national scholarships: a \$2,500 scholarship or one of three \$1,500 awards. These national scholarship awards are in addition to the \$500 regional awards.

Previous scholarship recipients may reapply each year.

Eligibility requirements:

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- The student, or the student's parent or legal guardian, must own or use an Everence product or service for at least 12 months prior to Feb. 28, 2012.
- The student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) in an accredited two- or four-year undergraduate or trade school program.
- The student must have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

- The student must submit a completed application with all appropriate documentation by Feb. 28.

Selection criteria

Eligible applicants must complete all sections of the application form and will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Academic record (based on high school/college transcript).
2. Leadership role.
3. Quality of extracurricular activities.
4. Community involvement.
5. Written answer (less than 250 words) to an essay question on his/her stewardship influences.

Program details

- Applications are accepted from Jan. 1 through Feb. 28.
- Scholarships are good only for the year issued and are not transferable to the next year. Students may reapply each year they are in enrolled in undergraduate studies.
- Notification of scholarship winners will be made after May 10.
- Scholarship funds are made payable to the school or college and distributed no later than July 25.
- Scholarship funds may be used to pay tuition or book costs and related course fees.

For more information, contact:

Kevin Nofziger, Church Relations Representative

Kevin.nofziger@everence.com

(717) 653-6662

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Feb. 1: Library Committee meeting @ 6:00PM
Feb. 2: Men's Breakfast at Udder Choice @ 7:00AM
Feb. 5: Communion
Feb. 5: Fellowship Meal @ 11:45AM
Feb. 7: Lunch Bunch @ Ephrata Diner @11:30AM
Feb. 10: Share-A-Life/Venture Club Bowling
Feb. 11: Deacon Training @MCC 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Feb. 11: Mennonite Women Valentine Sweetheart Brunch @ 10:00AM
Feb. 12: Conscientious Projector night @ 6:30PM
Feb. 15: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM
Feb. 16: Community Meal to be served by AMC

Calling All Crafters!!!

The PA Relief Sale will soon be upon us so we would like to remind our crafters not to forget us.

Janet Runion Patton and Ruth Runion Slear are Craft Stand coordinators for the PA Relief Sale which is held every April at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg, PA. All proceeds go to MCC. This year's sale will be held the second weekend Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, 2012. They are seeking crafters who work with fabric, wood, paper, yarn, thread, or beads to make and donate quality crafts. Time is running out; the sale is only three months away! Drop offs: anytime at Ephrata MCC Materials Resource Center or bring to the Craft Stand at the sale. Feel free to call or email us with your questions or comments.

Janet: 717-272-1708, cjpatton99@aol.com

Ruth: 717-533-9423, singchorale@hotmail.com

DIAMOND STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

JUNE HERSHBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This fall I moved my office to my home, which fortunately is only one block from DSECC. I continue as the Executive Director for DSECC and am in and out of both centers multiple times a week. Cathy Stephens, who has been at DSECC for 20 years, is now the Site Director at DSECC "main campus". Sandi Richard is Site Director/School-age Coordinator at DSECC on 11th. Cathy and Sandi are responsible for the daily running of their centers. I work closely with them to ensure that things are running smoothly, staff is supported, and children are getting what they need.

This structure allows me more time to look outward into the community: to find new ways that DSECC can meet needs; to make connections with resources that support our mission, and to work with other centers to strengthen the quality of care and the business aspect of early childhood providers. I feel fortunate to work with a board of directors that is visionary, supportive, and willing to step out in faith for new initiatives. Jerry Meck, board chair, has been a great mentor and colleague.

Diamond Street continues to be a place of high quality care where the body, mind, and heart of children are cared for lovingly each day from 6:30am to 6:00pm.



AMC During February

Caring for College Students: It's that time of the year to package and send our love and support of our AMC college students. Sign up now to include homemade baked goods, Wilbur chocolate, tea, goldfish crackers, granola bars, and other goodies from our congregation. A table by the coat room is available for early donations. Need to bake now? We will freeze your baked goods for you in our AMC freezer. All items needed by Sunday, February 12 for packing and shipping on Monday, February 13th at 7pm. Contact person: Karyn Nancarvis 627-2374



Marilyn Langeman is the Akron Mennonite Church Anabaptist Disabilities Network Advocate. In this role Marilyn strives to connect people at AMC to resources and experiences from other congregations and professionals linked to ADNet. The goal is to strengthen our abilities to support each other as we live with sometimes life-long mental and emotional challenges.

This month's topic is accessibility. In Jesus' time the temple in Jerusalem had clearly-designated areas for Gentiles, women, Jewish men and priests. Before getting as far as the court of Gentiles, a pilgrim had to ritually cleanse and purify himself and ascend stairs the equivalent of three stories. This would be daunting for many in our congregation. We have easy access to come to worship at Akron Mennonite Church: no steps, push-button doors, valet parking if requested. Or are there some barriers we are overlooking? Are there folks who stay away because they can't see well, or can't hear, or it's too challenging with the children, or they find it impossible to sit still that long, or have sensitivity to strong scents? To be a truly welcoming congregation, we need to be mindful of what keeps folks away. Please contact me if you are aware of barriers that ought to be addressed. Thank you! (Marilyn Langeman, phone 859-3840 or ken.marilyn.langeman@gmail.com)

Connecting at AMC: We have a rich history here at AMC. It is unique in the way we came together in those early years, the majority of us through MCC and CPS service. In 2009 as we prepared to celebrate fifty years, I sat with charter members to record their stories, their vision and their dedication that set this church in motion. I continue with the stories of early members in chronological order, which is one way to tell our story. I am now completing the first decade. It's not about age, but who was here in (the 1960s) those early years of formation. In addition I include those who are over 80 years old and came here before 1990. If you are in one of these two categories and would like to share your story, please contact me. I will begin the 1970s in the new year.

~Priscilla Ziegler

Community meals: Your help is needed for the Ephrata Community Meal held on Thursday, February 16. Ephrata area churches serve a meal for low income residents in the Akron/Ephrata area every Thursday evening. AMC will be responsible for the meal on the 16th. We need people to donate 9x13 cakes. Also needed are people for meal prep, set up, serving and clean up. The meal will be at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Church and Locust Streets in Ephrata. Please contact Jean Buchen if you and/or your house church are interested in helping. Cakes can be dropped off at the First United Methodist church between 4:00 and 5:30 or at AMC before 3:00 on the 16th. Stop by the table in the foyer on Sunday February 4 or 11 to sign up or you can reach Jean at jbuchen@kthighland.com or 396-0025.

ADDRESS, PHONE AND EMAIL CHANGES

Charlotte Biris: Moravian Manor: 625-6050; Cell: (515) 868-6335

Ron Flaming: Cell # 717-917-3580; New email: ronflaming@gmail.com

Kevin King: Please use personal email for non-MDS messages: kpk1@ptd.net

Christina Martin: Corrected email address: cymartin518@gmail.com

Eric Martin: Changed email address: martineric77@gmail.com

Lynn R. and Kathleen B. Roth New address: 1466 Two Penny Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Landis Homes offers Adult Day Services

Two centers provide a wonderful, community based alternative for older adults who want to remain in their homes, or with their families, yet benefit from daytime supervision or care. Adult Day Services also provides a break for the caregiver and peace of mind in knowing their loved one is safe, well cared for and has many opportunities for social interaction and enjoyable, meaningful activity. The centers are open M-F from 7am-5pm. Eden East is specifically designed to offer memory support. more info: 717-581-3939 - <http://bit.ly/wlGE4>

STEWARDSHIP UNIVERSITY – LET’S GROW TOGETHER

Save the date: March 3, 2012 at Lancaster Mennonite School

You can count on:

- Classes that offer practical, relevant, usable information
- A wide variety of classes to choose from
- A Biblical, Christ-centered, Anabaptist focus for the event

30 workshops focusing on holistic stewardship, including:

- Freed Up Financially
- Health Benefits
- Short-term Missions
- Estate Planning
- Listening to God
- Generous Worship
- Preparing Your Congregation for Disaster

Instructors include:

- Kevin King (MDS)
- David Shenk (EMM)
- Brian Roche (WGAL)
- Mary Etta King (Kairos)
- Brian Black (Gibbel, Kraybill and Hess)

For more information, contact:

Kevin Nofziger, Church Relations Representative
Kevin.nofziger@everence.com or (717) 653-6662

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Winter Art Reception at Landis Homes featuring the work of local artist Crystal Dull who was born in Lancaster and now resides in Lititz with her husband and children. For examples of her work go to www.CrystalRefletonsArt.com. The reception, open to the public, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, in the Harvest View lobby and galleries at Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz. The Exhibit will continue to be on display through April 2012. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/zPQ6BR> or call 717-381-3550.

Vision for AMC

Akron Mennonite Church will be fully engaged in God’s mission in a broken world as we are called, equipped and sent by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in life. Shaped by the gifts and vision of our members, we will keep Christ and church at the center of our lives as we reach out to neighbors near and far and witness to the world around us through an Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of faith.

The AMC Newsletter is printed monthly for distribution the last Sunday of the month. Give submissions to the church office by the previous Monday.

Jim S. Amstutz, *Lead Pastor*
Michelle Dula, *Associate Pastor*
of Congregational Life
Akron Mennonite Church

Tel: 717 859 1488

E-mail:

amc@akronmench.org
www.akronmench.org

IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED...)

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR COMING TO LANCASTER! The Parish Resource Center is hosting the Vienna Boys Choir in a benefit concert. The concert will be held at Hempfield High School, on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 7:30PM. Group rates are available in two price tiers: \$25.50 or \$38.00. A minimum of 10 persons are needed in the price tier to have the discount. Contact Patricia Martin ASAP, if interested.

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LMS Open House: Lancaster Mennonite School will hold its annual all-school open house Monday, February 6, at four campuses: Kraybill (grades PreK-8), Lancaster (grades 6-12), Locust Grove (grades PreK-8), and New Danville (grades PreK-6). The time is 6-8:30 p.m. For more information call (717) 299-0436, ext. 312.

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MEDA: Growing Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia through Trust and Innovation with Loren Hostetter, Country Project Manager on March 3 at 6:30pm at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. Everyone is welcome! \$30 for dinner and presentation. RSVP by Feb. 24 to MEDA: kyoder@meda.org or (717)560-6546. For more information see www.meda.org/lancaster.

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Mennonite Writing Conference: Readers and writers, please join us for a literary arts festival! Mennonite/s Writing VI: Solos and Harmonies, March 29-April 1, 2012 at Eastern Mennonite University, co-sponsored by Conrad Grebel University College. Features playwright Vern Thiessen; poet Greg Orr; a growing list of Mennonite scholars and writers including Katherine Arnoldi, Stephen Raleigh Byler, Todd Davis, Dora Dueck, Jeff Gundy, Ann Hostetler, Jean Janzen, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Keith Ratzlaff, Sofia Samatar, Hildi Froese Tiessen, and Rudy Wiebe. Learn more and register by March 16 at www.emu.edu/mennos-writing. Early registration discount available through February 3: Regular, \$100; Senior, \$75; Student, \$35. Registration includes admission to all events and Saturday evening banquet.

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Radical Journey : Young adults ages 18-26: are you looking for a purposeful year-long service experience? Check out Radical Journey. This Mennonite Mission Network program takes you to places like China, Paraguay, England or South Africa to join in God's work. Upon return, take a month to reflect on your experience and share it with your home community. For information or an application, visit Service.MennoniteMission.com.

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SAVE THE DATES:

Christian Peacemaker Team Fundraiser at AMC: A fundraiser event for CPT featuring Ted & Co is confirmed for Friday evening, March 9th in the evening. More details will follow.

“Stories of Conscience and Taxes in a Time of War”: 3:00-5:00 p.m. EDT on Sunday, March 11, 2012: at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601. Invited speakers include Rev. Kelly Denton-Borhaug, Moravian College; Pat Hostetter Martin, Eastern Mennonite University; Jack Payden-Travers, National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund; and Shane Claiborne, The Simple Way. Sponsored by Every Church A Peace Church and 1040 for Peace, this program addresses the challenges of praying for peace while paying for war.

“Peaceful Revolution: The Art of Waging Peace” : 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 15: Paul Chappell, West Point graduate and Iraqi War veteran, will speak during the “Discipleship Hour” at Akron Mennonite Church, 1311 Diamond Street, Akron PA 17501. Chappell currently serves as the Peace Leadership Director for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. He will reflect on his experience in war and explore how we can work together on “Peaceful Revolution: The Art of Waging Peace.”

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Theater in Worship—A hands-on workshop with actor, director and playwright Ingrid DeSanctis (Ted & Co., Eastern Mennonite University, etc.) Friday–Sunday, February 10–12, 2012 at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church. Cost: \$40. Space is limited. To register, please contact Lowell Bown, 717-467-1492 or lowellmb@gmail.com.

IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED...)

Annual Music Night: Saturday, February 4, 7:00pm at Neffsville Mennonite Church. Join celebrated Chicago songwriter and storyteller Chuck Neufeld, folk musician Frances Miller, the Men's Ensemble from Mennonite Heritage Chorale and Vietnamese Mennonite Choir (Philadelphia) for an inspiring evening of diverse music. Tickets \$20 in advance. Contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society: 717-393-9745 or lmhs@lmhs.org

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AMC'ers Honored

Two AMC'ers were recently acknowledged for their excellent work by their employers.

Earl Horst was recognized with the Conestoga Valley School Board Award of Excellence in December 2011. The recognition notes that "Earl Horst has been a dedicated employee of the school district for over 37 years"... that he "is loyal, dependable, diligent, hard-working, respectful, conscientious, and a true gentleman" and that he "takes pride in his work and is a skilled craftsman." Earl's supervisor states: "Earl's foundational attributes are unwavering integrity and his high level of skill and ability. When you gave Earl a job to do, you never had to look back." Earl is the first employee in the 18 years of the recognition program to have received this award twice. Congratulations to Earl from AMC!

David Wise was recently honored by the U.S. forest Service and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay with the distinction of "Forest Champion" for his leadership in restoring streamside buffers through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This award recognizes groups and individuals that have made a difference to people and/or the Bay through their promotion of trees and forests. Dave received the award for greatest on the ground impact. Since 2000, CREP has been used to restore more than 22,000 acres of forested buffers helping more than 4,000 Pennsylvania landowners restore riparian forests. Thank you to Dave from AMC for his work in restoring and preserving God's creation.