

Akron Mennonite Church Newsletter

1311 Diamond Street, Akron, Pennsylvania 17501

June 2010

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.



Worship Notes

By

Jim S. Amstutz

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

-1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Change at the speed of imagination.

Last week I had lunch with an associate pastor of one of our sister congregations. We got talking about all the changes their church has experienced over the past number of years. He said when their long-time pastor resigned in 2002 it has been one continuous transition among staff (except for him) until 2006. When I shared that AMC has only been at it since January of this year, I realized we have a long way to go!

Pattie LaCroix is a consultant and strategic planner for non-profit organizations. She cites a recent survey of 100 agencies that showed 75% have been impacted by the economic recession. The challenge, she says, is to break out of the default mode of trying to fix what is broken. This school of thought about organizations uses a machine metaphor: we take things apart, fix what is broken, and return to "normal." Inevitably, this approach looks backward at what went wrong.

The alternative, suggests LaCroix, is to use our imaginations to look *forward* and build on the strengths that already exist within an organization. Listen for the striking similarities to the challenges facing AMC in this current time of transition:

Worship Series

June 6 – Jim S. Amstutz

June 13 – Christina Martin

June 20 – Jim S. Amstutz

June 27 – Donald Kraybill

Now is the time to shift the way we look at change and redirect the power and ingenuity of leadership and expertise in the social sector to invest in our strengths. Specifically, now is the time to invest in the sector's greatest asset...its people. Now is the time to invest in staff development, volunteer and member capacity building, board governance, and executive training and management. Now is the time to invest in change at the speed of our imaginations.

This approach does not minimize or ignore the significant losses within an organization. It is important and healthy to grieve. The point is not to dwell there and operate from a deficit-based assumption. In other words, think of the *possibilities* instead of the problems. One of the tensions identified at the last Council meeting was how to create something new without judging all the good work that has gone before as inadequate. On the other hand, we cannot continue to do what we've always done and expect a different result.

Creativity is life

When imagination is coupled with creativity there is life. Can we give ourselves permission to imagine and create a different way of being church together?

Already we see glimpses of a new reality with the work of the Worship Planning Team, Discipleship Hour offerings, Ministry Teams and the Missional Challenge Fund.

In the coming months we'll need to collaborate and imagine how to create intergenerational ministries, provide pastoral care and spiritual development for everyone in the congregation, and create a flexible, team-based structure for tasks we deem essential to our

life together. We don't know what all that will look like, who will do it, and how long it will take

Can we trust that God's Spirit is among us; inviting, nudging, leading? Can we give ourselves permission to experiment and try something new? Can we raise our level of trust along with an extra measure of grace? Are we ready to imagine, innovate and improvise a shared ministry that builds on our strengths and invites others into partnership?



Let Go and Change Esther Elizabeth

When we let go of hatred, prejudices, arrogance and entitlement from the heart, our actions change. We love, forgive and hope from the heart, and from there our world changes. So I offer this prayer for us: 'Holy One, we give you permission to carve away all that is not pure in our hearts. We invite you to create space in our crowded hearts for you to dwell. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. We ask you to align our priorities with yours, and awaken our hearts from their sleep.'

~Source: *Journey Into Freedom*

AMC Profile: Joy and Jim Millen, Jr.



Joy and Jim Millen are among the few AMC Charter members who moved to Lancaster County for reasons other than MCC connections. Jim, a businessman, was excited about the need for insurance among the Mennonites and both of them wanted a community supporting their Mennonite backgrounds. They were attracted by the beauty of this county as well as the invitation of their dear friends, Glenn and Anne Weaver. They arrived in 1958, following a year of post college insurance education for Jim with Insurance Company of North America in Cleveland, Ohio. Jim's first job was with Goodville Mutual.

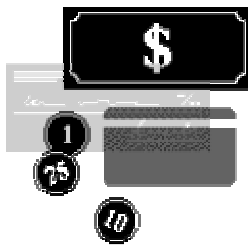
Jim and Joy met at Goshen College and were married in 1955 by both of their fathers who were ordained ministers. Joy's degree was in nursing and Jim's in business.

Joy (Burkhart) is the youngest of three children. Her sister Charlotte (Biris) is a member of AMC, and her brother Charles was formerly of New York City. Her father, originally a Bible teacher at Goshen College, later became involved in the business aspects of the college. Her family were members at the College Mennonite Church. Joy remembers the college campus as their playground, roller skating on smooth, cement sidewalks and colliding with annoyed students laden down with books, and the old clapboard gymnasium. She also enjoyed the beautiful music and art the college offered.

Jim Millen, Jr. is the oldest of five children. He grew up in Silverdale, PA where his grandfather owned a general store, with post office and fire department attached. Jim was "in charge" of the candy counter and his teeth still "suffer" from the consequences of too much sugar. His family attended the Haycock Mennonite Church in

AVOID THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS

(Webster: "Doldrums – a period of inactivity, stagnation, or slump.")



Akron Mennonite Church often experiences a decrease in giving during the summer months. But our expenses continue throughout the summer. Our annual budget of \$639,000 implies average giving by each household of about \$62 per week. Stewardship Committee invites you to avoid the Summer Doldrums in your giving to AMC. You can do that by signing up for regular electronic donations, or by writing checks in advance to cover times when you will be away from Akron on a Sunday. See Janet Weber in the AMC office for more information. Thanks.

Quakertown, where his father was pastor. Jim's Aunt Evie (Gerstlauer) is a member of AMC.

Jim was born an entrepreneur. Even as a child, he knew he wanted to run his own business. Upon leaving Goodville Mutual, Jim purchased an insurance agency and set up business in Akron, then New Holland, and finally Ephrata. Feeling confined by one agenda, he later pursued other business ventures such as Hawk Valley Golf Course, Cloister Apartments in Ephrata, and Family Style Restaurant.

Home was Akron and church was Monterey. As Monterey became crowded, Jim and Joy joined the new group planning a church in Akron. They were attracted to this new church because of its location and because of their relationships with many younger families and friends who were making the change as well. They also liked the MCC presence and the global connection that broadened their horizons.

Jim and Joy both taught Sunday school at AMC. They also helped with MYF. Joy was very involved in music: leading the children's choir, singing in a quartet as well as leading congregational singing. She was the head of the sewing circle - the old fashioned way - taking lunch and quilting all day!

Joy reflects on AMC's endearing qualities: the Anabaptist beliefs, service to others, acceptance of differences, diversity of gifts and professions, and willingness to look at new ways and not get stuck.

Jim and Joy have three children: James III, Dana Beth, and Greg. They have 14 grandchildren. Memorable trips they have taken together include Israel, Lebanon, Africa, Europe, and Camp Grizzly in Alaska.

Life brought a major shift for Jim and Joy in the late nineties when Joy became aware of Jim's memory loss. She realized she needed to make decisions and take charge on both personal and business levels. She assigned herself a desk at the office and began monitoring the business as Jim's decline became more obvious. This was a difficult time for both of them. She also realized they needed to simplify their lives. A big challenge was to downsize and decide where to live. Two children and their families lived in Colorado Springs, CO, and one lived in Lancaster. Jim and Joy wanted to be close to family, preferably an intergenerational environment. They lived with their children in Colorado Springs two summers trying to make this decision. Then their son, Greg, and wife, Katherine, who live here in Lancaster, invited them to build a small gross doddy house on their property. "It felt perfect." Joy says. "It retained all the qualities we

loved: Lancaster County, our church, our friends and familiarity, which Jim so badly needed. I am very grateful and happy living next door to six loving grandchildren and feeling the support from their entire family".

Early in 2008, it was necessary for Joy to make a decision to move Jim to Assisted Living at Landis Homes. She continues to be his caretaker as she spends time with him several afternoons a week. He is still able to come home for short visits and enjoys that immensely.

Joy is grateful for her family, church family, house church and friends who have supported her through all of these life changes. She is very close to her house church where sharing is at a deep, honest, meaningful level. She also appreciates AMC which she says, "encourages me to come as I am and go as I become".
~by Priscilla Ziegler

Community Welcome to Enjoy Heritage Day at Fairmount Homes



On June 5, 2010, Fairmount Homes will hold its 6th Annual Heritage Day, sponsored by Good's Store, an event that affords residents, staff, and the community an opportunity to gather and celebrate their rural heritage. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited.

Heritage Day is a day filled with fun and fellowship as members of the community gather on Fairmount grounds to reminisce bygone days amidst a backdrop of more than 60 antique tractors, old balers and other farm machinery, a steam engine and an impressive variety of antique cars.

Heritage Day begins at 6:30 a.m. with a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, pancakes, hash browns, orange juice and more. Coffee and homemade donuts, prepared on-site, will also be available. At 9:30 a.m., pork barbecue, fresh from cooking all night on the grill, will be added to the menu options along with baked potatoes, hand-cut fresh French fries, subs, hot dogs, and ham & cheese sandwiches. Other offerings include Auntie Anne's soft pretzels, ice cream churned with a hit-and-miss engine, and in-season strawberry pies by the slice or by the pie.

New food items added to this year's menu are root beer floats and meadow tea.

Heritage Day offers a variety of activities designed to appeal to every interest: stories of historical interest by three local storytellers, a petting zoo, and tours of the adjacent Muddy Creek Farm Library and Home Messenger Library. Talented artisans and crafts people will be demonstrating their crafts—bee keeping, blacksmithing, chair caning, sheep shearing, wood carving, homemade soap and pottery making, to name a few. Carriages and antique car rides serve to delight both young and old alike.

All funds raised on Heritage Day are added to Fairmount's Sharing Fund, which benefits residents who have exhausted their financial resources.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VBS SPEAKER – CAROLYN HEGGEN

Adult VBS will be July 25-28 with Carolyn Heggen as guest speaker. Carolyn is a psychotherapist specializing in trauma recovery, and is an international trauma consultant and trainer. She resides in Corvallis, Oregon, where she is an active member of Albany Mennonite Church. While affiliated with the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at EMU, she was trauma specialist and trainer for the Seminars in Trauma and Resilience (STAR) and director of the Healing the Wounds of War project. She authored the book *Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches* and has written many articles for church and professional journals. She has a longstanding interest in the intersection of psychology and theology, and in the redemptive, healing potential of healthy congregations.

LOVE INC PART-TIME STAFF POSITION

Administrative Support Staff (15 hrs/week)

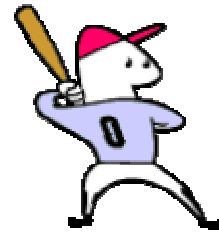
Would you value an opportunity to be a part of Love INC's mission to transform lives? Do you enjoy doing data entry? Can you help with copying, filing, mailings, and assorted other office tasks? Love INC is looking for someone who would be available 15 hours a week for the following:

- Printing postage and daily mail preparation
- Clearinghouse data entry and report preparation
- Assisting with clerical duties, including bulk mail preparation
- Assisting as needed in the Clearinghouse

If you are someone who enjoys organized, systematic work, and are willing to serve at least four days a week (preferably mornings) at our office please call Love INC at 735-7540 x 104 and talk with Kim.



Detweilers on the move: After 36 years at 222 N. 11th Street, Akron, it's time to see if we're flexible enough to do something different. We're delighted to have a young family want our house, settlement date is June 14. We're headed for Landis Homes but until a place becomes available we'll do interim housing at MCC. As of **June 5** our address will be P. O. Box 85, Akron, PA 17501. Our cell phone #'s are: Ruth 717-471-7013, Lowell 717-682-8185. We'll update email addresses if/when they change.



AKRON NIGHT AT THE BARNSTORMERS

scheduled to be on **June 29, 2010**. Tickets are \$6 and are on sale at various places throughout the Borough, including Royer's Pharmacy (Akron location only), Weiser's Market, the Borough Office, and various churches as well. This year we are asking the clergy to participate in the activities by leading the singing in the seventh inning of "take me out to the ball game."

Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation welcomes all interested in the following June 2010 retreats at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. You need to register by June 9. Later registrations accepted on a space-available basis. For more information on the retreats or to register: www.on-the-journey.org or contact Kairos at 717-669-2957:

- * Silent Retreat- Sun. June 27 - Fri. July 2, 2010 (options: 1-5 day retreats)
- * Understanding The Enneagram- Sat. June 26, 2010

"Understanding Haiti's Misery and What to Do About It"
Dr. Tom Driver, Professor of Theology and Culture
Emeritus,
Union Theological Seminary, New York.
Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.
James Street Mennonite Church, 323 W. James St.,
Lancaster

Tom F. Driver is the Paul J. Tillich Professor of Theology and Culture Emeritus at Union Theological Seminary, New York, where he taught for 35 years. After a first visit to Haiti in 1980 he returned two years later to do research on its religion and rituals. In the late 1980s, with the rise of Haiti's democratic movement, he became interested in the country's history, economics, and politics. Serving as the Chair of the Haiti Task Force for Witness for Peace, he led delegations to Haiti throughout the 1990's. He was a member of the first delegation from the United States to reach Haiti after the deposition of President Aristide in 2004. Following Haiti's devastating earthquake on January 12 this year, Driver joined with historian Carl Lindskoog to write a widely circulated "Open Letter to David Brooks," rebutting the popular columnist's serious misunderstanding of Haiti and misplaced criticism of its religion and culture.

Driver is active in Witness for Peace, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. He has photographed and edited two videos about the United States' contribution to the violence in Colombia in South America, scripting and narrating these together with his wife, the historian Anne Barstow. His published books include: *Romantic Quest and Modern Query: A History of the Modern Theater*; *Christ in a Changing World: Toward an Ethical Christology*; *Liberating Rites: Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual*

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**Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness Responds To  
A Message from the Major Christian Denominations  
in Palestine**

**Kairos Palestine Document.** In December 2009 the leaders of thirteen Christian denominations in Palestine -- specifically Jerusalem and the West Bank -- published a theological message about the impact of the Israeli Occupation on their people. The leaders describe their document as "a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering."

The message appeals to "our religious and political leaders, to our Palestinian society and the Israeli society, to the international community, *and to our Christian brothers and sisters in the churches around the world*" (italics added).

The statement begins: "We, a group of Christian Palestinians, after prayer, reflection and an exchange of opinion, cry out from within the suffering in our country, under the Israeli Occupation, with a cry of hope in the absence of all hope . . . in God's divine providence for all the inhabitants of this land."

The statement describes the daily reality of Palestinians -- Christians and Muslims -- under the Occupation: military checkpoints hinder

normal commerce, education, hospital visits and development. "The separation wall . . . has turned our towns and villages into prisons. . . Israeli settlements ravage our land . . . , controlling our natural resources, including water and agricultural land." The daily reality is humiliation at military checkpoints, separation of family members, restrictions on religious liberty. A large population continues to live under great deprivation in refugee camps. Identity cards of Christians and Muslims are being confiscated. Their homes are demolished or expropriated. "Jerusalem, a city of reconciliation, has become a city of discrimination and exclusion, a source of struggle rather than peace."

The document urges Christians around the world, together with Israeli and Palestinian political leaders, to "accelerate the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation in this Holy Land." The statement promotes a common vision, built on equality and sharing, not on superiority or aggression, using the pretext of fear and security. It asks for help to resolve the Israel/Palestine conflict in a nonviolent way. As the statement affirms:

"[The Holy Land] is God's land. Therefore it must be a land of reconciliation, peace and love. . . . God has put us here as two peoples, and God gives us the capacity, if we have the will, to live together and establish in it justice and peace, making it in reality God's land. 'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.'" (Ps. 24:1)

**Commendation.** We, the Middle East Interest Group of Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness, commend this statement to the congregations of Lancaster County for study, prayer and reflection. We stand ready to assist congregations in interpretation and education so that we may become informed and effective advocates for a just peace for all the inhabitants of the region -- Jewish, Christian and Muslim.

**Further Resources.** The full text of the Kairos Palestine Document is accessible online at: <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/>. In Eastern Pennsylvania, educational resource materials on the Occupation including audio visuals can be requested from Mennonite Central Committee: *Dividing Wall* (DVD); *Children of the Nakba* (DVD); *Palestine is Still the Issue* (V); *Peace, Propaganda and the Promised Land* (V). Middle East resources are also available at the Parish Resource Center, Lancaster. The Middle East Interest Group can be contacted through Urbane Peachey ([upeach@aol.com](mailto:upeach@aol.com)) and Robert Webber (the [webbers@verizon.net](mailto:webbers@verizon.net)), and through the LIPW website: [www.LancasterInterchurchPeaceWitness.org](http://www.LancasterInterchurchPeaceWitness.org).

**Diary of a Kidnapped Colombian Governor: A Journey Toward Nonviolent Transformation** (Cascadia, 2010) is the story of Guillermo Gaviria Correa, former governor of the state of Antiochia. He adopted nonviolence as a political strategy and philosophy, was kidnapped by the FARC and executed during an ill-fated rescue attempt. AMC played a significant role in getting this book translated into English and published. It was translated by Hugo and Norma Zorrilla and edited by Jim S. Amstutz with assistance from Andres Zorrilla and Rebecca Thatcher Murcia. Copies are available for an introductory price of \$15 from the church office. A related DVD "Hope from Colombia" is available for \$5.

## My Messy House

Kathleen Norris

When I'm working as an artist-in-residence at parochial schools, I like to read the psalms out loud to inspire the students, who are usually not aware that the snippets they sing at Mass are among the greatest poems in the world. But I have found that when I have asked children to write their own psalms, their poems often have an emotional directness that is similar to that of the biblical Psalter.

They know what it's like to be small in a world designed for big people, to feel lost and abandoned. Children are frequently astonished to discover that the psalmists so freely express the more unacceptable emotions, sadness and even anger, even anger at God, and that all of this is in the Bible that they hear read in church on Sunday morning.

Children who are picked on by their big brothers and sisters can be remarkably adept when it comes to writing cursing psalms, and I believe that the writing process offers them a safe haven in which to work through their desires for vengeance in a healthy way.

Once a little boy wrote a poem called "The Monster Who Was Sorry." He began by admitting that he hates it when his father yells at him: his response in the poem is to throw his sister down the stairs, and then to wreck his room, and finally to wreck the whole town. The poem concludes: "Then I sit in my messy house and say to myself, 'I shouldn't have done all that.'"

"My messy house" says it all: with more honesty than most adults could have mustered, the boy made a metaphor for himself that admitted the depth of his rage and also gave him a way out.

If that boy had been a novice in the fourth-century monastic desert, his elders might have told him that he was well on the way toward repentance, not such a monster after all, but only human. If the house is messy, they might have said, why not clean it up, why not make it into a place where God might wish to dwell?

*Kathleen Norris is the author of many books on the spiritual journey, including **Dakota** and **Cloister Walk***

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**Did you know you can tune into church services no matter where you are in the world? Akron Mennonite provides recordings of its most recent services right on our website. For details to access the service recordings, please contact Janet Weber in the office.**

### Email & Address Changes

Susan & Kerry Broaddus: [thebroaddusfamily@comcast.net](mailto:thebroaddusfamily@comcast.net)  
and [sebroaddus@lancaster.k12.pa.us](mailto:sebroaddus@lancaster.k12.pa.us)

Paul & Kate Myers: 5344 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615 (as of third week in June)

Ron Hunsicker: [rjhpilot@comcast.net](mailto:rjhpilot@comcast.net)

Eileen & Lester Graybill: [legraybill@frontier.com](mailto:legraybill@frontier.com)

Marian & Phil Rutt: 111 West View Drive, Akron, PA 17501; phone, 859-5826

Brian Weaver: 161 N. Locust Street, Apartment A, Lititz, PA 17543; phone, 625-4411; email, [alecjoel@windstream.net](mailto:alecjoel@windstream.net)

### ☞ LOOKING AHEAD ☞

- June 2 Library Committee meeting, 6:00PM
- June 3 Men's breakfast, Udder Choice 7AM w/Mark Weidner as presenter
- June 6 Ongoing conversation regarding staffing configuration & equipping the church model, 10:30-11:30AM
- June 6 Jr. MYF @ Camp Hebron
- June 8 Congregational Council meeting @ 7PM
- June 20-23 - Peace Camp for children grade K - grade 5
- June 28 - July 3 MYF w/SWAP service project in KY
- July 18 Church picnic @ Akron Park
- July 25 -28 - Adult VBS with Carolyn Heggen

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

Editor: Janet Weber

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Jim S. Amstutz, Pastor

Church office 717-859-1488: [amc@akronmench.org](mailto:amc@akronmench.org)

[www.akronmench.org](http://www.akronmench.org)