

Connecting with Vernon Glick

Vern Glick was born at home on May 1, 1931 in East Lampeter Township, right across the parking lot from where he now lives. He was the fourth child of nine, born to Daniel and Lillian Glick. Two brothers were stillborn and sister Ruth was killed in a tragic car accident three years ago.

Life centered around farm work and his Beachy Amish Church family. Summer vacations were rare and Vern only remembers one trip to Norfolk, VA to visit relatives on his mother's side of the family. Their forty-five acre farm was used to raise tomatoes for seed, most of which in the early years was sold to Cuba. The puree was sold to Campbell's Soup Company. Other farmland was contracted for a 100 acre tomato growing operation. Most of the forty-five acre farm was eventually sold and is now the East Lam-



peter Township Community Park, right outside Vern's door.

(continues on Page 2)

In this issue:

Connecting with Vern Glick	1
Pastor's Perspective	1
Birthdays	3
February Calendar	4
DSECC	4
AMC During February	5
Address Updates	7
In Our Community	7

MARCH 2012

Worship Series

March 4	Jim S. Amstutz
March 11	Jim S. Amstutz
March 18	Jim S. Amstutz
March 25	Michelle Dula

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE BY JIM S. AMSTUTZ

*Discontent is a wonderful gift. It tells us something. Let it burn openly. If it is deep and valid it will burn and cleanse the underbrush and prepare for new growth. If it is superficial and false, it will find no fuel and burn out quickly.*

-William C. Martin in *The Art of Pastoring*

One of the strengths of this congregation is our diversity of opinion. The founders of AMC were an eclectic group of folks from all over the US, Canada and Lancaster County. Many worked at Mennonite Central Com-

mittee and wanted to worship closer to home. Others were finding it hard to breathe at nearby Lancaster Conference congregations.

Another strength is our willingness to express our strong opinions. A week doesn't go by that we as staff don't hear a challenge or affirmation about something at AMC. We welcome honest feedback.

(continues on Page 3)

(continued from page 1)

Vern attended the nearby East Lampeter School for two years and then Locust Grove Mennonite School when it opened. He completed eighth grade there and went on for two more years at Lancaster Mennonite High School. Vern’s dad thought that was enough education. He however did complete his GED and studied at Eastern Mennonite College for one year. Math was always a favorite subject. Vern’s first language was Pennsylvania Dutch.

Vern’s mother was born in Norfolk, VA. Her father was Norwegian and she was christened as an infant in the Lutheran Church. At age eight she came with her grandparents, who had adopted her, from Norfolk to Lancaster County in a horse and carriage.

Vern’s father grew up in an Old Order Amish home but did not want to join the Old Order Church. Grandfather insisted that he join but one year later decided it was time to move on so they joined the Weavertown Beachy Amish Church that allowed cars and electricity. When Vern was a teenager and his father saw that his children were leaving Weavertown, the family joined Bart Mennonite Church, affiliated with the Conservative Mennonite Conference. Vern attended there until he went to college.

In 1951 Vern married Ferne Pellman and worked on the family farm. They started to attend Neffsville Mennonite Church which was meeting in the small brick church on Buch Avenue. They spent two years in Newfoundland in voluntary service. Twin sons Craig and Carson were born there on “Labor Day” in 1956. After returning from Newfoundland they moved to Calling Lake, Alberta. Vern’s brother and family already lived there.

Calling Lake was 200 miles north of Edmonton and at the end of 40 dirt road miles north of Athabasca. Vern worked in the office of a sawmill and would get up early in the morning and fly supplies 40 miles north to a little store at Sandy Lake. The air strip there was a steer and horse pasture. The animals frequently needed a little encouragement to move elsewhere to accommodate air traffic! Vern also learned to fly a float plane after a friend took him out after supper one evening to execute several take-offs and landings. It was during the time at Calling Lake that Vern and Fern discovered that their boys had a hearing problem which was originally misdiagnosed as Aphasia, so they returned to Lancaster County for special education for Craig and Carson. Daughter Tina was born in Alberta.

Soon after returning, Vern and Ferne started attending Akron Mennonite Church during the Brownstown Fire Hall days. They joined AMC in 1973.

Glick Audio was the business Vern and Ferne owned for 45 years. It opened in 1959 in the building where Vern now lives, a side business initially started by his father. The business was relocated in 1971 along Route 462 across the highway from Mellinger Mennonite Church. In 1982 they bought the property beside the church and relocated there. Glick Audio started out selling mono

consoles then stereo consoles, wire recorders to tape recorders, to components and custom installations, from analog to digital technology. Glick was known in the area as having high quality products for serious music listeners or “audiophiles.” Later on video products joined the mix. In 2004, friend and tennis partner Lamar Weaver of TCW, bought the business.

Looking back, Vern says modestly that he was not prepared to run a business, so it was education on the run with some hard lessons along the way. “We didn’t know much, but what we learned, we knew real well!”

Vern has faced some difficult losses in his life. He lost two grandchildren. In 1991 son Carson died of AIDS. The funeral was held at Akron Mennonite Church with an interpreter for the deaf and reverse interpreting for the hearing when a deaf friend signed the scriptures. Vern will always be grateful to Gerry Horst for videotaping the service. He found it very therapeutic to watch the video later because at the time of losing a child, life becomes almost surreal.

Carson helped bring AIDS awareness to the deaf community by developing and conducting workshops for them. Vern remembers getting a call from New Jersey requesting a workshop soon after Carson had died. In 1998 he and Ferne divorced, recognizing that they had grown apart and become very different people.

Son Craig lives in Indianapolis with his family, wife Grace and three children. Tina lives locally and has two children. Vern especially enjoys getting together with grandson Nick who works in New Holland as an auto mechanic and often spends Tuesdays, Nick’s day off, doing projects. Vern’s hobbies include reading, travel and hunting.

You will find him on some Sunday mornings running the AMC sound booth, an assignment that seems a good fit for Vern Glick.

~ Jim S. Amstutz

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## **Mennonite Women**

### **Gifts from Mennonite Women**

Gifts received for Mennonite Women USA’s ministry provide: 1) a connection to global sisters through scholarships for women around the world to study for church leadership training through the International Women’s Fund, 2) resources for women in our churches such as Sister Care seminars, Bible study resources, national women’s events and retreats, and 3) communications focused on women’s issues and stories. As a constituent group of Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Women USA receives no funding from the denomination, but is solely supported by gifts from individuals, groups, and churches.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 7 Irma Bowman
- 8 Margaret Eby
- 9 Carla Neufeld
- 11 Hannah Hess
- 12 Ira Nolt
- 13 Judy Horst  
Paul Martin
- 15 Travis Weaver
- 16 Kevin Erb
- 17 Patrice Flaming  
Daryl Mack  
Hans Peter Neufeld
- 19 Alaa Jabri
- 21 Elvin Stoltzfus  
Lisa Zimmerman  
Mara Zimmerman
- 22 Jean Buchen  
Ron Flaming
- 23 Sarah Longenecker  
Wendy Sundberg
- 24 Gavin Shenk
- 25 Will Broaddus  
Roy Gascho  
Hugo Zorrilla
- 29 Mike Longenecker  
Emilie Nissley
- 31 Richard Leaman

(continued from page 1)

Think of how many people in their jobs or at home are making important decisions every day. We bring that ability with us to church.

I'm going to venture out and share some of my opinions about expressing opinions:

- *Being heard is important, especially when a decision doesn't go my way.*  
Group discernment may lead us in a new direction that makes us uncomfortable. But when I know I've been heard I can trust the process for the good of the whole.
- *Trust your feelings enough to test them.*  
Sometimes it is wise to write down what you are feeling and sleep on it before expressing it. If you still lack clarity, share it with a trusted friend. Once you say it or send it, it's out there, so take time to let it ripen.
- *My perception may not be your reality.*  
Sometimes we have tunnel vision and can only see the thing we are focused on. Take a step back, look around, and see if others are seeing what you are seeing.
- *It is better to respond than to react.*  
Reactivity happens when we are anxious and in the heat of the moment. When we react we default to either fight or flight. Responding means we have thought about it carefully and can express ourselves in a way that others can hear.
- *We can disagree without deciding.*  
Expressing an opinion is not the same as being positional. We often assume that if two people vigorously disagree in church that someone will leave or the church will split. Not so if the relationship that binds us to-

gether is stronger than the issue that could potentially divide us.

- *Contestation is risky.* Contestation is a technical term for a deeper level of discernment. It means that we are willing to lay our core beliefs on the line with the risk of them being changed. We rarely go there because it touches us at the level of our identity. We enter into contestation only with careful and prayerful preparation, clear ground rules, and a high level of trust.

I want to commend Council for facilitating the deep listening that has taken place multiple times over the past several years. Strong opinions were expressed and decisions were made, not always unanimously, but we continued to move forward. That's a sign of health and strength.

*In my opinion*, embracing discontent as a gift and not a threat invites us into a season of healthy growth and positive change. I pray it be so for us.

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## MARCH EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mar. 1: Men's Breakfast at Udder Choice @ 7:00AM  
Mar. 6: Lunch Bunch @ Ephrata Diner @11:30AM  
Mar. 7: Lenten Prayers at noon, AMC Library @ 12-1 PM  
Mar. 7: Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 PM  
Mar. 9: Ted and Company @ 7:30 PM, AMC Sanctuary  
Mar. 11: Sunday Soup @ 11:45 AM  
Mar. 11: Conscientious Projector Night @ 6:30 PM  
Mar. 14: Lenten Prayers at noon, AMC Library @ 12-1 PM

Mar. 14: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM  
Mar. 15: Share-A-Life/Venture Club @ Material Resource Ctr.  
Mar. 18: Men's Choir @ 8:00 AM  
Mar. 18: 55PLUS Meeting @ 5:00 PM  
Mar. 19-21: AMC Pastors and Staff @ Laurelville  
Mar. 21: Lenten Prayers at noon, AMC Library @ 12-1 PM  
Mar. 24: Dinner with Friends @ 6:00 PM  
Mar. 25: Adult Choir Rehearsal @ 8:00 AM



Marilyn Langeman is the Akron Mennonite Church Anabaptist Disabilities Network Advocate.

This month's topic is our perception of illness and the associated stigma. "Who sinned? This man or his parents?" the disciples asked Jesus regarding the man who was born blind (John 9:2). How do we view illness these days? Does it matter if it is a medical or mental health diagnosis?

At the lunch served after Myron Ebersole's memorial service in December, Tim Langeman happened to sit at a table with Dr. Abram Hostetter, where he learned that Dr. Hostetter had researched bipolar disorder in the Amish population. The Amish, said Dr. Hostetter, understand that bipolar disorder is passed through the genes ("Siss im blut" – "it's in the blood"); it is a

medical illness. They make sure that those affected take their medicine. Lithium, a natural substance and form of salt, is often used in treatment, and they accept that "some people need more salt than others." An interesting article about the decades-long study is at this site: <http://www6.miami.edu/ummedicine-magazine/Spring2004/fstory4.html>

Mental illness cannot be overcome by "will power" and is unrelated to a person's "character" or intelligence. The best treatments for serious mental illness these days are highly effective. Early diagnosis and treatment are vitally important. Just as we affirm people who take care of their health by following their treatment plan for diabetes or other common illnesses, let's do the same for someone with depression or any other mental health diagnosis.

~ Jerry Meck is now serving on the ADNET Board.

## DIAMOND STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

JUNE HERSHBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme for this school year at DSECC is "community". We are getting to know our community in different ways. One month we made a large mural in the hallway with photos and handprints of the community of friends in each classroom. In October we had an Open House at DSECC on 11<sup>th</sup> and invited the community to attend. In one of our staff meetings, teachers learned about the demographics of the Akron community.

In February, Ms. Cathy mapped where families and staff live. We were all surprised to find that DSECC people live in such far-flung areas as Shoemakersville, Sinking Spring, Newmanstown, New Providence, Harrisburg, Columbia, E-town, and Lancaster City.

There is a story for each family who has a dot on the map. Some parents live very close by, others live farther away but work in

this area and have chosen DSECC for their children. What a privilege it is to know we are having positive influence in so many different communities in southeast Pennsylvania.

We are now registering for both our half-day and our full-day pre-k programs for fall. Please share the good news of DSECC with neighbors and friends. We are happy to give personal tours and to register new children at any time.

P.S. We are now on Facebook. Find us and "like" us. ☺



## AMC During March

### Tuesday with Tweens

DSECC on 11<sup>th</sup> opened June 1 of this year. It is a second site for DSECC which houses its school-age program. The school-age program has grown from 8 children to 24 children. Our theme for the year is “Connecting with the Community around us.”

As the Site Director, I would like to initiate a one month program called “Tuesdays with Tweens”. This program would run for the month of April. I seek adult volunteers, men and women, from AMC and Mt. Zion United Methodist churches to serve as the mentors for the children of DSECC on 11<sup>th</sup>. Each volunteer will be assigned to one child from our program and they will do activities together every Tues-

day for an hour during the month of April. I hope to have the volunteers in place to meet in late March to go over the program and the volunteer requirements.

If this sounds like an activity you would enjoy, please contact me, Sandi Richard with questions or for details of how you may help. Many of the children involved with DSECC on 11<sup>th</sup> need a stable adult influence in their lives. Come join the fun.

Please contact:  
Sandi Richard  
sndrrichard@gmail.com  
717-656-9533

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**Cycling for Recreation:** Persons interested in exploring cycling as a recreational lifestyle are invited to attend a planning breakfast this Saturday morning February 25 at 8:00 AM at Jerry and Ethel Shank’s house, 531 East Main St. Ephrata. A number of AMC members and several persons from other local Mennonite churches have taken up cycling as a form of recreation. Saturday morning’s breakfast is open to persons new to cycling looking for an opportunity to learn how to get started cycling and to connect with others who have found cycling to be both enjoyable and an excellent way to a healthy lifestyle. Even if you do

not own a bicycle or no matter your age, you are welcome to attend. If you want more information, please contact John Weber 330-3183 weberjj@ptd.net or Jerry Shank 733-4558. asiajshank@yahoo.com



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**SAVE THE DATE:** 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 on Sunday, April 15, 2012, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Chappell currently serves as the Peace Leadership Director for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation based in

Santa Barbara, California. A prolific writer and nationally-recognized speaker, Paul will reflect on his experience in war and explore how we can work together on “Peaceful Revolution: The Art of Waging Peace.” This presentation is sponsored by AMC’s Working for Peace & Justice cluster.

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### Peace Pies and Prophets is the upcoming tour coming to Akron Mennonite on March 9th at

**7:30pm.** Ted & Company’s performance of *I’d Like to Buy an Enemy* will happen during this one night event. The interactive live performance unpacks issues of justice and peace building through humorous and poignant storytelling. Preview here <http://tedandcompany.com/id-like-to-buy-an-enemy/> This interactive theater model is for people interested in engaging in laughter, thoughtful dialogue and pie. Yes, **Peace Pies**... An element of the evening is an hand crafted pie auction, where 100% of pie sales will go toward the support of Christian Peacemaker Teams. <http://>

[www.cpt.org/](http://www.cpt.org/) As well as a free will offering, with 100% going to Christian Peacemaker Teams. This event gives the participants an opportunity to engage in the ongoing story of God’s restorative work in our world and our neighborhood. This is an event across denomination, generation and background, for the people who seek to be the change we seek.

Free at the door, free will offering and pie sales go to Christian Peacemaker Teams. Send an email to John Stoner at [jstoner42@windstream.net](mailto:jstoner42@windstream.net) if you will donate one or more pies. (Pies from Evie’s kitchen, etc. are fine too.)

## AMC During March - continued

### Session on Emotional Intelligence at DSECC

Did you know that your child's IQ only accounts for 20% of life success?

### Emotional Intelligence accounts for the rest!!

**Where:** Diamond Street Early Childhood Center

1311 Diamond Street, Akron (in Akron Mennonite Church)

**When:** Tuesday evening, March 20, 6:00-8:00 pm

**Cost:** \$3.00 per person. Bring a friend and pay only \$5.00 for both of you!

**Presenter:** Lisa Murray

Lisa works as an Education Consultant for the state. She conducts continuing education classes for early childhood and school-age providers, as well as parenting classes. She has a B.S. in Special Ed. and Elem. Ed. She taught in the public school for six years, working with children who had special needs.

Register at : 717-859-4272

Pizza and drink available at 5:45 pm

\*Suggested donation \$1.00/person\*

Childcare available if needed.

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### Ron Hunsicker's Ghana Missional Challenge Fund Project

From the moment I got off the plane in Accra, Ghana after an 11+hour flight and felt the 90-degree heat till I boarded a plane 12 days later when it was still 90 degrees outside, I found myself in a different culture, a different worldview and outside of my normal comfort zone. Through the generous support of the Akron Mennonite Church and its Missional Challenge Fund I spent 12 amazing days in Ghana and Togo Africa. During that time I conducted 3 two-day workshops for pastors and church leaders. The focus of the workshops was on helping them understand RECOVERY as the compassionate response of the church to alcoholism and addiction.

The Atlantic Ocean has not prevented this disease from reaching the African continent. Alcoholism has leapfrogged from one continent to another until it is present and destroying individuals, families and communities worldwide. Ghana and Togo are no exception. For the most part the churches in these countries have only been able to lash out at alcohol and other drugs and become discouraged with the alcoholic and drug addict. Traveling on some of the dustiest and rut filled roads I have ever seen, and avoiding the goats and chickens that scamper everywhere, I met with pastors and church leaders who had some interest in learning about recovery. I introduced them to "recovery groups"; I had them practice doing 4<sup>th</sup> - steps and experiencing a new level of confidentiality. I struggled with them to find a way to

talk about "surrender" when as a people they have surrendered for centuries. White, male, Christian middle class concepts do not always work in other cultures, unless you try to jam a square peg into a round hole!

But most importantly, I experienced a wonderful people; people from Ghana and Togo who were eager to try something new. Pastors and church leaders who really felt called to love those who do not always love them back. I sang and prayed with people who know how to pour their heart and soul into their praying and their singing. I learned to know people who are not bound by the clock as I am. I learned to know a people who had a lot to teach me. In some small way, I took AMC with me and tried to represent you to them, and I bring my new Ghana and Togo friends back with me. They prayed for Kendall while I was "away" from home, and they prayed for you and thank you for sending me. Keep the churches and church leaders from Ghana and Togo in your prayers as well.



One of the groups from the workshops

**ADDRESS, PHONE**

**AND EMAIL CHANGES**

*No updates this month.*

**IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Conestoga Mennonite** is hosting a prison ministry banquet Tuesday March 6 for New Person Ministry. The 7:30 - 9 PM program is free to the public. The 6:30pm Ticket info. is posted at [www.newpersonministries.org](http://www.newpersonministries.org) or

610-777-2222. Speakers include two Judges, a state Representative and special music is by J.R.Damiani of the famous Eastmen Quartett. "Jesus cares about those who turn for forgiveness," says John Rush NPM Director.

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**Save the Date:** You are invited to hear **“Stories of Conscience and Taxes in a Culture of War”** at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601, beginning at 3 p.m. EDT on Sunday, March 11, 2012.. Speakers include Rev. Kelly Denton-Borhaug, author of U.S. War-culture, Sacrifice and Salvation; Pat Hostetter Martin, a war tax resister from Harrisonburg, Virginia; Jack Payden-Travers of the National Campaign for a

Peace Tax Fund; and Shane Claiborne of The Simple Way in Philadelphia who wrote the book, Jesus for President. Sponsored by Every Church A Peace Church and 1040 for Peace, this program addresses the challenges of praying for peace while paying for war. An offering will be received to support the presenters' ministries. Tax-deductible checks can be made payable to “Every Church A Peace Church.”

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**Free Seminar for Churches and other Places of Worship on Duty to Report Suspected Incidents of Child Abuse** Gibbel Kraybill and Hess is offering a free seminar on the duty of churches and other places of worship to report suspected child abuse. The seminar will take place on

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 7:30 to 9:30 am at the Eden Resort & Suites, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster A description and directions on how to register for the seminar can now be found on our website: <http://www.gkh.com/news/category/gkh-seminars/>

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**Church World Service**, social service providers, local refugees, churches and volunteers are gathering to create a strong community where refugees are well-integrated and have access to housing, healthcare, employment, and education. "It Takes a Community: Optimizing Refugee Resettlement in Lancaster" is a community collaboration conference designed to better

understand and address the needs of refugees in Lancaster County. We need your input! Join us for the conversation at Franklin and Marshall College on Friday, March 30, 2012, 8:00am-5:00pm. Cost for the day, including lunch, is \$25. Register online at: [www.ittakesacomunitylancaster.com](http://www.ittakesacomunitylancaster.com)

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**ACC Spring Assembly & Vision Dinner** Save the date! Saturday April 21. Our Spring Assembly celebration will be held at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. Our day of fellowship, resourcing and discernment will be capped off with a Vision Dinner. The

heme of the assembly day will pick up where we left off in October with the opportunity to resource our pastors. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend the day together.

**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](mailto:amc@akronmench.org)  
[www.akronmench.org](http://www.akronmench.org)

IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED...)

**Mennonite Central Committee  
would be honored by your presence  
at a commissioning service  
for MCC Canada and MCC U.S.**

**Friday, March 30, 2012  
7:00 pm–8:30 pm  
Akron Mennonite Church  
Akron, Pennsylvania  
Refreshments to follow.**

A new vision and structure built on the passion, effort and faithfulness of so many over the past 92 years. Let us affirm the journey travelled and bless the race ahead.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

– Hebrews 12:1-2a