

Akron Mennonite Church Newsletter

1311 Diamond Street, Akron, Pennsylvania 17501

May 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

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

-Colossians 3:12-17

The Interim Worship Team is comprised of Ron Guenther, Deb and JW Sprunger, and Cheryl Zook. Pat Martin (Music Minister) gives overall coordination, and I meet with them periodically to assist in choosing themes and scripture texts. It is working well.

Each time this group gathers to do their work, they begin by dwelling with the Colossians text cited above. This practice models what the team is all about: creating a worshipful space for us to connect with God and one another. Busy lives and schedules converge around the text. After it is read aloud, there is ample time to simply "be" with the text, to dwell with it, and listen for what is

Worship Series

May 2 – Jim S. Amstutz

May 9 – Jim S. Amstutz

May 16 – Elizabeth Soto, guest speaker

May 23 – Jim S. Amstutz

May 30 – Jim S. Amstutz

coming to the surface. Reflections are shared, questions raised but not always answered. One begins to realize that this exercise is not a prelude to worship planning, it is worship planning. It is worshipful work.

Cheryl Zook shares this reflection of dwelling with scripture:

When you dwell with the same scripture regularly, it becomes embedded deep within you. As a worship team, we wrestle with what the various aspects of the text look like in the application of our daily lives. In the days following a worship planning meeting, I often find myself pondering the questions that were raised or the insights gleaned during our time of dwelling with the Colossians text. Phrases of the scripture seem to pop into my head as I go through the motions of daily life.

This dwelling with scripture sets the tone and pace for the worship planning that follows. By allowing God's Word to fill us (the worship team) we then find that it flows out into the planning of the worship service. God's Word returns to Him in our weekly service of adoration, prayer and praise. We thus fulfill the words of Isaiah: "...my word that goes forth from my mouth ... shall not return to me empty, but it will accomplish that purpose in the thing for which I sent it."

- Isaiah 55:11

An "Amen" is voiced by all team members in this concluding statement:

It is with deep humility that we, the Interim Worship Team, accept the awesomeness of our responsibility to plan and lead AMC in meaningful weekly worship.

Connecting with Ginny and Seth Ebersole



Music was the key that brought Seth and Ginny to AMC in the beginning. Seth made friends with MCC people when he was singing in Warren Leatherman's chorus. Through this connection they learned about a new church that was meeting in the fire hall. Ginny and Seth saw this as an opportunity to leave Lancaster Conference and they became AMC members in 1960. Another connection was Red Brubaker who was Seth's cousin. They quickly made new friends and were energized by this group of young families. Ginny taught Sunday School for many years and Seth was treasurer.

Virginia Metzler was born in 1929, near Bird-in-Hand, the oldest of ten children to her father Isaac Metzler's second marriage. There were four children in his first marriage, making a full house in her childhood. When her father bought a farm near Mount Joy, they moved there and began attending Landisville Mennonite Church. It was at Landisville where she met Seth, a handsome young man, who had his eye on her from the beginning! They were married in 1948. Ginny left her housekeeping job in Lancaster city and was a full-time homemaker while their three children, Jane, Kathy and Chuck were growing up. She had a large garden each summer and found satisfaction in her role as mother and home-maker. When the children were older, Ginny was employed with the Hempfield School District in Food Services. She enjoyed that very much for 27 years.

Seth was born and grew up on a small farm near Landisville with two sisters and one brother. His father Benjamin Ebersole was an accomplished carpenter, one in a line of generations of carpenters, who passed this gift on to son Seth.

Seth became a skilled carpenter while working in a woodworking mill where he trained to make kitchens.

He says that he built and installed at least 130 kitchens in the homes of Manheim and surrounding areas, while working for J. W. Nauman! Seth designed and built their house with his father in 1959. Later he was employed at H. W. Nauman in New Danville until his retirement.

Ginny gave me a tour of their home to show the fine work of Seth that is in every room. He took pride in his work, perfection in every piece, from the bedroom suite to the majestic secretary in the living room and all the intricate smaller works of art throughout.

Seth has been very generous with his gifts to AMC over the years. He built our current kitchen, the welcoming desk, the coffee cart and various pieces in the library. Behind the scenes are also cabinets in the Sunday School rooms.

Seth and Ginny moved to Landis Homes in 2001 where they settled in to a lovely cottage and looked forward to retirement years together. Seth continued his woodworking hobby in their garage until he began to have difficulty with focus and his work in general. Together he and Ginny realized that something was changing for him, so after two years of decline, and with the encouragement of their children, Seth moved to the Dementia Unit in Assisted Living in January, 2006. This was a difficult time and Ginny is very grateful for the support she felt then and continuing to the present, from their friends and the church family. Currently Seth is in skilled care. Ginny's voice softens as she talks about going over to be with him every day and to help him with his lunch. He no longer recognizes her, but she is unwavering in her gracious support and love for Seth at this stage of their life.

Ginny's hobbies include reading and counted cross stitch. Her art work graces the walls along with Seth's art. She volunteers at the general store at Landis Homes where she shares a management position with two other women.

Ginny reflects on her many years at AMC, expressing appreciation for the various house church groups that she and Seth experienced, noting that they always had a focus of intent and were supportive in every stage of life challenges. She likes the diversity that AMC offers, as well as the inclusion of children as an important part of the Sunday service.

Music continues to play a part in Ginny's life as she enjoys going to concerts that involve her grandchildren. They have inherited talent both vocal and instrumental. Chuck is a music instructor and band director in the Fleetwood School District. Granddaughter Carmen has been honored with a chair (trumpet) in the Reading Symphony. Ginny's six grandchildren and one great grandchild bring her much joy.

Strong words of comfort for Ginny the past five to six years come from the hymn: "Precious Lord Take My Hand, lead me on...I am tired, I am worn...through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand Precious Lord, lead me on."

~ Priscilla Ziegler

~~~~~

## The Peace Pole Project

On Sunday May 2 Akron Mennonite Church will dedicate its Peace Pole.

The Peace Pole is being presented to AMC by the Ninth Grade MYFer's, they are Megan Yoder, Megan Erb, Kate Smucker, Maggie Weaver, Hannah Yoder, Peter Wise, John Gingerich, and Michael Forrey, teacher Rich Crockett.

Last year, in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, they choose the Peace Pole as their peace project. The first money of about \$100.00 came from their mission banks in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, the following year money was used to have a cupcake sale and the resulting \$200.00 helped fund last year's very successful Ethiopian Dinner held last June 6 in the assembly room. After expenses, over \$1200.00 was raised for the project.

A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth. Each peace pole bears the message May Peace Prevail on Earth in different languages on each of the 4 sides. There are more than 250,000 peace poles in every country in the world as monuments to peace.

The languages chosen for the AMC Peace Pole are Japanese, English, German, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Lakota Sioux, and Vietnamese. These languages were chosen, because peace was not always the path between our country and these peoples.

From prehistoric times on, people have stood stones up on one end as a testament or memorial. Japan had a strong tradition of this. Vertical stones with text engraved in them are something that always has been

common in Japan. So in 1955 in Japan when Masahisa Goi wanted to make public statements about peace that was the tradition he followed. Since then Peace Poles have been planted on sites that include the tomb of Confucius in China, the pyramids of Giza, and the magnetic North Pole in Canada.

A little know story of the idea of The Peace Pole can be seen in the story of King Ashoka, a forgotten and mighty sovereign who was one of the most influential and powerful ancient Emperors of India (269-232 BC, capital at Patna).

Ashoka had conquered the whole subcontinent through violent and bloody warfare. His empire stretched from Orissa to the Kyber Pass and from the Himalayas to beyond Madras.

Upon introspection after the bloodshed and horror of his earlier campaign in Orissa, Ashoka became open to and received The Message of Peace from a Buddhist Monk.

Thereafter, he renounced warfare, embraced Peace, and he built Stone Peace Poles (columns & pillars) and other peace monuments, many of which were carved and inscribed with The Message of Peace, leading to over 500 years of no war, no crime, and no violence in the whole area.

He became a visionary who implemented moral reform on a world scale, not by fostering sacrifice and suffering and persecution, but by fostering a spiritual regeneration coming from within -- one spread by conviction, precept, and example, an appeal to something deep within the human soul. Like Gandhi, Ashoka's message became one of non-violence, reverence for life in all forms, and tolerance for people of other religions. The result of Ashoka's conversion was an unwavering commitment to these ethics.

Vertical stones with text engraved in them are something that always has been common in Japan. So in 1955 in Japan when Masahisa Goi wanted to make public statements about peace, to mark the anniversary of the Atomic bomb dropping on Nagasaki that was the tradition he followed.

~~~~~

55 PLUS

Sunday, May 23 – 5:00 -7:00 pm

A light meal with finger foods will be enjoyed at 5:00 p.m. Program at 6:00 will be the video documentary – *PAX Service: An Alternative to War*. This 43 min. DVD was recently aired on the Hallmark Channel, and received an Award of Distinction. It covers the 25 years

of PAX work (1951-1976), featuring service in Germany, Austria, Greece, Paraguay and the Congo. A total of 1300 young persons served in 40 countries overall. Several AMCs were participants in the earlier years when homes were being built for WWII refugees.

~~~~~

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

By  
Mary Jane Crockett



### NEWS FROM THE JR. DEPARTMENT NURSERY TO GRADE 5

#### CALENDAR

|                 |                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May             | Share-A-Life: Partner planned activity                                                                        |
| May 16          | Jr. Education Teachers Appreciation Brunch 10:30-11:30AM in the assembly room                                 |
| May 16          | Storyteller, Becca Gochnauer, Lancaster Mennonite Roots 300 years -10:40-11:30AM - Grades K-Grade 6, Room 132 |
| May 30          | <i>No Christian Education classes - Memorial Day</i>                                                          |
| June 6          | Regular Jr. Christian Education Classes                                                                       |
| June 13, 20, 27 | 2 Combined Jr. Christian Education Classes                                                                    |
| June 20-23      | <b>Children's Peace Camp</b>                                                                                  |

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**  
**JR. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS for preparing and teaching our AMC children's classes ages two through grade six, each Sunday morning, from September 2009 through June 6, 2010!**

~ Mary Jane Crockett

## CHILDREN'S OFFERING PROJECTS

AMC Children collected \$736.30 for MCC 2010 Penny Power, "Food for All" offerings at the Relief Sale.

**THANK YOU!** Children and Adults for being part of this effort! Your gifts allow MCC to help families feed themselves and to provide food in emergency situations.

The total 2010 Penny Power collection was \$110,000 (including the \$50,000 match)!

## SHARE-A-LIFE

Leaders: Janet Stoner and Gloria Forrey

### May is a Partner planned event

We encourage planning to do something on your own in May and keep in contact with one another between events.

~~~~~

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, 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.

~~~~~

**KID-FRIENDLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for the 17th Annual International Children's Festival at Ten Thousand Villages in Ephrata on Saturday, June 5th. Volunteers arrive at 8:30 a.m. for check-in and orientation, and the festival runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. Volunteers supervise games, crafts and other activities. There is also need for several strong, long-legged bikers to provide rides in the rickshaws. If you'd like to be part of the fun, please contact [louise.ranck@tenthousandvillages.com](mailto:louise.ranck@tenthousandvillages.com) very soon.

**Once again Neffsville Mennonite Church** is sponsoring a summer day camp called "Created 2 Praise." It is an opportunity for students who will be entering grades 4-9 in the fall of 2010 to use and develop their gifts to praise God. This one week camp will be July 26-30 from 8:45AM – 4:00PM daily. Cost for the week is \$130. For further information contact Created 2 Praise planning team [c2p.nmc@gmail.com](mailto:c2p.nmc@gmail.com) or the church office at 459-0012, ext. 1.

~~~~~

Job Opportunities

Now Hiring: Manager: Finance & Personnel

About a year and a half ago I (Tim Langeman) left my job at TCW Computers to become the first employee of a startup nonprofit called MicroFinance Transparency (MFT). The mission of the organization is promote fair and transparent pricing in the microfinance industry, an industry that was started with the goal of addressing poverty through microloans to individuals running small businesses, but which has grown with little standardization or regulation.

Since then MFT has collected data in Bosnia, Cambodia, Peru, Azerbaijan, and Kenya, with trips to Ecuador and Bolivia scheduled in the next month.

We've been able to receive several large grants in the past 6 months and are now looking to hire a person for the job title: Manager: Finance and Personnel.

About the Position

More information about the position is on our website, along with links to articles in Business Week and the New York Times that mention us. If you know of someone who you think may be good for the job, please pass along this link.

<http://www.mftransparency.org/pages/finance-personnel-job/>

A Connection with AMC

An interesting bit of background about MicroFinance Transparency is that it grew out of an invitation that Jim Smucker extended to Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mohammed Yunus, to speak to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck Waterfield, the founder of MFT, heard that Yunus was coming to Lancaster to give a speech about microfinance so he arranged to meet Yunus at the airport in Philadelphia to request his support for an

organization that would calculate and publish APRs for all microloans. They drove together from the Philadelphia airport to the chamber event and agreed on a plan to announce the initiative a few months later at an industry conference in Bali, Indonesia.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society seeks a full-time Executive Director. Job includes administration of staff, public relations and financial management. Also overseas marketing and fundraising. Qualifications: active members of Mennonite church, interest in history and administrative experience. Master of Bachelors Degree preferred. Complete job description listed on website: www.lmhs.org. Send letter of application including resume to Charles Bauan, Board Chair, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Rd, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499 or email: lmhs@lmhs.org. Applications received until June 1, 2010.

The Bridge Youth Center 2nd annual "Nurturing the Next Generation" Banquet Friday, May 14th, 5:45 @ Shady Maple Banquet Facilities For more information: www.thebridgeyouthcenter.org, thebridgeyc@gmail.com
717.341.3606

LANCASTER INTERCHURCH PEACE WITNESS Presents in collaboration with Lancaster Theological Seminary Gary Dorrien from Union Theological Seminary on Sunday, May 16 at 1:30PM at Saint James Episcopal Church, Duke & Orange Street to speak on "Perpetual War: Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the Dilemmas of American Empire". Admission is free and a free will offering will be received.

~~~~~

**SEMINAR FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY LEADERS** on Monday May 17 from 9:00-11:00AM at the Hafer Center, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street. Gary Dorrien will speak on "Economic Crisis, Social Christianity, and Economic Democracy: Social Ethics for Social Justice." Advance registration required. To register, contact LIPW at the [webbers@verizon.net](mailto:webbers@verizon.net) (717-390-8609) OR LTS at [abupp@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:abupp@lancasterseminary.edu) (717-290-8758).

~~~~~

ε **LOOKING AHEAD** ε

May 2 – Fellowship Meal

May 6 – Men’s breakfast, Udder Choice, 7AM

May 7 & 8 – Retreat with Samaritan Counseling Center
re: staff configuration. Friday, 7-9PM,
Saturday, 9-11AM

May 11 – Congregational Life Committee Meeting,
6:45PM

May 11 – Congregational Council Meeting, 7PM

May 15 – Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster’s
25th Anniversary concert, 7PM, AMC

May 16 – Men’s choir rehearsal, 8AM

May 23 – 55 Plus, 5-7PM

June 20-23 – Peace Camp for children grade K – grade 5

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

er er er er er er

Jim S. Amstutz, Pastor

Church office 717-859-1488: amc@akronmench.org

www.akronmench.org