

Connecting with Marvin and Delores Nolt

Marvin and Delores met at the Sunday potluck at Hyattsville Mennonite Church. It was love at first sight, Delores declares. They were married in June 1968 at Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Michigan.

They were both living in the Washington D.C. area, thanks to Uncle Sam. Delores attended the church through her connection with Ellen and Paul Peachey. Marvin showed up once a month with his I-W friends to enjoy good Mennonite food.

Delores experienced a colorful start in our nation's capitol. She worked for the FBI at the time of Martin Luther King's and Robert Kennedy's assassinations. She helped look for the files of James Earl Ray and Sirhan Sirhan. The latter was missing. This was a different life from growing up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Born in Manistique, Delores



Neff is the oldest of nine children. When she was a year old, her parents moved to LaGrange, Indiana to be near extended family.

The year that Delores started first grade in Shipshewana, a tornado whipped through and destroyed their farm. This was the turning point.

The fall of 1956, her family moved back to Upper Michigan. They had a dairy farm and grew acres of potatoes. They had plenty of food and love, but not a lot of resources, so any source of income was welcome.

One timely source was the laundry business. It just happened that a hotel close by needed someone to do the laundry. A good opportunity but a lot of work, they learned, as they all pitched in. Some days they washed and ironed 1,000 sheets.

Their reputation grew and soon they were also doing laundry for the crew on ships coming into port on Lake Michigan.

Their local church was a small mission. The community was either Catholic or didn't attend church. Their youth group joined other small groups for social activities. In addition there were combined hymn sings and Sunday evening services together.

This area of Upper Peninsula had few employment opportunities. When Delores was a senior in high school, Uncle Sam came knocking to recruit for the FBI. Delores took the tests and was accepted into the program as a criminal

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Worship Schedule

- May 1 ~ Randall Justice
- May 8 ~ Mary Steffy
- May 15 ~ Readers Theater/ Hymns
- May 22 ~ John Stoner
- May 29 ~ TBA

fingerprint technician. Ellen Peachey took her under her wings and helped this foreign girl find her way. Living on Capitol Hill was foreign indeed.

Meanwhile Marvin grew up on a dairy farm in Denver, Pa. The middle of three children, Marvin began driving tractor in the hay fields at age two. His early experience on the farm is one that he cherishes.

The farm was along the turnpike and Howard Johnson's motel. Tourists were fascinated with farm scenes, especially when they witnessed the birth of a calf in the meadow. They didn't understand the ritual of care that mother cow gives, and they thought she was mistreating her calf.

Accidents on the turnpike provided much excitement for Marvin and siblings. They would go with Dad to help at the scene until medics arrived.

Marvin remembers that his family always helped with needs in their church, Ephrata Mennonite. When he was six years old, the bishop asked them to start a new church in Denver. Marvin was baptized at age eleven, and his faith journey focused on church.

Sermons were long and the church was hot on summer days. When he was younger, Marvin and friends found distraction with the flies that came in the open windows. They caught the flies, tied their legs with thread from their pants, and then released them toward the long-winded preacher.

Marvin graduated from Cocalico High School in 1966. He had not taken college prep classes, following the warning of his guidance counselor that he would fail them.

After high school Marvin worked on their farm and as a carpenter building houses. When he was told the farm would not be his, Marvin got a job at New Holland Machine.

It was at this juncture that Uncle Sam intervened. Marvin was drafted and chose alternative service in Washington D.C. His assignment put him in the inhalation therapy department at the Washington Hospital Center.

This strategic placement put him at the same hospital with his future wife, and life began to unfold in a timely fashion. Work and church were enough to bring them together.

Marvin worked with interns in the hospital and noted that he had taken better care of cows on the farm than did some of these interns with their patients. The seed was planted, and he asked Delores what she thought of him training to be a doctor.

With her blessing and his personal motivation, Marvin enrolled at Prince George Community College to work toward his associate degree in science. Then it was on to the University of Maryland to study zoology.

Marvin graduated from U. of Maryland Dental School. He feels indebted to Delores who supported him all the way - financially, physically, and spiritually. They made a great team, supporting each other through all of those years. That dedication and support continues to the present.

Delores and Marvin moved to Ephrata in 1978 where he opened his dental office at the current location. Delores played a pivotal role in getting the office running smoothly until Marvin could hire more staff. She drew on her experience as the medical director at the Washington Hospital Center.

The dental office has grown considerably over these years with a staff of fifteen and son Geoffery as partner. They look forward to welcoming son-in-law Cory this summer to make it a full family business.

Marvin finds fulfillment in helping patients with preventive dentistry to alleviate dental problems, making their life easier and healthier. He keeps up with the latest techniques and the best materials and procedures.

Marvin and Delores had an opportunity to serve with Medical Group Missions in Dominican Republic. In 1979 they traveled with an assistant to remote areas, working in a different village every day. These people, who rarely see a dentist, were grateful for professional help. Marvin would extract eighty or ninety infected teeth a day. They worked outside with the sun as their light.

Their children, Geoffery and Theresa were born in the early years after they settled in Ephrata. When both children went to college, Delores began her volunteer service at Ephrata Community Hospital in the emergency department. Her other volunteer experiences include the Youth Intervention Center, Lancaster prison, Conestoga View nursing home, and Penn State's Landisville research farm.

Delores found her interest in plants and gardening when Marvin received an orchid for Christmas from a colleague. Neither of them knew how to take care of it. Delores called Longwood Gardens where she was offered a class on perennials. This was the introduction to her love of plants. She took classes for the next fifteen years, and in 2002, she became a master gardener for Penn State.

More recently Delores has shifted her focus to spend as much time as possible with their five grandchildren. In their free time, she and Marvin immerse in activities with family, at home, at the lake and traveling.

In addition to their own family trips, they join Delores' Neff family annual gatherings, taking turns with her eight siblings to host the event which now includes three generations. This reunion offers opportunity to travel extensively.

Marvin and Delores came to AMC in 1999 where they became involved immediately and continue to offer their gifts in various roles. They sang in the choir. Marvin continues to sing in the men's choir. He also serves as usher and has been a trustee. They enjoy friendships in house church.

Their mutual love of appreciating nature and watching things grow is a companion hobby. Marvin takes care of the fruit trees and Delores adds more beauty with her flower gardens. Their abiding relationship continues to flourish forty-seven years later.

~Priscilla Ziegler

Pray For One Another

James 5:16

The purpose of "Pray For One Another" is to help us be aware of and pray for members of AMC who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in Sunday morning worship services on a regular basis. Scripture admonishes us to pray. It is one of the joys of the Christian life and part of what makes us community. The names of people listed may change from time to time. If you know of someone you would like to be included with those named here, please be in touch with the church office.



Charlotte Biris Al & Gladys Claassen Honey (Marilyn) Hernley
 Carolyn & John Horst Paul & Dorothy Martin Phillip Rutt
 Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank Hannah Yoder

Whole and Holy Together*

Some days we each feel as if we cannot do all that we need to do; we cannot be the person we need to be. When one feels that, it may be hard for her to believe that she is truly a child of God. It is at times like this that we as individuals may find it is somehow easier to believe that in our wholeness as a faith community, we are beautiful, blessed children of God.

We each have our own little part of the beauty, our own gifts. Paul says in his letter to Jesus' followers in Corinth that the particular way "the Spirit is given to each person is for the common good" (1 Corinthians, 12:7). This gift, he goes on to say is given to you not just for your own self, but to build up the community. What a relief! Contrary to our false cultural belief in individualism, each of us doesn't have the full responsibility for putting everything together, making it all work on our own. All each of us is to do is to discover our individual gift and use it for the good of the whole.

Imagine - in our community wholeness we are the goodness of God, the presence of God! Each of us participates individually in that wholeness, and that is holiness. It is not an individual, private holiness; it's our connectedness together; it's the only holiness we ever know.

During this time of change and transition, our connected holiness is all the more important and precious. When structures change, when we grieve departures and welcome arrivals, when we tread a new path toward possibilities unknown, we feel blessed and beloved as God's children because we are connected together.

We try to describe this holy wholeness in many ways—"a people set apart", "people of God", "the Kingdom of God". All of these images are ways of looking for a communal, participatory image of what is really true because we as individuals cannot carry such greatness alone. We are always and only grabbing for images and metaphors, but the important thing is our experience of a stronger connection with God because we participate in the holiness of a whole connected community of faith.

~ Melody Rupley

*Much of this is inspired by and built on Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation 4/08/16



2015 AMC Worship Service Statistics

One aspect of my job at AMC is to track the usage of hymns and report their use to a copyright license holder service. Most of the copyrighted hymns that AMC uses are administered by OneLicense.net. Included in this copyright license is the ability to podcast our worship services. This past year (2015), 57 worship services were available. 46 of the 52 weeks had at least one hymn covered by a copyright that was reported. A total of 91 hymns were reported this past year – 30 from Hymnal: A Worship Book, 20 from Sing the Journey, 22 from Sing the Story, and 19 were hymns and anthems from other sources. Another aspect of my job is recording and tracking the hymns used for the worship services. I track which hymns were sung and how often. For 2015, we sang a total of 213 hymns with a quarter of them being sung more than one time throughout the year.

Other sources 14

HWB (blue) 124 (17 were sung twice, 6 were sung three times, 1 was sung four times)

STJ (green) 34 (10 were sung twice, 4 sung three times, 1 was sung five times)

STS (purple) 24 (4 sung twice, 2 sung three times, 1 sung four times, 1 as a response)

196 different hymns sung in 2014

Another area that I record and gather statistics for is people participation in various aspects of the worship service. The following list shows the number of persons who served in each area during 2015.

27 persons served as worship leader

73 persons read scripture

15 persons shared in the children's time

31 persons led the prayers of the people

10 persons served as song leader

35 persons played an instrument

6 persons served as sound operator

In addition to the above list, persons were also involved in musical ways:

Adult Choir sang 2 times

Children's Choir sang 3 time

Men's Choir sang 8 times

Soloists: 12 persons (many sang more than one time)

Not included in the information that I track are persons who serve as ushers and greeters. The above information does not include the 10 persons who serve/served on one of the three Worship Planning Teams.

As I look over the participation in the various aspects of the morning worship service, it becomes very evident that our worship is truly "the work of the people." Realizing that some persons serve in more than one of the above categories, in 2015, over 150 persons who call AMC their congregation served in some aspect of worship. I thank you for partnering with us in our weekly worship at AMC.

Patricia Martin, Minister of Music and Worship

Dates to Remember

- May 1 Fellowship Meal immediately after Discipleship Hour; MYF dessert fundraiser
- May 3 Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30am
- May 5 Men's breakfast 7:00am @ Udder Choice; presenter Willard Martin
- May 12 Community Meal served @ First United Methodist Church
- May 12 Council meeting 7:00pm
- May 29 No Jr. Christian Education/Discipleship Hour classes

Family Life is Precious (FLIP – Inter-generational events for all ages, all families):

Saturday, May 7th: Name this event! This event has not been planned. Place your creative idea here!

Wednesday, May 18th: Cultivating God's Creation with Don Ziegler. Specifics on meeting place at Landis Community will be forthcoming. 6-8 PM. Bring a water bottle; snacks will be provided.

Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF – Grades 9-12):

Sunday May 22 – Senior Blessing during worship

Sunday May 22 – Senior Recognition lunch, 12-4:00pm @ AMC assembly room – all are invited

Memorial Day Weekend – Supper Club @ home of Liam Magill (Renny & Ingrid)

2016 Graduation Party

Matthew Nancarvis, Makena Zimmerman and Anna Clemens cordially
invite you to celebrate their graduation!

Sunday, May 22 from 2 to 4 PM at Akron Mennonite Church



**IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD TO
THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR
ENTRY VIA EMAIL TO
AMC@AKRONMENCH.ORG NO LATER
THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, THANK**

Opportunities for Meaningful Connections with Women Attending AMC

Service Projects:

Currently, no service projects are planned for the Spring or Summer.

Stories that Heal and Shape Us

We will be offering a third series of Sister Care discipleship hour storytelling sessions beginning on June 5 and running through July 31, including eight sessions, one each Sunday except for July 3. The weekly sessions will involve a different AMC sister each Sunday speaking from her life journey, focusing on themes of joy or loss or selecting pivotal experiences that greatly influenced her. Women of AMC, plan to come and learn to know your AMC sisters better!

— Jean Buchen, Marilyn Langeman, Ethel Shank & Twila Miller

Report on Women's Half Day Retreat

35 brave, hearty women traveled through the slush and snow on Saturday, April 9, 2016 to attend the AMC Women's Half Day Retreat.

Gourmet coffee was served by J. W. Sprunger. Tom Buchen, Steve Hartzler and Jerry Shank helped set up tables, served lunch and washed dishes. Bryan Beyer set up the sound system and was available for calls when equipment did not work as intended. Thank you to all of the men who took care of details so the women planning the event could relax and enjoy the insightful sessions provided by Janet Stauffer and Ginny Hartman. They provided wonderful stories that illustrated their theological and clinical input. We hope to hear more from Janet and Ginny in the future.

Third Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch / 11:00 – 1:00

Bring your lunch to the host's home so you can eat and chat with your old and new friends from AMC. Come for the entire time or stop in for just a half hour. No agenda, just fellowship around your meal. The host will supply a glass of cold water and if they desire, coffee and/or tea.

May 17 / Sandy Thorpe

This is the final session for this church year. No brown bag lunches are being planned for the busy summer months.





The following is a summary of an article written by Dr. Michael Weiner in April 2015 entitled **“The Role that Kindness Plays in Healing from Addiction.”**

Dr. Weiner managed programs for 30 years that treat substance use disorders. He himself was treated for an addictive disease in 1983 and has personally treated hundreds of persons for addiction. Here’s a summary of what he says:

1. I will do whatever I can to provide patients I work with all the information they need to make good decisions regarding their care. I will not make them feel powerless in their recovery.
2. I will attempt to get information, as appropriate, from other current and past providers of care.
3. **Kindness often plays the most important role of all in the healing process and what patients will remember most about their time in treatment.**

Too often, drug addicts and alcoholics are treated as though they are horrible people with low moral standing. The fact is that addiction is a disease – just like diabetes or any other medical condition. Every disease requires proper treatment for full recovery; looking down on or talking down to a person in recovery is unnecessary and will cause more harm than good. Addicts already have negative thoughts about themselves, and many are also suffering from concurrent mental disorders.

Give answers, not ambiguity. Patients want to know how their treatment is progressing, what therapies are being administered, what medications they’re being given and when they’ll get to return home. A person being treated in a clinical setting for any disease has a right to

know every single detail about their condition and any treatment options. A recovering addict should be given the same respect and courtesy.

Tough love does not equal kindness. Close friends and family members of addicts should use kindness and compassion in their approach. This can be difficult for some, because in many cases the addict has caused a significant amount of damage to relationships, finances, friendships and more. Recovery is not a time to point fingers and assign blame. Offer kindness instead of criticism. Look forward, not backward. Learn more about the disease of addiction and about any psychological disorders which may have contributed to substance abuse. They need your unconditional love, support and kindness during this time more than ever.

Recovery is a Time of Great Vulnerability. When an addict enters recovery, they feel about as low as they’ve ever felt. They question the decisions they’ve made, the people they’ve hurt and whether they’ll ever be able to defeat their addictions. They have no control over their addictions; empower them with education and information to put them in control of their recovery.

The warmth and kindness shown by therapists, family members and others will go a long way in aiding the journey toward sobriety.

Summary by Marilyn Langeman

Full article at: https://www.bhpalmbeach.com/pro-articles/role-kindness-plays-healing-addiction/?utm_source=outbrain&utm_medium=native&utm_campaign=bhoph

ADNET (Anabaptist Disabilities Network) has a vision that faith communities are transformed when individuals with disabilities and their God-given gifts and experiences enjoy full inclusion in the Body of Christ. If you have a suggestion of other stories to be shared or you would be willing to write your own, please contact Marilyn Langeman, phone 859-3840.

May at AMC & In the Community

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is now scheduling auditions on May 10 and 11 for the 2016-2017 choir year. Children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12 may contact Artistic Director Darlene Hein (717-333-4202) to schedule an audition. Singers meet Tuesday evenings late August through early May to rehearse for a fall and spring concert series. The mission of MCCL is training children and youth to glorify Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing. The MCCL program is open to children and youth from all church backgrounds and is a program of Lancaster Mennonite School as a service to the community.

Friendship Community invites you to a FREE CONCERT with One Man Band, Nick DiSanto! Opening the concert will be Friendship Community Individuals performing their talents on Friday, May 13th at 7pm (1149 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543)! Chicken BBQ dinners, hot dogs, fries and ice cream will be for sale to eat while you listen to the concert. YUM! Kids can't sit still during the concert? Bring them to play in our bounce castle!

You are invited to the KAIROS: School of Spiritual Formation CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER on Saturday, May 14, from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m., James Street Mennonite Church, 323 West James St., Lancaster, PA 17603. Join us for a time of socializing, prayer, dinner, and memories as we take a moment to celebrate all that God is doing in our midst. Stroll down memory lane as we acknowledge the retirement of Cheryl Lehman and Marcus Pomeroy from the Spiritual Direction Training Program. Registration Deadline is April 30th. Cost is \$30.00/person

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society Programs:

- **In Our Blood: Nazism, MCC, and the Invention of Mennonite Ethnicity**— Harvard University Historian Ben Goossen traces the entanglement of Anabaptist and Aryan ideologies before, during, and after Hitler's Third Reich. He will talk on Friday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at Ridgeview Mennonite Church.
- **Tour of Early Mennonite Homes in Lititz**—Discover the early buildings in and around Lititz, including those related to the Becker, Bomberger, Brubaker, Carpenter, Eby, Hess, Landis, and Shenk families during a field trip on Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is due May 11. Get your ticket at www.lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745.
- **Tour to Puerto Rico: Island of Enchantment**—Join us on a five-day tour to Puerto Rico exploring Mennonite history and popular attractions on the Island. The tour will be held from Thursday, October 20, to Monday, October 24. Cost per person is \$1,975. Price of the tour includes airfare, motor coach, lodging, seven meals, and site tours. A \$500 deposit is required by June 1, and full payment, by August 5. Interested persons can learn more and register at www.lmhs.org or by calling 717-393-9745.

The Heritage Chorale, under the direction of Barry Sawyer and accompanied by Anne Lefever, will present a concert at Akron Mennonite Church on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 4:00 pm. Awaken the soul with song, the "What a morning!" program includes music by Stephen Paulus, Ola Gjelo, Claudio Monteverdi, and various arrangements of spirituals and folk song. Come and hear these songs of celebration of life and love. A free will offering will be taken.

News from the MYF ...

On Saturday, April 16, the MYF Scholarship Auction was held. A fantastic time was had by one and all! There were 108 lots donated for sale. Because many of the lots were comprised of multiple items, there were over 230 individual bids this year. The Auction raised over \$24,000, which directly benefits both the AMC Scholarship Fund, as well as the MYF.

The generosity of the Congregation cannot be overstated. Most of the items were donated by AMC members, and also purchased by them. Many items were old favorites; Daryl Mack's peanut-butter pies, Helena Dueck's baked goods, Barb Weavers freezer meals, John Stoner's hand-turned wooden bowls and Jerry Shank's hand-crafted tea box were each donated again this year. Many new items were on hand as well; The Penner Family offered "Next Generation Energy Bites", and Marilyn Langeman hit a home-run with "Mrs. Beiler's Potato Dough Cinnamon Rolls" by selling 12 dozen!

Homemade meals were a highlight again this year. Lloyd and Nancy Chapman donated a meal they call "Not Your Mother's Breakfast", which generated such high demand that it was sold 2 times! Other meals included a special Bangladeshi Dinner offered by Mary Anne and Richard Sarker, an Ethiopian meal offered by Mekdes Anshebo and Mike Siyom, and an African meal offered by Ndahayo Nzabarinda and family.

During dinner, heartwarming video vignettes were screened. Recent scholarship-fund recipients created the videos to share how scholarship funds are enriching the lives of our young adults. Videos by Brianna Brubaker (Goshen College), Sam & Maggie Weaver (Goshen) and Andrea King (EMU) were shown. Later, Matej Gligorevic (EMU) was streamed in live via FaceTime! A final video submitted by Adrienne Yoder was screened at the Sunday morning service. Thank you, Karyn Nancarvis, for working with these students to create the videos.

A portion of the proceeds are earmarked for the MYF's Summer Service trip. Rich Crockett explained to the Auction Attendees that the MYF will take part in the Mennonite Mission Network Door/Discover Program in Denver, Colorado this July. Through this program, 18 youth and advisers will work with folks experiencing homelessness in Downtown Denver. Rich also pointed out that our own H.A. Penner played an integral role in beginning the Discover Program many years ago.



The MYF thanks those responsible for the success of the auction this year: Elvin Stoltzfus starting the auction at AMC, and for providing the cooked pork for over 30 years; Ken Martin and his wife Yvonne, for serving as a fun and effective auctioneer team; Jerry Horst for assisting Ken and providing the stage; Barb Weaver and her kitchen staff for preparing a wonderful meal; and Dave Wise & the Scholarship Committee for organizing this wonderful event. Last, but not least, we thank those who donated items, purchased items or purchased dinners. Without you, none of this would be possible!

Additional photos from the event are scattered throughout this newsletter

May Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Vernon Glick Linda Good	2 John Martin Matthew Nancarvis Sharon Yoder	3 Dawn Nolt	4	5	6	7 Amber Brubaker
8 Rich Crockett Anna Martin	9	10 Theo Zook	11 Violet Chap Merle Gingerich Maggie Weaver Don Ziegler	12	13 Brianna Brubaker	14 Pat Martin
15	16 John Hoffman	17 Mary Ann Sarker	18	19 Theresa Martin	20	21
22 Gladys Claassen	23	24 Marcia Banks	25	26 Dan Burkholder Ginny Hartman	27	28 Lisa Neufeld
29	30	31 Rick Haller				

Akron Mennonite Church

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- ◇ *Worship @ 9:00 am*
- ◇ *Coffee/Tea Fellowship from 10:15-10:40 am*
- ◇ *Christian Education & Discipleship Hour from 10:40-11:30 am*

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AMC Vision Statement

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.

Statement on Human Sexuality

We are a community of believers seeking to respond with God's love to all people. We celebrate the strength of our unity in the midst of our diversity of experiences, perspectives and understanding of Scripture. We seek to be a community of grace and reconciliation and so welcome into membership all who confess faith in Jesus Christ, including those in same-gender covenant relationships. We are committed to engaging in God's mission in a broken world through an Anabaptist-Mennonite faith perspective.