

Connecting with Marion & Verna Schrock

Marion and Verna made the big move east from the west coast twelve years ago. They had retired from teaching in 1999 and 2000. Their daughter and family lived in Lancaster and they chose to spend their retirement years here to be near their grandchildren growing up.

The decision was well thought out, and plans fit their values and goals in life. Each of them had lost their mother when they were young adults. Their children, Kermit and Kristin, grew up without a grandma. Kristin didn't want this for her children.

Verna and Marion began spending long stretches here after retirement, even buying a condo in Lancaster to spend two months at a time. They volunteered with Ten Thousand Villages. They visited AMC with connections to college friends, Jerry and Marlene Kaufman. They made new friends.

As it became clear that this felt like a good next move, Verna and Marion began the process of leaving their good life in Oregon, with church, community, friends and all things familiar. They relinquished the known for the benefit of family and their future. It brought them to a strong Mennonite community, which was important to them.

Buying a house on Red Leaf Lane, Lancaster, Marion and Verna settled in and became part of the community. They connected as volunteers with MCC, Verna at MRC and Marion as a driver. In addition, he drove for Bunyaad and she has been at TTV for twelve years.

They joined AMC, and have offered their gifts in many ways. Marion plays clarinet in worship service and has been a valuable asset on church council. Verna served on hospitality committee, helping with many meals after memorial services.

Verna Rohrer is the oldest of three girls, born in Dalton Ohio, a warm close-knit community. Later when they moved to Wadsworth to farm, Verna missed her friends and had to adjust to school with few Mennonites. These years for her were isolated and she felt different from her friends.

Verna welcomed the change to enroll at Goshen College to study elementary education. Her parents, who would have loved the privilege of higher education, encouraged Verna to go to college. It was at Goshen that she met Marion on a camping trip that was fulfilling a PE requirement.

Marion was born in Mishawaka, Indiana, the youngest of four children. He grew up in a small Mennonite community and attended a rural public school.

Marion was in fifth grade when he began playing the clarinet. He found his niche, his gift, and it led him to his career.

Goshen College was Marion's choice to study music, where he earned his B.A. in 1961. From college he entered I-W service at the University of Michigan Hospital.



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Worship Schedule

- Mar. 6 ~ *Randall Justice*
- Mar. 13 ~ *Karyn Nancarvis*
- Mar. 20 ~ *Passion Sunday Vignettes*
- Mar. 24 ~ *Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 pm*
- Mar. 27 ~ *Easter Drama & Hymn Sing*

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 Madeleine Yoder

Reflections During a Time of Transition

Prayer for Transitions

by Hannah Heinzekehr

Creative and communicative God,
 we know you are with us.
 You are with us in our endings:
 when we say goodbye,
 when we leave behind what is familiar,
 when one year comes to a close,
 when projects end, when people leave,
 and when things change.
 You are with us in beginnings:
 when we say hello,
 when we try something new,
 when a new year greets us, full of possibility,
 when we take on new tasks, when we greet new
 friends-to-be,
 and when things change.
 You are with us always:
 even when we can't hear your voice,
 even when what lies ahead is unclear,
 even when we mourn the loss of what was and
 celebrate what could be,
 even when we feel like we're not enough, when
 we feel alone,
 and when things change.
 We pray that we would not just know in our heads that
 you are with us, but that we would feel your presence
 with us, deep in our bones, no matter what today brings.
 Amen.

The AMC family is on a new path as we seek where God is leading. Everywhere we look there seems to be change. Some of us feel energized by possibilities. Some of us feel discouraged or even threatened by losses. All of us want to know where these changes will take us. It's hard to not know.

Some things are the same at AMC as we wait for God's leading.
 God is with us every day!
 Because God is with us, we continue to nurture one another
 as we worship and sing together on Sundays
 as MYFers have spaghetti suppers and plan
 summer service projects and learn and grow in faith
 as we pray for and with each other
 as children's worship time and faithful teachers
 offer love to and nurture faith in AMC children
 as Deacons connect and respond to each individual in times of need and celebration
 as we eat with each other over Fellowship Meals
 and Sunday Soups
as God is with us every day
 Some things are the same at AMC.

~ Melody Rupley, Equipping Ministry

"Thank You" from Dabon, Haiti

A Note from Bob Wyble

Jhony Saint Louis had a vision to help Restavek children in his village of Dabon, Haiti get an education. He recruited teachers to volunteer time to hold school in space provided by an Episcopal Church. Then on January 12, 2010, an earthquake hit Haiti and destroyed the Episcopal Church and the meeting space for Jhony's school was lost. Kris Stoesz, who had lived and worked in Haiti, became aware that the school Jhony started was meeting in a tent for approximately a year.

Kris Stoesz talked with Margaret Eby about the need for a building to set up a school for Restavek children and illiterate adults in Dabon. Margaret Eby came to the Outreach Commission at Akron church and asked if outreach would work with her to find funds to build an elementary school in Haiti. I agreed, on behalf of outreach, to work with Margaret to raise funds and find a way to build a school in Haiti.

Kris Stoesz arranged for a time and day for me to meet with Jhony Saint Louis at her home in Washington DC to talk about the need for a school, and a possible site to build a school. Following that meeting, outreach at AMC committed to work with Jhony to build an elementary school in Dabon, Haiti, and Margaret Eby got to work and began raising funds.

A school was built, and Margaret Eby, Kris Stoesz and I traveled to Haiti, for the dedication of the building on September 4, 2011. Since that time, Jhony Saint Louis has done a marvelous job of working with the school and overseeing its growth and development.

Jhony Saint Louis recently sent this letter to thank all members of Akron Church for joining the circle of solidarity to make this school become a reality.

Good evening Kristy, Maga, and Bob,

January 12th, 2016 which occurred yesterday marks 6 years since the earthquake that destroyed a big part of Haiti. It was an event that created a lot of discouragement in the hearts of all Haitians. Fortunately there were many people in other places in the world who were determined to stand in solidarity with us. It is exactly that solidarity that allowed the Annunciation School to restart, and continue to grow. Immediately after that event, the members of the leadership team, the teachers and the

students couldn't imagine what could be done so the school would remain alive. Through Kris's friendship, the love she has for education caused her to stand with us and mobilize others to do the same. That's how she made it possible for me to meet Bob who decided to get involved and ask the members of the Akron church to join the circle of solidarity. And that's the way, too, that Maga and others I haven't yet had the chance to meet decided to come into the middle of the chain of solidarity.

This chain of solidarity allowed the school to find a way to pay the teachers, it gave the school a building in which to function, it made it possible for the school to have chairs, a computer, projector, and many other supplies. In December 2015, the school installed an electric and solar energy system which is so useful for us and which is an indispensable tool for the Roots of Hope library which serves yet another group of people important to the community of Dabon. The recent grant the church gave the school allows us to harvest several mangoes with one single rock (Kreyol version of 'killing 2 birds with one stone', but less violent, and more productive-ks).

The new construction allows us to open a school in the morning which is functioning with 5 classes which have approximately 135 students. This is a school that has become a model in the community. I can't even cite all the other services this building has afforded us in addition to the training sessions for the library members, a place to hold music lessons and art lessons for the youth in the community.....

It is truly a big, big, big support that the members of the Akron church, especially you three, give the school. I will take the occasion of January 12th, 2016, the day which marks the 6 years since the earthquake happened which falls to the day of January 12th, 2010, to tell you again, thank you so very much for the support you gave me and the whole school in this difficult time. Please share my thanks and the thanks of the whole school with the Akron church.

*B. Jhony Saint Louis
Lekòl Anonsiyasyon*

Diamond Street Early Childhood Center

Diamond Street is pleased to announce some blessings and changes for the school in the last month. We were awarded a prestigious Pre-K Count classroom grant from the state. With this grant, DSECC is able to expand our Orioles program and provide 17 children from the community with a high quality pre-K education with no cost to the families. We are honored to be able to serve the community in this way. We are the only Pre-K Counts program in EASD right now. All of the children served qualify by income guidelines as well as other risk factors. The class is already begun and is full for the remainder of this school year. If families are interested in next school year, please contact Dede our center director. Due to the expansion of the Oriole classroom, we were able to shuffle a few classrooms around and bring our school age program back to AMC within our current space usage. We are so happy to be all back under AMC's roof again. It will be a huge blessing for Diamond Street to be able to do all of our programs here at AMC. We are very grateful for the continued support from AMC.



Dates to Remember

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|----------|--|----------|--|
| Mar. 1 | Registration fee due for Urban Service Project; make checks payable to AMC and include "Discover Door Program" in the memo | Mar. 24 | Maundy Thursday meal, communion, foot and hand washing service @ 6:30 pm |
| Mar. 3 | Men's breakfast @ 7:00 am at Udder Choice; presenter Mike Longenecker | Mar. 27 | Community Easter Dawn Service @ 7:00 am at Roland Park, Akron |
| Mar. 3-5 | MCC Quilt Preview at Ephrata Material Resources on Trout Run Rd., Ephrata | Mar. 27 | Easter breakfast from 7:45-8:45 am |
| Mar. 5 | FLIP – Potluck dinner and indoor games at AMC from 5:30-8:00 pm | Mar. 4-5 | MYF Lock-in from 8:00 pm – 8:00 am |
| Mar. 5 | <i>Emulate Chamber Ensemble</i> (EMU vocal group) @ 7:00 pm | | |
| Mar. 6 | Council Open Hours with Chris Martin in Sabbath room | | |
| Mar. 6 | ADNet Lunch and movie "I'll Be Me" @ noon in the Assembly Room | | |
| Mar. 6 | Tom Pontz Jazz concert @ 4:00 pm | | |
| Mar. 10 | Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm in room 133 | | |
| Mar. 16 | FLIP – MRC Work night at MRC from 6:30-8:30 pm | | |

Right Around the Corner

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Apr. 1 | Messiah Sing-a-long @ 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church |
| Apr. 1-2 | MCC Relief Sale, Harrisburg Farm Show Complex |
| Apr. 3 | Alchemy Concert @ 3:00 pm at AMC |

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

Opportunities for Meaningful Connections with Women Attending AMC

❖ Service Projects

- Work Evening at New Holland ReUzit Shop, 707 West Main Street, New Holland: Monday evening, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for a light meal and an evening of work and visiting. Park in the back of the shop. RSVP if you plan to attend: Sue Blessing 717-682-0919.
- Opportunities for service with CVCCS Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services: Facilitated by Deb Sprunger. Planned for an evening in April or May. Details to come.

❖ Women's Half-Day Retreat:

Hold the date of Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 until 1:00
Topic "The Sacrament of Genuine Meeting"

Facilitators: Janet Stauffer and Ginny Hartman

Authentic relationships are infused by the divine. We gather:

- name our longings to be in relationship with one another and with the divine (or God)
- examine ways relationships form and grow by embracing risk and courage, giving and receiving, and rupture and repair
- consider cultivating space for one another to discover and generate a wholeness of life

We will integrate theological insights, therapeutic tidbits and personal stories out of our lives relating to members of family, friends and those we serve in our work as chaplain and therapist.

Ginny and Janet enjoy a friendship begun through sharing time in AMC house church. Janet is a marriage and family therapist in private practice and a professor in the Graduate School of Marriage and Family Studies at Evangelical Seminary. Ginny Hartman is a chaplain at Pleasant View Retirement Community and has nursing experience, which includes providing health ministry in the parish as well as in her home.

Watch for the registration flyer in your mailbox the middle of March. All women are invited and welcome.

❖ Stories that Heal, Sister Care at AMC

We will again plan for a June and July Christian Education Series based on stories from our sisters at AMC.

❖ 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 complete 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.

- March 15 Mary Jane Crockett
- April 19 Joyce Longenecker
- May 17 Open - Please contact Jean Buchen at 396-0025 or jbuchen@kthighland.com if you are interested in hosting this lunch



❖ Stories Mennonite Women USA

Mark your calendars for August 12-13 and travel to a wonderful summer destination: Colorado! PREP (preparing, resourcing, encouraging and praising), will be hosted by Peace Mennonite Church in Aurora, CO, and will include options for learning, networking and inspiration.

Rhoda Blough of Everence will provide resourcing on Saturday morning on Women, Money and Faith. Teresa Boshart Yoder of Everence will provide resourcing on Women and Health in the afternoon.

NOTE: this year PREP is an event for ALL women, not just conference leaders! Registration materials will be available soon.

March at AMC & In the Community



Please plan to attend a one-hour benefit concert on Sunday afternoon, March 6th, 4:00 p.m. In the AMC sanctuary featuring Tom Pontz Jazz piano trio. All dona-

tions will go to fund a native Peruvian National Park forester/ranger, Oscar Jesus Damian Baldeon, to attend the World National Park Ranger Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Oscar is a college-educated forester at the Junin National Park Preserve located in the Andes of Peru. His work is heavily devoted to environmental renewal, conservation and protection in an area that has been seriously damaged by acid mining. Many species of wildlife are endangered there. Oscar is working closely with environmental biologist, Andrew Watson (Debra

Raudenbush's son). Andrew is a Peace Corps volunteer, now in his second year at Lake Junin National Park Preserve in Peru.

Along with Andrew's conservation and research work at Lake Junin with the National Park Service, his work also includes community building for which he initiated this project to send Oscar to this most valuable and significant conference in Denver, Colorado. Your support will be greatly appreciated, as Oscar must raise all the money necessary to attend this conference (airfare, Visa, conference fees, lodging and meals; a little over \$3,000). The University of Denver has offered to extend his visit for a full week, expense free, to tour the national parks in the area along with further course work, if he is able to attend the conference. Thank you for supporting Oscar and our environment in this valuable endeavor.

If you are unable to make the concert, you may also find more details and/or make your donation at <https://www.gofundme.com/ddk62tjs>



Alzheimer's is a topic that is part of the movie to be shown

on Sunday, March 6, at noon in the AMC Assembly Room. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States; it cannot be prevented, cured or slowed. One in three senior citizens dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. The impact on caregivers is enormous. Come watch the movie "I'll be Me" about musician Glen Campbell, who set out on a tour across America after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011. This film documents an amazing journey.

Marie Marley has written a book Come Back Early Today: A Memoir of Love, Alzheimer's and Joy. She has a website that includes advice for caregivers. See more at <http://www.comebackearlytoday.com/blog/>

Included are 10 tips for nonverbal communication:

1. Don't talk from behind them. Despite your best efforts, you may sometimes forget this one.
2. Make eye contact.
3. Be at their level. If both you and they are standing, that's fine. But if they're sitting, kneel in front, especially if they are in a wheelchair.
4. Use therapeutic touch. People with Alzheimer's may yearn to be touched, but first ask permission and let them know what you are going to do. Otherwise, they may become alarmed.

5. Don't make sudden movements. This too may scare the person.
6. Offer to shake hands every time you visit. Put your hand out; they may reach for yours. If not, let it go. This tip is related to therapeutic touch.
7. Use laughter. Alzheimer's is serious but sometimes laughter is the best medicine. Be sure to have some light-hearted stories to tell the person at each visit.
8. Use visual cues. Point, touch or hand them the item you want them to use.
9. Palms up. Never sit with your arms crossed. This tends to convey anger. Instead, have palms up to communicate "I'm receptive to you" or "Take my hand" or "I like you."
10. Smile a lot. Probably the most important guideline of all.

~ Marilyn Langeman

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.

March at AMC & In the Community

Emulate Chamber Ensemble

An intimate vocal group of twelve students from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) will present a concert at Akron Mennonite Church, Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm. The ensemble was founded and is directed by Assistant Music Professor, Dr. Ryan Keebaugh. The concert is composed of music in the jazz genre; using modern, and contemporary concert literature, both secular and sacred.

Messiah Sing-a-long

The 19th Annual Lancaster County *Messiah* Sing-a-long will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, on Friday, April 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The Sing-a-long is provided under the auspices of the Chester County Christian Chorale and is partially sponsored by local charities and businesses. There will be a freewill offering to cover the balance of the costs.

Singers from the community are invited to be part of the choir for the 2.5-hour evening but anyone is welcome to come and listen. The sing-a-long will be all of parts II and III from Handel's *Messiah*. Appropriate dress is casual, creating a relaxed atmosphere among the instrumental players and vocal singers.

More details can be found on the web at www.messiahssingalong.com

Alchemy is coming to AMC Sunday April 3, 2016 @ 3:00PM

"Alchemy" is a trio of dynamic musicians: Eric Martin (violin, viola, voice), Karen Axelrod (piano, accordion) and Rachel Bell (accordion) who love to bring the vibrancy of traditional and newly composed tunes and songs to the concert stage. Listeners can expect to be swept away on a musical journey to various lands including: Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Argentina, Quebec, Appalachia and New England. "Alchemy's" arrangements are contemporary, powerful, whimsical and always heartfelt.

You will not want to miss this special concert. Eric Martin, a son of the church, is the brother of Amy Burkholder and son of Susan & Clyde Martin.



Green Thumb?

AMC is looking for a part-time, seasonal groundskeeper for the spring & summer months. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact the AMC office at 717-859-1488 or amc@akronmench.org.

Connecting w/the Schrocks... (cont.)

The assignment that Marion was given, working in the emergency room and leukemia unit, gave him an exposure to end of life issues on many levels. It changed forever the way he viewed death, and he noted how important it is to make plans before the emergency situation.

Verna returned to her home community after their graduation to teach school. A year later, in 1962, Marion and Verna were married at her church, Bethel Mennonite.

Verna joined Marion in Michigan and taught school there while he completed his service. Marion entered

graduate school the next year to earn a Master of Music in Clarinet at Michigan State University.

Bluffton College offered Marion his first teaching position. He taught there for two years, and then it was back to Michigan where he studied clarinet and music and art history. Marion received his Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Michigan.

Verna, Marion and their young son headed to Oregon in 1970 where Marion was invited to join the faculty at Western Oregon University. He followed his passion by teaching clarinet and flute, as well as music history and fine arts.

(Continued on pg 8)

Connecting w/the Schrocks...

The first year in a new job, new community and second child on the way, brought even more challenges. They faced the death of Verna's mother in a car accident. Verna couldn't attend the funeral because she was close to delivery date. This was traumatic enough, and then, not long after, Marion's mother died in a farm accident.

These experiences with death of parents, along with Marion's exposure and training at the hospital trauma unit, were the catalyst for his feeling of urgency to plan ahead for him and his family. Consequently, he and Verna made their end of life plans long before most people even acknowledge that they are mortal.

Early in his career, Marion was offered a unique position of directing the kinetic theatre, which included Avant guard music and typical 1970s entertainment.

As an outlet from teaching, Marion performed as a clarinetist in the Salem, Oregon Symphony for fifteen years.

Later he enjoyed being the clarinetist member of a music faculty trio, SoundMoves, 1990-2000. This trio performed extensively in the northwest, New England and western Canada.

Verna was a stay-at-home mom in the early years in Oregon. In fact, she thought she never wanted to go back to teaching after a very stressful experience in Michigan.

However the teacher within was calling for expression, and Verna tiptoed into the school setting by being a teacher's aide for four years. Her positive experiences this time helped her regain her confidence. She was affirmed and offered a third grade classroom where she flourished for twenty-one years. Verna enjoyed the students, the challenge, and was often given the more difficult to manage students. That was one of her gifts. She enjoyed having her own daughter in class one year. Kristin insisted on calling her "Mom", and that was okay with everyone, even the students.

When she retired, Verna volunteered in the school library and at the local TTV store.

Friendships were rich during thirty-three years at Salem Mennonite Church. They now had time to hike in the mountains and fish in the lake with friends. Verna enjoyed being part of the breakfast group, and book discussion groups.

Now that she is in Pennsylvania, Verna continues to enjoy reading, playing games, quilting and book discussion groups, along with her volunteer work for TTV.

When Marion retired in 2000, they celebrated with a TourMagination trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Two years later, they traveled to Laos and Thailand to visit friends who were interim country reps with MCC.

Their love of travel had been whetted when they went to Europe in 1980 on sabbatical. They lived in London for three months where Marion studied clarinet and art history. They traveled the continent for a month, ending in Paris at an international clarinet convention.

Marion has been an avid reader all of his life. Bicycle riding is another lifetime pursuit. When he retired, Marion had time to volunteer for his church conference. He served as moderator of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference for three years.

Now that Verna and Marion are close to some of their grandchildren, they enjoy many family activities: canning and freezing produce, going shopping and to sports events. They also enjoy attending concerts and plays. There are family vacations by the ocean.

Verna and Marion enjoy nature in many forms: forest, ocean and mountains. They take advantage of opportunities to experience each in turn. Their love of travel includes trips to California to see son Kermit, his wife Gretchen, and their two other grandchildren.

~Priscilla Ziegler



March Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Steve Krafft	5
6 Agnes Hacker	7 Iraa Bowman	8 Margaret Eby	9 Carla Neufeld	10	11	12 Ira Nolt
13 Judy Horst Paul Martin	14	15	16 Kevin Erb	17 Daryl Mack Hans Peter Neufeld	18	19 Alaa Jabri
20	21 Deb Raudenkush Elvin Stoltzfus Lisa Zimmerman Mara Zimmerman	22 Jean Buchen	23 Sarah Longenecker Wendy Sundberg	24 Gavin Shenk	25 Will Broaddus	26
27 Bonnie Chap	28	29 Mike Longenecker	30	31 Richard Leaman		

Akron Mennonite Church

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www.akronmench.org

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



Contact Updates

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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.