

## Connecting with Ron Guenther

Ron came to MCC Akron for a two-year term of voluntary service when he graduated from Fresno Pacific College in 1985. He wanted to do this before he settled down to a real job and career.

Thirty years later he reflects on the unfolding of his life in ways he could not have imagined. Living in the East was not even on his mind, and when he did come, he thought of it as temporary.

Ron is the oldest of three sons of Allen and Anne Guenther. Life began in Coaldale, Alberta, where his father was pastor of the Mennonite Brethren Church. Grandparents were from Ukraine. Ron's parents taught him German before English.

Ron moved frequently with his family throughout his growing up years. The moves were related to his father's education and pastoral opportunities.

When Ron was two years old, the family moved to Wheaton, Illinois where Dad attended Wheaton College.

The next year they were in Boston and Dad enrolled at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

By the time Ron began school, the family lived in Winnipeg where his mother got a job as music teacher. Ron was thrilled to have her as his teacher in grade one.

Next it was downtown Toronto where Dad started his PhD in Near Eastern studies at the University of Toronto and Ron enrolled in grade two. He felt grown up as he took the subway entrance and exit to traverse busy Bay Street. One girl in his class was a TV star in Swiss Family Robinson.

After Ron's father pastored the local MB church for six years during his PhD studies, they moved back to Winnipeg and settled in for Ron to attend MB Collegiate Institute grade seven through twelve.

By grade seven Ron's outgoing personality turned self-conscious and he became an introvert. Being the second shortest in his class added to his shyness and he had no interest or adeptness in sports.

Ron found music and drama energized him and he honed his talent. He sang in choirs and participated in school productions of musicals. In grade eleven Ron was baptized at River East MB Church.

After high school Ron enrolled at Fresno Pacific College. Finally he was on his own. However, the family made one more move, and it just happened to be close by where his dad began teaching at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary.



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### Worship Schedule

- Apr. 3 ~ Richard Weaver
- Apr. 10 ~ Urbane Peachey
- Apr. 17 ~ Howard Garver
- Apr. 24 ~ Ken Sensnig

(Continued on pg 2)

Ron enjoyed the many course offerings in college and, even after he declared a major the end of second year, he changed his major three times. He took maximum loads to get his money's worth. He took even more his senior year in addition to being a professor assistant and managing the concession stand – the Bird Feeder. Off campus he worked at Taco Bell and still loves this fare.

During summers Ron worked at the college library. Choir tours were a highlight during these years. One summer they went to Europe. Ron graduated with a degree in Accounting.

After college, Ron wanted to get as far away as possible from his family. And that's how he ended up in Akron! Ten Thousand Villages offered him an accountant job for his VS assignment. It was just what he wanted, and came after he did a search of many possibilities.

Ron arrived at Menno House on North 11<sup>th</sup> St. with a suitcase in the middle of the night. The next morning he got up and was told that the van for work would leave in an hour. He quickly adjusted to this abrupt shift. He became part of the household and experienced the time of his life. Not realizing how much fun he'd missed in college, Ron found something happening every evening in this family of coeds.

It was during this time that Ron began attending AMC, 1987. He was attracted to the vibrant music program. He also began singing with the Franconia/Lancaster Choral Singers for eight years. For the last twenty years Ron has been a member of Lancaster Chamber Singers.

Ron's plan was to move back to Fresno after VS, but through divine intervention in the person of Esther Hostetter, his plan changed. Esther put an announcement in the AMC newsletter that Ron was looking for a job and a place to live! Ron didn't see it.

The first phone call was from Esther Miller who offered her basement apartment, fully furnished. This looked attractive to one leaving VS with a suitcase. However, Ron told her he wasn't looking for a place, but that he would keep hers in mind.

Next came a call from Phil Rutt offering him a job with Hollinger Lawn and Garden Equipment. He began to pay attention to a shift in his mind and body. Ron was here to stay. Now for a car and driver's license!

He bought his first house four years later on Hilldale Drive in Ephrata. Six years ago Ron moved to Brownstown where he enjoys a lovely restored house with large back yard. He has room for his myriad collection of perennials, buying a new one each year. He chooses plants with great blooms and not normally found in the area.

After a short stint at High Industries, Ron accepted a position as business manager at Locust Grove Mennonite School. He was there for two years and then it was back to High Industries for another eight years.

When Mennonite Disaster Service restructured, Ron was invited as the first director of finance and administration. He currently holds a critical role on the leadership team. His job has evolved to an assistant executive director, basically a chief operating officer. Ron is a detail person and spends his day guiding policymaking and problem solving.

Ron finds time for travel at every opportunity. His adventures include many tales of memorable times in Asia, Europe and two Caribbean cruises. Diane Gehman is his trusty 'Asia' travel companion. They enjoy the same attractions and places.

Biking is another of Ron's passions. He began road biking twenty years ago and finds it fulfilling with camaraderie of fellow cyclists. Ron also feels that it is therapeutic as a stress reliever.

Ron continues to love singing and has been with Spare Parts for fifteen years. Along with him are Merle Gingerich, Daryl Eshleman and Todd Christophel. They are starting to record music for their second album.

An earlier group member, Bruce McCrae introduced barbershop music, which they incorporated, along with jazz and a variety of styles. Ron had no formal music training, but his ear is tuned and he picks up whatever comes his way.

At AMC Ron has offered his gifts in many ways. He served on music committee, including chair for three years. In addition, he was part of various choirs and continues to lead singing. He was a board member of DSECC as treasurer for eight years. Other positions include outreach cluster, church review audit, worship team, and currently Ron serves on church council.

Ron came to AMC because of the music and has stayed because he found family, enjoying participation in various house churches. He appreciates the emphasis on peace and a more global perspective as a community of believers. Ron appreciates “being challenged, as well as given room to discover myself and how my view of God can be different from others while still respecting and loving those around me.”

~Priscilla Ziegler

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### *Pray For One Another*

*James 5:16*

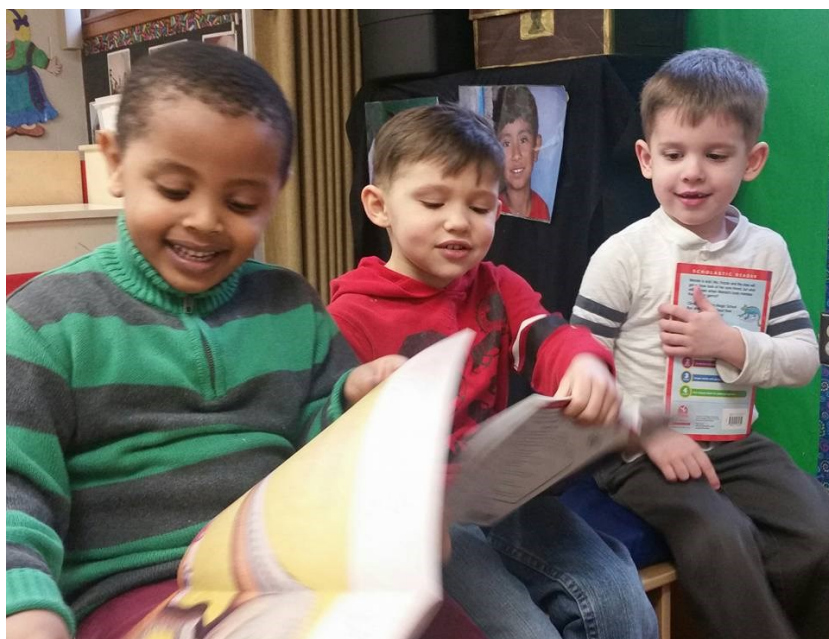
The purpose of “Pray For One Another” is to help us be aware of and pray for members of AMC who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in Sunday morning worship services on a regular basis. Scripture admonishes us to pray. It is one of the joys of the Christian life and part of what makes us 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

## Diamond Street Early Childhood Center

The children at Diamond Street have been buzzing with excitement for spring and warm weather! All the classes participated in peace week in March. Kindergarten had lessons on how to be peace makers and bucket fillers (doing acts of kindness). All classes read stories about peace and reinforced peaceful interactions in the classroom and at home. Diamond Street hosts its annual Friendship Concert on April 12th at 7pm. Every classroom will participate in singing a few songs. We hope you can join us! This event takes place during the Week of the Young Child, a national week long celebration of early childhood education. We will also be having a special brunch at Ten Thousand Villages on May 7th. Tickets are \$9.95 for adults, \$7.95 for seniors and \$5.95 for children (3-10 years). Proceeds will go to Diamond Street's scholarship fund. Please contact us to purchase tickets. It would be a great way to celebrate for mother's day for the special woman in your life and support Diamond Street!



## Dates to Remember

- April 2 Mulching the AMC landscaping @ 8:00am – volunteers needed!
- April 1-2 MCC PA Relief Sale, Harrisburg Farm Show Complex
- April 3 *Alchemy* concert @ 3:00 pm (See Page 7)
- April 6 Library Committee meeting @ 6:00pm
- April 7 Men's breakfast @ 7:00am at Udder Choice  
Don Mellinger, speaker
- April 9 Women's half day retreat 9:00am-1:00pm
- April 9 Bangladesh fundraising dinner @ 5:30pm, Assembly Room
- April 16 MYF Auction & Pig Roast; pig roast @4:30pm, auction 5:45pm
- April 16 ACC Spring Assembly @ Frazer Mennonite Church, 9:00am – 4:00pm
- April 24 Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster @ 4:00pm @ AMC

**IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD TO THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY VIA EMAIL TO [AMC@AKRONMENCH.ORG](mailto:AMC@AKRONMENCH.ORG) NO LATER THAN **FRIDAY, APRIL 15**. THANK YOU!**

## *Opportunities for Meaningful Connections with Women Attending AMC*

### **AMC Women's Half Day Retreat**

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**9:00-1:00**

Coffee, Tea and Lunch Provided

**Topic: *The Sacrament of Genuine Meeting***

**Facilitators: Janet Stauffer and Ginny Hartman**

Authentic relationships are infused by the divine. We gather:

- to name our longings to be in relationship with one another and with the divine (or God)
- to examine ways relationships form and grow by embracing risk and courage, giving and receiving, and rupture and repair
- to 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 and 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.

Schedule:

9:00-9:30 Gathering  
 9:30-10:40 First Session begins  
 10:40-11:00 Coffee, tea & biscotti  
 11:00-Noon Second Session  
 Noon – 1:00 Lunch and table conversation

Cost: Donation between \$5.00 and \$15.00



(We will have a donation basket at the meal table. If extra funds are received, we will donate them to Menonite Women for the Sister Care Program) **Questions:** Planning committee includes: Ruth Detweiler, Jane Hartzler and Jean Buchen. To register, contact Jean Buchen 396-0025 (work & Home phone number)

### **Stories that Shape and 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. All Women are invited and welcome.

**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.

April 19 / Joyce Longenecker ; May 17 / Sandy Thorpe





May is mental health month.

Mary Steffy is the former director of Mental Health America of Lancaster County. Currently she serves on Philhaven's Patient Safety Committee and has been a Philhaven Board member. Mary serves on Lancaster County Prison Suicide Prevention Committee. On Sunday, May 8 Mary will be our morning worship speaker and will lead a Discipleship Hour class that follows. In the past, mental illness was sometimes seen as a sign of poor spirituality or even demon possession. Today, our mental health treatment is often isolated from our faith practices. How do they fit together? Or don't they? Mary Steffy, who has suffered with her own depression, is a follower of Christ and has more than 30 years of work as a mental health advocate and educator, will speak to these questions.

According to the Mental Health America website, mental illness is common. One in five American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year. Fifty percent of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition sometime in their life and half of those people will develop conditions by the age of 14. Catching mental health conditions early is known as Early Identification and Intervention. However, many times people may not realize that their symptoms are being caused by a mental

health condition or feel ashamed to pursue help because of the stigma associated with mental illness.

Some people think that only people with mental illness have to pay attention to their mental health.

But the truth is that your emotions, thoughts and attitudes affect your energy, productivity and overall health. Good mental health strengthens your ability to cope with everyday hassles and more serious crises and challenges. Good mental health is essential to creating the life you want.

Let's become informed and be open to talking with each other about our experience with mental illness. You may get screening tools for the following: Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Alcohol or Substance Use, Youth, Parent, Psychosis. Work Health. Go to:

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/mental-health-screening-tools>

~ 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.**

## April at AMC & In the Community

### **Messiah Sing-a-long**

The 19<sup>th</sup> 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.messiahsingalong.com](http://www.messiahsingalong.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.



## News from the MYF ...

On Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, the MYF held its annual "Mystery Dinner". This year, the gang was surprised with an authentic Mexican meal at El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant in Lancaster. Janessa & Makenna Zimmerman, Anna & Peter Clemens, Liam Magill, Chelsea Brubaker, and John Hoffman attended. They were accompanied by Marcia Banks and Rich Crockett.

The annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser hosted by the MYF was originally scheduled for Saturday January 23. But, due to a record-breaking winter storm, it was postponed until Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>. A fantastic time was had by one and all! Our theme this year was "Superheroes". MYF Students, advisers and diners were encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero. Supermom, Superman, & Black Widow, were all in attendance. We even had reporters, photographers and a fireman. Barry & Dawn Nolt and family came dressed as the Incredibles! Lynne Brubaker came dressed as Jesus, and her husband, Jan, was "Plumber Man" (whose motto is "I am unstoppable!").



The MYF'ers performed a skit, which demonstrated that differences can be solved without violence, even between superheroes and super villains. The MYF also delivered a poignant slideshow highlighting the many "Superheroes" we have had at Akron Mennonite Church –past and present. Great fun, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. We are also happy to report that a record-breaking amount was raised for the evening -\$1720! The MYF would like to thank the entire congregation for their enthusiastic support. We would like to send a special "Superhero Shout-Out" to Kevin and Corin Dundore, our spaghetti cooks, (aka; The Princess of Pasta, and the Sultan of Sauce). We could not have done it without you!

On Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>, the MYF held a lock-in, which is a 12-hour long event from 8pm-8am, at AMC. The theme was "Star Wars Movie Marathon". A Dutch Blitz tournament was also held. Our special thanks to Marcia & Ricky Banks for staying up with the MYF'ers all evening! We would also like to recognize Rich Crockett for making and serving up a dynamic breakfast buffet for parents, students and advisers on Saturday morning.

The MYF is looking forward to some great events. On Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, the MYF Auction will be held! This auction benefits the scholarship fund, and also proceeds can help support the MYF as well. The MYF will be there in full-force, assisting with the auction. Hope to see you there! Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> is Senior Recognition Sunday. Our Seniors are recognized and blessed during a special service. We would appreciate it if you would mark your calendars to attend.

This summer, we will be embarking on an "urban" service experience in Denver, Colorado. This week-long service trip was arranged through the Discover / Door program of the Mennonite Mission Network. We will be departing from BWI on Sunday July 10, and will be returning on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>. Our young adults will spend their time serving with a variety of local agencies and ministries and learning through evening speakers and activities. Our youth will be working directly with the homeless and less fortunate in the Denver metro area. It is an opportunity for our young adults to work alongside local community members, to learn from local leaders, and to listen to the stories of neighbors, clients, and churches. If you are interested, you can find out more here: <http://www.doornetwork.org/discover/>.

The MYF are grateful for the love and support of all AMC members. Thank you for everything!





# April Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Aoy Seifarth Priscilla Ziegler
3 Michael Fokrey	4	5 Nancy Drescher	6 Tonya Wenger	7 Gerald Shank	8 Markion Schrock	9 Ann Zimmerman
10 Barry Nolt	11 Christina Bowman Peter Clemens Johann Stauffer	12 Jake Leaman	13	14	15 John Weber	16 Clark Magill
17 Deb Sprunger	18 Ellie Burkholder Aubrey Haller	19	20 Zem Martin Peter Passage	21 Marian Rutt	22 Lynn Brusaker Marvin Nolt	23
24	25	26 Marilyn Lange- man	27 Roger Weaver	28 John Stoner	29	30 Dot Hershey

## Akron Mennonite Church

1311 Diamond Street  
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P: (717) 859-1488  
E: [amc@akronmench.org](mailto:amc@akronmench.org)

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

### Staff

Karyn Nancarvis  
*Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries*  
[knancarvis@akronmench.org](mailto:knancarvis@akronmench.org)

Melody Rupley  
*Director of Equipping Ministries*  
[mrupley@akronmench.org](mailto:mrupley@akronmench.org)

Patricia Martin  
*Minister of Music and Worship*  
[pmartin@akronmench.org](mailto:pmartin@akronmench.org)

Janet Weber  
*Interim Acting Administrator*  
[cmottershead@akronmench.org](mailto:cmottershead@akronmench.org)

Lloyd Chapman  
*Interim Administrative Assistant*  
[lloyd.chapman1@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd.chapman1@gmail.com)



### Contact Updates

Lloyd Chapman email change:  
[lloyd.chapman1@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd.chapman1@gmail.com)

Nancy Chapman email change: [weavingway52@gmail.com](mailto:weavingway52@gmail.com)

Christina and Andy Huber address update: 236 Mar Lou,  
Leola 17540

Bob and Alverta Martin address & phone change:  
3001 Lititz Pike, P.O. Box 5093, Lancaster, PA  
17606  
717-581-5751

Betty Rheinheimer phone update: 717-682-3618

### 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.*



