

Connecting with Dottie and Ira Nolt

Ira and Dottie are contentedly settled into retirement in Ira's home place along Hammon Avenue in Ephrata. They say they have found the Promised Land after forty years of wandering around the country and beyond.

Ira looks at his life in segments of seasons. His childhood was as a farm boy, shifting gears to truck driver after high school. Thirdly and most of his life he was a scientist. And now he enjoys retirement.

Born into a Lancaster County farm family, Ira was the second oldest of thirteen. Life revolved around farm work, church and school. Ira was eight when he took over the milking duties from his mother. Tractors were replacing horses, times changed.



The Nolt family attended Metzler Mennonite Church and Ephrata Mennonite summer Bible school. Ira joined church at fifteen. Summer memories include an annual trip to Hershey Park.

His father was not dogmatic in his religious views and was open to different points of view. This helped Ira, early on, to conclude that each person travels a unique journey with differing views of life.

Dottie Denlinger grew up on a dairy farm near Strasburg, the second oldest of five children of Paul and Ruth. Grandmother Denlinger and an aunt lived in the other part of their large double house.

Everyone helped with the work of the farm and gardens. Grandma sold produce, dressed chickens, eggs and delicious vegetables and fruits at Central Market in Lancaster. When Dottie was eight years old, she began to help grandma sell her wares at the market.

Dottie attended Mellinger Mennonite Church where they were members. She has fond memories of Sunday school and summer Bible school. Most Sunday evenings they would visit Grandma Hershey on her farm in Paradise.

Neighbors were also second cousins and there were many fun times on summer evenings when they played "kick the can" and ate icy cold watermelon after finishing the chores. Entertainment was listening to the Lone Ranger, Sergeant Preston of the Yukon and other stories on the radio.

Life was simple and roles were clear. Everyone had a place in the family and all felt loved and cared for.

Dottie found the language of flowers at an early age. She made small bouquets of violets from along the road and gave them to her mother. She has fond memories of planting and weeding flowerbeds on their farm.

Dottie's mother was diagnosed with leukemia when Dottie was a teenager. The bishop came to their home and anointed her. She was also given radiation treatments. The doctor gave her two years to live. Dottie fully expected to become the caregiver for her younger siblings. However, her mother lived to be ninety-four.

As a teenager, Dottie was part of Mellinger Young People's meetings where she sang in a ladies trio. They sang in

Inside this issue:

	Page
<i>Pray for One Another . . .</i>	3
<i>Pastor's Perspective</i>	4
<i>DSECC Summer Update . .</i>	4
<i>MYF Convention Reflec- tions</i>	5
<i>ADNet/Dementia</i>	6
<i>VBS 2017</i>	7
<i>4 Our Kids</i>	7
<i>August (and beyond) . . .</i>	8
<i>August birthdays</i>	9

Worship Schedule

August	
6	Rachel Nolt
13	Karyn Nancarvis
20	Rachel Nolt
27	Rachel Nolt

other churches and at Youth for Christ meetings that were popular in those years.

By 1950 they were permitted to have YFC meetings in high school. The clubs had quiz teams, like some churches do now. Dottie remembers studying Ephesians to be on the quiz team in her senior year. She graduated in 1954 and took a secretarial job at Vallorbs Jewel Company in Bird-in-Hand.

When Ira graduated from Ephrata High School in 1955, he was interested in college, but saw cost as an insurmountable obstacle, so he chose to work. It was in this gap year that Ira realized that college could open doors to a career in science with opportunity to travel. Both of these appealed to him.

College became affordable when Ira was awarded an F&M scholarship. The remaining cost was met by working summers as a Teamster truck driver, delivering concrete blocks that he unloaded by hand.

When Dottie met Ira, she had no idea how her life would be changed. They were married in 1957 at Mellinger Mennonite Church during Ira's second year of college. From this day forward, life became a mutual journey of discovery and travel.

After college graduation, they devoted the next three years to enjoying family, which now included their two daughters, Beverly and Cynthia. Ira worked at Armstrong Lancaster Labs. Their best memories are of tent camping at the Jersey shore.

The early 1960s were marking the beginning of the US space program. Many fellowships became available for graduate studies, and this drew Ira's attention and sparked his interest. He was awarded a fellowship at Cornell University.

Arriving in Ithaca, New York, in 1963, the family lived in married student housing and made many close friendships. Dottie and Ira made it a priority to connect with a church in each of their moves. They attended Presbyterian while in Ithaca. They would learn to be ecumenical as they traveled the country for Ira's work.

With his PhD in hand, Ira was offered an astronomy position at the University of Hawaii. His research provided very sensitive sensors for the large astronomical telescopes being built by NASA on the 14,000-foot summit of Mauna Kea.

The family was excited to live in Hawaii. One day Ira could be on the snowy summit and the next day surfing off Waikiki. Adding to their good fortune, a spectacular volcanic eruption of Kilauea occurred shortly after they arrived. During their three years in Hawaii, they visited three main islands, camping and hiking many trails.



The difficult decision was whether to accept a permanent university position or return to the mainland. Family ties were strong and became the factor in their leaving this paradise that they had come to love.

They returned to the states by accepting a position at the University of Oregon in Eugene. This rainy locale was a big change from surf and sun on the island.

The move proved to be a good choice. There were excellent public schools for their daughters, as well as reconnection with the Mennonite community. They joined North Park Community Church where their daughters were baptized and became active in the youth group.



Dottie's love of flowers helped her find employment in a flower shop. Her creativity with flowers was a satisfying contribution to the community.

Ira's new research position provided critical results for understanding ozone loss in the upper atmosphere. This research was a collaboration involving Italian and British scientists to fly balloon-borne instruments to the edge of Earth's atmosphere.

In 1977 Ira was awarded a national Academy of Sciences fellowship at NOAA's Cloud Research Lab in Boulder, Colorado. For the next ten years he directed atmospheric research for NASA and NOAA, residing in either Eugene or Boulder.

In 1987 Dottie and Ira moved to Virginia where Ira accepted a position at NASA's Langley Research Center to study climate change.

They connected with Williamsburg Mennonite Church. Dottie worked with flowers in a shop where she was part of the team that designed and hung the decorations for Historic Williamsburg, especially for the Grand Illumination during the Christmas season.

By this time Beverly and Cynthia had moved East and married. By 2001 Dottie and Ira welcomed six granddaughters.

Ira was awarded a NASA Thomson Fellowship to study the role of high altitude cirrus in climate change. He and Dottie spent a year in London where he worked with colleagues at Queen Mary and Westfield College.



Photo by Dottie Nolt

Dottie enjoyed this time to take day trips by coach, visiting historic castles and gardens. The highlight was an invitation for her to accompany Ira to a tea with Queen Elizabeth in attendance, for the dedication of a new fine arts building at Queen Mary College.

Then age sixty-five came over the horizon and they both retired after forty years and moved to Ephrata. They began coming to AMC where Dottie sang in the choir, served on the 55+ committee and is currently on the library committee.

Ira followed his long time interest in medical science by training for nurse aid and EMT certification. He served as volunteer for ten years in the emergency room at Ephrata Community Hospital.

For the past seventeen years their family has vacationed together at Bethany Beach. They look forward to this tradition each year because the granddaughters say, "It's the best week of the year."

Dottie enjoys continuing education classes at Longwood Gardens. She also enjoys helping her sister make arrangements for banquets and continues to improve her designs. As she works with each individual flower, Dottie observes the hand of God in each beautiful creation. They are thankful to God for sixty years of love as they continue to traverse the stages of life together.

~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 August 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
Becca Martin

Al Claassen
Paul Martin

Carolyn & John Horst
Philip Rutt

Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank



***Please send in your submissions
for the September newsletter by
August 28. Thanks!***



Pastor's Perspective: Future Church Summit and Akron Mennonite Church

I had the privilege of participating in the Future Church Summit of Mennonite Church USA during the Mennonite Church USA gathering in Orlando, FL, July 4-8. During the Summit each participant joined an assigned group of 7 other people to answer a lot of questions. (The questions and answers are available on the web or from our church administrator.) A "theme team" collected responses from all the tables and developed a nine-page summary. In the end, there was another question: What had actually happened? And what would we do with the results? The Mennonite Church USA delegates decided that we had produced, "a dynamic document that is offered to the church to guide further discernment for living into God's calling in agencies, conference, constituency groups and congregations." If you read the nine-page document, you may think that it doesn't say anything or at least not anything new. Had I not been at the Summit, I would probably agree. But having been at the table, I offer this perspective. I believe that the process was more important than the document produced. I believe that the document says, "We want to be a church that resources each other, broadly speaking. We gather together to worship, sing, eat, and work. We share ideas and financial and material resources. We want to be inclusive, not exclusive. We work at justice, peacemaking, creation care, mission and education together." The document also says, "We do not want to be about rules and regulation. We do not want to be about who is in and who is out." This interpretation is, of course, my perspective. Others attending the Summit may have heard other things. My hope is that the conversation has begun and we will keep talking. Often it is in asking the questions that we start living into the answers.



So what does the Summit have to do with us at Akron Mennonite Church? We are starting to ask questions about our future. Groups and committees are asking about their purposes. Is this committee needed at this time? *What* is needed in the congregation at this time? But before we ask these questions, we may need to ask questions about each other to build connection and relationship. That is what we did at the Future Church Summit. Before addressing organizational questions, we shared from our own story. Maybe within our congregation, we could invite each other to tell a story about a time when we felt connected to a larger force outside ourselves or about a time when we felt connected to this group of people, Akron Mennonite Church. As we continue to build connection and relationship with each other, we create a space to explore our future together. Often it is in asking the questions that we start living into the answers.

~Rachel Nolt



Left: DSECC summer campers make dog biscuits to donate to the Humane League.

Right: Campers enjoying a game of picture charades



Summer Update from DSECC

Diamond Street has had a busy summer. Our school-age summer camp has spent their summer focusing on caring for our community. During the month of August we will be wrapping up our food drive to support CV Christian Community Services, hold a Yard Sale to benefit the Akron Fire Department, bake biscuits for the Humane League, create busy bags for children residing at Pediatric Specialty Care due to illness and so much more! Be on the lookout for information on our fall 5K. We thank AMC for their support and our wonderful partnership. ~Heather Sics

MYF Reflections on MCUSA Convention Orlando, Florida July 4-8, 2017



"It was July 7th at 12:30. Three thousand youth in the building, but two strangers met for the first time and didn't know a thing about each other. One of them confessed about what was wrong and the other listened and told him what to do. The older stranger told the younger stranger to have crazy love for God." (*Liam Magill reflecting on his experience at Convention.*)

Liam's experience has led to him engaged in a weekly book study based on the book "Crazy Love" written by Francis Chan. This is love in action!



As youth advisor, I'd like to share how well our kids represented themselves, our church and Christ with their respectful and considerate behavior. They were on time (for the most part!), well-spoken, respectful of themselves and others and they took care of one another. Their servant hearts shined as they showed their strong work ethic in extremely hot and humid temperatures improving the landscape on a large Community College parking lot. They did not complain one time . . .

They showed how love can be in action by connecting with youth from other congregations; they were engaged in their seminars; they actively reflected in small group sessions; and they were accepting and including of one another at every opportunity. Worship was the most anticipated event of the day with inspiring speakers, energetic music and meaningful sharing. They have adopted the benediction song to be our own. This song was specifically written by the praise and worship band just for this convention and is called "Seeds". The music and lyrics are below.

Score

Seeds

Sending Song
composed for the 2017 MCUSA Convention

Walking Roots Band

These seeds you have sown In our hearts and in our bones Cov - er them with your

love Use our hands, use our feet To show your love and your peace

Cov - er us Cov - er us Cov - er us with love.

©The Walking Roots Band, 2017
www.thewalkingrootsband.com

A highlight for me was when I challenged the youth with how they will bring their new "Love is a Verb" concept back home. They responded in sharing how they've become passionately inspired to show love in action as a group, and hold a deep desire to begin a specific community outreach project right here in Akron.

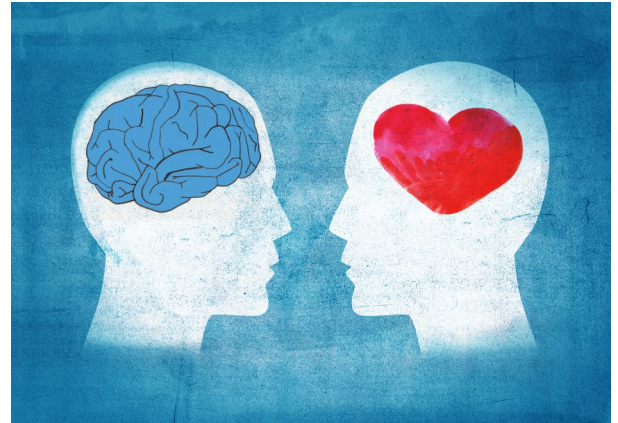
They are this way because of YOU, their families, YOU our church and YOU, our Advisor team that surround and support them with constant love and care. They are this way because they see YOU exemplifying love in action and are taught by your faith lived out, launched from Sunday gatherings here in this place. Let us all keep Christ alive in living love in action, as a verb.

~Karyn Nancarvis

Dementia

I remember how my grandmother expressed her fervent wish that she would not become forgetful and lose her ability to think clearly. I remember that Peter J. Dyck wrote a book called "Getting Home Before Dark." He prayed that God would let him die before age robbed him of his ability to be kind, trusting, loving and generous.

I remember my mother-in-law being grateful that she could still think clearly at the age of 93. But what will happen if I no longer have the ability to remember? Will I be able to be kind, trusting, loving and generous until I die?



I hope that if I can no longer remember, my family, friends and caregivers will remember for me, that they will honor the wishes I have written down while my mind is clear. I take heart in seeing that individuals with Alzheimer's disease are cared for tenderly, people like Harold Reed who is a resident at Landis Homes. His wife, Barbara, is a trained RN and leads educational seminars for nursing students, chaplains, caregivers, pastors and congregants. Barbara recently shared the following:

"Does he still know you?" Although assuming that people mean well, I resented this question concerning my husband until deciding more recently on what is, hopefully, a helpful, balanced response.

So I answer like this: "No, Harold likely does not know that I am his wife and that my name is Barbara BUT (a strong but!) it is only the mind that fails!" A person with dementia has emotional memory; therefore, when I am present, he experiences warm and pleasant feelings. Additionally, his spirit is strong, likely more acute than you or I experience. Particularly at bedtime, I have often observed him raise his arm high into the air and, holding it there for long minutes, he smiles, often chuckles, too, and finally says something which only God understands. It is a beautiful sight and I sense that the boundary which separates you and me from the next world has thinned considerably for him so that his spirit communes with God in luminal space. Perhaps he talks with Jesus or sees into heaven; God knows!"



~Submitted by Marilyn Langeman

September 16 – Bike/Walk Millersville (formerly Dream Ride) to benefit No Longer Alone Ministries starts at 7:30 AM.

September 21 – the annual Fall Ministry Banquet and Silent Auction benefiting No Longer Alone Ministries featuring Ted Swartz of Ted & Company. Location: Calvary Church, Lancaster. Time: 5:30 pm - Silent Auction & Registration; 6:30 pm – Dinner & Program.



More information and registration at <http://www.nlam.org/events> or contact Ken/Marilyn Langeman at 717-859-3840 or kmlangeman@hotmail.com.

VBS 2017: Maker Fun Factory

Our Vacation Bible School experience was shared with our neighbors, Akron Church of the Brethren. Nine of AMC's children and more than four adults were engaged with 75 other children and teachers, in learning, teaching, and interacting with Bible stories, praise music, and building crafts. They were challenged to imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Their creativity was ignited with interactive decoration and experiences. The theme was "Maker Fun Factory" and included crafts with robot themes, healthy snacks, stories from both Old and New Testaments, Bible verse memory, and energetic songs of praise. The five-evening session program (6:00-8:15) ended with an ice cream social celebration. Thank you to our volunteers for dedicating their time and energy to support this program.



Community Spotlight: 4 Our Kids

4 Our Kids, a program which received funds from our 2016 Christmas Thank offering, was formed in 2012 by Akron resident Carol Stark and several friends to prevent high school youth in the Ephrata area from dropping out of school. It is a scholarship program, providing funds for summer school for students who are in danger of dropping out or who may have already dropped out due to poor grades, bad study habits, low income, dysfunctional family life, or homelessness. Some students in our area live wherever they can find shelter, including stairwells and in the storm sewers under Ephrata Borough. Last winter eight youth also lived in the woods under tarps behind Walmart. Carol Stark brought them two meals each day. She also helps these youth complete applications on why they need the scholarship funds, helps them find jobs, and help with her fundraisers in the community.

The scholarship program provides the \$250 tuition for each student to study over the summer to improve their grades, complete high school, graduate with a diploma and give them the opportunity to reach for success throughout life. Any student awarded a scholarship must complete a local community service project. This allows Stark and her group to get to know the students, help them find jobs, assist with a resume, and find helpers for her numerous projects in the community. In 2016, 43 students were sponsored for the scholarship program by 4 Our Kids and all of them graduated from the program. Contributions to provide a scholarship for the 4 Our Kids program or to support the activities Carol Stark provides to the Ephrata community can be sent to 4 Our Kids, c/o Carol Stark, 14 Crestview Drive, Akron, PA 17501.

~submitted by Anita Brendle

August (and beyond) at AMC & in the Community

August Upcoming Events

- August 1** Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
1 Corn-cutting @ AMC kitchen @ 6:30 pm
 for Ephrata Community Meal
2 Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 p,m
3 Men's Breakfast @ 7:00 am @ Udder Choice;
 Herman Bontrager, presenter
3 AMC prepares and serves the Ephrata Commu-
 nity Meal
6 Men's choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am @ AMC;
 Sing for 9:00 am worship service
6 Ordination of Ginny Hartman @ AMC during
 Morning worship
9 Hospitality Committee Meeting @ 7:00 pm
20 Opportunity to host Chinese students for lunch
22 Early fall yoga resumes @ AMC
25 Re-paving of AMC driveways and parking lots

MYF Upcoming Events

- August 4-6** Planning retreat at Paradise Lake
October 20-21 Lititz Storytelling Festival



Music in the Orchard—Summer concerts conclude at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, at the 1719 Herr House & Museum with Smokehouse 4, a local group drawing on New Orleans blues and soul. Tickets are \$8, children under 12 are free, no advance registration is required.

Swiss-German 1717 Immigrant Journey to Lancaster—Come along on a field trip retracing the path of the large 1717 group of early immigrants to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The highlight of the trip is sailing the Christina River aboard the Kalmar Nyckel, a replica of the Swedish boat which brought the first European settlers in 1638 to the Delaware Valley. Registration costs \$130 for members, \$145 for non-members, and is due August 16. For more information and to register visit lmhs.org or call (717) 393-9745.

Bookworm Frolic—The annual Bookworm Frolic is rapidly approaching. Come out to 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA, between Wednesday, August 16 and Friday, August 18 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturday, August 19 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), to purchase your favorite used books and support the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

SAVE THESE DATES

- October 21** Fall Fest with DSECC
March 24, 2018 MYF Auction

August Hosting Opportunity

Please consider inviting a small group of 2 to 4 Chinese students to your home for lunch on August 20. This opportunity is coordinated by Kathleen Roth, former AMC'er and Director of EMU's Intensive English Program.

The Intensive English Program of Eastern Mennonite University is collaborating with Franklin & Marshall College to offer an academic bridge program (cultural orientation) to around 22 incoming Freshmen from China.

They will be staying at the Welcoming Place at MCC from August 17 to August 23. The program is hoping to be able to get these students, in groups of 2 to 4, into an American home or family type of experience during lunchtime on Sunday, August 20, 2017. Students will come to AMC for departures to homes, and should be returned by their hosts to MCC.

Please let Rebecca in the church office know if you would like to offer hospitality in this way.

Support MCC at the Gap Relief Auction

Friday, August 11, 4:00—8:30 pm
 Saturday, August 12, 6:00 am—4:00 pm
 Solanco Fairgrounds, 172 S. Lime St., Quarryville, PA
 Food, auctions, Marketplace, and more!

ACC Youth Committee Fundraiser

Enjoy a meal at Outback Steakhouse (100 North Point Boulevard, Lancaster) on Tuesday, August 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. and 15% of your order will be donated to the ACC Youth Committee. Please mention ACC Youth for us to benefit from your meal. Let us know you'll be coming at:
www.groupraise.com/events/29786



AUGUST Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Gerry Raber	2	3	4	5
6	7 Ray Hacker	8 Charity Shenk	9	10 Amanda Chap Jon Clemens Edgar Stoesz	11 Randy Puljek- Shank	12
13 Renny Magill Sandi Richard Wood	14	15	16 Dottie Nolt	17	18 Don Brubaker	19 Eileen Graybill
20 Susan Martin Karmen Zimmerman	21	22 Joyce Longe- necker Karyn Nancarvis John Weaver	23 Jessie Buck- walter Amy Herr Sawyer Martin	24 Feleen Nancarvis	25	26 Cheryl Zook Justice
27	28	29	30 Terri Hess Mae Weaver	31		

Akron Mennonite Church

1311 Diamond Street
Akron, PA 17501
P: (717) 859-1488
E: amc@akronmench.org

www.akronmench.org

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



Staff

Rachel Nolt
Pastor

rnolt@akronmench.org

Karyn Nancarvis
Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries

knancarvis@akronmench.org

Melody Rupley
Director of Equipping Ministries

mrupley@akronmench.org

Patricia Martin
Minister of Music and Worship

pmartin@akronmench.org

Rebecca Pereverzoff
Administrator

rpereverzoff@akronmench.org
amc@akronmench.org

Contact Updates

J.W. Sprunger's new email address:
jwsprunger@gmail.com

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.