

## Connecting with Rich and Mary Jane Crockett

Rich and Mary Jane met at Goshen when she arrived as a transfer student from Hesston College. Rich was high on her list of interesting guys to meet, the list that she kept in her Phillips translation of the New Testament.

The chemistry was there; however, they dated for two years to be sure, and were married in 1971 by Nevin Bender and Edwin Alderfer at the Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont. This past July they celebrated forty-six years, along with Barb and HA Penner, who share the same date.



Connecting to Mary Jane's family opened a new world for Rich in the Blooming Glen/Souderton/Vermont arenas. This was foreign to him, a southern boy from non-Mennonite background.

Richard Crockett came into the world May 8, 1947 at Hicks Clinic, Camden, Tennessee, sharing his birthday with Harry S. Truman. His lineage is the real Davy Crockett line, through his dad, Edward Hugh Crockett, who was twenty and in the service when Rich was born. His eighteen-year-old mother Jo Sue was in charge. When she got polio, and was in the Vanderbilt Hospital, grandparents took Rich. Much separation time from both parents left Rich calling them Hugh and Sue until he was in high school.

When Rich's dad came home from his years of service, the area was depressed from years of drought and farm failures. The family alternated between attending the Methodist Church one Sunday and the Church of Christ the next.

Dad decided to move the family to Peoria, Illinois, hoping for a job with Caterpillar Tractor. There were several moves around town, and Rich spent his first years in different schools.

The connection to Mennonites came when Dad moved the family from the city to Morton, to a farm house owned by Harold Yordy. The local Mennonites invited the Crocketts to the local church where Clyde Fulmer was pastor.

Rich was baptized in the First Mennonite Church of Morton in 1962 and became active in the music program. He led singing for the first time at Watch Night service 1965, and this triggered his interest and participation in church music.

In high school, Rich sang in the choir, was yearbook photographer, loved English, Speech, History, and the power of words. He shook hands with JFK at a political event in Peoria. Two years later he met LBJ, heady times for this boy.

Rich competed in the state music vocal contest and was stage manager for the high school musical, as well as chorus manager.

After graduation, Rich went to Goshen College on academic probation, taking history with John Oyer and Speech

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### Worship Schedule

Mar. 4 . . .	Randall Justice
11 . .	Karyn Nancarvis
18 . . . . .	Rachel Nolt
25 . .	Karyn Nancarvis
29 . .	Maundy Thursday

with Al Albrecht. From that summer, he enrolled with a double major of music and history.

At this juncture, Mary Jane transferred from Hesston College to Goshen. Mary Jane had chosen Hesston for a start to get as far away from home as possible, to be independent.

Mary Jane Schmill was only two years old when her parents left their comfortable life on Cherry Street in Souderton, Pennsylvania to pioneer church work in Vermont. They were members of Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, and this church made it their calling to start church planting. They, being salt of the earth, felt that the area was salty enough; time to share the salt beyond their comfort zone.

Wilmer and Jean, along with two other couples, left their jobs and moved their families to remote Vermont. They found jobs and attended the most important job, that of being good neighbors. This was a powerful impact on the community and they were loved and touched by their neighbors.

Mary Jane, along with older sister Judy, attended the local rural schools. They looked forward to trips back to Pennsylvania to visit relatives and friends. The home tie was strong. When they finished elementary school, they left home to attend Christopher Dock Mennonite High School.

Mary Jane reflects on her rich life growing up in Vermont, in a new world with new experiences. As a teenager, she helped in the family motel business across the street. The "Maid of Farm Brook Motel" describes her role in summer months.

Mary Jane's young brother, Michael Han, was adopted from an orphanage in Korea. He arrived after the girls were married, so he enjoyed being an only child.

When Mary Jane transferred from Hesston to Goshen, it was during a time of campus upheaval. Echoes of MLK and RFK and the March on Washington rippled across campus. Rich was appointed business manager of Maple Leaf, the school year book, in the role of diplomacy between administration and campus radicals.

Rich had his sights on graduate school to study music, and he applied to several reputable schools. However, a day at a job fair changed his future forever.

Rich was offered a position at Mennonite Publishing House as Trades Sales Manager for Herald Press. He and Mary Jane moved to Scottdale where Mary Jane taught school at Connelville as a substitute teacher.

The next move took them to Bloomington, Illinois where Rich gave Dawn Yoder her first job as a clerk in Provident Bookstore. During this time Mary Jane got her realtor's license and sold real estate.

Mary Jane and Rich came to Lancaster in 1984 and built a house in East Petersburg where they live currently. Rich was manager of PBS in Lancaster. Mary Jane came to AMC in 1981 and Rich came a bit later. They both offered their gifts to the life of our community.

Rich became involved in music, serving as song leader, chair of music committee, interim music minister, and in recent years he leads men's choir, following the footsteps of Warren Leatherman.

Rich has also served on worship committee, Task Force for repurposing and, for the last three years, he has been one anchor for MYF. He was youth teacher for a college group that just graduated, following them through their years of growing at AMC. He has special ties with Peter Wise, Michael Forrey, Megan Yoder, Megan Erb, Hannah Yoder, and Kate Smucker. This group gave us the Peace pole beside the entrance.

Rich says he stays at AMC "because it is where I belong and where my people are. I also totally love the MYF, such a great tribe of young people who are finding out where they belong."

Rich describes himself theologically as a reluctant Anabaptist. He didn't come to it easily. He comes from a military family all the way back to the Revolutionary War. There have been tough discussions and tough decisions.

There were pivotal moments, events and books that helped Rich through this passage. First was a close relationship with Alan Kreider, then reading The Anabaptist Vision by HS Bender. Other influential books were The Cost of Discipleship and The Kingdom of God read together. In addition, Rich was surrounded and influenced by notable church people as he shared the platform in song leading.

Beyond church, Rich tells of his current work: "one of the most satisfying jobs anyone can imagine at Technology

Marketing Toolkit based in Franklin, Tennessee.” He appreciates the mutual respect among colleagues. He is equally empowered by his job of training IT owners in sales and marketing.

Rich left Provident thirty years ago when the store moved to the Lancaster Shopping Center from downtown. He has enjoyed various job experiences since then.

Mary Jane spent the years parenting when Michael and Josh were young. Later she was a substitute teacher in the public schools. Now her prime focus is on four grandchildren, visiting whenever she can, to their homes in Vermont and Colorado.

Last summer Rich and Mary Jane hosted their sons and families at the Delaware shore for a week. It was so successful and fun, that they plan to make it a tradition.

Rich has many interests. He collects old hymnals as well as stamps. Then there is cooking his favorite and famous recipes. Rich and Mary Jane love doting on four grandchildren as well as traveling.

~Priscilla Ziegler

### *Pastor’s Perspective*

#### **Maundy Thursday**

“This is the night of love.”

“Maundy” is an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin “mandatum” meaning commandment. We remember Maundy Thursday as the day that Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Gathering and remembering the events of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples is layered with story, a story of Divine love. Jesus and his friends were gathered to celebrate the Passover, a holy feast for the Jewish people. In celebrating Passover, Jesus and his friends gathered to remember the story of God’s great love for the Israelites, God’s liberation of the Israelite slaves from Egypt’s Pharaoh. Jesus celebrated God’s story of love and then acted in love to his friends by washing their feet. So when we gather for the Maundy Thursday service on March 29, we remember the liberation of the Israelite captives and Jesus’ love for his disciples. Then we, too, act in love, to our friends in this church community by eating together, washing hands or feet, contributing to the Agape fund of the congregation, and then sharing communion. This is a service of love—remembering God’s love to the Israelites, remembering Jesus’ love to his disciples and recognizing the Spirit of love that is among us as a congregation. This is not necessarily a solemn service, though it isn’t a party either. There are times for laughter and joy in God’s goodness to us. And there are times of contemplation and reflection on God’s goodness to us in the midst of struggle and pain. I invite you to join with others to eat and laugh, to wash hands or feet and remember, to break bread together in deep gratitude for our life together.

—Rachel Nolt



### *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 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

Irma Bowman

Al Claassen

Flo Harnish

Carolyn & John Horst

Paul Martin

Philip Rutt

Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank

## Safe Church Events



### Second Congregational Presentation

#### How Sexual Offenders “Groom” Children: What Every Adult Needs to Know

**March 11 during Second Hour in the Sanctuary**

All adults in the congregation who want to protect children and teens in the church, family and community from sexual harm are invited to this session. During this session, the presenter will provide an overview of the 5-step grooming process offenders often use to engage children in a trusting relationship prior to sexually exploiting the child. We will also view the compelling video “It’s Not Just Jenna,” based on a true story of a teen sexually abused by a family friend. Her story illustrates how insidious the grooming process is, and helps viewers to better recognize the “red flags” that Jenna’s parents missed. Their courage, good counseling, and faith in God allowed Jenna’s family to heal from this tragedy, and now they want to share their wisdom with others. It can be difficult and disturbing to engage in conversation around this topic of sexual exploitation of children. The Safe Church Committee (Amy Herr, Karyn Nancarvis, Rachel Nolt, Ethel Shank and Jim Shenk) encourages individuals to practice self-care in regards to attending the presentation. We want to continue to be a congregation that is proactive in protecting children from harm including sexual harm—not just in church but in the community as well, which is why we are promoting this educational opportunity. But we are aware that depending on an individual’s experience, attendance to such a presentation could be damaging to self. We trust that individuals will be wise in choosing to participate or not. Following the presentation, committee members will be available for further conversation and support if it is needed.

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### Tamar Speaks

#### A Safe Church Retreat for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

**Saturday, April 21, 2018 8:30am – 3:00pm**

**Gretna Glen Retreat Center, 87 Old Mine Road, Lebanon, PA**

Tamar speaks! How does the story of Tamar, the daughter of King David who was raped by her brother, speak to us today? We invite you to join us as together we learn about the power of Tamar’s story and how it can guide us as we explore our own healing and resilience. How will we claim our survivor’s voice? What is our call to action? Through art, journaling and fellowship we will create space to hear and be heard as we explore how our stories speak out about surviving, resilience, and ways to use our voices. Healing and justice can begin in our churches and community as together we rise up to end child sexual abuse.

Akron Mennonite Deacon Leadership Team will pay the cost (\$35 including lunch) for all members and attenders who would like to attend this Samaritan Center retreat. Just contact Samaritan Center (Deb Helt at 717 560-9969 ext. 273, or email [dhelt@scclanc.org](mailto:dhelt@scclanc.org)) by April 9 to register and say you are from Akron Mennonite. Samaritan Center will not release your name to us.

The retreat will be led by Lisa Hanna Witmer, MSW, LSW, a trauma-trained therapist; Linda Crockett, Director of Samaritan Safe Church; and Deb Helt, Safe Church Senior Facilitator & Congregation Support Specialist. New activities and fresh material have been added, so if you have attended before, return and add your voice to the community!

*Samaritan Safe Church is a social movement-building program working to equip all adults to protect children and teens from sexual abuse in our churches and communities where we live and work. Safe Church seeks to empower adult survivors of sexual abuse in our faith communities.*

***Keeping up with the MYF***



Scenes from the cabin weekend in northern PA February 9-11. Youth from AMC and Plains Mennonite joined for a weekend of fun in the snow, great food provided by Rich Crockett, and contemplation of the theme “What are friends for?” The group joined Lake View Mennonite Church for worship on Sunday morning.  
*Photos by Jessie Buckwalter & Karyn Nancarvis*



***2018 Auction***

Plan to attend this year’s auction on Saturday, March 24! The meal begins at 4:30, followed by the auction at 5:45. A great variety of food, meals, handmade items, and other treasures will be auctioned off. The proceeds will fund scholarships for AMC youth who attend Mennonite colleges and universities, and the MYF’s summer service project to DOOR in Denver, CO this June.



March 23	6:00—9:00 pm	Set up for Auction
March 24	12:00—9:00 pm	Auction prep/Auction
June 17-23	DOOR service project in Denver, CO	

## Plan to attend **THIS EVIL THING** on **March 13** at **AMC**

**THIS EVIL THING**

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY  
**Michael Mears**

Michael Mears  
**'One exceptional man'**  
THE OBSERVER

**"YOU CAN'T FORCE A MAN TO MURDER AGAINST HIS WILL!"**

★★★★  
**'Moving and dynamic'**  
THE LIST

★★★★  
**'Gripping'**  
THE SCOTSMAN

★★★★  
**'Inspirational and disturbing'**  
FESTMAG

★★★★  
**'A magnificent tour de force'**  
SCOTSGAY

ACCLAIMED PRESENTATION OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION DURING WWI

AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH  
1311 DIAMOND STREET  
AKRON, PA 17501

TUESDAY, MARCH  
13, 2018  
7:30 P.M.

*THIS EVIL THING* is the compelling, inspiring and rarely told story of the men who said no to WWI in England as well as those who supported them. The play's U.S. premiere will be on March 13, 2018 at the Akron Mennonite Church, 1311 Diamond Street, Akron, Pa. 17501 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On a six-week tour of the U.S. sponsored by the Center on Conscience and War (<http://www.centeronconscience.org>), *THIS EVIL THING* communicates conscientious objection in the historical context and highlights the need for continued advocacy for rights of conscience for all those who oppose war. With military conscription still in force in many countries today and prisoners of conscience still languishing in jails, the questions posed by *THIS EVIL THING* are as relevant and urgent today as they were one hundred years ago.

Michael Mears, the "award-winning master of the one-man show" (The List), portrays a gallery of characters from conscientious objectors to army generals, from Prime Ministers to world-famous mathematicians, with breath-taking physical and vocal dexterity, in a highly original piece of storytelling. At its 2016 world premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe, *THIS EVIL THING* received four-star reviews and acclaim from audiences and press alike:

'A moving and dynamic retelling of a hidden story' (The List)

'An inspirational and disturbing work' - (Festmag)

'Magnificent storytelling' - Amnesty International

A time for questions and answers will follow the performance. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be taken to offset this play's U.S. tour costs with the balance of the proceedings going to the Center on Conscience and War.

—H.A. Penner

## Campus Chorale to perform at AMC

On Sunday, March 18, Lancaster Mennonite High School's Campus Chorale will present a message of hope, joy, peace, and love through song in an afternoon concert at AMC. The concert will begin at 4:00 pm. A freewill offering will be taken in support of Lancaster Mennonite School. All are invited.



**‘For God’s sake,  
ask yourselves  
– this protest of  
yours ...  
is it really  
worth losing  
your lives  
over?’**



January 1916. Bertrand Russell is one of the greatest mathematicians of his time. Bert Brocklesby is a young schoolteacher and Methodist preacher. When military conscription is brought in, their worlds are turned upside down.

**THIS EVIL THING** is the compelling and inspiring story of the men who said no to war. From a chapel in Yorkshire to the House of Commons, from a cell in

Richmond Castle to a firing squad in France, the questions raised here are as relevant and urgent as they were 100 years ago.

**Michael Mears, ‘the award-winning master of the one-man show’** (*The List*) portrays conscientious objectors and a host of other characters with breath-taking physical and vocal dexterity, in this highly original piece of storytelling – partly using verbatim testimonies, while interacting with a multi-layered sound landscape and vivid visual imagery.

Michael’s previous solo plays – *Soup*, about homelessness, and *Tomorrow We Do The Sky* – won critical acclaim and a Scotsman Fringe First Award.

He has also written and performed five specially commissioned solo plays for BBC Radio 4.

[www.facebook.com/thisevilthing](http://www.facebook.com/thisevilthing)

**‘Michael Mears  
is that rare  
combination  
of fine writer  
and formidable  
actor.’**

Bonnie Greer,  
*Time Out*

Directed by  
**Rosamunde Hutt**

Sound design by  
**Mark Noble**

Set design by  
**Mark Friend**

Lighting design by  
**Zoe Spurr**

Produced in association  
with **Room One**  
(roomone.com)



Photography: simonrichardson.org

**‘A fast moving, inspiring, informative drama – first class’**

Bruce Kent

## *Hidden Disabilities*

As an advocate for people in our congregation who have a disability or mental illness, I often read resources found on the Anabaptist Disabilities Network website. You can do this too:

<http://www.adnetonline.org>



Here's an article on hidden disabilities found on the ADNet website:

### **Hidden disabilities**

Hidden disabilities—or invisible disabilities—cover a broad range of conditions. Examples include: renal failure, diabetes, sleep disorders, visual or auditory impairments, fibromyalgia or chronic pain due to other conditions, mental illnesses, chronic dizziness, and many more—affecting up to 10% of the population. Psychiatric disabilities make up a large segment of those that may be “hidden.” Just as people without disabilities easily underestimate the talents of people with visible disabilities, they easily underestimate the challenges facing those who do not appear to have a disability. Keep in mind that this is likely the case with many who attend your congregation.

Some who live with the challenge of a hidden disability are able to be fully active at work, sports, hobbies, and church activities. Others can maintain full- or part-time employment but have little energy for other things. Still others are unable to maintain employment due to their disability and have trouble with ordinary congregational activities. As with all other human beings, each one is a beloved child of God and belongs in an equal measure to God's community in the church.

**Assume that disabilities you do not know about are present, and plan for people with hidden disabilities.** In churches (as in all of life) it is important not to judge other people by their appearance, since hidden disabilities can keep people from being able to do certain things and people with assistive devices will have abilities you can't see. It is important to listen to people, first, when you meet them and when in conversation. Don't assume, when you see someone walking from a car in a parking space reserved for people with disabilities, that they are taking advantage of the system. Instead, assume that disabilities you do not know about are present. Plan for people with hidden disabilities in church events (example: adequate sound amplification in meetings for those with hearing impairment).

Remember to treat others as you'd wish to be treated in their place. You may be there some day.

This article is found at:

<http://www.adnetonline.org/Resources/DisabilityTopics/Hidden-disabilities/Pages/default.aspx>

—submitted by Marilyn Langeman



## **Diamond Street Beat**

By Kim Bell  
March 2018

March is a time of growth and renewal. Spring is right around the corner and trees and plants are beginning to sprout and bloom. Lawns are turning green and everything seems fresh and new. Here at Diamond Street we welcome the warmer weather and the chance to enjoy the outdoors, whether it's playing on the playground, competing in a game of basketball, or racing around the parking lot!

This is also the time when we start planning and registering children for our Summer Camp. This year's theme is "Caring for our Community" and we plan to enroll a total of 24 children - 8 who have completed Kindergarten and 16 who have completed grades 1-4. If you would like to share a skill, talent, or special interest with our campers this summer, please let Kim or Mindy know. Some ideas include knitting, crocheting, birding, acting/drama, cooking/baking, dancing, gardening, origami, woodworking, painting, ceramics, etc. We'd love to have you share your talents with our campers!



## **Diamond Street Staff Bio**



Susan Stamm Miller is Diamond Street's Dietary Supervisor and is currently in her 18th year here! She is responsible for creating the center's menus, purchasing all the food, and cooking/preparing breakfast, lunch, and snack for all the children at the center; quite a task!

Sue has a BS in Community Nutrition from Eastern Mennonite University. She lives in Akron with her husband, Ed, the "Bookmobile Guy", and two cats. Sue and Ed have been married for 30 years. They have two daughters, both DSECC alumni.

She enjoys singing harmony with her talented friends, walking outside, birding, reading, baking, and watching her favorite shows on PBS and Netflix. Sue loves hearing the kids get excited about lunch. And we love that she puts her heart into every meal! Thank you for all you do, Sue!

## *March (and beyond) at AMC & in the Community*

### March Upcoming Events

- Mar. 1** Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7:00 am; John Weber, presenter
- 4** Sunday Soup following second hour
- 6** Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
- 7** Library Committee meeting @ 6:00 pm
- 8** Garden Spot residents' gathering @ 11:30 in Concord Room
- 11** Adult choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am; sing for 9:00 am service
- 13** Play "This Evil Thing" @ AMC @ 7:30 pm
- 14** Connect! @ AMC 6:00—7:30 pm
- 18** Men's choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am; sing for 9:00 am service
- 18** Campus Chorale concert @ AMC @ 4 pm
- 20** Women's Brown Bag Luncheon 11 am to 1 pm @ Helena Dueck's
- 24** MYF Auction; 4:30 pm meal; 5:45 auction
- 29** Maundy Thursday meal and service

*Lectio Divina meets each Tuesday at 7:30 am, and the Congregational Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 12:30 pm. Both meetings are in Rachel's office.*

### AMC Women's Brown Bag Luncheon

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

#### WELCOME!!!

Come and bring your own lunch on Tuesday, March 20th. Come between the hours of 11 am and 1 pm. Come for the whole 2 hours or for whatever segment of that time you are free. We will meet at the home of Helena Dueck in Ephrata



Directions to Helena's house: turn onto Martin Avenue from Route 322 at the traffic light going toward Ephrata Community Hospital; Helena's house will be on your left; 18 Martin Avenue. Helena will provide the coffee, tea and water along with hospitality.

### SAVE THE DATE

- April 1** Easter breakfast
- April 14** AMC Women's Retreat
- October 26-27** ACC Fall Assembly @ AMC

### *Attention AMC Women 2018 Half-Day Women's Retreat*

Please plan to join the 2018 AMC Women's Retreat on Saturday morning, April 14. Here are some details:

#### Date and Time:

Saturday, April 14, 2018

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Program and Coffee/Tea Break

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch

**Location:** AMC Assembly Room

**Presenter:** Rachel Nolt, Pastor

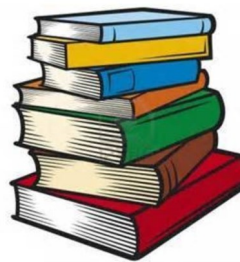
**Title:** *The Stories We Live*

**Registration Info:** Brochure and Registration forms will be distributed in mailboxes.

Return Registration forms to Ruth Weaver by Sunday, April 8.

#### Additional Info:

Rachel will be sharing some personal stories and formative life stories, both family stories and fiction.



Women attending are asked to bring a children's picture book or novel that has been particularly important in their lives to share with the other women.

#### Retreat Planners:

*Melanie Baer, Sarah Eby, Agnes Hacker, and Ruth Weaver*

THE ANNUAL LEOLA MOMS AUCTION will be held at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, 100 Quarry Road, Leola, on Friday, March 23. Supper, including homemade soups, beef barbecue, homemade baked goods and other goodies, will be served starting at 5 p.m., and the auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. A variety of gift baskets, spa certificates, household goods, jewelry, handmade items, baked goods, sponsored outings and events, and homemade peanut butter Easter eggs will be auctioned off. For over 40 years, Leola MOMS has been offering friendship, support and a variety of interesting programs for women in the local community while their children are cared for in a loving, nurturing Christian environment. Call the church at 717-656-6227 if you have any questions.



Join the Lancaster Chamber Singers for ***An Evening of Beautiful Music*** in support of MDS's hurricane relief efforts. Concert features guest soloist Amy Yovonovich, mezzo-soprano. Sunday, March 4 at 6:00 pm at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (333 Delp Rd., Lancaster). There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be taken. All proceeds benefit MDS.



The Bel Canto Singers of Hesston College will present a diverse repertoire of chorale music on **Monday, March 19 at 7pm at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church**, 333 Delp Rd, Lancaster, PA. The program entitled Living Water is inspired by biblical images of water that flow through the old and new testaments. The concert features a capella works, selections with piano, and special music by soloists and small ensembles. The 29 member, mixed chamber choir is conducted by Dr. Russell Adrian and accompanied by Kenneth Rodgers.



### 62nd Annual PA Relief Sale

When: April 6-7, 2018; Friday, 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Farm Show Complex (Harrisburg, PA)

- Auctions featuring handmade quilts, furniture, original artwork and much more
- Delicious treats including strawberry pie
- Children's activities
- Ten Thousand Villages merchandise and other artisan displays
- MCC alumni and friends gathering And more!

Visit [PaReliefSale.org](http://PaReliefSale.org) for additional details and a complete schedule of events.



**Holy Surprises, by Ted & Co.:** Laughter, and new understandings, are often rooted in surprise - surprises that delight, challenge, and inspire. Ted and Jeff will weave sketches, monologues and song into an evening celebrating God's subversive sense of humor. For when we are surprised, we almost always learn something new.

An evening to benefit the work of Kairos School of Spiritual Formation

Sunday, March 18, 2018

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 301 St. Thomas Rd. Lancaster, PA, 17601

Register at [www.kairosjourney.org](http://www.kairosjourney.org) by March 9th



Recommended donation per person: \$50



You are invited to attend the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies' annual banquet on Thurs., March 22, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be followed by the Durnbaugh Lectures at 7:30: "Update on the Boko Haram Crisis in Northeastern Nigeria" by Samuel Dali and "The Founding of CCEPI and Its Mission to the Displaced" by Rebecca Dali. Cost for the dinner is \$23 and reservations are required by March 8; the lectures are free of charge and reservations are not required. On Fri., March 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon, the Dalis present "Leading a Peace Church in Terrorist Territory" and "Addressing the Plight of the Most Vulnerable." For more information and to make reservations, call 717-361-1470 or visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr/events](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr/events).

**Karen Music Benefit Concert - Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 6:00 PM @ Habecker Mennonite Church.** You are invited to come hear a variety of singing groups from our local Karen community, including traditional Karen choir music, children’s voices, and various ensembles. We hope you will also enjoy participating as we sing a few songs simultaneously in both the Karen and English languages. Eight Karen students from our congregation also sing in the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster (MCCL) and five of them are hoping to accompany MCCL on their Concert Choir tour in June. A freewill offering will be received at this Benefit Concert to help with the costs of the choir tour. Go to <http://habeckerchurch.com/> for more information.



Mennonite Disaster Service is an exciting and growing faith-based disaster response agency. We are seeking qualified candidates with multi-cultural experience to apply for the following positions: Coordinator for Weekly Volunteers (Lititz, PA), Warehouse and Equipment Manager (Columbus, MS), Program Administrative Assistant (Lititz, PA) and Public Relations and Social Media Coordinator (Lititz, PA). Spanish language is an asset. Go to [mds.mennonite.net/who-we-are/employment/#jobs](http://mds.mennonite.net/who-we-are/employment/#jobs) for more information.



**French Student Hosting Opportunity:** Hosts are needed for two groups of French students (ages 14-17) who are coming to Lancaster this summer to study English and learn about American culture. The programs are directed by Jeff Nolt and sponsored by American Home Life International, a Christian homestay and education program. The first group will be here **July 14 - Aug 2**; the second, from **Aug 5 - 24**.

Hosts receive an up-front stipend of \$440 per 3-week session, accommodate two students per home, provide 3 meals a day, and arrange transportation to and from weekday ESL classes which take place at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church. To learn more, contact Jeff at 717-224-3695 or [jeffn@amhomelife.org](mailto:jeffn@amhomelife.org).



**This is My Story, This is My Song:** Learn and reflect on the intersection of Lancaster County Mennonite and African American history during this year’s Annual Banquet of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, featuring Leonard Dow, MCC US board member. He will share stories from his life; Melody Pannell, professor at EMU, will speak on her experience writing the history of Seventh Avenue Mennonite Church, Harlem, NYC. Ertell Whigham, Franconia conference minister and bishop, and his ensemble will perform a blend of gospel, rhythm and blues, hymns and black American jazz, as well. Saturday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Resort, Willow Street. More information and ticket purchase [at the LMHS web site](#) or 717.393.9745.



***Seen at AMC . . .***

On February 28, AMC bade farewell to the two HVAC units that had served us well in the sanctuary for the past 12 years, and welcomed their replacements.

The crane was a source of great excitement for DSECC!

*Photos by Kim Bell, DSECC*



# March Birthdays

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

## Akron Mennonite Church

1311 Diamond Street  
Akron, PA 17501  
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 10:40-11:40 am

### Staff

Rachel Nolt  
Pastor

[rnolt@akronmench.org](mailto:rnolt@akronmench.org)

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)

Rebecca Pereverzoff  
Administrator  
[rpereverzoff@akronmench.org](mailto:rpereverzoff@akronmench.org)  
[amc@akronmench.org](mailto:amc@akronmench.org)



### Contact Updates

The annual directory update is in process, with plans for a mid-March distribution.

Please note that this email address for Nancy Chapman is no longer active: [nchapman@dejazzd.com](mailto:nchapman@dejazzd.com)  
Use [weavingway52@gmail.com](mailto:weavingway52@gmail.com) instead. Thanks.

### 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.*