

Connecting with Tom & Jean Buchen

Tom and Jean lead a full and satisfying life as partners in marriage as well as business.

They met at Conestoga Valley Junior High School and had a shy relationship during that year. The next year Tom went off to Lancaster Mennonite and they rarely saw each other.

They reconnected at the old Rocky Springs Skating Rink, and Tom asked Jean to skate. From their first date, Jean and Tom were comfortable with each other, sharing interests and discussing issues. They both loved nature, hiking and the woods.



When Tom left for alternative service in Georgia, they were again separated. Jean finished high school at CV and worked in the Administrative office at CV School District.

They stayed in touch and were married at the beginning of Tom's second year at Koinonia Farms. Jean was invited to work in the office there. It was a rich time of exploring family backgrounds and religious views as they lived and worked with people from many different backgrounds. This experience changed who they were in relation to family and church back home.

Jean Martin grew up as second of four children and, with her family, attended Stumptown Mennonite Church.

Their eighteen-acre farm was on Newport Road, and Jean helped with gardens, and farm work, including feeding the animals. There was plenty of time to play in the streams, spending full days following a stream with her siblings and cousins, returning home in time for supper.

Her father's brother and family lived up the road within walking distance, and they made many fond memories of playing together, riding horse, and sledding on the hill in the winter.

Jean's early school years were at Leola Elementary, and she continued in the CV schools through graduation.

Tom also attended Conestoga Valley schools before he transferred to Lancaster Mennonite. He grew up with three sisters and attended Groffdale Mennonite Church with his family.

Tom enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father. The extended Buchen family was a close-knit family. Many Sunday evenings were spent at Grandma's house with aunts, uncles, and cousins.

During high school Tom worked with construction crews in his father's business. He then worked fulltime for his father before heading to Georgia in alternative service.

Jean and Tom returned from Koinonia with a changed worldview. They attended Groffdale Mennonite Church. They struggled how to fit new ideas of faith that they had explored together in service, with the faith emphasis of

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Worship Schedule

Sept. 3	Rachel Nolt
10	Karyn Nancarvis
17	Rachel Nolt
24	Rachel Nolt

this congregation.

Tom joined his father's construction business and Jean worked for Wenger's Flowers while studying interior design. After receiving her associate's degree in interior design, Jean was employed by Rutt Furniture in Hinkletown.

When daughters Andrea and Stephanie joined their family, Jean combined mothering the girls with part-time outside work, which included a church office position, a doctor's office manager as she kept her interest in interior design by helping Tom's clients with their remodeling choices. Jean also worked for MEDA in their Lancaster office.

When the girls were in high school, Jean joined Kountry Kraft as a kitchen designer/sales person before she and Tom joined forces with their current kitchen and bath company. Tom and Jean have found their common interest and strengths to be an asset as they continue to partner all these years later.

Their other common interests include backyard gardening, working the soil and preserving the food. Tom is a hunter and they enjoy butchering venison to preserve.

Grandchildren are now a big part of their life and spending time with them is a gift. There are also trips to the big woods of north central Pennsylvania where they hike and enrich their souls in rejuvenating solitude.

For many years, Jean and Tom have given of their time and energy to plan and execute the community meals that AMC hosts three times a year. Caring personally for others is part of their faith as well as their political views. They find satisfaction in serving the community in this way.

Jean was attracted to AMC where she found a safe place to expand her ideas of faith that would not be considered heresy, but rather part of evolving growth to faith. She wanted a place where she could be fully accepted even though her spouse was not interested in church attendance. Jean also wanted to remain part of an Anabaptist group and appreciated AMC's peace stand.

AMC was a dynamic growing church of young families and her girls grew up here. Jean found meaningful interactions across age groups. When she was taking courses at EMC Lancaster, she rode with Gertrude Habegger and John and Kathy Hostettler. Jean felt loved and cared for by these saints who were at a different stage in life, but accepted her as she was. She cherishes those memories even as she misses these women.

Jean stays at AMC because this has become her faith community. She finds connection to God in the Sunday morning worship service, which extends to the world and the people who share this world with her. She says, "We are Anabaptist."

Jean took classes at EMC Lancaster as a way to challenge and question her faith journey. She came to AMC in search of an authentic faith, and her journal writing for Grace Wenger's writing class gave her free reign to explore this uncharted territory. Encouraged by Grace Wenger, Jean consented to have two of her papers published in church publications. "What does it mean to be born again" brought to light the inconsistencies of how people live in contrast to the words they speak. Exploring this helped Jean define her own experience.

Her biggest growth edge came with the search to find peace with the reality that husband and wife may not be at the same place in their spiritual journey. Their ways of living out their faith may look very different on the surface, but Tom and Jean have found the essence of communication in understanding and respecting each other's spiritual path.

Jean's honesty with this difficult subject has been helpful to many others who find that they share the situation with their own spouse. Her self-growth has inspired others.

~Priscilla Ziegler



Pastor's Perspective



This fall as we begin new Formation classes and new assignments of congregational service, I invite you to join me in a few spiritual practices of “attentiveness.” When we practice attentiveness we pay close attention to something, holding that person or object in our gaze, our thoughts and our actions. We attend to the comfort or wishes of others, often in forms of politeness or courtesy. When we are attentive, we focus on and value the task or person before us.

I invite you to participate in the practice of “attentiveness” on behalf of our congregation by gathering with others in two ways.

I will be offering Lectio Divina, “sacred reading,” on Tuesday morning at 7:30am this year, beginning this Tuesday, September 5. In Lectio Divina we give our attention to scripture in the presence of God. Lectio Divina is a slow contemplative praying of the scripture. During our time together, we read the scripture together 4 times. First we read the scripture just to savor the words. During the second reading we receive a word or phrase that God gives to us, something that is highlighted in the scripture text. As we read the text a third time, we pay attention to our senses and to the emotions that the scripture passage evokes within us. During the final reading, we listen and receive whatever invitation God may be giving for that day or week. At the end of our time together, we pray for each other. During Lectio Divina, we rest in the love of God and listen for what God wants to give us. Our posture is one of openness to receive what God wants to give. Sometimes nothing happens in this kind of praying. Noticing that is equally important. During the Lectio Divina we give our attention to the Divine and to scripture.

This fall I am also inviting the congregation to join me in praying specifically for our congregation and the broader Church. I will be praying for our continued transformation as we act in love for God and love for neighbor. I encourage you to join me either in person or wherever you are at a specific time. Since I am now inviting you to join my prayer practice, I am flexible in regards to day and time, though I may prefer some time on Thursday. If you are interested in joining me in person, please email me at rnolt@akronmench.org or call the church at 717-859-1488.

May our attentiveness continue to transform us into light, love and life in the world.

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 September 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
Paul Martin

Al Claassen
Philip Rutt

Carolyn & John Horst
Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank



Journeying God,
Walk life's path with me
so that I may not become deterred
by hardship, strangeness, doubt.
Show me the movement I must make
toward a wealth not
dependent on possessions,
toward a wisdom not limited to books,
toward a strength not bolstered by might,
toward a God not confined to heaven.
Help me to find myself as I walk in another's shoes.
—traditional Ghana prayer song

All summer as we gathered on Sundays, we drew on biblical images that paint pictures of God's love as shelter. And each Sunday as we dispersed, we reminded ourselves that we carry with us our God-given gifts and that God's love goes with us. God is a journeying God who walks with us so that we are energized to walk in another's shoes, to learn from strangeness and doubt, to live into seeing God-at-work each day.

Our role every day to embrace the truth that God is at work each hour extending sheltering love to all. Our role is to use the gifts God has given us to be part of God's work as we confront our human tendency to separate ourselves from anyone who isn't like us. Our daily role in God's work is to reach out and use our gifts to find ways to invite everyone into the shelter of God's love, even when others act to expel or exclude anyone who has different ideas or follows another faith or looks different. Our daily role in God's work is to act intentionally so that no one feels excluded and so that everyone knows they belong in the sheltering love God offers to each one.

This feels like hard work for us. We often find it challenging to live with the reality that everything and everyone is part of God's world. How can we be part of God's work if it means we are called to hold everything together-- the good things and the bad? How can we learn to see that everyone belongs— those like us and those different? How can we be part of God's work when we each know that even within us there is dark and light and that both are part of daily reality? If we allow God to hold together the opposites within us, it becomes more possible for us to do it beyond ourselves –in “the other”, our neighbor or even an enemy.

Only God, it seems, is spacious enough to include everything. When we commit to bring our gifts to participate in God's work, we discover a way to be this large. Only God in me, only me in God can hold the contrary pieces of God's world and the people God created.

—Submitted by Melody Rupley; inspiration from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations

Fall Kick-off Activities for Connect!, F.L.I.P, and Share-A-Life



Growing faith and friendships in community with **Connect!** Every 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:00-7:30pm join us for a shared meal, informal conversation and interaction with our community. September 13th is the Kick-off Event and ice cream social, with an informal soccer clinic with Dylan Nolt and Isaac Nancarvis. Cheer us on, or learn and compete in the game as we grow in our community of AMC.

F.L.I.P = Family Life Is Precious = An intergenerational program nurturing and strengthening relationships within all family groups, through meaningful activities and gatherings.

The first event this year is on Saturday, October 21st at the Diamond Street Fall Fest and Diamond 5K Run/Walk. This fundraising event is being held at AMC with many opportunities to serve, support and contribute to our Akron community. Register to participate in the run/walk event. Volunteer at a water station, registration table or to create signs for the event. Come as a family to interact with the many fall activities and games planned by the Diamond Street teachers. Family Life is Precious, value the time together!



Our Share-A-Life mentoring program pairs children in grades 1-5 with an adult member of our congregation to become a regular part of each other's lives. This relationship may take various forms but is meant to be a way for each youth to have an adult other than a parent with whom they may share their faith journey. Organized events take place alternating months beginning in October. Other times, mentoring pairs are encouraged to meet together as their schedules allow, and their interests lead. Some ideas may include: building a birdhouse, bowling, knitting, canoeing, hiking, serving at a local non-profit organization, attending a sporting event, a movie, or concert. Our first organized Share-A-Life event will be on Saturday, October 21st at AMC 8:30-12:00 noon to participate or serve in the Diamond Street Fall Fest, and/or 5K run/walk.

Share-A-Life

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*Please send in your
submissions for the
October newsletter by
September 25. Thanks!*



Scenes from the MYF Planning Retreat



A weekend in Paradise...

Paradise Lake Retreat in Denver, Pennsylvania, was the destination for 14 energetic youth, 3 MYF advisors and one amazing cook (also known as (Lloyd) Chef Chapman). We embarked on a two and a half day stay, balancing work and play. Friday night we reacquainted ourselves with one another and the natural surroundings of God's creation. By Saturday evening we were ready to play, satisfied with the progress made in planning our activity calendar for the year. We added more service projects, lined up Supper Clubs, talked about class-time discussions, pencilled in fundraisers and discussed service project possibilities for the summer.



A team-building exercise creatively constructed by our magnificent MYF advisor couple, Nick and Jessie Buckwalter, led our group to try their hardest and manage conflict, overcome obstacles and confront enemies. In each hypothetical situation, a different person rose to the task of guiding with their ideas, strategy and talent. They learned in order to support any good leader, they needed to be good followers. Sunday morning we held a worship service with instrumental music, hymn singing, prayer, a children's story, and a brief sermon time. We are all looking forward to a spiritually formative year together.

—Karyn Nancarvis



Looking Ahead...

- Sept. 10 Pool Party/Supper Club at Mike & Joyce Longeneckers'
- Sept. 15-17 ACC Youth Retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp
- Sept. 24 Get-together with Plains Mennonite Youth
- Oct. 8 Supper Club at Nancarvis' home
- Oct. 20-21 Lititz Storytelling Festival
- Oct. 21 DSECC 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser
- Oct. 21 Marching band showcase at Ephrata High School
- Oct. 29 Fall Party/wiener roast at Dave and Flo Harnish's farm



Diamond 5K Run/Walk

We are pleased to announce the Diamond 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this event is to raise funds to benefit the Diamond Street Early Childhood Center (DSECC). A major fundraising goal this year for DSECC is to start a fund to replace the DSECC playground. An updated playground will help keep DSECC compliant with state and local regulations by insuring a safe play area, while also providing a vibrant and interactive outdoor learning environment for the students.

The Diamond 5K Run/Walk will occur in coordination with the DSECC Fall Festival. Runners and walkers will gather near the start line at 8:45 a.m., for the start of the race. The race will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. An award ceremony will occur at approx. 10:00. After the awards ceremony, we will also hold a free kids fun-run for children ages 9 and under. The DSECC Fall Festival will start at 10:00 a.m. as well.



Please consider participating! Registration cost for adults (19+) is \$25 until Oct. 1, and \$30 after that. Reduced costs are available for students 18 and younger. All participants will receive an event T-shirt, a registration packet with free goodies, and access to the refreshment/recovery area after the race. Overall awards and age group awards will be offered.

There are two ways to register;

- ◆ Pick up a registration form in the AMC Lobby. Complete the registration and either place in Tim Nancarvis' mailbox with your check, or mail directly to DSECC (Instructions can be found on the form).
- ◆ Sign up online! We can be found online at 'Diamond5K.com'. Simply click on the 'Register' button and follow the prompts to register. We are partnering with 'RunSignUp' to process online registrations. You will need to create a 'RunSignUp' account and a nominal processing fee will be applicable.

Even if you decide not to participate as a runner or walker, there are many other ways you can support this event;

- ◇ Volunteer!! There will be approx 30 volunteer spots available. Volunteer opportunities will be available for people of all abilities, and will include: Assembling race packets; coordinating registration information and paperwork; creating directional and informational signs; staffing the registration table; directing participants, traffic and parking; staffing water stations; staffing refreshment/recovery area. If you are interested, please sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet which has been posted in the AMC lobby. Or, call Tim Nancarvis at (717)209-0079 for more information.
- ◇ Donate (Tax deductible): You don't have to participate to help our cause. You can simply donate to the event - Any amount is appreciated! Make out your check to DSECC with "Diamond 5K Donation" in the memo field. Drop off your donation in Tim Nancarvis' mailbox at AMC, or mail to; DSECC, 1311 Diamond Street, Akron, PA 17501, Attn: Diamond 5K.
- ◇ In-kind donations: We will be in need of promotional items for the Race Packets. Any type of promotional item with your company name on it may suffice: pens, water bottles, key chains...the sky is the limit! Each participant will receive a race packet which will include your promotional items with their registration mate-

rials. We hope to have approximately 100 participants. If interested, contact Tim Nancarvis at (717)209-0079, or tnancarvis@gmail.com.

- ◇ Sponsorships: If you have a business, you can promote it during our event through a sponsorship. We have several sponsorship opportunities available: Bronze Sponsors (\$100), Silver Sponsors (\$250), Gold Sponsors (\$500), and Diamond (Title) Sponsor (\$1,000). Each sponsorship level comes with increasing amounts of exposure. If you are interested, contact Phil Rutt at (717)629-3877 or prutt@ptd.net
- ◇ Spread the word! Please tell your family and friends about this event! You can find the event online at 'Diamond5k.com'. If you are on social media, you can also like and share our Facebook page, 'Diamond 5K Run/Walk'. There will also be registration flyers available in the AMC lobby which you can pick up and share with the runners and walkers you know.
- ◇ Come out and cheer us on!! Spectators add to the festive environment, and help to give runners and walkers that boost of energy and confidence to finish strong. Make plans to come out to cheer us on!

Thank you for supporting DSECC and the Diamond 5K.

~Tim Nancarvis



On August 16, DSECC summer campers helped plant a tree near the current playground as part of their summer theme "Caring for the Community."

Total Package Landscaping provided the tree, as well as prepared the site and educated the campers about caring for the tree.

ADNet lunch (Anabaptist Disabilities Network)

There is strength to be gained from sharing our experiences. You are invited to lunch in the Akron Mennonite Church Assembly Room Sunday, **September 17, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Soup, bread and table service will be provided. You are invited to contribute to the meal (e.g., fresh vegetables, fruit, cookies, etc.)

This is intended for anyone who is personally affected by mental illness or disability, or has a friend or family member who is affected, as well as others who have a special interest in mental illness and disability issues. The main focus will be to give opportunity for those present to share their experiences.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, or sign up on the sheet posted in the church lobby: Marilyn Langeman, at 859-3840

What is Anabaptist Disabilities Network? Here's what you will see if you go to the website: <http://www.adnetonline.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Our mission: Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) supports church congregations, families and individuals touched by disabilities to nurture inclusive communities.

Our vision: Faith communities are transformed when individuals with disabilities and their God-given gifts and experiences enjoy full inclusion in the Body of Christ.

ADN has been shaped by the Anabaptist tradition. Our resources are available to faith communities from every tradition, across the U.S. and beyond.

We support inclusion of persons with disabilities of all kinds, including physical, developmental, intellectual, learning, vision, hearing, mental health, and hidden disabilities.

Accessibility this year at Mennonite Church Convention

Consider this adaptation from Luke 14, *Go quickly! . . . Find those who are blind, those who travel in wheelchairs, those in the grips of anxiety . . . find them and compel them to come!* Invite those who have been stigmatized and separated because of their disabilities. Compel everyone to come! For in doing so, you shall all experience blessing.



This year Anabaptist Disabilities Network coordinated the Accessibility Services at the MCUSA Convention in Orlando. ADN assisted the Mennonite Church denomination as they invited people with disabilities to participate in the body of Christ by facilitating greater access to worship, workshops, delegate meetings, and meals during the convention. Accessibility coordinator Elizabeth Vendley recounts the experience of Karen, a woman who joyfully participated in the convention thanks to the provisions of ADN's Accessibility Services.

When Karen showed up at the Convention registration, she was....overwhelmed. The Orange County Convention Center is huge! The map indicated that worship and delegate sessions, workshops and meals would be separated by long walks, and this was a task she wasn't physically capable of doing for the entire week. Karen, who was scheduled to be a workshop presenter later in the week, resigned herself to the disappointment that she'd need to spend most of the week in her hotel room. Thankfully, Karen caught sight of the ADN Accessibility Services table not far from the registration table. Here, she learned that ADN could pro-

vide her with a motorized scooter for the whole week. With the scooter available, Karen gladly and thankfully dived into convention activities with her granddaughter.

ADN's accessibility efforts at convention extended beyond providing scooters. Large print song sheets and maps were prepared for those with low vision, sign language interpretation was arranged, personal accompaniment was provided to those with intellectual disabilities, volunteers helped those with physical or vision disabilities to get their food during the bustling meal times, and volunteers were ready to help meet unique needs that cropped up during the week.

"Just as important as the tangible accommodations that we provided," says Elizabeth, "was ADN's presence and witness to the greater church. Be it within a tiny Mennonite congregation or at our national convention, the church needs to consider how to open the doors to engagement for individuals with disabilities."

God's kingdom cannot be understood or envisioned without the gifts, experiences, wisdom, and participation of those with disabilities. And yet today, as in Jesus' time, people with disabilities often exist on the margins of the church.

However, Jesus' parable in Luke is explicit. Make it possible for everyone to belong and join in! Make it known to all, with or without disabilities, that their participation and leadership is indispensable.

During the week of Convention, *and every other week of the year*, ADN strives to help congregations follow Jesus' direction to nurture greater access for people with disabilities to fully participate in faith communities.

~Submitted by Marilyn Langeman



Journeying Together: Fall Ministry Banquet & Silent Auction

Date: September 21, 2017
Location: Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA
Time: 5:30 pm—Registration and Silent Auction
 6:30 pm—Buffet Dinner and Program

Individual ticket price is \$40.



*We invite you to join us for No Longer Alone Ministries' **Fall Ministry Banquet and Silent Auction**. The evening program will educate about mental illness and inspire you with stories of individuals who are on the journey toward mental wellness.*

There will be a special presentation by Ted Swartz, playwright and actor with Ted & Company Theater-works featuring uplifting humor and storytelling for addressing issues of faith, justice, and mental wellness.

Register online at <http://www.nlam.org/events/banquet/>

Getting to Know AMC's VS Workers Feleen Nancarvis and Peter Wise

Feleen Nancarvis



THE shalom PROJECT

The Shalom Project exists to promote wholeness and peace by cultivating a Lancaster, PA-based community of servant leaders who are committed to living amidst diversity, connecting with community, and engaging in intentional faith formation. It is a one year voluntary service experience for college graduates. Their program year begins in mid-August. Participants live together in intentional community in a house in Lancaster city, serve the community through full-time, professional internships, and engage in activities aimed at Christian spiritual formation and personal growth.

When last we spoke, I was a quarter of my way through an 18 month long service year with the Shalom Project, based in Lancaster City. I was living in intentional community with pastors of Laurel Street Mennonite, Ron & Judy Zook, who took excellent care of me and supported my goals. My service work, as intern and Program Developer, is positioned at Meals on Wheels of Lancaster. I spent my summer assisting with office work, but the bulk of my responsibilities were rooted in client visitation, compiling data from client surveys, and helping to jumpstart what is now our "Social Call" program. It is a small visitation service through which we match compassionate volunteers with clients who have reported social isolation. They visit with each other for an hour or two a week in an effort to combat loneliness. We hope the program will continue to grow and that it will prove to be a source of relief and support for many of our clients.

From March 2017 until August, I had been the sole participant of the Shalom Project's 2016-2017 program year. I've since been joined by five others! The house is full! Each participant has a unique internship placement at different nonprofits across Lancaster: The Mix at Arbor Place, Landis Homes & Steeple View Lofts, Water Street Rescue Mission, Global Disciples, and Church World Service. The Shalom House is brimming with excitement as the "Shalomees" embark on new relationships, new service work, a new home, and a new community. We've worked diligently on our shared food budget, meal plans, and extracurriculars. August is full of change, I'd say! Our biggest challenge, so far, has been navigating the complicated and ever-present limitations of free parking in Lancaster City. And the dishes... there never seem to be enough dishes, and yet there are always too many. Curious...! We are, each in our own way, quiet musicians, book lovers, and athletes. Though we have varied interests, we share a common passion for social justice. We've had thoughtful conversations about our world and its subtle nuances. I am hopeful that our ideas will come to fruition! I plan to keep in touch.



Program Developer Feleen Nancarvis holding a check for \$9,000 that Meals on Wheels received from a donor in May 2017.

Peter Wise



rio grande
FARM PARK
PRESERVING & CREATING

I am currently working at the Rio Grande Farm Park. The RGFP is a non-profit organization that operates under the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition in Alamosa, CO. The Farm Park started five years ago when Polston Elementary School was closed, but town residents did not want the 25-year running community garden at the school to become obsolete. The 38 acres that now reside next to the Rio Grande on the east side of town is the vision of these involved community members. The Farm Park seeks to provide a space where the community can learn about healthy eating and regenerative agriculture. The Park also serves as a place of access to recreation on and along the Rio Grande. In addition, the RGFP provides small plots of land to learning farmers and families who want to enter the agricultural industry.

My service at the Farm Park entails facilitating community events, maintaining the communal spaces set aside as growing plots, leading walks, developing environmental education curriculum, and assisting with farmer trainings. My responsibilities are very seasonal and I currently spend most of my time weed-whacking. As the growing season comes to a close, I anticipate shifting my focus to community education and farmer trainings.

I am a recent graduate of Goshen College with a B.A. in Physics. Since the start of the calendar year, I experienced life in Tanzania through Goshen's Study Service term. After graduating from Goshen in April, I vacationed in Italy with my family and afterwards backpacked a week in Switzerland solo. For the later half of the summer, I returned to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp as support staff. There I prepared food, lead rock climbing and hikes, kept camp clean, and enjoyed the close proximity to wonderful people and an abundance of beautiful recreational opportunities.

My inspiration to choose MVS was motivated primarily by both lifestyle preferences and learning opportunities. While deciding to do a term of MVS, I was in Tanzania. There I was exposed to poverty, its violent cyclic nature, and its origins from colonialism and global capitalism that continue to exploit people in poor circumstances to serve the desires of the rich, first world nations, and those living in them. I decided to commit to MVS in solidarity with the poor because we as Americans need so very little of what we think we need and what we have. I made my placement choice conscientiously as I seek work with a mission that indirectly cuts our negative impacts on second and third world nations through reducing contributions to climate change and morally sound business practices.

I also chose MVS because I expected the community to be life-enriching. I believe God manifests herself most often in relationships, and living with others provides more opportunities to see the face of God and bring about the kingdom. Lastly, living with others allows a lifestyle that is less consumptive. Shared transportation, food, and space means less waste and emissions, an overlooked way citizens of first world nations affect the impoverished communities across the globe.

For more self-serving reasons, I chose MVS because of the placements available to its participants. My placement is allowing me to transition into a more environmental and people-oriented career than many jobs most suited for a physics major. In addition, MVS offers work with more interesting and important responsibilities that pertain to justice, social change, and responsible vocation more than most entry-level jobs would. My choice of MVS stems from my desire to live as a conscious global citizen, aware of the effects that my lifestyle choices have on the impoverished and oppressed and then to work toward eradicating oppression in its many manifestations.



September (and beyond) at AMC & in the Community

September Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Sept. | 4 | Labor Day; church office is closed |
| | 5 | Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am |
| | 6 | Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm |
| | 7 | Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7:00 am;
Lloyd Chapman, presenter |
| | 12 | Fall yoga series begins @ AMC @ 6:00 pm |
| | 13 | Connect! kick-off event @ AMC @ 6:00 pm |
| | 14 | AMC Council meets @ 7:00 pm |
| | 17 | ADNet lunch @ AMC @ 11:45 am |

SAVE THESE DATES

- October 21** Fall Fest with DSECC
January 20, 2018 MYF Spaghetti Supper
March 24, 2018 MYF Auction



BROWN BAG LUNCH

September marks the beginning of our Women's Brown Bag Lunches again this year. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through May. This is an informal time for AMC women to get together and learn to know each other better. Our first lunch meeting is planned for September 19th at the home of Ruth Weaver. We meet from 11 am to 1 pm and bring our own brown bag lunch. The hostess provides hot beverages and cold water. Come for the whole time or on your lunch break from work or for whatever segment of time fits your schedule. We will be needing volunteers to host these gatherings in the coming months so if you are interested in having this gathering at your place, let me know (Ruth Weaver at 581-3812). We will talk about our plans for the months ahead when we gather in September. There will be announcements in the bulletin in coming weeks and also an announcement in your mailboxes the week prior to the luncheon with directions to the home where we will be meeting, (cottage of Ruth Weaver at Landis Homes for September).

9TH ANNUAL

African Festival

AUTHENTIC CUISINE
 CULTURAL DANCE
 FASHION SHOW
 VENDORS
 NONPROFITS

FREE
ADMISSION!

2:00PM-6:00PM | SEPTEMBER 30

Binns Park
 & Lancaster Square
 120 N Queen Street
 Lancaster, PA



Fall Facilities Use at

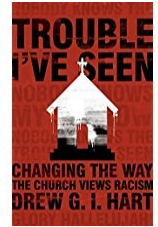
AMC: This is a reminder that AMC's facilities are used on Tuesday nights for yoga, and Thursday nights for Franconia Lancaster Choral Singers practice during the fall and winter.



You're invited to meet members of The Mennonite Inc.'s staff and board. The Mennonite is a multi-media publication and magazine connected to Mennonite Church USA. On Thursday September 21 from 7-8:30 p.m. at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, you can visit with Hannah Heinzekehr, executive director of The Mennonite, Inc., as well as members of The Mennonite's board. They are interested in meeting you and hearing any questions or feedback you might have about their work. To learn more about The Mennonite, you can visit www.TheMennonite.org. Light refreshments, coffee and tea will be provided.



"RACISM AND THE CHURCH" event at Lancaster Bible College - Dr. Drew Hart, Assistant Professor of Theology at Messiah College, will give an address entitled: "Trouble I've Seen: A Jesus-shaped Conversation about Racism and the Church" at Lancaster Bible College (901 Eden Road, Lancaster, Teague Learning Commons/4th floor) on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please register at LBC.edu/events. For more information about Dr. Hart, visit DrewGIHart.com.



Fairmount Homes 28th Annual Benefit Auction and BBQ

Fairmount Homes is once again gearing up for its annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, September 9. For its 28th season, thousands of people are expected to gather on our scenic hilltop where thousands of items, including beautiful handmade quilts, creative theme baskets, a Burkholder trailer, Dining for Dollars events and a vintage Allis Chalmers tractor and plow in original condition will be up for bid. Again this year "Make a Difference" gift opportunities will be offered, in which a contribution of \$150.00 can be made to underwrite one day of care for a resident whose financial resources have been exhausted.



As always, delicious food will be in abundant supply and there will be activities for people of all ages to enjoy. For the children an ultra-light candy drop is always the highlight of the day.

Not only will Fairmount's 28th Annual Benefit Auction and Barbecue provide an enjoyable experience for all who attend, but it presents an opportunity to support a worthy cause; proceeds from the 2017 auction will go to the Sharing Fund, which helps to cover the cost of care for residents who have exhausted their financial resources.

So... save the date and plan to come to the 28th Benefit Auction on September 9, 2017!

Fellowship Day at Landis Homes

Visit Landis Homes September 9 and enjoy a day among friends! All ages will enjoy the fun, including a benefit auction, children's activities, chicken barbecue, and more. Benefits the Landis Homes Caring Fund.



Annual Storytelling Night

Hear life stories from Marcy Hostetler, Lancaster Mennonite High School choral director, and Leonard Dow, stewardship and development specialist for Everence and former pastor of Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 11 at Stumptown Mennonite Church, 2813 Stumptown Road, Bird-in-Hand, Pa.

MDS Hurricane Harvey Response



What Happened: On August 26, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in southeast Texas as a category 4 hurricane and caused massive damage and flooding in the area. The hurricane has since become a tropical storm which continues to dump millions of gallons of water in southeast Texas.

MDS Response: A Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) assessment team arrived in southeastern Texas on Wednesday to begin a 5-day exploration of the need and eventual MDS response to Hurricane Harvey.

Visit <https://mds.mennonite.net/current-news/hurricane-harvey-update-mds-team-texas/> for additional info.

September Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Mary Ellen Martin	2
3	4 Anna Bontrager Linda Frey Grace Weber	5 Ingrid Magill Lester Wagner	6 H.A. Penner	7 Elisabeth Bontrager	8	9 Marvin Horst Jenna Longenecker
10	11 Alta Mellinger	12 Lester Graybill	13	14	15	16 Chelsea Brubaker
17 Grace Brubaker Kent Douple	18 Twila Miller	19	20 Isak Puljek- Shank	21 Connie Lapp	22 Julia Yoder	23 Gloria Forrey Anna Nancarvis
24 Jonah Chap	25 Dale Herr Ed Miller	26 Ruth Detweiler	27	28 Esther Ruby	29	30 Roy Eby

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

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Patricia Martin

Minister of Music and Worship

pmartin@akronmench.org

Rebecca Pereverzoff

Administrator

rpereverzoff@akronmench.org

amc@akronmench.org



Contact Updates

Susan & Nelson Blessing's new email address:

blessingsusan70@gmail.com

New address for Christopher Hershberger:

Temple University

Hardwick Hall, Room 353

2029 N. Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19122-1115

Email: chris.hershberger@temple.edu

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.