



Shalom NEWS

LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2017

**As people of Christ's peace,
*we persevere
through life's stages***

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CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES: EVANGELICAL GARIFUNA CHURCH • MILLPORT MENNONITE CHURCH

EDITORIAL



BY CONRAD KANAGY

A decade ago, as I reported the results of the Mennonite Member Profile 2006, I often challenged congregations that their most important calling was to their communities—that Jesus had left us without wiggle room when it came to his command that we carry out his mission to the world.

I still believe this to be true, but a decade later I am clearer about the fact that the gospel mission for which we have been commissioned must include the children, youth, young adults, marriages, families, and senior members of our congregation as much as it includes those in the community around our churches. Our mission as congregations in Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) must include a commitment to nurture the children God has given to us, disciple the youth and young adults who are discovering their God-given callings, strengthen our marriages and families in the midst of a culture trying to pull them apart, and nurture and encourage the elderly among us.

LMC leadership has focused on its missional call for more than a decade now, and rightly so. LMC leaders observe good fruit in our congregations and communities as a result. However, over this past year, LMC has developed a greater awareness of the need to renew its mission across the lifespan to those who are already in our congregations. Indeed, the Lord who said, "Go into all of the world," also said "Let the little children come to me."

As I often tell the Elizabethtown congregation, every activity and program we engage in must be for those who are in our congregation as well as for those who have not yet joined us. This kind of approach begins to break down the walls between congregation and community. It clarifies the fact that the gospel mission is for all people—churched, dechurched, and not yet churched. Indeed, getting the mission right must mean getting the "whole" mission right. ■

Conrad Kanagy is pastor at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church and is on staff at Lancaster Mennonite Conference.



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ON THE COVER: Photo illustration – iStock Photo

Expectant Hope

Trusting God through all of life's seasons

BY MARCIA MYLIN

In recent years, Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) has been experiencing growing pains. The process has been painful and costly in unexpected ways. Such remodeling is usually messy and can be stressful, especially when the finished product is not clearly seen. In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis describes it well:

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

All of creation experiences growing pains. An acorn must die to being a seed in order to become an oak tree. The caterpillar must give up crawling along the ground in order to become a butterfly. The eaglet must leave the safety and security of the nest in order to strengthen

its wings and soar through the sky. A baby must be forced out of its mother's womb and into a cold world in order to fully develop as a human being and become all the Creator envisioned for that person. Just as there are outside forces pressuring the

Throughout our lives,
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nity for growth.

Throughout our lives, from birth to death, our loving heavenly Father exploits every opportunity for growth. We may experience an unplanned pregnancy, a sudden death in the family, a job loss, an accident, an unexpected financial windfall, the opportunity to participate in a mission trip or a surprise diagnosis. Each of these is an opportunity for growth. While at the time, the event may seem like an obstacle or a cause of grief and pain, the Word tells us that our Father is able to use these circumstances for the good of those who love God (Romans 8:28).



Several years ago I was diagnosed with an early stage of cancer. While the diagnosis was not unexpected, I did have many decisions to make. One day a friend gave me a little booklet entitled *Don't Waste Your Cancer*. I began to read it but was unable to finish because of the strong emotions that rose up within me, so I set it aside. As time went on however, I realized that I had a choice to make. I could choose to waste this experience by becoming angry and bitter, or I could choose to learn the lessons my Heavenly Father wanted to teach me. By God's grace, I began to open my heart to the possibility that there were new lessons I needed to learn through the experience with cancer. I do not believe God gave me the cancer, but I do believe I had choices of response toward this disease. As I walked that journey of being diagnosed, meeting with doctors, deciding on treatment

It is painful and uncomfortable but God is building us into a temple for His Kingly Presence. Let us submit fully to the process, regardless of the cost.

and then recovery, there were so many deep and beautiful lessons I learned along the way. What blessings I would have missed if I had made the choice to waste my experience with cancer instead of allowing it to build Christ-like character.

Our Heavenly Father is remodeling LMC. This is a time when some of our walls must be torn down, floors must be ripped up and garbage thrown away. It is painful and uncomfortable but God is building us into a temple for His Kingly Presence. Let us submit fully to the process, regardless of the cost.

The disciples had experienced growing pains. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, they were invited to follow. During the next three years, their assumptions about Jesus changed. They moved from regarding Him as a good teacher, to a miracle

worker, to someone who could fill their empty fishing nets, to, as Peter confesses, the "Son of the Living God." In addition, their understanding of the purpose for Jesus' coming also changed. Instead of coming to redeem Israel from Roman oppression, Jesus came to redeem hearts from sin's oppression. He had no interest in building an earthly kingdom, but rather a kingdom not of this world. Rather than promising earthly riches, Jesus invited disciples to lay up treasures in heaven. Jesus welcomed children, women and sinners and called out the Pharisees and teachers of the law. He marched resolutely toward Jerusalem and crucifixion in order to overthrow death, hell, and the grave. When the disciples wanted Jesus to stay, they were told that when He left, The Comforter, the promised Holy Spirit would come in power.

As we journey together on this remodeling project to become a house of prayer for all nations, we know that, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Isaiah the prophet affirms this truth: "He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure" (33:6). Let's press in and submit to the reconstruction so that we too can attain to the high calling of Christ Jesus " being confident of this, that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). □

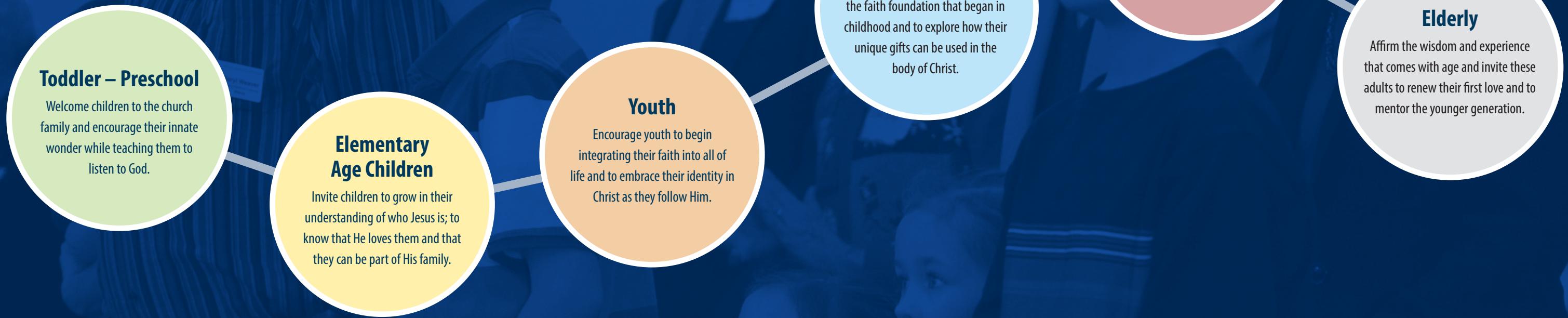
Marcia Mylin serves as resource staff at Lancaster Mennonite Conference and attends Byerland Mennonite Church in Willow Street, PA.



Life Stages Ministry – *Christian Spiritual Formation*

Christian Spiritual formation is the process of "Christ being formed" in us (Gal. 4:19). Spiritual growth involves both "information" and "formation." In this respect, spiritual formation is about connecting our knowledge of God with our experience of God. Spirituality is "theology in walking shoes." What we believe about our relationship with God needs to be lived out in relationship experiences with God. Genuine spiritual formation is not neat, tidy, and linear. It is often "messy." It takes time, and it continues over a lifetime. Additionally, the dynamics of formation adjust and shift through the various stages of human life.

Read more on the LMC website at: lancasterconference.org/ministries/life-stages-ministry/



Esperanza Expectante

POR MARCIA MYLIN (*traducido por Andrés Prins*)

En años recientes la Conferencia Menonita de Lancaster (LMC) ha estado experimentando dolores de crecimiento. El proceso ha sido doloroso y costoso de maneras inesperadas. Semejante remodelación suele ser despropósito y estresante, especialmente cuando el producto final aun no se vislumbra claramente. En su libro *Cristianismo...y nada más*, C.S. Lewis lo describe bien:

Imaginate que eres una casa viviente. Dios entra para reconstruir esa casa. Al principio, tal vez, logres entender lo que Él está haciendo. Está arreglando las cañerías y tapando las goteras en el techo, y cosas de esta naturaleza; ya sabías que esto era necesario y por lo tanto no te sorprendes. Pero luego Él empieza a aporrear la casa de una forma que duele terriblemente y parece carente de todo sentido. ¡¿Qué cuernos pretende hacer?! La explicación es que Él está construyendo una casa muy diferente de la que te imaginabas: añadiendo un ala aquí, poniendo allá un piso más, levantando torres, abriendo patios. Tú pensabas que serías una simple cabaña decente, pero Él está construyendo un palacio. Pretende venir a habitarlo Él mismo.

Toda lo creado experimenta dolores de crecimiento. Una bellota tiene que "morir" a su existencia como semilla para poder llegar a ser roble. La oruga tiene que dejar de arrastrarse por el suelo para transformarse en mariposa. El polluelo de águila tiene que dejar la seguridad del nido para poder fortalecer sus alas y así remontarse en el cielo. Un bebé tiene que ser expulsado del calor y confort del vientre materno para poder desarrollarse plenamente como ser humano y llegar a ser todo lo que el Creador soñó para esa persona. Así como hay fuerzas externas ejerciendo presión sobre la semilla, la oruga, el águila y el bebé para que crezcan, nosotros también podemos discernir en lo que nos sucede, tanto externa como internamente, la necesaria providencia de Dios, moldeándonos y formándonos a Su imagen.

A lo largo de nuestras vidas, desde la cuna a la tumba, nuestro amante Padre celestial se vale de cada oportunidad para hacernos crecer. Quizás experimentemos un embarazo no planeado, una muerte súbita en la familia, la pérdida de un empleo, un accidente, una inesperada ganancia financiera, la oportunidad de participar en un viaje misionero, o un diagnóstico indeseado. Cada acontecimiento es una oportunidad para el crecimiento. Aunque en el momento pueda parecernos un obstáculo o causa de tristeza y dolor, la Palabra nos asegura que nuestro Padre es capaz de usar estas circunstancias para el bien de quienes aman a Dios (Romanos 8:28).

Hace algunos años fui diagnosticada con cáncer en etapa inicial. Aunque el diagnóstico no era inesperado, me tocó sin embargo enfrentar muchas decisiones. Un día una amiga me dio un librito titulado *No desperdices tu cáncer*. Lo comencé a leer pero no pude terminarlo a causa de las fuertes emociones que me provocó, así que lo dejé. Con el paso del tiempo, no obstante, me di cuenta que tenía que tomar una decisión —podía elegir desperdiciar esta experiencia volviéndome enojada y amargada, o podía escoger aprender las lecciones que mi Padre celestial quería enseñarme. Por la gracia de Dios, empecé a abrir mi corazón a la posibilidad de que había nuevas lecciones que yo necesitaba aprender a través de mi experiencia con el cáncer. No creo que Dios me haya dado el cáncer, pero sí creo que me tocaba a mí elegir qué clase de reacción yo tendría ante esta enfermedad. Al transitar por ese camino de ser



diagnosticada, de encontrarme con los médicos, de decidir el tipo de tratamiento y luego la recuperación, hubo muchísimas lecciones bellas y profundas que fui aprendiendo. ¡Cuántas bendiciones me habría perdido si hubiera escogido desperdiciar mi experiencia con el cáncer en vez de permitir que forjara en mí más del carácter de Cristo.

Nuestro Padre celestial está remodelando a LMC. Es momento de derribar algunas de nuestras paredes, de rehacer unos pisos y de echar fuera la basura. Es doloroso e incómodo, pero Dios está haciendo de nosotros un templo para su Presencia real. Sometámonos plenamente al proceso, sin importar lo que pueda costar.

Los discípulos también habían experimentado dolores de crecimiento. Al comienzo del ministerio de Jesús fueron invitados a seguirlo. Durante los siguientes tres años sus suposiciones en cuanto a Jesús cambiaron. De considerarlo un maestro bueno, pasaron a verlo como un obrador de milagros, como quien podía llenar de peces sus redes vacías, y como "el Hijo del Dios vivo", según la confesión de Pedro. Además, la comprensión de los discípulos en cuanto al propósito de la venida de Jesús también cambió. En vez de venir a rescatar a Israel de la opresión romana, Jesús vino a redimir corazones de la opresión del pecado. No mostró interés alguno en construir un reino terrenal, sino un reinado no de este mundo. En lugar de prometer riquezas en la tierra, Jesús invitó a sus discípulos a hacerse tesoros en el cielo. Jesús acogió a los niños, a las mujeres y a los pecadores, y criticó a los fariseos y maestros de la ley. Resueltamente se encamino a Jerusalén y a la cruz para derrocar a la muerte, al infierno y a la tumba. Cuando los discípulos quisieron que Jesús se quedara, se les dijo que cuando Él partiera, el Consolador, el Espíritu Santo de la promesa, vendría con poder.

Al peregrinar juntos en este proyecto de remodelación para llegar a ser una casa de oración para todas las naciones, sabemos que "si el Señor no edifica la casa, trabajan en vano los que la edifican" (Salmo 127:1). Isaías el profeta afirma esta verdad: "Él será la seguridad de tus tiempos, te dará en abundancia salvación, sabiduría y conocimiento; el temor del Señor será tu tesoro" (33:6). Esforémonos y sometámonos a esta reconstrucción para que también nosotros podamos alcanzar el supremo llamamiento de Jesucristo "convencido de esto: el que comenzó tan buena obra en ustedes la irá perfeccionando hasta el día de Cristo Jesús" (Filipenses 1:6). ■

Marcia Mylin sirve como personal de recurso en la Conferencia Menonita de Lancaster y asiste a la Iglesia Menonita de Byerland en Willow Street, Pa.

FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE

IGLESIA MANANTIAL DE VIDA (SPRING OF LIFE CHURCH)

Follow the radio program of the Association of Hispanic Ministers of Camden, "Restoring the Fallen Walls," every Thursday at 11:05 a.m. – 12 noon (EST) with pastors Ruben Gomez of the Potters House and Hugo Garcia. This internet radio station can be heard at www.radioelmanantial.listen2myradio.com and at www.radiosalvacion.com.

IGLESIA MANANTIAL DE VIDA

Programa Radial de la Asociación de Ministros Hispanos de Camden: Restaurando los muros caídos. Todos los jueves. Hora: 11:05 am - 12 md (hora del este) con los pastores: Rubén Gómez (Potters House AG) y Hugo García. www.radioelmanantial.listen2myradio.com y www.radiosalvacion.com.

30 YEAR CELEBRATION

The Evangelical Garifuna Church in New York City celebrated their 30th Anniversary May 5 and 6, 2017. The celebration, held at the Garifuna Church in the Bronx, began with a welcoming service Friday evening and continued on Saturday. The three Garifuna congregations in New York – Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn – collaborated in planning the celebration. Visitors from around the United States and Honduras attended. See this issue's "Congregational Profile" for more information about Evangelical Garifuna Church.

ETHIOPIAN VISITORS TO LMC

Tewodros Beyenne, chair of the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), spent several days in the Lancaster area meeting with leaders, pastors and other groups. He met with

a group of interested supporters for dinner at Landis Homes dining room on May 15. He shared about the ministry of MKC and the bible college in Addis Ababa. The MKC began through the efforts of Lancaster Conference missionaries and the work of Eastern Mennonite Missions and is one of the 21 global fraternal agencies related to LMC. Currently MKC recognizes 691 congregations and 1012 church plants. The membership of 295,000 does not include 120,000 children.

TANZANIA ORDAINS FIVE NEW BISHOPS

Moderator Keith Weaver and Global Delegate Tom Eshleman attended the ordination of a new generation of leaders in Tanzania in March. Over 3000 people gathered at Shirati to witness the leader-

ship transition. Keith Weaver spoke to the assembly, as did a representative of the Tanzanian Government. Keith Weaver noted that Lancaster Conference maintains high respect within the Mennonite Church in Tanzania and with the national government.

NEWLY CREDENTIALED ORIENTATION

On April 19, 17 leaders who were credentialed over the last three years gathered at the LMC office to learn about ministries and resources available to Conference congregations and leaders. Four leaders joined the orientation by Skype from the Western Maryland District. The orientation used the new LMC website as the vehicle to inform these new leaders about the ministries, services, and opportunities available to leaders and congregations.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE AT GLADE MENNONITE CHURCH

The Western Maryland District congregations came together on May 7 to celebrate with one another. A group of about 120 gathered to worship and eat a fellowship meal together. The Meadow Mountain congregation led worship, and Oak Grove created the program. The pastors from Glade read Scripture at different points during the event. A pianist from Pinto Mennonite Church played the prelude. Bishop Earl Yoder facilitated the afternoon. Dale Stoltzfus spoke about LMC resourcing of leadership teams, and Keith Weaver presented LMC's 2020 Vision.



VIETNAMESE MENNONITE CHURCH (VMC) OUTREACH IN VIETNAM

Tuyen Nguyen and Brother Hoa returned from Vietnam in April after two weeks of visiting new church plants in Saigon, Ba Tri, Nha Trang and Hai Phong. The VMC continues to nurture 11 congregations that began from an initial church plant seven years ago. VMC sends trainers to work with Vietnamese leaders three to four times each year in order to grow the 1500 new believers into disciples.

NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE

Congregations may purchase a new brochure called *Mennonite: What's in a Name?* Visitors, seekers, and prospective members will find the content helpful in explaining the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition. They are available at the LMC office for \$3.50 plus postage for a bundle of 10. Contact Joselyn Santiago for more information or to order.



Lancaster Mennonite Conference



Left: Dance Group
Far left: Members celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE: Evangelical Garifuna Church

DISTRICT: New York City

LOCATION: 344 Brook Ave,
Bronx, New York 10454

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1987

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 100

SERVICE TIMES: Sundays, 2:45 pm;
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 pm



PASTORS: Celso and Zulma Jaime

Garifuna

The Garifuna live in the coastal Caribbean area of Central America and some Caribbean Islands. They are an ethnic group descended from a mix of Amerindian and African people. The African ancestors survived the wreck of a slave ship in the late 1600s. The survivors reached the island of Bequia. From this island migration occurred to the coastal areas of Central America and other places, including the United States. The group speaks the Garifuna language and often Spanish as well.

God gave EMM the vision to establish a Garifuna church in the Bronx in 1986. Pastors Migdolio Miranda and Matias Arana in Santa Fe, Honduras recommended that EMM search for Celso Jaime, who had immigrated to the USA and lived in the Bronx. Pastor Esteban Garcia, who led a Garifuna church in Brooklyn, found Celso and his family in February 1987 at the Beulah Pentecostal Church. After careful discernment, the family began a new ministry in their apartment at 909 Kelly St. with the help of pastor Garcia.

As the congregation grew, it shared space at a church located at Freeman St. and Southern Blvd. Then in 1987 with the help of Bishop Monroe Yoder, the congregation moved to 344 Brook Ave., the prior location of Glad Tidings Mennonite Church. The membership is mainly Garifuna, but members from México and the Dominican Republic also worship in the church. The congregation welcomes people from all nations. Their services use two languages, Garifuna and Spanish and, when necessary, translate to English. Worship songs are mostly in Garifuna, but God has blessed the Church with composers who write music in Garifuna.

On May 5-6, 2017, the Evangelical Garifuna Church in Bronx celebrated its 30th anniversary of ministry. Leaders of Garifuna churches from all around the United States and from Honduras traveled to New York to celebrate together. Leaders held meetings,

food was shared, the Word of God was preached, and honor given to Pastor Celso Jaime and his wife Zulma.

As a congregation, we preach the gospel to our local community and among the Garifuna community. The Food Pantry and the Immigration Program provide needed services of food and legal help. Immigration aid occurs in partnership with MCC and Garifuna Services. We also help people with temporary housing. The Anabaptist Biblical Institute has a study center at our location, funded through Mennonite Education Agency. Casa Nueva Esperanza, begun in 1999, ministers to more than 120 orphans whose parents died from HIV/AIDS in Honduras.

By the grace of God and the help of pastors Galileo Bernardez and Pastor Omar Guzmán and other ministers, our Church has multiplied across the United States. All of these churches are connected through the Mennonite Garifuna Mission, with the objective to strengthen believers and to continue multiplying churches.

We thank God for everything he has done, for what he is doing and for what he will do. *Bungiu Wama* (God is with us). ■

Face painting at the annual Picnic in the Park event
Middle: Pastor Kerry Martin preaching at a church service
Far right: Fellowship at the annual Picnic in the Park event



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE: Millport Mennonite Church

While God works through a corporate congregation in various ways, he also works through individual relationships. At Millport, the congregation takes the missional calling very seriously. Many people in the congregation are involved in one-on-one ministry with coworkers, neighbors, and other community relationships. We frequently hear from others that we are friendly and welcoming.

In 2015 a planning team formed, who had interest in pursuing ways to reach into our community. As they talked and prayed together, they realized that while our goal was to introduce people to Jesus, the congregation needed to begin building relationships with those outside the church. So the team investigated the Lifetree Café materials and eventually decided to start a Lifetree Café in Rothsville. Lifetree Café is an hour-long conversational café with topics and stories that participants interact with as they sit around tables.

The team purposefully decided to begin the Café outside the church building. They met with the owner of the White Swan Restaurant, who agreed to allow the use of one section of the restaurant that was typically closed on Wednesday nights. The Café went public on May 4, 2016. Due to staffing reasons, the Café stopped meeting April 26. Out of the relationships formed, a new ministry called LifePath has begun, which has a similar focus as Lifetree. We are glad for the various contacts this ministry has allowed us to begin in the community.

Another part of our outreach group started looking into ways to reach out to families. They were planning to start something in the evenings, but an opportunity opened up to work with other area churches to provide lunches for the community over the summer. Since children have less access to good meals over the summer when school is not in session, this sounded like a great opportunity. As our church participated in the free lunch program every Tuesday and Thursday, we were able to get to know some of the children and families from the community. When the lunch program ended, we began a weekly ministry in the basement of the Lutheran church in Rothsville. We meet to have a meal, play games, do crafts, talk about relevant life issues. In many ways, this has become "church" to several of our friends from the Rothsville community.

We have also hosted an annual "Picnic in the Park" every year since 2011. In 2016, we counted more community folks at the event than Millport folks. We remain pleased with the potential and growth of this event.

Because friendships are strong within the congregation, we are like a family in many ways. We enjoy being together. It is not uncommon to have people still visiting 45 minutes after the service is over. ■



DISTRICT: Lititz

LOCATION: 820 Log Cabin Road,
Leola, PA 17540

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1956

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 150

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.



PASTOR: Kerry Martin

Multiplying Pains

COMPILED BY BRINTON RUTHERFORD

Living things move through various life stages. A congregation, a living thing of sorts, also moves through stages. Any congregational change can produce growing pains. Multiplying a new faith community from an established church is one of those pain-generating experiences. Since a new faith community requires leaders, the sending church always sends away some of its leaders.

Josef Berthold, pastor at West End Mennonite Fellowship, commented on this experience recently. He said,

God reminded me early on in our ministry as a church planter to 'give away your best.' Give away your best, and do it early in the life of the church. And I gladly agreed to that. I said, 'Yes of course! When the time comes, we will give away our best.'

When that time came for Berthold, the sending of equipped leaders caused growing pains. Berthold said, "It was hard. It felt like we started over again. It felt like we gave away our money base."

Daryl Weaver, now bishop of the Martindale District, recalls similar feelings when the Martindale Mennonite Church began a new faith community in Reamstown, Pennsylvania.



There was a feeling of hopelessness and a bit of despair as we watched all the eager people with energy leave to begin Parkview, and for a few months I remember a sad, somewhat dismal atmosphere.

Perhaps the counter-intuitive part of the church multiplication process in God's economy is that God returns the leadership investment made to multiplication; Weaver saw this happen.

It became evident that if Martindale was to continue, there was a need for many people to step up and participate in church in new ways. So after a year, things began to feel really good back at Martindale again as we watched many people begin to step up and assume responsibilities.

For Weaver, that emergence of new leadership "has been a real blessing to our church."

Berthold observed a similar process at West End Mennonite Fellowship. He



Spanish church plant in Coatesville, Pa. Photo provided by Samuel Lopez.

saw that by giving away the best, "God continued to replenish. He always gives back to us." It was for this very reason that West End continued to send out their best leaders to multiply faith communities of various kinds all around the city of Lancaster. Berthold sees this constant sending as an ongoing revitalization process in the congregation. "Because we were always on edge," he said, "we could never just relax and say, well we have what we need." The regular sending of leaders meant the constant need to raise up new leaders from within the congregation.

Berthold noted an important lesson from ten years as a multiplication leader in Lancaster Mennonite Conference; "We learned to measure our success by how many people we send rather than by how many people we gather." ■

"Church on the Other Side"

Church on the Other Side provides preparation, equipping, and nurture for potential and active church planters and missional practitioners. It is lead by Omar Guzman and Josef Berthold, along with coaches, who connect with various new missional initiatives to provide encouragement, resourcing, and accountability.

NEWS NOTES

MARK WENGER DEPARTS LEADERSHIP OF STEP



Dr. Mark Wenger ended his leadership of the STEP (Study and Training for Effective Pastoral ministry) program on June 28 after 13 years of dedicated service. He provided the formative leadership of this new program in its early years, which placed it on a firm financial footing. As STEP gained momentum, Wenger provided mature guidance that included a complete curriculum refresh two years ago and the start of the process to deliver the curriculum materials electronically, including assignment grading. Over his tenure, 105 students graduated from STEP. He leaves STEP to assume the position of Administrative Pastor at Franconia Mennonite Church. Brinton Rutherford, Lancaster Conference resource staff person, will assume interim STEP leadership, which will include moving all the administrative functions of STEP from EMU to LMC during the next academic year.

NEW BISHOPS



James Sutton began as bishop in the new Eastern Ohio District, which has four congregations. James Sutton's vision is to encourage pastors and congregations to continue and advance the work of Christ, the work of disciple making and kingdom building through personal prayer and evangelism, public proclamation and invitation, and engagement with our communities through "good Samaritan" works of love and compassion. He lives in Painesville, Oh.



J. Nelson Bechtold was installed as bishop of the Elizabethtown and York Districts in February. The two districts total six congregations. Previously pastor at Goods Mennonite Church, Bechtold steps in to replace Clair Good, who resigned in 2016 and took an assignment in Congo with MCC. Bechtold and his wife Connie live in Bainbridge. His passion is to see the church grow, not only in discipleship, but also in missional vision in our local communities. His prayer is that God would "use us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:14-15).



STEP GRADUATION

On May 13, 13 students graduated from STEP, the three-year leadership-training program. Each student received a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from Eastern Mennonite University. This graduating class brings the total number of STEP graduates to 105. The graduates were Maurice Baruti, Lanny Dinh, Richard Dinh, Matthew Eberly, Rodney Horst, Charles Lauver, Jaye Lindo, Anthony Martin, Matthew Martin, Jeff McLain, Jill Miller, Tibebu Shanka, and June Tran.

LANCASTER CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS VOTE THIS FALL

The Conference Executive Council and the Board of Bishops are working on a revision to the LMC Constitution to reflect the credentialed leaders' decision to disaffiliate from Mennonite Church USA. The vote will take place at the fall Leadership Assembly on Sept. 21. Passage requires 75% of those in attendance to vote in the affirmative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at lancasterconference.org.

Monday Night Prayer Gathering

Every first Monday of each month

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.

717-293-5246

Thursday Night Prayer Gathering

Every third Thursday of each month

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.

717-293-5246

A Sending Celebration: EMM Worker Commissioning

July 9, 6:00 p.m.

Mellinger Mennonite Church

Lancaster, Pa.

jessicaf@emm.org

EMM Global Fair

July 15, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.

emm.org/events

LMHS Book Frolic

August 16 – 19

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society,
Lancaster, Pa.

lmhs.org/events/bookworm-frolic

Friendship Community Irvin C. Enck Memorial Golf Tournament

September 7, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fox Chase Golf Club, Stevens, Pa.

eventscoordinator@friendshipcommunity.net

Landis Homes Fellowship Day

September 9, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.

[landishomes.org/giving/benefit-events/
fellowship-day](http://landishomes.org/giving/benefit-events/fellowship-day)

LMHS Annual Storytelling Night

September 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Stumptown Mennonite Church,

Bird in Hand, Pa.

lmhs.org/events/event-calendar

Friendship Community 45th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Shady Maple Banquets, East Earl, Pa.

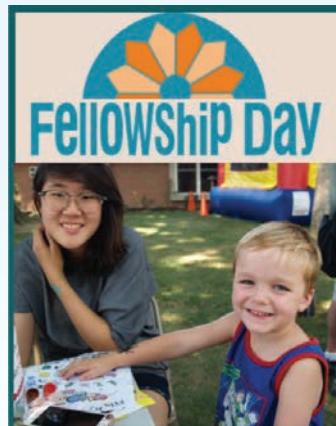
eventscoordinator@friendshipcommunity.net

Fall Leadership Assembly

September 21

Location to be announced

jsantiago@lancasterconference.org



September 9, 2017

**Benefit Live Auction
& Silent Auction
Market Place, Yard Sale,
Children's Area,
Food Court, BBQ Chicken**



www.landishomes.org 717-569-3271

Eastern Mennonite Missions vision and fundraising banquet

**everyone moving in mission
in a changing world**

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Eden Resort Courtyard, Lancaster, PA

Register online beginning August 1 at emm.org/banquet.

