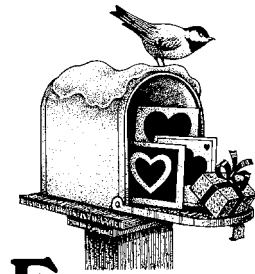


3 Paul T. Livengood  
 3 Parker Helmick  
 6 Ramona Cartwright  
 8 Imogene Dayton  
 11 Lester Reall  
 11 Rene Wolford  
 13 Beth Livengood  
 13 Michelle Young  
 15 Nancy Dayton  
 15 Jaxson Paul Riggins  
 18 Shawn Fincham  
 22 Landon Riggins  
 23 Aaron Livengood  
 26 Ted Harsh  
 26 Daniel Helmick



## FEBRUARY

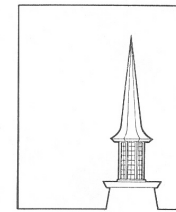
### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5 Lester & Maxine Reall  
 23 Richard & JoAnn Helmick



"OK, I confess, I've never driven a church bus before ... but I've played a lot of Mario Kart video games."

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# CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2015  
 Vol. 5 No. 2

## PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

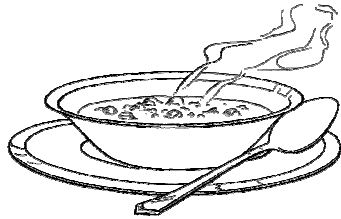
"In Christ's body we're all connected to each other..."  
 Eph 4:25, *The Message*



## *Worship in February*

### **Sunday, February 1**

Prelude: Teagan Powers  
Penny Power Offering  
Message: Pastor Merle



### **Noon: Souper Bowl lunch**

Fellowship together and support the Pinto Teens as they attend Sno Kamp at Laurelville and sponsor a youth from the Bhutanese-Nepali Church of Pittsburgh to attend also.

### **Sunday, February 8**

Prelude Jan Livengood  
Message: Pastor Merle  
Celebrate the addition of  
new member: Ray Young  
Jr. Worship: Carol Flowers

### **6 p.m. Evening Service**

Bible Study led by Lester Reall

### **Sunday, February 15**

Gathering Music: Jan Livengood  
Message: Pastor Merle

### **5 p.m. Evening Service**

Movie *"God is Not Dead"* provided by Homebuilders

### **Sunday, February 22**

#### **Lent 1: One More Time**

Music: *Celebration*

Message: Wayne Yoder

Scriptures: *Genesis 9:8-17;*

*Psalms 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22;*

*Mark 1:9-15*

Jr. Worship: Homebuilders

### **6 p.m. Evening Service**

*"What's Happening in Allegheny Conference?"*



## **WORLD'S ATTIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

Rags were cut from cotton garments and denim from jeans to contribute to MCC recently. The rags are sold to auto shops and others at the World's Attic thrift store. Denim is taken to the MCC center in Chambersburg to be made into denim rugs or sold to make denim comforters. Every contribution is appreciated!



... And speaking of contributions, World's Attic also appreciates your donation of clean, gently used clothing and other items. These may be placed in the closet in the young adult classroom in the church basement.

The photo below shows some recent items which are NOT really helpful as donations. Because of some laws in Pennsylvania, the thrift store is unable to take pillows or stuffed bedding-no matter how nice they are. Also, unless they are new, most undergarments cannot be used. And

then there are some other items like single gloves or shoes, obvious trash, and yes, there was a partial roll of toilet paper in one bag!

Don't stop donating, but please be considerate of those who are sorting your items.



## TIE SOME KNOTS FOR RELIEF

We are sometimes shocked when reminded that we are not in control of the events that shape our lives. Many of us in North America are able to arrange for both comfort and convenience in our lives, giving us an illusion that life is secure and predictable.



For refugees, however, whatever control they had has been shattered by war or violence or disaster. In the midst of the distress of being forced from their homes, the sense that life is uncertain pervades every moment.

The Cumberland Valley Relief Center in cooperation with Mennonite Central Committee sends knotted comforters to those in need around our world. Comforters are sent to hospitals, refugee camps, orphanages and locations experiencing disasters.

Tuesday February 24, 2015 from 9:00 am through 8:00 pm, the Cumberland Valley Relief Center located at 4225 Molly Pitcher Hwy., South, Chambersburg, PA will be holding their bi-annual Comforter Blitz. The Center hopes to knot 100 comforters that day! The community is welcome to come out and help us. If you can tie a knot then you can help us. Call with any questions. 717-375-2088.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Tri-State Sale area also sponsors a work day in April in which many comforters are tied as well as opportunity to work on other quilts and wood-working projects for the MCC Sale. Watch for announcements about it as we get closer to that date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our church also provides comforters to the Union Rescue Mission and we will have some ready to knot soon. Contact Betty Helmick if you would like to help.

## LENTEN THEME “UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT”

In the three-year cycle of the lectionary, the biblical texts for Lent always issue a call to renewal. The readings for Year A focus on new believers; those for Year B focus on the faithful; and those for Year C focus on those who have wandered from Christ and the church.



It's relatively easy to be excited about years A and C, the years addressed to new believers or those who have fallen away. Joy and drama have a compelling intensity. But what do we do with the ho-hum faithful of Year B, those who (like us?) have been steadily minding their own business, showing up faithfully for worship and potlucks, teaching Sunday school, serving on committees, volunteering, and going on service trips? What does renewal look like for the already committed?

What is seen over and over in the texts for this season is God beginning with people where they are—including those who are already “in.” Yet, as the old saying goes, while God loves us just as we are, God is not content to *leave us* just as we are, but instead turns our expectations and understanding inside out and upside down. This remaking, reshaping, and recasting make all the difference regardless of the starting point.

Believers may not so much need a “reset” as an invitation not to settle, a call to grow *up* rather than simply to grow. Growing up asks us to take a second look at what we thought we knew, what we thought was decided, what we thought we were done with, and to discover that there is more than we saw at first glance. Growing up means not only saying but actually knowing in our bones that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Growing up means realizing that it's possible to follow the rules perfectly and still have a heart of stone. Growing up means recognizing that death is absolutely real—and also absolutely powerless to stop God's reign from coming, here on earth as in heaven.

*(taken from the resources in the The Leader)*



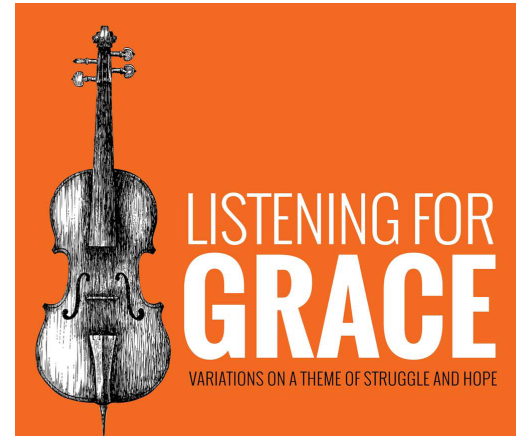
## COME AND JOIN THE MUSIC!

Musicians and choirs are coming from many parts of the world to be part of "PA 2015" this July in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"It's the closest to heaven I've ever been," is an often-heard comment from many who have attended past Mennonite World Conference global Assemblies.

If you have not yet registered to attend this event on your own continent – a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for many – please consider doing so today. For full information and registration details, go to [www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015).

This is the first Assembly in North America in 25 years. Given the current pattern of holding Assemblies every six years in either the global South or North, it could be close to 30 years before this event is once again held in North America.



Stahl Mennonite Church is hosting a play entitled *Listening for Grace* by Ted & Company Theater Works at **7:00pm on Saturday, February 21st**. This play explores the church's complicated relationship with the gay and lesbian community. This performance is FREE and open to the public. The actor, Ted Swartz, will take questions following.

The play centers around a newly widowed, devoted Christian father who finds out his son is gay. It is a funny, powerful, poignant performance which gives voice to our fears and hopes when a faith community engages in questions around same sex relationships.

Stahl Mennonite is partnering with other members of the Mennonite Community here in Johnstown who believe that this play can promote compassionate and faithful conversation in our churches.

Bob Brown, pastor at Stahl, writes "As Allegheny Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA face some very difficult and potentially organization changing decisions, we believe that taking time to open up dialogue about gay and lesbians and the church is the least we can do. I don't think that this play will solve everything, but if we can get together and laugh and share together, it may make us more able to love one another, and hear the Holy Spirit in all this struggle."

Let Pastor Merle know if you are interested in attending this production so car-pooling may be arranged if needed.



Offerings in January included contributions of food for the Union Rescue Mission pantry and cash to purchase kitchen equipment for them. Thank you for your contributions and to the Finchams for delivering them to the collection point.

# History *looking back*

## 50 YEARS AGO....

*(Taken from February 1965 Bulletins)*

- Tuesday evening services were presented at the Cumberland Rescue Mission by this church one week, the Ladies' Auxiliary the next week, and the Inter-denominational youth group the following week.
- The MYF met at the Calvin Dayton home. Judi Livengood was in charge of the devotional. The topic to be discussed was "Why be a Mennonite Christian?" led by Mary Rosier.
- Families were encouraged to "find God's will for the sharing of the Good News with someone in the fellowship of your home" on Sunday evenings.
- Pastor Mahlon Miller held special meetings at Kaufman Mennonite Church.

## 25 YEARS AGO...

*(Taken from February 1990 Bulletins)*

- A Valentine's Dinner was held at Barton's Trophy Room for everyone over age 13. Child care was provided at the church. Oren Bender was the speaker for the evening.
- Shirley Kurtz wrote the lead article in the *Gospel Herald* publication addressing our response as Christians and stewards to the environmental issues confronting us.
- Betty Helmick was confined to her home for ten days with mono.
- Eight MYFers and Wayne and Roveen Yoder attended Sno Kamp at Laurelville and then presented a Sunday afternoon program about their experiences there.

## NEW BUILDING TAKING SHAPE-NEEDS A NAME!



The walls are up, roof is on, doors and windows in, and the floor is poured. The new building is now becoming a reality. Interior work was begun by our church members this week. Many thanks to Kurt Helmick for spending hours of time coordinating these efforts and to the building committee for making many, many decisions!



People have been wondering what to call this new facility so now it is time to choose a name. What will the name say about our church, about our mission and witness to the community, about how the building will be used? Will it be welcoming to

others or have a sense of a "private club?" Give some serious thought and prayer to this then submit suggestions for a name along with the reason you suggest the name to Karen Morgan, Building Committee Chair. This will be discussed at the May Members meeting.

# Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor: Merle Christner  
13822 Pinto Rd SW  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Phone: 301-729-2714  
E-mail: [pintochurch@atlanticbb.net](mailto:pintochurch@atlanticbb.net)  
[www.pintochurch.org](http://www.pintochurch.org)

## FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Message: Pastor Merle Prelude: Teagan Powers Penny Power offering Noon: Souper Bowl Lunch	2 6 pm Game Night	3	4 5:30 pm Family Night 6:30 pm Bible Study	5 6:30 pm Elders	6	7 7 am Men's Bible Study
8 Message: Pastor Merle Prelude: Jan Livengood Receiving New Member 6 p.m. Bible Study led by Lester Reall	9 6 pm Game Night 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	10 6:30 pm Council	11 5:30 pm Family Night 6:30 pm Bible Study	12	13	14 7 am Men's Bible Study
15 Message: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: Jan Livengood 5 p.m. "God is Not Dead" Movie provided by Homebuilders class	16 6 pm Game Night 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	17	18 5:30 pm Family Night 6:30 pm Bible Study	19	20	21 7 am Men's Bible Study
22 First Sunday of Lent Message: Wayne Yoder Music: <i>Celebration</i> 6 p.m. "What's Happening in Allegheny Conference?"	23 8 am World's Attic Work Day 6 pm Game Night	24	25 5:30 pm Family Night 6:30 pm Bible Study	26	27	28 7 am Men's Bible Study