

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8 David & Brenda Liller
11 Al & Betty Anderson
17 David & Imogene Dayton

2 Phillip Dayton
4 Robert (Pappy) Evans
14 Emily Flowers
16 Scott Helmick
22 Virginia Moreland
28 Judi Brenneman
31 Betty Ritchey
31 Bobby Taylor

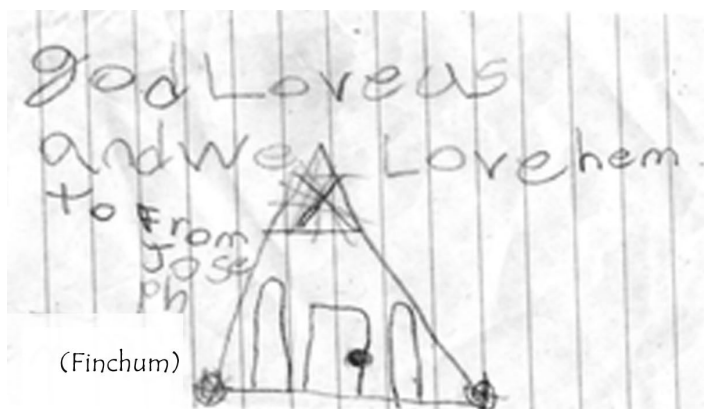
"See what love the Father has given us,



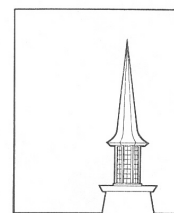
that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

A statement of faith....



(Finchum)



CONNECTION

January 2014
Vol. 4 No. 1

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

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



2014

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR...

WORSHIP

January 5 EPIPHANY

*O the Mystery of God's Dwelling
....In Diversity*

Sermon: Pastor Merle
Penny Power Offering



January 12

Gathering Music: *Celebration*
Sermon: Pastor Merle

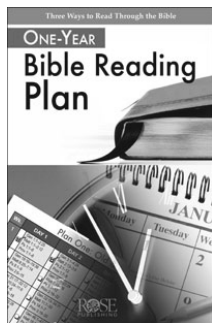
January 19

Sermon: Pastor Merle

January 26

Sermon: Pastor Merle

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR.....BIBLE READING



Early last year Pastor Merle and the elders decided to designate 2013 as the "Year of the Bible" for this congregation. We wanted to put a special emphasis on the Bible in several ways. We particularly wanted to provide opportunities to read the Bible and encourage the congregation to engage in the Word in a variety of ways.

One of the most visible ways we encouraged reading the Bible was a public reading in one week at the church. In September, a total of 78 hours was spent with persons volunteering to read the Bible, beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation. This was well received and several persons encouraged us to do it again. So look for it to happen again.

We also provided insights on Bible memorization, Biblical storytelling and reading the Bible in public.

(Continued)

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM THE HOLLINGSWORTHS

Acts 29

MINISTRY

Hello to all the precious people who will be reading this update. It is my hope and prayer that God will bless you with all His richest blessing. There is no way we can express how we have missed seeing so many of you these past six months. But we have benefited from the faithfulness of your prayers and support.

The last time you heard from me, I was getting ready to go into surgery for my back. Well, that is behind us now and thank God, it is healing up quite well. I'm pretty sure I'm coming out of the trial [after some medical setbacks]. I am feeling much better and I feel like I am getting my life back. We are looking forward to the day that God will allow us to return to service.

Again, thank you for all your prayers and support. We couldn't do it without you. Our schedule remains a matter of prayer for the upcoming year. We are trusting God to provide direction, strength and endurance for whatever task He has ahead of us. We believe that God is not done with the Acts 29 Ministry but we're not certain where or when He wants us to proceed.

Please pray with us in that regard and help us bring honor to Him! Jack and Sally Hollingsworth

(excerpts from the Acts 20 Ministry newsletter)

DID
YOU
KNOW
?

- In the Bible in one form or another we are solemnly charged more than 160 times to care for the poor.
- More than 250 names are given God in the Bible.
- One of the longest chapters in the Bible is Numbers 7--and it is all about giving.
- Christ quotes from 22 Old Testament books.

“THANKS FOR BEING KIND”

In today's public schools, God has been excluded in many areas. However, one can still teach kindness and the service mentality, as God teaches us. The Curtis & Grammy adventure books feature a secret agent grandmother, who takes her grandson on adventures to help others, while having lots of fun! More importantly, the stories teach children the importance of performing acts of kindness each day, and to encourage the adults around them to join in performing daily acts of kindness.

Through donations from a few businesses, we have been able to reach one kindergarten class at Frost Elementary, the pre-school class at FSU Children's Center, Hope for Hyndman Charter School Kindergarten Class, and South Penn Elementary Kindergarten and Pre-K is scheduled for a January presentation. We have found the kids very excited to keep a kindness journal and to do kindness acts every day.

We are hoping to reach all the kindergarten age children in the county, and any donation amount is so very appreciated. Each child receives a free Curtis & Grammy gift bag with a Curtis & Grammy book, t-shirt, pencil, coloring pages, and an official Curtis & Grammy Kind Kid Card. Each gift bag prepared for a child has a \$25 cost, and every penny that is donated is used to pay for the items in the gift bag.

Should you have any questions or wish to speak further, please call us at 301-777-1303.

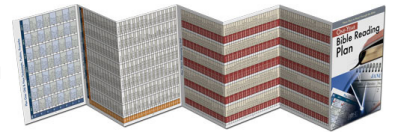
Curtis & Grammy Kind Kids Program
Author - Ej Holly

(The author has generously donated the book, “Olivia Octopus Wrecks World Series” to our children’s library. Details for donating to this program are in a flyer posted on the bulletin board)



(Continued)

Everyone was challenged to read the Bible completely within a year. A pamphlet was provided to record your readings throughout the year. Nearly 30 persons picked up those pamphlets, indicating an interest to take up this challenge. We are curious as to how many persons are completing this challenge. Since the challenge was issued towards the end of January, you still have a couple weeks, if necessary, to wrap it up. As you can tell from above, it only takes an average of 78 hours to read the entire Bible. Please let the Pastor know if you completed reading the entire Bible or how near you came.



To encourage you to read the Bible through this coming year, new Bible Reading Plan pamphlets are available on a table in the foyer. In the next week or so, a chart will also be posted on the wall outside the Women's SS class where you can record and share your progress throughout the year. Those chapters you read for Bible Study, SS class or devotions can also be included to help you read through the Bible.

12 Scriptures project

Another project, which was not completed last year, "The Twelve Scriptures Project" is being planned for early this year. We hope to get everyone involved to identify the 12 most important

Scripture texts or stories for our congregation. This process can help to give us clarity on Scriptures that are descriptive of who we are and prescriptive of who we are becoming. Be thinking about your favorite scriptures then be ready to share them when given the opportunity.

The Bible as the Word of God is very important to our faith. We want to continue to focus on it and anticipate what God will show us as we continue to engage His Word.



Year of the Bible
READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR.....SERVICE

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Because of your generous support and hard work, 90-95 persons at the Union Rescue Mission enjoyed a tasty Christmas dinner and some special gifts on December 21. A worship service honoring the birth of the Savior was held just prior to the meal and it was noted that there seemed to be quite a few more children in attendance this year.



Betty Helmick was again in charge of organizing the meal, and appreciates the many helping hands who made it all happen.

Thanks for making the season a bit brighter and more hopeful for others.



SUPER SOUPER-BOWL COMING SOON

This will be the third year for the Super Souper-Bowl food collection from area businesses, schools, and churches to benefit the Union Rescue Mission. In 2012, four tons of non-perishable food items were donated and in 2013, that increased to six tons.



We will again be serving as a collection point for these food items from January 12-26. Watch for more information about which food items are most needed. This is a major support to the mission through the winter months and on into the rest of the year.





THE STORY NEVER GROWS OLD

Under the direction of Jan Livengood and Pat Liller, the children of the church again participated in the telling of the Christmas nativity. Due to the cold and wintry weather, the outdoor presentation at the Liller farm was cancelled one week and then moved to the church sanctuary the next Sunday evening. While this may have resulted in a smaller audience, it did not diminish the children's enthusiasm. What is it about donning an angel costume, a shepherd's robe, or a king's crown, that make the experience so much more real?

Adults of the congregation participated in the program by singing songs from the Christmas Cantata presented at Pinto for many years. With the addition of the cantata's backdrop for the drama, this brought back many memories for those who had participated in the telling of the Christmas story in that way. After the program, everyone enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate in the fellowship hall.

How will the story be told next year? Will there be a return to the outdoor setting or will there be some new ideas? Will there be more children to participate? Will there be different music or the same beloved arrangements? These are unknowns, but what is known is that the story WILL be told again!

WORLD'S ATTIC NEEDS YOU!

World's Attic, a ministry of Allegheny Mennonite Conference has been serving Somerset, PA, and the surrounding community for 32 years. World's Attic is a thrift store selling clothing and household items in support of the larger service of MCC (Mennonite Central Committee). Though we live at a distance from Somerset, our church has supported this ministry in many ways over the years including two members who currently serve on the Board, Evie Christner and Wayne Yoder.



Recently, things have changed a bit for this ministry with the hiring of a part-time manager, Sheri Speigle. This has resulted in an updated look and feel in the store and with Sheri's energy and innovative nature, a dramatic increase in sales. The highest sales on record were experienced in November with over \$8645. This has enabled the ministry to greatly increase the giving to MCC. As Wayne has said, "This is one of very few businesses who try to make more money so they can give it away!"

What can you do to assist in the ministry? The World's Attic needs and appreciates:

- ◆ Donation of good quality clothing and household items (no electronics, pillows, or bedding with filling please)
 - ◆ Donation of funds, material, and labor for special projects such as an additional dressing room recently built by a group from Martinsburg Mennonite Church.
 - ◆ Your continued prayer for this ministry
- But primarily-we need people to volunteer their TIME.....
- ◆ Regular all-day workers each week or month
 - ◆ On-call workers who can come when others can't make it
 - ◆ Child care or transportation providers so others may come to volunteer
 - ◆ People who can lift bags and transport clothing regularly from Johnstown
 - ◆ Larger groups who can come for 2-3 hours and do some special tasks especially at seasonal transition times or for service projects

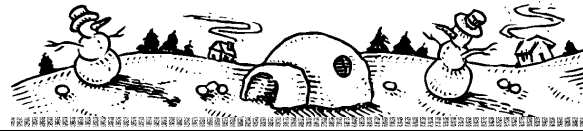
Men, women, and children may volunteer-there is something for everyone. Join a global community of people responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice

Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor: Merle Christner
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www.pintochurch.org

JANUARY 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	3	4 7 am Men's Bible Studies
5 Sermon: Pastor Merle Penny Power offering	6 6 pm Game Night	7 7 pm Council	8 7 pm Bible Study	9 World's Attic Day 6:30 pm Elders 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	10	11 7 am Men's Bible Studies
12 Sermon: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: <i>Celebration</i>	13 6 pm Game Night	14	15 7 pm Bible Study	16	17	18 7 am Men's Bible Studies
19 Sermon: Pastor Merle	20 6 pm Game Night	21	22 7 pm Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Elders	24	25 7 am Men's Bible Studies
26 Sermon: Pastor Merle	27 World's Attic Day 6 pm Game Night	28	29 No Bible Study	30	31	