

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5 Lester & Maxine Reall
23 Richard & JoAnn Helmick
24 Mark & Chrissy Light

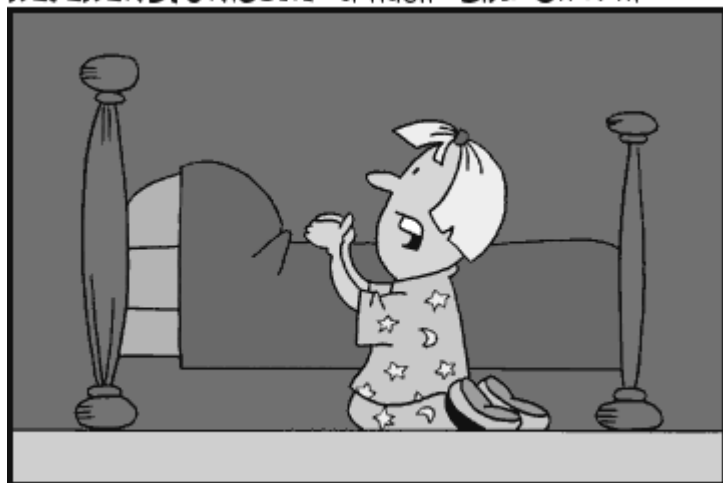
3 Paul T. Livengood
6 Ramona Cartwright
8 Imogene Dayton
11 Lester Reall
11 Rene Wolford
13 Beth Livengood
15 Nancy Dayton
18 Jennifer Light
22 Landon Riggins
23 Aaron Livengood
26 Ted Harsh
26 Daniel Helmick
27 Phylip Ohler

Address Update:

Brynn Morgan & Andrew Riggins
15505 Shamrock Rd SW
Cumberland, MD 21502

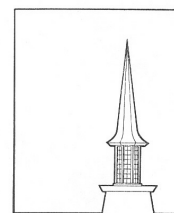
Brynn Birthday 5/11 Cell 240-362-6462
Andrew Birthday 6/13 Cell 304-790-1285
Landon Birthday 2/22/2012

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02-13-1998

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?



CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2013
Vol. 3 No. 2

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

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



Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

I Corinthians 13:4-7 *The Message*



WORSHIP

February 3 Sermon: Pastor Merle
continuing the theme of the Bible
Penny Power Offering



Noon: Potluck Fellowship Meal
No evening service

February 10 Sermon: Pastor Merle
Luke 9:28-36 The Transfiguration

6 pm Movie Night
"Facing the Giants"
(see page 5)



February 17 First Sunday of Lent

"Ashamed No More:
God Will Show Us Salvation"
Sermon: Pastor Merle



7 pm Evening Service-
Reading Scripture
And Biblical Storytelling

February 24 Second Sunday of Lent-
"Ashamed No More:
We Will Take Courage and
Wait on the Lord
Sermon: Pastor Merle

7 pm Evening Service-Lester Reall



Another option is that MCC has opened a personal drawing account (PDA) for us. This account is for our personal expenses like vacation, ice cream, clothing—all things we need to pay for ourselves. You can write checks to MCC and put our names in the memo line and the money will go into our PDA. Contact MCC to confirm the procedure. Also, money gifts (in this format) are not tax deductible.

Yet another option is that you can just give money to our church (Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia) with "Guatemala Project" in the memo line. This money will help cover unanticipated expenses, give us some funds to work with at Bezaleel school, help pay for child care and Spanish studies for the children, cover our medical costs, etc. This money is tax deductible.

And yet another option is to donate directly to MCC. This will not help us outright, but it will help the agency we work for. And it might be a healthy outlet for your care and concern for the people here and in many other countries where MCC does relief and development work.

Much love to you all. You guys rock.

Love, Jennifer

Mennonites around the World – Statistics

Mennonite Church USA Membership: 103,245
Congregations: 921

Around the Globe

Africa	650,646	
Asia and the Pacific	253,682	
Europe	26,479	
Latin America and the Caribbean	100,967	
North America	254,652	

Total 1,286,426

(Statistics include Amish groups, other Anabaptists and Brethren groups) ~Source: Mennonite World Conference



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Paulson and Shirley Kurtz's daughter, Jennifer Murch, along with her husband and children are serving as teachers in Guatemala through MCC. Jennifer writes a very interesting blog of their experiences which you can read at <http://mamasminutia.blogspot.com>. Below is an excerpt with suggestions of how you can support them.



Dear friends,

Lots of you have been asking about care packages. Can you send them and how long will it take and what happens when they come through customs. Your concern and care, just in the asking, is hugely encouraging and supportive of us. Thank you!

Here's the deal: right now we are going through culture shock. Everything is new and different and it all (or a lot of it, anyway) rubs the wrong way. This is normal. It is not something to run away from but something to work through.

What we are going through affects you—I need to be aware of that. No one likes to watch someone else flounder about like a fish, and for those of you who know us well, listening and watching without being able to do is a yucky place to be.

By far, the most important thing you can do is just listen and offer encouragement. Your emails and Facebook/blog/twitter comments are HUGELY encouraging. Knowing that you're following along on our journey gives us strength, more so than I thought possible.

But some of you want to do more than that, something concrete, like care packages. I adore care packages, but in the name of honesty, let me be perfectly clear: we don't *need* anything. Almost everything can be found in this country (if you're willing to pay). I mean, Walmart is here (not that we intend the shop there).

Still, if you want to send care packages (and I have no idea how long they will take or what will happen in customs or how much they cost), we will jump all over them.

Our mailing address is:
c/o Comite Central Menonita
19 Avenida 5-94 Zona 11
Colonia Miraflores
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

(Keep in mind that all our mail goes to the capital, and once it arrives, it might sit there for a couple more weeks until we get into the capital.)

(Continued)

2013 TO BE “YEAR OF THE BIBLE” AT PINTO

Pastor Merle and the elders have decided to designate 2013 as the “Year of the Bible” for this congregation. While we believe that the Bible is essential to our church every year, a special emphasis will be made this year in several ways.



A plan to read the Bible through in its entirety is encouraged with several ways to do that suggested in a flyer you will find on the table in the foyer. Different methods of scripture memorization including Biblical story-telling will be presented as well as Bible quizzing.

We may even take up the challenge of a public reading of the entire Bible in about 80 hours. (If you would like to read how this was accomplished at AMBS, refer to the article at this site <http://anabapti.st/files/documents/news-and-publications/11-12/75-hours-with-the-Book.pdf>)

Another project that has been suggested by Mennonite Church USA and used in several congregations is “The Twelve Scriptures Project” This has its roots in the Christian Education priority of the church highlighted by Pastor Merle in a recent sermon series. This priority states in part, “The first and highest priority commits us to fashion and mold our lives after that of Jesus Christ. As missional communities, our congregations ... will ensure that people are invited to make a commitment to Christ, disciplined in the way of Christ, **taught to engage with the scriptures.....**”

The suggestion is that each congregation engage in a process that would identify the 12 most important Scripture texts or stories for their congregation, answering the question, “Why that one?” These scriptures would not come from the top down--not from the denomination, area conferences or even congregational leadership--but from the grassroots up. This process can help to give us clarity on Scriptures that are descriptive of who we are and prescriptive of who we are becoming.

The Bible as the Word of God is very important to our faith. We will focus on it in a very specific way and anticipate what God will show us during this year.

ASHAMED NO MORE..... **LENTEN THEME 2013**

The biblical stories emerge from Eastern cultures where honor and shame are important--to a degree Westerners rarely understand. Personal, family, community, and national honor are of paramount concern. To be shamed destroys people psychologically and spiritually.

We need salvation from the disgrace we suffer and need to have our honor restored. In the parable of the prodigal son, a key gospel text of this Lent-Easter season, we find old patterns of disgrace and shame are broken.

Christ's shameful death by crucifixion is redeemed by the resurrection. Through Christ our shame is also taken away. God is doing a new thing, recognizing our true nature and making a way for us to become fully human again.

(From *The Leader*)

THIRTY HEALTH KITS TO MCC

Thirty health kits were recently delivered to the MCC center in Chambersburg, PA, from our church.

Hygiene kits are often presented to displaced people who do not have access to hygiene supplies. Some are given through schools or orphanages to encourage children in healthy habits.

People in such countries as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Haiti and Bosnia and Herzegovina have received hygiene kits in the past few years.

Contents include: 1 adult-size toothbrush, 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste, 1 large bar bath soap, 1 fingernail clipper, and 1 hand towel. They are distributed in a useful (and colorful) double drawstring cloth bag.



Emily Flowers was a big help in packing and assembling the kits



away from the destructive effect of our misplaced allegiances.

We will hear assurances of God's healing grace, love and forgiveness as we seek to align ourselves with God's restorative purposes in the world.

We will be sent into the world, empowered by God's Spirit to be signs and instruments of God's salvation, justice and peace.

Registration is now open and more information can be found at www.mennoniteusa.org.

YOUTH GROUP RECEIVES CHECK FOR SERVICE PROJECT

At the last Mennonite Church convention in Pittsburgh (2011), Teagan Powers and Bree Flowers along with Kraig and Sarecia Powers as sponsors immersed themselves in many of the experiences of the Youth Convention. The exhibit area featured booths by the Mennonite Church colleges among many other organizations and many booths had contests or prizes to help attract people to their booth.

Bethel College in Newton, Kansas, had a questionnaire to be filled out and entered into a drawing for a \$500 prize. Teagan was the happy recipient of that prize and was presented with the check at a recent Sunday service. The money is specifically intended for the youth group to use in a service project of some kind. They will be making a decision on a project in the near future, so any suggestions you might have may be passed on to one of the members or to Kraig and Sarecia. Congratulations, Teagan!



CITIZENS OF GOD'S KINGDOM: HEALED IN HOPE 2013 MENNONITE CHURCH CONVENTION THEME

The Phoenix 2013 convention will be centered on theme *Citizens of God's Kingdom: Healed in Hope* or *Ciudadanos del Reino de Dios: Sanados por la Esperanza*.

There are four key scriptures that have been chosen to guide the focus throughout the week.

- Psalm 24:1
- Philippians 3:20-21
- Romans 5:1-5
- Ephesians 2: 14-22

Convention will again include times of worship, seminars, service projects, special events, and delegate sessions to discuss and discern decisions important to our church. Pastor Merle and Wade Dorsey have been chosen as our congregation's delegates to the convention which will be held July 1-6, 2013.

Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director for Mennonite Church USA offers the following explanation of the theme.

We are praying that our convention in Phoenix will be a time of renewal and recommitment to God's reign in the world.

This week we will have an opportunity to grasp a new vision of the depth and breadth of God's Kingdom, God's preferred future for the whole created order. We will come to comprehend the profound implications of the claim that "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

We will hear the call to live as citizens of God's kingdom, pledging our allegiance to God above all other claims to our loyalty, including the nation in which we live.

We will be invited to acknowledge the ways that we have yielded to the temptations of this present world, and to turn

(Continued)



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FEBRUARY 10 AT 6 pm



The Homebuilder's class will again be sponsoring a movie night on February 10. This year's featured full-length film, from the producers of *Courageous* and *Fireproof* is *Facing the Giants*.

Facing the Giants is the story of Grant Taylor, a high school football coach with a mediocre record. After several poor seasons, the Shiloh Eagles are considering replacing him as head coach. This is not the only problem Taylor is facing; his car is breaking

down, the players' fathers are trying to get him fired, and he discovers that he is the reason that his wife Brooke cannot become pregnant.

He creates a new coaching philosophy and decides to praise God, no matter what the result. At the same time he guides and urges each one of his players to give the maximum effort, and motivates them to believe they can win under God's guidance.

Come at 6 pm on February 10, bring your friends, and see how this new way of living affected Grant Taylor's life and the lives of those around him.



YOU ARE INVITED!
VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 5:00 PM
PENN ALPS RESTAURANT
(Car pooling from the church at 4:15)

COUNTRY BUFFET

Includes 3-4 entrees, 4 or more side dishes, homemade soup and salad bar, homemade breads, and a variety of desserts, including hand-dipped ice cream

COST: \$18.58/PERSON (Non-Refundable)
INCLUDES DRINK AND GRATUITY
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION
INCLUDING PAYMENT
TO KAREN OR SARECIA
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 10

Pinto Mennonite Church

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

Phone: 301-729-2714
E-mail: pintochurch@atlanticbb.net
www.pinto.md.us.mennonite.net

FEBRUARY 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7 am Men's Bible Studies MYF SNOKAMP
3 Sermon: Pastor Merle Penny Power offering Noon Fellowship meal No evening service	4 6 pm Game Night	5 7 pm Council	6 7 pm Bible Study	7	8	9 7 am Men's Bible Studies
10 Sermon: Pastor Merle 6 pm Family Movie Night "Facing the Giants"	11 6 pm Game Night	12 7 pm Elders	13 Ash Wednesday 7 pm Bible Study	14	15	16 7 am Men's Bible Studies 5:00 pm Valentine's Dinner at Penn Alps
17 First Sunday of Lent Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm Eve. Service: Read- ing scripture and Biblical storytelling	18 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Celebration practice	19	20 7 pm Bible Study	21	22	23 7 am Men's Bible Studies
24 Second Sunday of Lent Gathering: Celebration Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm Eve. Service-Lester Reall	25 World's Attic Day 6 pm Game Night	26	27 7 pm Bible Study	28		March 2 AMC Faith & Life Gathering