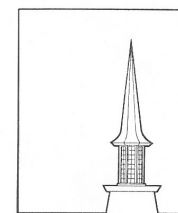


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# CONNECTION

May 2012  
Vol. 2 No. 5

## PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

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

### WE KNOW.....

#### Ephesians 3:18

We know  
how wide God's love is

#### John 3:16

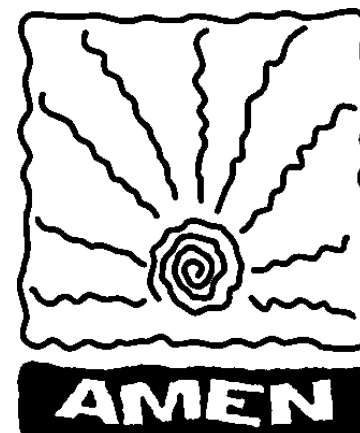
*For God so loved the world*

We know  
the length of His love

*He gave His only Son*

We know  
how deep His love reaches *for whosoever comes to Him*

We know  
the height of His love *should have eternal life.*



# KINGDOM ATTITUDES

## WORSHIP IN MAY

**May 6** “**Blessed are the meek**” Matthew 5:5

Sermon: Ron Hampton

Penny Power offering

Evening Service: Small groups

**May 13 Mother's Day**

“**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness**” Matthew 5:6

Sermon: Paul T. Livengood

Gathering Music: New Praise

No evening service

**May 20-23 Spring Renewal Services**

9:30 am Sunday School with Marion Bontrager

Sermon: Marion Bontrager

(See following pages for more information)

**May 27 “Blessed are the peacemakers”**

Matthew 5:9

Sermon: Lawrence Brenneman

Gathering Music: Rejoice!

# BLESSED!



PEARLS  
AND  
LACE

MOTHER-DAUGHTER  
BRUNCH

MAY 12

9:30 AM

Pinto Mennonite Church  
Fellowship Hall



Bring your Mother, Daughter,  
Friend, or Neighbor.

Wear your pearls and  
prepare for some words of wisdom.



Please sign up  
in the foyer  
by May 5  
to reserve  
your place!

## **MARYLAND SMALL GROUP WOMEN ATTEND RETREAT AT LAURELVILLE**

*Women in Conversation* is an opportunity for women to carefully attend to many aspects of the spiritual journey—body, mind, soul, and spirit—without the distraction of daily tasks.

Four members of the Pinto MD Women's small group plus "honorary member" Cheryl Mast joined women representing all ages and walks of life at Laurelville on April 13-15 for this event which is held every two years. We experienced enriching conversation, spirit-filled worship, prayer, and plenty of laughter and renewal.

Meghan L. Good was the keynote speaker for the weekend. She is the lead pastor of Albany Mennonite Church in Albany, Oregon. She used the power of a well-told story to illustrate the theme of "Into the wilderness: the journey of God's beloved" from the book of Hosea.

The MennoSpa was a gem that provided both space and time on Saturday afternoon for pampering ourselves just a bit. During the weekend we enjoyed learning to know each other better and felt a breath of refreshment in our spirits.



## **SPRING RENEWAL SERVICES MAY 20-23 Led by Marion Bontrager**

**Salvation History:  
The Bible  
as the life giving story  
of the interaction  
between God  
and the People of God**

Join us as we bring together God's story, our personal story, and the world's story. The Word will become alive and perhaps your own personal story will take on more and new meanings.

Marion will lead us in both the Sunday School hour at 9:30 am and the Worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday, May 20, and each evening at 7 pm.



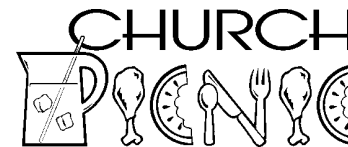
### **COMING IN JUNE**

#### **June 4-8 Vacation Bible School "Take Me to the Water"**

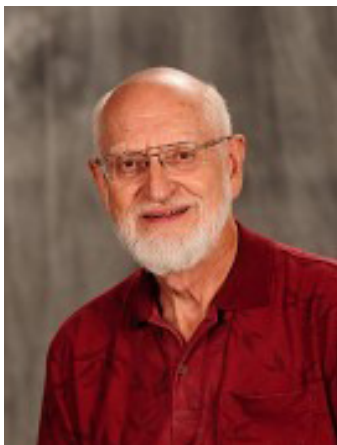
With *Take Me to the Water* children, youth, and adults will dive into stories from the Bible that use water to show God's gift of life and blessing! Children will explore the use of water in Bible times, as well as water issues around the world today.

**June 10 Morning Worship  
in the Park  
at Rocky Gap**

**June 17 Evening  
Father's Day  
Picnic at True Vine**







## **MARION BONTRAGER TO LEAD MINISTER'S WEEK AND RENEWAL SERVICES**

*Allegheny Mennonite Conference sponsors a Minister's Study Week each spring which is regularly attended by Pastor Merle and others from Pinto. This year, the teacher is Marion Bontrager from Hesston College.*

*We are fortunate that Marion will then be leading us during our Spring Renewal services.*

*Following is a brief biography of Marion's life and ministry. Hopefully, you will have a chance to become personally acquainted while he is with us.*

Marion G. Bontrager grew up near Goshen, Indiana in an Old Order Amish family. After accepting Christ at age 13 at a Mennonite Revival service, his parents let him choose where he went to church. He chose Clinton Frame Mennonite, where he was baptized and nurtured. His parents later joined the same church. After he had pastored for 6 years, he attended the Festival of the Holy Spirit, where he had another major spiritual experience when he received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

He graduated from Bethany Christian High School in 1955, Hesston College in 1957, Goshen College in 1959, and Goshen Biblical Seminary in 1963. He also studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; and St. Paul's School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri.

Marion was a part-time teacher at Bethany Christian High School during seminary studies. He served as pastor at Friendship Mennonite Church, a non-traditional church in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, from 1963-69. From 1966-72 he was a youth minister for Ohio and Eastern Conference. He was a teacher, counselor, and campus pastor at Central Christian High School from 1969-73.

(Continued)

## **EASTER EGG HUNT 2012**



The Saturday before Easter was a beautiful sunny day for the annual egg hunt. Over 80 children and adults gathered in the fellowship hall for this event which was organized by Ted Harsh.

Jan Livengood creatively told the story of Jesus' last week on earth using small items hidden inside plastic eggs. The climax was the empty egg representing the empty tomb on Easter morning.



Parents, children, and friends had the opportunity to visit while enjoying a lunch of hot dogs and macaroni and cheese. Then it was time for the hunt! The Venture Club children had decorated containers and dyed many eggs, but they were gathered quickly. Children were also given a toy as a prize and all went home happy.

Thank you to all who made this day possible.



## **MAY 18 DESIGNATED AS DAY OF PRAYER**

On May 18, Mennonite Mission Network invites you to pray for mission. As we work at developing leaders, equipping local congregations, empowering global ministries, and training people for peace and justice... your prayers are needed!



Also, you know the unique ways that your own church is engaged in local mission and other than MMN ministries. What is your church doing? What are ways that you can pray for your church's mission as well as the mission of the church around the world?

**How can you pray?** You can use Mission Mosaic or Prayer Vine to help guide you as you pray.

Here are a few ways to get started:

- Organize a prayer clock. Divide the day into periods when people in your group can agree to be in prayer.
- Maintain an attitude of prayer. We spend a surprising amount of time each day, waiting. Redeem that unused time for a day by dedicating it to prayer.
- Organize a group. Do you have a prayer or Bible study group? Perhaps you could use the Day of Prayer as a time to enlist the help of others to join you in a day of mission-focused prayer.
- Log onto our Facebook page. Follow the day's prayer requests, post your own prayer, or join others in praying for a specific prayer.
- Centering prayer. One of many types of prayer, centering prayer, allows us to focus on a particular subject, such as the work that is done around the world on the Lord's behalf. Find a quiet place, in both our physical setting and within ourselves, that is set apart for the specific purpose of prayer.
- Praying the scriptures. A particular Bible verse, chosen for its relevance or inspiration, becomes the focus of our attention and source of our prayer.

Please check the website for additional information. <http://www.mennonitemission.net/dayofprayer/Pages/Home.aspx>

From 1973 to the present time he has been involved with the religious life ministry at Hesston College, teaching in the Bible and Ministry Department, General Education courses, and the Pastoral Ministries Program. In 1986 he created the required liberal arts course, Introduction to Biblical Literature. Over 5000 students have taken this course at Hesston.

Marion has served on the Peace and Service Committee of South Central Mennonite Conference, was moderator for South Central from 2010-12, and has served as a regional conference minister for the conference. He has also written Sunday school curriculum.

Throughout his years, Marion has traveled widely in the Mennonite Church. During college and seminary days he was involved in church-wide MYF and speaking assignments from Hesston College. More recently, he has presented the Bible as Story in 20 different churches and areas in the Mennonite Church from Oregon to Pennsylvania, Mississippi to Ohio and other states.

Marion is the father of three adult children and three grandchildren. His late wife Buetta Wyse passed away in 2006.



# Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

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Pinto, MD 21556

Phone: 301-729-2714  
Email:

# MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7 pm Bible Study	3 6 pm New Praise Practice	4	5 7 am Men's Bible Studies
6 Sermon: Ron Hampton Penny Power offering Eve. Small Groups	7 6 pm Game Night	8	9 7 pm Members Meeting	10 6 pm New Praise Practice	11	12 7 am Men's Bible Studies 9:30 am Mother-Daughter Brunch
13 Sermon: Paul Livengood Gathering Music: New Praise No evening service	14 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Celebration Practice , Rejoice! Practice	15	16 7 pm Bible Study	17	18	19 7 am Men's Bible Studies
20 SPRING RENEWAL Sermon: Marion Bontrager 7 pm Renewal Service	21 6 pm Celebration practice 7 pm Renewal Service	22 7 pm Renewal Service	23 7 pm Renewal Service	24	25	26 7 am Men's Bible Studies
27 Sermon: Lawrence Bren-neman Gathering Music: Rejoice!	28 6 pm Game Night	29	30 7 pm Bible Study	31	<b>Coming in June</b>	<b>4-8 Bible School 10 Worship in the Park 17 Father's Day picnic</b>