



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

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



ANNIVERSARIES

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MENNONITE CHURCH USA!

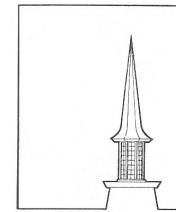
On Feb. 1, 2012, our denomination turns 10 years old. We invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone and giving thanks for the countless amazing ways that God's Spirit has been at work among us in this last decade—in our lives and relationships, in our congregations and communities, in our agencies and organizations.

May God bless each of our congregations and strengthen us all in our efforts to live out our denominational vision:



***God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ
and, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace,
so that God's healing and hope
flow through us to the world.***

—Mennonite Church USA national staff

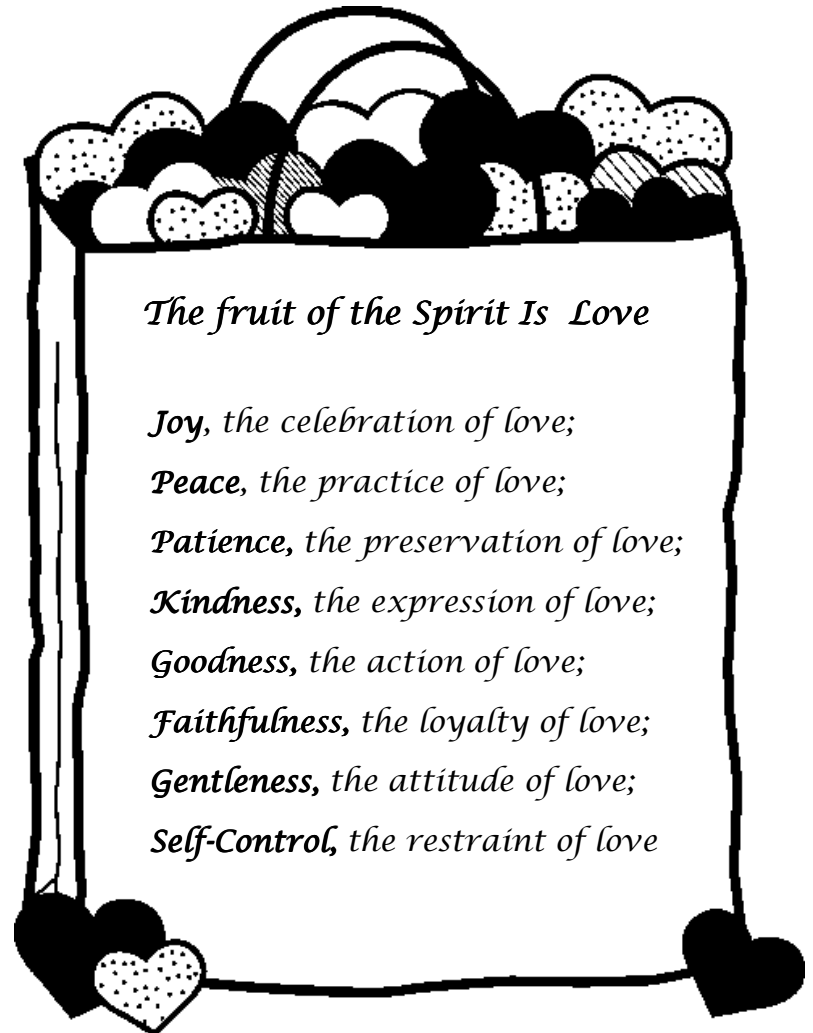


CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2012
Vol. 2 No. 2

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

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



The fruit of the Spirit Is Love

Joy, the celebration of love;

Peace, the practice of love;

Patience, the preservation of love;

Kindness, the expression of love;

Goodness, the action of love;

Faithfulness, the loyalty of love;

Gentleness, the attitude of love;

Self-Control, the restraint of love

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

February 5 Morning Worship

Sermon: Pastor Merle
Penny Power Offering



Noon Souper Bowl:
Youth Fundraiser Meal
No Evening service

February 12 Morning Worship

Sermon: Paul T. Livengood
Evening: Small Groups Meet



February 18, 6 pm
3rd Annual Valentine's Dinner
Church Fellowship Hall
(RSVP by February 12)

February 19 Morning Worship

Gathering Music: *Rejoice!*
Special Music: *Celebration*
Sermon: Pastor Merle

February 26 Morning Worship

Gathering Music: *New Praise*
Sermon: Pastor Merle

Evening: Easter Mennonite
University Chamber Singers
Program



TAKE NOTE!!!

Get notified of updates in Allegheny Conference

Go to www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org and "subscribe" (see right side of home page) by entering your e-mail address and you should receive an e-mail each time a new article is added to the site.



Need a Pinto Cookbook?

At last count, four unsold cookbooks have been found. Call Cathy Chapman if you would like to purchase one.

Directory Corrections

Please correct your new directory with this information.

Ryan and Liz Livengood
653 Villa Place
Morgantown, VA 26505
Add third son: Simeon



Amber Bokelman's e-mail address is
a.bokelman@yahoo.com

KNOT AND CUT NIGHT PLANNED

Last year, we had several enjoyable evenings devoted to work for MCC and fellowship with each other. Now is your chance to repeat that experience or join in if you missed it.



Come join us anytime between 5 and 9 pm on Friday, February 3. We will be knotting comforters and cutting grease rags so if you can tie a knot or use a pair of scissors, you are welcome! No sewing skills required. You may bring a salad, snack, or drink to share. Soup will be provided.





SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!



Whether or not you are a football fan, you can still enjoy a Super Bowl of soup on Sunday noon, February 5. Come and participate in a good meal featuring a variety of soups and contribute to the youth of our church.

Donations will be accepted to help fund the trips made by youth group members to SnoKamp and other activities which are very important in their spiritual lives. Many statistics are available which point to the encouragement received and decisions made by young people in camp and retreat settings.

Come, anticipating an enjoyable meal and fellowship. There may even be leftovers to purchase for later meals at home!

COUPON SWAP IN THE KITCHEN

Several Pinto families are "couponing" to save money on groceries, health and beauty items, and other needs. If you would like to donate coupons or choose some to use yourself, there is an organizer hanging on the back of the kitchen in the fellowship hall.

A time is being considered to hold a couponing "class" taught by Davina Griffith, Sarecia's sister. Watch for more information in the bulletins or talk to Sarecia or Evie if you are interested. "Coupon clip-pers work a little and save a lot!"



GOD DOES MIRACULOUS WORKS AMONG US

We have received news of a miracle experienced by members of the Bhutanese-Nepali church plant in Pittsburgh. Following is a brief version of these recent events.

Parents from this church gave birth to a baby girl named Simran on January 11.

The next day this child had a seizure, due to brain trauma. The brain damage is severe enough that the child could not breathe on her own. Doctors were asking the parents to make the decision whether to continue or discontinue ventilation. The parents asked to be given time to pray about this.

During the next days, the church, along with the parents, observed a fasting-prayer day and asked for prayer from others in Allegheny Conference as well. Ser Darji, pastor of the church, wrote, "Parents are having great hope and faith on Lord."

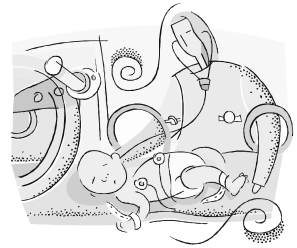
The day of the decision-making came and following are excerpts from an account written by Sandeep Thomas, who was present with the family in the hospital.

As we had prayed for God to show a clear sign of Simran's healing, she actually started waking up and making some movements. Everyone gathered in the room to pray before they actually removed the ventilator. Even as Ps 139 was being read, baby Simran started setting off all kinds of alarms at which point the nurse said that the baby is angry about the ventilator being inside because she is becoming more conscious. So we finished the prayer and asked the team to go ahead. They kept an oxygen mask hovering over her face and removed the ventilator and lo and behold she had no problem breathing.

The excitement in the room was amazing. Everybody hugged each other and the joy on the parents face was amazing. One of the doctors there had told Ser that in her 25 years of practice she had not seen a baby with this level of brain damage being able to breathe on her own. Even the doctor that came into the room said that she believes in the power of prayer. This is a witness to the medical staff at Children's that no adult with all their brains intact could make.

Of course given the damage to the brain they cannot predict whether the baby will be able to pass any of the subsequent tests related to the development milestones. Nevertheless with test one the decision was between life and death and God has chosen life.

Please remember this family and this church in your prayers. God is doing mighty works among us! Praise be to God!



Changes in the Body--2011

A church is a body...the body of Christ. As a body, it is a living organism and as a living organism it is affected either positively or negatively by things that happen to it. It will no longer be the same.

Recently, I was reflecting on the past year and was struck by the number of things that I was aware of which have happened in the life of Pinto Mennonite Church. So I started a list. At the risk of omitting an event I share this list with you – the congregation.

This list is in no particular order and I have not tried to analyze which were positive events and which were negative events or how significant each event was. I will leave that to you. Perhaps there are others that should be added. I would appreciate hearing your additions.



PINTO CHANGES IN 2011

- ♦ Started "Connection" Newsletter
- ♦ Allegheny Conference News went online & we started printing and distributing our own version
- ♦ Purchased new Printer/Copier
- ♦ Replaced church van
- ♦ Started "Gathering Music"
- ♦ Formed two Praise Teams out of one (*Celebration*) by adding more members
- ♦ Phil Dayton retired as Pastor
- ♦ Congregation approved decision to replace Corinthian Center with addition to existing building
- ♦ Held outdoor Children's Christmas program
- ♦ Held "Worship in the Park" at Rocky Gap State Park
- ♦ Started printing our own bulletin covers
- ♦ Venture Club leadership moved from Phil Dayton to Aaron & Beth Livengood
- ♦ Nativity gifts to children coordination moved from Betty Helmick & Roveen Yoder to Liz Morgan & Tisha Livengood
- ♦ Two deaths – Mary Rosier, Wanda Dolly

(Continued)

MEDICAL UPDATE

Jack and Sally Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries were with us for our Fall Renewal meetings in August. This medical update was sent to us recently.



As many of you know, Sally had a stroke in July that has left her partially handicapped on her right side which has affected her ability to walk and function in her full capacity in the ministry. Since that time I have discovered several health issues affecting me. It started with finding that I have high blood pressure. In the process of getting that under control, I found out that my kidneys are functioning at only 30%. Something has also caused my liver to start showing symptoms of hepatitis again and there are other problems that can only be diagnosed by a professional.

After prayer and counsel from our board of directors we have come to the point of making a crucial decision concerning our service in Acts 29 Ministry and our Lord Jesus Christ. Sally and I both need to be under medical care for now. We do not know how long it will take to get our conditions stabilized but continued medical treatment has been advised. We have no plans of retirement but as of now we must take the time we need to recover.

We thank you for your many years of faithfulness and support and we ask that you pray for us that we soon become able to return to the full time ministry we love so much. We love you all and really appreciate how you have helped and encouraged us as we have been "on the road for Jesus".



God bless and keep you until we meet again. We will post 2012 schedule information as soon as we know more. Right now, we place it all in our Lord's able hands.

Jack and Sally Hollingsworth

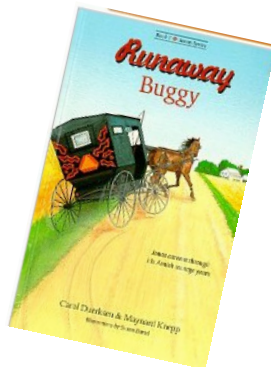
“JONAS SERIES” BOOKS ADDED TO LIBRARY

The Jonas Series is a group of four books self-published by Carol Duerksen and Maynard Knepp who are members of Tabor Mennonite Church near Goessel, KS, and with whom we are acquainted.

The books are a series of stories in the life of Jonas Bontrager, beginning with his teenage years as an Amish boy coming of age in “Runaway Buggy”. The series moves through his life with “Hitched” as he courts and marries Sue Ann, “Preacher” as he becomes a father of three and a proud owner of a race horse, and “Becca” the story of his own daughter coming of age.

Each book is well-written, with an engaging story line and each confronts a deeper faith issue as decisions and choices are made by Jonas and his family. Details of the Amish life are accurately portrayed without either romanticism or criticism. These are appropriate and entertaining books for teens as well as adult readers and are now on the shelves of the adult library. Enjoy them, I did!

Evie Christner



(Continued)

- ♦ Three marriages – Brittney Mayhew/Eric Moreland; Rosalee Reeves/Bill Myer; Diane Dayton/Derek Green
- ♦ Pastor Merle was ordained
- ♦ Five year renewal of Pastor Merle’s covenant approved
- ♦ Started using automated call system for prayer chain and mass communication
- ♦ New cookbook was produced.

I appreciate everyone who has had a part in making this a living body. My prayer is that during 2012 Pinto Mennonite Church will be a living, growing, vibrant body of Christ.

Pastor Merle



***EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY
CHAMBER SINGERS***

Director: Ken Nafziger

***PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26***

VALENTINE’S DINNER COMING SOON!

Be sure to mark your calendar and **RSVP** for the 3rd Annual Valentine’s Dinner on February 18 at 6 p.m. Since the meal will be catered (Fratelli’s lasagna, salad, breadsticks, and a special dessert by Cathy) and plans need to be finalized for seating and child care, the RSVP is really needed.

Just let Sarecia, Cathy, or Evie know if you can join in the fun! The cost will be \$8 each and you do not need to come as a couple. The evening promises to be relaxing, satisfying, and non-stressful. Please come!



Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

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Pinto, MD 21556

FEBRUARY 2012

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Website: www.pinto.md.us.mennonite.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Bible Study	2	3 5-9 pm MCC Night	4 7 am Men's Bible Studies
5 Sermon: Pastor Merle Penny Power Offering Noon: Souper Bowl Meal No Evening Service	6 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Celebration practice	7 7 pm Council	8 7 pm Bible Study	9	10 6 pm Venture Club Bowling	11 7 am Men's Bible Studies
				-----Pastor	Merle --on-----	Retreat-----
12 Sermon: Paul T. Liven- good Evening: Small Groups	13 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Celebration practice	14	15 7 pm Bible Study	16 7 pm Elders	17	18 7 am Men's Bible Studies 6 pm Valentine's Dinner
19 Gathering: Rejoice! Special Music: Celebration Sermon: Pastor Merle	20 6 pm Game Night	21	22 7 pm Bible Study	23	24	25 7 am Men's Bible Studies
26 Gathering: New Praise. Sermon: Pastor Merle Evening: EMU Chamber Singers	27 World's Attic Work Day 6 pm Game Night	28	29 7 pm Bible Study			