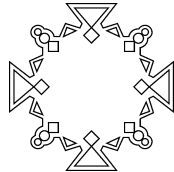


BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 Phillip Dayton | 8 David & Brenda Liller |
| 4 Don Yoder | 11 Al & Betty Anderson |
| 4 Bob (Pappy) Evans | 17 David Y. & Imogene Dayton |
| 14 Emily Flowers | |
| 16 Scott Helmick | |
| 22 Virginia Moreland | |
| 28 Judi Brenneman | |
| 31 Betty Ritchey | |
| 31 Bobby Taylor | |

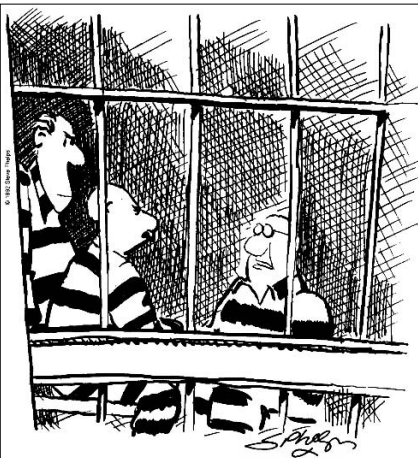


NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The Fall 2011 Pinto Directory made it into your mailboxes just shortly after fall was over (on Christmas Day). If you would like another copy, please see Pastor Merle. If you find a need for corrections or additions, please notify Evie.

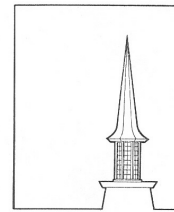
ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

- Correct phone number for Craig Moreland is 304-726-7010
- Address for Terry & Gail Rotruck is: **32 (Scarlet) Oak St., Ridgeley, WV 26753**



"Me? I'm here because
I didn't put the
CCLI numbers
on my chorus sheets."

Cartoon—Copyright 1992, Shane Phelps
and Christianity Today International/
BuildingChurchLeaders.com. Used with
permission



CONNECTION

JANUARY 2012
Vol. 2 No. 1

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

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

THE NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

*The old year with its sorrows and joys,
Was ours through feast and lean.
Its echo of time in history
Becomes God's record of what has been.*

*With the New Year dawning pure as the snow,
God has given a second chance.
Our mistakes of the past become future's bright hope
Of our life scenes in advance.*

*The outcome of our New Year's dream
In time will unfold.
On the threshold of life, twelve months from now,
The story will be told.*

*So let's walk with God, hand in hand,
As we now make a new start,
Holding firm the Bible truths,
Keeping Christ in our heart.*

Maxine Reall

Begin the New Year with Worship!

*The story of God's awesome deeds
does not end with Christmas Day!*

January 1 Epiphany

Gathering Music: Derek Yoder
Sermon: Pastor Merle
Penny power offering
No evening service



January 8

Gathering music: Dennis Brown
Sermon: Pastor Merle
Small groups meet

January 15 Gathering music: *New Praise*

Sermon: Pastor Merle
Evening: Bible Quizzing -John 1-10



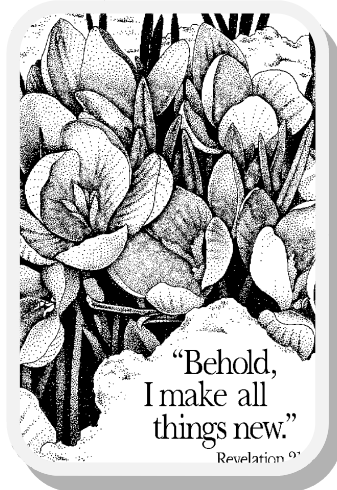
Begin now to study the Gospel of John chapters 1 through 10. On the evening of January 15 you will be able to test your memory with other students of the WORD (John 1:1). This is an enjoyable method of hiding God's word in your hearts.

January 22

Gathering Music: *Rejoice!*
Sermon:
Special Birthday Celebration

January 29

Sermon: Pastor Merle
Evening: 7 pm Hymn Sing
for Haiti at Old Furnace
Church of the Brethren



Because of the above reasons, our Venture Club primarily exists because of the van. Without a kids ministry as part of our kingdom work, it would be like expecting to have a beautiful garden come summer, but forgetting to plant the seeds in spring.

I would also want you to know it was the foresight of our dear brother, the late Steve Helmick, that insisted we start a van replacement fund. This has made the purchase of this new van possible at this time. A parent of children who faithfully attend Venture Club has offered to pay for lettering on the van.

The new van's first mission was December 15 when the Venture Club went Christmas caroling. It was also used to take the chorus caroling at the Allegany Rehab Center.

Phillip Dayton.

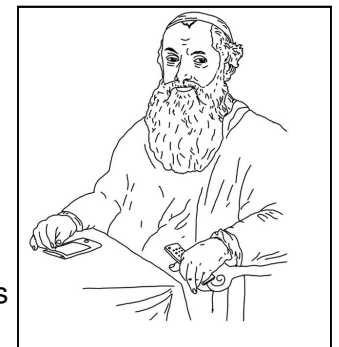


Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. Matt. 19:13-15 (NIV)

COMEDY DUO TO PERFORM AT SCOTSDALE

Squendling Brothers is made up of two men - Peter Eash-Scott and Greg Wendling. This duo performs comedy sketches examining themes and events of religion and culture. They will be sharing their gifts with Scottdale Mennonite Church on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. free of charge as well as at SnoKamp on Saturday evening, Jan. 28.



VAN MINISTRY SIGN OF GOD'S KINGDOM WORK

Back in the late 80's, God chose to bless Nancy and me with a very nice Buick station wagon given to us by our good friend and neighbor, Dr. Wayne Spiggle. It was then God gave us the opportunity and privilege to bring neighborhood children to church and Bible school.

One Sunday, Dale Blauch leaned over to me in Sunday School and said, "You need a van to bring all those children to church." Within a matter of a month, funds were raised and a 1994 Dodge Ram was bought and on the road by December 13, 1994.

That van has been in use until Dec. 14, 2011. It was a very faithful van, only letting us down one time. That was on a 7-lane highway just a short distance from our exit in Atlanta, GA, with a vanload of youth headed to Assembly. The van has made trips to Lancaster, PA, to "Sight and Sound", another assembly in Charlotte, NC, to the airport for Honduras trips, to Laurelville summer and winter camps, Summer Bible School, Venture Club, MYF, and to Pinto church nearly every Sunday morning.

After seventeen years, the van had developed a need for some rather costly repairs, and it was decided to look for a replacement. The church body appointed Aaron Livengood as the one to secure a replacement. He did an extensive search and then went to Pastor Barth Frankenberry. At their first meeting, brother Barth led in a most meaningful prayer and the result was a 2008 Chevy van with 30,000 miles in excellent condition.



Aaron wrote these comments on the need for a van as part of our children's ministry.

- † *Three-fourths of Venture Club kids are not "our own".*
- † *Without something for parents at the same time, it requires two trips to church to drop off and pick up their own children.*
- † *Our 15-passenger van is never below capacity.*

NATIVITY SETS A SPECIAL GIFT

For twenty-nine years, children who have a consistent attendance in Sunday School at Pinto, have received a special gift at Christmas, one piece of a fine hand-carved olive wood nativity set. By the time they reach eighth grade, their set is complete and goes on to become a valued treasure in their home.



Betty Helmick and Roveen Yoder have been the record-keepers and presenters through all those years and will now pass on that enjoyable task to Liz Morgan and Tisha Livengood. When presenting the gifts this year, Roveen expressed the hope that these will provide a lasting memory and continue to point the children toward Jesus.

"THE SHOE COBBLER" STORY RETOLD



"The Shoe Cobbler", a story based on Matthew 25:35-40, was dramatically portrayed on December 18 at the church. The evening's service included singing and an organ prelude provided by Teagan Powers. It closed with a candle lighting service and the evening concluded with a delicious soup supper and fellowship.

Many thanks to Phil Dayton for directing the drama, Karen Morgan for organizing the meal, and all who participated in this thought-provoking drama.



GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Daily nourishment is greatly desired, if not required by our physical bodies. Our spirits also long for refreshment and reassurance of God's loving presence through His word. Perhaps this daily connection with God is a long-established habit in your life and a new perspective would bring new insights. Perhaps you feel a need to begin again with a new commitment to adding a time of reflection to your day. Here are a few devotional helps that I have used and found helpful. Contact Pastor Merle or me if you want to take a look at these books before purchasing one. If none of these strike a chord of interest, I would encourage you to explore other options for yourself in bookstores and on-line.



On-Line Resources

These are almost limitless (and free), but two I have found and appreciated are *Proverbs 31 Ministries* which has devotionals for women and *Sacred Space* which leads one through a more contemplative devotional and prayer time. Also, both Goshen College and Easter Mennonite University publish on-line devotionals during Advent and Lent.

Family Devotions

One Year Book of Family Devotions which focuses on children ages 6-10, but could be adaptable for other ages. (available for loan from our personal library)

Now it Springs Up written by three Mennonite women of our acquaintance offers daily personal reflections and 8-9 family devotionals per month for the entire year.

Other

Seasoned With Peace is really four books which encompass the entire year and are filled with devotionals, prayers, poems, photographs, recipes, and craft patterns all with a focus toward peacemaking. These are published by Mennonite Press and proceeds from the sale support Mennonite peace and justice work.

THE START OF A NEW TRADITION??

The Children's Christmas Program was held outdoors at the Larry & Pat Liller farm on December 11 and was attended by over 100 people, including many from the surrounding community. Though the temperature was chilly, the fellowship was warm!



Programs designed by Jean Harsh for "The Very First Christmas"



Many found warmth near the bonfire, while others were grateful for the heated garage and hot chocolate.



There were parts in the story for all of the children, the chorus sang some familiar songs from the cantata, and the birth of Jesus was celebrated!



SUPER SOUP-ER BOWL TO BENEFIT MISSION

An article in the December 11, 2011, Cumberland Times-News by Elaine Blaisdell



highlights the sad fact that hunger is a growing problem in our area. The article states that according to Dan Taylor, food costs at Union Rescue Mission have doubled this year despite buying wholesale. This is the biggest cash cost for the mission, followed by utilities and insurance.

Pinto Mennonite Church has a continuing connection with the Mission through one of the founders, Janie Taylor. We give support in many ways, the most recent being the provision of the Christmas dinner on December 18. Betty Helmick reported that there were many who gave assistance with that in various ways and it was greatly appreciated.

The need continues, however, and Donna Stivala, an area resident, is spear-heading another campaign among area churches and organizations to help provide for people after the holidays. The "Super Soup-er Bowl" will be collecting dried beans, No. 10 cans of food, instant potatoes and stuffing, big boxes of spaghetti, 50-pound bags of sugar and big containers. In addition to food, the Mission could use a variety of kitchen equipment and monetary donations for a commercial-grade grill, hood, and exhaust system.

There will a table set up in the foyer from January 8-29 to accept any donations you wish to bring. The Super Soup-er Bowl organizers will collect the donations the last week of January and deliver them to the Mission on February 3.

YOUTH SOUPER BOWL FUND-RAISER

The youth of our church will be hosting a different kind of Souper Bowl with a lunch in the fellowship hall on Sunday, February 5. This is a fund-raiser for the costs associated with sending our youth to conference and church-wide events such as SnoKamp each winter and the next Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, in 2013. Please watch for further information and plan to attend and support our youth in this way.



Soli Deo Gloria by Myron Augsburg is a daily walk through Romans, taking one verse per day and providing inspiration to appropriate grace into your life experiences.

One Year Chronological Bible (NIV) is the entire Bible in 365 daily readings arranged in the order the events actually occurred. This order can give a fresh perspective and a clearer historical view. Many other "One Year" Bibles are available and are helpful to keep you on-track if reading the Bible through in one year is your goal.

365 Meditations for Grandmothers (available for loan from our personal library). Five Christian grandmothers contribute their words of inspiration and spiritual insights that speak to your experiences as a grandmother and a woman of faith.

Rejoice! Is a daily devotional book published by MennoMedia on a quarterly basis. Each day's entry features a Bible reading, a short inspirational message, and a prayer of response. The magazine also includes inspirational stories and poems, and daily prayer requests representing Mennonite mission workers, schools, and church agencies. Contact Kim Helmick if you wish to order this through the church.

Many blessings await us as we explore God's word to us and the relationship we have with Him.

Evie Christner

SCOTTDALE CHURCH TO HOST MCC SPEAKER

Scottdale Mennonite Church will host a former pastor, Doug Amstutz, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 17, 2012. Amstutz will be sharing about the development work occurring in Ethiopia through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). He and his family recently served as country representatives in support of the work that MCC is doing in that region of the world. His presentation will begin at 7 p.m. following a soup supper. If you plan to attend the supper, please contact the church so we can be prepared for you. 724-887-7470 or scottdalemennonite@gmail.com



Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

P.O. Box 44
Pinto, MD 21556

JANUARY 2012

Phone: 301-729-2714
Email: pintochurch@atlanticbb.net
Www.pinto.md.us.mennonite.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gathering: Derek Yoder Sermon: Pastor Merle Penny Power offering No evening service	2 6 pm Game Night	3 7 pm Council	4 7 pm Bible Study	5	6	7 7 am Men's Bible Studies 1 pm New Praise practice
8 Gathering: Dennis Brown Sermon: Pastor Merle Small Groups Meet	9 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Rejoice! practice	10	11 7 pm Bible Study	12	13	14 7 am Men's Bible Studies 1 pm New Praise Practice
15 Gathering: New Praise Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm Quizzing	16 6 pm Game Night 7 pm Rejoice! practice	17	18 7 pm Bible Study	19 7 pm Elders	20	21 7 am Men's Bible Studies
22 Gathering: Rejoice! Sermon: Evening: A Special Birthday Celebration	23 6 pm Game Night	24 7 pm Christian Ed Meeting	25 7 pm Bible Study	26	27	28 7 am Men's Bible Studies
29 Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm Hymn Sing for Haiti at Old Furnace	30 6 pm Game Night	31				

