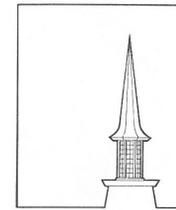


# Happy Birthday

- 1 Carla Brown
- 1 Wanda Dolly
- 1 Jean Harsh
- 2 Carol Flowers
- 2 Ashley Shuck
- 7 Aubrey Livengood
- 16 Elizabeth Shuck
- 17 Betty Anderson
- 22 Nathan Light
- 28 David P. Dayton
- 28 Janetta Hampton

**OCTOBER  
BIRTHDAY PARTY  
AT THE CHRISTNERS  
WILL BE ON  
October 21 at 7 pm**

*(Listed are birthdays of those who live in the area and regularly attend services at Pinto. If your birthday has been missed or listed incorrectly, please notify Evie Christner)*

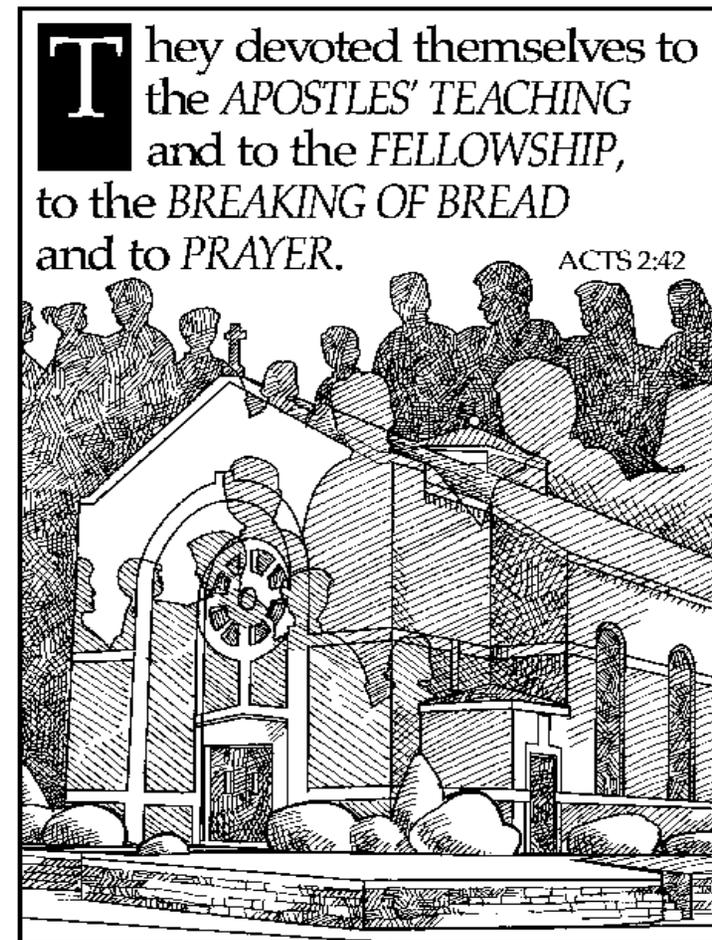


# CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2011  
Vol. 1 No. 10

**Pinto Mennonite Church**

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

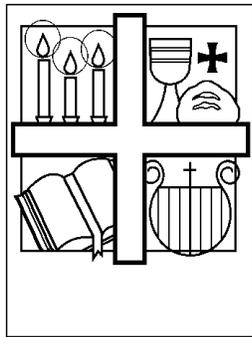




# October

## October 2

Sermon: Pastor Merle  
Penny Power Offering  
Communion Sunday



## October 9

“Worship Shapes Us For Life”  
Pastor Merle

5 p.m. Evening Worship at True Vine  
Sponsored by Young Adult SS Class

## October 16

“Worship and Music” Pastor Merle  
Small Groups meet in the evening

## October 23

“Psalms and Praise” Pastor Merle  
2:30 pm Fall Musicale with “Cantore”  
Fellowship meal following the program

## October 30

Phil Dayton will bring the message.



## MYF ATTENDS “LAST BLAST OF SUMMER”

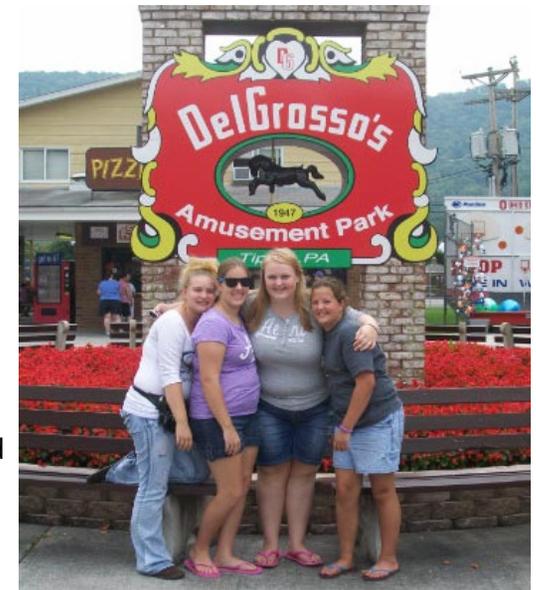
Pinto MYF attended the 13th annual Last Blast of Summer event sponsored by Frontline Ministries at DelGrosos Amusement Park in Altoona PA on Sunday Sept. 4th.

During the morning worship session, George Palmer, founder and president of FrontLine Ministries challenged us to be “rebels” and be a

Church more like Jesus in that Jesus had a street ministry where he went out to the people vs. the modern day Church design of being “held up in the Church waiting for people to come to you on a set day at a set time.” Citing the Gospel of Luke Chapter 7, Palmer further pointed out that Jesus was out on the streets ministering to sinners, the sick, tax collectors and other social outcasts of the time comparing that to the people we encounter on a daily basis (and as we go about our day here in the park). The day featured Christian music artists and entertainers, including Leeland at 7 p.m., Jimmy Needham at 3 p.m. and 321 Comedy Improv at 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. The youth enjoyed the rides and water park followed by dinner at Chucky Cheeses’ as the weather cut our day a little short. The money raised goes to Frontline, which has various missions, such as helping local families, troubled teens, addicts and prisoners.

MYF would like to thank the Pinto Church for making this trip possible. The girls are already excited about Sno-Kamp and are making plans for their next fundraising effort-- Souper Bowl luncheon February 5, 2012. Please continue to pray for and support the Pinto MYF.

*Sarecia Powers, Sponsor*



## COMING EVENTS AT LAURELVILLE

*Aging with Spirit*  
October 7-9, 2011  
CANCELLED



*Grief Retreat*  
Grief, Sexuality & Spirituality: Life After Losing a Spouse  
October 14-16, 2011

*Music & Worship Leaders Retreat*  
January 6-8, 2012  
Registration begins September 1, 2011

See [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org) for further information and to register for these events.

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"If you will fill out your temperature preference card and drop it in the offering plate, we will average them, and adjust the thermostat accordingly."

## "FAITHFUL SERVANT" Recognition of Pastor Phil's Ministry at Pinto Mennonite Church

September 11, 2011, was a special Sunday here as Pastor Phil's years of ministry were recognized. Nearly 130 people were in the sanctuary to worship together and many joined in the fellowship meal which followed.



Pastor Merle spoke from I Timothy 4:1-16 about the attributes of a faithful servant of God and recognized the friendship and mentoring Pastor Phil has provided to him personally.

Pastor Phil shared his reflections of his call and his ministry with us, concluding with the words of Joshua 24:15, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Ed Elza provided special music, singing two songs that were meaningful to Phil in his ministry, "I Went Down to the Potter's House" and "The Only Thing That Matters".

A litany was read involving the Vanskiver/Shuck family, Pastor Phil, and Roveen Yoder, council chair, releasing Phil from his pastoral duties. Roveen also presented Phil and Nancy with a gift of a friendship candleholder from the church. The tea light holder, carved from kisii stone, is inspired by the Kenyan tradition of elders gathering around the fire to discuss and solve issues of concern within the community. The circle formation symbolizes this literal gathering around a fire, and also the circular form of peace and unity—the goal of the elders' discussion.



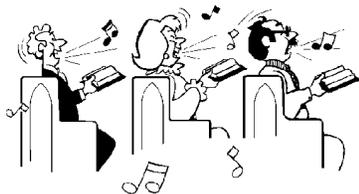
Though Phil is no longer part of the pastoral team or responsible for youth programs, he will still be involved in many ways with the youth and also as a minister of visitation as he supports Pastor Merle in the ministry of Pinto Mennonite Church.

## 58TH ANNUAL EVENT FEATURES "CANTORE"

Continuing a musical tradition begun in 1953, Pinto Mennonite Church will hold its Fall Musicale on October 23 at 2:30 pm in the church. The program, moderated by Philip Dayton, will follow the theme, "Psalms and Praise", emphasizing the psalms of David and will feature congregational singing, musicians from the church, and a special guest group.

Special guest, *Cantore* (Latin for "singers") is a group of ten men who sing a capella music in a variety of styles and traditions. Its members come from many walks of life and all are active in Harrisonburg, VA, area Mennonite churches. The group began in 2000 as a quartet, then doubled to eight, and finally settled on ten voices. They have performed in a variety of settings and male chorus festivals with performances totaling nearly 200 from 2002 through 2011. A small ensemble from the group will present special music during the morning worship service also.

The Pinto Mennonite Church Mixed Chorus will open the afternoon program with a devotional featuring choral arrangements and a monologue by Pastor Merle portraying the psalmist David. Other musical groups participating will be the Brown Family trio and Amber Bokelman.



Congregational singing was an integral part of the plan for the musicale when it was begun by the Youth Fellowship in 1953. This year it will be led by various persons from Cantore and the Pinto

congregation. All are welcome to attend and invite your friends and neighbors to this service of inspiration and the meal following the service.

# *Psalms and Praise*

## ANGEL FOOD NO LONGER AVAILABLE

(The following information is from a letter we received from Angel Food Ministries.)

angelfood  
MINISTRIES

*Angel Food Ministries has considered many options regarding our future. At this time we regret to inform you that we have not found a solution that will allow Angel Food Ministries to continue to distribute food on a monthly basis and have decided to cease operations. We realize the pressure that this places on our host sites, community food banks and customers.*

*Unfortunately many if not all other food ministries have gone out of business in recent years. Angel Food has not been immune from the same economic and market conditions that led to the loss of other food ministries. It's important to note that in the past we never relied on donations; less than 1% of annual revenues have come from donations. We are grateful that we have been able to help tens of millions of customers save hundreds of millions of dollars in food costs.*

Pinto Mennonite Church began working with Angel Food in November of 2008 and used this ministry to assist many families in the area, with or without prior connections to our church. As the director of this outreach, I would like to thank all who volunteered to assist with this food distribution over the years. The very faithful participation of Sarecia Powers, Phil Dayton, Mark and Aaron Monnett, and Lawrence Brenneman are especially appreciated.

Evie Christner



## ORDINATION SERVICE PLANNED

The leadership of Allegheny Mennonite Conference approved Pastor Merle Christner for ordination at the August conference meeting. During the past three years, he has been a licensed minister which has allowed him to further explore his call to ministry and perform the legal functions of a pastor. Ordination is a long-term credential that is an affirmation by the church body that Merle has demonstrated both a desire and an ability to lead the church. It is an important step for both he and this congregation.



The service of ordination is being planned for November 27 during the morning worship service. This date was chosen so that all of Pastor Merle and Evie's children would be able to attend. David Grieser, pastor of North Baltimore Mennonite Church and a friend and mentor of Merle's, will be giving the sermon. Donna Mast, Allegheny Conference Minister, will conduct the ordination portion of the service.

A fellowship meal is planned for after the service which will take the place of the meal that Pinto normally has on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.

Please be in prayer for Merle and for the congregation as preparations for this special day move forward.

## OLD FAMILY RECIPE

As a visiting evangelist, I eat at many church potlucks. In a small-town Kansas church, the pastor suggested a 10-year-old boy to be my host. The youngster took his task seriously. He introduced me to everyone, and then took me to the food table. Jeremy commented on each casserole. "You'll want some of that and that," he said, pointing. Then looking at another dish, "Trust me. Skip that one." We got near the end of the table when he said, "My mom brought that." When I asked him if it was good, he said, "The recipe has been in the family for years. Passed down from one bad cook to another."

—Rev. D. Dean Benton, Burlington, IA,  
*Christian Reader* "Lite Fare."



## YOUNG ADULTS GROWING SPIRITUALLY

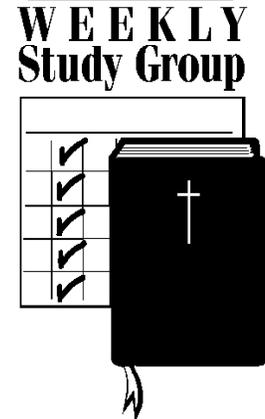
The young adult Sunday school class began a Bible study early 2011. Our families meet at the church mid week on a weekly basis and take turns providing child care.

We began our bible study using North Point Ministry study helps with Andy Stanley. The group first did the ten week Starting Point study and is now finishing up the Defining Moments study.

The young adult Sunday school at Pinto decided to do this because meeting on Sunday mornings was not enough for encouragement and accountability. In addition the group occasionally meets at a cabin to enjoy time together in fellowship.

Over the course of the past year many of us feel that this has been beneficial as we have grown closer together and grown spiritually in Christ. We pray to continue meeting on a weekly basis in the future.

*Tisha Livengood*



## DIVINE CALLING??

My family is close friends with another family who faithfully attends our church. Often we spend Sunday afternoons together relaxing at our house. Recently, when I phoned our friends, their 4-year-old daughter, Alicia, answered and politely asked who was calling. To tease her, I said kiddingly, "Alicia, you come to my house almost every Sunday and you don't know who I am?" In a reverential voice, she replied breathlessly, "Jesus?"

—Stacy Penalva, Indianapolis, IN. *Today's Christian Woman* "Heart to Heart."



# Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

P.O. Box 44  
Pinto, MD 21556

Phone: 301-729-2714

Email:

## October 2011

| Sun                                                                                        | Mon                                                                           | Tue                | Wed                                                                                   | Thu               | Fri                                                 | Sat                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |                                                                               |                    |                                                                                       |                   |                                                     | 1<br>7 am Men's Bible                                     |
| 2 Sermon: Pastor Merle<br>Communion Sunday<br>Penny Power Offering<br>5 pm Chorus Practice | 6 pm Game Night                                                               | 4                  | 5<br>7 pm Bible Study                                                                 | 6                 | 7                                                   | 8<br>7 am Men's Bible Studies                             |
| 9 Sermon: Pastor Merle<br>5 pm Church picnic &<br>Hayride @True Vine                       | 10 6 pm Chorus<br>Practice<br>7 pm Celebration<br>Practice<br>6 pm Game Night | 11<br>7 pm Council | 12<br>7 pm Bible Study                                                                | 13                | 14                                                  | 15<br>7 am Men's Bible Studies                            |
| 16 Sermon: Pastor Merle<br>PM Small groups                                                 | 17<br>6 pm Game Night                                                         | 18                 | 19<br>7 pm Bible Study                                                                | 20<br>7 pm Elders | 21<br>7 pm Birthday<br>Celebration at<br>Christners | 22<br>7 am Men's Bible Studies<br>1 pm Chorus<br>Practice |
| 23 Sermon: Pastor Merle<br>2:30 pm FALL MUSICALE                                           | 24<br>8 am World's Attic<br><br>6 pm Game Night                               | 25                 | 26<br>7 pm Bible Study                                                                | 27                | 28                                                  | 29<br>7 am Men's Bible Studies                            |
| 30 Sermon: Phil Dayton                                                                     | 31<br>6 pm Game Night                                                         |                    |  |                   |                                                     |                                                           |