

Following Pastor Wilkin's sermon on honesty,  
nothing at First Church remained the same.

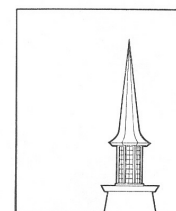
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**SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAY PARTY  
AT THE CHRISTNERS  
WILL BE ON  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7 PM**



- 7 Diane Dayton Green
- 8 Daymian Yates
- 10 David Liller
- 17 David Y. Dayton
- 17 Marylan Liller
- 19 Arlie Dolly
- 22 Jan Livengood
- 22 Kelly Shuck
- 23 Jessica Ohler
- 27 Jim Wolford

*(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*



# CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2011  
Vol. 1 No. 9

**Pinto Mennonite Church**

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

## **THE 23RD PSALM FOR TEACHERS**

The Lord is my real superintendent and I shall not want. He gives me peace when class chaos is all around me. He gently reminds me to pray before I teach and to do all things without murmuring, whining, and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my source of strength and not my school. He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor Him in everything I do.

Even though sometimes I face absurd amounts of un-graded papers, unrealistic expectations, budget cuts, apathetic parents, non-supportive colleagues, and inconsiderate principals, I will not stop -- for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.



He raises me up, even when my school fails to recognize me and my students refuse to listen. He claims me as His own, even when I'm stressed out.

His faithfulness and love are better than any promised pay raise. His retirement plan beats any 401K there is! When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him in His Heavenly classroom a whole lot longer, and for that, I bless His Name.

-- Modified by Prof. Joe Martin

## **RECOGNITION OF PASTOR PHIL'S MINISTRY**

Pastor Phil will be retiring as pastor on September 8. On Sunday, September 11, we will be recognizing his ministry here at Pinto during the Worship Service. At the Fellowship Meal following the service you can visit with him to express your appreciation for his service.

**THANK YOU**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP**



Have you an interest in increasing your time spent in prayer, Bible study, and sharing with others? If you have not been a part of a small group or Bible study group, now is a good time to begin. These groups are all open to anyone who wishes to join.

### **Small Groups will meet on Sept 18**

*WV Small Group* is primarily a couples group who meets once a month in a home for Bible study and sharing. It is not limited to West Virginia—it's just worked out that way so far!

*MD Small Group* is a women's group (again, not limited to Maryland) who meets in homes to share together and also involves spouses and families for some activities and is interested in doing fund-raising projects for the church and others.

### **Bible Study groups ongoing**

*Men's Bible Study groups* meet every Saturday morning at 7 am in two locations, Cindy's Restaurant in Ft. Ashby, and D'Atri's Restaurant in LaVale. Both are open to community men as well as Pinto members.



*Bible Study and Prayer* is the focus on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at the church. All are welcome.



### **Game Night Fellowship**

Much good fun and fellowship takes place at the game tables on Monday evenings at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## **LAURELVILLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Values-based Leadership Program Session I** (September 20-22)—Gain a fresh new perspective on leadership during this two-part, interactive workshop at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Session II is scheduled for February 21-23, 2012). It's an opportunity for you to join a community of leaders and explore your leadership style and gifts as you learn how to use them more effectively in your vocational life. To register or to learn more, visit [VBLP.org](http://VBLP.org) or call [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).

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**Grief Retreat** (October 14-16)—Come to Laurelville Mennonite Church Center to find healing, support and hope for your journey after losing a spouse. Led by pastor and writer Rachel Nafziger Hartzler, this intimate gathering for widowed individuals and those who walk alongside them will provide both space and resources for you to embrace the life to which God has called you. Pastoral care team members and counselors are also welcome. Learn more and register at [Laurelville.org/grief](http://Laurelville.org/grief) or by calling [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).

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**Aging with Spirit** (October 7-9)—Enjoy a beautiful fall weekend at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center with other folks aged 55 and over. Formerly sponsored by MARP, this annual event carries a rich tradition of bringing people together to celebrate and worship together. This year, listen to the reflections of Marcus Smucker, professor at EMS-Lancaster, as he explores the theme of *Spirituality and Aging: God with us in the later years*. Register and learn more at [Laurelville.org/agingwithspirit](http://Laurelville.org/agingwithspirit) or by calling [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).





## SCHOOL KITS FOR MCC

School kits are Mennonite Central Committee's most-requested item. Notebooks and pencils become treasures to families who struggle to afford basic school supplies. School kits are also given to refugee and displaced children, helping students and teachers add some normalcy to disrupted lives.



They are frequently requested after natural disasters. MCC sends school kits to places including Iraq, Nicaragua, North Korea and to poorly funded schools in Canada and the United States.

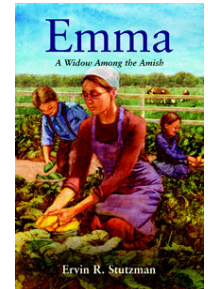
An on-going MCC sewing project and one featured at Pinto's MCC work nights is the construction of the cloth bags to hold each kit. On August 12, one hundred school kits were delivered to Cumberland Valley Relief Center from PMC. Thank you for your contributions to this important project.



**One hundred school kits from Pinto Mennonite Church delivered to MCC.**

## NEW BOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

*Emma: A Widow Among the Amish* is a true story woven by strands of faith, family, and community. Ervin R. Stutzman tells the story of his mother, Emma, who raised six children after the sudden death of her husband, Tobias.

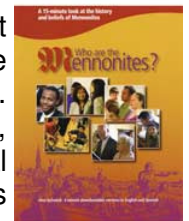


In the aftermath of the tragedy, Emma copes with her entrepreneurial husband's significant business failures. Ervin R. Stutzman, author of the highly commended *Tobias of the Amish*, now turns to his mother and rediscovers the strength of a woman whose early married life was defined by stress and tragedy.

Ervin R. Stutzman was born into an Amish home as a twin in Kalona, Iowa. A few years later, after the death of his father, Tobias, his mother moved the family to her home community near Hutchinson, Kansas, where Ervin was baptized in the Center Amish Mennonite Church near Partridge, Kansas. Later, he joined the Yoder (Kansas) Mennonite Church. Ervin was Moderator of Lancaster Mennonite Conference from 1991 to 2000 and then became Vice President of Eastern Mennonite University and Dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He is currently Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA.

## WHO ARE THE MENNONITES?

Mennonites are a Christian faith group that began in the 16th century. Currently there are over one million members world-wide. Mennonite beliefs and practices vary widely, but following Jesus in daily life is a central value, along with peacemaking. Menno Simons was an early prominent leader and eventually the group became known as "Mennonites" because of his name. Can you tell if someone is a Mennonite just by looking? This 15-minute DVD invites viewers to explore Mennonite history, beliefs and practices in an easy-to-understand way. **Come at 7 pm on Sunday, September 25** to see and discuss this video.



## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH-YOUR HELP NEEDED

**In your mailboxes** is a form requesting updated contact information for the church office. This is to assure that you receive timely information from the church and that we can easily keep in touch with each other. From this information a new church directory will be produced, a new birthday list will be made and other records updated. Please include ALL information. You may note what information you would rather not be published in the directory. Thank you for your help.

**Telephone Prayer Chain and Information messages:** To hear a repeat of a message, press \* at any time during the message.



## AMC NEWS TO HAVE NEW FORMAT

Allegheny Mennonite Conference has been distributing their "News" every two months and you have each received that publication in your church mailbox. Due to increased costs of printing and mailing, this will no longer be possible.

The conference has developed a new web site ([www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org](http://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org)) on which you may find a variety of information including news items. Evie Christner has agreed to work with the conference staff in writing and posting these articles. Since this is a new process, there are several questions to answer and decisions to be made about how it will all fit together.

It is important for those of you who do not have or prefer not to use the internet for this purpose to continue to have access to the conference news and communications. At this time, news and information will be printed from the web site and distributed to your mailboxes or included in the *Connection* as appropriate.



**Allegheny Mennonite  
Conference**

A conference of Mennonite Church USA

## FAMILY OF THE WEEK TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

A number of years ago, our congregation began listing a Student of the Week in each week's bulletin. This recognized a student who was in elementary school, middle school, high school, college or seminary each week. The congregation was encouraged to pray for this student during the coming week.

Later this was expanded to include the educators (teachers, professors, etc.) and other school personnel. This has been a very good experience for students, educators and education staff.

In order to include a wider variety of persons in the congregation, we will be introducing a family unit each week rather than an individual. Beginning in September, each member of the family will be identified in the bulletin's *For Your Prayer Time* section. This will be a time for the congregation to specifically remember, encourage and pray for that particular family for the week.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to talk to them in person, call them on the phone, e-mail them, send them a card, and get to know them, in addition to praying for them each day.



Our family is a circle of strength  
and love...  
With every birth and every union  
the circle grows...  
Every joy shared adds more love...  
Every crisis faced together  
makes the circle grow stronger.

Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts  
~Author Unknown

## **AS WE WORSHIP TOGETHER.....**

### **Musicians Needed:**

*Celebration* has been a very important part of our worship experience. Currently, this group leads music approximately one Sunday per month. There have been numerous requests to expand the variety of music they have introduced to our congregation and we hear you. To facilitate that, we would like to add another one or two music groups to lead music at the beginning of the worship service about one Sunday per month.



We are looking for both vocalists and those who play instruments. It would be exciting to have a wide variety of instruments (percussion, strings, woodwind, brass, keyboard) to work with in various combinations. If you have a desire to sing or play an instrument or if you know someone who can sing or play an instrument (or both!), please contact Pastor Merle as soon as possible so we can set things in motion.



### **Computer operator needed for Worship Visuals:**

Do you enjoy working with computers? If you can operate a computer and would like to be available to set up and operate the projection system for worship and other services, please contact Pastor Merle. Currently we are using PowerPoint for projecting songs, photos and other visuals but we are open to looking at other options. Your interest would be a valuable ministry to our worship experience.

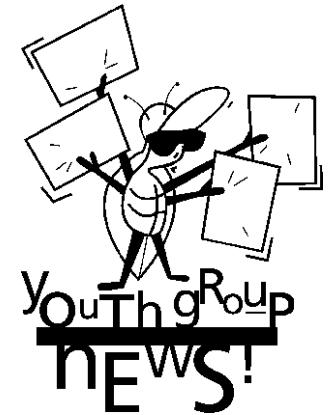


**On Monday, August 29, the Mixed Chorus** will begin rehearsing for the Fall Musicale. If you have an interest in being a part of the chorus and enjoy singing, join us. All ages and voice parts are welcome. Contact Doris Ours or Pastor Merle if you have questions.

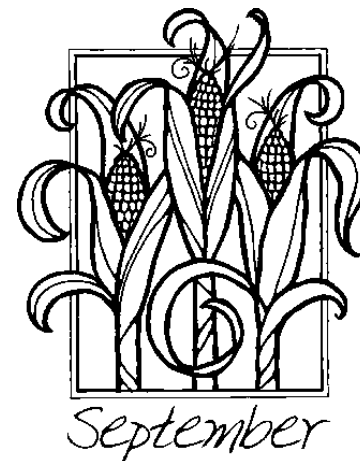


## **PINTO YOUTH GROUP TO RECEIVE \$500**

Brianna Flowers and Teagan Powers along with Teagan's parents, Kraig and Sarecia (as sponsors) attended Youth Convention in Pittsburgh for the first time this year. They experienced many of the great things offered by the convention. These included worship services with fantastic music, drama, and inspiring speakers, a perspiration-inducing service project (Hot!, according to Bree), educational seminars, free T-shirts (about 9), and other giveaways from the exhibit hall.



They also participated in earning daily prizes from the Bethel College (KS) booth by filling out cards for the Mennonite history "scavenger hunt" devised by the college promoters. On Thursday and Friday, youth put the completed cards into a tumbler from which four cards were drawn. Teagan's card was one of those four drawn. Each of the four winners will receive \$500 to go the charity of their youth group's choice. The Pinto MYF has not yet decided the disposition of this prize, but anticipate a visit from the Bethel College staff to present it to them.





# Pinto Mennonite Church

Pastor Merle Christner

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*September 2011*

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Www.pinto.md.us.mennonite.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7 am Men's Bible Studies
4 Sermon: Pastor Merle Penny Power Offering No Eve. Service	5 LABOR DAY  6 pm Game Night in Fellowship Hall	6 7 pm Leadership Team meets	7 7 pm Bible Study & Prayer	8 7 pm Worship Planning	9	10 7 am Men's Bible Studies
11 Sermon: Pastor Merle Recognition of Pastor Phil's ministry Fellowship Meal No Eve. Service	12 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night in Fellowship Hall	13	14 7 pm Bible Study & Prayer	15	16 7 pm Birthday Celebration at Christners	17 7 am Men's Bible Studies
18 Sermon: Pastor Merle Small Groups Meet Angel Food orders due	19 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night in Fellowship Hall	20	21 7 pm Bible Study & Prayer	22	23	24 7 am Men's Bible Studies 10:30-11:30 Angel Food Distribution
25 Sermon: Pastor Merle 7 pm. "Who Are The Mennonites" video & discussion.	26 8 am Volunteer at World's Attic 6 pm Chorus Practice 6 pm Game Night in Fellowship Hall	27	28 7 pm Bible Study & Prayer	29	30	