

The Burning

OF THE FRANKLIN MENNONITE MISSION BOARD

Bush

July 12, 2020

Volume LVI Number 10



serve the Lord in their last active years of life. They are volunteers and are struggling to squeak by on their social security. While rural Cambodia is much less primitive than before, health care for elderly folks is still mostly non-existent. There are no local services for emergency treatment of strokes, heart attack and cancer.

Fritz is an accomplished guitarist, songwriter and singer. He is also a professional actor and impersonates President Lincoln. With makeup he looks uncannily like Lincoln. Linda

Cont. on p. 2

From Cambodia ...

Introductions Are in Order *Building the Church Through Music*

John and I have been living and working in a rural, isolated district in Cambodia since 1991. Roads, electricity and health care have been essentially non-existent.



Now we have electricity and roads and health care are slowly improving. But the isolation of working alone for 28 years was more difficult than the lack of modern infrastructure.

Enter Fritz and Linda Klein. Initially, we met them through our newsletters. One thing

Fritz and Linda Klein are people who "pray much".

led to another and they decided to make a short visit to Cambodia. They loved working with our kids in the children's program. They came again; then again. They just spent three plus months with us, and they plan to return in January 2021 to stay even longer. Fritz and Linda are not young pups, but brave. They are past retirement age but are still quite healthy. This is how they have chosen to



Urgent Needs from COVID 19

The Mission Board has recently received two dire requests for help, regarding COVID-19.

1. Guatemala is in urgent need of \$18,000 to help 2,000 widows with a bag of food for each of them during this pandemic.
2. India, which has been hit hard by the virus, was also struck by a cyclone in May that destroyed many homes and left people desperate. KMM is helping with food and shelter.

God's Word tells us in Proverbs 19:17, "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed."

As the Lord leads, please send your contributions to:

Franklin Mennonite Mission Board
4856 Molly Pitcher Highway South
Chambersburg, PA 17202
(for Guatemala)

OR

KMM
Carolyn Showalter
P.O. Box 142
Maugansville, MD 21767
(for India)

In His service,
Jerry Roth, Administrative
Secretary for Mission Board

Cont. from p. 1

is a gifted teacher and has experience teaching music and piano lessons. They work hard. Better yet, their faith is solid and they pray much (of which we need much of). Together they form a great team and have had a good ministry to the children and youth.

are rising or falling. Linda sings a pitch and Fritz “tries” to match it. The kids have to respond if the pitch is the same or different. Then the kids have to match Linda’s pitch one by one. The kids thoroughly enjoy these fun games, which are

The Klein's teach music to Cambodian youth.

“When singing is beautiful it can more easily transport us into the presence of God.”



Their goal is to help the kids learn to praise God through song. This is no easy task. In rural Cambodia, there is no culture for children singing. They do not sing at the temple in their Buddhist activities or in any other activities. There are no music classes in school. So most children (and adults) just do not know how to sing. Singing together has not been a part of their rural culture.

Fritz and Linda first teach the scale, kneeling on low notes and rising on their toes for high notes. They play games and sing a series of three notes. The children have to guess if the notes

helping to give them an ear for music. The children are then taught praise songs, some in the form of rounds.

This whole teaching process may sound quite strange to Mennonites who sing so very well and have been singing in church from a very early age. But did you know that if a child does not learn to sing before the age of about nine, it becomes much more difficult later on to learn? Consequently, sometimes praise in the local church can be painful to listen to.

THE BURNING BUSH Of the Cumberland Valley (USPS 554-980)

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Editor: Peter Zucconi
Copy Editor: Mary Ann Zucconi
Admin. Assistant: Vicki Cheek
Design/Layout: Jonathan Peachey

Address for editorial matters, subscriptions or change of address matters:

The Burning Bush,
4856 Molly Pitcher Hwy South,
Chambersburg, PA 17202
Phone - 717-375-4544
E-mail –
office@franklindistrict.org

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Deadline for the August issue of the Burning Bush is July 17.

But when singing is beautiful, it can more easily transport us into the presence of God. This is our goal – to add a dimension of beautiful praise to the children’s lives that will help them to experience the presence of God. Thank you Fritz and Linda!

John and Linda Coats
Cambodia



Call to Prayer!

As we worship this weekend, many of us are preoccupied with a virus that has disrupted our entire society – COVID-19. But the events of the past weeks throughout the nation are a harsh reminder that an even more sinister virus is ravaging our country, the virus of hatred and racism.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference members are being called to prayer. Pray for an end to violence. Pray for repentance for the besetting sin of racism that continues to ravage our land. Pray that all followers of Jesus will have the wisdom and courage to take concrete steps to confront and condemn acts and attitudes of hatred that lurk in our hearts and shape our institutions.

Our Lord's call to love God and neighbor compels us to stop passing by this evil as if it is not our problem. It is past time to draw near and attend to the wounds of racism by transforming systems and structures that perpetuate this evil.

Finally, please pray for LMC leaders as we seek to bring transformation and healing within our own family of churches. This is how we will love our neighbor. This is how we will follow Jesus.



Cedar Street

Linda Mower

As you all know, things are still different in so many ways for each of us. We went from “no coming to church” to finally beginning to gather again in some new ways.

On June 7, church was held at Larry Lehman’s pond for our first social distance worship. God blessed us with beautiful weather. On the 14th, we worshipped under social distancing guidelines and sang with masks on inside our building because of the cooler weather.

I find myself struggling to understand many of the people that talk with masks on. We all are relearning patience with this issue. Every trial has a purpose and I hope we clearly hear God as He tells us how to love those around us as we listen closer than ever to them and learn to serve God as He wants us to. Am I/we being the salt they need?

Chambersburg

Peter Zucconi

Church services resumed in the sanctuary on June 7. These were the first services since March 15. Sunday School classes are yet on hold.

Our members on the Menno Haven campuses, including Thelma Martin, who was not mentioned last month, feel secure as a result of the protective measures that have been in place over the past four months. Stringent policies have kept the virus at bay on both campuses.

Our former, long-time pastor, Preston Frey, presently resides at the Shippensburg Health Center. The center experienced a number of COVID-19 cases. Preston has shown no symptoms of the virus. We thank the Lord for his protection over Preston. Continue to pray for our senior members wherever they may reside.

The free, drive-through, community meal sponsored by CMC continues every other week on Wednesday nights. Tacos were the feature for the June 24 meal.

Mercersburg

Rhonda Hunsecker

The last months have given us the opportunity to live out the truth that “The Church is not the building”. Many have found creative ways to share the love of Christ during these unique times. We were blessed with funds to purchase groceries to distribute to folks in our community adversely affected by COVID-19. Food items were purchased to pack and distribute 100 totes full of groceries. We plan to pack another 100 totes again soon. I trust the recipients of these grocery items are as blessed to receive them as we are to give them.

It has been a joy to gather in our sanctuary once again. While it is true that the building is not the church, there is something fulfilling and sustaining about being together with our fellow brothers and sisters. The encouragement we give to each other is something those outside the family of God do not understand or have to offer.





Mt. Zion

Lucinda Oberholzer Grier

Pastor Craig Oury has been streaming sermons over Facebook. It has been good to see visitors that have not been able to physically be in our church participating. Recently, Sunday services have been a hybrid for those of us who want to be in the building and those who want to wait.

We have lost one of our faithful members. Edgar Horst had been a member since the beginning of our church, passed away on May 30, at age 96. Many of us remember his lessons as a Sunday School teacher. Our sympathies go especially to his wife of 72 years, Cora.

These are difficult times that we are living through, and we as a church are called to be the light and example that others may see Christ in us. God is at work, and I pray that each of us will continue to do what we can to help.



North Side

Genesta Cheek

After months of Zoom Church, North Side has finally opened its doors to the congregation once again! We hope to slowly rebuild our regular Sunday attendance and routine throughout the next few weeks.

While meeting in person is undoubtedly preferred by all, our time in quarantine was not without its luster. Pastor Gary Zook provided daily encouraging phone messages through our prayer chain. Reporting from his “bunker in the basement,” Pastor G uplifted his congregation through various scripture readings, inspirational quotes and humorous anecdotes. Much to the delight of his recipients, he has continued these messages even throughout the reopening of our church building.

“Church isn’t where you meet. Church isn’t a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let’s not go to Church, let’s be the Church.” – Bridget Willard



Pleasant View

Ileana Bosenbark

Throughout the last month we’ve been challenged to grow and ponder on, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We readily tend to prefer the times of healing, building, laughing, dancing, gathering, embracing, mending. . . peace; but the other seasons not so much.

Pastor Al Eshelman heartened us to grow in the Word, through prayer and meditation, helping us navigate those “other” times; these too are seasons and activities under heaven. So, regardless of the season – we are to grow our spirit by growing closer to GOD.

Eric Lehman preached on “A Warning That We Cannot Ignore” (Deuteronomy 8:1-20), nurturing us to search deeper into our hearts. Our leadership has continued to inspire us and encourage us.

We are looking forward to our upcoming VBS (August 9 - 13) as we are slowly coming back together to corporate worship and fellowship!



Rock Hill

Kimberley Seiders

We have been fortunate enough to hold services during the COVID-19 shut down every Sunday except for two. We held services in the parking lot and practiced social distancing by having families sit six feet apart. We only had to cancel two services due to rain.

Pastor Ed Sharpe has been delivering powerful messages about faith and trust. They have been very much appreciated during such uncertain circumstances.

Our Bible study series wrapped-up right before the COVID-19 shut down and we enjoyed a pizza party on our final night. Stacy and Deb are working on getting a summer Bible study started now that things are beginning to reopen.

Congratulations to Landon Seiders on his graduation from high school. On May 24, the congregation presented him with a study Bible engraved with his name as a graduation gift.



Shady Pine

Evelyn Runk

We continue to abide by state guidelines during this COVID-19 pandemic meeting in our cars listening to messages from the back porch of our building. We also have met under the pavilion using precautions. It is good to meet together in these unusual ways.

It was with sadness that our Bible school was canceled this year. It is a highlight of our congregation and has never been cancelled since this event started many years ago. As my granddaughter said, “Oh no”, which echoed all of our feelings.

We are saddened to see Pastor Butch and Freda Neil leave as our pastor couple, but we are happy they have this opportunity to enjoy another phase of their life. Different ones will bring us messages during this time until an interim pastor arrives in the fall. Pray with us as we go through this transition.

May we continue to trust that all will be well and return to normal.

EMM Seeks Collaborative, Mission-hearted Change Leader to be Next President



SALUNGA, Pa. — Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) is searching for a collaborative, mission-hearted change leader to be its next president. This person will be spiritually passionate about living a life that is being transformed by Christ.

The president will serve as a collaborative leader who can work with teams and a broad constituency. The EMM presidential search team will be receiving applications through July 31, with a goal of recommending a candidate to the EMM Board by November.

“Global realities are ever changing and present new challenges for mission. However, the gospel and missional mandate of Christ both remain, and reveal a world ripe for harvest,” said Board Chair Brian Martin. “In these exciting times, we are seeking a mission-hearted president, deeply committed to Christ, who loves the church, EMM and the Anabaptist perspective.”

This position offers an exciting opportunity to an executive who can collaboratively develop new mission models in light of changing constituent trends and donor patterns. Serving as EMM’s ninth president, this person will help to lead the centenary organization into a new chapter. Gerald “Gerry” H. Keener will be concluding his service as EMM’s current president in early 2021.

The president serves as the chief executive officer for the Board and the administrative officer for the staff and its program. He or she directs the administrative functions and leads in the

collaboration of EMM and partnering churches in advancing God’s mission around the world.

EMM is an Anabaptist mission agency supported primarily by the congrega-

“Global realities are ever changing and present new challenges for mission.”

tions of LMC: A Fellowship of Anabaptist Churches. Other churches, conferences and agencies in North America also participate in the mission, including Good News Fellowship and two Mennonite Church USA conferences: Atlantic Coast Conference and New York Mennonite Conference.

The presidential search team includes the following EMM Board members:

- Lyn Carlson, Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA
- Joe Garber, LMC
- Brian Martin, LMC (chair)
- Akeia Haddox-Rossiter, LMC
- Lisa Zimmerman, independent Mennonite church

The search team also includes the following members from outside the Board:

- Jon Byler, LMC
- Tom Eshleman, LMC global delegate

- Glenn Kauffman, LMC bishop
- Amos Stoltzfus, Alliance of Mennonite Evangelical Congregations

“The work of the search committee is characterized by a deep appreciation for what God has done through EMM historically and by a desire to make way for His future mission,” said Lisa Zimmerman. “A survey for EMM workers and board members to articulate the challenges and priorities of EMM resulted in helpful feedback for the search committee. We trust God’s leading to identify the next person to fill this role.”

Among a number of qualifications, the president should have five or more years of experience in cross-cultural missions, competency in intercultural communication and an advanced degree, preferably in a missiological field.

This person should be a member in good standing or committed to becoming a member of an LMC congregation. He or she must hold or be approved to hold LMC ministerial credentials.

Comments, questions, nominations or interested applicants may contact Brian Martin, chair of the EMM Board of Directors, or send correspondence to:

Presidential Search Team
Eastern Mennonite Missions
53 W Brandt Blvd, PO Box 458
Salunga, PA 17538-0458

Learn more about this exciting opportunity at emm.org/presidentialsearch.

— EMM Communications



District Bishop's Corner

A Long On-Ramp

Making disciples is an important subject that all pastors and church leaders must be attentive to simply because it was Jesus' sending orders as He ascended to heaven. Evaluating the number (or lack thereof) and quality of disciples we are producing in our churches can be a sobering reality check. It can be rather embarrassing and should be a wake-up call that something is amiss.

Have we considered how much time it takes to make a fully committed follower of Jesus? It seems to take forever these days. I lose patience until I look at my own life and see how long it took, takes, and will take for me to be "conformed to the image of Christ." So patience and forbearance is key.

It begs the question how much patience do you and your church have when it comes to making disciples of new believers. I believe each pastor and each church needs to think of a long on-ramp to the Kingdom and to faithful participation in the body of Christ. Jesus said we must count the cost (actually we should think in terms of the benefits) before deciding to follow him. This I call the long on-ramp to the Kingdom. Why do we need a long on-ramp?

Many who make a decision for Christ attend a new believer's class, are baptized, enter as members of a church and stay on the on-ramp for many years of their lives. The on-ramp consists of those who are not fully convinced that Jesus is trustworthy. They hesitate to fully commit. They look back. They

turn back. They turn around and go back to living independently of Jesus because living outside of God's good boundaries still looks like the good life. Then crises face them and they return to the Shepherd of their souls and get back on track. Over and over we make forward progress and then slippage.

Maybe the long on-ramp is partially our fault. Maybe it is due to faulty presentation of the Gospel (ticket salvation, one sided covenant, or what I can get out of it). Certainly a lack of Bible knowledge and a Biblical worldview make a good conversion more difficult.

Maybe it is because the church in America lacks a good theology for deliverance ministry. New believers struggle with demonic attachments from sexual abuse, rape, domestic abuse and drug and alcohol use. They trust in Christ, but their demons hold them back from becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus. It keeps them from the abundant life (Matt. 5:1-12) Jesus promised.

Jesus taught us to pray "deliver us from the Evil One" in His great prayer. Would you pray that Jesus will send the Holy Spirit with power to heal and to save "completely" (Heb. 7:25) each new disciple we make?

I want to see a shorter on-ramp experience. However, until then, walk with people on the on-ramp and do whatever it takes to help disciples become fully devoted followers of Jesus. No matter how often they go back to live promiscuously, to their addictions, to materialism, to self-centeredness, be ready, like the father of the prodigal son, to receive and welcome them back each time until they are finally "done with sin" (1 Peter 4:7).

It may well be the final chapter is written on their death bed, but be there and be ready to help them trust Christ fully.

Allen Lehman
Bishop, FMD

**"Have we
considered how
much time it takes
to make a fully
committed
follower of Jesus?"**

Spotlight on District Finances

Income past month	\$ 5,694.00
Expenses past month	5,290.66
Current balance in checking account (June 17, 2020)	20,500.24
Average amount needed per month	\$ 7,485.00

In Memory ...

Mary Lois Martin, March 6, 1940 - May 18, 2020

Mary Lois Martin, 1122 North Mountain Top Road in Fulton County, McConnellsburg, PA went home to be with her Lord on Monday, May 18, 2020.

She was born March 6, 1940 to the late T. Weagley and Ethel M. Lehman in Hagerstown, MD. She was a 1958 graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Mary Lois was the wife of Lee Edward Martin, who preceded her in death. They were married October 10, 1959. Their children are; Raedella (Dean) Martin of McConnellsburg, PA, Elton (Mary Beth) Martin of Hagerstown, MD, Icilda Nelson of Huntersville, NC, Laundell (Heather) Martin of Greencastle, PA and Ardell (Michelle) Martin of Marion, PA; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her siblings, Eva Martin, Gerald Lehman, Galen Lehman and Arlin Lehman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Wendell Martin, and a sister, Alice Roush.



Mary Lois Martin
March 6, 1940 - May 18, 2020

A celebration of Mary Lois' life was held March 6, 2020 for her 80th birthday. She was interned on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Salem Ridge Community Church, 411 Pensinger Road, Greencastle, PA with a graveside service for the immediate family. She was a member of North Side Mennonite Church.

Mary Lois enjoyed her role as a mother and grandmother, but also assisted her

husband with his various business endeavors as a building contractor and turkey farmer. She also found great joy in using her organizational skills in volunteering alongside Lee as a unit leader with Mennonite Disaster Relief. In more recent years, they volunteered together organizing winter maintenance projects at Camp Gilead in Polk City, Florida. Mary Lois was also very involved with the Release Time Program.

Her most treasured possession was her Bible which she has read through many times. She also dearly loved the hymns of the church. In past years, she occupied her free time with hobbies like quilting, crocheting and reading. Her life was greatly enriched by a group of faithful friends who maintained their friendships for over 60 years.

We will miss mom, the inspiration and encouragement she was to us, but we rejoice she is where she most wanted to be - with Jesus.

Submitted by the family

Covid in the News

Reports from Haiti show several people have died from measures taken against COVID-19. A witch doctor gave a potion of hicotea turtle blood and various other unidentified ingredients to a family. This caused the death of a five-month-old baby, a seven-year-old girl and required hospitalization of the father and mother. Another man who was suspected of having COVID-19 was burned alive inside his house by residents in his area.

Several large aid organizations have been forced to reduce their assistance in some countries because of lack of funding. There are growing needs in these impoverished places as aid assistance decreases.

Before COVID-19, health experts were concerned about a growing epidemic of loneliness in the US. Now lockdowns and social restrictions have increased this concern, espe-

cially for the elderly and others who live alone or are in nursing homes or hospitals. Researchers suggest that loneliness is as lethal as heavy substance abuse. Let's pray for those who are lonely and struggling from COVID-19 restrictions. (Source: Christian Aid Ministries newsletter)

Planting Seeds of Sacrifice and Dedication



June 7, 2020 was a day that brought together many friends and family members to celebrate and honor Pastor Marlin “Butch” Neil and his lovely wife, Freda. The occasion was retirement from a ministry that spanned 38 years. This wonderful couple has been a treasured blessing at Shady Pine church. They have been nothing short of inspirational as they manned the helm of the vessel in “the Pines”.

Butch was born and raised in the mountains above where the church is now located. He spent his early years playing baseball and entered the United States Army as a young man. The army served to teach him what it meant to respect those in authority.

He met Freda through the youth group from our church. After a long court-

ship, they married and raised a family. Son, Shawn, lives in Arlington, VA and daughter, Heather and husband Adam, live in Chambersburg with their three children Carter, Addison and Rylin.

Butch and Freda were heavily involved in the Path Valley Ministerium, where many local folk would call on them for advice and fellowship. Butch presided over many funerals here in the valley, including many of our church members’ families. He had a gift for being able to bring comfort to those in distress.

Freda also was appreciated for her many contributions to the women’s ministry and for many years as children’s

Sunday School teacher. She served in numerous unseen ways. She is also famous for her delicious rolls at our fellowship meals. Vacation Bible school always found them giving their best as

Cont. on p. 12



Pastor Butch and Freda Neil give their appreciation to the congregation.

How to Navigate Medicare Decisions

Everence can help you or your parents make Medicare an easy step

If you are nearing 65, you are likely receiving a deluge of flyers and emails about Medicare options. The information can be overwhelming!

Everence® can lend a hand in making the transition to Medicare an easy step for you or your family member.

We can help you to look at various considerations so that you can find an option that fits your individual situation best.

What’s most important to know? Consider these essentials.

- Learn about the parts - Medicare Part A, B, C & D.
- Ensure you’ll have coverage and avoid penalties by knowing when and how to enroll.
- Understand the differences between your coverage paths - Medicare Advantage vs. Medicare supplements.

Two important ways we can help you prepare for Medicare:

- Attend one of our monthly educational Make Medicare an Easy Step webinars to learn essential aspects of this process and simple steps to decide your coverage.
- Contact one of our consultants to discuss your individual situation.

For 75 years, Everence has served individuals, churches and organizations. To learn more about our educational Medicare webinars or to reach Everence Financial Representative Cedric Roth, visit [everence.com/centralpenn](https://www.everence.com/centralpenn) or contact Cedric directly at cedric.roth@everence.com or 717-251-2131.

Editorial

“Someday, You’ll Be Going Home”

Ten months had passed since entering the hospital on a muggy August day, unable to lift my head and barely able to wiggle any toes. A specimen of spinal fluid revealed that poliovirus had infiltrated the immune system and had taken-up residence in my spinal cord.

Since that day, an autumn, a winter and a spring had passed. A week in an iron lung had passed. Months of rehabilitation had passed. Through it all, my parents, the doctors and physical therapists had all been encouraging. “Someday soon, you will be able to go home! ... Someday soon!”

Home! That sounded great!: my mother’s home-cooked meals; playing with my brothers under the big maple trees; sleeping in my own bedroom without the interruption of routine hospital noises. I could not wait to be home! I would be there soon, they said.

But what is soon to a nine-year-old? Days had stretched into weeks and weeks had stretched into months. But the words of parents and hospital staff kept ringing in my ears. “Someday soon

you will be going home!” These words were the encouragement I needed.

Reading first Thessalonians recently, I was reminded of the power that lays within encouraging words. Surrounded by a pagan culture, facing persecution and false teaching, the Apostle Paul encouraged believers in Thessalonica to look ahead! The Thessalonians would also have a going home day!

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be always with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

In the midst of their struggles, Paul’s words greatly refreshed the Thessalonians. There is a day coming when you will be at home ... a day when you will be with the Lord ... a day when you will be at home, with the Lord ... al-

ways! Paul’s words brought the needed encouragement!

The memory of looking forward to returning home from the hospital is still vivid. On June 3, 1960 I was discharged and allowed to go home! Nurses pushed my wheelchair out to the sun-drenched entrance and gave final instructions to my mother. The encouraging words of the hospital staff, “Someday you will be going home,” had been realized!

That was sixty years ago. There is still a desire to look homeward, but now to our heavenly home. Increasing changes and challenges, growing pressures from the downward spiralling world and discouraging news from near and far, all increase the desire.

Let’s remember Paul’s instructions to remind each other of the encouraging and purifying thoughts of our final destination! Someday, Paul’s words will be realized! “ ... and so we will be always with the Lord.”

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

prz



Updates to the summer schedule will be posted on our website: www.covevalleycamp.com.

For more information or for a registration form, please call the camp at (717)328-3055 or visit: www.covevalleycamp.com.

••Loss of guest income may hinder our financial preparedness for summer camp. See if God would move you to send a gift to the camp during this challenging time.

Eric Roth
Program Director
Cove Valley Christian Youth Camp
Camp Office – (717)328-3055

Upcoming Events:

2020 Summer Camps

- Goldfinches (Grades Pre K-2) – July 13-15
- Jenny Wrens (Grades K-3) – July 15-17
- Hummingbirds & Cricketeers (Grades 3-5) – July 19-23
- Eagles & Night Owls (Grades 9-12) – July 27-30

Family Camp – July 24-26

Golden Age Retreat – August 17-21

GOSPEL CHOIR OPPORTUNITY



Do you sing or play an instrument? Would you like to develop the skills necessary to sing in a choir or play in an ensemble? Deborah Cobb, Peabody Graduate and Elva Hostetter, Choir Conductor are offering an opportunity for those of all ages and levels of musical ability to get involved in a gospel choir, which is being hosted by Community Mennonite Church in Boonsboro, MD. Auditions and subsequent rehearsals will take place this autumn with a Christmas Concert scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020.

Auditions are open to those of any age or any level of musical ability. While the choir is open to all, our emphasis this autumn will be training the children, with parents/adults singing to help. A parent or relative, therefore, will be required to attend and take part during rehearsals on behalf of a child.

For further information you may contact the following:

Deborah Cobb, 410-812-1991,
cunningham009@gmail.com

Elva Hostetter, 240-310-0018,
eyehostetter@gmail.com

Pastor Paul Clemmer, 717-377-7921,
prclemmer@embarqmail.com

- **Auditions: August 6 and 13, 2020.**
- **Rehearsals: August 20 - December 17, 2020.**

July 2020 Announcements and Coming Events

Deaths:

Edgar Horst, May 30, (Mt. Zion)

Anniversaries:

June 24 - Eric and April Lehman -
(15 yrs. Pleasant View)

July 29 - Kyle and Melodie
Stutzman (20 yrs. Marion)

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, July 14, 12:30 - 6 pm, Red
Cross Blood Drive in Mercersburg
Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

July 27-31 - Vacation Bible School
at Mercersburg Mennonite Church.

Churches Care Rescheduled
Churches Care: Accompanying
Persons with Mental Illnesses and
Addictions Program.

It is going to be on September 19
and October 17, 2020 from 9-5
pm. All other details are the same
as before. We are still tentatively
holding it at MennoHaven Resident
Life Center. The registration link is
the same as before: <https://emu.edu/lancaster/continuing-ed/>

Continuing Education - EMU

EMU is an approved provider by
the Pennsylvania Department of
Education for non-credit continuing
education for registered nurses.
Register Now. Sponsored by: PRE-
SENTERS: Janelle Bitikofer, MSW,
LCSW. Janelle Bitikofer, MSW,
LCSW is a mental health and addic-
tions counselor and educator with
more than twenty years of experi-
ence.

Cont. from p. 9

Planting Seeds of Sacrifice and Dedication



teachers; perhaps because Vacation Bible school was so important in their own childhood.

People came from miles around to join our tribute with songs, poems, candy bar posters, gifts, quilts and recollected memories. Past deacons Paul Keener and Wilmer Lehman shared their memories of times well spent, each with a different perspective. Our current deacon, Jason Blair, also con-



God has for them. The day concluded with a box lunch and enjoyable fellowship under perfect weather conditions.

Linda Diem
Shady Pine Mennonite

Appreciation was plentiful for thirty - eight years of "sacrifice and dedication."

tributed his thoughts for the occasion. Pastor and Freda also expounded on the song, "We Are The Church", as they released the church to carry on and continue to spread the gospel.

Although they will be greatly missed by many, we are joyful they will have an opportunity to enjoy life together at a different pace than ever before. Their sacrifice and dedication have planted seeds that will unfold in the years to come. Bishop Allen Lehman offered a wonderful prayer of praise to God, and a blessing for Pastor Butch and Freda as they embark on the journey

The deadline for the August issue of the Burning Bush is July 17, 2020. If possible, please email your information to the conference center. Address is on page 2.

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