

Connections

Virginia Mennonite
Conference &
Board of Missions

September 2002
Vol. 12, No. 11

Virginia Conference gathers for annual Assembly

They gathered together. Pastors, delegates, and church members. Children, parents, and grandparents. Youth and young adults. First-time participants and long-time attenders. More than four hundred individuals from across Virginia Mennonite Conference gathered at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va., on July 18-20 for the annual Assembly and Missions Festival.

Beginning with the traditional procession of congregational banners on Thursday, the body gathered each evening for worship. A team of musicians from five Tidewater area congregations led in praise to God through song and scripture. Part of the cast of "Hand Me Down Shoes," originally produced at the Yoder Barn earlier this year, performed a vignette from the folk musical each evening. Fraternal delegates from Italy and Jamaica brought greetings to the assembly and new church leaders and missionaries were commissioned.

On Thursday evening Jane Peifer, pastor of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa., spoke on "Living God's Dream," and on Friday, Grant Rissler, a Mennonite Voluntary Service participant in Harlingen, Texas, spoke on "In a Broken World." Loren Horst, President of Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, and Leslie Francisco, pastor of Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Va., shared the platform on Saturday evening as they each spoke on "Here and Now."

Pastors and congregational delegates gathered to engage in the work of the church during three delegate sessions on Friday and Saturday. The body grieved as the membership of several congregations in Virginia Conference was released or suspended. The delegates were excited as they heard about Calvary Community Church Chesapeake and voted to accept it as the newest church in Virginia Conference. And the people were filled with energy and anticipation as they began to imagine what the world will look like as our Conference and congregations become missional.

After a short time of fellowship following the morning delegate sessions, those not yet gathered were reminded that there were more activities to enjoy before lunch. On Friday, Stanley Green,



Rachel Smith

Executive Director of Mennonite Mission Network, led a Bible study on "Engaging the Powers," and VMBM missionaries Phil and Marcia Lehman shared several stories of how God is working in Italy. Saturday's Bible study on being "Sent By Jesus" was led by Ervin Stutzman, dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary and moderator of Mennonite Church USA, and Dan, Mary, and Heather Hess provided a glimpse into their work as church planters in Lushnje, Albania.

Meal times provided wonderful opportunities to fellowship and swap stories of how congregations are answering the call to be a missional church. Mennonite Men and Mennonite Women convened separately for breakfast on Saturday morning for a session of inspiration and prayer.

In the afternoons, participants scattered to attend a variety of workshops on topics ranging from drama to parenting to the missional church. The driving tour of the Denbigh Colony was a popular option, and many youth attended the "Peace and the Military" workshop.

The Missions Festival featured displays from various locations around the world. Visitors tasted new foods, learned more about other cultures, and interacted with missionaries who have lived and worked in other countries.

The date for next year's assembly has not yet been set, but Virginia Conference will gather once again as a people committed to being missional.

• Rachel Smith

Herb Lantz (Williamsburg), Ruth Waff (Mt. Pleasant), and Myron Ross (Warwick River) lead the gathered body in singing "Let Your Glory Fall," the theme song for the weekend. The worship team was composed of individuals from five churches in Warwick and Norfolk Districts.

Faithful servant

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Matthew 25:21 (NIV) These are the words we hope to hear when we make our entrance into the presence of God, either at our death or upon “...the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...” Titus 2:13 (NIV)

We trust that these will be the words our pastors hear as well! Of course, our pastors are responsible to God for the way they use their gifts, so we won’t have much to do with how they are greeted on that day.

However, some encouragement and support along the way won’t hurt. How can we help?

Pray, and let your pastor(s) know that you pray for them. Lift your pastor(s) before the Lord. Listen for some impression of how you can offer a word of encouragement. One of the most profound compliments I was given as a pastor was by a parent who said, “I am grateful for your influence on my children.”

Communicate. Are there clear channels of communication to the pastoral care system of the congregation? If you have some suggestion for improvement, address it directly with the leadership team. Please keep the pastor(s) informed of needs as they occur.



Owen Burkholder
Conference Minister

Engage. Be a part of the ministry of the congregation by “letting your light shine.” Sometimes that will mean sharing in some activity of the church, sometimes it will mean inviting others in the congregation to help with some opportunity that you’ve been called to. Your pastors will rejoice as the gifts of all are engaged in God’s mission.

Grow. Faithfulness blesses everyone. Faithful pastors who encourage faithful followers of Jesus will elevate the quality of life for the surrounding community. Hearts that are turned toward God will bring growth in spiritual depth in the very face of challenges that are meant to destroy.

Can you picture it? Congregations presenting their pastor(s) to the Lord with acclamation for their faithfulness and pastor(s) presenting congregations to the Lord with joy over fruitful labors. May we all hear, “Well done, faithful servant.”

David D. Yoder retires as President of VMBM



Gloria Lehman

David D. and Shirley Yoder receive a gift from Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions at a celebration held in honor of David’s retirement. David served as President of VMBM since 1991.

Connections (USPS 007-205) is published monthly by Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference to connect congregations with each other and conference agencies.

Editor

Gloria Lehman

Assistant Editor

Rachel Smith

Copy Editor

Earlene Horst

Circulation manager

Beth Brunk

Connections is distributed free to each household of supporting congregations. Subscription rates: \$5 per year, 2 years for \$9. Send subscriptions to *Connections* Circulation Manager, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Phone 540-434-9727

1-800-707-5535

E-mail info@vmbm.org

info@vmconf.org

Web www.vmbm.org

www.vmconf.org

POSTMASTER Send address changes to 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Periodical postage paid at Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Images of Conference Assembly 2002



Top row: Les Horning provides input for the Mennonite Men's breakfast; actresses perform a vignette from "Hand Me Down Shoes;" Leslie Francisco speaks on the 2020 Vision church planting initiative. **Bottom row:** Anna and Ben Gibbs enjoy assembling a puzzle at the Missions Festival; Ervin Stutzman leads a Bible study on Saturday morning.



Photos by Rachel Smith

Learning about our immigrant neighbors

Can you imagine risking your life to find work for \$8.00 an hour? Being sick and unable to talk to the doctor? Living in constant fear because of not having the appropriate documentation?

These were a few of the glimpses the participants of the Immigrant Learning Tour got of many of our Spanish-speaking neighbors in Harrisonburg. We developed a sense of their courage, strength, hard work, and hope of a better life for their families.

The Learning Tour was sponsored by NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center, a program of Harrisonburg District of Virginia Conference. The tour was led by Susannah Gerber Lepley of NewBridges, Elaine Zook Barge of MCC, and Adela See who came to the area fifteen years ago as an immigrant from Guatemala.

Our tour began Sunday, June 2, with a delicious meal and storytelling by local immigrants. The next day was packed with visits to local agencies that work directly with the Hispanic community. We met Scott Hansen, a dedicated Christian attorney who works with complex immigration issues.



Courtesy of Susannah Gerber Lepley

Elaine Zook Barge, Adela See, Maria, Felix Jaimez, and Susannah Gerber Lepley provide glimpses into the lives of immigrants in Harrisonburg.

We visited ESL teachers at Spotswood Elementary School and met workers with Migrant Education. We visited Blue Ridge Area Health Services, New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center, and Roberta Webb Day Care Center. With these professionals, we saw not only the magnitude of the needs in our community, but also the good work already happening and the opportunities for involvement.

Now it's time for us to respond with continued listening to God and imagining how He wants us to welcome our neighbors. Our neighbors have certainly overcome many barriers in coming to our community, and we can overcome barriers of language, culture, and our own fears to build relationships.

• Lois Wenger
Ridgeway Mennonite Church

Providence hosts missions weekend

On June 1 and 2, Providence Mennonite Church, Newport News, Va., hosted our first Missions Weekend. Our goal was to understand a bit of the pain, the joy, and the experience of being a missionary. It worked! On Saturday evening, we discovered that missionaries love to tell stories and we rediscovered that people love to listen to stories. We got a taste of serving and learning from the Maasai people in Kenya; sharing a day with Jamaican believers; living and working in Philadelphia; and how God can speak through friendship in Albania.

During the evening we savored a buffet of foods from around the world and enjoyed exhibits of costumes, tools, musical instruments, and pictures. On Sunday morning, our guests captivated us with stories from Africa, Compassion International, and VMBM.

“It was fun,” said Matthew, age 12, “because I got to find out lots of interesting things. We got to see artifacts and pictures and talk with people. It was encouraging to see that other people did it, and that God was with them. It... gave you more courage than before.”

Judy Lund was part of the planning process. “I had never done anything like that before. It was neat to help plan, and then watch it all come together.”

The combination of stories, food, and fellowship created an atmosphere of participation, as well as some uncommon connections. Judy said, “When I tasted the tea from Kenya, I was surprised. I was expecting something very exotic, but it was very familiar.”

Every believer experiences the love of God through Jesus. We were encouraged, inspired, and challenged to continue to show God’s acts of love to the world—to carry to the ends of the earth, and to our neighbors, the good news of God’s greatest act of love in Jesus Christ. It is simply normal Christianity that is changing the world.

• Todd Bowman and Linda Marshall

Changed in Trinidad

I am changed. I am not the same person I was when I arrived in Trinidad. From the moment I set foot on the Trinidadian soil, I experienced an overwhelming welcome. I could tell I was in for an amazing time!

I was fortunate to spend almost six weeks in Trinidad. The first three weeks, I explored the beautiful island with Dawn Ranck, a recent seminary graduate. After she completed her three-week stay, I stayed with various hospitable families for my last several weeks.

Seema Sonnyboy, a young friend who attends Hope Mennonite Church in Esperanza, said, “So

let me get this straight. You are here in this country and you don’t know anyone, right?”

I hesitated and chuckled to myself and answered, “Yes, if you want to put it that way, I guess you are right. Three weeks ago, I knew nothing of any of you.



Courtesy of Kendra Nussbaum

Kendra Nussbaum and Seema Sonnyboy share a close friendship because of their common bond through Jesus Christ.

But it doesn’t feel that way. I feel so close to everyone even after three short weeks. I am confident it is because of our bond in Jesus Christ.”

My most special time occurred every Sunday at 4:30 p.m.—the worship service of the new Hope Mennonite Church in Esperanza. I saw a people totally in love with a God who is transforming them. Every time we met to worship our Lord, there was energy, there was excitement, and there was joy. There was singing, there was sharing, and there were challenging sermons brought by various church leaders. I was privileged to take part in the first communion and listen to the first children’s special music. What joy! Every Sunday I was eager to see what the Lord would do in the hearts of each person who worshipped together.

I was forever changed by my experience in Trinidad. With much gratitude, I returned to the states with a greater appreciation and love for my Trinidadian brothers and sisters in Christ.

• Kendra Nussbaum

McMahons complete six years of ministry

When it comes to reviewing six years of ministry at Termini Imerese, Italy, one wonders where on earth to start. Thinking of the highlights, the first thing that springs to mind is the people. Our original vision was to “Touch, Teach and Train” the people of Termini. With God’s help we were able to do that.

Touch — As church planters it was our privilege to work alongside Harry and Beth Jarrett for four of our six years. Together we were able to build up a network of friendships, touching people’s lives with the Gospel. Although many came to the church, the majority of them skirted around on the outside, not making a firm commitment. This was surely one of the “lowlights.”

In a deeper way we touched the life of a young Sicilian boy, Alberto, who became our adopted son. The Lord taught us so much through this experience and is still teaching us.

Teach — A great deal of the work was teaching. Carol taught the children for five years before handing it over to some of the ladies of the church whom she had trained. We worked with the youth, men, and women, teaching them the Scriptures and encouraging them in the Lord.

Train — Over the past two years we have been more involved in training, working closely with Tony and Marilena Ceraulo, preparing them to take over the pastorate. One of the highlights for me was the preparation and the teaching of a course in Hermeneutics and Homiletics for the Discipleship School, completed in April of this year.

We praise the Lord for what he has enabled us to do in Sicily. Although we saw little numerical growth in the church at Termini, we planted seeds which Tony and Marilena will reap in time. While we did touch, teach and train many, it is probably more realistic to say that the Lord touched, taught and trained us and changed us forever.

• Stanley McMahon



Stanley and Carol McMahon and their son, Alberto, have returned to their home in Belfast, Northern Ireland, after completing six years of ministry in Termini Imerese, Italy.



Rachel Smith

Klodiana Hajdari, Dorina Dedja, Lorisa Mallkazi, and Belina Zerdelija lead worship at the church in Lezhe, Albania.

Albanian teens gather for Bible camp

A camp for teenagers in Lezhe, Albania, was organized and directed by Norma Teles, Brazilian missionary who works with VMBM. The theme was “Living God’s Way.” Norma reports that at the end of the camp these youth did not want to go home and pleaded with her to let them stay one more day! She adds, “It is amazing what God did. I cannot even put it into words; you had to experience it in person!”

The two Christian Albanian girls who assisted Norma write the following report:

A Bible Camp for teenagers was held June 23-25 at the “Youth With a Mission” Training Center near Lezhe. We were part of the staff that helped. There were 23 teenagers who participated from both Lajmi I Mire and Guri I Themelit churches (the Baptist and Mennonite congregations). God used this camp to bless our lives in many different ways in these three days. The time of teaching and open discussion each morning was a good time for the teenagers to think about the Word of God, pray, and worship. It was wonderful listening to the thoughts and ideas shared by these teenagers.

Another special time was the worship following the lesson. We could feel the presence of God’s Spirit in that place. It was such a blessing to see these teenagers’ desire to seek the heart of God. This was very evident also in their quiet prayer time.

They had a lot of fun as well. There were times for playing games, going swimming at the sea and evening talent shows. It was very good to take part in that fun.

What we found very important was to see how God led everything, including the cooking and serving. Once again we saw that our God is faithful when we ask Him to lead us. We praise Him for this time and the special blessings that He gave these teenagers and our staff!

• Klodiana Hajdari and Lorisa Mallkazi
with Eva Eberly

Jim Foster (R), Executive Director of World Citizenship Institute and Knoxville coordinator of Peacebuilding Institute 2002, welcomes the group of international peacebuilders to his home in Knoxville.

John Blankenship



Building peace in Knoxville, Tennessee

Twelve peacebuilders, enrolled in the Summer Peacebuilding Institute of Eastern Mennonite University, visited the area of Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and Maryville, Tenn., in June for Peacebuilding Institute 2002.

For several days, our international guests and local participants—representing eight religions and sixteen countries—talked of peace. We talked of a lot of other things, too, including families, homes, customs, and dreams. My wife and I hosted a Catholic priest, an Afghani Muslim musician, and a Baptist bishop in our Mennonite home. It was a joyful, even hilarious, combination.

Four of the international peacebuilders led a workshop on conflict resolution. Nour, Gadalla,

Paulo, and Cyrus demonstrated both an impressive grasp of their subject and the ability to communicate it well to the workshop participants. The concept of “nested layers of violence” was particularly helpful. Anjana Shakya of Nepal conducted a “Women and Peacemaking” workshop. Here was a Buddhist woman teaching liberated American women (and men) about liberation. What irony!

Sunday was a day of celebration. Our guests were divided between three churches and the Bahai’ meeting. They connected again, in some cases initiating what promises to be enduring relationships. One Presbyterian church, after hearing that there are as many land mines in Angola as there are people, decided to become involved by providing equipment recently developed by an Oak Ridge company for the discovery and removal of the land mines.

The mutual sharing of dreams and frustrations, the demonstrations of vulnerability born of a trust only a few days old, the recognition of our common humanity, the release of decades-old hostilities, and the breaking down of stereotypes—these were blessings without price that will surely endure.

Along with many others, I find myself a little wiser in the ways of peace and a bit humbler as one who has seen firsthand the working of God’s Spirit. And as a result of these peacebuilders sharing of themselves with people of a like mind from this tri-city area, I am much richer in the appreciation of my friendship, even kinship, with my brothers and sisters from around the world.

• Jim Foster
Concord Mennonite Church

Congregational Resource Center

In this uncertain economy, we need to pay attention to the role we serve as stewards of God’s resources. In our section on Stewardship, here are a few titles:

- **Firstfruits Living: An Educational Video Set** by Lynn Miller
- **Creating Congregations of Generous People** by Michael Durall (Alban)
- **Give to Live: How Giving Can Change Your Life** by Douglas M. Lawson, Ph. D.
- **More Than Money: Portraits of Transformative Stewardship** by Patrick H. McNamara (Alban)
- **The Midas Trap: How God liberates us from the false promises of wealth** edited by David Neff

If you are planning the church budget for a new church year, here are some resources that might help you:

- **Demystifying the Congregational Budget** by H. H. Morris
- **Plain Talk about Churches and Money** by Hoge, McNamara & Zech (Alban)
- **When Not to Borrow: Unconventional Financial Wisdom to Set Your Church Free** by Ray Bowman with Eddy Hall
- **Financial Meltdown in the Mainline?** By Loren B. Mead

The Resource Center is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a key available at the EMU Information Office for use after 5:00 p.m.

Visit our website at www.emu.edu/mcrc to browse our catalog. Contact us at 540-432-4219 or wengerkw@emu.edu.

September 2002 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 The offices of Virginia Mennonite Conference and Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions will be closed tomorrow. Pray that this holiday will be one of refreshment for the staff and that they will return renewed for their work.</p>	<p>2 Willard and Eva Eberly, Mediterranean Regional Directors, will return to their home in Italy tomorrow after spending a couple months in the States. Pray for a smooth transition as they return to the ministry in Bari.</p>	<p>3 Pray for Loren and Earlene Horst as they begin a four-month assignment of teaching and mentoring church leaders in Trinidad. As President of VMBM, Loren will remain connected to office responsibilities via e-mail.</p>	<p>4 The Nurture Commission, chaired by Sandy Snider, will gather tomorrow for their quarterly meeting. Pray for creativity as they generate ideas to disciple and nurture individuals in all phases of the life cycle.</p>	<p>5 Thank God that many contributions for VMC and VMBM's ministries were received during the month of August. Each person's gift is significant and is an offering to the Lord for His Kingdom work.</p>	<p>6 NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center continues to serve the needs of immigrants in the Harrisonburg area. Pray for this ministry to persons around the world who are building a new life in our communities.</p>	<p>7 Paul and June Kropf (EMM missionaries) returned to life and ministry in Albania last month. Pray for Paul as he resumes pastoring the church in Lezhe, which was led by Allen Umble during the Kropfs' one-year sabbatical leave.</p>
<p>8 In August, a group of people met for Sunday morning worship services in the chapel at the Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica. Pray for this new gathering which is being led by Damien Hines.</p>	<p>9 Pastor Liston Aiken of the Good Tidings Menn. Church, Kingston, Jamaica, served as the delegate to the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Thank God for good interchange between the two island conferences.</p>	<p>10 Phil and Marcia Lehman and family return to Italy tomorrow to begin a second term of service. Pray that the contacts they made in the States would result in increased prayer and finances for the ministry in Italy.</p>	<p>11 Pray that Bishop Leslie Francisco will have insight to advise the churches in southeast Virginia as they engage in mission. Leslie is the Urban Ministry Director for the 2020 Vision church planting initiative.</p>	<p>12 Clewiston McLean from the Joyland Mennonite Church, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, is attending Jamaica Bible College in preparation for youth ministry. Pray that he will have sufficient finances to continue his enrollment.</p>	<p>13 Eastern Mennonite University is hosting a celebration this weekend in honor of Myron and Esther Augsburg. Thank God for their nearly 50 years of service to the church locally, nationally, and internationally.</p>	<p>14 VMBM is supporting efforts to strengthen the Mennonite presence and witness in eastern North Carolina. Pray for Urban Ministry Director Paul Godshall and the congregations as they work together to build God's Kingdom.</p>
<p>15 Pray for Milford and Carolyn Lyndaker as they lead redevelopment efforts at Crest Hill Comm. Church in Wardensville, WV. Under their leadership, membership and Sunday attendance are growing.</p>	<p>16 Thank God that during the revival services at the Menn. Church of Chaguanas, Trinidad, six people committed their lives to Christ. Morris Baker, pastor of the Alpine Menn. Church in Jamaica, was the evangelist.</p>	<p>17 Pray for Eastern Mennonite University's Constituent Conference Committee as they meet tomorrow. Joe Longacre is the representative from Virginia Conference.</p>	<p>18 Pray for USA Regional Director Joe Bontrager as he meets with representatives of Menn. Mission Network in Chicago today. The agencies are developing resources to help congregations become more missional.</p>	<p>19 The Faith and Life Commission of Virginia Conference will meet this weekend. Pray for God's leading as they provide leadership for spiritual, doctrinal, and faith issues.</p>	<p>20 Junior High youth from across Virginia Conference will be gathering for a retreat this weekend at Smith Mtn. Lake 4H Center. Pray that God will work through speaker Mark Bartsch to touch and change the lives of the youth.</p>	<p>21 The Mennonite churches in Hickory, NC, are in conversation with VMBM about planting a church among the large Hmong population in the area. Pray for discernment as a church planter is identified and commissioned.</p>
<p>22 Lalmom John is taking the leadership role at Hope Mennonite Church in Esperanza, Trinidad. Pray for him, his wife Rafina, and their son Alex as they relate to the growing church there.</p>	<p>23 The Potomac District churches are participating in the "City on a Hill" program. Pray for efforts to serve their local communities through the various programs of each congregation.</p>	<p>24 A Missionary Support Team (MST) surrounds overseas workers with prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Thank God for these groups of people who serve as senders—they are vital to ministry.</p>	<p>25 Young Adults from USA and Canada will meet at Laurelville, Pa., this weekend for an annual gathering. Pray that they will learn from and harmonize with "voices from the edge" of the church.</p>	<p>26 Harrisonburg Menn. Church will host their 30th anniversary celebration this weekend. Pray that this would be an inspiring time of both remembering the past and looking ahead to the future.</p>	<p>27 Bike Shenandoah, an annual event to raise money for VMBM and other agencies, will be held in Harrisonburg tomorrow. Pray for safety for all riders whether they bike 5 or 100 miles.</p>	<p>28 A baptismal service for another group of new believers in Salerno, Italy, is planned for tomorrow. Pray for Pietro del Guacchio as he disciples these individuals in the newest Mennonite church in Italy.</p>
<p>29 Dan and Mary Hess and their children—Heather, Alecia, and Jyrell—return to Albania tomorrow after spending several months in the States. Pray for renewed energy for their work as church planters.</p>	<p>30 Karen Brunk, Canfield, Ohio, recently began serving as the nurse in the Joyland Clinic in Jamaica. Pray that she will have God's strength to meet the needs of the patients there.</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by D. Paul & Catherine F. Mishler.</p> <p><i>If you would like to sponsor one or more months of the prayer calendar, contact Gloria Lehman at 540-434-9727 or 1-800-707-5535.</i></p>				
<p>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.</p> <p>Romans 12:12 (NIV)</p>						

Announcements

Mennonite Women of Virginia will hold their annual fall retreat on October 25-27 in Lynchburg, Va. Glenda Revell, author of "Glenda's Story, Led by Grace" and "With Love from a Mother's Heart," will speak on the theme "The Aroma of God's Grace." Glenda will share her testimony of how she experienced the amazing grace of God, drawing her to Himself, and how she continues to experience that grace in her life today. Sunday morning will conclude with a time of sharing and praise and Glenda speaking about "Keeping Company with the Father." For more information, watch your church mailbox or contact Deb Pardini at 540-942-9612 or pardini@cfw.com.

The 36th annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, which raises funds for Mennonite Central Committee, will be held Friday evening and Saturday, October 4-5, at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, Va. The event will include auctions, food, demonstrations, crafts, plants, children's activities, and more. For more information, contact Marv Nisly at 540-433-9319 or mnisly@aol.com or visit www.vareliefsale.com.

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church invites you to attend "Celebrating 30 Years" on September 28-29. Saturday's events will include "A Time to Remember" and on Sunday we will "Remember the Past and Anticipate the Future." Art McPhee will be the guest speaker on Sunday morning. For more information, call 540-434-4463.

School for Leadership Training will be held January 20-23, 2003, at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va. The theme will be "Leadership for a Missional Church: Forming God's People in a Strange New World." For more information contact 540-432-4597 or semdev@emu.edu.

The 5th annual Bike Shenandoah, Cycle for Service, will be held on Saturday, September 28, at Eastern Mennonite High School, Harrisonburg, Va. Persons of all ages are welcome to participate. The event will raise funds for Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, and Harrisonburg Pregnancy Center. Evening celebration includes a meal at EMHS and entertainment by Jewel Tones and Cantore. Interested riders can contact Beth Brunk, 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, Va., 22802, 540-434-9727, or bikeshen@hotmail.com. More information is available at www.bikeshenandoah.org.

Highland Retreat is seeking a part-time volunteer maintenance assistant to work at least two days a week on a regular basis. The work will consist of a variety of jobs around the camp. It will require some mechanical skills and the ability to work without constant supervision. Housing is not available, but some allowance can be made for transportation. Interested persons should contact Paul Beiler at 540-852-3226.

A gathering of young adults from Mennonite Church USA and Canada will be held September 27-29 at Laurelville (PA) Mennonite Church Center. The theme of this gathering is "Voices from the Edge." For a registration form or information on carpooling, contact the Virginia Mennonite Conference Young Adult Committee at 540-434-9727 or youngadult@vmconf.org.

An interdenominational Christian Education Convention will be held on Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Baylake United Methodist Church, Virginia Beach. The convention will also be held at Harrisonburg Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, contact Creative Christian Ministries at 540-342-7511 or cembbr@juno.com or visit www.creativechristianministries.com. The Nurture Commission encourages you to attend this event.

Connections (USPS 007-205)
Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions
Virginia Mennonite Conference
901 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498



Periodical
postage
PAID
Harrisonburg, VA
22801