

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

July 2003  
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## Celebration of ministry

What a joy it is to obey the Lord! In II Timothy 5:17 we are told that “the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor...” On two successive nights in mid-May, 200 people followed that admonition, giving double honor to the memory of M. Lloyd and Sara Weaver, Sr. Although the senior Weavers have been at home with their Lord for more than a decade, their legacy lives on through their four children, their foster son and others they touched. The seaman’s ministry, which they began in the early 1950s, also continues under the leadership of Harold Buckwalter.

Grandson Mark Wenger emceed the two “Celebration of Ministry” events using a golf club to honor his grandfather and a tea cup to recall his grandmother’s hospitality which she extended to foreign seamen and grandchildren alike. These memorable events included testimonies from family, a brief slide show, a report on the seaman’s ministry, singing, an open microphone and a sumptuous buffet. Those in attendance also learned of VMC’s leadership development initiatives and were given opportunity to pledge their financial support to the conference and the M. Lloyd and Sara Weaver Ministerial Training Trust Fund (MTTF). MTTFs are available for the education or training of persons preparing for, or involved in, Christian ministry. The Weaver MTTF gives special consideration to those interested in missions and evangelism.

In Harrisonburg there was an emphasis on toasting and roasting two of the Weaver sons, Ken and Sam. Both have been very active in Conference leadership for many decades and agreed to be the brunt of some good-hearted ribbing to benefit a good cause. I laughed until my head hurt. The Harrisonburg group also had the pleasure of hearing the Eversole Road Quartet sing.

The evening in Newport News was a smaller and more intimate affair which included a longer open microphone time where anyone with a story could tell it. Gifts were also given, on behalf of VMC, to each of the family members in thanks for their ministry and faithful service to God. Each was carefully chosen to honor the individual.



Steve Carpenter

Eldest child Sara Jane was presented with two books, “Spiritual Gardening” and “The Book of God,” in recognition of her love of flowers and God’s Word. Elder son Lloyd received a John Deere pendulum clock, symbolic of his bi-vocational work as a pastor at Huntington Mennonite Church and a dairy farmer. Foster son Ron David, who is an avid sailor and adventurer, was given two nautical books, one a very specialized manual which will help him prepare to operate a square rigged sailing vessel in the south Pacific this fall.

Sam, who loves golf and does development work for Eastern Mennonite Seminary, got an old-style action bank complete with a golf club swinging figure. We jokingly decided that any money placed in this bank should be given to VMC. Ken, who retired as Director of Mennonite Media after 43 years in churchwide ministry using radio and TV, received a desk mounted 1945 vintage RCA broadcasting microphone.

These events were great fun, but were also inspiring and deeply moving for the family and gathered friends. We in Virginia Mennonite Conference hope to soon have another Celebration of Ministry event honoring someone who has faithfully served our Lord and His church well.

• Steve Carpenter  
VMC Conference Coordinator

The Celebration of Ministry events honored M. Lloyd and Sara Weaver, Sr., and their children (L-R) Sam Weaver, Sara Jane Wenger, Lloyd Weaver, Ken Weaver, and Ron David.

## A minority point of view

“Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord (Jeremiah 9: 23-24, NRSV).

Aha! I sat in a meeting of pastors the other day where Loren Horst was sharing his journey and found myself understanding myself better!

I grew up in northern Alberta, Canada, where my parents were church planters. For the first years of my life we were the only family in sixty miles with a Mennonite heritage. We developed a “minority” identity. We were different. We dressed differently. We attended church regularly. We didn’t swear, smoke, or drink. My parents have never voted.

Bluesky was a hamlet of 96 souls when I was about 12 years old. I knew every name in town. My brother, Tim, and I ran with our friends everywhere and saw how other families in town lived through the eyes of these friends. The contrast between how our family functioned and those in the four square blocks around us was dramatic. We were not tempted to smoke or use alcohol because we saw the devastation in the lives of our neighbors and our friends’ families.

Ruth Ann and I have raised our kids in Harrisonburg, and most of that time in Park View where the girls haven’t exactly found themselves in minority status as it relates to Mennonite heritage. I am now seeing that they had to put up with a dad who was bringing his “minority” worldview into a situation that was very different. This affected not only my daughters, but the congregations I served as pastor.

Sometimes my efforts to challenge those who had become a part of the fabric of community life were



**Owen Burkholder**  
Conference Minister

not well received. There were those who didn’t want any reminders of the differences between the Mennonites and the surrounding communities.

What does all this have to do with the Jeremiah text above? Jeremiah had the sad job of announcing that there was going to be a time of distress. He had to name things from a minority point of view even from within his own people. In his case, it was that the majority seemed to have lost sight of the ways of God. The God whom Jeremiah represented delighted in “steadfast love, justice, and righteousness.”

Let us, dear friends, submit our accumulated wisdom, might, and wealth first of all to the Lord of heaven and earth. Then, let us live joyfully in the shelter of God’s gifts, knowing all the while that in the scheme of things, we will be in the minority until God’s reign is fully established on that day.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Owen Burkholder". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a similar shade of green as the page's header and footer.

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**Editor**

Gloria Lehman

**Assistant Editor**

Rachel Smith

**Copy Editor**

Megan Hartman

**Circulation manager**

Beth Brunk

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**Phone** 540-434-9727

1-800-707-5535

**E-mail** [info@vmbm.org](mailto:info@vmbm.org)

[info@vmconf.org](mailto:info@vmconf.org)

**Web** [www.vmbm.org](http://www.vmbm.org)

[www.vmconf.org](http://www.vmconf.org)

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Left: Quilted wall hangings from each of the conferences in Mennonite Church USA will make up a giant quilt at the MC USA Assembly in Atlanta.

Background image: The Virginia quilt block was designed, pieced, and quilted by Deb Layman of Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg.

## Praying our way to the MC USA Assembly

Connected by red, orange, vermilion and fuchsia fabric pieces, 33 quilted wall hangings made by women in all 21 area conferences of Mennonite Church USA will come together at the churchwide assembly in Atlanta into one quilt representing the unity of the church.

The wall hangings—each a one-of-a-kind piece of art—were distributed at the Constituency Leaders Council meeting in March to each U.S. area conference, churchwide agency, church office and constituency group.

“Along with the banner, each group representative received a prayer calendar for April, May and June as an invitation to ‘pray our way to assembly,’” said Mennonite Women USA executive director Rhoda Keener. Conferences were encouraged to send the wall hangings from church to church during these months.

Elaine W. Good, MW USA board president, who organized the quilt project, said that the wall hangings were created from fabrics used in worship at the 2001 Nashville assembly.

“These colors are closely associated with Pentecost,” said worship leader Karmen Krahn Fehr of Elkhart, Ind., “and if I were to envision the first century church cloaked in any color, it would surely be these.”

Quilt makers took the fabrics and incorporated other colors, some using traditional quilt designs, others portraying images from the regions in which they were made, and still others reflecting the Atlanta 2003 theme, “God’s Table: Y’all Come.”

The complete quilt, measuring 8- by 18-feet will be displayed at the Atlanta assembly, a reminder of Fehr’s words: “As a Spirit-filled people who continue to strive for unity, it is only fitting to cloak the stage in as much of this color as possible.”

• Mennonite Women USA staff

## Strengthening young girls in the church

Deb Pardini is president of Mennonite Women of Virginia (MWVA). She became involved in MW several years ago through her work on the annual retreat committee which she says was “a very enjoyable experience.” As president, Deb’s vision is that all women view themselves as a valuable part of MWVA. She says, “The thinking has predominantly been that only those who quilt or attend ‘sewings’ are included in Mennonite Women. As our culture changes, we need to also find new and different ways to minister to each other and to affect our communities, and to support MCC and mission opportunities.”

In 1990 Deb experienced a life-changing event with the death of her younger brother. Only a week after his high school graduation, she received a phone call that he had been killed in a car accident. “When I attended his funeral, I saw the impact his life had on his youth group, friends and classmates,” she says. “I began to ask myself some searching questions. Have I allowed God to work

Continued on pg. 4

through me in a way that touches others' lives? Would others testify that their lives have been better because of how I lived my life?"

Following her brother's death, Deb entered a voluntary service program in Johns Island, S.C., working with kids in the community. She says, "I chose this line of service in my brother's honor,

because it was well known that even little children loved him. This was a challenging and inspiring year and I was greatly blessed in return."

While in South Carolina, Deb met and married her husband, Steve, a research chemist from DuPont who had just been transferred to that area. "This could only be God's timing!" Deb says. They have now been married 11 years and have three children: Angelina, 10, Eric, 9, and Kevin, 8. Steve's job caused them to relocate shortly after their marriage and Deb says, "We went through a lot of adjustments and

changes that first year of marriage. I went from being an active single person to being a wife and mother within nine months, but God continued to be faithful and brought us through those stressful times." They now live in Waynesboro, Va., and attend Springdale Mennonite Church.

As well as her work with MWVA Deb enjoys doing counted cross-stitch, interior decorating, cake decorating, reading, and volunteering at her children's school. She is involved in a moms' prayer group and teaches a weekly Bible study

group at her church. She says: "I love interacting with other women, hearing their stories, and seeing how God works in different ways. I think it is important to know that involvement in these groups strengthens relationships with one another and ultimately strengthens our families and our churches."

Virginia Conference Mennonite Women have three primary events each year. One is a weekend retreat, often held at a local Holiday Inn. This is a highlight for the women and a time of inspiration and fellowship. A second event is the Annual Day which focuses on special needs for conference missionaries; on that day the women raise nearly \$6,000. A Prayer Breakfast at the annual Virginia Conference Assembly provides an opportunity to hear from a missionary on furlough. This gives a time for personal and conference-related prayer requests, giving a "real sense of oneness in that experience."

Deb says, "Another vision I have for Mennonite Women of Virginia is to begin to involve our young girls. I believe we should find ways they can be part of mission activities, so they will realize that their gifts have long-reaching and long-lasting effects and that as they join in this mission they are also forming relationships that can last a lifetime in a godly environment. We must remember that they are the church leaders of tomorrow. As the young girls become involved in activities that encourage relationships and outreach, they will realize that ministry and mission are vital parts of church life. This will strengthen the future of the church as it inspires and strengthens their faith."

• Rhoda Keener  
Mennonite Women USA



courtesy photo

Deb Pardini serves as President of Mennonite Women of Virginia Conference.

## *Mennonite Women of Virginia Retreat 2003*

September 26-28 in Williamsburg, VA

### **"Growing in Truth"**

Speaker: Leslie Vernick

Leslie is a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice near Allentown, PA. She has done post-graduate work in Biblical counseling, cognitive therapy, and counseling strategies for those who have been abused or abuse others. Leslie is the author of several books, including "The TRUTH Principle—A Life Changing Model for Spiritual Growth and Renewal."

**Deadline for registration is July 20.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

I am planning on staying:  one night  two nights

Registration fee is \$55. Make checks payable to Mennonite Women of Virginia. Mail this form with your payment to Kathy Zendt, 24 Thornrose Ave., Staunton, VA 24401.

Reserve your hotel room by calling the Holiday Inn at 1-800-368-0200. Indicate that you are with Mennonite Women of Virginia. Rooms are \$70 per night.

Questions? Contact Kathy Zendt at 540-886-5832 or zendt@cfw.com.

## Worth our salt?

Are we a missional church? That was the focus of Park View Mennonite Church's mission festival held May 17-18. The purpose of the event was to encourage persons to view their daily occupation as a place for mission and to recognize that many persons in our congregation volunteer with local service organizations. For this reason, the planning committee focused on our mission "down the street." The biblical image of salt became the guiding theme.

On Saturday afternoon, children gathered in the fireplace room with Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice with Mennonite Mission Network, for the "Drumming for Peace" activity. Using plastic buckets and wooden drumsticks, they enjoyed making rhythms as they heard stories about peace. Following the drumming, the children visited Patchwork Pantry and the offices of NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center.

At the same time, adults were enjoying a discussion about the challenges in being "salt in the workplace" and in daily activities. Several persons shared their journey into their present occupation and discussion followed about what it means to be called by God.

The evening meal was a fundraiser for NewBridges. We enjoyed a tasty Hispanic meal catered by NewBridges board members. Then we gathered in the sanctuary to hear brief reports by local agencies where Park View members volunteer in our community.

Following a Sunday morning worship service about being salt and light in a broken world, the festival ended with an enjoyable meal, catered by the youth of our congregation. It featured food from Burundi and was a fundraiser for their trip to the July Mennonite Church Assembly in Atlanta.

So what does it mean to be missional at Park View? It means learning and practicing values such as sharing and inclusiveness. It includes active participation in service to our community through local agencies. It means using our daily occupations to share God's love with persons who are victims of brokenness. As Leo reminded us in the Sunday morning sermon, it is not doing something spectacular, but simply being "a grain of salt and a beam of light" in the world around us.

• Joe Bontrager  
Park View Mennonite Church

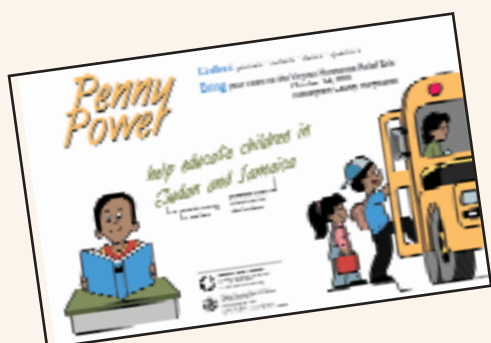
## Divorce in our Mennonite churches

How do our divorce statistics compare to the general population? In the year 2002, there were 421 divorces and 976 marriages in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County in Virginia. How many of these were members of local Virginia Mennonite Conference (MC USA) churches?

Now we know. The answer is 36 marriages and 4 divorces, representing an 11 percent ratio for the year compared to the area figure of 43 percent.

Jill Landis of Virginia Mennonite Conference and Harvey Yoder of the Family Life Resource Center collaborated in sending out a questionnaire and making follow-up phone calls to each of the 22 churches in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They counted only the number of marriages and divorces where one or both partners were officially members of a Virginia Conference congregation in 2002 and where the marriage license or divorce decree came through the local Circuit Court.

• Harvey Yoder  
Family Life Resource Center



Learn more at [www.vareliefsale.com](http://www.vareliefsale.com).

**Is the Penny Power jug in your church gradually filling up?** Keep dropping your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters into the jug so that Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions can buy a new school van for Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica and Mennonite Central Committee can help train teachers in Sudan.

If your church needs a Penny Power jug, poster, label, and other information, please contact Rachel Smith at VMBM at 540-434-9727 or [rachel.smith@vmbm.org](mailto:rachel.smith@vmbm.org).

## Spiritual serendipity

Have you ever had a day when everything went great? I'm talking about a day that not only goes according to plan, but far exceeds your expectations. I had a day like that recently. It was a day of seeing God's plans unexpectedly unfold.

Sam Weaver, Chair of the Conference Gift Discernment Committee, invited me to join him on a trip to Newport News to meet Minister Steve Brown, of Calvary Community Church, over breakfast. The purpose of our trip was to extend a call for Steve to become VMC's Assistant Moderator. I expected to leave Harrisonburg at 6 a.m., drive for three and a half hours, meet for an hour, and return by 2 p.m. My first surprise was that Steve's boss, Bishop Leslie Francisco III, chose to join us for breakfast. We had a delightful conversation, not only about the conference and Steve Brown's expected new responsibilities, but about Leslie's dad and the early years of Calvary's ministry. Minister Brown accepted our invitation and by 10:30 a.m. I considered our trip a success. Little did I know that our day was just beginning.

Since I am new to Virginia Conference, Sam Weaver was anxious to show me around "the Colony," as the Mennonite farm land of Denbigh, Va., was once known. During my tour we made five stops and connected with each person we had hoped to see. Our jaunt included: the Point Plaza hotel where VMC would soon be hosting a banquet, the Yoder Barn, the office of the local MMA counselor, Warwick River Christian School, Warwick River Mennonite Church and Williamsburg Mennonite Church. In the process we were invited to a monthly lunch of pastors and

associates where I met three church leaders for the first time. One was a man who had been imprisoned for his pacifist convictions. Another was a young pastor who extended an invitation for me to preach at his church. All of these appointments were unscheduled.

The word "serendipity" means "discovery by accident." As the day unfolded, Sam remarked that we were experiencing spiritual serendipity. As we were leaving the school and walking toward Warwick River Mennonite Church, Sam said, "If we find the pastor in his office we know it's the Lord." Sure enough, Pastor Steve Gibbs was in and available to show us around his church. Sam pointed out the exact spot where he had knelt, many decades before, as George Brunk ordained him for ministry.

On the ride home we stopped to see Williamsburg Mennonite Church, which is situated just off the highway. There were no cars in the parking lot as we pulled in. Nonetheless we decided to have a look. We checked the front door and found it locked. However, as we walked around the church I could see Pastor Randy Coblentz sitting at his desk. He came out to meet us, welcomed us in and showed us around. Again, an unscheduled appointment. I don't believe in coincidences, I believe in God-incidences.

Topping off a remarkable day, we stopped at a fast food restaurant on our way home and met Sam's son and daughter-in-law. It was 6 p.m. by the time we got home. Wow—what a day. I felt we had been moving in the leading of the Holy Spirit. The result was the best day I've had yet in four months working at a job I love. Coincidence? I don't think so.

• Steve Carpenter

VMC Conference Coordinator

## Congregational Resource Center

How can we work toward a more peaceful world? We have an excellent selection of peace materials. Come and browse through resources such as:

- **Second Mile: A Peace Journey for Congregations, Pathway A, The Land that I Will Show You**—curriculum
- **The Journey Toward Reconciliation**
- **Making Peace with Conflict: Practical Skills for Conflict Transformation**
- **Come, Let Us Celebrate! Creative Celebrations of Reconciliation**
- **Folktales of Peace**—video
- **Change of Command**—video

Relax on a comfortable chair and read a good book this summer! Or plan a special activity with children. These resources might help:

- **Bible Story Crafts and Projects Children Love**
- **Children's Ministry**—a periodical with lots of helpful ideas for sharing God's word with children
- **Family Fun**—another periodical that contains craft ideas and fun projects

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](http://www.emu.edu/mcrc) to browse our catalog. Contact us at 540-432-4219 or [wengerkw@emu.edu](mailto:wengerkw@emu.edu).

# July 2003 Prayer Calendar

## Sunday

**“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”**

Psalms 19:1-2 (NIV)

**6** Pray for the VMC districts that are seeking overseers to replace several who are retiring. Pray also for the congregations who are in the pastoral search process. May God grant wisdom in their decision-making.

**7** Rob and Celah Pence and family are in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica for two weeks. Dr. Pence is serving as doctor at the Joyland Clinic while Dr. Beiler is in Virginia on home leave. Pray that this interaction will be a blessing to all.

**13** Pastor Chaiya Hadtasunser is beginning worship services with several Hmong families in Hickory, NC. Pray that he will be able to clearly present the Gospel in ways that can be understood in Hmong culture.

**14** Pray for Richard Pannell, director of the LEAP (Learning, Exploring, and Participating) program, as he prepares for a group of high-school youth to attend Menn. World Conference and the Global Youth Summit.

**20** During this week, “Koinonia Center,” a new congregation in Bari, Italy, will be holding a Summer Vacation Bible School as an outreach to the community. Pray that new families will send their children.

**21** Pray for Deb Pardini, President of Mennonite Women of Virginia Conference. Pray also for the Retreat Committee as they make plans for the women’s retreat coming up in September in Williamsburg.

**27** Milford & Carolyn Lyndaker’s leadership at Crest Hill Community Church, Wardensville, WV, is resulting in increased attendance. Pray for insight and unity as they reach out to the Wardensville community.

**28** Pray for Richard and Margaret Keeler as they return to Trinidad tomorrow. Their sharing with churches enlightened many people about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Mennonite churches in Trinidad.

## Tuesday

**1** VMBM and VMC are heading into their final months of another fiscal year, which ends August 31. Pray that the Lord will continue to open hearts to the ministries in our midst and beyond.

**8** Maurita Eberly is holding music workshops in Bari, Italy, this month. She will be involved in a family camp and a children’s camp. Pray for Maurita as she gives leadership to this important ministry.

**15** Pray for the members of a Partners in Mission team who are serving in Kosovo for several weeks. Pray for safety as they travel and for energy as they interact with the Kosovar people.

**22** Pray for Paul Godshall, Director in Eastern Carolina District. Paul is coordinating efforts by the District to expand their ministries, including developing an Anabaptist Center in North Carolina.

**29** Pray for the Mennonite Congregational Resource Center Advisory Board as they meet tomorrow to choose a chairperson and develop plans for the center. Pray also for MCRC Director Kathy Weaver Wenger.

## Wednesday

**2** Pray for the VMC and VMBM staff who will be attending the Mennonite Church USA convention in Atlanta on July 3-8. Pray for safety as they travel and for enjoyment as they attend the sessions and network with others.

**9** Pray for the Nehemiah Project team of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church as they meet tomorrow to analyze survey results and use them in developing five-year goals for the church.

**16** Willard and Melba Heatwole are quickly entering into their work of community development in the Lushnje area of Albania. Pray for them as they build relationships and assist in various areas of ministry.

**23** Jesse Bergey welcomes the rainy season in Jamaica. Thank God that Jesse continues to work the soil of the earth and the soil of the heart, planting good seeds that take root and grow for God’s honor and glory.

**30** Pray for Tom & Karen Yoder and their sons as they complete their summer of service in Kosovo. Pray that they will be able to continue to build relationships with the Kosovar people.

## Thursday

**3** Pray for the mission team that has been formed among the churches in Sicily, that will go to Bari later in the month to assist in a week of community outreach. Pray for the promotion of mission vision among these congregations.

**10** VMBM has a variety of positions available for both long- and short-term international service. Pray that those who are considering missionary service would be attentive to God’s call.

**17** Pray for Philip Rhodes who is beginning a one-year assignment in Jamaica with the St. Elizabeth churches and Maranatha School for the Deaf. May God’s grace and presence ease him through the transition.

**24** Pray for a spirit of financial generosity among congregations and individuals so that the work of Virginia Mennonite Conference and Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions may continue unimpeded.

**31** Ron Baker makes regular visits to several prisons in central Virginia with Bible studies and counseling. Pray for Ron as he ministers at the Dillwyn Correctional Center in Buckingham County today.

## Friday

**4** Pray for the ten VMC delegates and the many congregational delegates who have gathered in Atlanta to worship, fellowship, and do the business of the church with other members of MC USA.

**11** A Partners in Mission team leaves for Jamaica tomorrow to assist with Bible school. Pray for Eileen Heatwole as she leads this eight-member team.

**18** Pray for Jill Landis, VMC Staff Assistant, as she prepares to lead a Partners in Mission team to Mennonite World Conference in August. The team will assist with arrangements prior to the Assembly in Zimbabwe.

**25** Lawrence Yoder, professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, leaves today for Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Pray for Lawrence as he provides leadership training for 50-60 people at Grace Assembly Mission.

Richard and Wanda Good sponsored this month’s prayer calendar in memory of Richard’s parents, Wade and Maude Good. Their involvement in spreading the Good News through mission outreach left a lasting legacy for future generations.

*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*

## Saturday

**5** Tom & Karen Yoder and sons—Landon, Jonathan, and Evan—are serving in Kosovo this summer. They will help discern direction for the placement of longer-term missionaries in the Decan region.

**12** VMBM President Loren Horst will preach at Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., tomorrow morning. Pray that the message would be clear and that the congregation would be challenged and encouraged.

**19** Pray for Conference Youth Minister Kimberlee Greenawalt as she meets with VMC pastors and youthworkers. Pray for her as she makes preparations for the Junior High Retreat in September.

**26** Pray for Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he brings the morning message at Williamsburg Mennonite Church tomorrow.

## Announcements

**Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church**, Orrville, Ohio, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on September 20-21. Saturday's events will include a time of renewing friendships and sharing memories. Loren Horst will be the guest speaker on Sunday morning. For more information, call Arlin and Marie Zuercher at 330-682-1151.

**A Central District Overseer Installation and Celebration** will be held on Sunday, September 7, at Weavers Mennonite Church. At 3:00 p.m. Richard Bowman will be installed as a new overseer. At 4:30 p.m. there will be a time of food and fellowship at Shady Oak. A celebration of Glendon Blosser's 34 years of service as an overseer will begin at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Lee Martin at 540-867-5885.

**58th Annual Eastern CPS Reunion** will be held August 7 at Chambersburg (Pa.) Mennonite Church. Open to all who served in Civilian Public Service during WWII. For a schedule and registration form contact Irvin E. Cordell at 717-328-2746.

**Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions** is seeking a person to serve as a full-time Development Director. This individual will provide leadership for the fundraising efforts of the mission program and serve as an advocate for mission in Virginia Conference. Experience in areas of finance, broad familiarity with the Mennonite Church, and good relational skills are required. Position is available September 1, 2003. Contact Beth Brunk at 540-434-9727 for an application and position description. Please submit resumes and applications by July 28, 2003.

**"Ethics of Biotechnology: Viewing New Creations with Anabaptist Eyes"** will be held November 13-15 at Eastern Mennonite University. This conference will focus on biotechnology as it relates to the power and use of new understandings in genetics. For more information visit [www.bioethics.emu.edu](http://www.bioethics.emu.edu), call 540-432-4400 or e-mail [bioethics@emu.edu](mailto:bioethics@emu.edu).

A major consultation, **"The Church Meets the Muslim Community,"** will be held Oct. 23-26 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. This forum will explore, from an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective, the calling and

challenges of the church meeting the 'unmah' (Arabic for community) in trust-building relations between Christians and Muslims around the world, particularly in the wake of September 11 and the recent war in Iraq. For more information, visit [www.emu.edu/churchandislam](http://www.emu.edu/churchandislam), call 540-432-4260, or e-mail [stutzmal@emu.edu](mailto:stutzmal@emu.edu).

**Diane Weaver** has been promoted to Vice President of the Division of Marketing and Development at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, where she will integrate VMRC's fundraising, marketing, communications and public relations operations. Diane is a member of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church.



**Richard A. Pannell** has been named director of LEAP, a new program being established at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. LEAP, which stands for "Learning, Exploring and Participating," is a broad-based effort the seminary is undertaking to encourage ministry inquiry among high school youth. Richard is a member of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg.



**John and Marcia Rempel Weaver** are beginning a three-year MCC assignment in Brazil. John will serve as Connecting Peoples Coordinator and Marcia will serve as a handicraft marketer. They have two children: Rachel, 2, and Evan, 9 months. They are members of Ridgeway Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg.

## Pastoral Transitions

**Chuck Hostetter** was commissioned as interim pastor at Mtn. View Menn. Church, Hickory, N.C., on May 1.

**Duane Yoder** was installed as lead pastor at Lindale Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., June 1.

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Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions  
Virginia Mennonite Conference  
901 Parkwood Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498



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