

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

March 2003  
Vol. 13, No. 5

## The season of Lent: preparing for the central event

Many of us grew up in a time when very little was said about the season of Lent. Our churches didn't teach us about it. We didn't "observe" it. We weren't even sure what "observing it" would mean. Most of us jumped on board somewhere around Palm Sunday, touched down briefly on Maundy Thursday with a love feast and communion, and then showed up in full splendor on Easter morning to sing our "Alleluias."

As a child I remember helping my mother make doughnuts on Fasnacht Day (Shrove or Fat Tuesday), not knowing that it had anything to do with the "feast" before the "fast" of Lent. I just liked eating the doughnuts! One of my classmates in sixth grade would come to school with a black smudge on her forehead a few days after the doughnut day experience. That, too, I didn't understand. Kids just said it was because she was Catholic, as if that explained it all. Fortunately I have learned a few things since then. As an adult, I have discovered that my experience of Easter grows deeper and gains more significance each year because I have spent time in preparation during Lent.

Many churches are finding new meaning in the keeping of Lent, even those that are historically non-liturgical in their orientation. This six-week period is a season for personal and corporate spiritual renewal. It is a time of penitence, prayer, reflection, and renewal. It begins quietly with Ash Wednesday, a day that focuses on our mortality and humanity. We hear the words, "Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return!" We are reminded that death and life are intimately related. We acknowledge our sins and failures of the past, set them aside and move on with our journey. These 40 days give us the opportunity to make preparation for the celebration of the central event of our lives: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our time of preparation may include the disciplines of Bible study, prayer, and fasting. We may have heard people who "give up" something for Lent as a kind of penance. Let us see it more as an opportunity

to "take on" something, to search the Scriptures more diligently, to try a new Spiritual discipline, to experiment with a different form or posture for prayer, to eat more simply. Whatever we do on this journey of Lent should be for the purpose of deepening our spiritual life and drawing us closer to the heart of God.

At Park View Mennonite Church our Lenten season begins with a Taize worship service on Ash Wednesday. It is a service of sung prayer with periods of silence, scripture reading, and intercession based on the format used in the ecumenical community of Taize in France. We offer these Taize services every Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. during Lent. During our regular monthly Taize services, people from many different backgrounds and faith experiences join us for worship.

For many of our congregations, Holy Week is quite full with special services such as Maundy Thursday love feast and communion, tenebrae services, Good Friday service, prayer retreat, Easter Vigil and of course Easter sunrise and morning worship. All of these are wonderful, rich experiences and important expressions of our faith. Let us continue to work at ways that help prepare us individually and corporately during the season of Lent, so that we can more fully appreciate the joy and hope of the resurrected Christ on Easter!



Barbara Moyer Lehman serves as associate pastor for nurture and pastoral care at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg.

• Barbara Moyer Lehman  
Park View Mennonite Church

## Will your child be a pastor?

There are four basic reasons that made mine a ministry vocation.

**1—The example of my father**, who served as a church planter and a businessman in Alberta. One summer I traveled with him on a weekly basis to

Eaglesham (70 miles away) as he preached for them when they were between pastors. We would hold a morning service there and return for an afternoon service at Bluesky. The integrity with which my father worked kept open the possibility that a similar direction would be an option for me.

**2—Beginning affirmations from others.**

**3—An inner call from God.** I am not sure which of these came first. When I began to make presentations, people were very affirmative. During the summer when I was 15, there was an ordination service in my home church. That night I wrote in my journal in a code I had developed, “I have this day received the call of God on my life to be a minister.” I told no one for more than two years. During that time the affirmations for how I was conducting my life continued to move me toward the ministry.

**4—Sustaining affirmation of the family of faith.** Following college, I did a two-year Voluntary Service assignment in a church in Youngstown, Ohio. I was fairly sure I wanted to go to seminary and this experience in urban congregational life honed the questions that I would take with me to the seminary classes. I was ordained in Alberta the summer after I was married and before coming to Eastern Mennonite



Owen Burkholder  
Conference Minister

Seminary in the fall. The ordination was an affirmation from the leadership of the Northwest Conference. Affirmation for my ministry gifts and presence sustained me through the eight years of pastoring at Community Mennonite and the fifteen years at Park View.

VMC has joined with Eastern Mennonite Seminary and three other conferences in work on “Creating a Congregational Culture of Call.” Guided by Del Glick, with the assistance of a grant from Lilly Endowment, we will begin with “Ministry Vocations Banquets” and an annual “Ministry Sunday.”

You can make a difference by becoming a part of the affirming atmosphere in your congregation. If you are not praying and caring for your pastor(s) now, there is no way your children will even consider pastoral ministry as a vocation. Find ways to be encouraging. If you see someone in your congregation who should be considering ministry, signal that to your pastor(s) or send an encouraging note to that person. You are part of the culture of your congregation—thanks for making the call to ministry attractive.



## Leadership for a Missional Church



Jim Bishop

Key resource speaker Alan Roxburgh addresses the School for Leadership Training at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in January as Leslie Francisco, pastor of Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Va., and Gilberto Flores, denominational minister for Mennonite Church USA, listen. Francisco and Flores later shared their vision for leadership in a missional church.

**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](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)

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

## Making a difference in the community

“Serving the needs of the community is nothing new,” say Crystal Morrison and Ben Brickhouse, two of the youth who traveled to Rocky Mt., N.C., with 18 other youth from Calvary Community Church’s Generation Youth Ministries in Hampton, Va. “We like making a difference in the community and serving the needs of others.”

The youth, who left Hampton early in the morning on December 7, didn’t sleep a wink the night before. “We were so excited about being there and having an opportunity to help the people in the community,” said Crystal.

Although it was freezing cold in the building, that didn’t hinder the youth or dampen their spirits. “Our responsibility was to sort and organize the clothes that were donated and prepare them to be sold,” said Ben. “Young people should jump at an opportunity like this to help other people. For me, it’s a humbling experience!”

The flea market is owned and operated by Fellowship of Christ Church, which purchased the entire strip mall in May 2002. Pastor Ronnie B. Pride’s vision is to use the property to equip and empower the people in the community, and to raise the standards of living in the area by developing entrepreneurial skills. The first step is to open a business center on site for training community people for retail jobs such as accounting, merchandising, and advertising. Next they plan to open a barbershop, hair salon, and a hair care product store. Other businesses will follow. The business center will also house trainees without jobs or transportation while they complete their training. The flea market currently rents space to a variety of vendors and will soon open an interior restaurant.

Ministers Glen and Cyndi Guyton are the youth pastors of Calvary’s Generation Youth Ministries. Many of the same youth that traveled to Rocky Mt. also traveled to South Africa this past summer where they had an opportunity to experience community service on a different level.

• Ammeral Johnson  
Calvary Community Church



A team from Calvary Community Church’s Generation Youth Ministries spent a weekend serving the community in Rocky Mt., N.C.

## Triad-Triangle Vision in eastern North Carolina

*The region of Durham, Greensboro, and Raleigh, N.C., has been selected as Mennonite Mission Network’s “City on a Hill” for 2003. A kick-off event will be held March 29.*

What does God want to happen in eastern North Carolina? Dare we speak of such things? “Who has known the mind of the Lord?” asks the Apostle Paul. Yet God speaks, and his children listen. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.”

I believe God has spoken concerning our three congregations and the cities where we are located—Durham, Greensboro, and Raleigh. He has

given us a vision for strengthening our churches and planting new ones in neighboring cities like Chapel Hill, Burlington, and Winston Salem.

God has a concern for the burgeoning population in our

cities. God’s mission is to reach the students who flock to our major universities from across the country and around the world. And our Lord cares about the thousands of Latinos who come each month to find work in our expanding economy. Are we listening? Do we care?

Eastern North Carolina is an exciting place to live in 2003. We are looking for Church Planting Associates, couples and singles who would be interested in helping start a new church. They must be willing to enter a process of discernment regarding their interest and gifts. They must be willing to consider relocating to Winston Salem, with little or no assurance of remuneration. Could God be asking you to consider this possibility? Will you help us spread the word?

As Urban Ministries Director for our district and the “Triad-Triangle Vision 2006,” I can be reached by email at [p.godshall@verizon.net](mailto:p.godshall@verizon.net) or by phone at 919-598-7533. Will I hear from you?

• Paul Godshall  
Durham Mennonite Church







Dennis Rhodes

Patrick Showalter enjoys a refreshment break with a Jamaican friend in Spanish Town.

## Building the kingdom God's way

In the early hours of November 22, a group of men met at the Dayton Mennonite Church to embark on a Partners in Mission service project. It was our assignment to go to Jamaica and help with the construction of the Spanish Town Mennonite Church. This would be the first flight experience and cross-cultural opportunity for several on the team. Those of us in the group were no strangers to one another, being relatives, friends, and fellow church members. Gary and Jewel Yoder graciously gave of their time by taking us from the church to Dulles International Airport in Weavers Mennonite Church's van.

After we finished making our trip via land and air we finally arrived at our destination and were taken through the heavily flooded streets of Kingston to Palm Ridge Retreat near Ocho Rios. We spent Saturday, our free day, at Jamaica's top tourist attraction, Dunns River Falls. Willard Heatwole also showed us around the town.

Sunday morning, after a church service at Calvary Mennonite, it was off to Kingston to Good Tidings Mennonite where their "Harvest Services" were underway. The evening theme was "Building the Kingdom God's Way." What a blessing and inspiration it was to participate in the mixture of word, song, and fellowship. That evening will be remembered for a long time.

Meeting at Good Tidings Church on Monday morning, we were taken to Spanish Town, 18 miles west of Kingston. The need for a church was evident as we arrived at the construction site. The small, old frame structure that sat in one corner of the church property was being used as a

church, school, and storage facility. Because of the recent rains, we spent our first day removing muck from the foundation.

On Tuesday morning an unexpected illness took Willard back to the States. We were losing our lead man, one who knew the culture well through his many years of service in Jamaica. There was some anxiousness and prayer. Later that day God's graciousness was evident as the work on the church began to take shape, despite the earlier setback. Mixing concrete, carrying blocks, sifting sand, forming concrete, and wheel-barrowing material filled out our week.

In retrospect, the physical work that took place seemed secondary. Working with pastors Aston Jarrett, Richie Tyson, Robert Henry and the fellowship with our host families and others was an excellent opportunity to partake in the diversity of the Christian church. It was equally meaningful to experience the warmth and gracious spirit of the people there. Seeing Christ at work in the broader church is a strengthening experience. What happened spiritually in Spanish Town, Jamaica, will endure any physical structure. I thank God for programs like Partners in Mission that make experiences like this possible.

• Dennis Rhodes  
Dayton Mennonite Church

## Delegates gather, vote on Broad Street

Delegates representing congregations and agencies in Virginia Mennonite Conference met at Springdale Mennonite Church in Waynesboro, Va., on February 1.

Given the inability of Broad Street Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., to abide by the Mennonite Church USA membership guidelines on homosexuality, the delegates voted to terminate

the congregation's membership in VMC. It had been suspended since July 2002.

Other significant items on the agenda included the introduction of Steve Carpenter as Conference Coordinator, an inspiring presentation by Beryl Jantzi on behalf of the Missional Church Team, and a farewell to EMU President Joe Lapp, who will be ending his presidency in June.

• Rachel Smith



Rachel Smith

Del Glick and Ruby Friesen Zehr converse during the morning refreshment break at the VMC delegate session.

## Who you are makes a difference

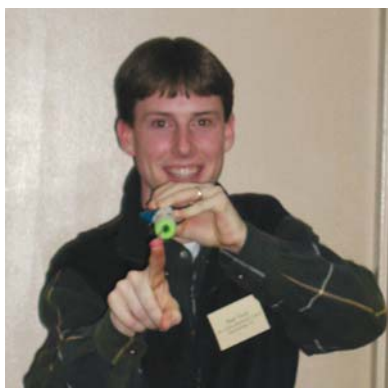
Approximately 65 youth pastors and leaders gathered at the Williamsburg, Va., Holiday Inn, on January 17-19, with the hope of gaining inspiration. We were not disappointed as we enjoyed times of worship, input, and fellowship. Lucinda Swartzendruber began each session with music, prayer and scripture reading, and the Sunday morning worship was especially meaningful. We each took a glob of multi-colored playdough from a table at the front and formed it into something that represented ourselves. We turned a mess of dough into a masterpiece, a symbol of what God does in each of our lives and the lives of youth we touch.

Stan Deen of Lancaster, Pa., provided insightful and often humorous input. He shared many stories from his experiences. While teaching at a public high school, some of his students began praying for him. One year later he became a Christian at age 37. He continued to teach and impact lives in the public high school for a total of 35 years. He has also worked with churches as a youth pastor. Currently he is working at Sight and Sound Theater.

Stan challenged us to integrate four characteristics into our ministry: authenticity, consistency, tirelessness, and unselfishness. Those will help to develop genuine relationships with youth. He pointed out that we need to get beyond the negative messages coming from society, parents and teachers. Others may have given up on them, but God never does.

We were also able to kick back and relax! Saturday afternoon found people napping, shopping and visiting. After each evening session there was time for games before heading to bed.

We left with new ideas and energy for our awesome task of fingerprinting the lives of our youth. Who we are does make a difference!



**Top:** Stan Deen captivates his audience with humorous stories and meaningful input.

**Bottom:** Matt Trost aims a finger-rocket at the photographer. These toys have been quite popular at Youthworkers Retreats!

David Lehman

## Happy Birthday, Linden

Having been born on December 26, 1912, I realized that in 2002 I would be ninety years old. That did not seem particularly important to me, but some people thought otherwise. A year ahead

of time my children decided that when I was ninety we would have a celebration. At first we sent invitations to family and friends, then put invitations in church bulletins. The announcement may have been put in “The Mennonite” and “The Mennonite Weekly Review.” It was finally to be understood that everyone who knew me was invited. One lady told me that she didn’t know a thing about it until it was over. I can’t understand how she missed it.

A lot of people came to the party on Thursday, December 27. They signed the guest book and ate refreshments, then came around to shake my hand, congratulate me, and say a lot of nice things about me. Mother would have believed about all they said; I was a little more skeptical, but certainly, I appreciated the kind things they had to say and the credit they gave me for ninety years of accomplishment.

I certainly thought of those who had made my life what it was these ninety years. My godly parents taught me the way of right-

eousness and salvation, my siblings helped make my parental home what it was, and my good wife of sixty-two years stood with me in all of my callings and assignments. Of course, there were others—my Sunday school teachers, the ministers of my congregation, and the people I worked with at Eastern Mennonite High School, College, and Seminary.

For the most part, life has been good to me. I want to express my appreciation to all who have helped make my life what it was these ninety years. My thanks and blessing to all of you.



courtesy photo

Linden & Esther Wenger

• Crystal Trost  
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

• Linden Wenger  
former church leader in  
Virginia Mennonite Conference

## Making an impact



Bob Briscoe

Ellie Spaulding (Community), Rebecca Geltmacher (Williamsburg), Megan Hansen (Williamsburg), and Steve Gibbs (Warwick River) build a structure of gumdrops, matchsticks, and spaghetti at the Xtreme Impact leadership weekend in January.

Xtreme Impact 2003 was held at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center on January 3-5. Twenty-one participants enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, worship, and learning about Christian leadership. The high school and college-age group was composed of former Kaleidoscope Camp staff, and youth from Harrisonburg, Williamsburg, Surry, Newport News, and Virginia Beach.

The weekend began by looking at Biblical leaders such as Moses, Joshua, and Nehemiah, and establishing a working definition for Christian leadership. Christian leadership was defined as “allowing God to use you as a tool to influence others toward God-given goals in a God-honoring manner.” The importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to empower and direct the leader was emphasized.

Doug Chandler, Director of Student Development for the Business School at Regent University, led the participants through the DISC personality profile and a spiritual gift assessment. During one session, Doug had the students break into teams and build towers out of gumdrops and

matchsticks. The team that could build the highest tower in the allotted time was the winner.

Participants then made observations about the roles that different team members took during the exercise. They had the opportunity to evaluate their own personality style and spiritual gifts, and were encouraged to try to understand the personality styles of others in order to lead them better.

Randy Steck and Norman Crowder taught two sessions on the qualities of a leader. Both are counselors for at-risk students in Williamsburg. Through discussions and games, the participants explored leadership qualities like commitment, listening skills, self discipline, and character.

Former lifeguard Michael Hansen did an excellent job as worship leader for the weekend along with Jonathon Weidel on percussion and Nelson Grooms on guitar.

When asked how they might apply what they learned from the weekend, one student replied, “I will try to understand other people’s personality so that I can relate to them better. I will most definitely try to spend more time alone with God.” Another shared, “I am going to try to get a young adult group started at my church.”

Xtreme Impact 2004 will be held January 2-4 at WCRC. This is a great event for Youth Sponsors to attend with their student leadership team.

• Bob Briscoe  
Program Director at WCRC

## Congregational Resource Center

The Gospel writers gave great emphasis to the events of Holy Week. This is the climax of the story. Let the profound significance of these days permeate our hearts and worship by using ideas from the many good resources available.

- **Come In and Worship: Liturgies and Sermons for Holy Week** by Robert C. Bankhead
- **Holy Week: Experiencing the Events through Art Activities** by Phyllis Vos Wezeman
- **The Final Week of Jesus** by Max Lucado (Highlights from “And the Angels Were Silent”)
- **Celebrating Holy Week**
- **A Time Between Hosanna and Alleluia** (Stations of the Cross)
- **Table Talk: A Maundy Thursday Resource**
- **The Early Christian Meal: A Good Friday Experience**
- **Words Around the Fire: Reflections on the Scriptures of the Easter Vigil**
- **Welcome, Blessed Morning: Two Drama Resources for Easter Day Worship**

- **Three for the Third Day: Three Easter Sunrise Services**
- **Christ in Easter: A Family Celebration of Holy Week**
- **Resurrection Eggs** and storybook, **Benjamin’s Box**

In the periodical **Reformed Worship**, you can find articles such as:

- Easter Sunrise Service (12/02)
- Songs for Lent and Easter (12/02)
- Holy Week Drama (12/00)
- Lamb of God: Service Resource (12/00)
- Seder Meal (12/99)
- Tenebrae Service (12/98)

The Resource Center is located at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A key is available at the EMU Information Office for use after hours.

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).

### Clara Yoder

passed away on January 26, 2003, in Greenwood, Del., at the age of 85. Clara and her husband, David, were former VMBM workers in Tennessee where David was superintendent of the Knoxville mission from 1951 to 1954.



# March 2003 Prayer Calendar

## Sunday

**30** Richard Keeler oversees the pastors of the four congregations in the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Pray for him as he encourages the pastors and gives counsel as needed.

**2** The project management group for the new Hmong outreach will meet next weekend in Hickory, N.C. Pray for church planter Chaiya Hadtasunern as he shares his vision for ministry to the Hmong people of the Hickory area.

**9** Pray for Conference Minister Owen Burkholder as he develops events to call, train, and support leaders in Virginia Conference. Pray also for Del Glick as he helps VMC to develop a "Congregational Culture of Call."

**16** Pray for Jason & Donna Martin as they sow seeds of hope into the lives of many people in the city of Bari, Italy. Pray also for new donors and additional resources in order to strengthen the financial base for their ministry.

**23** Pray for Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he works with congregations and individuals to increase contribution flow for VMC ministries. Pray for a spirit of financial generosity within your congregation.

## Monday

**31** VMBM President Loren Horst and his wife, Earlene, will travel to Italy and Albania early next month for several weeks of consultations with church leaders and mission personnel. Pray for safety as they travel.

**3** Many Mennonites from the Shenandoah Valley and beyond will be canning beef at the Mennonite Relief Center in Hinton, Va., this week. Pray that this year would be more productive than ever so that many people can be fed.

**10** Tomorrow is the monthly lunch meeting for youthworkers in the Harrisonburg area. Pray that those who need refreshment and encouragement will feel welcome to come, especially those attending for the first time.

**17** Margaret Keeler continues to train leaders for the Friendship Bible Coffees, women's Bible study groups. Pray that these Trinidadian leaders will find the Holy Spirit's guidance very real for them.

**24** Lee and Connie Ebersole are meeting with leaders of congregations in Trinidad. May God's creative spirit move among them as they seek ways of enriching the music and worship aspects of church services.

## Tuesday

**I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me.**  
Psalm 13:6 (NIV)

**4** Ramesh and Babes Jaimani are the delegates from Trinidad to the Jamaica Mennonite Conference on March 7-9. Ask God for good interaction between brothers and sisters of these two Caribbean islands.

**11** Jesse Bergey has harvested vegetables from the fields he planted in Top Hill, Jamaica. The cook at the Maranatha School for the Deaf prepared them for the meals served there. Thank God for this bounty and for Jesse's work.

**18** Pray for Allen Umbile who returned to Albania in early January for another two-year term of missionary service at Lezhe. Pray for wisdom as he once again launches the English school, a ministry of the local congregation.

**25** Ken and Stephanie Stoner thank God for His provision of health, safety, and daily needs. Pray for them as they show Christ's peace and reconciliation to the people they meet and interact with in their community of Top Hill, Jamaica.

## Wednesday

Sam & Sarah Weaver, Janet Weaver, Steve & Doris Leaman, and Michael & Rachel Weaver sponsored this month's prayer calendar in loving memory of their parents and grandparents, Lloyd Sr. & Sara Weaver. Lloyd's birthday was March 20, 1902, (the first day of Spring) and Sara died on March 31, 1988. Both the family and the Church have been influenced by their life of prayer and witness.  
*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.*

**5** *Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent*  
Lord, today we recognize our mortality, that we are like dust. Thank you for bringing new life out of the dust; we become new creations in your image. Amen.

**12** Ken Horst is representing Partners in Mission during Missions Week at Emmaus Bible College in Toronto, Canada. Pray for safety in travels and open doors to share the mission news of areas where VMBM is working.

**19** Each Wednesday morning, the staff in the Virginia Mennonite Conference Center gather together for a staff assembly. Pray that these times would continue to inspire and encourage each one.

**26** Pray for our overseas personnel during this time of heightened tensions in the world. Pray for safety and for the ability to freely live and share the gospel.

## Thursday

**6** The Jamaica Mennonite Conference is held this weekend. Pray for the delegate session on Saturday and the worship services on Sunday. May God's name be glorified and the Church strengthened for witness.

**13** Pray for VMBM President Loren Horst as he conducts renewal meetings with a mission focus at Springdale Menn. Church this weekend. Springdale is the home church of Omar & Dolores Beiler, who are serving in Jamaica.

**20** Karen Brunk participates in local community events in Jamaica, which open the doors for building relationships. Pray that she will have health and stamina for the rigors of working in the mountainous parts of the country.

**27** Three HIV positive patients see Dr. Omar Beiler for their health care in Jamaica. Pray that he and Dolores will also show Christ's compassion. One patient in particular seems very receptive to hearing about Christ's love.

## Friday

**7** *World Day of Prayer*  
We join hearts and minds with our brothers and sisters around the world, thanking God for His mercy and grace, and praying for peace and justice for everyone.

**14** Pray for Keith and Tami Nice as they start a Bible study group in their home in Graham, N.C. this month. Pray for wisdom, courage, and faith and for a partnering couple. This is a part of the Triad-Triangle Vision 2006.

**21** Conference Youth Minister Kimberlee Greenawalt is working to finalize plans for the youth who will attend the Virginia Menn. Conference Assembly in June. Pray that many youth would attend this time of inspiration and fun.

**28** Tomorrow afternoon is a kick-off celebration for City on a Hill 2003 at Durham (N.C.) Menn. Church. This recognition by Mennonite Mission Network will provide additional funding and consultation for the vision of the district.

## Saturday

**1** Three missionary families in Italy and Albania participated in a home-schooling convention in Hungary last month. Pray for these families as they return to their assignments and continue to provide for their children's education.

**8** Central District is holding a mission festival tomorrow at Zion Hill Mennonite Church. Pray that the events of the afternoon will strengthen vision for outreach, both locally and globally.

**15** Ken Horst is visiting Fellowship in Drayton, Ontario, this weekend. This is the home congregation of Jason and Donna Martin, who are serving in Italy. Thank God for the congregation's commitment to mission.

**22** Chaiya Hadtasunern will be commissioned and licensed tomorrow afternoon in Hickory, N.C., for his ministry to the Hmong people in Hickory. Pray for Chaiya and his wife as they give leadership to this new outreach.

**29** Pray for wisdom and insight for Eitroy Miller (Faith & Life Commission), Sandy Snider (Nurture Commission), and Howard Miller (Health & Mutual Care Commission) as they lead their respective commissions.

# Announcements

**Beef canning for Mennonite Central Committee** will be held at the Mennonite Relief Center, Hinton, Va., March 3-7. The designated day for members of Virginia Mennonite Conference to volunteer is March 4, but you are welcome to help on any day. For more information, contact Leon Rhodes at 540-867-9751.

**Bike Shenandoah**, a fundraiser for Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee, and one other local agency, will be held September 27 in Harrisonburg. Last year's event raised \$17,390.

## Leadership Updates

**Matt Cabbage** was ordained for his ministry as an evangelist in the Tennessee-Carolina-Kentucky District, January 12, 2003.

**George Dupuy** was licensed as Associate Pastor at Big Spring Mennonite Church, Luray, Va., November 24, 2002.

**Muzet Felgar** was commissioned as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries at Springdale Mennonite Church, Waynesboro, Va., February 2, 2003.

**Laban Peachey** was installed as interim lead pastor at Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., January 2, 2003.

### Partners in Mission

**short-term service opportunities**

**Jamaica**  
teach Bible School  
July 2003  
6-8 people

**Flushing Meadows, N.Y.**  
prayer and evangelism team  
July 2003  
5-7 people

**Riverside, WV**  
teach Bible School  
July 7-11, 2003  
5-6 people

**Contact Ken Horst, Director of Partners in Mission**  
540-434-9727 ♦ 1-800-707-5535  
pim@vmbm.org ♦ www.vmbm.org/pim

The call for relief kits that went out to Virginia Mennonite Conference churches in October was answered in a dramatic way. These congregations prepared 159 kits. In addition, \$22,540 was given to purchase supplies to make kits. This money filled 1000 kits and they are in buckets and ready to go wherever needed, most likely to Iraq.

Mennonite Central Committee needs 18,000 kits to meet current demand. If you are able to contribute money or a kit, please do so soon. In March, one thousand additional kits will be assembled with funds that the Hinton Relief Center has on hand. What an excellent way to put our peace beliefs into practice!

## HIGHLAND RETREAT

### CAMP SCHEDULE 2003

Resident Camps		Age
June 19-20	Camp Bear Paw	6-8
June 22-27	Camp Cottontail	8-10
June 29-July 4	Camp Woodchuck	9-11
July 6-11	Camp Crawfish	9-11
July 13-18	Camp Cardinal	11-13
July 20-25	Camp Coyote	12-13
July 27-August 1	Teen Camp	14 & up
Wilderness Camps		
July 6-11	Explorers	11-13
July 13-18	Mountaineers	12-13
July 20-25	Pioneers	13-15
Trip Camps		
June 22-27	WV Mountain Adv.	13-15
August 3-8	Appalachian Trail	15-18
August 15-16	Parent/Child BikeTrip	10 & up
Day Camps		
July 7-11	Camp Acorn	6-13
July 14-18	Camp Beechnut	6-13
July 21-25	Camp Chestnut	6-13
July 28-August 1	Camp Hazelnut	6-13
Soccer Camp		Grade
August 3-8	Guys Soccer Camp	7-12
August 10-15	Girls Soccer Camp	7-12

**Highland Retreat**  
14783 Upper Highland Drive, Bergton, VA 22811  
540-852-3226 • highlandrt@juno.com  
www.highlandretreat.org

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