

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

September 2004  
Vol. 14, No. 11

## Transformation from the inside out in Italy

As a young girl, I began serving the Catholic Church with great fervor because I was searching for God. Later on, as a treasurer, I administered the offerings given for religious festivals and the poor. But my heart remained cold and empty in spite of my spiritual sensitivity and reverence for the Lord, and my attempt to faithfully fulfill all my religious duties. The Bible was an unknown book to me and my family. The first time I recall hearing biblical truth presented was when a priest spoke against idolatry. I was moved to tears and cried, "Lord, am I serving you or idols?"

I suffered from severe, almost uncontrollable hypertension that worsened when my father died of a stroke. The doctor warned me that if I didn't take care of myself, I could die the same way.

After my father's funeral, a family friend (a believer from the Emanuele Mennonite Church at Capaci) came to visit us. He shared what Jesus was doing in his life. When he saw my eager responsiveness to the Gospel, he asked if he could bring his pastor to visit me. I was ready!

Janet Blosser and our friend's wife made the first visit. Janet's warm, loving embrace ministered to my heart. We began reading Isaiah 53:4-5 together, "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. . . he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." The last phrase of this passage struck me deeply because of my need for physical and spiritual healing. God had already prepared me to receive Him. As I wept tears of repentance before the Lord, I immediately experienced forgiveness, acceptance, and peace as I felt God's arms around me! I asked forgiveness for the years I'd wasted. I understood that God does not want sacrifices, rituals, or good works but an open heart before Him. As inner transformation took place, my blood pressure returned to normal. I began attending the newly-opened Shalom Mennonite Church in Palermo and was among the first believers there.

My husband was converted nine months later. Floyd and Janet Blosser disciplined us. One evening they helped us "clean" our house of all our idols and images. Since then a wonderful peace pervades our home. My relatives and friends were very critical and

tried to convince us to renounce our decision to follow Jesus.

About five years ago Francesco Picone preached at our church on Isaiah 6:8, "...Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" I responded to the call to commit myself to sharing God's transforming message with others. I prayed for three months and God spoke clearly, "Go to your neighbors!" Many of them knew what a cantankerous person I once was! In obedience, but with fear and trembling, I visited the 32 homes in our 8-floor apartment building, inviting them to come to my house for coffee and to read the Bible and pray together each Wednesday at 5 p.m. My pastor, Pino and Rosanna Arena, led this meeting for two years. As a result, my neighbor, Angela, became a fervent believer. Soon thereafter she was diagnosed with a malignant tumor but the Lord honored our prayers and she was healed. She has joined me in ministering to our neighbors. Others in our building are interested and often come ring my doorbell to talk and pray about their problems and needs.

This summer I have served on several teams organized by SFIDA, the missions commission of the Italian Mennonite Church. It has been a wonderful experience to assist with the *Settimana Felice* (Happy Week) for kids here in Bari. For me there is no greater joy than leading others to the One who was crushed and wounded so that by His grace our lives are healed and transformed.



Eva Eberly and Rita Scardisco. Rita has shared the Gospel with her family, friends, and neighbors in Palermo, Italy

• Rita Scardisco, as told to Eva Eberly  
Shalom Mennonite Church, Palermo, Italy

# Dear busy, fearful friends

How did I know this much about you? I've been pondering the responses submitted on the evening of VMC assembly when we considered the theme, "Spirit Led...guided" When answering the question of what tends to interfere most with your journey with Jesus, busyness was named the most often. For several, the busyness was with doing good things. A close second to busyness was fear of what others may think.



**Owen Burkholder**  
Conference Minister

It is fascinating to note, then, the responses to the second question, "What commitment(s) are you being called to make?" The most often noted urgings were to focus and commit the use of time to the Holy Spirit. With about the same frequency, was the commitment to trust God.

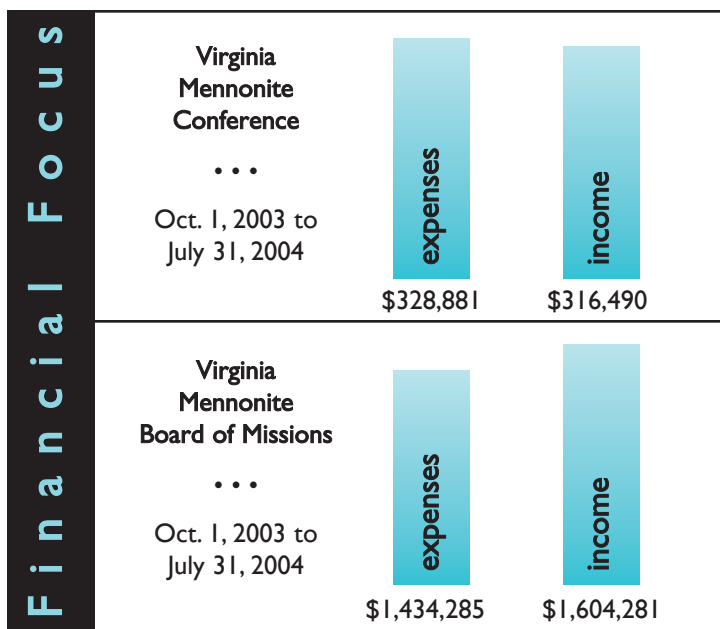
If, as we were asked, we were listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit in noting our callings, we have the Spirit's antidote for busyness and for fear of others. (This sure takes a burden away from the preacher—the answers are coming from persons interacting directly with the Spirit of Jesus).

It seems that the Spirit is saying that busy people are to commit all of their doings to the intentions of Jesus. Take Jesus with you into every activity. Watch for how these activities are part of what God wants to be doing in ourselves and in our world. Even the most mundane activities can be transformed as we sense the presence of the Spirit. And, it may become clear that some of the activities are not contributing to God's purposes and can be dropped without guilt!

It seems, further, that the Spirit is saying that trust in God is the antidote for fear of others. How do we enhance the level of trust that seems to be our side of the effort of bringing in the kingdom of God? Words fail: "just do it," "become like children," "cast your cares on Jesus." With a conscious effort of our inner being, we lift our faces and state our commitment to Jesus as Lord of All. Then, we cultivate that through the development of our minds by reading the testimony of God's trustworthiness in the Scriptures. We develop our inner beings by prayer, interacting with God, confessing when we know we are wrong, arguing our case when we are angry, naming the mystery of silence.

After awhile, we will be so intrigued by our journey with the Spirit that our fear of our friends may dissipate.

Hear again, busy, fearful friends, the invitation of Jesus: "come, follow me." That invitation promises his presence for the fear and his direction for the busyness.



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**Editor**

Gloria Lehman

**Assistant Editor**

Jon Trotter

**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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# Finding the path of nonresistance

As a cadet at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, I read with rapt interest a pamphlet, “May a Christian Serve in the Military?” by General William Harrison. Harrison's essay, and the counsel of senior officers, convinced me that military service was consistent with my Christian faith. I had also been especially attracted to the Coast Guard's humanitarian missions. So, I stayed at the academy and, in 1977, embarked on a career as a Coast Guard officer. I became an expert with a rifle and pistol, learned self-defense, studied naval strategy and anti-submarine warfare and wrote military readiness plans.

Then, in 1980, I was attending a Bible study made up of Navy and Coast Guard officers and their families. After an evening of study and fellowship, a naval officer jokingly remarked, “It's hard to believe we're all trained killers.” The truth and irony of his humor struck me. That was one of many incidents God used in my life to bring me to a place where I embraced Jesus' path of nonresistance.

If God's plan is for those who call Jesus “Lord” to be like him, can Christians continue to submit their intellect and energy to an institution whose primary purpose is to kill the soldiers and sailors of nations opposed to U.S. political interests? Can a Christian, in good conscience, operate the missile silos that could release nuclear weapons on unsuspecting millions?

My dramatic change of position was caused by a fresh reading of scripture, a closer examination of Jesus' example, a personal tragedy, and a better understanding of church history. As I studied the life and teaching of Jesus, it became clear to me that he taught pacifism. In the Sermon on the Mount, he declared, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” He taught us to “turn the other cheek” and “love our enemies.” Jesus not only taught nonresistance, he practiced it, even to the point of his own death.

Today, I see Jesus's example of nonresistance as a spiritual discipline that I need to cultivate in my life, similar to other spiritual disciplines, like prayer and fasting.

I have come to understand that the Christian church includes people from every tribe and nation, even those nations the U.S. government may be fighting against, and as a Christian, my primary allegiance is not to the United States as a citizen, but to Jesus and His kingdom.

• Steve Carpenter  
Conference Coordinator



Kevon Swaby, Philip Rhodes, and Terrence Bennett have fun after school has let out for the day. Both Terrence and Kevon were in Philip's Bible Study.

## Power beyond expectations

A little over a year ago as I was flying in an airplane toward so many unknowns, it was hard to make my thoughts dwell on only one thing. But the year to follow was to be one of growing faith, my expectations giving way to the will of God and the powerful love He wanted to show through me in surprising new ways.

As I began to adjust to my new life in a Jamaican culture that I knew very little about, I prayed for God's guidance into the areas of ministry in which He could use me most effectively. Ridge Mennonite Church was a great place to begin. Hoping to lighten the load of the leaders and to be a positive Christian role model for the youths, I began teaching a youth class, helping to coordinate youth meetings, preaching once a month, and sharing my love for music with them. They quickly became like a family, encouraging and supporting me as I lived and worked among them.

From the outset, it seemed like working at Maranatha School for the Deaf could not be an area of ministry for me for one obvious reason...I did not know any sign language! And yet, as I began to learn the language and meet the kids, I saw the huge potential for ministry among them. Nearly every child came from a broken home and they had very few mentors or role models...and even less whom they could communicate with effectively about serious issues. From the beginning, then, my prayer was this: “God, please help me to learn sign language quickly so that I can tell these children more about you and how much you love them. Let me be the father they never knew or the Christian brother they never had.” In a surprisingly short time, God answered my prayers; soon we were spending evenings just talking and having fun and eventually we even began having Bible studies on Friday nights. As each week ended throughout the year, I would always look back at those Bible studies as one of the main highlights. It was so wonderful to see the children sharing insights and gaining understanding of Jesus and the Bible...and asking great questions all the while!

And so, as I think about my experiences in Jamaica, it's wonderful to see the powerful hand of God working far beyond my mind's limitations. I had seen myself as an assistant to pastor Robert Henry; but God saw me to be an assistant to Keith Allen, working alongside him to stabilize a very young Mennonite congregation. I had seen myself as a part-time teacher at a school for deaf children, learning sign language on the side; but God saw me to be a full-time teacher and sign language as central to one of my most important ministries. I will always praise the Lord for calling me to Jamaica and for guiding me through all of my unknowns into the blessings of service.

• Philip Rhodes

# Spirit led!

## 2004 Conference Assembly

Wow! As you can see from these pictures, those who gathered at Eastern Mennonite University, July 8-11 experienced a varied and exciting summer Assembly and YouthFest. This year's event was presented by Virginia Mennonite Conference in partnership with EMU, VMBM and Jerichofest.

**Liston, Juline, & Avia Aiken,** fraternal Jamaica delegates, brought the message on Friday night



Our theme was "Spirit Led: beloved...gifted...guided...sent" What a joy it was to gather with the nearly 500 people who registered, including 150 delegates, 99 youth or youth sponsors and 43 children. I sensed God's leading in our deliberations and the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship. God's presence was especially palpable on Saturday night when

Conference Minister Owen Burkholder preached on the guiding of the Holy Spirit. The Lord used Owen's preaching, followed by the liturgical dance of God's Girls from Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church in Chesapeake, as an entry point to break in upon our gathering in a powerful way.

James Stauffer, who was present during our time of worship remarked, "It reminded me of the revival services we used to hold on this campus 50 years ago."

Each of the four worship events was well attended with about 1400 gathered in EMU's Commons on Sunday morning to experience the preaching of John Powell, Mennonite Missions Network Director of Missional Church Development. Worship that morning included a commissioning service for more than 70 pastors and mission workers who are actively engaged in ministry in and for Virginia Mennonite Conference or Mission Board.



**Kimberlee Greenawalt,** Conference Youth Minister, was taped to the wall to raise funds for Bible quizzing



Delegates discuss around tables



**Jason and Donna Martin,** missionaries in Bari, Italy, participate in a workshop

**Duane Yoder,** pastor of Lindale Mennonite Church, leads a Bible study

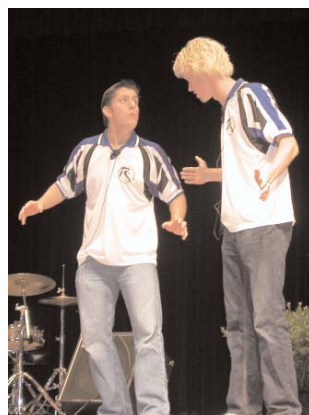




**Ben and Kathy Risser** participate in the Sunday morning commissioning service. Ben was recently installed as pastor at Ridgeway Mennonite Church.



**God's Girls**, from Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church



**Panic Squad**, improv comedy team, entertained on Saturday night

It was clear from John's message that each of us is sent by God to be actively engaged in His work and purposes. Offerings from the four worship services raised nearly \$19,000 for the ministries of VMC and VMBM.

However, we were saddened by the absence of the Calvary Community. All delegates from the newly formed Calvary District were in Hampton, Va. mourning the sudden death of Steven Francisco, pastor of Calvary Community Church West.

This year's Assembly included a Youthfest. Each morning, teens gathered for their own worship and then met along with the adults for Bible teaching by Duane Yoder, pastor of Lindale Mennonite Church. In the afternoons there were special workshops and recreational activities for the youth followed by VOW, a Christian band from Alabama on Friday night and Panic Squad, a hilarious west coast improv comedy team on Saturday evening. Youth attendance quadrupled from last year to this.

*Don't miss out.* Plan now to be a part of next year's assembly at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, July 28-30, 2005. Look for another Youthfest in 2006 back at EMU.



Perusing the World Neighbors International Fair



**Richard Early**, pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, tells of being struck by lightning



**Rachel Swartzendruber**, VMC Staff Assistant, tells a children's story at Sunday's worship

## Va. Conference welcomes new moderator



Beryl Jantzi at Victoria Falls, Tanzania, part of his travels while attending the 2003 Mennonite World Conference in Zimbabwe.

“I’m excited about the future of Virginia Mennonite Conference and am looking forward to growing with others in my role as Conference Moderator,” said Beryl Jantzi.

In July, the Virginia Mennonite Conference delegates who were gathered at Assembly selected Beryl Jantzi, lead pastor of Harrisonburg Mennonite

Church, to succeed Dr. Joseph Longacher as VMC’s Moderator. Joe competed two three-year terms as Moderator and was ineligible for another term.

“It is my desire to work along with Conference staff as we lead together from the center. As an Anabaptist people, we discern God’s purposes as a community gathered around the Scriptures and interpreting them for our own day. I desire to find new ways of pooling our spiritual gifts as a Conference,” said Jantzi.

He senses that the Conference is in place to help facilitate the defining of our mission and ministry as congregations and encourages more clear focus on the missions to which we are called, even though the particulars of the missions may be somewhat different from one congregation to another.

Beryl began serving Harrisonburg Mennonite Church eight years ago. Prior to moving to this community in 1996, Beryl, Margo, Rose and Melissa lived in Ephrata, Pa., where Beryl served as co-pastor at Akron Mennonite. In addition to ministry at AMC and HMC, Beryl also served as associate pastor at Zion Mennonite, Broadway, Va., from 1988-1991 and at Warwick River Mennonite, Newport News, Va., as youth pastor from 1986-1988.

Beryl received a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, in 1982. After serving as a youth pastor for 6 years, he went on to earn his Master of Divinity from EMS in 1991 and completed a Doctor of Ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1999.

Since 2002, Beryl has been a member of MC USA’s Missional Church Team. He has also served as chair of VMC’s Missional Church Team and was on the Committee of Directors at EMHS.

Beryl’s wife, Margo, is a gifted education teacher for the Rockingham County Schools and their two daughters Rose and Melissa attend EMHS as 8th and 6th graders, respectively. For fun the family enjoys travel, biking, and reading. Beryl also enjoys playing his guitar, racquet sports and riding his 1983 Yamaha Heritage Special.

• Steve Carpenter  
Conference Coordinator

## Sharing love in Lura

In June, four Shenandoah Valley young people, Vincent and Austin Rhodes, Cheryl Heatwole, and Stephanie Yoder joined five young Albanian believers and had the awesome experience of sharing Jesus’ love with children and young people in Lura, a remote mountain community nestled in a small valley in northern Albania. Four hours beyond the asphalt on a rough dirt road, Lura has a small group of believers but no established church. Our goal was to be an encouragement to the 24-year-old Christian leader in the community, be friends with and role models for Albanian youth, and be a Christian witness.

Each morning up to 35 children appeared in our yard and we’d start with enthusiastic Albanian singing. After dividing into two groups according to age, we told a story and our Albanian teammates translated. They also led in memorizing Bible verses, and then the class concluded with pictures to color or other learning activities.

After class, all the children joined in games - delightedly introducing the Americans to new words and game rules. We taught Bible lessons they had never heard, but in the end realized that it was our nonverbal communication that might have made a more lasting impression. Sharing God’s love is not bound to speaking the language, even though that is important for sharing a greater understanding of Christ. We knew that our actions spoke loudly when the young adult men, who came in the evenings for a Bible lesson and some hardcore volleyball, decided to make Austin their “international goalkeeper” because they realized he wouldn’t cheat and they could trust his scores.

Yes, we clearly had an impact on Lura, but the experience also had a lasting impact on our team—both American and Albanian. We will treasure the friendships we forged as we lived and worked together to share God’s love with others.

• Stephanie Yoder

Mennonite Mission Network and Eastern Mennonite

Missions invite you to join us in celebrating

**Mennonite Witness with the  
Messianic Movement in Israel:  
Celebrating 50 Years**

Roy and Florence Kreider • Paul and Bertha Swarr

September 24-25, 2004

East Petersburg Mennonite Church  
East Petersburg, Pa.

RSVP by Sept. 1 (toll-free) 1-866-866-2872

# September 2004 Prayer Calendar

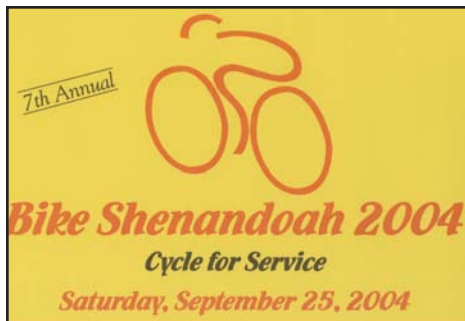
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by Bergey's Retail and Commercial Tire Sales, 3717 Industrial Dr., Broadway, Va., 22815. Since 1924, the Golden Rule has been the key to our success and your satisfaction. (540) 896-4660</p>	<p><b>6</b> Please pray for teachers, students, administrators, and all who are involved in school starting again. All have lots of adjustments to make for the new year!</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pray for Robert and Lois Wenger as they return to Riverside following their summer sabbatical. Pray that their time away has equipped them with renewed vision and energy.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Pray for newly-elected Conference Moderator Beryl Jantzi, senior pastor at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, as he assumes responsibility for the overall leadership of VMC. Ask God to give him wisdom and strength for the task.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Pray for Mary Hess of Goricaj, Albania, as she undertakes the task of home schooling her children again this year; a new challenge in light of the lack of personnel and many demands in ministry.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Saturday and Sunday will be the official formation of the Hmong Hickory Mennonite Church in Hickory, NC. This growing congregation is supported by seven local Mennonite churches and TCK District.</p>	<p><b>4</b> The new school year has opened at the Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica. Pray that the students will enter into their classes and other activities with enthusiasm and that they will grow mentally, socially, and spiritually.</p>
<p><b>12</b> Today at Bari, Italy several new believers will follow Jesus in adult baptism. Pray for those being baptized and those who may have an opportunity to understand the Gospel through their testimonies and preaching.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Pray for preparations of Bike Shenandoah, and that the riders and organizers will have good weather and safety. Also pray for funds to be raised for the ministries of the four outreach agencies (see announcement on back).</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pray for Lee Martin, VMC's representative to Eastern Mennonite University's Constituent Conferences Committee. They meet tomorrow and provide a vital link between the university and the church.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Pray for Jason and Donna Martin and children of Elmira, Ontario, as they travel back to Italy for another term of missionary service in Bari. Pray for safety in travel and smooth adjustments back to the field and to the Italian schools.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Pray for safe travel for Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he drives to Indiana tomorrow for a COMB Management Team meeting on Sat. to design an affordable health care system for congregational employees.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Pray for the Zion Hill Pastoral Team as they participate in a retreat this weekend. Pray that they will become even more bonded in their ministries.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Pray for a Partners in Mission team from Harrisonburg that leaves tomorrow for Musoma, Tanzania. They will be doing repairs to the buildings of Mennonite Theological College of East Africa.</p>
<p><b>19</b> Pray for the Congregational Resource Center's Advisory Committee as they meet tomorrow to decide whether to sustain and improve the center.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pray for the officers of VMC as they meet tonight in Richmond to plan and set the agenda for Conference Council. Outgoing moderator, Dr. Joseph Longacher, will pass his gavel on to Beryl Jantzi, the new moderator.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pray for VMBM and EMM staff as they meet to evaluate their partnership in Albania and Kosovo and as they make plans for future direction and ministries.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Hill congregation as they search for a long-term pastor; that they will find the person God is calling to fill that role. Pray also for Roy Good, the interim pastor, and for the elders who assist in the ministry.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Thank God for Ricky Stoner's ministry internship in Trinidad this summer. Pray that the youth of Hope Mennonite Church who learned more about the Bible will continue to grow in their knowledge of God's Word.</p>	<p><b>17</b> The newsletter from the Good Tidings Mennonite Church, Jamaica, requests that we pray for the stability of family life and breaking down strongholds in communities. Pray for both the Jamaican and American settings.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Tomorrow the advisory committee for Mennonite Cross-Cultural Ministries will be meeting in Knoxville, TN. This program provides ministerial training to churches for reaching Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims.</p>
<p><b>26</b> Pray for the pastors in the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. May God grant them strength for the many tasks they face, and grace to handle the stress that can result from a full schedule.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pray for VMC's Treasurer, Ron Piper, and the finance committee as they gather together tomorrow morning. They will receive VMC's year-end financial report and determine whether financial adjustments should be made.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Pray that the compromise of dichotomous postmodern living would one day be transformed into a harmonious, mutually respecting, and enlightening dissemination of God's love to everyone.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Thank God for the ministry of two teams of people from the Calvary Community Church that served in Kingston, Jamaica, in July. May God increase the benefit from the interactions and relationships made.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Partners in Mission invites you to consider sending a team in the summer of 2005. Begin thinking and praying how you can get involved in our missional vision. Are you interested? Call Ken Horst at (540) 434-9727.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Pray for a prison-ministries cookout tomorrow on the farm of prison chaplain Ron Baker in Schuyler, VA. This annual event is attended by ex-offenders and prison ministries workers, to celebrate and fellowship together.</p>	<p><b>25</b> The Junior High Retreat begins at noon today! Pray for wisdom for Lana Miller, our speaker, and for the youth and youth leaders who will have a busy weekend! Pray that they will be richly blessed by the experience.</p>

....Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22 (NIV)

## Announcements

**Stephens City (Va.) Mennonite Church** will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sept. 11-12. On Saturday, 4-8 p.m., join us for a fellowship meal, singing and a time of reminiscing. Bring stories and photos related to SCMC's history, as well as food for the fellowship meal. On Sunday, share breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 540-869-5037, e-mail [scmc@visuallink.com](mailto:scmc@visuallink.com) or visit [client.visuallink.com/~scmc](http://client.visuallink.com/~scmc).

**Warwick River Christian School**, sponsored by Warwick River, Huntington, and Providence congregations, is seeking qualified applicants to replace present Administrator/Director of Development, Gordon Zook, who plans to retire next summer. With enrollment expanding to 350 students in K3 thru G8, we are seeking one or two persons for the positions of Administrator and/or Director of Development. Applicants must have a vision for Christ-centered education in harmony with the Mennonite Church, along with relevant experience in education, administration, and/or development. Convey personal interest or suggestions of candidates to Search Committee Chair: Danni Clark, 252 Lucas Creek Rd., Newport News, VA 23602 or [clarkdd@juno.com](mailto:clarkdd@juno.com).



**Bike Shenandoah**, a fundraiser for Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Media, and Patchwork Pantry, will be held September 25 in Harrisonburg. Congregations will provide rest and refreshment stops. Bike routes will range from 5 to 100 miles. For more information, contact Laura

Moyers at (540) 434-9727 for brochures or registration forms, email [bikeshen@vmbm.org](mailto:bikeshen@vmbm.org) or visit [www.bikeshenandoah.org](http://www.bikeshenandoah.org)

The **Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale** will be held Friday, October 1, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., and Saturday, October 2, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, Va. Proceeds will benefit Mennonite Central Committee.

## the TWO commandments

Virginia Mennonite Conference announces their annual **Junior High Youth Retreat**, Sept. 25-26, at Smith Mtn. 4-H Center, near Roanoke, Va. The featured speaker is Lana Miller, an associate director at

the Mennonite Church USA Office of Convention Planning. For brochures or registration information, contact Kimberlee Greenawalt, Conference Youth Minister at (540) 434-9727 or email [kimberlee.greenawalt@vmconf.org](mailto:kimberlee.greenawalt@vmconf.org).

**Cathy and Jim Bowman** of Harrisonburg, Va., are beginning a four-year MCC assignment in Kenya as country co-representatives. The Bowmans previously served with MCC in Indonesia. They attend Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg.



## Pastoral Transitions



**John Lehman** was installed as chaplain at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, Harrisonburg, Va., July 8, transferring from the Ohio Conference. He is married to Barbara Moyer Lehman.



**Ken Peterson** was installed as pastor of Providence Mennonite Church, Newport News, Va., and began his service June 13. He is married to Carol Peterson.

