

# Connections

Virginia Mennonite  
Conference &  
Board of Missions

June 2007  
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## VMC honors the ministries of Linden and Esther Wenger

The life and legacy of the late Bishop Linden M. Wenger and his wife Esther H. Wenger were remembered and honored on April 21, 2007 as 111 guests joined in a Celebration of Ministry banquet at the Eastern Mennonite School dining hall. Linden was a pastor, teacher, bishop and author. Linden published his memoirs, *Fifty Years in the Northern District of Virginia Mennonite Conference: 1945-1995*. In chapter 21 he describes one of his legacies as the Ministerial Training and Trust Fund (MTTF), held by Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC), which is used for the theological education and enrichment of pastors in Northern District. The offering collected for VMC at the banquet totaled more than \$4,000. When added to gifts given in honor of the Wengers by those unable to attend the banquet, the total exceeds \$4,500. VMC matched these funds with an equal contribution to the Wenger MTTF.

Linden had a gift for encouraging others and used it to build up God's church. In the introduction to his memoirs, he noted his debt to his wife Esther, saying, "It was not *my* ministry but *our* ministry." She too was remembered fondly at the banquet for her gifts of hospitality and music. Several persons, including her children, Linda and J. Lowell, reflected on her willingness to give up her beloved piano when Linden was ordained for pastoral ministry. A quilt, presented to Esther in the late 1980s upon her retirement after many years of service as the Eastern Mennonite High School librarian, was on display along with many other photos and artifacts.

Friends Walter and Leanne Smith, traveled from Clearwater, Fla., to join in the celebration and share their remembrances. They told how the Wengers' quiet spirits drew them into the Mennonite Church. Fellow overseer, Paul and his wife Evelyn Kratz shared their own stories of the Wengers including Esther's love for music and Paul's care for Linden in his declining years.

In addition to delicious food, those in attendance enjoyed the toe tapping bluegrass/gospel music of Daphna Creek, a local Mennonite band with deep roots in Northern District. Many in the band attend or formerly attended Zion Mennonite Church in Northern District including Ben Risser, now pastor of Ridgeway Mennonite Church, and a guitar player and vocalist for the band. Under their leadership the congregation joined in singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Whispering Hope," two of the Wengers' favorite hymns.

In keeping with II Timothy 5:17 where we read, "the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor..." VMC has held seven Celebration of Ministry banquets recognizing the contributions of significant church leaders and ministries. Former honorees include: M. Lloyd and Sara Weaver, Sr. (2003); Truman and Ruth Brunk, Sr. (2004); Harold and Arlene Eshleman (2004); Clayton and Edna Godshall (2005); the Virginia Mennonite Property Aid and Auto Aid Plans (2005); and Leslie W. II and Naomi Francisco (2006). Next year VMC plans to honor the late Mahlon and Pauline Blosser, who ministered prominently in Central District and with the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, with a Celebration of Ministry banquet.

Linden Wenger's reflections, *Fifty Years in the Northern District*, is available from VMC for a suggested donation of \$8. Call (540) 434-9727 to have one mailed or visit the Conference Center at 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, to pick up a copy.



Linden and Esther's children, J. Lowell Wenger, Linda Wenger, and Harold Wenger, display a photo of their parents at the Celebration of Ministry event.

• Steve Carpenter

Virginia Mennonite Conference Coordinator

# In the year of our Lord 1954...



(above) Bluesky, Alberta  
(below) Youngstown, Ohio



Bluesky and Youngstown: Two remarkably different contexts—similar young married couples venturing out from similar sending constituencies, and using similar methods to share their faith.



**Owen Burkholder**  
Conference Minister

Eight months after their marriage (April 1947), my parents, Paul & Doris Burkholder, left the womb of the Amish-Mennonite community near Tofield, Alberta, to assist with mission work “in the north.” By 1954, the sign pictured on the left above, was planted outside of our house in Bluesky where there were benches in our front room that served as the meeting place and our bedrooms were used for Sunday school classes.

Meanwhile, in 1952 in Wisconsin, my wife Ruth Ann’s parents, Fred & Carolyn Augsburger, answered the call from the Ohio Mission Board to follow up some early work by Ella Bauman in Youngstown, Ohio. Ella traveled from nearby Columbiana to tell Bible stories to children who gathered on the front steps of homes in the West Federal Street area near the steel mills in Youngstown.

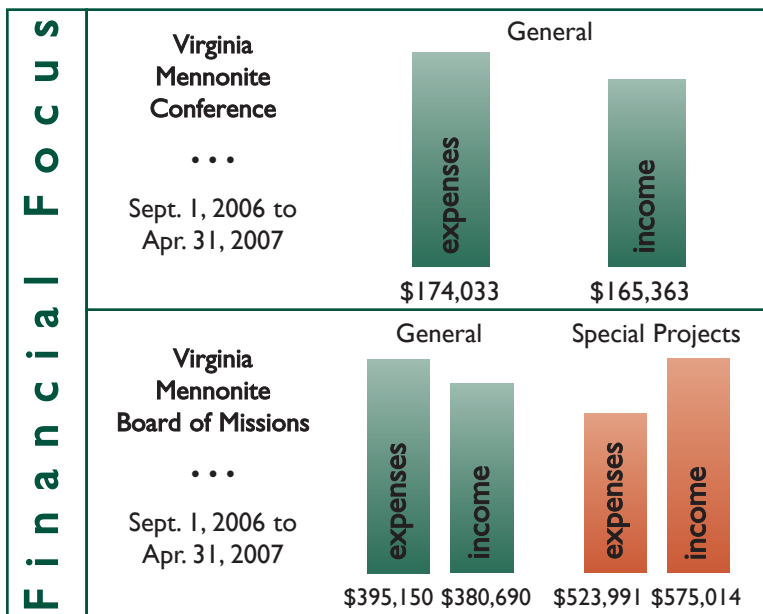
Similarities:

1. Personal contact was the method of introduction to these communities. Stories abound.
2. Vacation Bible schools touched the lives of hundreds. Here these workers were on the delivery edge of ministry with materials that were developed by the denomination and with assistance from volunteer teachers from the larger Mennonite community.
3. Serving as a bridge between a culturally conservative ‘sending’ constituency and communities that did not know Mennonites was a huge challenge. Stories abound.
4. In spite of the risks of bringing up families in these mission situations, all of the children in these Augsburger and Burkholder families are deeply involved in the life and ministry of the church in their middle adult years.

In the year of our Lord 2007...

Are you being called to share God’s love in some needy community near at hand, or far away?

If you’d like to hear some of the stories referred to above, contact us. Ruth Ann and I have been working at these stories of “missional lives” and are ready to share. Email me at [vmcmin@vmconf.org](mailto:vmcmin@vmconf.org) or call (540) 434-9727.



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## Making peace at school

When I was in fifth grade, I somehow got sideways with Tom, a boy in my class. One day, another boy in class came to me during morning recess and announced: “Meet Tom by the bicycle rack after school. He’s going to fight you.” I said, “I don’t want to fight Tom.” But the other boy said, “Be there or else.”

By the time school ended at 3 p.m., I was terrified. But the limits of my faith as a ten year old boy got stretched that day. My young and simple prayer life grew. And a plan emerged. I knew that God would somehow lead me through this confrontation.

We met at the bicycle rack after school. Tom stepped out from his group and said, “Come on, Curt, put ‘em up!”

I jammed my hands into my pockets and said, “I don’t want to fight you, Tom.”

“What’s the matter? Are you chicken?”

I struggled to stay calm. His fists were up, but he was still several steps away from me. I made a show of pushing my hands even deeper into my pockets, calmed my voice, and said, “I don’t want to fight you. I don’t even know what this is about.”

“Come ON, chicken!” Tom taunted. “Get your hands up!”

That’s when the Holy Spirit led my words, and I was surprised by what I said next: “It’s your fight, Tom. Go ahead if you have to.”

Tom’s fists sank and went slack for a moment, then he balled them up again and yelled at me. “Come ON, chicken. Fight!”

And my voice got milder and gentler. “I’m not fighting you, Tom. I don’t want to. But if you need to, go ahead. It’s your fight, not mine.” Tom looked genuinely puzzled.

By that time, Tom’s friends were laughing at him, telling him that he was being stupid. Tom started crying and fled, his so-called supporters jeering him.

A friend walked with me toward my house. The tension finally broken, I started sobbing. My friend didn’t make fun of me for crying. He sympathized. And he made an interesting observation, saying “That took a lot of courage to not fight Tom.”

The next day, I said “hi” to Tom and tried to be friendly. I never mentioned the fight to him, and I wouldn’t discuss it with anybody else. Tom and I were no longer enemies.

• Story by Curt Holsopple  
Warwick River Mennonite Church

## Plant tomatoes, feed the poor

God planted a garden. He set the Earthman to work it with his helper. Jesus directed our attention to feeding the poor. If humans started in a garden and have eternity to spend in the garden at the center of the New Jerusalem, then a garden is a good place to spend part of our earthly life.

The garden beside Weavers Mennonite Church produced food for the Alleman family and the parsonage residents since the early nineties. When it was not used to feed the resident families, the yields were given to Patchwork Pantry, a food bank for needy people. Now in the second full year of production, our choice of crops takes into account the presence of deer, ground hogs and rabbits in the area, the nature of volunteer help and our method of no-till gardening.

You could call our approach “Robin Hood” gardening. We take from the rich (leaves, grass clippings, coffee grounds and ashes) and use them to feed the poor. Other than the thousand or so gallons of coffee grounds from Mr. J’s and Daily Grind, we have not applied any fertilizer to the land the past several years. The decomposition of hundreds of bags of leaves, grass and six large square bales of hay have been our weed killer, fertilizer and water retention aid. We did not water but were blessed with enough tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions and flowers to take something to Patchwork Pantry from mid-June to late October each week. In addition we raised tomatoes, peppers and onions for forty gallons of chili for the Virginia Relief Sale in 2006.

Our primary helpers, the earthworms and their allies, are exemplary volunteer workers. They work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, converting leaves and grass into black soil to feed the plants. Other helpers have worked for less, include youth groups and small groups from Weavers and Community Mennonite, Weavers Girls and Boys Clubs. Many others have helped harvest produce for delivery each Wednesday evening to Patchwork Pantry.

We take a bucket or two of flowers each week June through frost. Sunflowers, canna lilies and golden chamomile are perennials; we also set out some zinnias, coxcomb and cosmos to have flowers over a longer period. Beauty is appreciated by all.

• David Alleman  
Weavers Mennonite Church



**Do you like to be outside? Want to help feed the hungry?**

Join us Tuesday evening for the regular 6:30-dusk session, or Wednesday for flower gathering and vegetable harvesting during peak weeks. Want to work other times?

Contact David Alleman  
jalleman@rica.net;  
(540) 433-4008 to make arrangements.



## Paul and Evelyn Kratz commissioned for service

Paul and Evelyn Kratz (center right) are commissioned by VMBM president Loren Horst, surrounded by colleagues and friends including Richard and Margaret Keeler (left) and Ganesh Kalloo, a Trinidadian pastor.

On April 22, Paul and Evelyn Kratz were commissioned for a two-year term of service with the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Paul recently served as Overseer for the Central District of Virginia Mennonite Conference, and Evelyn recently retired as Director of Financial Services for Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference. Their dedication to Christ and the Church has enabled them to serve a variety of people in a variety of places, and the Church has been built up because of their service.

During the service in their honor at Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church, Paul and Evelyn received messages of appreciation for the way they mentored young pastors, visited people who needed encouragement, and drove many miles to support small congregations. Representing Central District, David Lehman gave them a gift certificate to purchase an item of their choice to use in the next stage of their lives.

Owen Burkholder, Virginia Conference minister, gave a devotional meditation around the theme "As the Father has sent me..." If we go the same way Christ was sent, there may be sacrifices and difficulties, but the Father never leaves us.

Loren Horst, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions president, asked Paul and Evelyn the commissioning questions, and then led the litany of commissioning. It was a poignant moment to have Richard and Margaret Keeler and Ganesh Kalloo read the section stating "the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago receive them with joy." Many gathered around Paul and Evelyn for a prayer of blessing and sending.

If you want to be a prayer or financial supporter of Paul and Evelyn's ministry in Trinidad, contact Galen Lehman, Caribbean Regional Director at galen.lehman@vmbm.org or (800) 707-5535.

• Gloria L. Lehman  
VMBM Caribbean Regional Assistant

## Trinidadian Mennonite women attend retreat

Thirty-four women of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (MCTT) attended a retreat on March 23-24, with two good speakers, great food, laughter, fellowship, and devotional time in four small groups. This is an annual event of *In Your Hands* ministry organized by women of MCTT.

*In Your Hands* is designed to encourage women to use their sewing, cooking, and teaching gifts for the Lord in their respective communities. Also planned is an annual medical day when free examinations for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, vision and other minor medical conditions will be offered. *In Your Hands* also wishes to offer in-depth Bible studies for women in Mennonite churches.

• Gloria Lehman  
VMBM Caribbean Regional Assistant



*called and sent!*

Is God calling you to short-term or long-term service in another country? Listen carefully for His voice and respond with "yes" if He is calling you! Offer yourself for service and change your life.

VMBM: (800) 707-5535 • (540) 434-9727 • info@vmbm.org



## Hildebrand homecoming

Some 150 people gathered the afternoon of April 22 in the Hildebrand Mennonite Church to walk down memory lane and recount God's faithfulness to early Mennonite settlers and forebears in the Shenandoah Valley.

Marion Weaver and Nelson Burkholder, both with strong ties to the congregation, shared their perspectives on the history of the church, which was organized about 1825. Marion's report was read by a son.

Using an "I remember" lead line, Burkholder shared a number of anecdotes from the life of the congregation: watching his father file down his tuning fork, the use of wooden spittoons filled with sand for those who chewed tobacco, how the men and women sat on separate sides for worship, the many revival meetings that ran for a week or two, usually kneeling for prayer, and a horse-drawn hearse.

James O. Lehman, archivist for Virginia Mennonite Conference, used a chart to trace the Hildebrand family lineage from Henry and Margaret (Musselman) Hildebrand, who moved from Manheim, Pa., to Augusta County, Va., in 1795, to Michael and Sarah (Heatwole) Hildebrand, whose three sons served in the Civil War. Bishop Jacob Hildebrand (1816-1899) was one of the few Virginia Mennonite church leaders who voted for secession in May of 1861.

Following a carry-in meal in the fellowship hall of the nearby Hermitage Presbyterian Church, the group reassembled in the Hildebrand Church to sing songs of yesteryear and listen to a meditation by Richard Showalter, a former pastor and bishop of the Southern District of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

The Hildebrand Mennonite Church was purchased and donated to the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center by a community benefactor with a vision for it be preserved and available for rental by families and church or community groups who desire a rural setting for a retreat. Call (540) 438-1275 to schedule it.

- J. Allen Brubaker  
CrossRoads staff

(left) Blue Mountain Sunrise plays at the Hickory Mennonite Church 50-year celebration.

A fellowship meal was enjoyed during the Hildebrand homecoming celebration.



Celebrating 50 years as an established congregation was very meaningful and also lots of fun! April 28-29 marked the anniversary days and people gathered in joyful celebration of the life of Hickory (N.C.) Mennonite Church.

Saturday activities began at the Longview Recreation center in Hickory. Hauling the pony, two goats, a dog, some rabbits and a hay tunnel built on a large hay wagon was as much fun as riding the pony and petting the animals. The playground and Noah's Ark inflatable game were enjoyed by the children and several adults while others visited. Listening and looking at some of the past years through video and creative memories scrapbooks of people who played a part in the church's past were enjoyed by all. One highlight was the writings of Dr. Harry King who went home to be with the Lord in 2001. Pictures of Angel Food Ministries were on display.

Asheville (N.C.) Mennonite Church members served the evening meal with smoked barbecue chicken and all the sides, serving about 200, as the Blue Mt. Sunrise bluegrass group from Stuarts Draft, Va., performed instrumental and vocal music. The evening was closed with "Tis Marvelous and Wonderful," "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," and "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" sung in 4-part a cappella harmony directed by Edward Godshall, our overseer.

The Sunday morning service began with Blue Mt. Sunrise singing and playing favorite hymns, after which the Hickory music team led worship, including our theme song, "These are the Days of Elijah." Our pastors of the past 50 years shared orally; those who couldn't be present shared by letters. Our theme was Luke 4:18-19. Jim Roth, our current pastor, and Mark Landis, our first pastor, shared the message.

We went back to the recreation center to enjoy our noon meal catered by a Sunday school class from Mt. View (N.C.) Mennonite Church.

We saw people we hadn't seen for a long time and were happy to hear that Hickory Mennonite Church helped them make a turning point in their lives to honor God when they were younger.

- Miriam Detweiler, Hickory Mennonite Church

# Eastern Mennonite School's Discovery Learning

(right) Jared Stoltzfus, 2001 EMHS graduate and Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation stream health coordinator, assists 6th graders (l-r) Nick Seitz, Hunter Call, and Kevin Vanegas in sifting stream sediment during the Exploration Week 'Stream Safari' in May.

Photo: Tina Glanzer

Mini-term experiences are often a highlight of EMHS students' high school years. The hands-on learning of mini-terms arises from our belief as educators that real education involves moving beyond the classroom to create excitement in learning by exposing students to real questions, finding real answers, and learning from a diverse group of instructors. For over 30 years, experiential learning strategies, including field trips, guest speakers, Touring Choir trips, service opportunities and mini-term courses, have played an integral role at Eastern Mennonite School.

In recent years, faculty at Eastern Mennonite expanded the vision for Mini-term and enhanced the program in a number of ways. Middle school students now participate in a curriculum-related, grade-level course during Exploration Week each year, with sixth graders studying local streams, canoeing and camping, seventh graders engaging in art expression, physical activity and drama, and eighth graders visiting historical centers in Pennsylvania and serving at the Mennonite Central Committee Material Resources Center. High school students can now choose from school-offered Discovery Courses every year, which include Mennonite Disaster Service projects, international trips, local service, and other educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom.



But, one of the most important aspects of the enhanced vision was to connect EMHS students with the local congregation and the wider church.

Youth group service trips and trips to church-wide conventions play a vital role in our students' lives students can now use these church trips can be used for Discovery Credit. Students are also now intentionally called to reflect upon any option they choose, so as to become more aware of how these experiences change

them and lay the foundations for lifelong learning, interest in travel and serving others.

Eastern Mennonite School desires that our students view education not as an entity bound by school walls and textbook pages, but as an integral part of life. Because we believe in challenging students' natural curiosity and fostering a hunger for lifelong learning, we realize that the summer months as well as the school year are important times for learning. Encourage your children to explore their world through travel, books, physical activity, and even dreaming beneath a tree in the backyard. Then, consider having them join the Eastern Mennonite community this August when students and faculty together bless one another with their experiences from the summer.

• Ben Bixler and Kim Johnson

## Congregational Resource Center

The **John Coffman Center**, housed within the Congregational Resource Center, contains materials especially useful for the missional church. More than a dozen new books there may catch your interest. Among them are:

***Postmodernism 101: A First Course for the Curious Christian*** by Heath White. If you are not sure why you should be interested in postmodernism, this is the book to read. It gives a reliable framework for engagement between Christian ministry and our emerging culture.

***Why Church Matters: Worship, Ministry and Mission in Practice*** by Jonathan R. Wilson. What if the church stopped living for itself and instead lived for God's kingdom purpose?

This book provides insights to stimulate fresh thinking and deeper devotion as communities of faith seek to fulfill their missional mandate.

VBS kits will be available for checkout throughout the summer. Guarantee that materials will be available on the week you need them by signing up early in the Congregational Resource Center.

**Summer Hours: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon-Fri. Linda Alley, CRC Director, 540.432.4219 [www.emu.edu/seminary/crc](http://www.emu.edu/seminary/crc)**



# Connections Prayer Calendar June 2007

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by

**Galen and Gloria Lehman**

in honor of the high school and university students who have traveled with them, learning together about cultures and Christian witness in various countries. May they hear God's call for missions and service in their lives.

**"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."  
Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)**

**3** Eastern Mennonite High School, Harrisonburg, holds their graduation ceremony today. Pray that the graduates will find God's clear direction and follow it faithfully in the months and years ahead.

**4** Pray for Phil, Marcia, Crystal and Christopher Lehman, who arrived in the US from Bari, Italy on May 24. They have busy months ahead with speaking in VMC churches and sharing the good things happening at Centro Koinonia.

**5** Luke Hoover, *transSend* participant, serves as a shepherd in Nazareth Village, Israel. Pray that visitors from a variety of religious backgrounds will see Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as they tour the Village.

**6** Chris Leuz, a member of the Hickory Mennonite Church, is serving as a liaison between VMC and the local assembly planning committee. Pray for him and all those who are preparing for Assembly.

**7** In La Mesa, Colombia, Aaron and Laura Kauffman have the opportunity to reach communities that face physical and spiritual deprivation. May God enable them to reach these core needs along with church leaders.

**10** As a professor of theology, Steve Dintaman may serve as a "spiritual father" to his students at Lithuania Christian College. May spiritual wisdom be passed from teacher to student and from fathers to sons today.

**11** Maurita Eberly is committed to serving in a music ministry in Italy during July and August. Join her in praying for wisdom, guidance, and adequate financial support as she prepares.

**12** In Orange Walk Town, Belize, Nancy Marshall frequently hosts deaf youth and young adults in her home for food, fun and fellowship. Thank God for Nancy's deep concern for the Deaf community and for her availability to touch lives.

**13** Praise God that Glenda Mast plans to return to Albania for another year to teach Leon and Naomi Zimmermans' four children and be available to serve in the Lezhe church.

**14** Many weddings take place in May and June. These new homes are established with high hopes and many dreams. Ask God to give the couples the grace and patience to forge a strong marriage that will last a lifetime.

**15** Pray for Chris and Melody Riddle as they begin looking for housing in and around Bari, Italy, that God would clearly indicate the place where He desires a witness for Christ.

**16** Tomorrow is Father's Day, so pray for fathers everywhere, that they might heed the Word, "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." Col 3:21

**17** Richard and Margaret Keeler, on home leave from Trinidad, share today at the Huntington MC, Newport News. May their message inspire the congregation to be fully engaged in witnessing for Christ wherever they can.

**18** Pray for the Bible club for adolescents led by Norma Teles in Lezhe, Albania—that the Word planted in their hearts would spring to life. None of them come from Christian homes.

**19** Klotilda Stojani has been free from responsibilities with YWAM for several months and has given this time to serve her church in Lezhe, Albania. Pray God would bless her passion to reach and train other Albanian youth.

**20** Schools are closed for the summer in the eastern US. Encourage a young person to make the most of their "free" time—volunteer, read, exercise and memorize Scripture. Join them when you can.

**21** Paul and Evelyn Kratz, Trinidad, are becoming acquainted with the church members in MCTT. Their presence is an encouragement to the growing church there. Thank God for their servant hearts.

**22** VMC congregations are holding Vacation Bible Schools this month. The outreach to children and their families is a strong witness for Christ. May all participants be blessed.

**23** What can you do to be a good steward of the earth this summer? Think about conserving natural resources, reducing consumerism, and recycling materials. Our actions as Christians can make a difference.

**24** Today the Maranatha School for the Deaf, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, has a graduation ceremony for four students. Thank God for the students' achievements and ask for His guidance in their vocational and educational pursuits.

**25** Sharon Kniss, *transSend* participant in London, UK, connects with people who desire to see reconciliation happen among groups with various points of view. Pray that her involvement will increase their effectiveness.

**26** Kevin and Sonya Gasser, from Staunton MC, are in Trinidad to assist the Mennonite Church of Chaguanas (MCCCh) with VBS along with Ganes and Risha Kalloo. Thank God for their availability to serve.

**27** Participants in San Jose 2007 are beginning travels this week. Ask God to work mightily as final preparations are made for the convention of the Mennonite Church around the theme "Together Living the Call."

**28** Every church in VMC has a lead pastor, with a few exceptions. However, several districts are seeking a bishop/overseer. Pray for Conference Minister Owen Burkholder as he leads the search.

**29** Today a PIM team, led by Eric Trinka, is traveling to Israel to serve as English teachers in a youth camp and to work at Nazareth Village. Pray for their safety, energy, and insight for these tasks.

**30** A work team led by Paul Kniss is going to Trinidad today to work on construction of the Hope Mennonite Church, Esperanza. May the work go smoothly and the fellowship between the workers be blessed.

# Announcements

The **Tears and Ashes Bus Tour** sponsored by the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center on Saturday, July 21, will feature Civil War battlefields in the Cross Keys, Port Republic and New Hope areas of eastern Rockingham County. Murphy Wood, an authority on these battlefields, will serve as tour guide. The tour will begin and end at Mill Creek Church of the Brethren, 7600 Port Republic Rd. The \$60 fee includes a lunch served by youth of the Mill Creek Church and a tour booklet. Call 540-438-1275 by July 16 to register for this 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. tour, which will also include stops at places of importance to Brethren and Mennonites.

The **annual homecoming celebration** in the former Whitmer School/Cove Church at CrossRoads will be held on Sunday, June 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and will include worship, a potluck meal, hymn singing and reminiscing. Bring a covered dish and a lawn chair.

## 2007 PENNY POWER

Your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars make a difference!

We are hoping to raise \$25,000 for this year's *Penny Power* projects. In 2006, congregations contributed **\$26,873.32!** We hope to continue the effort and momentum from last year.

- Highlight *Penny Power* during your Sunday morning worship service. Involve the children in your church.
- Bring jugs from your church/org. to the Relief Sale, October 5-6, at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.
- Take your empty jugs back to your church and start collecting for next year's *Penny Power* projects!

**Bike riders of all ages and abilities are invited to enjoy the scenic Shenandoah Valley**

### Bike Shenandoah 2007

Begins and ends at Eastern Mennonite School  
801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Registration information:  
[www.bikeshenandoah.org](http://www.bikeshenandoah.org)  
(540) 434-9727  
(800) 707-5535

Choose one of five courses (5 - 100 miles)

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## Our Christ-centered Faith

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July 26-28, 2007

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