

## The race is on for middle school youth at retreat

By **JASON GERLACH**

Conference Youth Minister

Photos courtesy of Jason Gerlach

Middle school youth from Virginia Mennonite Conference spent the last weekend of September at Smith Mountain Lake on retreat. Youth warmed to the theme of racing, as it epitomized something different from the usual encouragement of efficiency. Nicholas Jefferson, the speaker, did not encourage youth to enter the rat race; he explored the race motif in a way that was counter to our surrounding culture. "The race is on for each of you," said Jefferson, from Calvary Community Church. "You have been called to flee sinful fulfillment, and instead pursue righteousness and holy living with all of your life." This theme, stemming from II Timothy 2:22, was explored throughout the sessions and in small break-out groups.

In his opening words, Jefferson quoted, "Every morning in the savannah, two



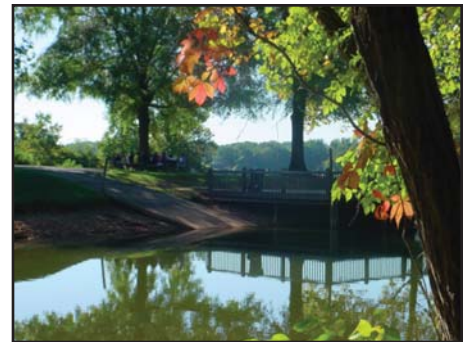
things happen: the gazelle wakes up knowing that it must outrun the fastest lion or it will die, and the lion wakes up knowing that to satisfy its hunger it must outrun the slowest gazelle. The point of commonality between the two: every morning they are both running." This story challenged youth to appreciate their running commitment to God, and how that loyalty impacts the entirety of their lives.

Jefferson's call to pursue righteousness had a deep impact. One youth

commented, "I really feel God's call more now; I feel like I have a better understanding of my purpose."

Youth joined together in worship, participated in a large group game called Diamond Smuggling, and chose from a variety of outdoor activities including a climbing wall, canoeing/kayaking, miniature golf, and basketball.

For youth who attended the retreat for the first time, and for those who returned, the retreat serves as a marker; it is an anticipated event to begin the school year, and it helps connect youth from across Virginia Mennonite Conference with one another.



## Penny Power raises needed funds

*Penny Power* is powerful, thanks to everyone who dropped coins and currency in jugs for weeks or months prior to the Virginia Relief Sale. Approximately \$22,000 was collected so far, with some matching funds to be added. MCC's portion will be used to minister to AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in 11 countries. VMM's portion will be used to support the ministry of the "three littlest missionaries," Micah, Adam and Isaiah, children of missionaries Chris and Melody Riddle in Italy.

The congregations which collected more *Penny Power* money in 2007 than 2006 are: Charlottesville, Community, Crest Hill, Greenmonte, Mt. View, Park View, Ridgeway, Riverside, Springdale, Stephens City, Stuarts Draft, Trissels, and Valley View. To see your congregation's total *Penny Power* offering, go to [www.vmmisions.org/pennypower](http://www.vmmisions.org/pennypower).

Thank you to everyone who gave to missions in this way!

# Raising money

I recently witnessed again and participated in a phenomenon that has become a deeply ingrained part of Mennonite culture. We raise money. Actually, any number of verbs could be used. We collect money. We do fundraisers. We receive funds. We take offerings. Actually the last one has fallen out of favor with its implied emphasis on the role of the “taker” rather than the “giver.” Most of us do not like our money taken from us.

The specific event that I witnessed and participated in was the 2007 Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, which grossed over \$300,000 I’m told. Also, Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference closed their books on another fiscal year that saw approximately \$2.5 million raised for the church and mission. Each week I sit in a congregation that receives offerings to raise their hoped for portion of the



**Loren Horst**  
VMM President

annual financial needs of the congregation. Mennonites (and Christians in general) raise a lot of money and have become particularly good at it.

Money is an interesting thing. By itself, it does little. There may be the occasional miser who wants money pretty much for its own sake—likely a miserable fellow. Mostly though, we see money as instrumental. Money is the instrument by which we transfer a whole array of efforts, gifts, and labor from one place into efforts gifts and labor in another. My offering or my

volunteer labor is transferred into feeding the hungry, evangelizing the lost, or witnessing for peace. That is a great little transaction and one in which most Christians take particular joy.

That brings me back to that little verb, raise. We raise money. I think that is really a worship word similar to raising our voices in song or raising our hands in praise. In our generosity, we are worshipping God with our money. No wonder we find joy! And in our worship, we find that God uses that worship to accomplish all manner of good in the world that brings him glory. That is the purpose of worship.

I recently heard Lynn Miller say, “Our money speaks, and God is listening.” I think our money has been saying what God wants to hear.

*Loren Horst*

# VMC SALTer serving in Egypt



**Greta Shenk** serves with MCC’s SALT program as a girls’ home assistant in Cairo, Egypt. She is a member of

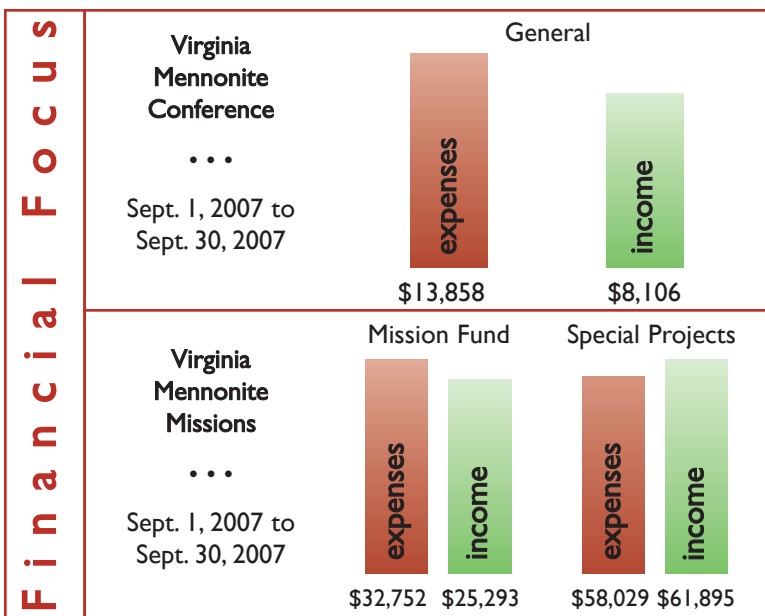
Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg.

# Jason Gerlach is new Conference Youth Minister



**Jason Gerlach** began as Virginia Mennonite Conference Youth Minister in August,

succeeding Sarah Bixler, who worked in an interim capacity for a year. Jason is married to Wendy, and has a young son, Jakob. He is youth minister at Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Va.



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## Angel Food Ministries: Christ presented through a box of food

By **DAVID POWELL**  
VMC Peace Committee

All of us have probably complained at some time about the increasing price of groceries. For most of us, this is just a passing lament. But for those facing a crisis, the elderly on Medicare or a single-parent household on food stamps; the cost of food can determine whether they eat a balanced diet, give up meals so the children in their household can eat, or sacrifice other needs.

Since the spring of 2005, members of the Hickory Mennonite Church have been reaching out to the community through the Angel Food

Ministries. Through this national program, interested persons come directly to their church at scheduled hours to order the food. The act of coming to the church to place the order and paying \$25 in advance for each box of food still encourages responsibility among the recipients. However, each \$25 box of food will provide for a family of four for one week, or one older person for an entire month. This really helps them to stretch their dollars.

The high quality produce and meats are purchased in bulk by the Angel Food Ministries' headquarters in Georgia, and shipped directly to the place of distribution.

Two weeks after the orders are placed, volunteers from the church come to unpack the bulk food items and re-pack according to menus into the individual distribution boxes. They then distribute to the recipients as they return to receive their boxes of food. For most members, this requires a minimal commitment of a couple of hours one Saturday per month and has been a tangible ministry for them. It also provides the church an identity in the community.

Rosemary King of Hickory Mennonite has been overseeing this program and says that the most meaningful times for their church mem-

bers are two-fold. The first occurs when they have the opportunity to meet the recipients at distribution time, and the second when some also ask for prayer. Members have the opportunity to pray with them and minister to them. Relationships begin to develop with those who come frequently. One of the largest blessings has been found through what are known as ministry boxes. The church pays for boxes designated for someone specifically in need, and church members volunteer to deliver that food directly to their home.

Find more information at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)

## Another successful Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale for MCC

By **JIM BISHOP**

This year's sale raised \$310,000 in gross receipts for Mennonite Central Committee, nearly identical to last year's sale.

An auction of handmade quilts, wall hangings, knotted comforters and afghans, artwork and wooden handcrafted items accounted for \$120,000 of the total funds raised. Around 19 items went for \$1,000 or more.

A wall hanging designed and pieced by Carmen Wyse of Community Mennonite Church and quilted by Grace Mumaw of Lindale Mennonite Church that was made from feed sacks of the 1930s and 1940s went for \$6,100.

A 13th edition of the "Harmonia Sacra" songbook created by Joseph Funk and published in 1869 went for \$1,200.

Again this year the venue included such popular food items as 15,000 homemade glazed donuts, 150 gallons of Brunswick stew made on the premises by members of Springdale and Mt. View Mennonite churches in Augusta County, 3,000 barbecued chicken halves, homemade potato chips and apple butter and cider.

"The sale auction seemed a bit different this year in that there weren't a lot of 'big ticket' items, said Marvin Nisly, relief sale chair. "No quilt went for more than



Auctioneer H.L. Wenger of Harrisonburg calls for bids on Brownie and Gladys Driver's Log Cabin Cross quilted wall hanging.

\$4,000, yet at the same time the auction generated almost the same amount as last year. I'm always amazed at the way everything comes together [at the sale] and the amount

of good will that is generated as people support this relief effort."

The Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale is held annually on the first Saturday in October.

# Virginia Mennonite Missions celebrates Thanksgiving

By **JANET STUTZMAN**  
Director of Development

Thanksgiving Day is my favorite holiday. Bring out the china, the silver; prepare the traditional foods, gather the family around the table and again recount our blessings. It is the one American holiday which I chose to celebrate with family and friends even while living and traveling in different places around the globe.

Never mind that in Australia, it was spring time and the Jacaranda trees were full of purple blossoms in contrast to fall foliage. In Greece, it became a quest to arrange for a turkey dinner that included a call to the American embassy to find out how we could get a turkey dinner for 30 Eastern Mennonite University cross-cultural students. Turned out the person at the other end of the phone was a Mennonite from Kansas!

Embracing other cultures and enjoying their celebrations is enhanced if we

have a sense of our roots and appreciation for our own family traditions.

Celebrating Thanksgiving is always an opportunity to recount God's goodness to us - for thinking about God's bountiful gifts that sustain us and bless us with more than enough. We respond by living and sharing in ways that bless others.

Through its ministry, Virginia Mennonite Missions is touching lives in many different places. We are celebrating Thanksgiving. We are thankful for how God provides gifts—your gifts to enable mission workers to share the Good News with others. *Thanksgiving*. This is a time for us to say thanks for your giving. It is

a joyful time for us to look around the table and to say thank you.

We completed our 2006-07 fiscal year August 31 with gratitude knowing that your giving as individuals and as churches supplied the mission needs. Income for the Mission Fund exceeded total year's end expenses by nearly \$3,000—a special cause for celebration! Individuals generously contributed \$992,229 in designated giving and to the Mission Fund. Churches gave a total of \$514,850. Special thanks for your ongoing support. For keeping the table laden with plenty to share—its Thanksgiving time!

VMMissions gratefully acknowledges the many congregations that supported our 2006-2007 ministries and workers.



## Congregations that supported ministries and workers

### Conference congregations

ASHEVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH  
BELDOR MENNONITE CHURCH  
BETHEL MENNONITE CHURCH  
BIG SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH  
CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CHARLOTTESVILLE MENN CHURCH  
CHESTNUT RIDGE MENN CHURCH  
CHRISTIANSBURG MENN FELLOWSHIP  
COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH  
CREST HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
DURHAM MENNONITE CHURCH  
FAMILY OF HOPE  
FIRST MENNONITE OF RICHMOND  
GOSPEL HILL MENNONITE CHURCH  
GRACE MENN FELLOWSHIP  
GREENMONTE MENNONITE CHURCH  
GREENSBORO MENN FELLOWSHIP  
HARRISONBURG MENNONITE - LAOTIANS  
HARRISONBURG MENNONITE CHURCH  
HEBRON MENNONITE CHURCH  
HICKORY MENNONITE CHURCH  
HUNTINGTON MENNONITE CHURCH  
KNOXVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH  
LINDALE MENNONITE CHURCH  
MT CLINTON MENNONITE CHURCH  
MT PLEASANT MENNONITE CHURCH  
MT VERNON MENNONITE CHURCH  
MTN VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH NC  
MTN VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH VA

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA MENN CHURCH  
PARK VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH  
POWHATAN MENNONITE CHURCH  
PROVIDENCE MENNONITE CHURCH  
RALEIGH MENNONITE CHURCH  
RIDGEWAY MENNONITE CHURCH  
RIVERSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH  
SPRINGDALE MENNONITE CHURCH  
STAUNTON MENNONITE CHURCH  
STEPHENS CITY MENNONITE CHURCH  
STUARTS DRAFT MENN CHURCH  
TRISSELS MENNONITE CHURCH  
VALLEY VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH  
VIETNAMESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
WARWICK RIVER MENNONITE CHURCH  
WAYNESBORO MENNONITE CHURCH  
WEAVERS MENNONITE CHURCH  
WILLIAMSBURG MENNONITE CHURCH  
ZION HILL MENNONITE CHURCH  
ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

### Other congregations

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH  
AGAPE FELLOWSHIP  
ALETHEIA CHURCH  
ATLANTIC SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH  
CEDAR GROVE MENN CHURCH  
CEDAR RUN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CHARLIEVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH  
CIRCLE OF GRACE  
CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBY CHURCH  
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST  
DAYTON MENNONITE CHURCH  
EAST UNION CONSERVATIVE MENN  
GRACE COVENANT CHURCH  
HARMONYVILLE CH OF BRETHREN  
IGLESIA ALFA Y OMEGA  
LOVE OF CHRIST CHURCH  
MAPLE GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH  
MEDIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MILLERSVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH  
MORNING VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH  
MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP  
NEW DANVILLE MENN CHURCH  
NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP OF ALEXANDRIA  
NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
NEWLINVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH  
NORTH BALTIMORE MENN CHURCH  
NORTH WOOLWICH METHODIST  
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KENNETT  
SQUARE  
ROCKHILL MENNONITE CHURCH  
SOUTH 7TH ST MENNONITE  
THE CHURCH AT TIMBERLINE  
TOWAMENCIN MENNONITE CHURCH  
TRUSTEES OF IMMANUEL CHURCH

# Follow the path



## Partners in Mission 2008 short-term service opportunities



**Albania**  
Evangelism, July

**Argentina**  
Peacebuilding, February

**Belize**  
Work and Evangelism, August

**Canada**  
Work and Evangelism, Summer

**China**  
Teaching English, July

**Colombia (La Mesa)**  
Work team, May/June

**Costa Rica**  
Serving with *Pura Vida*,  
June/July/August

**Dominican Republic**  
Work team, July

**Ethiopia**  
Work team, January

**Guatemala\***  
Work and service, July

**Haiti**  
Work team, May

**Italy**  
Youth work, July

**Jamaica**  
Teaching Bible School, July

**Nashville, TN**  
Inner city ministry, Summer

**New Orleans, LA**  
Work team, Anytime

**Counselor, NM\***  
Serving with *Christ For All Nations*,  
Summer

\*excellent location for families

**New York City, NY**  
Inner city ministry, Summer

**Nicaragua**  
Work team, March

**Palestine/Israel (Nazareth)**  
Work team, May  
Teaching English, July

**Philadelphia, PA**  
Inner city ministry, Summer

**Philippines**  
Work and evangelism, Summer

**Puerto Rico\***  
Work team, July

**Thailand**  
Work and evangelism, June

**Trinidad**  
Construction, Anytime  
Teaching Bible School, July

**Ukraine**  
Teaching English, June



Virginia  
Mennonite  
Missions

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PIM Administrator

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(540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535

# BRC and VMRC pursue shared vision

## VMRC COMMUNICATIONS

Every now and then it's good to be the relative "new kid on the block." And for the new owners of First Choice Home Health Services, Bridgewater Retirement Community (BRC) and VMRC, it's a long-time in coming.

"Bridgewater and VMRC started working on the possibility for this joint purchase some time ago," states Paul Hoyt, President of BRC. "It's a venture we've both chosen with much forethought and the commitment to provide area residents the opportunity to receive our high-quality home care services and allow for their aging in place."

Paul continues, "BRC and VMRC are known to be providers of high quality programs and services. Our joint reputation for service is well-established in the minds of residents and the public. I fully expect residents of each community, and the greater community, who are currently receiving home-delivered services from any number of



Walt Sowers, Attorney for First Choice; Ron Yoder, President/CEO of VMRC; Paul Hoyt, President of BRC sign an agreement.

sources to be encouraged by this joint venture from two well-known providers of care to the aging population."

Ronald Yoder, President and CEO of VMRC, is enthusiastic for exactly that reason of expanded community service, "We'll be able to jointly serve a larger portion of the seniors in our primary service area while also increasing services to our residents." He adds, "This also represents the first-ever service collaboration between two retirement communities in our area. It places each of our positive

reputations, histories and experience together which will enable us to offer a higher quality service. People no longer have to wait until they move onto our campus before receiving our help in making their daily lives more manageable."

The jointly-owned company's service area is expected to include a 20-mile radius of Harrisonburg. Services will continue to include those currently provided by First Choice Home Health Services and include: transportation, assistance

with meal preparation, medication reminders, home health and nursing care, and personal care (bathing, dressing, etc.).

For the previous owners of the First Choice Home Health Services, Diana and Allen Berkshire, the proposed purchase brought a win-win opportunity, "We wanted an owner that would carry on our philosophy of care and commitment. BRC and VMRC have a real commitment to the community and caring for people."

Ron notes another commonality to the businesses and venture, "The religious foundations of our communities are similar, and both Mennonites and Church of the Brethren share common theology and values. Both faith communities emerged from the 16th century Anabaptist movement. First Choice owners, Diana and Allen Berkshire, are Mennonites. We all share a commitment to quality service and care for the individual."

## Congregational Resource Center

### ALONG THE ROAD

The Congregational Resource Center invites you to stop by the seminary building, EMU campus, to view the lobby display case. Resources for many different areas of ministry (puppet, drama, worship, children & youth, adult groups, personal spirituality) are highlighted. Viewing these may help your creative juices flow toward new possibilities.

While you're on the road, be aware that the CRC just received a CD, DVD and book called **Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA**. These may be borrowed by congregations as they plan and discern their future.

Interesting spiritual and social markers include:

- **87% of Mennonites surveyed in 2006 believe that "God really exists" and "have no doubt about it"**
- **The mean age of Mennonites is 54 years, while 30% are between the ages of 18 and 45.**
- **Nearly 25% support the war in Iraq and 42% believe that the "war on terror" is a religious battle. This snapshot of Mennonite views in 2006 may be helpful to leadership as well as lay members.**

Also just in: **Chick Flicks** for dinner and a movie and **Women's Ministry in the 21st Century: an encyclopedia of practical ideas**. Visit us online or in person, or call for assistance.

Visit us in person or via the online catalog to see what else is new. [www.emu.edu/seminary/crc](http://www.emu.edu/seminary/crc) and "Search the Catalog" or visit Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Room 110.

Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon-Fri  
Linda Alley, CRC Director, 540.432.4219

# NOVEMBER 2007

## Connections

## Prayer Calendar

### Sunday

**“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”**

Proverbs 19: 20-21 (NIV)

### Monday

**This month’s prayer calendar is sponsored by Dan Smucker in loving memory of his wife, Frances, who ministered alongside him for many years. Dan celebrated his 90th birthday in October.**

If you would like to sponsor the prayer calendar, contact gloria.lehman@vmmmissions.org or (800) 707-5535.

### Tuesday

**5** Praise God for persons recently baptized in the Italian Mennonite Church at Centro Koinonia and 4 at Shalom in Sicily. Pray their testimony of faith and transformation will be contagious.

**11** Jamaica Mennonite Conference is preparing for their 50th anniversary celebration in March 2008. May God guide their plans for each part of this special event. Everyone is invited to attend.

**18** Pray for Pastor Victor Espinoza, Wallace, N.C., leading Iglesia de la Esperanza. The congregation has finished remodeling their rented space; they are working hard on outreach efforts.

**25** Twelve congregations in Jamaica Mennonite Conference meet today across the island. Pray for the pastors and lay leaders that they may be Spirit-led in the worship and work that they do.

### Wednesday

**1** Today is All Saints Day, a time to remember those persons who, by their faith and example, have pointed us to Christ. This weekend is MEDA’s annual convention in Toronto. Pray that it will be a fruitful time of insight for faith/business.

**6** Tomorrow the Conference staff will engage pastors new to Virginia Mennonite Conference in a day of orientation. Pray for a fruitful time of exchanging information, bonding and support.

**13** Thank God that Richard Keebler’s bout with sciatica has been relieved. Pray for his continued health and strength to carry out the ministry task for which God has called him.

**20** Skip Tobin, Thailand, is scheduled for back surgery this month. Pray that he will recover well, and that he will be able to minister with vigor in this challenging location.

**27** Nazareth Village, Israel, has special significance during the Advent season. Pray for VMM workers Shirley Roth and Anita Rhodes who bring creative gifts to this special place.

### Thursday

**7** New, young students at the Maranatha School for the Deaf in Jamaica require extra patience from the teachers and staff. Pray that God will help the teachers work with the students in helpful ways, and Christ will be seen.

**14** Rejoice with the new developing church, “The Table,” as it experiences a strong set of students and others from the community who are now attending Sunday worship and Wednesday evening prayers.

**21** The private school option didn’t work out for Micah and Adam Riddle in Bari, Italy. Pray for them and their parents as they do home schooling this year.

**28** On Wednesday evenings, Gospel Lighthouse MC in Sangre Grande, Trinidad, meets for prayer. Ask God to bring people who have a concern for souls, for healing and for the well-being of TT.

### Friday

**2** The Board of Virginia Mennonite Missions meets this evening and tomorrow at the Waynesboro Mennonite Church. God’s guidance and insight is valued in these sessions.

**9** Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman and family in Lezhe, Albania. These EMM workers relate closely to VMM workers and desire wisdom and stamina as they communicate the Gospel in a new language and culture.

**16** Pray for Chris and MaryBeth Moore of Springdale MC as they envision an interdenominational church for the Deaf in Staunton, Va. They join with other Christians on Friday evenings for fellowship and community-building.

**23** God has given a vision for a Christian school in Lezhe, Albania, to Dini & Klementina Shahimi. Pray for those who share this vision that God will bring it to birth in His way and timing.

**30** A Celebration of Missions is held this evening at Lynside MC, responding to God’s call with worship, service, and offerings. If you have pre-registered, come and see what God is doing in the world through VMM.

### Saturday

**3** The Hickory Hmong Mennonite Church is preparing a typical meal today at the Park View MC. Come and taste the delicious foods, and support this growing ministry to the Hmong community in North Carolina.

**10** Remember EMM worker, Glenda Mast who teaches the four Zimmerman children. She also assists in the kindergarten for Gypsy children which Norma Teles manages.

**17** A Celebration of Missions is held this evening at Lindale MC. VMMissions opens opportunities for service both in the US and internationally. If you have pre-registered, come and see what God is doing around the world.

**24** Willard and Eva Eberly are currently in the US. Thank God for their ministry in the Mediterranean and pray for their continued sense of call and passion to serve the Lord there.

## Announcements

**Historic House Tour:** This annual CrossRoads house tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 17. It will feature historic homes in the Mill Creek area of eastern Rockingham County that have been preserved through the years by Brethren and Mennonite families, homes that have a story of faith to tell. Mill Creek Church of the Brethren will provide refreshments and restrooms. Tickets (\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door) can be purchased at CrossRoads, Red Front, Reflections of Yesteryear, and Sarah's Ice Cream on Route 33 east).

2008 represents **Highland Retreat's** golden anniversary year. Highland is offering a \$50 gift certificate that may be applied to any fees at Highland Retreat. The certificate will be awarded to the individual who designs the best logo suitable for using with publicity related to various elements of the anniversary celebration. Priority will be given to those who incorporate the existing logo. The mountain logo can be seen at [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org). Submit your entry by Nov. 30, 2007 to Sarah Schoenhals, 1398-A Mt Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, Va., 22802

Connections (USPS 007-205)  
Virginia Mennonite Missions  
Virginia Mennonite Conference  
901 Parkwood Drive  
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Called. Sent. Transformed.



Virginia  
Mennonite  
Conference  
A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

### Mission Fellowship Tour to Trinidad

April 29-May 7, 2008

Only \$1498

- Visit VMM mission workers and national church leaders
- See the fascinating flora and fauna of Asa Wright Nature Center
- Enjoy a boat ride through Caroni Swamp Bird Sanctuary
- Observe leatherback turtles at nighttime egg-laying on the beach
- Stop at all six of our Mennonite churches
- Fellowship with our Trinidadian brothers and sisters

• Contact Ed Bontrager at Virginia Mennonite Missions (540) 434-9727 [ed.bontrager@vmmissions.org](mailto:ed.bontrager@vmmissions.org)

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors, **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, comes to vibrant life in this delightful musical parable. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless. It will be presented in Eastern Mennonite School Auditorium, Nov. 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10, all at 7:30 p.m. To order tickets, call the ticket line at (540) 432-4931 or visit [www.emhs.net](http://www.emhs.net)

**Let's Make a Deal: Your Heart is On the Line** is the theme for the Winter Youth Retreat at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Jan. 4-6, for ages 13-17. This retreat will challenge youth to discover what your values are, what attracts your attention, and who is Lord of your life. One primary question will be explored: can *your* heart be bought or compromised? Dr. Ruth-Anne Wideman of Regent University will lead the retreat. Come for good input and fun activities. For more information, contact WCRC at (757) 566-2256.

## sixth annual Festival of Praise

Sunday, November 4, 2007 4 p.m.  
Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg

**Featuring 10 singing groups and a mass choir directed by Jay Hartzler**

An offering will benefit  
Phil & Marcia Lehman's ministry in Italy

For more info • 540-434-9727  
[info@vmmissions.org](mailto:info@vmmissions.org)



Direl and Bertha Fannin Fyffe

You are invited to a **Kentucky Celebration** potluck supper, honoring VMC and VMM pioneer missionaries, on Friday Nov 9th at 6 pm at Lindale Mennonite Church. It will be a time of singing and story telling. An offering will be received for Direl and Bertha Fannin Fyffe who lost an uninsured Kentucky home to fire. Mahlon Horst's new book *We Kept the Angels Busy*, about Mennonite mission work in Kentucky, will be available for purchase. Reservations are not required. Come and bring a dish.

**Fall Lecture:** The second CrossRoads lecture for 2007 will feature Nancy Heisey, president of Mennonite World Conference, chair of the Bible and Religion Department at EMU and also associate professor of biblical studies and church history. Her theme will be, "They Also Serve: The Brethren-Mennonite Service Experience." The address will be given on Saturday, November 10, 4 p.m., at Garbers Church of the Brethren, 1275 Garbers Church Rd., Harrisonburg, Va.