

Lithuania Christian College students increasingly diverse

By **STEVE DINTAMAN**

Serving with his wife Betsy in Lithuania with Virginia Mennonite Missions and Mennonite Mission Network



Betsy and Steve Dintaman in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Altnai came to LCC International University 3 years ago from the central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan. A few years ago the large majority of our students were from Lithuania. Now each year's incoming class has growing numbers of students from throughout eastern Europe and central Asia. Many of these countries have fewer economic and educational opportunities than does Lithuania. Coming from a Muslim culture, Altnai was a nominal Muslim. In her first year at LCC she took a Sociology class and began having discussions with the instructor about Christian faith, and as a result, came to accept Christ. This semester, due to her fine academic performance and her vibrant personality she has been chosen for an exchange program with Gordon College, a Christian college in Massachusetts.

Altnai illustrates something that makes LCC an exciting place. When a student chooses LCC, it is as if they open a door, and that door opens up many other doors. It opens doors to personal change and educational opportunities they never could have imagined.

LCC is a Christian liberal arts university similar to what you find in North

America, but also very different. Our student body of 600 students is drawn from 20 countries. While English is the language of instruction you hear the buzz of many different languages in the hallways.

One key difference is that everything about LCC—our interactive style of teaching, our emphasis on community and residential dorm life, the opportunities for extra-curriculars and community service—are all totally new experiences for most of our students. This generates a special kind of excitement.

Our student body is also very diverse on matters of faith. Most of our students have a Roman Catholic or Russian Orthodox background.

Maybe 20% of them come from evangelical churches, and many have little or no religious background.

For the last 6 years I have had the wonderful challenge of teaching Theology to this diverse audience. I teach a required Theology class to all 3rd year students (in sections with 30-40 students), and in the Spring Semester of their 4th year all students take my Moral Philosophy class. This class is currently running and has 110 students in one class! Where else could a missionary have such a large ready-made audience and so much time to share the message of the Christian faith!

Betsy's primary role is in the LCC library. She is excited this year to help in

Photos courtesy of the Dintamans



Altnai (right) and another student from Kyrgyzstan serve Steve Dintaman a dish from their home country at an event at LCC this past Fall.

the planning for and implementing of a new integrated library software system. At LCC the library purchases all the textbooks and lends them to students for the semester, so Betsy is also involved in that huge job. We also see hosting as one of our ministries. We enjoy bringing students, faculty, staff and visitors into our home for a good meal and fellowship.

We are constantly aware that our ministry is only possible because we are part of a large network of friends and churches who believe in what we are doing and want to help make it possible. We are glad that we are now officially identified with VMM. We are approaching

"Lithuania" continued on page 2

Paying attention

I don't always see God at work. It is quite possible that He is not equally active at all times, choosing to "hold his hand" for a season. Or, maybe He is not always equally accessible. Sometimes I think, though that the primary problem is that I am not equally attentive. I pay attention better when I think I need something.

I have this ongoing conversation about whether or not one should pray for a parking space in a congested city. "Yes, God attends to our smallest details," is one argument. I reply, "But to give me a space means that someone else will not have one." Then, I go ahead and pray anyway and thank the Lord when I find a convenient one. A small thing really. Probably frivolous.

Sometimes God gets our attention in a more significant way. Richard Keeler in Trinidad tells of a young lad of eight who visited his grandmother in the hospital. Upon leaving, he was told that she would likely be well enough to attend his birthday party the next day. "No, grandma will



Loren Horst
President of VMM

not come home," he replied. Curiously, they asked him why he was so certain. "Didn't you see those two men in white suits standing by her bed," he asked. None had. Grandmother died the next day and the family now thinks that these men were angels sent to take grandmother to heaven. A young lad's heart was attentive, and then too, so were his eyes.

Nancy Marshall in Belize was preparing dinner for the four she expected at her table one evening when it turned out there were six! What to do? Nancy went to the oven to check on the four fish she believed she had put in earlier and, incredibly, there were now six! Nancy says, "Really...

sounds odd and hard to believe. I wish I had shown the kids first and counted them together... but it was only I who knew there would not be enough and I was thinking ... well I will feed them and I will eat peanut butter and then... there were six pieces!"

Most often for me, God's work is in hints and subtleties rather than visions and powerful miracles. A word of encouragement by Norman Teague is exactly what I need. The sermon by Pastor Lowell speaks at precisely the point at which I need to hear. The timing of my visit or phone call is too coincidental to ignore. An event that I thought traumatic actually opens a heart to the gospel.

Today, I was specifically asked to pray for the people caught in the turmoil of Gaza and Chad. I wonder how God will work there. I know He is active. I trust He is accessible. I'm going to try to keep paying attention.

Loren Horst

"Lithuania" continued from cover

the end of our second term of service, so we are looking forward to being in Virginia much of the summer. Maybe there will be opportunities for us to tell you more about our ministry then.

Can you join the Dintamans in their ministry at LCC? New and increased contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 by a special fund through Mennonite Mission Network.

To contribute, contact MST chair, Ron Piper at piperr@emu.edu or Pastor Clyde Kratz at clyde@zionmennonitechurch.org.

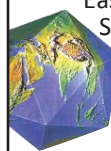
Perspectives

on the World Christian Movement

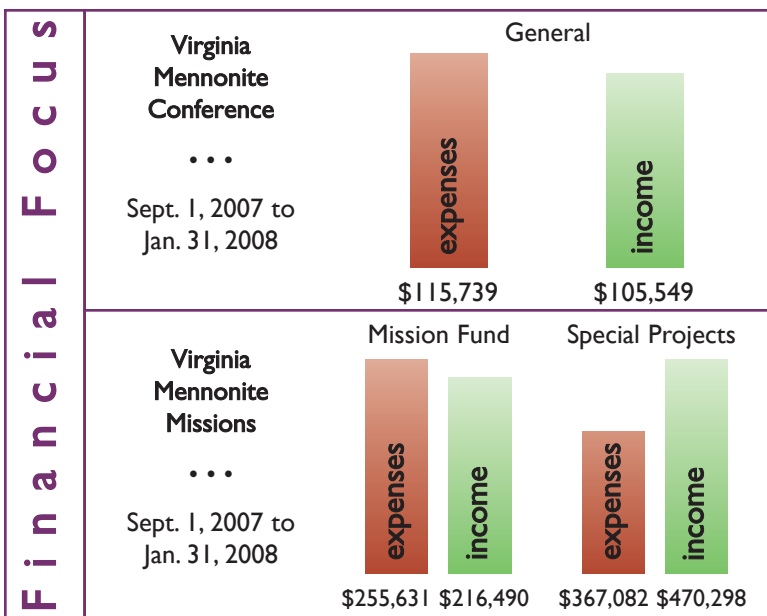
A survey of missions through biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic lenses is now offered in the Harrisonburg area.

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7:00-9:45 pm

Eastern Mennonite
Seminary, Rm. 123



Registration details will be available in May. Contact Philip Rhodes at philip.rhodes@vmmissions.org



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They fed me, the enemy

By **KARL BAUMANN**
Stuarts Draft, Va.

I was born in Germany before World War II. My mother died when I was six years old, and I was raised by my grandmother. She taught me little prayers that carried me through scary times and I remember them today.

I joined the German navy when I was 17 years old. I joined the submarine squad as a gunner. My submarine was one of the first five boats at the Normandy invasion. As we were surfacing, I was severely wounded when an anti-aircraft gun pre-ignited. I spent seven months in a hospital that was captured by the Americans while I was there. From the hospital, I was sent to POW camps. First we went to England; then to New York; on to Blackstone, Va. (Camp Pickett); then to Gretna, Virginia; and finally to Lyndhurst, Virginia. Five of us POWs worked for the Heatwoles, the Showalters, and the Wengers.

I spent most of my time at the Heatwole orchard. It was against the rules for the farm owners to feed us as prisoners. The first morning that I was there, I stole an ear of corn from the corn crib to eat. When Galen Heatwole came out to check on us, he asked me what I was eating. When I showed him, he shook his head, went into the house, and came out later with a stack of sandwiches and a large container of milk—enough for all the men to share. After that, they always fed us lunch and we talked. In one

Reprinted with permission.

discussion, Galen asked me if I liked Hitler. I said that I liked him and thought he wouldn't feed me after that. I asked him if he liked the Japanese. He said, "Karl, I don't have any enemies." He explained his beliefs, based on the Bible. I started reading the Bible to verify what it said. I realized that this man was not only speaking, but living what he said. I was his enemy, but he saw me as his friend.

I also have memories of eating at the table of Ruel Driver when I picked tomatoes for him. It was hard to believe while he was blessing the meal that he was feeding and praying with me, the enemy. I didn't yet understand their words, but I understood the significance of what was happening.

After the war, I returned home to Germany. Later, Galen paid for me to come back to the US and to work for him for four years. I didn't come back because it was America, but because these people treated me as a human being. After coming back, I attended Springdale Mennonite Church with Galen, to be polite. Church was really strange to me at first, but I remember learning a lot in the Sunday school class taught by Truman Showalter. Eventually, I was even asked to teach Sunday school.

I learned through the Bible and through the actions of my dear friends in the faith that our role as Christians is to live a life of love for everyone, even our enemies.

Celebrating a "Missions Heart"

Gloria Lehman



Layley Kennell, Devin Schaefer, Anna Landis, Lawn Landis, Tiffany and Leah Schaefer served the meal at the Celebration of Missions hosted by Powhatan Mennonite Church.

By **GLORIA LEHMAN**
Director of Public Relations

The aroma of good food welcomes participants on a cold evening as they enter a church fellowship hall for a Celebration of Missions. Anticipation of a good meal, good program and good fellowship creates a buzz until the event begins.

Virginia Mennonite Missions celebrates missions five or six times a year, in congregations throughout Virginia and North Carolina. The celebration gathers people together who have a "missions heart" and provides an opportunity for them to share around the tables about what God is doing through them in their community and beyond. This year, Willard and Eva Eberly shared about their life and witness in Bari, Italy. Their accounts of changed lives were deeply moving. Their call to all of us to "go" or "send" struck a chord of response.

The Outlet 10.27 new church was highlighted by Keith and Tami Nice, Graham, N.C. Creative

approaches to inviting people to attend, and taking Bible school to an apartment complex have resulted in a growing group of people following Christ's teachings.

Loren Horst, VMissions president, painted the vision for the coming year with "Striding into the Future," pointing out that the new field of Montenegro is opening up, and other locations both in the US and overseas are waiting for mission workers.

The Celebration of Missions events give VMissions an opportunity to thank the donors that have sent contributions in the past year. Everyone is welcome at these events, and we give a special invitation to families with children and youth. Hosting congregations in 2007-08 are Lindale, Lynside, Warwick River, Powhatan, and Greensboro, N.C. Watch for announcements for Celebration of Missions in 2009, and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.



Medical team in Haiti provides needed care and love of Christ

By **WENDY HODGE**
Medical team to Haiti

The mule in the picture was the pack mule that carried the team's bags out from Laraquint. The mule crossed with the luggage first, and the team followed in the next boat load.

In the early morning hours on January 2, Dr. Hatter, Joe and Sharon Arbaugh, Wendy Hodge, Jenny Yancey, Joe and Miriam Arbaugh, and John Stoltzfus departed for Haiti on a medical mission trip. We arrived in Haiti on schedule with all of our luggage and proceeded through customs with very little trouble.

We set out to travel to our first clinic in the village of Bamboo early Thursday morning. The vehicle broke down along the way, but the Lord put us near a gas station where the men were able to patch things up enough to finish the trip. Even as the vehicle limped along and the rain began to fall, our team kept making a joyful noise unto the Lord, praying and singing as we made our way into the night.

We held two days of clinic in the back of the host church, treating over 175 people each day. We even treated the village witch doctor and his son! In the evenings, we held crusades at the church showing several Christian films in the Creole language. John preached on the second evening while James translated. Two young men came forward to receive Christ, and the seed of the Gospel message was planted in many of their hearts.

We traveled back to James' house to regroup, repack, and replenish some of our medicine for the next phase of our journey.

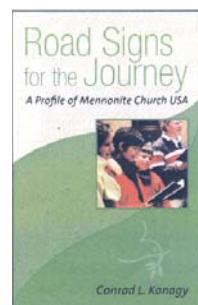
Monday morning we hiked up to Pouye to set up the clinic. Pastor Jacques and his friend Fito accompanied us and helped out with registration, translating, and sorting the prescriptions in the pharmacy. We treated over 170 people on Tuesday and over 175 people on Wednesday. Early Wednesday morning, Joe and John hiked out to Payen Mennonite church to teach a Mennonite doctrine class to the local Haitian pastors. The remainder of the team hiked to Laraquint early Thursday morning where we treated over 131 people before hiking out to cross the river in a dugout canoe at sunset. The Lord sustained us with the energy and health that we needed to make it through each day.

Friday evening our team shared testimonies, hymns, and encouragement with each other as we debriefed and prepared to travel home. The Lord blessed our team with unity and a joyful spirit that I have never experienced before. It was a blessing to look back over the week and count the many miracles that the Lord had performed on behalf of our team. In all, we were able to treat over 800 people despite the fact that Dr. Hatter only brought enough medicine for about half that amount. The Lord is good all the time! We returned home early Sunday morning exhausted, exhilarated, and very blessed.

Winter Delegate Session tackles health care, VMM strategic planning

By **STEVE CARPENTER**
Virginia Mennonite Conference Coordinator

On February 2, the VMC Winter Delegate Session was hosted by Washington Community Fellowship in Washington, D.C. The 100 delegates in attendance experienced a challenging agenda comprised of three key elements: interaction with the Virginia Mennonite Missions Strategic Planning



Task Force, Conrad Kanagy's summary of the results of his 2006 survey of MC USA members called *Road Signs for the Journey*, and providing feedback to Keith Harder, from Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership, regarding the health care access initiative.

In addition to gaining a better understanding from Conrad of the challenges and opportunities the broader Mennonite Church is facing, delegates discussed the VMM strategic planning process along five dimensions of the agency's work: to lead or to facilitate missions, to focus on global ministry or USA ministry, to emphasize short- or long-term service, to be primarily a partnering or a sending agency, and to engage the next generation in mission.

Keith Harder explained the mandate given by delegates in July 2007 at San Jose to "develop and implement a plan whereby all congregations of MC USA participate together in an arrangement that covers all of our pastors with basic health insurance." Keith passionately articulated his vision for this initiative based on becoming a missional church focused on mutual aid, justice and anti-racism.

Delegates affirmed Cindy Voth, Minister of Youth and Family Life at Lindale Mennonite Church, to serve in an at-large position on the Faith and Life Commission. John Bowman, an orthopedic doctor and congregational chair at First Mennonite Church in Richmond, was appointed as a member of the Congregational Life Commission.

VMC coordinated and subsidized buses for delegates traveling to D.C. from Harrisonburg and Richmond.

The Winter Delegate Session gathered meaningful input from participants, while building stronger relationships and expanding vision for the broader church.

Soccer a form of mission for Riddle children in Italy

By **CHRIS RIDDLE**

VMMissions worker in Italy

We were told upon our arrival here in Italy--if you can talk about food and soccer, you will be able to talk to anyone in the country. Melody generally talks to people about food and has become an excellent Italian cook. But for me and the boys, it has been through soccer that we find an open door to converse with people.

We entered Micah and Adam into a local soccer school for two reasons: 1) help the boys learn Italian and meet other kids, and 2) and for Melody and me to meet and interact with the parents of these kids.

Micah took to the classes very quickly, but Adam held back and found it difficult to enter into his class. There were many days when we took them to soccer class and Adam stayed by my side watching his class rather than participating. Gradually though, he began doing the exercises but not the games at the end.

Coach Mike wanted to see Adam play "with his friends" and graciously allowed me to be the goalie for Adam's team. In the first games, the other kids did not talk to me. They knew me as the American that knew some Italian and even less about soccer! It is humbling to have a soccer ball blasted at you by 5, 6 & 7 year olds, but it is an opportunity that God has given me to do two things.

First, I have time with Adam on the soccer field and am able to encourage him in his play. Second, I know the names of the kids in Adam's class and they talk to me during the games now. I congratulate them when they score against me (often) and encourage my team to keep playing hard to get the goal back that I just let through. It is a time to be an example of good sportsmanship for the kids.

We are also meeting their parents and building relationships. When we came here, I never thought I would minister to young kids like this. It has never been a "gift" of mine to work with little kids, but God gives the "gift" if we are open to receiving it. God opens all kinds of doors—sometimes they open onto a soccer field.



Adam Riddle at soccer class.

Multi-roles shape missionary life

By **GLORIA LEHMAN**

VMMissions Director of Public Relations

On any given day in Orange Walk, Belize, Nancy Marshall is teacher, pastor, van driver, cook, nurturer and friend. As a person who works without a missionary team on the field, she needs to fulfill a wide variety of roles because there are no other persons to do them.

Nancy's role as teacher shows daily in the classroom where ten students grasp new educational principles. The youngest ones are tutored by Angelica, whose patience merits an award. The older ones are challenged by Nancy to learn math and social studies. Good behavior is rewarded with small gifts.

Nancy's role as pastor clearly shines on Sunday morning, after she has done her van driver role. Beginning at 7 a.m., Nancy drives over rough roads, picking up youth and children to attend the Jesus' Deaf Church in her home. When the van arrives at 10 a.m., Nancy becomes the pastor. Nancy leads in prayer, encourages each person to choose a song to lead, and teaches the lesson. On Feb. 3, the story of the rich young ruler who thought following Jesus was too hard, came alive as Nancy expressively signed and acted the story. Then she asked the group, will you follow Jesus? Three persons said yes, and Nancy led in special

prayer for them. One was Luis, a 10-year-old boy, who shows particular interest in spiritual things. The other two were young women.



Nancy leads a commitment prayer for Alva and Angelica while Luis and others look on during Jesus' Deaf Church on February 3.

Following the church service, Nancy's role as cook is welcomed by all hungry attenders. Three chickens (with feet) cooked in Belizean red sauce, a large pot of rice and beans, cucumber salad and cake form the center of good fellowship in the living room that becomes a dining room with the addition of table and chairs. When cleanup is completed, the 15-passenger van (purchased with 2006 Penny Power money) is loaded and the role of van driver is again in place.

Nancy's house is the refuge where both deaf and hearing people come for conversation and for problem-solving. Nancy nurtures young people as she discusses important life issues with them. She prays with them, and gives them sound counsel. She provides a place for Sulmi to live during the week so that she can attend school regularly. Sulmi's family of eight live in a small house far from Orange Walk. Nancy's open heart and home make it possible for Sulmi to have a good education. Everywhere Nancy goes, she is greeted warmly by community and church members. During the recent election build-up, she didn't take sides with either the red or blue party, but instead, painted the trash can outside her house bright yellow, with the message "Peace I leave with you." Her commitment to good relationships overcomes barriers.

Pray for Nancy as she fills the many roles that God has given her.

Highland Retreat an exciting goal for kids in Washington DC

By **SHERRY WOODS**
Director, ONE Ministries-UNIQUE
Learning Center

I was honored when Paul called me and asked me to speak at the fundraising banquet tonight and so I regret that I cannot be with you.

I hope that this letter and the presentation sent will compel you to continue your support of this wonderful camp.

For more than 20 years, the organization that I direct, ONE Ministries-UNIQUE Learning Center, has brought 40 children and youth to Highland for a week of summer camp each August.

The children we work with are with us year round as a part of a Christ-centered, academic enrichment program that works with kids in one of Washington, DC's underserved communities. Summer camp is the culmination of our summer program and the kids earn the right to go



Youth working at an activity at Highland Retreat

through their completed work and good attendance.

The buzz about camp begins in January:

"Are you going to camp?"

"When do we go to camp?"

"Are you going to be a counselor?"

"Will we have a camp fire?"

"What cabin will I be in?"

This goes on throughout the winter as the kids recap their memories and moments of joy from the prior summer.

As summer program begins, attending camp begins

a primary motivator for our kids. They don't want to miss it. They don't want to miss the green, the sound of the crickets, the meals, the crafts, the recreation, all of it. They don't want to miss out so they work hard. They even give each other reminders of the goal: make it to camp!

Once we are there, the children are different. Even the most rambunctious spirit begins to calm. The anger pent up in so many of our children begins to fade. They

relax and soon basketballs are bouncing, children are splashing in the pool, and laughter abounds.

Christ captures their hearts in this place. They are safe here, removed from all the despair that they face at home. For a week, their broken, fragmented lives experience uninterrupted peace, love, encouragement, and structure. They run and play, they explore, they grow, they learn. It truly becomes an expression of heaven here on earth.

We at UNIQUE Learning Center are so grateful that we have a place to bring our precious ones. We can't imagine taking our kids any other place. Your support of Highland Retreat will continue to touch the lives of many in Christ's name.

Sherry Woods, Director
ONE Ministries-UNIQUE
Learning Center
Washington, DC

Congregational Resource Center

2008 Vacation Bible School

2008 Vacation Bible School kits are now available for review in the Congregational Resource Center and may be checked out for one week for examination by your committee.

Currently available:

"Listen Up: Messages from God" - Faith and Life Resources/Herald Press
"God's Big Backyard: Where kids have a blast serving Jesus" - Standard Publishing
"Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power" - Group Publishing

If you are not planning a VBS but have a weekly children's ministry event, these kits are adaptable for those programs as well. You may sign up to USE the materials in the kit during your actual event (VBS or other) and save your congregation \$70 to \$130 in starter kit cost. Please visit the CRC in room 110 of Eastern Mennonite Seminary to discuss options with Director Linda Alley.

Take time to browse for the resources to enhance your ministry, or call Linda Alley, Director of the CRC, to request a special title. 540.432.4219. Email: crc@emu.edu. Location: Eastern Mennonite Seminary Room 110.

Visit us in person or via the online catalog to see what else is new. www.emu.edu/seminary/crc and "Search the Catalog."

The CRC Director is available to help you Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and by email at other times.

MARCH 2008

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

30 Pray for Steve and Chris Carpenter as they visit the Knoxville Mennonite Church today. As Steve brings the morning message, pray that the people will be encouraged in their faith.

2 Pray for pastor Duane Yoder as he teaches a session of the Adult Winter Bible School today with teaching on "The Biblical Basis for Anabaptist Beliefs."

9 Today is the culmination of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Jamaica Mennonite Church. Myron Augsburger is bringing the morning message. Thank God for these years of faithfulness, and ask Him to give the Church a wide vision.

16 We sing praises to Jesus who comes as a servant king. May our congregations proclaim Him as our master, and may we do His will.

23 But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow. And bade us, immortal, to Heaven ascend: Lift then your voices in triumph on high, For Jesus hath risen, and we shall not die.

Easter

Monday

31 Pray today for the missionary kids who are home-schooled with parents or others that they will have a profitable year of learning along with the many experiences of living in another culture.

3 Thank God for the Charlieville Mennonite Early Childhood Care/Ed. Centre, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in Dec. The Trinidad government trains the teachers; the church supports it with facilities and board members.

10 Thank God that Alanna McPherson and Denise Riley represented the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago at the Jamaica anniversary. Ask that their relationships with brothers and sisters there will be deepened.

17 Pray for the various evangelical witnesses in Ireland today. May Christ be lifted up, and may He draw all persons to Him.

24 Missionaries in the Mediterranean region work against many invisible spiritual strongholds that keep people from understanding who Jesus is and what He offers. Pray that the Spirit of Truth will dismantle these barriers.

Tuesday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by



Park View
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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4 Pray for safe travel for VMC's Conference Coordinator Steve Carpenter as he flies to Jamaica today to join in JMC's 50th anniversary celebration.

5 Thank God for the recent event highlighting Nazareth Village, Israel, and Shirley Roth's work there. Pray that God will abundantly bless this unique witness of His Son's life.

11 Praise God for the interdenominational movement of youth in Sicily who meet to worship, encourage each other and share their faith. Italian Mennonite youth are involved and help give leadership.

18 Pray for the persons who are studying in English classes organized and taught by Emily Huffman and the Eberlys in Bari, Italy. May many new relationships form that will open doors for the Gospel.

25 Pray for the elders and pastoral search committee at Washington Community Fellowship in D.C. as they begin looking for new leadership. Pray too for pastor Scott and Cindy Garber as they move on.

Wednesday

PVFCU is a credit union that exists for the benefit of its members. It is chartered by the United States government to serve those affiliated with the Mennonite community in Rockingham Co./Harrisonburg area. To find out if you qualify, give us a call at 540-434-6444 or visit us at www.pvfcu.org

6 VMC's moderator, Beryl Jantzi and family arrive in Kingston, Jamaica, today for JMC's 50th anniversary celebration along with 35 other guests, and former members and missionaries. Thank God for this milestone.

13 As the Euro becomes stronger against the dollar, it's challenging for VMM to send young couples to serve in Europe and the Balkans. Pray for discernment as they seek to follow the Lord by faith and with wise financial decisions.

20 Pray for Steve and Betsy Dintaman, at Lithuania Christian College, as they converse with students in a variety of settings. May the students grow both intellectually and spiritually.

27 Thanks to God for "The Table," an emerging and growing group of 60 or more, many of them young adults, who are meeting at the Discipleship Center at EMU.

Thursday

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."
Ephesians 4:2

7 This is the opening day of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Jamaica Mennonite Conference. Ask God to bless each person and to give vision and energy to all who are gathered in Kingston.

14 Sharon Kniss, serving in London, England, interacts with persons from different theological backgrounds, and is a point of connection. Pray God's blessing on her contacts.

21 We join Christians around the world in remembering Christ's death on the cross, the sacrifice for our sins, so that we can have eternal life. Express your gratitude today.

28 Praise God for music that brings various Mennonite groups together! On Sunday, the Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus will present a concert of praise at Eastern Mennonite School at 3 p.m.

Friday

Good Friday

1 Thank God for the MMA Stewardship University held at Waynesboro MC today where participants were taught principles of healthy lifestyles in various areas of life. May the participants act on what they learned.

8 In Italy, today is "Woman's Day" when women often have a "wild time." Pray for Centro Koinonia as they again plan a special evening and dinner for women and invited non-Christian friends.

15 Richard Keeler, in Trinidad, reports good attendance in the week of evening prayer meetings in January at the Gospel Lighthouse MC. Also more people are attending Sunday services. Thank God for this.

22 Pray that a church planter pastor will feel the call by God to minister in Charlotte, NC. A group of Anabaptist believers who are meeting monthly desire to expand their fellowship.

29 A Celebration of Missions is held this evening at Greensboro MC. VMM 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.

Saturday

Announcements

Friday, March 7, **LUNASA**, an Irish music quintet, will present a program in the EMHS Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. One reviewer said of the group, "An amazing new instrumental quintet: state-of-the-art Irish music as aggressively infectious as you'll ever hear." The concert is a fundraising event for the Touring Choir's trip to Europe in June. General admission tickets are available at 540-432-4931. Advance tickets are \$15/adults; \$12/students and seniors. At the door tickets are \$18/\$15

Highland Retreat will be holding its Annual Auction at Shady Oaks next to Weavers Mennonite Church, Saturday, March 1, 2008. The auction benefits the youth camp summer program at Highland Retreat. New merchandise, artwork, comforters, ethnic meals, baked goods, theme baskets, coins and a vehicle are items typically for sale. For information call 540-852-3226 or e-mail info@highlandretreat.org. An up-to-date list can be seen on Highland's web site: www.highlandretreat.org

Eastern Mennonite School will be hosting James Juhnke, former history professor at Bethel College, for the **Kennel Charles Lecture** on March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the EMS Auditorium. James wrote a 2004 book outlining the contributions of peace-makers to American history and will be speaking on "The Missing Peace: American History and the Lordship of Christ." All are invited to attend.

Mark your calendars for the annual **Hymn Sing For Peace**, 5 p.m., Saturday April 12 at the Capitol Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Anabaptist Peace Center of Washington, D.C.

Mennonite Women of Virginia: Mark your calendars for the Annual Day meeting at Springdale Mennonite Church, Thursday, May 1. More details will be sent to churches.

Join us for a church leadership conference for pastors, church planters, and congregational leaders entitled "**Building a Church that Reaches into its Community**" led by



Dennis Gingerich, from Cape Christian Fellowship, Florida. This will be held

April 5, 8:30-4:30 at Lindale Mennonite Church. Register before March 1 for \$35 (includes lunch and breaks), after March 1 is \$40. Register three or more from one congregation for only \$20 each. This is sponsored by Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference. Call Ed Bontrager or Owen Burkholder at (540) 434-9727 for more information.

The CrossRoads Heritage Center will hold its annual Easter sunrise service on the hill at Heritage Center Way (off Garbers Church Rd.) on Sunday morning, March 23, at 7 a.m. (twilight – 6:47; sunrise – 7:14). Bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, meet at Weavers Mennonite Church, 2501 Rawley Pike, Harrisonburg. Jeff Kauffman, pastor of Weavers Mennonite Church, will share an Easter meditation. For information, call 438-1275.

A conference "**Bridging Divides: Uniting the Church for Peacemaking**" will be held April 11-12, at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C. This conference for pastors, theologians, service

workers, academics and laypersons will explore how the church can unite for mission despite political divides and also work to heal divisions in our communities. "How we talk when we disagree" and an MCC immigration update are pre-conference seminars. Participants will join the annual Hymn Sing for Peace, 5 p.m., April 12. To register and for more information, see apcwdc.mennonite.net or contact Keith Swartzendruber at 202-548-0010, keith@apcwdc.mennonite.net

2008 Youth Camp Schedule - Highland Retreat

NEW CAMPS in 2008

Grand-parent/Grand-child (Age 6-14)

June 22-24

Family Camp

Family Camp - W (Sun – Fri) June 29-July 4

Family Camp - A (Sun – Tue) June 29-July 1

Family Camp - B (Wed – Fri) July 2-4

Teen Breakaway (Grades 9 -12)

Teen Breakaway -W (Sun-Fri) June 29-July 4

Teen Breakaway - A (Sun-Tue) June 29-July 1

Teen Breakaway - B (Wed-Fri) July 2-4

Vacation Bible School Day Camp (Ages 5-12)

July 28 – Aug 1

TRADITIONAL CAMPS

More choices for dates

Acorn Day Camp (Ages 6 – 9) Aug 4-8

Foxtail I (Ages 8-9) June 25-27

Foxtail II (Ages 8-9) July 16-18

Cottontail I (Ages 8-10) June 22-27

Cottontail II (Ages 8-10) July 13-18

Cardinal I (Ages 10 - 12) July 6-11

Cardinal II (Ages 10 - 12) July 20-25

Coyote I (Ages 11-13) July 6-11

Coyote II (Ages 11-13) July 20-25

Wilderness Explorers (Ages 11-13) July 20-25

Wilderness Pioneers (Ages 13-15) Jul. 27-Aug 1

Guys Soccer Camp (Grades 7 – 12) Aug 3-8

For more information, contact us at:

(540) 852-3226

youthoffice@highlandretreat.org

www.highlandretreat.org

Connections (USPS 007-205)
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Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498



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