

Jamaica Mennonite Church celebrates 50th anniversary

By **GLORIA LEHMAN**
 VM Missions Caribbean Regional Assistant

With the theme “we have come this far by faith” the Jamaica Mennonite Church celebrated 50 years of conference meetings, March 7-9, in Kingston, Jamaica.

Former missionaries, church members, MCC personnel, and Virginia Mennonite Missions and Conference representatives joined in celebrating the goodness of God through the years. A year of planning for this significant milestone resulted in a three-day conference/celebration, beginning with a welcome reception on Thursday evening. President Liston Aiken and Administrative Director, Douglas Senior and members of the Council of Management greeted guests from various places in the US, mainly from Virginia, New York, and Florida.

In 1954, D. H. and Annie Loewen from Manitoba answered God’s call to go to Jamaica to spread the Gospel and met Simeon Walters who with his family became the first members of the church. The Loewens returned to Canada due to health concerns. Myron and Esther Augsburger met Jamaicans in Florida, and developed an interest in the island. They contacted Warren and Erma Metzler who brought their family to Jamaica and served in various areas for eleven years. Erma Metzler Schnobel attended the celebration.

Twelve congregations were established in various locations on the island. Jamaican pastors serve in each one. The last missionary pastor left in 1995.

On Friday, congregational reports, interspersed with lively singing and heartfelt prayer, informed the delegates and the visiting guests of activities and goals for each church. Traditional Jamaican chicken and rice and peas brought the tastes of Jamaica back for the visitors.

Saturday afternoon, former missionaries told stories of their work in Jamaica, recalling how God had led them into new communities, sometimes over rough roads. Former members described their encounter with Mennonite missionaries, the various methods of baptism, and the guidelines for lifestyle issues, etc. Five members of the Leair family, one of the original families in the Temple Hall Mennonite Church sang, “God Leads his Dear Children Along” in four-part harmony. Youth groups from Good Tidings, Temple Hall, and Alpine congregations, performed lively numbers and showed the promise of the future of the church. A symbolic foot washing with Liston Aiken and Willard Heatwole, former Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions missionary for 25 years,

Photos courtesy of Galen Lehman



Steve Carpenter and Loren Horst present a Menno Simons fraktur to Jamaica Mennonite Church President Liston Aiken (r) and Douglas Senior, administrative director.



George Broughton, Pastor of Temple Hall Mennonite Church in Jamaica with a wooden plaque of the Lord’s Prayer.

demonstrated the mutual service and brotherhood of the national church and the missionaries.

Sunday morning, buses filled with church members from across the island arrived at the large auditorium in a local high school. Praise songs, intercessory prayer, greetings from fraternal delegates from the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago and from Beryl Jantzi, moderator of Virginia Mennonite Conference, and a sermon by Myron Augsburger on the theme, filled the morning hours. Augsburger challenged the 700-person audience to “live by the principles of the Kingdom, to transform life by believing. Reach out to other Caribbean areas including Cuba. We don’t know what tomorrow’s tomorrow will bring, but may it bear fruit for the Kingdom.”

In the afternoon session, President Liston Aiken instructed the gathered church to “constantly understand that we are a peace people...peacemaking is not an addendum but is part of being God’s

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Paying attention to the majority

We do well to improve our ability to pay attention to the minority voices among us. Often, God's prophetic voice is found precisely there. Sometimes however, the majority do in fact have something significant to say and we do well to pay attention to these opinions too.

In Conrad Kanagy's recent book, *Road Signs for the Journey*, I note that in 2006 fully **78% of Mennonites were willing to support church planting by moving, giving money, or helping in some other way!** (p. 80) **That works out to 6,713 Virginia Conference members!** I'm told that percentage was higher among racial ethnic members and among younger members. The percentage has declined a bit since 1989 but is significant nevertheless!

Of course, church planting is only one measure of the vitality of a conference or denomination. We can also measure congregational growth of existing congregations and we do well to pay attention to deeper signs of our faithfulness that numbers may not reveal. Still, supportiveness of church planting must be considered one of the most important indicators of a church's faithfulness to the Great Commission.



Loren Horst
President of VMM

The April 2008 issue of *Connections* lists **12 relatively new or envisioned congregations connected to Virginia Mennonite Conference.** Probably that

list is not complete, and it certainly does not list all that VMMissions is engaged with globally. The complete list would be even more impressive.

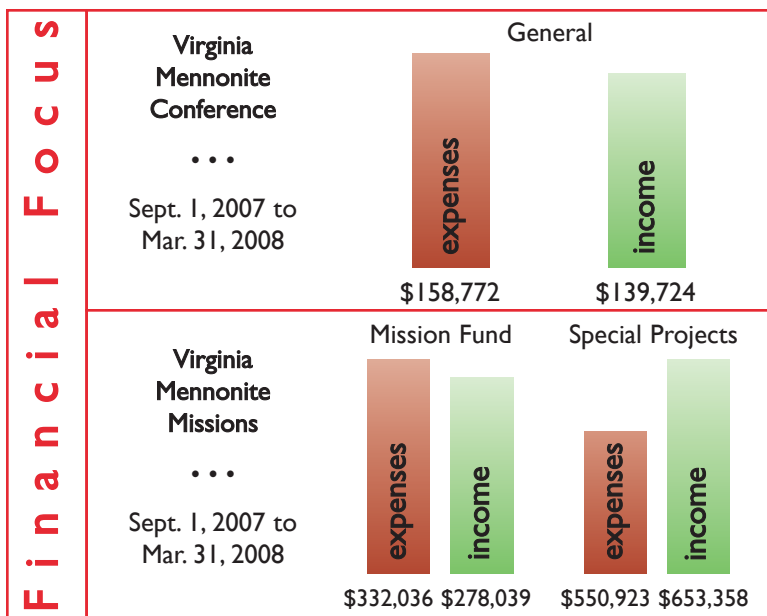
The two statistics, one from Kanagy's book and the other from *Connections* prompt this question. **How might we better connect the 6,713 willing members of Virginia conference to the 12 new and envisioned church plants among us?** How might they be more supportive? Are there financial resources as yet untapped? Are there people willing to move who have not been asked?

This last weekend I met some people in North Carolina who have financially supported church planting, moved to

actually join such an effort, or are supporting in some other way. I attended a vibrant worship service at Greensboro Mennonite Church and met some of the folks from Outlet 10.27 in Graham. I heard of the vision for more outreach and wondered if North Carolina might become another concentration of Mennonite life and witness in the not-too-distant future. North Carolina is attracting many people, Mennonites too! Can this movement of people become a movement of God?

On a personal note, Earlene and I felt the tug of an area that had been home for three of our younger years. We enjoy the climate, the warm hospitality, the southern charm, and we both like barbecue, hush puppies and sweet tea. We also experienced once again the vitality of God's people in another community. They are representative of the Mennonite majority!

Loren Horst



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Asheville Mennonite Church joins area peace rally

Teresa Aeschliman



Troy Colon and son, Ethan, both of AMC, hold up signs at a downtown Asheville rally marking the end of five years of war with Iraq. Ethan also handed out cards, which included a list of Mennonite websites, to the small crowd.

To mark the end of five long years of war with Iraq, a group from Asheville Mennonite Church, NC, joined a downtown peace rally on March 20. The rally, sponsored by a student organization at UNC-Asheville, was an opportunity for AMC to find common ground with the larger peace community and witness to Christ's message of peace and love of enemies. Along with some singing, there were several speakers, including a veteran of the Iraq war.



Angela Conley, of AMC, gives U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler an oil lamp of peace.

Julia Huskins

Virginia Mennonite Conference hosts first Senior High Retreat

By JASON GERLACH
Conference Youth Minister

Until this year, the annual Middle School Retreat was the only retreat offered through Virginia Mennonite Conference for youth. This year, for the first time ever, Virginia Mennonite Conference held a retreat for senior high youth. This retreat brought together Mennonite youth from the following congregations: Community, Concord, Crossroads, First, Harrisonburg, Lindale, Mt. Clinton, Park View, Weavers, and Zion.

Cindy Voth, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life, at Lindale Mennonite Church challenged those in attendance to live drastically committed lives to Jesus Christ. As part of her opening session, Cindy invited youth to encounter Jesus by participating for twenty minutes in one of five suggested spiritual disciplines. Youth chose from meditation on scripture, art, silence, breathing as reflective prayer, and studying creation. The inclusion of spiritual disciplines at the beginning was foundational for Cindy's following sessions, which focused on living today and throughout the upcoming journey in drastically



reordered ways with restructured priorities. Included in the weekend evaluations, one youth commented, "I really enjoyed the time alone in silence and the processing that happened with our group," which was echoed by others as many youth and sponsors responded positively to Cindy's sessions and the impact of this retreat on individual's lives and youth group connectedness.

In addition, the weekend provided youth with large group activities, free time to participate in high ropes Challenge Course, indoor board or group games, Kubb (a lawn game from the Viking age), and a unique concert consisting of Prevail (a high school band), the Eastern Mennonite University Celebration Worship Band, and Trent Wagler & the Steel Wheels.

The mix of sessions, activities and free time, enhanced by the natural location, helped this retreat reach its anticipated goals. One of those goals: to move the Senior High retreat status from first-ever to annual. Now wouldn't that be drastic?



Woman's Day dinner draws new women in Italy

By EVA EBERLY

VMMissions Mediterranean Regional Assistant

Hosting a special evening and dinner on Woman's Day (March 8) has become an annual tradition at Centro Koinonia. This event not only offers a wholesome option to an evening of frivolous, empty entertainment, but a prime opportunity to share God's love with other women. Of the 32 women present this year, thirteen do not yet know Jesus Christ in a personal way. For example, one of the Eberlys' English students brought five friends!

At least a month beforehand, the women get involved in a flurry of activity and ideas. Mara designed a lovely invitation and directed a team in transforming our worship hall into an elegant dining room. Ginetta crafted a gift for each woman: a small

glass decopage dish. Games were planned that "broke the ice" and helped us get acquainted. There were also prizes to win! The most challenging aspect to organize, however, is the food since it has important significance in the Italian culture. This year a professional cook (from another church) prepared a delicious five-course meal, served by Phil and Christopher Lehman.



Some of the women who gathered at Centro Koinonia on Woman's Day and enjoyed a delicious meal and a time of fellowship.



Ina Arena with her husband Franco. She spoke about "Developing the Inner Person."

Ina Arena, a beautician and Mennonite pastor's wife from Sicily spoke on "Developing the Inner Person," showing how we women are often obsessed with the exterior and neglect our inner person. Ina skilfully wove her personal story throughout her talk, dramatically illustrating how the Lord desires to completely transform our lives from the inside out. She held the rapt attention of every woman present! In conclusion, Ina sang several songs bringing the evening to a meaningful ending. Many lingered afterward to talk until the wee hours of the morning—a sure sign that the event was enjoyed!

Later while considering how God had answered our prayers, one sister said, "God accomplished much more than we even imagined!"

Annual convention strengthens Italian women for ministry

By EVA EBERLY

VMMissions Mediterranean Regional Assistant

Each spring for the past 17 years, a seaside resort village among the onion fields of Calabria on the "toe" of Italy awakens from its winter sleep to welcome a group of excited women. Although more than 70 women convened this year from all over southern Italy, this two-day event has not always had such enthusiastic attendance. In fact, in the beginning years when a Swiss missionary first launched these conventions, only a handful of women participated, mostly wives of missionaries. Thankfully, today the opposite is true. Most participants are Italian women serving in the ministries of their local congregations from a variety of denominations, with only a small foreign representation!

Many women must travel hours by ship and a series of trains in order to attend, but testify that it's well worth the sacrifice. Some come from small congregations in areas where believers churches are few and scattered, without many resources for encouragement and guidance. Each year we return with great anticipation to renew friendship over delicious meals, to enjoy laughter and conversation well into the night! Spiritual refreshment through Bible study, spirited worship, and prayer for each other restores vitality and vision.

For me, a highlight is the informal exchange of experiences in our lives and ministries, the difficulties, joys, and victories. For example, a woman from a church in Sicily, shared about the miraculous birth of their church. "Without any leader, a small group began studying the Bible together. As they opened their lives to Jesus Christ and began putting in practice what they were learning, their lives were transformed. Today we are a church of more than 200!"



Those participating from the Mennonite churches in Sicily and Bari. (Back row left) Ina Arena and Marilena Ceraulo who helped lead worship and Bible study at the convention.

Bible Quizzing in strong season

By **JASON GERLACH**
Virginia Conference Youth Minister



This year the Bible Quizzing program within Virginia Mennonite Conference was richly blessed. Although it wasn't certain that there would be enough interest from congregations in the weeks leading up to the mid-January start date, it turned out that this season there were more than 30 youth participating. In the early part of January, Matt Trost, Virginia Mennonite Conference Bible Quizzing Coordinator, was surprised that for the first time "we ran out of study booklets." There were youth from five congregations involved this year: Calvary Community Chesapeake, Crossroads, Mt. Clinton, Mountain View and Trissels. In his year-end review letter Trost commented, "This was a giant leap from the previous season. The fact that these youth committed themselves to each other, and their coaches, to read the chapters each week was amazing. Studying several chapters

per week was no easy task, but they were willing to work together to make it happen."

This season the teams studied the book of Acts, following Peter, Paul, Timothy and Barnabas as they took the good news to the Roman world.

The cumulative Bible Quizzing tournament was once again a highlight. This year the tournament took place at Lancaster Bible College in Pennsylvania with over 500 youth and adults in attendance. Every team competing had studied the same chapters and had anticipated the tournament throughout their respective regional seasons. This made for an intense weekend experience. Quizzers from Virginia Mennonite Conference met youth from Ohio and Pennsylvania who were excited also by what they learned throughout the Bible Quizzing season. Even in the heat of competition, there was genuine appreciation for each other and camaraderie among teams.

A one-time Bible Quizzing competition between youth and delegates will take place at Conference Assembly, where the adult delegates will be asked "Are You Smarter than a Quizzer?" And in January 2009, Bible Quizzing teams will study the first half of Genesis. Trost commented, "It's not too early to begin talking with others in your congregation about participating."

Pastors' retreat in Trinidad brings fun, refreshment



Pastoral Leaders in the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (standing l to r): Babes and Ramesh Jaimani, Paul and Evelyn Kratz, Ganesh and Risha Kalloo, Richard Keeler. (seated l to r): Rawl, Sydni, and Linda Gunpath, Margaret Keeler.

By **GLORIA LEHMAN**
VMMissions Director of Public Relations

Pastoral leaders of the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago met the weekend of April 4-6 for a retreat from the demands of daily life. The setting at Ridgewalk Bible Camp in the southern part of the island, provided a restful place to get away. Trees, flowering shrubs, and birds including parrots and cornbirds, formed a backdrop for the good fellowship that happened during these days.

After each delicious meal prepared by camp staff, a pastoral couple led a devotional meditation. A variety of topics were covered with personal reflection and group discussion, and a time of prayer at the close. This gathering around the Scriptures and the throne of God in prayer bonded the group.

At the end of the weekend, all agreed that this retreat was a time of physical and spiritual refreshment, and a weekend like this should be held again in the not too distant future.

Jamaica 50th" continued from cover

child." He urged them to make peace with the brothers and sisters in the congregation, to share Jesus with people that others have shunned, and to be persons of prayer because "peacemaking is connected to our connection with God."

Steve Carpenter, Virginia Mennonite Conference coordinator, presented a fraktur of Menno Simons' peace message to Douglas Senior and Liston Aiken. This will be hung in the newly opened JMC

office on the grounds of the Good Tidings Mennonite Church, Kingston. Jamaica Mennonite Conference seeks closer connection with VMC. Virginia Mennonite Missions has related closely to Jamaica since the 1950s; its present role is to listen to the vision that JMC expresses, and assist where possible with personnel and funds.

Galen Lehman, the Virginia Mennonite Missions Caribbean Regional Director along with Loren Horst, its

president, presented plaques with the Lord's Prayer to each congregation. JMC gave a crocheted map of Jamaica to Loren Horst with the message "You are always in our hearts" as their thanks for the relationship over the past years.

The JMC conference planning committee produced a video portraying the growth of the Jamaica Mennonite Church, from the beginning to the present. Send a message to Galen Lehman to obtain a copy at galen.lehman@vmmissions.org

Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community promotes memory care for elders at June conference

By MAUREEN PEARSON

Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community will host Teepa Snow, director of education for the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in Raleigh, N.C., for various daylong educational sessions on June 9, 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Snow will discuss communicating with someone with dementia, humor and caregiving, creating moments of joy as a caregiver and making visits valuable and positive. "A Day with Teepa Snow" is open to family members, care givers and community health providers. Reservations are required to attend the day sessions and may be made by calling (540) 564-3559. Registration and hand-outs are \$15; \$20 for registration, hand-outs and lunch.

This event is part of the VMRC Memory Care Educational Series for

2008. Memory Care at VMRC is an all-encompassing approach which includes dedicated programs, education and support to elders with memory loss and their families.

"One way of showing God's love and compassion in our community is to recognize and meet the needs of those who are caring for our elders with memory loss and give them the information and tools they need," said Ron Yoder, president and CEO of VMRC.

"Our elders deserve hope, dignity and respect. Our mission is to give them that in our care of them but to also educate their caregivers of the same."

Memory care programs and services are offered at Crestwood Assisted Living and Oak Lea Nursing Home at VMRC.

The remaining 2008 Memory Care at VMRC Educational Sessions:

July 17, 10-11:30 a.m.

"Time for a Care Change"

August 14, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Nurturing the Spirit"

Sept. 18, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Coping with Stress"

Oct. 23, 1-4 p.m.

"Activities: Making Every Moment Count"

Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Environment and Safety Issues for the person with Impaired Judgment"

Dec. 11, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Healthy Brain & Wellness"

All sessions are scheduled to be held in Strite Auditorium in Crestwood Assisted Living at VMRC, 1401 Virginia Ave., Harrisonburg.

Congregational Resource Center

Fresh Spring Ideas for Your Ministry

The Congregational Resource Center offers shelves of books, videos, DVDs and study kits.

But more than that, Director Linda Alley will personally help you to find what you need, via online catalog, Hartzler Library connection, or in special collections. Would one of these resources refresh your task and breathe some fresh air into it?

"Proclamation By Design: The Visual Arts in Worship" by Karmen Krahn and Leslie James Wonderful idea book for worship centers in the sanctuary or elsewhere. From setting up a visual arts ministry to planning, design, safety, and lots of photos. This is a great resource.

"Leading the Small Church" and **"Shepherding the Small Church"** are two books by Glenn C. Daman. Small church pastors are invited to step back from the demands of their ministry to see their task with renewed simplicity and clarity. Biblical insight and keen practical wisdom are found throughout. Transformational ministry is the goal.

Fruit of the Spirit Bible Studies from Zondervan Publishing. Each of the seven fruits of the spirit is explored in six sessions. A particular twist is given to each, such as "Faithfulness: The Foundation of True Friendship" or "Self-Control: Mastering our Passions." Good short-term studies for youth or adult groups.

Contact the CRC or stop by for many more possibilities! Send a message to crc@emu.edu or call (540) 432-4219

Visit the website/online catalog at:

www.emu.edu/seminary/crc

The CRC is located in Room 110, Eastern Mennonite Seminary

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

MAY 2008

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”
 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

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| <p>4 Three Mennonite Churches in Trinidad have visiting guests from the US today. Thank God for these tour group members' interest in Trinidad. May these congregations be encouraged.</p> | <p>5 Pray for Danny Yoder & Tara Kreider as they live and work in Israel. May their talents be used clearly to lead people to Jesus of Nazareth.</p> | <p>6 Andrea Crocivera from Centro Agape (Palermo) is studying and serving for 6 mo. with Italian “Youth for Christ” in Bologna. Pray this develops his gifts and deepens his commitment to Christ.</p> | <p>7 It's teacher's day in Jamaica, and the staff of Maranatha School for the Deaf is taking a day off for relaxation and a special activity. Thank God for their commitment to their task of shaping young lives.</p> | <p>8 Pray a blessing on the gathering tomorrow night to honor the memory and ministry of Mahlon & Pauline Blosser who served in pastoral and oversight roles for many years in VMC's Central District.</p> | <p>9 In Costa Rica, Patrick Weaver, <i>travSend</i> participant, assists with preparation for missions teams to come and serve in local communities during the summer. Ask God to guide him and other staff members.</p> | <p>10 The Board of VMMissions meets today for deliberation and discernment. Pray that God's will for VMM's work will be done wherever He leads.</p> |
| <p>11 Jesus honored His mother from the cross. Likewise, honor your mother today.</p> | <p>12 Emily Huffman, <i>travSend</i> participant, meets a wide variety of people as she teaches English and works with Centro Koinonia congregation. Thank God for her passion to witness.</p> | <p>13 Steve & Betsy Dintaman, Lithuania Christian College, find that relating to multi-cultural students is fascinating and challenging. Ask for God's guidance for their interactions.</p> | <p>14 Skip & Carol Tobin, Thailand, encourage people to use the microeconomic loans available to assist them with earning a livelihood. Ask God to guide this endeavor.</p> | <p>15 Pray for the young, developing churches in Italy, Albania, and Montenegro as they prepare for summer evangelistic outreach in diverse forms, that the Holy Spirit will bless their efforts.</p> | <p>16 In Trinidad, Richard Keeler mentors young men as potential church leaders. Ask God to guide him, and to give understanding to the young men.</p> | <p>17 Ask God to give Shirley Roth, director of Nazareth Village, Israel, extra insight and courage for her tasks today. May she experience His abiding presence.</p> |
| <p>18 Partners in Missions teams are forming for outreach this summer. If you or your group is interested, contact Philip Rhodes at VMMissions. Ask for God's timing for each detail.</p> | <p>19 The Gypsy children at Joshua Center in Albania are learning important life skills with Norma Teles' direction. Thank God for her commitment to this group of children.</p> | <p>20 Thank God for the national pastors in the Sicilian churches. They face spiritual challenges and daily pressures as they are self-supporting. Pray for fresh vision and growth in their congregations!</p> | <p>21 Friendship Bible Coffees in Trinidad bring women together around God's Word. Thank God for Margaret Keeler's commitment to this way of witnessing.</p> | <p>22 Remember our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe who face extremely difficult living conditions and persecution. Be informed and respond as you are able.</p> | <p>23 Pray for Albania and its spiritual healing; may atheistic strongholds in minds fall apart so the Gospel takes root and transforms this broken land.</p> | <p>24 Ask for God's protection of our brothers and sisters in Haiti who have recently experienced unrest in that country. May God intervene with improved government and moral integrity.</p> |
| <p>25 All around the world, millions of people are worshipping the Lord Jesus today. Yet there are many who have never heard. What can you do to spread the Gospel?</p> | <p>26 On this Memorial Day recall the saints who have fought the good fight and gone on before us. Remember too the families of the more than 4,000 military persons who have been killed in Iraq.</p> | <p>27 Pray for the Partners in Mission teams that will be serving this summer; for the persons serving and being served, and for the administration and logistics.</p> | <p>28 In Sangre Grande, Trinidad, weekly meetings for prayer are held on Wednesday evenings. Pray for the continued Christian witness in Trinidad & Tobago and for the future of the church there.</p> | <p>29 Pray for the leaders of the Concord Mennonite Church in Knoxville as their pastor, Matt Matteson, has announced his resignation to accept an assignment with MCC.</p> | <p>30 Today through June 2 the annual convention of “Creatio” is held, providing multimedia resources to believers to equip them for reaching Italy for Christ. Pray this will be an encouragement to the Italian churches.</p> | <p>31 Pray for Steve and Laura Campbell as they prepare for a <i>travSend</i> assignment in Montenegro that God will provide for prayer and financial support through family, friends and churches.</p> |

Announcements

You are invited to the VMC **Celebration of Ministry** banquet honoring the legacy of Mahlon L. and Pauline (Heatwole) Blosser, May 9 at 6:30 p.m., in the EMHS dining room. Contact Laura by May 5 to RSVP at (540) 434-9727 or send e-mail at laura.campbell@vmconf.org

There will be a **Work Day at CrossRoads**, 1921 Heritage Center Way, Harrisonburg, on May 9 to prepare the grounds and facilities for summer activities at the center. Joining the staff for this activity will be students from Eastern Mennonite School. Volunteers from the community are welcome as well. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels and lunch. Drink will be provided. Come anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (540) 438-1275.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center's Pedal the Peninsula fundraiser is scheduled for May 10, 2008. Cyclists can enjoy a morning of biking followed by a picnic lunch. Routes range from 10 to 67 miles. Registration is \$35/person with a family cap of \$70. Brochures are available. For more information call toll free (866) 566-9272.

The **annual homecoming celebration of the Whitmer School/Cove Church** will be held at CrossRoads, 1921 Heritage Center Way, on Sunday, June 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will include worship, reminiscing, a potluck meal and hymn singing. Bring a covered dish and a lawn chair. An offering will be received. (540) 438-1275.

Mennonite Women of Virginia Retreat, September 26-28, at Holiday Inn Koger South, Richmond. "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" is the theme. The speaker is Martha Karam, licensed clinical psychologist, with Beacon Counseling and consulting in Williamsburg. Registration deadline: September 1.

Myron and Esther Augsburger will be the featured speakers and honorees at FLRC's spring "night out" for mothers, friends and significant others. The event will be held Saturday, May 10, on the eve of Mothers Day, at Eastern Mennonite High School. "Night out" is a fund raiser for the Center similar to one held last year for couples at Simple Pleasures Restaurant.

The EMHS foyer will be open at 6 p.m. for refreshments and to view a display of some of Esther Augsburger's sculpture and other art work, some of which will be available for purchase. After the 6:30 meal, the Augsburgers will speak on the theme, "Artists of the Heart—How Our Mothers Shaped Our Values and Vision."

In addition to years of involvement in teaching, pastoring, writing and speaking ministries, the Augsburgers have coauthored a book on family life entitled *How to be a Christ-Shaped Family*, a signed copy of which will be awarded as a door prize. Among other prizes offered will be a night at the Old Massanutten Lodge B & B near Keezletown.

A freewill offering (\$40 per person suggested minimum) will be received. Costs of the event are being covered by interested area businesses, and the goal is to raise \$10,000 for the Center.

Since seating is limited, please contact services@flrc.org or call 434-8450 early to make a reservation.



Esther and Myron Augsburger

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



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Mennonite Church USA