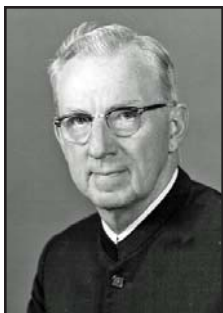


Mumaw legacy honored at Celebration of Ministry

By STEVE CARPENTER
Conference Coordinator

John R. Mumaw (1904-1993) was not a large man but he was a “big” person.

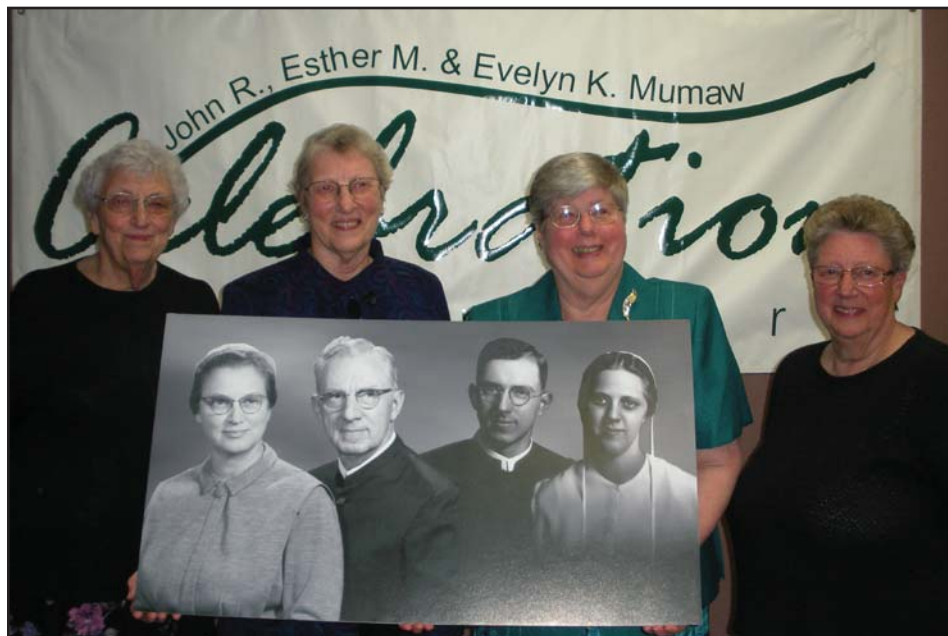


On November 14, 190 people gathered in the Eastern Mennonite School (EMS) dining hall for a program and dinner to remember and honor the godly legacy of

John R., Esther M. and Evelyn K. Mumaw. John R. married Esther Mosemann in 1928 and together they raised five daughters in Harrisonburg, Va., where he taught at EMS. Miriam Mumaw, daughter, recalled childhood impressions of her parents’ nurturing roles and gave examples of church loyalty and spiritual formation within the family.

John R. possessed exceptional leadership gifts. Myron Augsburg spoke of his influence in the development of Eastern Mennonite College (EMC, now EMU). He became the 4th President of EMC (1948-1965), served twice as Moderator of the Mennonite Church (1961-63 and 1969-71), and led Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) as moderator (1968-1974).

Many spoke of John R.’s pastoral skill, vision and administrative ability. Nathan Yoder and son Paul dialogued about the pastoral ministries of John and Evelyn at Dayton Mennonite Church and beyond. Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, Executive Director of PV Inc., recounted how he started Pleasant View as a place for adults with developmental disabilities. Ron Yoder, CEO of Virginia Mennonite



Grace, Catherine (wife of Clair Basinger), Lois (Emanuel) Martin and Miriam Mumaw

Retirement Community, recalled John R.’s visionary role in the expansion of VMRC while Dr. Linford Gehman told of his leadership as Executive Secretary of Mennonite Medical Association (1969-79). Others mentioned his mentoring skills, his wisdom in relating to students and his effectiveness in dealing with the EMC constituency.

Sprinkled in were stories of Esther and Evelyn’s service to the church rendered independent of, and along side, their husband. Esther died suddenly in 1964. One year later, John R., then serving as President of EMC, married Evelyn King, the college’s Dean of Women. Byron Peachey, campus minister at EMU and John and Esther’s grandson, emceed the evening. His mother Helen died in 2000 and was the only Mumaw daughter not present.

This event was VMC’s tenth Celebration of Ministry banquet. In addition to honoring a remarkable man, his wives and his family, it raised funds for VMC and established a Ministerial Training and Trust Fund for the theological education of pastors in Potomac District.



Two former presidents of Eastern Mennonite University, along with the current president, were present to honor John R. Mumaw: Myron Augsburg, Joseph Lapp, and Loren Swartzendruber.

Acts of Faith

Within a span of four months, our Virginia Mennonite conference is reaching two milestones representing significant acts of faith. April 10, 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of Virginia Mennonite Conference. Conference minutes from that first meeting record the challenge to “bring the old order into more practical use.” Concern was also expressed for the “poor and needy” with the admonition to “give a mite cheerfully.” That initial act of faith has now spanned 175 years and has included 175 congregations, more or less.

Virginia Mennonite Missions is considerably more youthful. The ninety-first year of ministry began December 20, 2009. The earliest “fields” of involvement were Knoxville, Tennessee, Washington D.C. and Newport News, Virginia. From these earliest acts of faith, VM Missions ministry now extends around the world with sister congregations and conferences in other countries.

Acts of faith are those activities and efforts motivated by a hope for something better. We want some good to result, from changing a life to transforming the world. Whether “giving a mite cheerfully” or founding an entire confer-



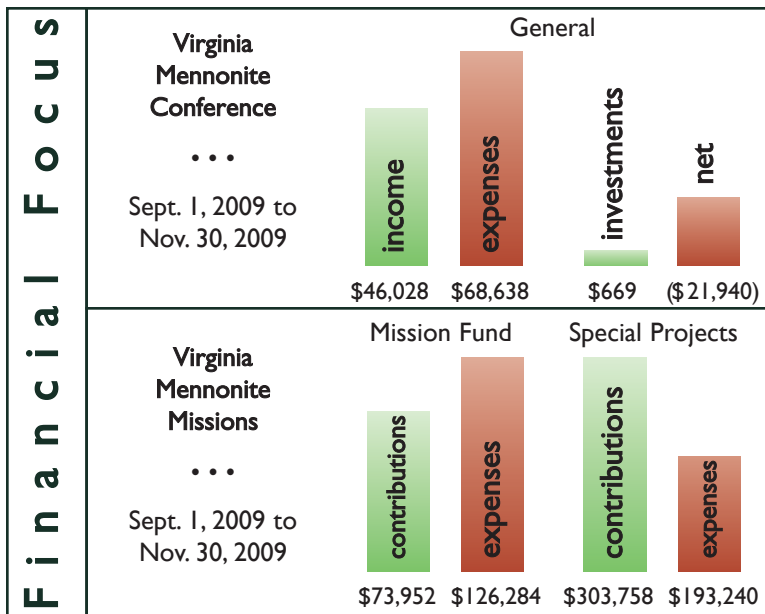
Loren Horst
President of VMM

ence, simple acts of faith intend to leave a positive and lasting impression on our human existence. It is no wonder that faith figures so prominently in God’s redemptive intentions for the world!

One thing complicates all of this. Outcomes are not guaranteed. Often, the results of faith acts are not

seen, at least not immediately, and sometimes never. Still, Christian people act in faith trusting the results to God’s larger plan. Sometimes we are around long enough or perceptive enough to actually witness the results. Acts of faith abound, if we care to notice.

- A young adult group at Zion Hill Mennonite Church hosted a dinner and raised nearly \$5,000 to assist a family that experienced dramatically reduced employment.
- Tom Benevento has been recognized as a person of faith in caring for God’s creation and helping bring justice to people without financial means.
- Richard Keeler reports baptisms in Trinidad. These are truly acts of profound faith!
- A new church is launching in east Rockingham County on March 14, truly an act of faith.
- Folks from Trissels Mennonite Church, led by Nelson and Gloria Swope, commit their Sunday School hour to sharing a simple worship service at Living Waters Nursing Home.
- Ridgeway Mennonite Church have been on a journey called “sister care” that aims to move beyond simplistic attempts to “cure” others to Christ-like caring.



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Phone (540) 434-9727
(800) 707-5535

E-mail info@vmmissions.org
info@vmconf.org

Web www.vmmissions.org
www.vmconf.org

Editor
Gloria Lehman

Assistant Editor
Jon Trotter

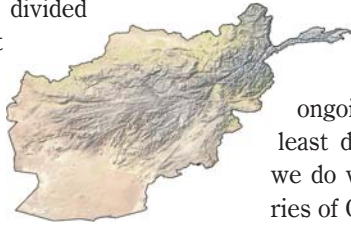
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Afghanistan: God's work is peaceful

By **NICHOLAS DETWEILER-STODDARD**
 VMC Peace Committee

We are a church divided over politics, but scripture's call to non-violence should be clear to us: "Seek peace and pursue it."



Unfortunately, U.S. policymakers use our tax money to prioritize war and military action as means of "seeking peace." In December, the White House made official requests for greater military efforts in tumultuous Afghanistan. As a peace church we do not agree with the militarized ways in which our government pursues peace, so we have long been pursuing peace alternatively in the non-violent way of Christ.

While we may be tempted to despair at the instability in Afghanistan with its ongoing wars and status as one of the least developed countries in the world, we do well to recognize and tell the stories of God's transforming presence.

Despite frustration with the military choices of the nation in which we live, we can rejoice in God's mission alive in Southeast Asia. Organizations like Mennonite Central Committee have found God's call in supporting schools and hospitals, training teachers and promoting peace education as well as responding to urgent food, medical and employment needs. Eastern Mennonite University has seen its graduates and faculty involved in

inter-clan conflict mediation and in efforts to shift U.S. military policy. Mennonite Economic Development Associates have been strengthening communities through micro-loans to entrepreneurs.

Domestically, our churches have been offering constant, even public, prayers for peace.

While we may not convince political decision makers in the U.S. to explore non-violent options for building and sustaining peace in Afghanistan, as a church body we can continue to tell and participate in the stories of God at work healing the world. As followers of Jesus we can offer prayers of rejoicing because of these stories, even while pleading for more such reports of God's healing work.

Miracle of Albania: Fundraiser for Albanian Christian School

By **DON STEINER**
 Albania Christian School Vision Support Team

Prayer is powerful! Often we pray and are astonished when new opportunities come our way. We continue to pray for our mission workers in Albania and have done so ever since 1991 when Sam Scaggs and an evangelistic team first entered the country to reach a people hungry for the Gospel. Dini and Klementina Shahini, residents of a small city of Lezhe located on the coast of the Adriatic Sea, were out for a pleasure walk only to be interrupted by a sizable crowd who had gathered to listen to the preacher's message. They decided to investigate and as a result their lives were changed forever. The Shahinis responded to Jesus' call on their lives and became His disciples by sharing their conversion story to whoever would listen. With this miraculous event a dream was born and years later a new mission opportunity created-Albanian Christian School.

Approximately 120 persons attended a fundraiser dinner for Albanian Christian School on Saturday evening, Nov. 21, in Harrisonburg to learn more about the Shahinis' vision for opening a Christian

school in Lezhe. An experienced educator and school administrator, Klementina has a passion for equipping young Albanian children and youth to become Christian workers in their respective communities. She envisions that graduates of the school may one day be candidates for entering Lithuania Christian University for advanced work so that they might take major leadership positions. A Vision Support Team encouraged by Virginia Mennonite Missions has been meeting for the past 18 months to develop a business plan and a curriculum. A legal charter for the school has been obtained from the Albanian government and an additional endorsement has been obtained from the Mennonite Schools Council with a view that Albanian Christian School may become the first MSC international school.



Klementina Shahini shares her vision for the school.

Why start a Christian school in Lezhe, Albania, when funds are in short supply at home? We are about God's work and when we enter in the service of Jesus, miracles happen. Preparing young people whether at home or abroad is missions. The workers are ready, the planning is thorough, the field is ready, the charter is finalized, but the challenge of additional fund raising remains.

To learn more about ACS, visit albanianchristianschool.org

Two baptized in Trinidad at Carlsen Field Mennonite Church

By **BABES JAIMANI**
Carlsen Field Mennonite Church, Trinidad

On a beautiful Sunday, November 15, nineteen of us gathered at Salybia Beach in Toco for a special baptism service. Sarah Maraj, 17, and Patrine Morris, 15, both gave themselves to the Lord and decided to follow Jesus after six weeks of instruction with Pastor Ramesh Jaimani. Sarah has a passion for children and loves to teach Sunday school. She has been attending Diego Martin Church several years with her parents and sister, Leah. Patrine lives with her father and sister Michelle close to the church at Carlsen Field. She is in high school and has been attending services regularly with Michelle after VBS last August. We thank God for both of their lives.

The service opened with a few choruses and hymns. Pastor Ramesh preached on the significance of baptism and challenged candidates to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the Lord. He emphasized the need for all to: read their Bibles and pray everyday, trust the Lord in all situations and for all things, serve with our gifts and talents, and attend church faithfully.

After the baptismal vows were taken, the candidates shared their testimonies, thanking God for sending His son Jesus to give us a new life. They also thanked Pastor and the congregation for their support and encouragement. We entered the beach for baptism and sang the chorus, "I have decided to follow Jesus."

Ramesh Jaimani (left) baptizes one of the girls.



Photo courtesy of Babes Jaimani



Giovanni, Fiorella and their daughter Gloria Greco. Photo by Loren Horst.

Introducing Giovanni & Fiorella Greco

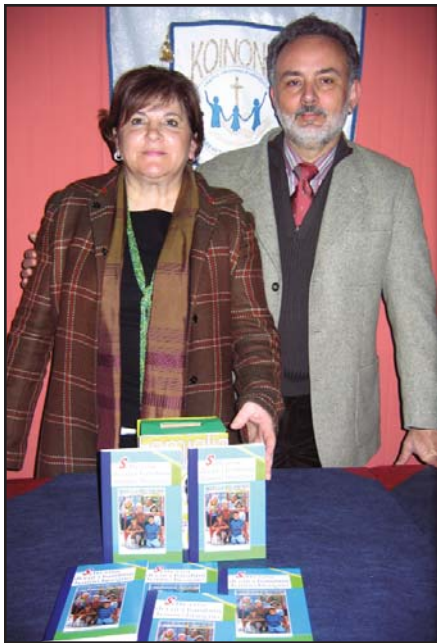
By **EVA EBERLY**
VMM Mediterranean Regional Assistant

What impresses you when meeting Giovanni and Fiorella Greco is the passion that emanates from their lives and motivates their interaction with others. It doesn't take long to discover the source of their dynamic vitality—their love and commitment to Jesus Christ, to making Him known, and discipling believers in Italian cities where few exist. That's exactly what they've been doing the past 21 years.

Giovanni grew up in Sicily while Fiorella's hometown is Termoli, a coastal city in central Italy. Both came to a life-changing faith in Jesus in their youth and met while studying at the Bible Institute at Rome (Istituto Biblico Evangelico Italiano). They shared the same goal: preparing for ministry in evangelism and church planting. Giovanni also has a diploma in "community management." Fiorella is a certified interpreter/translator in English and German. God has favored them with spiritual gifts. Giovanni, an outstanding evangelist and Bible teacher, serves God untiringly with his abilities to lead and communicate. Together he and Fiorella have a passion for pastoral care, visitation, discipleship formation. Giovanni plays guitar and sings with his family, often leading others in worship.

Their children, Jonathan (20) and Gloria (17) are both believers, as well as accomplished musicians. Jonathan is a pianist and studies at the Conservatory of Music and the University of Palermo, where he attends the Centro Agape MC. Gloria, a violinist, studies at the Conservatory of Music near their home, and is completing her high school studies.

The Grecos currently lead discipleship and leadership formation in a growing congregation at Vasto, a coastal city 2½ hours north of Bari. At the same time, in their home city of Termoli, they nurture a thriving home group of 30 persons, six of whom have been baptized in the last year. (There is no strong, established church in this city.) Through relationships and association with the Eberlys and the larger Mennonite witness, they are actively exploring the possibility of becoming part of the Italian Mennonite Church. They find themselves in harmony and unity with the way VMM works in establishing churches and with our core beliefs and confession of faith. Following a process of discernment and much discussion together, VMMissions has adopted the Grecos' church planting ministry as an "Approved Ministry." They will collaborate with the church planting efforts in this region and with the Italian Mennonite Church in evangelistic outreach.



Gianni and Licia Saillen, family counselors, not only wrote an introduction for the book but also were input speakers at a recent 3-day family seminar, organized by Centro Koinonia, a service and outreach to the city of Bari, Italy. Courtesy of Willard and Eva Eberly.

Third edition of *Seven Things Children Need* published in Italian

By **WILLARD & EVA EBERLY**
VMM Mediterranean Regional Director / Assistant

The much-loved book, *Seven Things Children Need*, by Mennonite author John Drescher, has been translated into 18 languages, among which are Chinese, Arabic, and Russian. Eva Eberly, along with her team of helpers, first translated it into Italian in 1999. The first 1000 copies were enthusiastically received. In 2002 an evangelical news association expressed interest in seeing the book reprinted and suggested that if another thousand copies were printed, they would distribute it for us, since VMM is not a publishing house.

In 2008, several Christian ministries that work with children and parents in Italy brought to our attention that *Seven Things*

Children Need (*Sette Cose di Cui I Bambini Hanno Bisogno*) was again out of print. They promised to purchase several hundred copies if we reprinted it. With such affirmation, we sought permission once again from Herald Press for a third printing. This time however, special Italian features were added to the book. Gianni and Licia Saillen, Christian family counselors in Italy, wrote an Italian introduction, because they appreciate and use this book regularly in their family conferences. Also Antonio Amico, director of a well-known creative ministry that specializes in communicating spiritual truth to children, collaborated by writing a brief critique for the book cover.

Sister Care at Ridgeway Mennonite Church

By **SHARRI KURTZ**
Ridgeway Mennonite Church

In February, 2008 six women from Ridgeway attended a Sister-Care Seminar, sponsored by Mennonite Women USA, which addressed the question of how women can care for each other in the church in the context of our lives today. Those attendees shared what they learned with the women in the congregation in May 2008 at a Sister-Care retreat with Barbara Borntreger as speaker.

Eighteen women attended this second retreat. Mary Ann Shisler writes the following about the content of the retreat: "We discussed self-care, a much needed prerequisite to caring for others and looked at Jesus' example. We practiced reflective, caring listening and considered the Biblical example of Ruth and Naomi's mentoring relationship. We discovered that listening isn't just being quiet and is often harder than it looks. It's easy to want to "cure" people rather than truly "care" for them. We learned "people don't want to be fixed; they want to be cared for."

After our retreat we did a survey of the Ridgeway women and found that women were interested in establishing spiritual friendships with other women where peers seek spiritual accountability and growth.

Twelve women were paired in intentional relationship in September 2008, with the understanding that these relationships would last for one year with the option of continuing for a longer period of time. We established a list of women who were interested and they choose three women with whom they would like to be in a spiritual friendship. Three women used the response to establish pairs.

In September 2009, we met again as a group to share how the spiritual friendships worked and to talk about regrouping. The obvious plus for regrouping is that more women can join. Five new women joined our group. One pair of women decided to continue their relationship.

Jesus is our model for caring relationships. As we share our lives together, we can share Christ's love and grow together in the Body of Christ.



Courtesy of Rose Jantzi

By **ROSE JANTZI**
VMM *transSender* in Paraguay, also with Radical Journey

Coming into this year of service, I didn't know what sort of volunteer work I would be doing. But now I do! I am beginning to have a pace to life.

I have been working with 10 wonderful co-workers at Iglesia de Amistad's daycare and kindergarten program, La Guardaria. About 96 kids, between one- and four-years-old, spend either a part or the whole day at La Guarderia. With patience and kindness, both the faculty and kids have been showing me how things run. So far my job description has looked something like this: nose wiper, dish washer, lice picker, dance instructor, cook assistant, floor sweeper, terere [tea] drinker, hair dresser, hug-giver, shoe tier, wardrobe assistant, etc. Each day is an opportunity to learn something new! Who knows what occupation I may be interested in after such a variety of experiences! Read more at rosejantzi.blogspot.com

EMES community celebrates International Peace Day

By JOHN LEONARD

Photo by John Leonard

In the 2008-09 school year, Eastern Mennonite Elementary School found itself in the unenviable position of having two grades at one location, and the other four grades at another. This meant a 12-minute drive whenever the fourth and fifth grades needed to join the other grades, or if parents needed to pick up children at both sites.

In 2009-10, however, all has changed. Kindergarten through third grade joined the fourth and fifth grades at the new site on North Route 11, wooded land just south from I-81 exit 251, owned by Camp Horizons. The six main classrooms, called "cottages," are just a few minutes' drive from the EMS main campus on Parkwood Drive.

Having all grades together increases the educational experience for all grades. The older students work with younger grades with their reading, and "Gathering," a time of singing and worship every Wednesday morning, is much easier to organize. The school has taken



advantage of the increased access, planning special lunches like the "International Lunch" just before Thanksgiving. Other celebrations are easier as well, like International Peace Day, when the students across all grades built a dove and held a parade, and Sports Day, when the students play games together.

The setting also encourages more nature-friendly activities. The school is planning several projects, including creating class gardens, composting, and a "peace trail" through the woods, almost like an arboretum.

Beyond that, the kids love playing in the woods. Originally, Principal Maria Archer ('81) was going to purchase playground equipment, but quickly realized that the kids didn't need any. "It doesn't

seem like the kids care, because they spend time in the woods making their own games," she said. Most students won't even get out basketballs and soccer balls during recess; they just enjoy nature.

A forested area can also be a powerful learning tool. Archer said, "Kids make connections with what they've learned in the classroom, and often act it out in the woods." Students will build structures in the woods and spend time looking for "fossils."

EMES has become a place where children can enjoy and learn practically from nature, in an age when many young people are not experiencing the outdoors. Add in the activities across grade levels, and it's clear that EMES students are experiencing school in different, positive ways.

Congregational Resource Center

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS FOR 2010?

Do they include care of your soul as well as mind and body? The Congregational Resource Center has a large section of books devoted to the Christian life, devotional and spirituality. Among them are:

Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices by Brian McLaren

Cell Phones, Dessert, and Faith: A Guilt-Free Look at Money and the Spiritual Life by Steve Clapp

Abundant Living: Wellness from a Biblical Perspective by Mary Sue Rosenberger

Space for God: Study and Practice of Spirituality and Prayer by Don Postema

Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential by Gordon T. Smith

Another entire section on Prayer & Poetry includes:

The Practice of Prayer by Margaret Guenther

An Everyday Book of Hours by William G. Storey

I Saw God Dancing by Cheryl Denise

If you want to go deeper this year, come see how the Congregational Resource Center may help you. It may be time to add fresh water to your well, before it goes dry.....

Located in Eastern Mennonite Seminary building, 1181 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg.

Call (540) 432-4219 for director Linda Alley.

Open every weekday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and at other times by appointment.

Email: crc@emu.edu

Website and Online Catalog:

www.emu.edu/seminary/crc

JANUARY 2010

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

31 Pray for Pastor Rupert Kennedy who leads the Unity in Christ Mennonite Church in Old Harbour, Jamaica. May this congregation grow in numbers and in spiritual depth.

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by **Sarah Ellen Hinstead Slabaugh** in honor of all the VMissions *transSend* participants. May they experience God's presence and guidance in the New Year.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." - John 15:5,8

1 God, grant that this New Year will bring us closer to you and to carrying out your purposes in the world.

2 Centro Koinonia organizes a monthly "Giorno Felice" (happy day) as an outreach for children in Bari. Pray for *transSenders* Dino and Mara Colonna who lead this ministry.

3 Thank God for Skip & Carol Tobin's trip to Southeast Asia in December when they met with mission workers and church members. May all be encouraged to continue the work to which God has called them.

4 At Maranatha School for the Deaf, the new school term is beginning today. Pray that the teachers and students will find joy in learning together.

5 Today, EMM/VM workers, Mark & Sarah Schoenhals and daughter Heidi leave for Southeast Asia for a term of service. Ask God to give them safe travel and a good transition to their living situation there.

6 By invitation from the Mennonite Church of Trinidad, David & Shirley Yoder, Auburn, Pa., are preparing to serve in Trinidad beginning next month. Thank God for their availability, and ask for timely work permits.

7 Pray for wisdom and Spirit direction as believers at Centro Koinonia follow up new contacts made through the "family seminar" they organized for city of Bari, Italy, in December.

8 Thank God that Nancy Marshall, Belize, is recovering from multiple dog bites received in December. She got good treatment medically and church friends came and prayed with her. Ask God to protect her everyday.

9 Thank God for Haley Kirschick's 3 1/2 months of service in Jamaica through Partners in Mission. She has returned home to Staunton. Pray a blessing on her future endeavors.

10 Pray for Peter Eberly and Matt Schwartz as they pastor and work toward launching Eastside Church, a new work on the east side of Harrisonburg, on March 14.

11 Margaret Keeler meets with a group of women in Mayaro, Trinidad, on Mondays. Ask God to bless this Friendship Bible Coffee with His presence and His grace.

12 The ministry to mothers of the children attending Joshua Center in Albania is growing. Pray for Norma Teles as she gives leadership to this outreach.

13 Pray that Rose Jantzi, *transSend* participant, will have the stamina she needs for her work with children in Asuncion, Paraguay. Thank God for her cheerful and willing spirit.

14 Richard & Barbara Gehring are giving pastoral leadership to the Diego Martin MC, Trinidad, while Pastor Rawl Gumpath is on leave from his responsibilities. Ask God to bless their ministry so that many will follow Christ.

15 A medical team led by Dr. Dennis Hatter is serving through Jan. 23 in rural Haiti. The conditions are difficult and the needs are great. Pray that God will enable the team members for the demands they face.

16 Remember Shirley Roth, Director of Nazareth Village, as she travels to the US for a short home leave this month. Shirley will be in the Harrisonburg area for a Nazareth Village event in the spring.

17 Lift up in prayer the missionaries and the small groups of believers in Montenegro that have been formed since 1991. There are many barriers to the Gospel in this land.

18 Eastern Mennonite Seminary hosts School for Leadership Training this week. Thank God for this resource for pastors and lay leaders. May all who attend be refreshed for their work.

19 The Council on International Missions gathers this week with representatives from many Mennonite mission agencies attending. Ask God to direct plans for future ministry, including to unreached people groups.

20 Rodney & Lindsey Nice teach the upper level classes at the Maranatha School for the Deaf and find it both challenging and rewarding. Ask God to give them health and strength for their daily tasks.

21 Willard & Eva Eberly connect with a wide variety of people in everyday life in Italy. Thank God for their friendly spirit and openness to the many people they meet each week.

22 On Friday evenings, the Nice family invites the Maranatha school dorm students to their home for a movie and snack. Everyone has a good time. Ask God to bless this time of fun and friendship.

23 Richard & Margaret Keeler visit church members and others on Saturday afternoons in Sangre Grande, Trinidad. Many are uplifted by their encouragement and prayers. Pray for their continued strength in ministry.

24 Pray for church planter Pablo Fernando and the core group of the Anabaptist Fellowship of Charlotte, N.C., as they look for a good location to start meeting on Sundays.

25 Praise God for the relationships among the non-yet believers that Randy and Lea Ann Coblenz are making as they move toward church planting in the James City Co. area of eastern Virginia.

26 Levi and Isaac Nice attend the Level 1 class at the Maranatha School for the Deaf, and are learning a lot of signs. Ask God to bless these young boys as they live in this different setting.

27 From Belize, Nancy Marshall asks us to thank God for her teacher assistant, Angelica. Teaching the 11 students, ages 8-15 years, is impossible without her help. The students learn well in this environment.

28 Pray for Sunday school teachers as they prepare to teach on Sunday morning, especially for those who teach young children. Pray for the children too that their hearts are open to hearing God's Word.

29 The Brazilian Mennonite Church has identified a qualified couple to serve in Albania with VMM. So far funds haven't been found to send them. Put this need before the Lord today.

30 The Riddle family enjoys Saturdays when their schedule is not dictated by school schedules. Ask God to give them bonding family time today as they live and work in Bari, Italy.

Announcements

Celebrating 57 Years of the "Church at Sea" Ministry. On January 17, 2010, at



5 p.m., Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church (Chesapeake, Va.) will celebrate Harold and Twila Buckwalter's retirement from the 57-year-old ministry of *Church at Sea*. You are invited to attend this special service!



Harold and Twila Buckwalter

A reception will follow. RSVP to Linda Miller at (757) 482-2215 or ChurchOffice@mpmc.net. For more information, visit: www.mpmc.net. We look forward to seeing you there!



A July 2003 Celebration of Ministry event honored M. Lloyd and Sara Weaver, Sr., who began the *Church at Sea* ministry in the early 1950s.

Mennonite Health Assembly will be held March 4-7, 2010, in Norfolk, Virginia, with the theme *Navigating in a Sea of Change*. Keynote speaker Leonard Sweet will describe cultural changes that challenge people of faith. Dave Brubaker from Eastern Mennonite University will help us explore our responses to these challenges. Tammy Alexander, from Mennonite Central Committee's Washington Office, will give an up-to-the-minute report on health-care reform. Worship leaders will be Natalie Francisco and Don Oswald.

Download a registration booklet and register online at www.mhsonline.org. For a discount, register by Jan. 22.

Big Spring Mennonite Church welcomes Pastor Kathy Hochstedler and her husband Wayne. Pastor Kathy was ordained in the Mennonite Church in 2000. Her 18 years of prior ministry experience included experience in children's and youth ministry; family and women's



ministry and worship. Her passion is that all will know the love of God through the person of Jesus; the joy of discipleship; and the healing and fullness of life that Jesus offers.

Nine members of Virginia Mennonite Conference congregations have signed up to serve through Mennonite Mission Network service programs.

Andrew and Annie Dutcher, of Harrisonburg, Va., began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in August in Madison, Wis. He serves with Community Action Coalition, and she as a General Support Coordinator with Centro Hispano.

Courtney Miller, of Harrisonburg, Va., began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in August in Seattle, Wash., with Ozanam House.

Amy Showalter, of Harrisonburg, Va., began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in August in Tucson, Ariz., as a Home Repair Worker with Community Home Repair Program Of Arizona.

Maria Martin, of Harrisonburg, Va., began a one-year term with Service Adventure in August 2009 in Albany, Ore.

Joseph Arbaugh, of Staunton, Va., began a one-year term with Service Adventure in August 2009 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Joshua Musser, of Newport News, Va., began a one-year term with Service Adventure in August 2009 in Raleigh, N.C.

Rose Jantzi, of Harrisonburg, Va., began a one-year service term with the Radical Journey program in August 2009. Jantzi is serving with a team in Paraguay, in partnership with the *transEnd* program of Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Constance McKinney, of Baltimore, Md., began a one-year service term with the Radical Journey program in August 2009. McKinney will be serving with a team in South Africa.

More information about Mission Network service programs is available online: Service.MennoniteMission.net.