

Conference Assembly to explore God's love in Raleigh "Jesus: God's Love Made Flesh" concludes four-part series on "Centered in Christ"

By **STEVE CARPENTER**

VMC Conference Coordinator

Photos courtesy of web

Join many from across Virginia Mennonite Conference June 24-26 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, professor of theological ethics at Duke Divinity School and co-author of *Resident Aliens*, will join us in a plenary session. Jennifer Davis Sensenig, pastor of Community Mennonite Church, will be our Bible teacher.

Worship on Thursday evening will feature a number of storytellers. On Friday Isaac Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship and a regular contributor to *The Mennonite*, will deliver the address.

On Saturday morning you will be able to choose two of seven workshops from a list which includes: *What in the World is God Doing? Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* by a southeastern regional representative of *Perspectives*; *The Practice of Prayer and Care for the Dying*, presented by a local Stephen's Ministry team; and *The Word Became Flesh and Moved into the Neighborhood* by Duane Beck, pastor of Raleigh Mennonite Church.

Assembly this year features activities for middle and senior high youth, in addition to the regular children's program.

Carmen Schrock-Hurst, co-pastor of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, first attended VMC's Assembly in 2009, immediately following Columbus 2009, the much larger



Mennonite Church USA gathering. She expected to be disappointed but was pleasantly surprised saying, "Columbus was such a big event with thousands attending and lots of big name speakers, I thought VMC's Assembly would be boring by comparison but I was mistaken."

Assembly isn't just for delegates. Non-delegates are welcome too! Make plans now to attend. There will be a bus leaving Harrisonburg for Raleigh, via Richmond, on Thursday morning, and returning Saturday afternoon.

Last year's Conference Assembly was well-received. Some feedback:

"Thank you for the overall Christ-centered Assembly—the delegate sessions were very refreshing..."

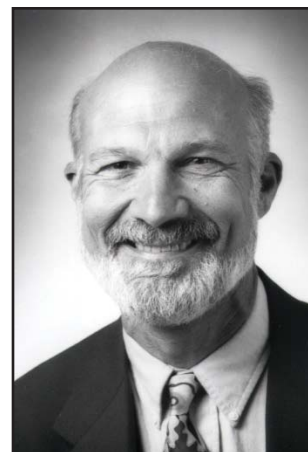
"Thank you! The variety of creative activities [for children] was fabulous! My kids didn't want to leave."

"I appreciated the variety of issues addressed in the weekend."

"We love the opportunity to bring our family to connect with the wider church."

Register online at www.vmconf.org or via paper forms available in church offices. The deadline for registration is June 3.

2010 Assembly will feature:



Stanley Hauerwas, Friday plenary speaker



Isaac Villegas, Friday worship speaker



Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Bible teacher

Counting things and what they mean

Virginia Mennonite Conference is 175 years old. Our republic is 235. I'm 61. My new grandchild's accumulated life is measured in mere days. We instinctively apply numbers to measure what we do and what happens around us. Our Christian faith is 2,000 years old. EMU's men's basketball team finished the season 25-5. Attendance last Sunday at church was 235. The pastor preached 27 minutes.



Loren Horst
President of VMM

Measuring things by numbers is important. It is helpful for Earlene to know how many are expecting to share our dining room table on Sunday, if they want to get lunch. The number on the outside thermometer in the morning helps me know how to dress for the day. The number following the dollar sign helps me know whether to buy something or not, and what the seller thinks or wishes it is worth.

Of course, sometimes our tendency to reduce things to numbers can be meaningless, or even harmful or hurtful. While my doctor may want to know my weight, I want to remind him that I am not truly measured by my weight. While the amount in the Sunday offering is important to our church treasurer, I want to point out that my faith is not measured by my offering (or is it?). The athlete's time in a race or score in a golf game is an

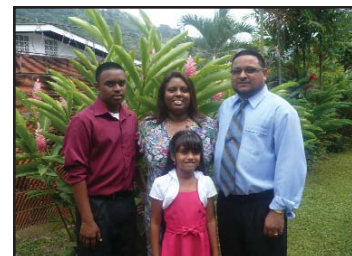
unreliable indicator of character. The size of one's salary is a poor reflection of one's value.

A conference history of 175 years is important, and important to celebrate. Perhaps more important than the number of years is what happened in those years. At one time or another, over 175 living breathing congregations of Christian believers served God in their communities and their world. They celebrated births, invited folks to a new birth, they lived and witnessed their faith, and they sadly buried their dead. They shared God's love beyond their immediate communities so that today, Virginia Mennonite Conference relationships are literally defined globally.

In other words, the content hidden within the numbers adds meaning immensely, in fact, is of the greater significance. What happened in Virginia Mennonite Conference in 175 years is far more significant than the number of years itself.

Remembering 175 years of Virginia Mennonite Conference will be less about the numbers and more about what happened, less about statistics and more about people, and less about measurements and more about ministry. Yes, we'll note the numbers. We'll also remember what they mean.

Loren Horst



Navin Benny licensed to pastor Hope church

Navin Benny, pictured with his wife Sunita and children, was licensed as pastor of Hope Mennonite Church, Esperanza, Trinidad, at a joint service of Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago on January 24.

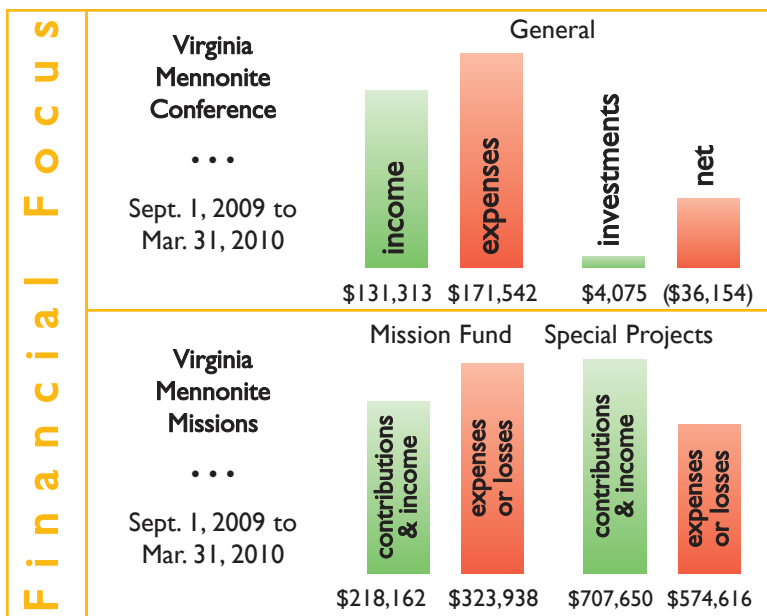
New VMC bookkeeper



Duane Miller now serves as VMC's part-time bookkeeper. He and his wife

Sharon moved to Harrisonburg from Souderton, Pa., where he was the accounting manager for the Care and Share shops. Duane is originally from Iowa and farmed there for 27 years.

Correction: The photo credit accompanying the Youth Retreat article in the April issue (cover) was incorrect. The credit belongs to Mary Bendfeldt.



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VMC dedicates new Archives space in EMU Hartzler Library

By **STEVE CARPENTER**
VMC Conference Coordinator

Members of Virginia Mennonite Conference love their history. VMC has a historical committee, chaired by Glendon Blosser, and a one-third time archivist, James O. Lehman, who works with the conference holdings in the basement of the Eastern Mennonite University Hartzler Library.

Recently VMC's Archives were moved to a newly renovated space in the Hartzler basement. A reception was held on April 9 to dedicate this space. Many

former moderators, including Wayne Speigle from Pa., were present. Three items were unveiled: a Warren Rohrer limited edition print of Menno Simons on loan from VMC and VMM, and two framed documents.

One document lists the eleven former moderators of the Mennonite Church or



(L to r) Ervin Stutzman, Beryl Jantzi and Myron Augsburger examine the displays which they just unveiled on the wall of VMC's Archives. Photo by Owen Burkholder

the Mennonite Church USA who came from VMC. The other lists the 22 men—yes, all men—who served as moderators of VMC beginning with Michael Shank in 1870 through Beryl Jantzi who completes his second term this year. Visit

the new space by making an appointment: Contact lehmanj@myvmrc.net



Delegate session at Weavers marks 175 years to the day

By **STEVE CARPENTER**
VMC Conference Coordinator

On April 10, it was clear something different was happening at VMC's Winter Delegate Session held at Weavers Mennonite Church. As delegates entered the church copies of *Harmonia Sacra*, the classic shape-note hymnbook, were distributed. There was an unusual looking pulpit and quilt on the platform. This was not church business as usual.

This event began the celebration of VMC's 175th anniversary on precisely the same date and location as the first recorded conference session in 1835. Portions of the first-known minutes from a VMC assembly were read in the original German by Heinz Plato from Williamsburg Mennonite Church, and in English by Lois Shank, VMC's Secretary.



The role of women in VMC's history was highlighted through a monologue presented by Jane Burkholder

Jane Burkholder portrays Susanna Brunk (1843-1913) in a historical reflection written by Shirley Yoder Brubaker. Photo by Owen Burkholder



A reenactment of Confederate soldiers recruiting for the Civil War effort, led by Floyd Blosser (left) and Steve Yoder. Photo by Owen Burkholder

representing Susanna Brunk, an ordained deaconess in Middle District, who had the vision to begin sewing circles. Edith Shenk Kuhns, an early credentialed woman in pastoral ministry, reflected on her service at Weavers Mennonite Church. That congregation has a 25-year history (1985-2010) of women serving in pastoral appointments, the longest of any church in VMC.

Delegates discussed a peace ad, presented by Nicholas Detweiler-Stoddard and Spencer Bradford, co-chairs of the Peace Committee. The delegates' round table discussion then expanded to the broader question "What form should VMC's peace witness take?"

A particularly poignant moment occurred, soon after the discussion of a peace ad, when Confederate re-enactors, led by Floyd Blosser, interrupted the assembly to recruit men between the ages of 18 and 45 for the Civil War effort. Moderator Beryl Jantzi read Bishop Samuel Coffman's response made in 1861: "Brothers and sisters, the time of conflict for our people has arrived, a conflict of spiritual forces, involving right and wrong. Each of you of military age will have to make a choice, and I am afraid that you will have to make it immediately. I pray that each will make the right choice. You know the Church's position on the doctrine of peace and nonresistance, and I encourage you to remember that we are children of God, and subject to a higher law than that of man." This happened at Weavers during Sunday worship in June 1861.

Allen Brubaker and Jim Brunk escorted a group of delegates as they walked about a quarter of a mile from Weavers over the hill to CrossRoads where they were greeted by a host of historical interpreters and additional displays. *People of Peace: connecting threads of faith and experience*, written by Gloria Diener, was unveiled. Call VMC's offices at (540) 434-9727 for your copy for \$10 (+\$5 shipping.)

Evaluating structural damage in Haiti

By JOHANN ZIMMERMANN

Structural engineer, Community Mennonite Church

Now more than three months after the January 12 earthquake struck Haiti, it is easy to forget the struggles of people there. Yet the reconstruction needed for this disaster will continue for many years. Millions of people across the world joined in solidarity with the people of Haiti to lend their resources and time. MCC has been given the enormous task by a caring constituency to give aid in the name of Christ to our brothers and sisters there.

Among many other emergency responses, MCC determined an immediate need to help assess the structural safety of buildings. People were sleeping in the streets out of fear that the remaining homes might still collapse. Clinics and hospitals, schools, offices and orphanages were left vacant until people felt confident that they were safe for reuse. Within days, MCC organized teams of four structural engineers to go to Haiti to assess the safety of buildings that were left standing. I had the privilege of going there 10 days after the earthquake.

I'd been in Nicaragua and El Salvador during earthquakes, but this was by far the worst earthquake I've ever seen. The government and business district of Port-au-Prince were mostly destroyed beyond repair. Most houses are two and three stories high, with numerous commercial and apartment buildings more than four stories high. The weight of these block and concrete structures proved disastrous in an earthquake, crushing the hopes and dreams of millions of people. We viewed



Johann Zimmermann (left) inspects a crack in a building wall with other engineers .

Photo courtesy of MCC: Ben Depp

several entire steep mountain slopes of concrete and rock rubble.

The structural engineers investigate schools, clinics, offices and churches. They examine the damage and study the cracks to assess the structural integrity of the building. The FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) guidelines are used to determine whether a building is safe, if use should be restricted until repairs are made, or if it should be abandoned. After the disaster they have been through, many people were terrified of entering the buildings with us. Laughter often helped relieve the tension during the investigation.

Without a major earthquake in the last 200 years, builders did not take into account the need for constructing for the

large sideways forces created by an earthquake. Reinforcing steel was inadequate and a considerable amount of the concrete was between 10-30 percent of the necessary strength. This can be attributed to the lack of resources, and the lack of building knowledge and enforcement of adequate building codes.

The resilience of the Haitian people in the wake of this catastrophe is enormous. When we asked people how they were doing, they did not start by telling us their losses, but by expressing their thankfulness for their survival. Sometimes cries and screams broke the stillness of night, but we fell asleep to wonderful singing coming from different directions. I am thankful for the opportunity to walk alongside them for a week.



Called and Sent!

Positions now available:

Honduras

- English teachers needed for two bilingual schools

Nicaragua

- English teacher needed

Nazareth, Israel

- Participant in Biblical Lands Educational Seminars and Service (BLESS) through Eastern Mennonite Seminary (and with tranSend) for a Nazareth Village assignment

Contact Ken Horst

- (540) 434-9727
- (800) 707-5535
- ken.horst@vmmissions.org

Calm in chaos: Peace House connects with Harrisonburg students



Peace House students enjoy a meal together.
Courtesy of Marie Hause

By **MARIE HAUSE**
JMU Peace House Resident

It's the end of a busy semester. I look back at my time at the James Madison University (JMU) Peace House and realize that as occupied as I was with schoolwork, patches of peace shine through the thick overlay of everyday work. That calm in chaos is foundation of the Peace House's intentional community, and what it seeks to provide for JMU students.

In 2005, Harrisonburg District Mennonite churches established the Peace House in order to give JMU students a place to connect with the surrounding Mennonite community and discuss issues of peace and social justice. The four residents live, eat, and pray together while hosting weekly meals open to all. As both a Peace House resident and a JMU student, I feel doubly blessed in building

a peaceful community with my housemates and in seeing this peace spread in small but important ways to other JMU students.

To one such student, a Religion major who has regularly attended these dinners over the past two years, the Peace House offers a "breath in the week" and answers his questions about who Mennonites are. Peace House "kept the door propped open" to his exploration of Christianity, he

says, with the message that "Jesus validated every human on the planet, so peace is the only option." Another student explains that the quiet hospitality of the Peace House shows that "thinking about God as the center of life is what the foundation is."

Jesus is the still point of the turning world. Living in the Peace House reminds me that each of us stands on that still point, surveying from solid ground the cosmic tumult that surrounds us. It's a busy life. But God's calm underlies every aspect of our chaotic existences, and it should shine through in the ways we live in community with each other. That's what the Peace House is about, and that's what we want students to see and share.

As we move into the 2010-2011 school year, the Peace House seeks new residents and a residential leader dedicated to continuing this ministry. You can find more information at <http://orgs.jmu.edu/peace-house/> or by contacting the Peace House at jmupeacehouse@gmail.com or (540) 432-3659.

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth at 52nd annual JMC Conference

By **GLORIA LEHMAN**
VMM Caribbean Regional Assistant

In Kingston, Jamaica, delegates from the Mennonite churches across the island gathered for annual delegate sessions at the Waterloo Mennonite Church on Friday and Saturday, March 5-6. Joyful choruses opened the sessions with devotional meditations led by Pastor Donovan Maitland and the fraternal delegates, Andy and Cassandra Ramsumair from the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago. Andy emphasized that "Our worship must be truth. Do the people who see you in church see the same thing on the streets?" He also commented that "the lighthouse does not blow horns, it just shines," as a way of encouraging living out Christ's light in the world.

Sunday morning worship brought together approximately 450 people from



JMC President, Liston Aiken, and Andy Ramsumair, MCTT fraternal delegate converse after the JMC annual conference. Photo courtesy Gloria Lehman

all parts of Jamaica. The combined youth choir from the three Mennonite churches in Kingston—Good Tidings, Alpine and Temple Hall—performed twice. They sang, "I give it all to You so that You can use me." This was deeply moving to those who sang and those who listened. Eight

students from Maranatha School for the Deaf performed "Come, Let us Worship" with Lindsey Nice's direction. Pastor Christopher Kennedy preached the sermon and many responded by coming to the front for prayer.

After a traditional Jamaican meal, the conference reconvened. The Calvary Mennonite Church youth performed a humorous skit with a message of loving others. Liston Aiken, JMC president, gave encouraging words for the future of the church. After the closing prayer, the group sang the Jamaica national anthem, which is a prayer asking for wisdom.

Some church members had a long ride home, but they were filled with the strong messages of encouragement and with being renewed with the love of their brothers and sisters.

EMU's newest graduate program: MS in Nursing Leadership

By **JIM BISHOP**

Public Information Officer
Eastern Mennonite University

The newest graduate-level program at Eastern Mennonite University has a “click” and “brick” approach to the learning process.

Building on its well-known and respected undergraduate BSN programs, EMU's nursing department is launching a masters program in nursing leadership and management. The program is designed to prepare graduates to lead and collaborate in complex health care systems. The program offers a 24-month, 37-credit-hour cohort model in which no more than 16 students work together and move through the program as a cohesive unit.

“The EMU teaching framework includes approaches that are vital for nurse leaders and managers to bring about change within the systems in which they work,” noted Ann G. Hershberger, professor of nursing and program coordinator. “Approaches in the EMU philosophy include empowerment, reconciliation, partnership, presence, justice, service and advocacy.

“The overall goal is the creation of just systems through cultural competence, evidence-based practice, conflict transformation, and enhanced communication,” Dr. Hershberger said. “Just systems are recognized by enhanced quality and patient safety.”

The program will run fall, spring and summer semesters, with a teaching-learning approach known as “click and brick,” a combination of distance learning courses (“click”) and at least one face-to-face meeting (“brick”) each semester.

According to Hershberger, the master's program is designed for working nurses who need to maintain family commitments, stay in the same area and remain on the job while developing leadership and management skills and deepening scholarship.

“Professors will draw on EMU's extensive experience in cross-cultural learning and the nursing department's



Ann Hershberger, professor of nursing and program coordinator, discusses clinical health experiences with nursing students Mary Shank (l.) and Stephanie Kanagy. Photo by Jim Bishop

established reputation for educating nurses with high moral values, a broader view towards others, in-depth communication skills and cultural competence,” she said.

“Students will gain from the expertise of entrepreneurial faculty in EMU's other graduate programs in business and conflict transformation as they cultivate leadership skills and an effective voice; remaining mindful of what is just, respectful and sacred,” Hershberger added.

The MS in nursing leadership and management degree program began accepting applications Mar. 15. The first cohort begins Aug. 28, 2010. For more information, contact Joan Henry, 540-432-4983, email: mnsnursing@emu.edu or visit the website, www.emu.edu/masters-nursing-leadership/

Congregational Resource Center

Spring and Summer Suggestions from the CRC:

Do you wear the hat of parent, Christian Education worker, grandparent, or child care worker? Would you like some fresh ideas for spring/summer activities? Try one of these:

1. Have a reading contest. At home, church or classroom, give points for reading pages. When a child accumulates a determined number of points, give a reward! You'll find dozens of great children's books in the CRC to get them started.
2. Borrow a VBS kit from a previous year. These kits are LOADED with great ideas for teaching faith

and having fun. Who says you can't use them at home or in other ways than VBS weeks? There are at least 30 kits to choose from in the CRC.

3. Learn some new music. “To such as these...” songs & lullabies for children of the world. Or “Can't Keep Quiet!” songs of faith for small and tall. More music available in the CRC.
4. Watch a good movie. We have 15 countries in the “Child's View” Series from MCC, describing typical life in the day of a child in that country. Comedy, Veggie Tales, The Secret Garden, Biblical Esther.....many good choices. Want to know the best part about all of these ideas? They're FREE!

Ask the CRC Director for assistance.

Linda Alley is usually in the CRC from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Other times may be arranged. Tell her what you need and she will assist you in finding it.

Online catalog: www.emu.edu/seminary/crc

Location: Eastern Mennonite Seminary building, 1181 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA

Email: crc@emu.edu
Phone: 540.432.4219

MAY 2010

Connections

Prayer Calendar

Sunday

30 3:16 Christian Community Church is a rebirth of Hickory (N.C.) Mennonite Church focusing on meeting the needs of young adults. Pray for faithfulness in reaching out to young adults in the Hickory area.

2 Today is graduation for Eastern Mennonite University's seniors. Pray they may have discernment as they seek to follow after Christ.

9 On this Mother's Day, remember the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12

16 Montenegro, where the church is "not yet," has only approximately 150 believers in four groups. Pray along with VMMissions as they seek God's plan for reaching this needy nation for Christ.

23 Zion Mennonite Church celebrates its 125-year history with a special celebration and release of a book by Elwood Yoder and Jim Rush. Thank the Lord for a godly heritage today!

Monday

31 On this Memorial Day give thanks to God for the lives of the many people who shaped your life but have since gone on to glory. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15

3 Mark & Sarah Schoenhals and daughter Heidi are living in Bangkok, Thailand, where they are in language study. Pray for them to learn as quickly as possible; may God give them patience and persistence.

10 MC USA's Youth Ministry Council meets in Pittsburgh today through Thursday. Pray for wisdom for VMC's Youth Minister Jason Gerlach as he meets with them.

17 Malerie Plank, *TravelSaver* in Honduras, is serving in a small hospital in Siguatepeque. Thank God for her availability and for her training which she can share with other nurses.

24 Are there weddings in your family or congregation in the next weeks? Pray for the couple as they make lifelong vows and decisions about where to live and work. May they depend on Christ for direction in every way.

Tuesday

This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by **James & Leanna Rhodes, Jocelyn & Rachel Robinson and others** in honor of the Mennonite churches in Jamaica and Trinidad that responded to the Haiti disaster, reaching out to their brothers and sisters there.

4 In South Asia, Michael & Ruth recently attended a conference where they met with others and learned about praying for the people around them. It was a good time of worship and prayer. Ask God to strengthen them for daily interactions.

11 Last month, Ken Horst visited with Shirley Roth in Nazareth Village, Israel. She continues the task of directing the activities in this unique place. Pray that all will learn the stories of Jesus in their heads and hearts.

18 In Belize, Nancy Marshall serves as a role model for teacher excellence and offers workshops in teaching methods occasionally. Ask God to give her creative insight and great wisdom for this important work.

25 Chris & Melody Riddle coordinate leadership at Centro Koinonia, Bari, while Eberly are in the US. Pray for them as they experience new levels of involvement with the Italian culture and language.

Wednesday

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

5 Pray for the Christian youth in Italy and Albania who struggle to find meaningful jobs in face of injustice, exploitation, and high unemployment.

12 David & Shirley Yoder ask us to pray for wisdom as they prioritize their work in Trinidad. Shirley has been asked to audit the financial records for the Mennonite Church. May God grant them good insight each day.

19 Today Willard & Eva Eberly travel to Virginia for "home assignment." Pray for protection and blessing over this time of sharing with family, friends and churches.

26 In South Asia, Hosanna relates to a young girl who is newly married to a new believer. She has a lot to learn about so many areas of life. Ask God to direct Hosanna as she becomes this young woman's friend.

Thursday

6 VMC's Congregational Life Commission meets tomorrow at Christiansburg Mennonite Church under the leadership of chair Ross Erb. Pray for wisdom as they do their work of promoting spiritual health.

13 Margaret Keeler has a phone counselling ministry with women in Trinidad. Thank God for her constant availability to listen and encourage as women share with her.

20 VMC's development officers meet tomorrow to share updates on their agencies and review changes in charitable giving tax law. Pray God's kingdom might increase.

27 Pray for the worship planning committee for VMC Assembly, June 24-26 as they finalize various components. May these services glorify God and lead participants into a deeper relationship with Him.

Friday

7 Thank God today for Nicola & Francesca Cippono, a young couple at Centro Koinonia, Bari, who faithfully serve God with their lives and assist in church ministries.

14 It's Friday, and the Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica, have physical education classes and cooking classes. Lindsey Nice organizes enriching activities. Ask God to bless her today.

21 Richard & Barbara Gehring are nearing the final week of classes with exams at the W. Indies Theological College. The students will miss relating to them when the term is concluded. Ask God to bless both teachers and students with His grace.

28 Continue praying for Rafael & Solange Tartari, Brazilian missionaries working with VMM in Albania: for effective language acquisition, cultural adjustment, and discovering their unique role on the team.

Saturday

1 Pray for those who will graduate from Eastern Mennonite Seminary today. Ask God to bless their ministries and guide them in His ways.

8 Today Levi, Isaac and Moriah Nice may explore the sand and sea not far from the Maranatha School for the Deaf, Jamaica. They are learning about God's world and about the variety of people in it.

15 Today Norma Teles meets with the youth that love to come together for fun, worship and food. Ask God to bless everyone as they gather together in this way.

22 Randy Coblentz asks for prayer for an event today. A dozen or more families that do not attend church are invited to a picnic where they will hear about an opportunity to join a new church in the Hampton Roads area.

29 Today the men of Jamaica Mennonite Conference meet for Men's Link, a gathering for fun, fellowship and support. Thank God for Leyton Baker's leadership, and pray for them to be strengthened as men of God.



Connections (USPS 007-205)
 Virginia Mennonite Missions
 Virginia Mennonite Conference
 901 Parkwood Drive
 Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

Announcements

Everyone is invited to a fundraising event in support of Rodney & Lindsey & family, Saturday, May 1, 4-7:00 p.m., at Sherando Community Center, Mt. Torrey Road, Lynthurst. Don't miss the silent auction, chicken BBQ, Brunswick stew, bake sale, and special music by Blue Mountain Sunrise. For more information call (540) 337-1878.

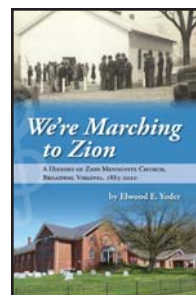
The **Mennonite Women of Virginia Annual Missions Day** will be held on *Saturday*, May 8, at Zion Mennonite Church, Broadway, Va. Twila Yoder will speak on the future of Mennonite Women. The missions offering will be received which benefits VMM workers around the world. Lunch and child care is provided. Fellowship begins at 8:45 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30. Come and bring a group with you.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center's Pedal the Peninsula cycling fundraiser is scheduled for May 15. Route distances are 10-mile, 21-mile, 32-mile, 48-mile, and Metric Century. Registration is \$35/person; family fee cap is \$70. Registration includes lunch and T-shirt. For more info, visit www.wcrc.info or phone (toll-free) (866) 566-9272.

You are invited to the **VMRC Auxiliary Annual Meeting** on Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m. in the Detwiler Auditorium at VMRC. Come enjoy a relaxing evening of musical performances, short business meeting, fellowship, and refreshments as we celebrate another year of Auxiliary service. For more information, call Pearl Lantz at (540) 433-1591.

Edith Shenk Kuhns and Rose Stoltzfus Buckwalter will speak on "**Grief and Grace, A Mother and Daughter's Journey**" at FLRC's

annual fundraising dinner held at VMRC'S Hartman Dining Room at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 22. Edith and her daughter Rose each lost their spouse in tragic accidents that occurred within two weeks of each other in July of 2005. The music group Shekinah will also perform. A freewill offering will benefit the Center. Please register by May 15 by calling (540) 434-8450.



Zion Mennonite Church, Broadway, invites all to attend a Homecoming service on May 23. The church will celebrate its 125th year with a special Sunday school starting at 9:30 a.m., including pictures

shown from the 1960s-1980s, a worship service at 10:30 a.m., and a fellowship meal. Zion's new history book, *We're Marching to Zion*, will be available for purchase. For more information go to www.zmcva.org.

The **annual homecoming celebration** in the former **Whitmer School/Cove Church** at CrossRoads, 1921 Heritage Center Way, will be held on Sunday, June 6, at 4 p.m. It will include singing, reminiscing, special music and an evening meal. Guest musicians will include Bernard Martin leading old-time gospel songs and the Old Time Pickers. Bring a lawn chair and finger foods for the meal. Drink will be provided. An offering will be received to support the work of the Heritage Center. Visit: www.vbmhc.org; email info@vbmhc.org, (540) 438-1275.

Walk Where Jesus Walked: Dave and Joyce Eshleman invite you to join them on their next planned trip to Israel and Jordan. The dates are March 28 - April 10, 2011. In Israel visits will include: Caesarea, Nazareth Village, Sea of Galilee, Qumran, Masada, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. In Jordan planned stops will include: Petra, Jerash, Mt. Nebo and Bethany beyond Jordan. For a color brochure with details, call (540) 434-0844 or email DEshleman1@comcast.net

Knoxville (Ky.) Mennonite Church recently supplemented its offering for Haiti with a spaghetti dinner and talent show. That event brought in \$288, resulting in a total of \$936 for MCC relief efforts.

Perspectives
 on the World Christian Movement

is a course unlike any other. Explore the history and strategy of missions, and discover the mind-blowing reach of God's activity in the world right now. Each lesson is taught by different expert in the field, who brings practical, real-world insights to missions today!

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH
 - MATTHEW 5:13
www.perspectives.org

Class meets each Tuesday
 August 31 to
 December 7, 2010
 7:00 - 9:45 pm
 Eastern Mennonite Seminary
 Contact philip.rhodes@vmmissions.org

"Perspectives challenged my views of the world and the call to missions. I walked out of the course with a new understanding of myself and a broader context of God's love for the nations."
 Anna Woelk, EMU '12