

## Winter Delegate Session: listening, reflecting, praying

By JUDITH TRUMBO

On a warm, sunny February day, 150 persons gathered at Lindale Mennonite Church for what was billed as the Virginia Mennonite Conference Winter Delegate Session but emerged as worshipful work.

The strong turn-out (134 delegates, 17 non-delegates) on a beautiful Saturday was indicative of interest in the agenda topics as well as hearing from Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, and Loren Swartzendruber, President of Eastern Mennonite University (EMU).

The morning began with worship and singing traditional hymns including, most appropriately, “Marvelous Grace of our loving Lord.”

Duane Yoder, pastor at Lindale, led off by reflecting on his chaplaincy work, along with Harley Good, at the Linville Diversional Center. Over a period of years, he baptized 50 men but also encountered



Duane Yoder reflected on his chaplaincy work and introduced the theme of unity among strong disagreement. Courtesy photo

times when he was caught between conviction and circumstances. Using the familiar Acts 15 passage, Duane asked, rhetorically, “How do we continue to love each other and maintain the unity of the Spirit when we

sincerely disagree?” This became the theme of the day.

The delegates heard from Ervin Stutzman via a taped session at the January EMU School of Leadership Training. Ervin referenced Psalms 42 and 46 as Psalms of desolation and hope particularly in this time of increasing anxiety within the Mennonite Church.

This is precipitated in large part by the recent

Mountain States Conference announcement of their intention to license Theda Good for ministry and EMU’s initiation of a listening process regarding hiring persons in covenanted same sex relationships.

Ervin reiterated his commitment to the *Mennonite Confession of Faith* and called for “respectful conversation with those who differ with our convictions, particularly ardent followers of Jesus who feel marginalized by the church.”

Loren Swartzendruber spoke about the impetus behind the listening process that EMU has embarked on to evaluate hiring practices. He emphasized that the outcome is not pre-determined and that EMU is committed to bathing the process in prayer. Ultimately, any change in hiring practices is a decision that the EMU Board will need to make.

The afternoon included reflections from Aldine Musser, co-pastor of Stephens City Mennonite Church, on Galatians 5:22-25 with a call to yield daily to the Spirit,



Loren Swartzendruber spoke about the listening process that Eastern Mennonite University has embarked on. Photo: Lindsay Kolby/EMU

knowing that those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh and are called to keep in step with the Spirit. Time was spent in prayer for our church and our leaders.

Aaron Kauffman, President of Virginia Mennonite Missions, concluded the day with a call to make disciples in the way of Christ, acknowledging that Je-

sus is the message and the model.

As I was walking and praying following the delegate session, I was reminded of a series of dreams I had several years ago.

In the first dream, I was in one of two side-by-side elevator shafts. I could hear chatter and laughter and see light emanating from the other elevator. By contrast, I was alone in my darkened elevator and the floor began shrinking as the elevator ascended. I awoke petrified when the floor was reduced to a square only large enough for me to stand on.

Several nights later I had another dream. This time I was perched on a large rock with waves crashing all around. Yet, I had an overwhelming sense of security and peace. And then it came to me, Jesus is your rock! As we are in these tumultuous and increasingly polarized times, my prayer, in line with the words Dad [Herman Reitz] spoke before he passed, is “Hold onto Jesus.” He is the rock of our salvation.



Ervin Stutzman shared from Psalms about hope in a time of increasing anxiety within the Mennonite Church, via a taped presentation. Mennonite Church USA photo



Judith is chair of the VMC Faith & Life Commission.

# Mission impulses and unity

By CLYDE G. KRATZ



The Jerusalem Council described in Acts 15 is the second key leadership text for my work as Executive Conference Minister. This story highlights

the activity of the leaders of the faith community discerning appropriate responses to the tension between “circumstances and conviction.”<sup>1</sup>

The circumstance in the text is the awareness that Gentiles are coming to Christ, assured of their salvation by the missionaries, and are baptized into a covenant relationship with God and the community of faith. The conviction at stake is that these new converts are not being circumcised in accordance with the Law of Moses, the Law of Moses is not being upheld, and therefore, they cannot be assured of their salvation. The Jerusalem Council was the event that included the assembled church, the apostles and elders to hear concern about the role of the Law of Moses for Gentile converts who are becoming part of God’s People.

The first leadership principle that I draw from the account of the Jerusalem Council is the realization that mission activity will challenge our assumptions about various beliefs and practices deeply held. The engagement of frontier evangelism, where the good news—Jesus Christ—confronts human experience, will lead to the rethinking of how to communicate this good news and the subsequent implications for practices in the faith community. Duane Yoder highlighted his ministry to prisoners and the challenge he faced when he agreed to baptize three individuals that he was mentoring, but eleven persons showed up to be baptized on that day. He adapted

his ministry to provide baptism to all those that presented themselves with a plan for discipleship training that would follow. His long-held practices of discipleship training prior to baptism became adapted to the circumstances that he encountered in ministry.

The second leadership principle drawn from the text is the necessity of discernment in key issues facing the church. In my ministry, I have lamented the broader church has not called for discernment on faith issues at our conference and denominational assemblies. It is my perspective, that much of our decision making at these gatherings is approval of minutes, receiving well-written reports, and gaining feedback. It is my hope to provide opportunity in Virginia Mennonite Conference to clarify our core beliefs in ways that can contribute to revitalization of our faith and life as followers of Jesus. In this way, we will be a living example of the early church experience.

Finally, in the teachings of Jesus, we learn that Jesus instructed his disciples to “bind and loose” (Matthew 18:18) on behalf of key relationships and the people of God. In our contemporary setting, scripture, the *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective* (1995), human experience, and reason are informing our faith and life in the world. However, when the information from these various fields of knowledge collides, it is the essential work of the Church to gather and engage in sharing knowledge and insight that can bring unity. The outcome of the Jerusalem Council was indeed an attempt to bring unity in the midst of confusion. It remains my hope that Acts 15 is an active model of our life together in Virginia Mennonite Conference as a way for unity to emerge among us on the challenging issues of our day.

Clyde G. Kratz  
Executive Conference Minister  
Virginia Mennonite Conference

# New staff additions at Mennowood

By MARCIA ROBERTSON

Mennowood Retirement Community, Newport News, Va., has announced the promotion of Mary Harden to executive director beginning December 22. Mary originally came to Mennowood in February 2013 as the director of resident care. She is a licensed administrator for assisted living and has been a leader in the Tidewater assisted-living profession for 15 years.

Brenda McCullen has come as director of nursing. Brenda is a registered nurse with an extensive background in elder care. She has worked with residents in both long-term care and skilled-nursing facilities.

Also joining the staff is Marcia Robertson as the community relations coordinator. Marcia will be working to expand awareness of Mennowood throughout the health care industry and local community. Marcia’s background includes serving as the Marketing and Development Director for Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center for over six years.

Mennowood is also undergoing facility upgrades including interior painting and new carpet installation in the hallways and common areas. A Country Store is slated to open this spring. The store, staffed by volunteers, will carry stationary, snacks, gifts and other items. Construction of the Courtyard Garden is underway following a ground-breaking ceremony in December. The garden features walkways and a gazebo for the residents to enjoy.

<sup>1</sup> Duane Yoder, pastor of Lindale Mennonite Church, introduced this description in his meditation on Acts 15 at the Virginia Mennonite Conference Winter Delegate Assembly held at Lindale Mennonite Church on February 1, 2014.

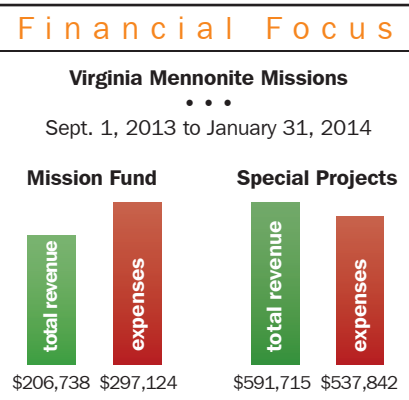
## Connections March 2014 – Volume 24, Number 5

© 2014 by Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference. *Connections* (USPS 007-205) is published monthly to connect congregations and agencies with each other. Editor: Gloria Lehman Assistant Editor: Jon Trotter

*Connections* is distributed free to each household of supporting congregations. Subscription rates: \$8/year, 2 years/\$15. To subscribe, contact: *Connections* Circulation Manager, (540) 434-9727 • (800) 707-5535 info@vmmissions.org

Websites: www.vmmissions.org www.virginiacommunity.org

POSTMASTER Send address changes to: 901 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Periodical postage paid at Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



# Northern Virginia Mennonite Church installs new pastor

By EARL ZIMMERMAN

Northern Virginia Mennonite Church in Fairfax, Va., pulled out all the stops as it installed Earl Zimmerman as pastor on November 10, 2013. Bishop Luke Schrock-Hurst, of the Potomac District, officiated in the installation.

The three other congregations that worship in their church building participated in the service. The Iglesia Menonite Hispana Vida Nueva congregation offered several music selections and a liturgical dance. A choir from the Harvest Chinese Church sang. A pastor from the Korean Virginia Logos Church offered a prayer. Mel Schmidt, retired pastor of the Hyattsville Mennonite Church, preached the sermon.

The diversity on display in the service reflects the growing diversity of Northern Virginia. We are a congregation of about thirty people, a little larger than the 16 charter members who founded our church in 1977. Many have come and gone during the intervening years and, in some respects, we're starting over and will need to reinvent our church for our time.



Earl Zimmerman speaks at his installation service at Northern Virginia Mennonite Church. Courtesy photo

Fairfax had been part of the Old South; slaves once worked the fields where our church is located. It is now the second wealthiest county in the United States. Even so, there is a fairly large homeless population in our area. During cold winter days we open the doors of our church for them to meet and be taken to other churches for warm shelter and a meal.

Housing prices in Fairfax have soared, reflecting the growing population of young professionals in the Washington, D.C., area. Our community is also rapidly becoming more ethnically and religiously diverse. To help give some perspective, there are now 35,000 Muslims compared to

20,000 Episcopalians in Fairfax County. The Episcopal Church had been the official state church of Virginia during the colonial era.

We covet your prayers and moral support as we seek to build a vibrant Anabaptist community of faith in our community.



Earl is the newly installed pastor of Northern Virginia Mennonite Church, Fairfax, Va.

# Historians preserve and promote Valley Mennonite stories

By JIM HERSHBERGER

The Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians (SVMH) is a group of persons interested in preserving and promoting the stories of the Mennonites of the Shenandoah Valley. This is our twenty-second year and we are looking forward to some great projects in the next years.

We are working with the Historical Committee of Virginia Mennonite Conference to write a history of Mennonites in Virginia. Together we have formed a committee chaired by Elwood Yoder to carry this project forward. Stephen Nolt, history professor and author at Goshen College will begin the project next year and hopes to finish the book by 2019. We will begin fundraising soon.

We continue to publish our quarterly periodical the *Shenandoah Mennonite Historian*. Elwood Yoder is the new editor and has introduced a new color layout in the winter volume. In the future he will feature articles on the new digital archives he has created at [mennonitearchivesofvirginia.net](http://mennonitearchivesofvirginia.net) which provides opportunities to save your old photos using this technology. He

will also feature new research on Abraham Burkholder and other leaders who lived through the civil war and served the church into the 1930s and 1940s.

We invite persons to contribute to the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO) project. This online encyclopedia uses local writers and photographers to create short bios and histories of significant persons and local churches. Send your articles to Paul Yoder and he will help you edit and upload to GAMEO. His email is [pjyoder@gmail.com](mailto:pjyoder@gmail.com).

We also invite you to join SVMH. The yearly cost is only \$10. Contact Jim Rush at [jamesrush@comcast.net](mailto:jamesrush@comcast.net) for more information on how to join. To contribute photos or articles, contact Elwood Yoder at [elyoder@gmail.com](mailto:elyoder@gmail.com).



Paul J. Yoder and Holly Scott talk after the annual meeting of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians, Nov. 9, 2013, in Harrisonburg, Va. Photo courtesy of Elwood Yoder



Jim is the chair of SVMH and director of the Church World Service Refugee Resettlement program in Harrisonburg, Va.

# Spiritual enrichment at Charleville Mennonite Church

By SAM SCAGGS

The leadership team of Charleville Mennonite Church, just outside Chaguanus, Trinidad, invited me to resource their annual Spiritual Enrichment Meetings, January 22-28. The theme was “Spirit Break Out!” The desire of the Charleville leadership is to see a fresh revelation of God the Holy Spirit at work in and through the lives of its members.

The focus was on the Old Testament book of Jonah. We looked at themes such as “Going Down Can Sometimes Lead Up,” “Second Chances Are Real,” “Responding to the Storms of Life,” and “How to Face Your Future with Confidence.”

It was a refreshing time worshipping the Lord together and studying God’s Word. Leaders and members from other Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago congregations attended.

Several persons prayed to receive Jesus Christ and others rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ. One woman testified that after receiving prayer the first evening she was healed miraculously of severe pain in her back and legs that she had suffered for over seven years. That was obviously the work of the Holy Spirit and we give God praise.

One of the main emphases was to recommit our lives to following Jesus more intimately by spending time daily reading

God’s Word, journaling, and meeting with an accountability partner to grow deeper in our spiritual walk.

It was an honor and joy to serve our Trinidad brothers and sisters. It is exciting to see God at work among them as they reach out to their family, friends and neighbors with the love and light of God.

Please continue to pray for them when you think of them and remember that “second chances are real!”



Sam is lead pastor at Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church, Chesapeake, Va.

# Cherith Fee Nordling: *Being Human, Becoming Christian*

By CAROL TOBIN

Maybe it was due to the fact that the sanctuary was already packed, but it seemed significant that a dozen of us typically reticent Mennonites were seated in the front pews when Cherith Fee Nordling stood up to address the Missio Alliance gathering in Alexandria last spring. Having come at Phil Kniss’ urging, we were as eager as others to engage the theme, “The Future of the Gospel: Renewing Evangelical Imagination for Mission.”

We were almost literally blown away by the wind of the Spirit as Dr. Nordling, associate professor of theology at Northern Seminary, lived into a 20-minute opportunity to convey her passion for the Good News, addressing the riveting question of our day: “What does it mean to be human?”

In a matter of minutes, she had sketched a sprawling panorama of God’s plan on the white board, and deftly dismissed the heresy that God is disinterested in our physicality and sexuality, because the center of that drama is the incarnation and

the culmination of the drama is the redemption of our bodies. The synchrony between her message and her joy-filled freedom to be her feminine self was not lost on the crowd. We mused, “Can this kind of prophetic passion and deep theological grounding help us as we try to reclaim hopes for healthy sexual identity and stay true to our task of heralding that good news is truly revealed in Christ Jesus?”

The good news for us is that she is coming—sponsored jointly by Virginia Mennonite Missions, Virginia Mennonite Conference, Eastern Mennonite University and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. She will be with us March 24-25, addressing the theme “*Being Human, Becoming Christian:*

*an embodied reconciliation of heaven and earth.*” She will interact with EMU students at a student forum, in classes, and informally on campus; she will be featured at EMS chapel at 11 a.m., lunch, and class. There will be a public presentation on Monday evening, March 24, 7 p.m., at Park View Mennonite Church, followed by a breakfast with licensed ministers on Tuesday morning at 7:30. Come prepared to be blown away!



Cherith Fee Nordling  
Courtesy photo



Carol is Asia Regional Director for Virginia Mennonite Missions.










## Three presentations by Cherith Nordling in Harrisonburg:

**Public Presentation:** Monday, March 24, Park View Mennonite Church, 7 p.m. “*Being Human, Becoming Christian: Embodied (for) Reconciliation*” A free will offering will be received.

**Pastors’ Breakfast:** \* Tuesday, March 25, The Gathering Place, 7:30 a.m. “*Jesus, Sex and the Church: How Our Heresies Disembody the Incarnate Word and his Gospel*” \*RSVP to Diane Bowman at [diane.bowman@vmmissions.org](mailto:diane.bowman@vmmissions.org) or (540) 434-9727 by March 20 if you plan to attend the Pastors’ Breakfast.

**Seminary Chapel:** Tuesday, March 25, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, 11:00 a.m. “*The Glory of the Children of God: Spirit-Empowered Resurrection or Immortality of the Soul?*” based on Romans 8:1-4, 9b-11, 16-24a

# Nine opportunities for service with tranSend in 2014

Location	Context	Assignment	Qualifications
 <p>Lezhe, Albania</p>	<p><b>Lezha Academic Center (LAC)</b> offers rigorous academics with a biblical worldview to over 80 students in grades 7-12.</p>	<p><b>Teaching:</b> Join the teaching staff of LAC. Support the long-term vision and ministry of the Albanian Mennonite Mission, including church planting, leadership training, community development, and education. Study Albanian language and culture.</p>	<p>Licensed secondary education teachers in the areas of history, math, and science; TESOL training preferred.</p>
 <p>Orange Walk, Belize</p>	<p><b>St. Peter's Anglican School</b>, with 265 students, emphasizes high educational standards and strong Christian teaching. There may be other interpreting opportunities at the local high school.</p>	<p><b>Serve as an interpreter</b> for an individual student in school classroom(s), explaining difficult concepts. Also participate in the Deaf community and the Jesus' Deaf Church.</p>	<p>Interpreter training; one year of experience is preferred but not required.</p>
 <p>Alajuela, Costa Rica</p>	<p><b>Pura Vida Missions</b>, is a mission and discipleship ministry that relates to a network of 30 churches and organizations across Costa Rica.</p>	<p><b>Cross-cultural Discipleship:</b> Participate in Vida 220, a 10-month discipleship program from October to August. Join Latin Americans and North Americans as they disciple one another and grow in missional leadership through outreach in local churches. Study Spanish.</p>	<p>A commitment to discipleship formation and learning Spanish language.</p>
 <p>Mindanao, Philippines</p>	<p><b>Peacebuilders Community, Inc.</b> ministers in a context of religious polarization, poverty, displacement, and ongoing violence.</p>	<p><b>Peace-building:</b> Engage as a peace-building intern with Peacebuilders Community, Inc. Use interests and skills to partner with local agencies and entities in a variety of peace-building activities. Study local language(s) and culture.</p>	<p>Skills and training in biblical peace-building, workplace mediation, and/or corporate conflict transformation.</p>
 <p>Nazareth, Israel</p>	<p><b>Nazareth Village</b> brings to life a farm and Galilean village, recreating Nazareth as it was 2,000 years ago.</p>	<p><b>Christian Presence:</b> Relate to visitors from many cultural and religious backgrounds. Participate in the operation of the farm and village. Worship at a local church. Study Arabic and/or Hebrew.</p>	<p>Willingness to live and learn in a conflicted society and relate sensitively to people of other faiths.</p>
 <p>Bari, Italy</p>	<p><b>Centro Koinonia</b> is a small but growing urban congregation of the Italian Mennonite Church.</p>	<p><b>English Teaching:</b> Partner in the outreach of a Mennonite congregation by teaching English to middle and high school children in Centro Koinonia's after school program and sharing the love of Jesus in the local community. Study Italian language and culture.</p>	<p>TESOL training and/or experience in teaching English language learners.</p>
 <p>Bangkok, Thailand</p>	<p>A small Catholic-run <b>refugee center</b> provides English-based 9-5 services for urban refugees and asylum seekers in the city.</p>	<p><b>Refugee Ministry:</b> Serve as a volunteer at the center and cultivate relationships in the broader refugee/asylum seeker community. Teach refugee children, serve in the medical clinic, or provide social work assessments and help clients connect with social services. Study Thai language and culture.</p>	<p>Bachelor's degree in education, nursing, or social work or appropriate experience.</p>
 <p>Top Hill, Jamaica</p>	<p><b>Maranatha School for the Deaf</b>, a small school for Deaf children ages 4-16 in southern, rural Jamaica where academics and Biblical principles are taught.</p>	<p><b>Teaching assistant(s):</b> Serve as a classroom teacher for academic subjects and for basic computer skills. Also assist with maintenance tasks as needed. Relate to the surrounding community of both Deaf and hearing populations. Connect with the Jamaica Mennonite Church congregations across the island.</p>	<p>Bachelor's degree in education or other helping profession. Basic understanding and use of American Sign Language. Willingness to share life and faith with a diverse community.</p>
 <p>Waynesboro, Virginia</p>	<p><b>Live in a southern U.S. context while learning to communicate God's love</b> through listening and learning from the dominant culture.</p>	<p><b>Participate with Waynesboro Mennonite Church in community-based discipleship and outreach:</b> Join a discipleship group; Receive mentoring from a seasoned, missionally-minded pastor; Leadership development through recovery ministry and community-based Bible study.</p>	<p>A commitment to discipleship formation and willingness to live with humility in a community—believers and not yet believers.</p>

## Seminar ‘necessary’ for aging parents, adult children

By MAUREEN PEARSON

On March 13, Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community and Everence are co-sponsoring “Necessary Conversations,” in VMRC’s Detwiler Auditorium (1501 Virginia Ave, Harrisonburg.)

The free seminar will be offered 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. to help adult children and their parents discuss topics related to aging and living independently. Gerald and Marlene Kaufman, authors of the book by the same name, will discuss finances, medical care, living arrangements and driving.

“We suggest that the retirement of parents is a convenient marker for the parent/adult child conversations about aging to begin,” said Marlene. “It is our strong belief that families need to begin these discussions early and continue talking until the deaths of their parents. Far too many families wait until circumstances force them to talk, and then they have to make decisions under pressure, which often leads to conflict that can continue for years.”

The Kaufmans, from Akron, Pa., both earned Masters in Social Work and have

been marriage and individual counselors at Kaufman Counseling Associates from 1980-2008. In addition to leading seminars and workshops throughout the country and in Canada, they have written *Necessary Conversations* (2013), *Monday Marriage* (2002) and *Freedom Fences* (1999).

To pre-register for the free seminar, call (540) 574-3850.

Maureen is Director of Communications at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community.

## Mennonite Women remain involved despite challenges

By PAM DEYOUNG

Mennonite Women of Virginia was formed to provide a structure connecting women in the Virginia Conference.

The 2004 constitution stipulates an annual meeting where Mennonite Women of Virginia have chosen to take an offering for Virginia Conference missionaries. An annual retreat and a prayer breakfast at the VMC Assembly that includes a presentation by one of our missionaries and prayer are two other activities organized by MWV.

Our 2013 annual meeting was held at Waynesboro Mennonite Church with Marcia Lehman as speaker. The Assembly

prayer breakfast speaker was Grace Prasetyo who serves with her husband Yugo in Indonesia. The retreat speaker, pastor Dawn Ruth Nelson, led us to reflect upon the strengths of our Mennonite traditions and how to use these tools to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Each event offered education, encouragement, and an opportunity to pray and reflect upon how the experience prepared us for future ministry.

We need leadership to discern our future. In the last few years participation in the Annual Missions Day has declined.

Attendance at the 2013 retreat declined from 2012. The committee has not received input to explain this. If you have ideas to help strengthen our corporate ministry, contact me at (757) 930-0002 or de\_young@verizon.net to give suggestions. Please consider helping lead Mennonite Women of Virginia into the future.

Pam is President of Mennonite Women of Virginia.

## Congregational Resource Center

### PLANNING FOR SUMMER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

We have new resources for VBS, children’s church, weekly kids programming, and Sunday School curriculum.

The Congregational Resource Center has an examination copy of the new VBS 2014 kit from MennoMedia, called **“Welcome! Give and Receive God’s Great Love.”** All of the teaching guides, CD, and special items are included so that your group may decide whether this is the right kit for you.

In addition there are **several dozen other possibilities for VBS** from previous years that could be borrowed and adapted by

your congregation. Many of them were published especially for adaptive use in either VBS or weekly children’s club type settings.

Our shelves hold volumes of good children’s books, children’s story books for main worship or children’s church, short-term topic-based curriculum such as **“Kids and Blessings: Living the Beatitudes,”** and much more.

Youth and adults can choose from dozens of study options, some of which include CD/DVD materials.

A popular series is **“That the World May Know”** by Ray Vander Laan.

Consisting of 12 DVDs with 5 or 6 lessons each, it may be used independently.

**If you haven’t visited** the Congregational Resource Center at 1181 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, in the Eastern Mennonite Seminary building, you’re missing out on lots of good options for your particular needs. And anyone may loan them free of charge!

Hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Contact Linda Alley, Director at 540.432.4698 or crc@emu.edu.

# MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Pray for Ronnie Pride as provides pastoral leadership to Fellowship of Christ in Rocky Mount, NC.</p>	<p>31 Pray for Kent Kauffman, director of Highland Retreat, as he provides leadership to offer a mountain setting where people meet Jesus, explore nature and build relationships.</p>	<p>4 This evening, David Meeks teaches Lesson 8 in the <i>Perspectives</i> class: "Pioneers of the World Christian Movement." The class will learn from ordinary people who have done extraordinary things through Christ. Pray for new insights for all.</p>	<p>5 On Ash Wednesday, we take time to reflect on the Lenten season, preparing our hearts and minds to remember our Savior's death, and then to participate in the joy of His resurrection. Be in quietness with Him these weeks.</p>	<p>6 On February 1, Stephen &amp; Bethany Horst had a baby boy, Emmanuel Skip. Anjali is the big sister. We join them in thanking God that all are well, and ask God to bless this family in Bangkok, Thailand.</p>	<p>"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11 (NRSV)</p>	<p>1 Tomorrow, Nancy Marshall will be ordained as the pastor of Jesus' Deaf Church in Belize, by the Belize Evangelical Mennonite Church. Pray a blessing for Nancy as she receives this anointing.</p>
<p>2 VMM president, Aaron Kauffman is preaching in the worship service at Springdale Mennonite Church today. Pray that he will speak God's words, and that the listeners will hear clearly the message about making disciples in the way of Christ.</p>	<p>3 Tomorrow, Shawn &amp; Laura Green, and sons, Lucas and Emmanuel, travel to Ternoli, Italy, for a term of service. Thank God that they have reached funding goals, and all their documents have come through. May God bless and keep them.</p>	<p>11 This evening, Joe Steinitz instructs the <i>Perspectives</i> class on "The Task Remaining," explaining the concept of "unreached people groups." The imbalance of mission resources and allocation is addressed. How do we respond?</p>	<p>12 Pray for Bruce Hanke, pastor of the Greenmonte Fellowship in Stuarts Draft, Va., as he provides leadership in the congregation to know God and make God known to the world.</p>	<p>13 In late January, Phil &amp; Betsy Moyer arrived at Lezha Academic Center to teach biology and English language instruction. Thank God for their availability to serve, and ask Him for grace and strength for every circumstance.</p>	<p>7 In Kingston, Jamaica, delegates gather today and tomorrow for doing the business of the Jamaica Mennonite Church, reporting from congregations and departments. Pray for these sessions that they glorify God and build unity in the church.</p>	<p>8 In South Asia, Jacob &amp; Hosanna ask us to pray that they will become more bold and will be witnessing and that a fellowship will be born in their neighborhood.</p>
<p>9 Today hundreds of Jamaica Mennonite Church members gather for 2 sessions of praise and worship. Clyde Kratz, Lynn Suter, Galen &amp; Gloria Lehman are attending. Thank God for the steadfastness of the church leaders, and ask for His blessing on them.</p>	<p>10 Pray for James Åkerson as he leads Beldor Mennonite Church's mission to engage in discipleship practices and participate in mission work in the rural community of Beldor, Rockingham County, Va.</p>	<p>18 This evening, Carol Tobin leads the <i>Perspectives</i> class in Lesson 10: "How Shall They Hear?" Through creative teaching methods, Carol will instruct the class on how to incorporate relevance and yet avoid syncretism. Pray for students' new understanding.</p>	<p>19 In rural Jamaica, Rodney &amp; Eve Knepp ask us to pray for the Ridge community which surrounds the Maranatha School for the Deaf; the Christians are trying to be 'lights' to their neighbors. Pray for Christ's love to shine through them.</p>	<p>20 Pray for David Mishler, pastor of Huntington Mennonite Church, Newport News, Va., as he guides the congregation to embrace God and to rescue, rebuild, and release others to do the same.</p>	<p>14 Pray for Mark Conley, pastor of Hebron Mennonite Church in Fulks Run, Va., as he provides leadership in discipleship practices and participation in mission work in that rural community.</p>	<p>15 In South Asia, Michael &amp; Ruth relate to 2 interns who have come to live in their community; they ask for wisdom as they encourage, equip and release these people in their God-called capacities. Join them in this prayer.</p>
<p>16 Pray for Luke Schrock-Hurst, Potomac District Overseer, as he provides inspirational leadership, thoughtful counsel, and steadfast presence for the work of Virginia Mennonite Conference.</p>	<p>17 Tomorrow, Lois King returns to Virginia after serving 6 weeks at the Lezhe Academic Center in Albania where she taught English and assisted with the library. Lois brings teaching experience to this setting and is much appreciated there. Praise God!</p>	<p>25 This evening, Skip Tobin teaches Lesson 11 in the <i>Perspectives</i> class: "Building Bridges of Love" which looks at Jesus as a model of humility, and recognizing the dynamics of social structure which may increase or hinder the Gospel. May hearts and minds be opened.</p>	<p>26 Hold Chris &amp; Melody Riddle in prayer today as they meet neighbors and shopkeepers in their daily routines in Carbonara, Italy. May they be Christ's hands and feet as they witness and work in both the community and in Centro Koinonia.</p>	<p>27 Pray for Sang Jim Choi, pastor of Fourth Street Community Fellowship in Washington DC, as he provides pastoral leadership to his faith community.</p>	<p>21 Heidi and Hannah Schoenhals love to play with other children in Det Udom, Thailand, and have made friends with a wide variety of people. Ask God to protect them in every situation. May they grow in every way.</p>	<p>22 The children, ages 3-5, in the Joshua Center (Albania) love 'tete' Norma and don't want to miss school because it's so much fun, and good food is served there. Pray for Norma and the other teachers as they meet the needs of these Roma children.</p>
<p>23 Pray for Justiniano Cruz, pastor of Iglesia Del Evangelio Completo Alfa &amp; Omega, as he provides Spirit led leadership to his congregation and the Latino community in Hyattsville, Md.</p>	<p>24 On Tuesday evenings Steve &amp; Laura Campbell are in a Bible study in Podgorica, Montenegro, where people other than church members will gather. They ask us to pray that those attending will grow in Christ and apply Biblical teachings to their lives.</p>	<p>28 Justin Rittenhouse teaches various levels of math at the Lezha Academic Center, Albania. Pray for him to have the patience and perseverance to make the classroom a dynamic place of learning in every way.</p>	<p>29 Kathy Miller and Chelsea Kobylarz work with Nancy Marshall as she pastors the Jesus' Deaf Church. They care for toddlers so that Nancy can teach without interruptions. Nancy asks us to join her in thanking God for this team in ministry.</p>	<p>28 Justin Rittenhouse teaches various levels of math at the Lezha Academic Center, Albania. Pray for him to have the patience and perseverance to make the classroom a dynamic place of learning in every way.</p>	<p>28 Justin Rittenhouse teaches various levels of math at the Lezha Academic Center, Albania. Pray for him to have the patience and perseverance to make the classroom a dynamic place of learning in every way.</p>	<p>29 Kathy Miller and Chelsea Kobylarz work with Nancy Marshall as she pastors the Jesus' Deaf Church. They care for toddlers so that Nancy can teach without interruptions. Nancy asks us to join her in thanking God for this team in ministry.</p>



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Virginia Mennonite Missions  
Virginia Mennonite Conference  
901 Parkwood Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

## Announcements

Join us for the **Highland Retreat Auction** at the Eastern Mennonite School main campus dining hall, Sat., March 8. A pancake breakfast is served from 8-9 a.m., the silent auction opens at 8 a.m. and the live auction at 9:15 a.m. Tasty food will be available. Visit [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org) for details and to see a list of items to be auctioned.

**Beth Good**, RN, is Mennonite Central Committee's Health Coordinator, and she will speak about her work with HIV/AIDS in Africa at 7:30 p.m. on March 21 in the Martin Chapel at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Her talk is sponsored by Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. For more details, contact Joe Longacher at (540) 564-3410.

**Cherith Nordling** will be in Harrisonburg March 24-25, addressing the theme "*Being Human, Becoming Christian: an embodied reconciliation of heaven and earth.*" She will interact with EMU students at a student forum, in classes, and informally on campus; she will be featured at EMS in chapel at 11 a.m., lunch, and class. There will be a public presentation on Monday evening, March 24, 7 p.m., at Park View Mennonite Church, followed by a breakfast with licensed ministers on Tuesday morning at 7:30. Come prepared to be blown away!

**Attention Men:** Register now for the Men's Retreat at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, March 21-23. Our speakers are Duane Yoder and Luke Hartman who will speak on spiritual mentoring. For more information or to register online go to [www.wcrc.info](http://www.wcrc.info).

**8th annual Taste of the World:** Revel in the exotic aromas, colors and sounds of Southeast Asia and food from around the globe on March 22, with all proceeds going to support the wonderful work of NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center, Harrisonburg. \$60/plate; \$420 for a table of 8. To RSVP, email [rsvp@newbridgesirc.org](mailto:rsvp@newbridgesirc.org) or call (540) 438-8295 or by March 14. For more info on NewBridges, visit [newbridgesirc.org/](http://newbridgesirc.org/)

**SpringFest 2014:** A VMRC Auxiliary fundraiser will be in Park Gables on Sat., March 22. SpringFest begins at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast in the Hartman Dining Room until 10 a.m. Homemade baked goods and the silent auction begin at 8:00 a.m., will feature all kinds of locally hand-crafted goods, jewelry and art. Enjoy a Soup and Potato Bar lunch in the Hartman Dining Room from 11:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. Proceeds of this year's event will benefit the Good Samaritan Fund which provides financial assistance to persons receiving assisted living or complete living care who have exhausted their personal funds.

Everyone is invited to a **Celebration of Missions** hosted by Lynside Mennonite Church, 648 Mt. Torrey Rd., Lyndhurst, Va., Monday, March 31, 6:30 p.m. Hear about mission endeavors and Aaron Kauffman, VMM president, as we celebrate God's mission in the world. Reserve your place for dinner by contacting Pastor Gordon Miller by March 26, at (540) 949-7474 or [gosumiller@gmail.com](mailto:gosumiller@gmail.com)

**Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community** (VMRC) has named two executives to new positions:

Betsy Hay is the vice president of Wellness and Community Based Services. She will develop a comprehensive approach to wellness services and programs to VMRC residents and persons 55 and older in the community.

Merv Webb has been named a Planned Giving Officer with the VMRC Foundation.