

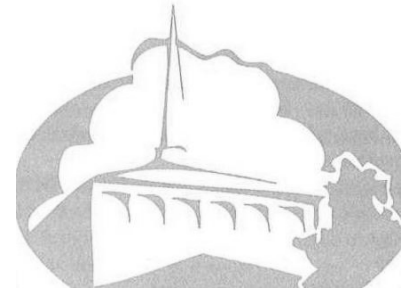


Ridgeview Mennonite Church

RidgeVIEWS

The monthly newsletter of Ridgeview Mennonite Church

**CALLED BY GOD TO LEARN AND SHARE TOGETHER
GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL CREATION**



Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2009

Edna and I appreciate your warm welcome to us as we came among you at the beginning of March. As we are learning to know more of you we are beginning to feel at home here.

As a congregation we are beginning a 15-month period of time called an interim. That doesn't mean to stop and wait. It does mean that there will be somewhat of a change of pace and focus during this time. You have been working through an assessment process, which will define some of our focus over the next year. On Thursday, April 2, a congregational meeting is planned at which time Dan and Rose Graber will present the assessment report. The report will include some recommendations for the congregation to work on. These recommendations will become goals for us to pursue together over the next year.

So... how will we work on these recommendations/goals during the next year? I'm glad you asked. We will work together in several different ways.

After Easter the Sunday morning messages will be based on 1 Peter. This letter by the Apostle Peter is a practical and helpful guide to experiencing spiritual life and renewal together. These messages will not directly address the goals, but the themes will support the direction in which we are being led.

We will plan sessions or workshops in which we will address and discuss some of the subjects of the recommendations. These will be planned as evening sessions during the week or during some Sunday School periods. They will include teaching and discussion through which we can learn and grow together. Sounds kind of like the vision statement that is printed in the bulletin each Sunday.

How can you prepare and participate in the most effective way?

1. Come to the April 2 congregational meeting to hear the assessment report. There will be opportunity to ask questions about the process and for clarification. You'll find it encouraging.
2. Participate as much as possible in the times we meet to work on the recommendations and goals.
3. Cultivate an attitude of curiosity – of discovery – of wondering and looking for ways God is at work in the congregation. Keep listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you, to your family and to the congregation. See how God is expressing His presence and life through Ridgeview to the larger community. In this way we will learn and share together God's love that will spill over into all creation.

One verse of a song that speaks of God's creative initiative goes like this:

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Ray Yoder, Interim Pastor



PASSION WEEK/EASTER

Friday, April 10

Good Friday Service..., 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12

Sunrise Service...8:00 a.m. @ Intercourse Park

Breakfast...9:00 a.m., 1990 Hall

Worship...10:15 a.m.



ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Assembly—Saturday, April 18

Hope Community Church, Fleetwood

All are welcome to attend this day of worship, fellowship, learning and a bit of necessary business. The theme for the day, “*Strengthening our Stakes.*”

Jeff Wright, Church Development Coordinator will give the 9:30 a.m. message.

A variety of seminars are offered for you to attend. Programs are on the literature rack.

Merv Stoltzfus (ACC Youth Ministry) & Scott Benner (EDC Youth Ministry) A Young Adult Discussion

Dr. Graham Cyster (ACC Conference Minister) ACC “Revelation 7” Vision - Being Racist Without the Guilt

Bob Wyble, ACC CRM Coordinator & Ron Price (EDC) Church Leadership from a Lay Leader Perspective

Rhoda Keener Sister Care: Women Ministering to other Women

Randy Nyce, MMA Church Relations Ministering in a Time of Financial Turbulence: Sharing and Resources as we Lead in a Climate of Fear

Milt Stoltzfus, Friendship Community & Joe Landis, Peaceful Living Disabilities and Inclusion in Congregational Life: Having a Stake in the Life of a Person or Family who Experiences Disability

Sandra Perez, MCC NYC Immigration Immigration Challenges in our Church Communities

Jeff Wright Church Planting: Expanding our Witness

Bill Hartman, Ken Martin, & Randy Nyce, Mennonite Mutual Aid Your Faith, Your Money: Are they Speaking the same Language?
ACC and EDC Ambassadors The Corinthian Plan (MC USA Healthcare Access Initiative)

Nilson Assis, Katartizo Healing and Discipleship Center Spiritual Warfare and Mental Illness

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Ministry Team met March 4, 2009, 6:30 a.m. @ Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

Pastor Nelson extended a welcome to Ray Yoder, Intentional Interim Pastor. Ray & his wife Edna were introduced to the congregation on March 1.

Persons with health issues were recognized. A visitation team is in place to assist pastoral staff and ministry team in this time of transition.

Commission & Staff Reports

Community Life – Loretta Lapp – The economic discussion group continues to grow. The theme that has emerged is “God is faithful”. Ideas for sharing are a community garden, free cycle and shared items.

Jeff Raught – Minister of Music – The CD recorder has arrived and will be used to record the worship services in place of cassettes; however, he will make a cassette if someone requests it. He is working on changes to the church website and Carol will work on things to include on the youth program.

Carol Wenger – Minister of Youth and Young Adults – Planning for the Mennonite Convention which will cost \$12,624.00. There is still significant fundraising to do. Carol met with the group planning Pequea Valley’s baccalaureate service; Ridgeview will not have any responsibility this year. She has connected with the ACC youth cluster group.

Pastor Nelson – E-mail contact has started with the other churches regarding Intercourse Heritage Days and the worship service on June 21.

Delegates to Mennonite Church Convention in Columbus – we can send three delegates. Several names were given and Nelson will make contact with them.

Leadership Transition – Pastor Ray Yoder – There was some discussion on the congregational survey and interviews. The assessment is a valuable tool as he leads us in this time of transition. There was also discussion on the goals of ministry team meetings.

MARCH OFFERING REPORT

Year to date budget	\$173,400.00
Year to date receipts	\$151,844.46
Education Fund	\$ 3,191.23

HEALTH NOTES--DONATING BLOOD

Organ donation is an incredibly generous gift, one that few of us will ever need. A much more common need, though, is a blood transfusion. The American Red Cross and local hospitals have donation centers.



Here are a few details that might encourage you to donate:

- If you are healthy, at least 17 years old, and weigh at least 110 pounds, you are probably eligible to donate.
- You can donate every eight weeks . . . the whole process only takes about one hour!
- Try to get a good night's sleep the night before you donate, eat a good breakfast or lunch, and drink extra fluids.
- After you donate, the donation center will give you free cookies and juice!
- Most people feel fine after they donate, but you should avoid strenuous exercise and heavy lifting for the rest of the day.

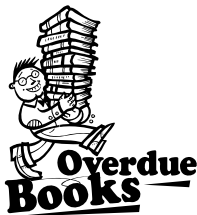
Please consider donating blood if you are able!

-Healthcare Access Ministry

LIBRARY NEWS...

The librarians will soon be doing an inventory of all the library books. In order to get an updated list we need everyone to check their bookshelves and their children's bookshelves for overdue library books. There are quite a few books unaccounted for. Please bring them in as soon as possible so we can come up with a corrected list.

New titles are continually being added, so stop by and see what's new.



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 5 Palm Sunday — Communion
“God Rules in Humility” Joanne Dietzel
- April 12 Easter — “Because Jesus Lives We Live” Pastor Ray (NO Sunday School)
- April 19 “Chosen Though An Alien”
Pastor Nelson
- April 26 Pastor Ray

ALIVE WITH 55 & UP

Tuesday, April 14 Elva Hurst, a local chalk artist, will present a “chalk talk.” Elva’s chalk talks were born out of her love for the arts and above all, a deep desire from within to share the good news of the gospel.



To learn more about Elva’s art work go to www.elvaschalkart.com.

We gather at 10:00 a.m.; lunch is served after our meeting time.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these events....

Join PA Relief Sale! Join the festivities on April 3 & 4 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Come for the food, bid on items at the quilt auction and country auction, shop at the Ten Thousand Villages booth, flower booth and other artisan displays. Children will enjoy activities in the children’s area including an auction just for them. A schedule of events can be found at <http://pareliefsale.org>.

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties invites you to its 4th Lancaster County Garden Luncheon with award-winning author Jane Kirkland speaking on “Creating Backyard Sanctuaries for Birds and Butterflies.” This event, held at the Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, on Saturday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., helps homeless families build better futures. To make reservations, requested by April 7, call 394-7406 or visit www.bridgeofhopelcc.org.

Chatter, Chow and Cheerful Service...laughter, soup, packing tape, new friends, plastic razor holders, used clothing, nail clippers, colored pencils, quilt squares—**What** do all these have in common?!? Come and find out at our annual **Chatter, Chow, and Cheerful Service!** On April 18 from 9am - 12:30pm., women from Lancaster Mennonite Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference will have a time of hands-on service and learning at the MCC Material Resource Center, 517 Trout Run Road, Ephrata. The morning will begin at 9:00am with a short welcome and continue with a time of working together on MCC projects that will benefit those in need around the world. Lunch and continued fellowship will take place between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. Plan to bring along a pint of soup to “add to the pot”—either vegetable beef or chicken/corn/noodle soup. The food committee will supply the rest of the meal, beverages, and paper supplies. You are encouraged help save our world's resources by going "green" and bringing your own mug, bowl, and eating utensils. Ladies ages 10 - 100 are invited, so bring along your mother, daughter, granddaughter, or a friend for an enjoyable morning of chatter, chow and cheerful service.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Merv & Jan Stoltzfus
- 9 Charles & Ann Palmer
- 18 Elam & Bev Smucker
- 20 Junior & Jean Zook
- 21 Jeff & Vaunda Siegrist
- 24 Michael & Jennifer Bentivogli
- 30 Dean & Debbie Rohrer



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Valerie Kauffman
Ken Shertz
- 4 Emily Terlizzi
- 5 Minnie Stoltzfus
- 6 Elton Horst
- 11 Reba Hershey
- 14 Elizabeth Stoltzfus
- 17 Erica Siegrist
- 18 Jeanmarie King
- 21 Jasmyn Stoltzfus
- 22 Evan Lapp
- 23 Dustin Yoder
- 25 Chris Glick
- 27 Mabel Glick
- 28 Lorraine Ioppolo



COMING THIS SPRING...MAY 16

7:00 AM—2:00 PM

What you got in our parking lot?

A yard sale in the parking lot, here at Ridgeview. That's right. Rent a parking space, bring your bargains, and sell your stuff. \$5/space. Want two spaces? \$5/space.

Want three, four, or thirty four?

\$5/space.

It's that simple. For every \$5 you get 1 parking space. Whatever you can fit in your parking space...if it's books, they'll be reading between the lines..if it's porcelain China, it will be a fine line.

They'll be linin' up to see what you've got—in your spot—in our parking lot!

At the end of the day, whatever you don't sell, will be going back **with you**. So set up your space to draw the buyers in. And you get to keep the rewards of your sales.

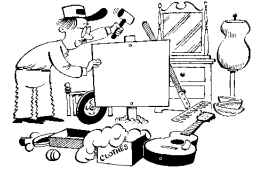
And food...have we got some specialty items for you...

Don's doughnuts

Etta's Egg Sandwiches

Kingly Howard Wood-Fired Hot Dogs

So mark it down...**MAY 16th**...for this year's edition of **"WHAT YOU GOT IN OUR PARKING LOT?"**



TIME OUT...another season of Time Out is about to end. We have had a good year, with average faithful attendance of 30 women of all ages.

Wednesday, April 1, Joy Hunter will tell us how to be more "green." April 8 will be our final gathering—a "farewell brunch." Personnel from Horst's Greenhouse will share ideas for spring planting and flower gardening.

On Wednesday, April 15, the committee meets to begin planning for the 2009-2010 season.

Thanks to all who help to make this program worthwhile and a blessing to many. Pray that the seeds that are planted will bring forth good fruit.

A special thanks to Frances (DiSilvio) who so faithfully sees that the children's program is supplied with quality teachers and helpers.

Time Out Committee

MOTHER/DAUGHTER LOCK-IN

Girls in kindergarten through grade 5 with their moms are invited to a mother/daughter lock-in at the church, Friday, April 24, 7:30 PM to Saturday @ 9:00 AM.

We will play games, make a craft, have devotions, eat snacks and get to know each other better. It's an all-nighter...but don't worry, we'll get some sleep! We will also have breakfast in the morning.

You will need to bring your sleeping bag, pillow and a snack to share.

RSVP before April 19 to Gwen Fellenbaum at fellenbaum@frontiernet.net or 354-3095.

Hope you can join the fun—it won't be the same without you.

JAMES FAMILY UPDATE...Chinle, Arizona

Recently Evan and I had an opportunity to visit with the James family while we were in Phoenix, Arizona. We had planned ahead to visit on a Sunday. They always appreciate when we make a point to attend worship with them, so that became part of the plan. Services were at 11:00 a.m. so we arrived early enough to say hi to everyone before the service. Following the service we all went to Vivian's home for a meal- Navajo tacos and Evelyn's freshly made fry bread.

There was some excitement in the air since it had been some time since we had all been together. We were blessed. First of all the James family had told the pastors we were coming. They offered a hearty welcome - sort of a thank you for "checking" up on your extended family. Secondly we were blessed to see that the James children are identifying with a church body who over the years have kept close embrace around the family. The ministry team expects each of them to attend regularly and when they don't they have to answer the questions "Where have you been? What is keeping you from church?" We've often felt that perhaps there is too much legalism but Marcella assures us that it is important for all of them because they needed to learn accountability and boundaries.

So how is everyone doing? Frank and Evelyn are well and dealing with aging issues. Evelyn said that it's a real challenge having Francine, now 23 years old, at home all day long. Franny's disabilities weigh heavy on Frank and Evelyn. Cordelia is 18 years old and still attends a June Smith type of day program.

Priscilla wasn't in attendance but now lives with her husband Matt in St. Louis, Missouri. Matt is helping to pastor a church. Elijah (16), Jeremy(14) and Jasmine(12)are doing well and have welcomed a baby sister, Hannah, to the family.

Marcella was married to Troy (pastor/elder at their church) in May. This past week they welcomed a baby girl to their family. Marcella was very sick during her pregnancy so she looks forward to staying at home with the baby for a while. Darrel and Cheryl seem to be doing well. Darrel said that he has work at least 3-4 days a week and Cheryl continues to work for an oral surgeon. They have 3 young children. Kenny and Chastity are doing very well. Kenny works with Darrel for their cousin Rueben. The church has come alongside of them to help them grow a healthy marriage and parent their 4 children. Kenny has addressed many of the "issues" in his life and does well preaching the word. Melissa is in a serious relationship and is due to have a baby in May or June. She has been employed as a secretary for many years.

Vivian is a faithful mother. She recently gave birth to her second child. Life is a challenge right now as her husband has returned to Mexico to work on getting his "green card".

Arlinda is living in Fresno, California with her husband. She recently gave birth to a 10 lb. baby boy. During the delivery Arlinda told me that she coded blue and an emergency hysterectomy was performed. Arlinda told me that this was very scary experience for her. She had come to Arizona to spend a month with Vivian. Titania and Carlos are doing very well. They are fine parents to two young girls. Carlos continues to work with his family's painting business.

Grandpa didn't journey to Phoenix. He is still herding his sheep, but travelling is difficult for him. Bessie and Mary went to the reservation to be with Grandpa while Frank and Evelyn were in Phoenix.

So this is the update of all the family members. We were told that they are planning for Bible School in July with Kenny and Chastity in charge. Wow, it's been some 14 years of friendship. So much change, so much growth, so much to be thankful for. God has been good! God has been faithful! Thank you Ridgeview for your support and encouragement. We have all been able to mentor and join in friendship with this great Navajo family.

The James family sent their blessing to Ridgeview Church. They remembered many of the folks who had journeyed to the reservation. Charlotte Lapp



SPECIAL TIMES OF PRAYER

During this period of congregational reflection and interim ministry, plan to join times of prayer on the first and third Sunday of each month at 8:15 a.m. in the small conference room.

The church will also be open on the third Tuesday of each month. This special day of prayer begins with corporate prayer at 7:30 a.m.

All are welcome



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Time Out	2 7 pm Congregational meeting Weight Watchers	3	4 7 am Men's Breakfast @ BIH
5 Palm Sunday 8:15 am Prayer Last day of SS electives Worship—Joanne Dietzel (Communion) NO fellowship meal	6 Caring Team	7	8 Time Out	9 Weight Watchers	10 7 pm Good Friday Service	11
12 Easter Sunrise Service NO Sunday school Brunch Worship—Pastor Ray 1990 Hall reserved	13 Mission Com	14 Alive with 55 & up Economic Discussion Group Administrative Commission	15 7 am Ministry Team @ Dietzel's	16 Weight Watchers	17 Facility reserved—Chet Stoltzfus	18 ACC Assembly @ Hope Community Church
19 8:15 Prayer Worship—Pastor Nelson	20	21 7:30 am Prayer Sewing Circle	22 7 pm Congregational meeting	23 Weight Watchers	24	25 ACC Assembly <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Mother/Daughter Lock -in Rec room/1960 Hall</div>
26 Worship—Pastor Ray	27	28 Economic Discussion Group Education Commission	29	30 Weight Watchers		

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Everyone is welcome to submit material to the RidgeVIEWS, the newsletter of Ridgeview Mennonite Church. Ridgeview connects persons and groups in the congregation together and with the broader Mennonite Church. It strengthens the congregation to answer the call of God to learn and share together God's love with all of creation. Priority will be given to articles that serve this purpose, with Ridgeview staff providing editorial responsibilities.

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Pastor Nelson Yoder

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Jeff Raught, Minister of Music

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Joyce Shirk, Administrative Assistant

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TCRC MEMBERS

(Team Congregation Relations Committee)

Carol Beiler

Rick Fellenbaum

Darlene Lapp

Lois High

Gladys High

Todd Gingrich

MAY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE APRIL 20