

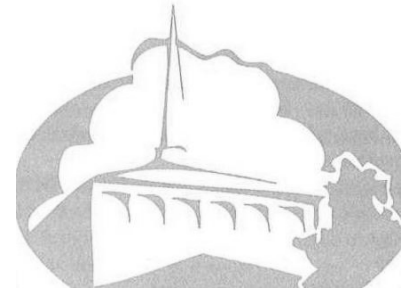


Ridgeview Mennonite Church

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 1

January 2009

Stepping back, catching a deep breath, and seeing with new clarity describe some of the results of the sabbatical time with which I was blessed this fall. The sabbatical time allowed me to reflect on my role as a pastor. It was during the sabbatical that Pastor John announced that he will be going to Laurelville. I was scheduled to go on a personal retreat and heard Pastor John's announcement about his new role at Laurelville shortly before leaving for the retreat. The retreat came at the right time as prayer, Bible reading, listening to God and journaling were helpful as I attempted to understand what this change meant in my life as a pastor at Ridgeview.

I have often wondered how the role of counselor in the other part of my employed life helps and hinders me in the role of pastor. The class on Pastoral Care that I took during sabbatical gave me new insights on both roles, what is unique to them, and how they conflict and work together. These types of experiences gave me a better understanding of my role as a pastor--one of the significant outcomes of the sabbatical.

It is good to be back into the routine of life here at Ridgeview, but I am keenly aware of the subtle entrapment of schedules, to-do lists, and busyness. I hope to keep finding sabbatical moments for stepping back, getting deep breaths, and seeing with new clarity. Maybe I can even integrate these mini breaks into my daily routine in a better way. Thanks again for the time away.

Pastor Nelson

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 4 *The Welcoming Face of God* Pastor Nelson
Communion/Epiphany
- 11 *Baptized—Water to Go* Pastor John
- 18 *Called Out to Lead On* Pastor John
- 25 *Called Out to Move On* Pastor John

DECEMBER OFFERING REPORT

Year to date budget	\$83,232.00
Year to date receipts	\$72,992.81
Year end receipts	\$5,783.50
Education Fund	\$770.43



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men's Prayer Breakfast, held on Saturday, 6 December, at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant, was significant in that fifteen men attended and participated in celebrating God's goodness and giving thanks for His many blessings.

During the breakfast portion of the meeting there was a handout of Christmas trivia questions. The listing consisted of 30 questions, which were both religious and secular.

During the prayer time we remembered the needs of individuals in our congregation, national leaders, church and ACC leaders, upcoming church activities, Advent season, giving thanks for the healing that God has done, and a prayer request received via the church web page.

We were blessed to have Steve Horst share about his personal history and faith story. He explained the history of his business, the relationship with his father as a result of this business, and the importance of keeping the business small, rather than expanding it.

Steve also told the group about his mission experiences in Granada. He talked about the experience of road building and also teaching Bible school in that country. He also mentioned what it was like seeing peoples' lives impacted and affected when they are not worshipping God.

As a result of a attendee vote, there will NOT be a prayer breakfast gathering in the month of January.

The February breakfast will be held on Saturday, 7 February at 7 am at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant. Paul Miller will share his faith story with the attendees.

God is good – all of the time! Galen Dise

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Ministry team met Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 6:30 a.m. at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

*Pastor Nelson was welcomed back after a 2 ½ month sabbatical.

*Joanne Dietzel reported that the Transition team met for the first time. Team members are Etta Esch, Jill Heine, Eli Smucker (chairperson), Joanne Dietzel, Nelson Yoder and Warren Tyson, ACC representative. It was determined that Pastor John will preach his last sermon on January 25, 2009. Sunday, February 1 will be a service of celebration for his ministry at Ridgeview followed by a fellowship meal. Pastor Nelson is not available to step into the lead pastor role.

*Loretta Lapp reported that the Time Out auction brought in \$8049.50. The Lancaster Mennonite High School Jazz Band entertained Alive with 55 & Up and Mim Martin prepared an Amish wedding meal for lunch.

*The team affirmed discontinuing our weekly ad in the Lancaster Newspaper and continuing with our weekly ad listing in the church directory in the Penny Saver.

Commission Reports

*Administration (Joanne Dietzel) is continuing to look for a treasurer, lay minister of administration commission and lay minister of worship commission.

*Evan Lapp (Mission) reported there is an ongoing need for supplies for the backpack ministry. An ingathering for that ministry is scheduled for early 2009. Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings are when people are needed to help with the backpack ministry. A group went with Evan to serve a meal to 112 kids at the Youth Factory in Paradise.

*Marie Kurtz (Education) reported that J.W. Sprunger will be teaching a "Kingdom Living" study using the Old Testament for a Sunday school elective next spring. Other electives will be the International Lesson and the first Mennonite Women's study published. Audrey Kanagy will be teaching a "Sermon on the Mount" series the first 6 weeks of winter Wednesday evening adult studies.

Youth/Young Adult Minister

Carol Wenger is the candidate for this position and the congregation will be given opportunity to affirm her on December 21. Joanne reported that Administration will work with Carol on the covenant of understanding and her starting time. June Gehman



EDUCATION COMMISSION

Family Night Activities begin January 21. Meal at 6:15, activities at 7:00. January 21—February 25, the adult study: "The Sermon on the Mount for Today," taught by Audrey Kanagy from Masonville Mennonite Church. March 5—all church Talent Show and March 11, 18, 25—"Current Topics for the Church Today."

Sunday school electives, March 1–April 5. Classes offered:

- ~International Lesson
- ~Mennonite Women's study... "Secure in God's House"
- ~"Kingdom Living, an Old Testament Perspective," taught by J. W. Sprunger

HEALTH NOTES—WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

How is car safety related to your health? The old adage, “prevention is the best medicine,” applies to both. Planning ahead for winter driving conditions can spare you not only auto damage but also personal injury.

Prepare your car by checking the tires and all the fluids—oil, antifreeze, washer fluid, gasoline (keep the tank at least half full). Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before you start driving, so that you are not a hazard to other drivers. Before traveling, check the weather and road conditions; if snow or ice storms threaten, consider delaying your trip. Also, inform someone at your destination of your expected route and arrival time.

Keep a winter emergency kit in your car. Include an ice scraper, snow brush, small shovel, flares or reflectors, jumper cables, sand or cat litter, a flashlight with extra batteries, a blanket, bottled water, high-energy snacks such as granola bars, a first aid kit, and extra medication. If you become stranded, stay with your vehicle.

When you drive, wear your seatbelt. Inclement weather requires you to slow down and to increase both your following distance and your stopping distance. Remember that four-wheel-drive is helpful in snow but useless on ice.

Healthcare Ministry Team



NEEDED...

4-6 people to serve as *Youth Advisor Support Crew (YASC)* members.

Rationale: To provide support and assistance to youth advisors so that they are free to concentrate on relating to youth.

Responsibilities:

- ~Assist with snacks/food for activities
- ~Provide and/or plan transportation
- ~Assist with special events
- ~Miscellaneous help with various details
- ~Pray for leaders and youth

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joy at joylapp1230@hotmail.com ph. no. 392-1404 or Carol at cmw4g@aol.com ph. no. 354-2402.

ALIVE WITH 55 & UP

Tuesday, December 9, the Lancaster Mennonite High School jazz band, clad with trombones, clarinets, drums, and the like, came to town. Soon beautiful sounds emerged as shiny brass instruments were warming up. Our seniors began arriving and to their surprise, music already filled the air.

We gathered round the 30 member band and were treated to beautiful renditions of “Go Tell It On The Mountain,” “O Holy Night,” and more.

The time flew by so quickly it was hard to believe dinnertime had arrived. But with wonderful aroma coming from the kitchen, our appetites were ready to go. The tables were filled with both young and old. Table time began with discussions regarding answers to a Christmas quiz Pastor John had distributed.

Then came the food—marvelous food! Our plates were filled to the brim with Amish turkey and all the trimmings. After a few short hours, it was time for the band to return to school.

What a delightful morning with talented, courteous young people. Thank you LMS jazz band for sharing your gift of youth and music. And thank you Mim Martin and Rose High for sharing your gift of preparing and serving a fantastic meal. Evie Blank



SWEETHEART BANQUET

Saturday, February 14,
6:15 PM—1990 Hall
Merv & Jan Stoltzfus
(resource couple)



ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Ben & Ruth Stoltzfus
- 5 Eli & Betty Smucker
Merv & Cordelia Stoltzfus
- 6 Eric & Beth Alderman
- 7 Reuben & Esther Smoker
- 12 Jon & Jacqueline Hoover
- 15 Donald & Kathy Martin
- 16 Jake & Loretta Lapp
- 23 Norman & Mabel Glick

BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Ray Bauman
Anne Marie Smoker
- 3 Robyn Reiff
- 5 Katelyn High
- 6 Debbie Denlinger
Mick Eldridge
- 8 Steve Kauffman
- 9 Bob Sloyer
Ashley Smoker
James Yoder
- 12 Zach High
Harry Sauder
Melissa Siegrist
- 14 Loretta Lapp
Sadie Shertz
- 17 Patty King
- 20 June Gehman
- 22 Krista Yoder
- 24 Kelsey Eldridge
- 26 Bernice Lapp
Dennis Shirk
Ruth Stoltzfus
- 27 Abigail King
Morgan Steffy
- 29 Erica Martin
- 31 Beth Alderman

COLLEGE SENIORS SHARE THEIR FUTURE PLANS

Kevin Yoder...The plan for next semester looks like this. I plan on taking the remaining required classes I have and some forestry courses on top of that as well. I will continue to work at the Penn State Deer Research Center (deer pens). My work will include feeding the deer herd, taking care of fawns as they're born, and working on writing a paper on the contraceptive research that is being preformed there. I will also be volunteering on another research project that studies the effects of forest management on Ruffed Grouse. Throughout the semester I will be looking for jobs and praying about which path the Lord will want me to take.

Julie Denlinger...January through May 2009 I will be interning full-time at Harrisonburg & Rockingham County's Child Protective Service unit, in order to complete my social work degree. Initially, I will be shadowing various social workers - then I will be conducting home visits, solo. I will take a seminar class at EMU during this time with other seniors who are in their practicum placements, to synthesize & process the many mistakes we will make and challenges we will face :) I am super excited to apply my learnings to the field & have a break from the books for a while!

Alana Wenger...I will begin my job search in Harrisonburg, Va. at the beginning of January, first looking in the fields of writing, editing, and design. Although I am finished with classes, I will walk with my class in April. On July 25, I have a momentous event to look forward to--I will be marrying Michael Miller, currently my fiancée, at Ridgeview. Over the next months, I anticipate I will be very busy as I hunt for jobs and plan my wedding.

ALL COMMISSIONS meeting, Monday, January 12.

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30-7:00 p.m. Combined meeting

7:00 p.m. Individual commission meetings

PLANNING AHEAD...in conjunction with the Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay July 2009, MTS Travel is promoting several tours.

...MWC Assembly Gathered, Iguassu Falls and Argentina, July 12-29, led by Eileen & Lester Graybill. This tour goes into the areas of the VEMZO partnership

...Paraguay, An Island Surrounded by Land, July 8-23, led by Pastor John Denlinger and Nancy Stoltzfus

Information on both these tours is on the literature rack.



QUIZZING begins January 25.

The first quiz is at Lancaster Mennonite HS. Quizzing material this year is from Genesis.

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR JOHN (Part 1)

It was this time of year in 1999 when I “moved in” at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. It’s hard to believe that I will be “moving out” over the next months.

I remember all so well that this journey began with a phone call from ACC overseer Don Augsburger. Don called to inform and encourage me to consider a pastoral opening at Ridgeview. My immediate response was “thanks, Don, I’m enjoying my pastorate at Mellinger Mennonite Church.” A few weeks later I received another phone call from Don encouraging me to at least submit my resume.

There was another call or so, one thing led to another, until Debbie and I were meeting with the Search Committee at Paul & Louise Miller’s house. The committee, as I remember it, included Paul, Minnie Stoltzfus, Ruth Martin, Sara Bushong, Megan Smoker and Jim Glick. Several meetings later we were beginning to sense God’s calling us to Ridgeview. That call was confirmed, we met with you as a congregation, and I guess you could say the rest is history.

These past years have been great years for me and Debbie and our family. It didn’t take long to realize that Ridgeview was a wonderful group of people. I often said, “Ridgeview is one of the best keep secrets when it come to churches.”

I believe that the Ridgeview of 2009 is quite different than the Ridgeview of 1999. Interim Pastor Chester Kurtz helped Ridgeview to find a new identity after a difficult conflict. A new leadership structure was put into place and now I had the privilege of working with this new Ministry Team. It seems that Ridgeview had moved from a “survival mode of taking care of itself” to now “seeing God at work and joining God at work” in our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhood communities across the street and around the world.

Along the way there was a...

...rediscovering with joy its’ identity in Christ with each other and as Mennonite Anabaptists

...adjusting from being a large church to a medium sized church

...learning to trust each other, the conference, the denomination, and a new church structure and a new pastor

...understanding that forgiving of each other, those who stayed, and others who left, including family members, was an ongoing process

...taking on and eliminating a huge debt that was left

...learning to communicate openly and honestly together and learning to agree and disagree in love with love

You may think of others as well.

Part 2 will come in the February RidgeVIEWS and include more reflections of who Ridgeview is becoming. Pastor John

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION

The 13th annual Time Out auction was held December 8. Mission Commission prepared the food for the evening meal and the proceeds received are used for mission projects.

The 1990 Hall was filled with sounds of laughter and chatter as the bidding began and then “sold to number....” We appreciate the services of Mel & Lucy Hoover, auctioneer and clerk respectively.

We raised \$8,049 which will be used to fund our Time Out program. Some monies are also contributed to the church budget.

Thanks to all who helped make this another great evening!

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Sunday evening, December 14, approximately 49 people gathered as we prepared to go Christmas caroling to 18 different people. Seven groups dispersed in different directions, taking a poinsettia and clementines to each person we sang for.

We returned to the 1960 Lounge for hot chocolate and goodies waiting for us that Theresa Yoder had prepared.

It was a good evening, we blessed people by caroling, but we also felt blessed by ministering in this way.

Thanks to Bud Beiler for coordinating all the details of this event.

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Does January seem like a long cold winter month? Community Life is planning a **game night** for Sunday evening, January 11. Bring some games and finger foods. We’ll have a great time together.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and close sometime before the alarm system goes off!



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1990 Hall reserved	2	3
4 8:15 am Prayer "The Welcoming Face of God" Pastor Nelson Epiphany & Com- munion Fellowship meal	5	6	7	8 Weight Watchers	9	10
11 "Baptized—Water to Go" Pastor John 6 pm All-church game night	12 6 pm All- Commissions meeting	13	14 6:30 am Ministry Team Time Out field trip	15 Book Club/Meal Weight Watchers	16	17
18 8:15 Prayer "Called Out to Lead On" Pastor John Installation/ Commissioning for Carol Wenger	19	20 7:30 am Prayer Sewing Circle	21 Family Night	22	23	24
25 "Called Out to Move On" Pastor John Quizzing @ LMHS	26	27	28 Family Night	29 Weight Watchers	30	31

Jr. High Youth weekend retreat
at Camp Hebron
Sr. High Youth weekend get away
at Eli & Betty's cabin

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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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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE JANUARY 19