

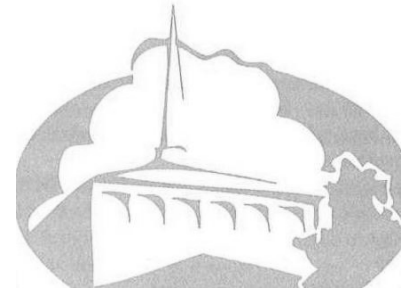


Ridgeview Mennonite Church

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 3

March 2009

Our Ridgeview family will share several new experiences during the month of March. An intentional interim pastor will begin his assignment and we will participate in a process of reflecting on our congregational.

Pastor Ray and Edna Yoder will be joining us as Ray begins serving as our intentional interim pastor on a ¾ time basis. Ray and Edna live in Harleysville, PA and most recently served as interim at the Hope Community Church, Fleetwood.

We will be reflecting on our experience in our congregation as we write and share about our responses to the questionnaire that Pastor Dan Graber, a consultant in the area of church assessment, has provided for us. An outside team of persons working with Dan will read our questionnaires and meet with us in interviews.

Through the questionnaires and interviews, we will attempt to discern what God is calling us to be and do in the community God has placed us in at this time. This process is much more than a sharing our joys and concerns. This process is an effort to hear God's message for us and discern the unique role we have in serving in the Kingdom of God in Gordonville and Intercourse and the communities in which we live.

Because this process calls for both individual and group discernment, every person (youth, young adults, and all other adults) attending Ridgeview is encouraged to participate in responding to the questionnaire and signing up for an interview. It will be very helpful to the interviewers if we complete a questionnaire prior to the interview. Feel free to jot down a few thoughts on the questionnaire but then expand your thoughts verbally in the interview.

Following the interview process, as a congregation we will have the opportunity to listen for and test God's word to us as we meet to hear from Dan Graber and the interview team. Through this process of sharing and listening, we can better discern the areas of focus for Ray Yoder during the intentional interim time.

May the time ahead of us be a time of discernment and growth as we reflect individually and share together while listening to God's voice for us at this time.

Pastor Nelson and Joanne Dietzel, Lay Minister of Administration



FEBRUARY OFFERING REPORT

Year to date budget	\$145,656.00
Year to date receipts	\$126,946.21
Education Fund	\$ 1,640.92

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 1 *God Provides for Creation* — Lancaster Mennonite School Campus Chorale
- 8 *God Blesses for Service* — Warren Tyson
- 15 *God Overturns Human Wisdom* — Ray Yoder
- 22 *God Restores in the Midst of Despair* — Nelson Yoder
- 29 *God Leads From Failure to Life* — Ray Yoder

MINISTER OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Wow, this first month as MOYAYA (Minister of youth and young adults)... hmmm... maybe I should think of a different acronym...has gone quickly as I've moved into my office and begun to organize.

One of the first tasks for me to do is to make sure details regarding the senior high youth trip to the Mennonite Convention are in proper order. We have more fundraising to do; a parent meeting to hold; and preconvention teaching to begin. Check out the website: www.mennoniteusa.org and click on "convention 2009" on the sidebar for more information about this amazing event. There is a plethora of opportunities for spiritual growth, relationship building, service, and worship. Please pray for us as we prepare!

Parents of junior and senior high students, I hope to meet with you soon. If you have any concerns in the meantime, please feel free to contact me by phone, email, or in person!

I've assumed the writing of John's weekly *Communiqué* to the young adults. If you are a young adult not receiving this Friday email or have a change of address, please let me know so I can make those alterations.

Youth, what is the next letter in the following sequence? O T T F F S S Let me know when you have it figured out! Stop in for a mint and a chat any time!

Light and Love! Carol

Children learn to care by experiencing good care. They come to know the blessings of gentleness, of sympathy, of patience and kindness, of support and backing, first through the way in which they themselves are treated. James L Hymes, Jr.

DO YOU HAVE any 30-120 second home movie clips that are funny, inspiring, interesting, or amazing? The senior high youth are planning a "Ridgeview Home Movie Night" and wants YOUR videos on a labeled CD-R or DVD. Place your labeled disc in the tray by Carol's office.



MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

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

Eli Smucker and Warren Tyson from the Transition Team met with Ministry Team for the first part of the meeting.

Time was spent reflecting on the Celebration Service for Pastor John. Eli presented Transition Team's recommendation to move forward with a congregational survey and an intentional interim pastor. After a time of discussion Ministry Team accepted the recommendation. Warren also identified potential intentional interims.

A team is in place to assist in visitation during this time of pastoral transition.

Lay ministers reported on commission happenings:

Marie Kurtz (Education) – Two Wednesday evenings need to be filled and there is a problem finding teachers for the International Lesson during electives.

Loretta Lapp (Community Life) - A yard sale is scheduled for May 16 in the church parking lot. People will pay for a space, bring their own table and be responsible setting up, selling, cleaning up, etc.

Evan Lapp (Mission) – Starting to think about this fall's Mission Weekend, sent a child from Factory Youth Center to camp, and three persons are considering the Board of Director position at Factory Youth Center.

Joanne Dietzel (Administration) – Reported the sanctuary will be painted this year, poles in the 1990 Hall were painted, the dividing wall in the overflow area will be worked on and electronic giving is being looked into.

Carol Wenger started the position of Minister of Youth & Young Adults on February 1. She will continue the Friday e-mail to college students and is working on coordinating Sunday school teachers for Junior & Senior High Youth.

Pastor Nelson recommended not having a Discovery Class this spring.

Mennonite Church Assembly is June 30-July 5 in Columbus, Ohio. Three delegates are needed to represent Ridgeview.

There was considerable discussion on our participation in the Partnership for Missional Congregations that will begin this spring. This is a three year process with a different focus each year. A Missional Steering Team of 5-7 people would attend weekend sessions twice a year. Listening Leaders would be needed for the initial meeting only.

June Gehman

HEALTH NOTES—INDOOR ACTIVITIES

As February gives way to March, we look forward to spring and its balmy weather. Until the snow and mud retreat, though, we impatiently wait to resume our outdoor activities. Here are a few suggestions for working off that cabin fever and using up the children's excess energy . . .

Turn house-cleaning into a game. Give awards for Most-Outstanding Mopper, Super Scrubber, and Valiant Vacuumer!

Park the car in the driveway and use the garage for a jump-rope-athon.

Create an obstacle course. Arrange furniture and cushions in such a way that players must navigate under tables, around corners, and through tight spaces without touching the floor.

Sing and dance along with your favorite music.

If the walls are really closing in on you, get out! Try roller- or ice-skating at a local rink, or visit a nearby hotel with an indoor pool—many permit non-guests to swim for a small fee.

-Healthcare Ministry Team

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Family Night Activities continue through March 25. Meal at 6:15, activities at 7:00.

March 4—Talent Show (meal at 6:00 p.m. this Wednesday)

March 11—*Re-checking Reality*, Matthew 7:13-27, Audrey Kanagy

March 18 *Dust—Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us?* (short video clip with discussion to follow)

March 25 Carnival — no adult study

Sunday school electives, March 1–April 5.

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

ALIVE WITH 55 & UP

The 2009 program gets under way March 10. **THE SCHOOLBOYS**—Richard Frank, James Lutz, Harold Keener, Glenn Stauffer and Paul Kurtz, singing of life early and late.



It has been more than ten years since The Schoolboys first sang old school songs. From this meager beginning they now relish a reflection on life from those days when early they got to school (by walking or by bus) to the time they are now in, and to what lies ahead. Their prankish innocence gives way to the sentiments of adult life.

Our gathering time is 10:00 a.m. Following the program, we enjoy lunch together.

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?"



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Harry & Anna Sauder
- 14 Ray & Lydia Bauman
- 19 Ron & Darlene Lapp
- 21 Todd & Cindy Gingrich
Elton & Sherlyn Horst
- 23 Tom & Vicki Steffy
- 26 Larry & Evie Hershey
- 27 Ryan & Jessica Horst



RIDGEVIEW QUIZZES ON THE TOP

For three years Ridgeview youth have been involved with ACC quizzing. In quizzing there are two leagues, League A and League B. Team 1 is in League A; Teams 2 & 3 in League B. Team 1's team standing is 14 of 29; Team 2's team standing is 27 of 28; Team 3's team standing is 24 of 28.

For individual standings we have three quizzers that are in the top one hundred. Sarah Terlizzi is in 92nd place, Emily Terlizzi is in 85th, and Kelsey Eldridge is in 46th place.

Come out and support our teams. The final matches are:

March 1, 6:30 PM @ Akron

March 8, 6:30 PM @ Weaverland

March 15, 6:30 PM @ Lancaster Mennonite School

March 22, 1:00 PM ACC tournament @ Lancaster Mennonite

March 27-29 Invitational Tournament, Archibold, OHIO

Ridgeview quizzers:

Team 1 Laura Glick, Shaun Martin, Morgan Steffy, Emily Terlizzi, Sarah Terlizzi

Team 2 Rebecca Eldridge, Christle Gehman, Dylan Palmer, Erica Siegrist

Team 3 Kelsey Eldridge, Alex Fellenbaum, Carissa Heine, Mitchell Steffy

Coaches Heidi Loncosky, Ann Palmer, Maureen Terlizzi, Pat Yoder

Thank you, Galen Dise, for providing the team shirts!

Rebecca Eldridge

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Adam Fellenbaum
David Stoltzfus
Ruth Yoder
- 2 Julie Denlinger
Allison Martin
Jonathan Martin
- 3 Nellie Beiler
- 4 Joyce Shirk
- 5 George Beiler
- 7 Betty Smucker
William Thomas
- 8 Evie Hershey
- 9 Rebecca Eldridge
Dylan Palmer
- 11 Amanda Beiler
- 13 Joel Gingrich
- 16 Rachel Martin
Amos Reiff
- 17 Alvin Smoker
- 18 Katie Beiler
- 19 Lia Bentivogli
Jim Lapp
- 20 Dick Thomas
- 27 Monica Steffy
- 28 Maya Horst
Jennifer Winters
- 29 Sarah Rohrer
- 30 Marie Kurtz
- 31 Lydia Bauman
Eby Hershey
Reba Ranck



FACEBOOK PAGE

Ridgeview has a Facebook page! Facebook is a free website that allows you to connect with people you know. Ridgeview's page is made up of a group that has a total of 39 members and is still growing. There are opportunities to post pictures of church activities—quizzing, Time Out, Clubs, etc. on the page. There is also a discussion box where you can discuss any topic with other members. Carissa Heine

LADIES RETREAT

February 6 & 7, twenty-five women gathered at Tel Hai for a ladies fellowship and spiritual enrichment retreat. One of Webster's definitions of retreat is to retire, rest or relax. Although there was much to ponder and learn, we relaxed.

Cheryl Hollinger, Director of Christian Education at Forest Hills Mennonite Church was our speaker.

Frances DiSilvio...The camaraderie of each of the women around the table was felt overwhelmingly in love and the sharing that was revealed. The unveiling of what was in each other's heart and soul flowed out of those who spoke by the feeling of being at ease in each other's company. The topic was perfect for the time because of the world situations. Each one could relate to a given crisis in our families.

Our heavenly father did not promise us a bed of roses in our journey in life, but he did say, "Pray for one another," and he will do the rest. Our loving Jesus' heart will see us through our struggles, no matter the burden we carry.

Mim Martin...Cheryl spoke of the "lumps" in our life. A **lump** in my oatmeal is inconvenient and is a reality of the moment and NOT a big deal. A **lump** in my throat creates pain in my heart and life but my life is not threatened.. Often this **lump** is a problem I cannot fix but is most certainly a situation that *must* be addressed. A **lump** in my breast threatens my well-being and may be life threatening.....I would know that something is *terribly* wrong.

Cheryl encouraged us with reminders that Jesus himself had a **lumpy** life. He felt tired, was thirsty and had to put up with squabbling children. He was severely tempted, he wept and was betrayed by a close friend. He had death threats, was nearly beaten to death and was ultimately crucified. In order to address his **lumps** he kept in close fellowship with God. He kept his focus on the eternal perspective. He reached out to close friends and he "retreated" to assess his situation. God says his grace is sufficient (II Cor. 12:9) and he asks us to give all our worries and cares to Him because he truly cares for us (I Peter 5:7).

Galatians 6:2 encourages us to bear each others burdens, fulfilling the law of our Savior.

We ate, we rested and we learned and yes, we laughed too. We played, we prayed. We listened to each others burdens. We returned to our families refreshed, knowing that we are blessed women to have each other.

Patty King...We shared thoughts on different times our lives felt stressed or "lumpy" and how we felt about that. Cheryl led us in thinking about dealing with these times and how God fills our lives during those times.

We also had time to play games, talk, and just relax and get to know each other a little more as the weekend went on. We were treated to great meals and snacks and enjoyed fellowship time together. Many thanks to Darlene Lapp, Charlotte Lapp and Gwen Fellenbaum for all their work getting our time organized and planned so we could sit back and relax and enjoy the time together.

BROADER CHURCH EVENTS

For your participation....

Stewardship University March 7 at Lancaster Mennonite School, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Courses invite you to discover the solutions you need to live a God-honoring life of holistic stewardship. Learn ways your use of time, talents, money, health, and relationships God has given you can enhance and deepen your faith, drawing you nearer to God. Information is on the literature rack.

Join poet and professor, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, for a panel discussion on "Fact and Fiction: Reconsidering *Rosanna of the Amish*," on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm at Strasburg Mennonite Church. Historian and genealogist S. Duane Kauffman will also speak. Amish half-moon pies, associated with the book's Big Valley setting, will be available for sale at the event. Event is sponsored by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society; call us for more information at (717) 393-9745.

"Beyond Ourselves" Reaching Out Through Music, March 15, 3pm, Lancaster Mennonite School Fine Arts Center. A concert for the whole family featuring the Beyond Ourselves Chamber Musicians (Ryan Kauffman, Christy Heatwole Kauffman, Rosemary Siegrist Blessing, and Doris Hall-Gulati), the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster, and the Lancaster Mennonite School Choirs. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Mennonite Central Committee and their relief and peace work in Colombia. For more information, contact Ryan Kauffman at (717) 291-0514.

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



MEET THE BRUCE KING FAMILY....

I am happy to have the opportunity to pass along some information about my family and our lives. We have been attending Ridgeview for over a year now but I will still do introductions for completeness. I am Bruce King and my wife is Patty. We have 4 children with ages ranging from 14 to 9. Isaac is the oldest followed by Dan, Abby and Molly in that order. Isaac and Dan attend LMS middle school while Abby and Molly are at Locust Grove elementary school.

A Small vignette about me; I was raised in Lebanon, Pa. and graduated from LMS in 1981. My educational career then continued over the next 18 years (with a couple years in the middle to stop and actually work for a living) finally finishing with my medical degree and fellowship training. This educational journey started in Harrisonburg, Va. And then went onto Richmond.

Along the way I was blessed to meet a wonderful woman who would later become my wife. We met in the laboratory of Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Va. while I was working in the laboratory and Patty was working there also while finishing up college at James Madison University. Our journey together began in the spring of 1987 and continued until our engagement in 1989. Our paths actually parted for a year after Patty graduated from Medical Technology school and she went to work at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. while I went to Richmond, Va. to start medical school. We were able to stay apart for only a year until we wed in June of 1990.

Patty bought a house in the south side of Richmond where we lived after we were married. We stayed there until my graduation from medical school in 1993 which then started the next leg of our ongoing journey. We moved to Burlington, Vermont to do my pathology residency which lasted from 1993-1998. During this time we were blessed to be part of a church planting that occupied a lot of our time and energies until we started having other distractions in our personal lives.

Isaac came along in October of 1994 and Dan in May of 1996. Abby joined the crew in January 1998, 6 months before my residency was over and we were bound to Pittsburgh, Pa. for my fellowship training. On completion of my fellowship training we were faced with the long awaited task of finally finding a real job. Through divine providence we wound up in Lancaster in July 1999 at Lancaster General Hospital (This is a whole story in itself, ask me sometime).

We rented a house in East Petersburg until we bought a house in East Hempfield township at the end of 2001. While preparing to move in, Patty injured her back which started a saga of several years of procedures, physical therapy, consultations, which finished up with 3 back surgeries which did not relieve the pain she was experiencing leaving pain medications as the only remaining treatment option. We have and are continuing to adjust to the changes in our lives from this occurrence and continue to try to find how God plans to use this for his glory.

When we arrived in Lancaster we started to attend church where several old college friends were attending. This felt comfortable for several years until we started to feel that true biblical doctrine was not the focus of the leadership. I investigated and visited several different churches in the greater Lancaster area and was impressed with what I found at Ridgeview. The warmth of the people here and the biblical basis of the churches teachings and the reach out to the surrounding community were all positive attributes which allowed us to feel more at home here. Bruce King

"LOVE PILLOW" TOPICS

(shared by Merv & Jan at Valentine dinner)

- Focus on the things you enjoy about each other
- Support each others interests and events
- Share household tasks
- Do unique things together that you both enjoy
- Take time to talk and listen to each other
- Plan getaways or enjoy spontaneous outings
- Surprise each other with unexpected gifts
- Have realistic expectations for each other and self
- Experience laughter, humor and fun together
- Extend forgiveness to each other
- Be flexible and willing to change as needed
- Enjoy physical touch and expressions of affection

VALENTINE BANQUET

Valentine Dinner—Saturday, February 14, 2009

Always great food when Theresa is in the kitchen

Lovely tables with roses and candles

Eighty persons enjoyed the evening

Nelson was a great MC

The Love Pillow flew from table to table

Informative and creative presentation by Merv & Jan

Night Owls love to move furniture!?!

Exceptional atmosphere in the 1990 Hall

Distinguished Men's Quartet share music & humor

In case you haven't heard there's one in the making for 2010

Numerous comments of a great evening

Nice job by Community Life Commission

Encouraged to keep "The Rhythm of Love" in our marriages

Remember the love that brought you together

Evie Blank

TOP TEN WAYS TO STRENGTHEN A RELATIONSHIP

- #10 Develop spiritual depth in yourself
- #9 Honestly try to heal any misunderstandings
- #8 Work at liking each other, eventually it will come naturally
- #7 Look for opportunities to offer support and encouragement
- #6 Eliminate the "scratchy" elements in your personality traits that can irritate
- #5 Learn to be interesting so that you can be stimulating
- #4 Don't be egotistical or a know-it-all
- #3 Try not to let things bother you, be easy going
- #2 Be comfortable to be with, don't cause strain in your relationship
- #1 Remember their name

SHARING & EXCHANGE

Three ideas for sharing as a church family have grown from the Economic Discussion group. The group, which is open to everyone, meets every other Tuesday evening to find ways to respond to the impact of the economic crisis on our lives. Future meetings are on March 10, March 24, April 14, and April 28 at 7:00 pm.

Sharing Exchange

This project will match your gifts to needs within our church community. As an example, if you love to read, and someone else in our church family loves books, but their eyes have grown tired—what a joy it would be for that person for you to stop by a couple of times a month and read for an hour. Surveys inviting people to identify gifts to share will be done every two to three months so you will be able to limit how long you can share your gift. So begin to think about the gifts you have that you can share with the congregation.

Community Garden

We plan to raise a garden for the church. We hope to raise fruits and vegetables, then can and freeze the abundance the Lord provides--having food available as needs arise and for fellowship meals and Wednesday night meals. Fresh vegetables can be shared with those who cannot grow their own.

Ridgeview Recycle

We hope to share items with each other. Suppose you need a larger coffee maker, what will you do with your old one that still works fine? You can share it through Ridgeview's recycle. We'll get it to someone with no working coffee maker. You hang onto it for us until we find its new home. Another example is sharing your camping gear with another church family when you are not using it.

A sheet with more details about these ministries is available on the literature shelf. Please contact Maureen Terlizzi about your interest or to get additional information.



March 2009

SUNDAY SCHOOL ELECTIVES MARCH 1—APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Lent 8:15 am Prayer Campus Chorale Fellowship meal Quiz @ Akron	2	3	4 Ministry Team@BIH Time Out Family Night	5 Weight W atchers	6	7 7 am Men's breakfast @ BIH
8 2nd Lent Warren Tyson Quiz@Weaverland	9 Mission Commission	10 Alive with 55 & up	11 Time Out Family Night	12 Weight W atchers	13	14
15 3rd Lent 8:15 am Prayer Ray Yoder Quiz @ LMS	16	17 7:30 am Prayer Sewing Circle	18 Time Out Family Night	19 Book Club Weight W atchers	20 ACC quiz staff meet- ing	21
22 4th Lent Nelson Yoder Quiz @ LMS	23	24	25 Time Out Family Night	26 Weight W atchers	27 Facility reserved— Chet Stoltzfus	28
29 5th Lent Ray Yoder	30	31				

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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.

Pastor Nelson Yoder

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APRIL NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE MARCH 23