

## Old/New Cabinet Retreat



**Members of the Allegheny Mennonite Conference Youth Cabinet. L to R: Front row: Peter Miller, Joe Speigle, Alisha Bender. Middle row: Joy Cotchen (youth minister), Kelsey Byler, Leah Rittenhouse. Back row: Emily Spory, Allison Eanes, Annika Miller, Jenna Spory, Jason Yoder (adult representative).**

The AMC Youth Cabinet met for their annual Old/New Retreat on August 5-6 at the home of Michael Spory, the outgoing cabinet chairperson. The youth cabinet serves the conference in planning events for the youth of the conference. At the Old/New Retreat the cabinet members from the previous year meet with the new cabinet members in visioning and handing over the reins. We spent time writing silly stories and playing a survival game as a way to get to know each other. Time was also spent singing, having devotions and making home-made ice cream. On Monday we spent the morning affirming the

gifts and qualities we see in each and then assigned the ministry task teams for the year. The members of the 07-08 youth cabinet are, Chairperson – Leah Rittenhouse (Scottdale), Peter Miller (University), Joe Speigle (Blough), Allison Eanes (Scottdale), Alisha Bender (Pittsburgh), Jenna Spory (First), Kelsey Byler (Maple Grove), Emily Spory (Kaufman), Annika Miller (Scottdale), Adult Representatives – Tom Tennefoss (Tressler), Jason Yoder (Maple Grove), and Joy Cotchen, Youth Minister.

—Joy Cotchen, Conference Minister of Children & Youth

# Camporee



**Winners of the annual firebuilding contest are pictured at right. The girl's winning team, comprised of Megan Spory, Taylor Euen, and Leslie Hunsberger, is from Kaufman. The boy's winning team is from Tressler and its members are Dennis Bryfogle, Matt Chaffinch, Trevor Schrock, and David Suarez.**

Over sixty-five children and adults met at Pine Springs Camp near Jennerstown, for a weekend of music, devotions, crafts, swimming, a hayride, games, and firebuilding. We were challenged by the Springs Puppet Team to follow the example of Jesus in how we live. Some of the youth cabinet led the singing and helped with crafts. The Service Adventure Unit from Johnstown led our games and activities. The cooks that made our delicious meals were Denise Spory, Mary Spory, and Donna Speigle. The highlight of the weekend is the firebuilding contest; we had a lot of fun build-

ing fires together and cheering each other on. The winner of the girl's firebuilding was a team from Kaufman Mennonite and the boys winners were from Tressler Mennonite. We were blessed with a beautiful weekend and had a great time. Thanks to the many adults who helped to make the weekend run smoothly. Camporee is for children ages 8-12, the date for next year is September 5-7, hope to see you there!

—Joy Cotchen, Conference Minister of Children & Youth

## Unique Advent Calendars Available

Are you looking for an excellent Christmas gift? This fall Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) will release a first-of-its-kind Advent calendar with artwork of Jesus' birth drawn by children in congregations. This colorful calendar retells the Christmas story using daily tabs that children can flip open. Under each flap is a Scripture verse and corresponding artwork from one of the winners of MMA's summer coloring contest. This calendar, only \$5, will provide a unique presence throughout the Christmas season. To order, visit [www.bookstore.MMA-online.org](http://www.bookstore.MMA-online.org) or call 800-348-7468. Ext. 269.

### Photo Credits:

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- p. 6, supplied by author.

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# Pastor/Spouse Retreat: Building a Healthy Team



About 30 Allegheny Conference pastors and spouses gathered at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center for their annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat. Leadership Commission arranges this event as one of its resourcing activities for conference pastors. This year's theme was Teambuilding and the input was provided by Dan and Rose Graber from Eastern District Conference.

Dan and Rose have served as pastors over several years, sometimes together, other times in multiple assignments. Currently, Rose is the pastor of Upper Milford Mennonite Church in Zionsville, Pa., and Dan is serving as Minister of Transformation for Salford Mennonite Church of Franconia Conference. Their work with Values-based Leadership provided a background to their presentation.



Dan and Rose used the pyramid of effective team characteristics found in Leoncini's book, *Five Dysfunctions of Organizations*. They walked the pastors through exercises related to recognizing anxiety, dysfunctions, and the pastor's role as a part of the system of the congregation. This pyramid builds from the basic level of trust to the pinnacle of results. Without trust, organizations cannot handle the conflicts which will occur. Unless people can speak their opinions directly, there will be no commitment to the decisions and values of the groups to which they belong. The fourth characteristic to pay attention to is the level of accountability and our willingness to honestly hold one another accountable for behaviours. At the pinnacle are results. A cohesive team will truly care about the results of their work.

From this basic view, Rose and Dan asked

us to reflect on teams found in the Bible, teams found in our church, and teams portrayed through video enactment. A bottom line for strong functioning teams is the trust that we build up through nurturing the relationships between its members. As pastors, we were strongly encouraged to see our responsibility in creating that first basic step of the pyramid of successful teams.

Daily worship sessions were led by the members of the Leadership Commission: Doc Dawson, Wayne Yoder, Steve Sauder, and Marilyn Bender. Doc opened the weekend by expressing his delight for times that allow pastors and their spouses to spend relaxed time together, noting how very important these times are for those in leadership. Wayne used his background in biology to compare the functioning of the church body to an egg. Steve based his meditation on a book which was found behind a library book cabinet during remodeling at Gortner. This 1953 book contained advice to young men looking for suitable spouses. Marilyn brought together a Sunday morning worship using scripture and song.

In addition to working hard with the materials that were presented, several moments of rest were included. A new activity this year was a geo-caching activity on Friday evening. This game uses electronic position finders that are tuned to satellite signals to precisely locate yourself, or objects, by coordinates. The goal is to locate these items in their hiding places. Friday night's search involved a series of hidden reflectors and flashlights to finally pinpoint the treasure cache.

We were also privileged to share the weekend with several new faces in the Conference. Jill and Matt Deputy from Tressler Mennonite, Sandeep and Sufi Thomas from the Asian Indian Church of Pittsburgh, and Carrie and Torin Eichler from Morgantown Church of the Brethren. Each of these couples brought their children along since child care is provided during the weekend sessions.

Next year's Pastor/Spouse Retreat will have the theme of humor and is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 10-12, 2008. —Conrad Mast, Scottdale

**"Pastor/Spouse lineup." Participants were asked to line up according to congregational size to help determine discussion groups.**



**Above: Steve Sauder reads tips for finding a spouse while his own spouse, Anna, just smiles and shakes her head.**

**Left: Dan Graber did the majority of the teaching, but his wife and other half of the team, Rose, was always ready to encourage, clarify, or add an illustration.**

# ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE

## COMMISSIONS AND STAFF 2007-2008

### Office Ministry Team

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#### Moderator

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#### Moderator Elect

S. David Garber, *Scottsdale* (2008)  
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#### CLC Representatives/Delegates to Assembly (Constituency Leaders Council)

Kurt Horst, *New Life*  
Carl Geissinger, *Maple Grove* (2008)  
Lynette Plank, *Kaufman* (2009)

#### ► Missions and Service Commission

Ron Spory, chair, *New Life* (2008)  
125 Noble Road, Johnstown, PA 15905  
814-288-5617 rls173@aol.com

Cathy Chapman, *Pinto* (2009)  
T. J. Tennefoss, *Tressler* (2010)

#### ► Nurture & Education Commission

Cathy Spory, chair, *First* (2008)  
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#### ► Finance & Stewardship Commission

Brenda Benner, chair, *New Life* (2010)  
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814-443-3265 blbenner66@hotmail.com

Dave Mishler, *Crossroads* (2009)  
Lester Yoder, *Maple Grove* (2010)

#### ► Leadership Commission

Steve Sauder, chair, *Gortner* (2010)  
1530 Buffalo Rd., Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-523-3904 jnbru@sunlink.net

Wayne Yoder, *Pinto* (2008)  
Daryl (Doc) Dawson, *Canon Station* (2009)  
Marilyn Bender, *Pittsburgh* (2010)

#### ► Faith, Life & Procedures Commission

Alan Kauffman, chair, *Maple Grove* (2009)  
4902 Front Mt. Road, Belleville, PA 17004  
717-935-9965 ank@pa.net

Conrad Mast, *Scottsdale* (2008)  
Lynette Plank, *Kaufman* (2010)

#### Nominating Committee

Jack Styer, *Canan Station* (2008)  
Del Yoder, *Morgantown* (2008)  
David Eckman, *Blough* (2009)  
Anna Sauder, *Gortner* (2009)  
Julie Swartzentruber, *Pittsburgh* (2010)  
Ray Yoder, *Maple Grove* (2010)

#### Youth Cabinet

##### Chairperson:

Leah Rittenhouse, *Scottsdale*

##### Adult Representatives:

Jason Yoder, *Maple Grove*  
Tom Tennefoss, *Tressler*

##### Youth Minister:

Joy Cotchen, *Stahl*

##### Big Valley/Northern:

Kelsey Byler, *Maple Grove*  
Peter Miller, *University*

##### Johnstown:

Joe Speigle, *Blough*  
Jenna Spory, *First*  
Emily Spory, *Kaufman*

##### Western:

Allison Eanes, *Scottsdale*  
Annika Miller, *Scottsdale*  
Alisha Bender, *Pittsburgh*

*Casselman Valley, Martinsburg/  
Altoona, and Southeast Cluster do  
not have representatives this year.*

## Books From Herald Press

### A Review of *The Mennonite Handbook*

A good subtitle for this book would be “Everything You Wish You Knew About Being Mennonite Before You Became Mennonite.” The breadth and pithy nature of this book is a good primer to some of the generally held conventions within the Mennonite world. It would be an interesting discussion piece for a theology class, especially around the topic of whether we make our faith too complicated.

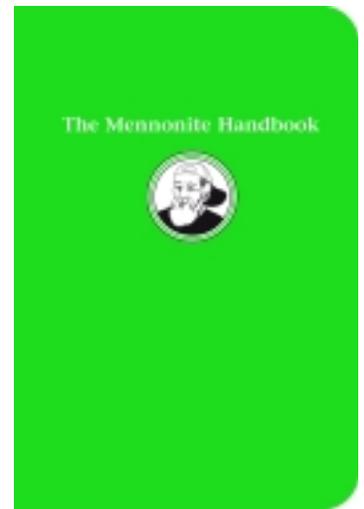
Its hard to decide what the most important part of this book would be. The theological, historical, and biblical resources are essential to who Mennonites are, and indeed are where a lot of the most important differences between Mennonites and the rest of Christendom lie. But the cultural aspects, for good or bad, have taken on equally important stature in some congregations.

This book serves many roles. It is entertaining, presented in a casual and accessible

style. Like sitting around during a potluck and just shooting the breeze. It is also a celebration and cautionary tale about culture. We rightly should celebrate our history and our customs; potlucks, four part signing, etc. But at the same time we can lose sight of how our faith has shaped these customs. In addition, these customs can become a barrier to reaching those outside our exclusive club. This book also provides a good introduction to many of the theological issues that Mennonites find important.

Ethnic Mennonites will find this book illuminating and perhaps even kind of funny at times. For others, it is a good, back of the envelope, version of what all those people are talking about in church every Sunday and a bit of where it came from.

—Keith Swartzendruber, Hyattsville



Paper, 208 pages  
ISBN: 978-0-8361-9363-3  
Price: \$15.99; in Canada \$19.99

“A handbook with a sense of humor, as well as filled with wisdom.”—Stanley Hauerwas, Duke University

About the editorial effort for this book ... The editorial effort was headed up by Sarah Kehrberg of Lexington, Kentucky, a former editor of Herald Press who with a number of 20-something young adults provided counsel on very practical tips on being a church-going follower of Jesus Christ. Conference leaers who contreibuted to the project were Brinton Rutherford of Lancaster Conference, David Bergen and karl Koop of Mennonite Church Canada, John D. Rother and Hannah Kehr of Indiana Michigan Conferece.

To order Herald Press books, call: 1 800 245-7894 or visit: [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com)

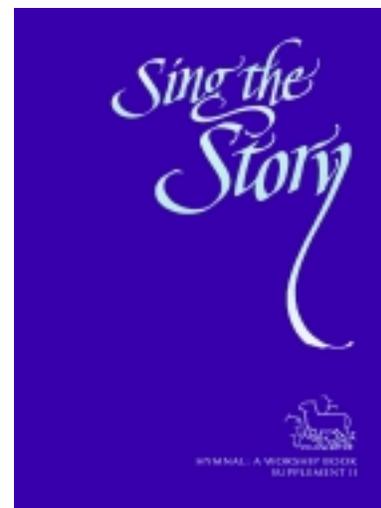
## Music Resources:

### *Sing the Story: Hymnal A Worship Book Supplement II* *Sing the Journey: Hymnal A Worship Book Supplement I* *With Heart & Hands*

*Sing the Story* uses the seasons of the church year from Advent to Pentecost to tell the story of the life, ministry, death, resurrection and reign of Juesus Christ through song and word. Also available are an accompaniment resource and a CD. *Sing the Journey* speaks of the reality of the Christian life journey in song and word. Available are an accompainment resource and two CDs. Please note: the price of *Sing the Story* and *Sing the Journey* will increase beginning Jan. 1, 2008.

*With Heart & Hands* is a collection of 18 arrangements of hymns from *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*, the two supplemental volumes to *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. The scores are designed for piano offertories, preludes and other performed music in worship and may be adapted for use as accompaniment with vocal or other instrumental renditions of the hymns. Some arrangements are suitable for less experienced pianists. Find more information and order at [www.mph.org](http://www.mph.org).

Spiral: \$8.99 US, \$10.79 Canada. Accompaniment resource packet: \$17.99 US, \$21.79 Canada



# TriState Relief Sale



TriState Relief Sale has sent \$503,200 to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) since its formation in 1999. These funds have made it possible to improve the lives of those in need in the United States and around the world during these years. Whenever you hear about a major disaster, war or extended poverty in the news, you will have the confidence that funds raised are enabling MCC to respond.

The aid has not only improved lives but many times has made it possible for MCC to save lives. To learn more about MCC's response, go to [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org).

Unfortunately, urgent needs around the world will continue. Therefore, we of TriState Relief Sale must be ready to respond as we plan our 10th year on July 18-19, 2008. Mark your personal and church calendars now! We invite all of you to join us in this celebration of giving as you plan your creation of crafts, quilts, woodwork project, food offerings or donations.

If your group has not participated in the Penny Power project in the past, now is the time to do so. Every cent raised will help provide enough food for all. Perhaps church members or family members would like to match all or a portion of your church Penny Power total—this is an activity that everyone can share in. For questions, contact (814) 445-6945.



**Top and Above: Goats are easily cared for, produce milk for growing children, can be sold for income and the natural fertilizer helps plants to thrive. \$30 will buy, house and vaccinate 1 goat. The quilt sale at TriState Relief Sale will enable the purchase of 583 goats.**



**Right and Far Right: Give the gift of enough food —\$50 will feed a family of 5 for a month. The sale of BBQ Chicken dinners at TriState Relief Sale will feed 190 people for a month.**

## TRISTATE INCOME 2007

Bike/Hike Fund Raiser	\$1,256.00
Fall Fund Raiser	1,229.00
Brochure & Booklet Ads, Donations	4,835.85
Children's Auction & Activities	341.50
Penny Power	20,620.00
Auction Items	34,376.46
MCC Project – Palestinian Refugees	3,909.00
MCC Project- Promoting Peace	745.00
Silent Auction	4,081.15
MCC Kit Contributions	484.00
Cheese	637.10
Chicken Bar-B-Q	1,880.00
Drinks	805.47
Funnel Cakes & Coffee	476.50
Ice Cream/Strawberry Shortcake	1,685.25
Pancakes & Sausage	927.13
Potato Bar & Taco Salad, Hamb.	2,273.55
Popcorn	83.65
Bake Sale	1,298.06
Book Savers	320.10
Choice Books	414.00
Crafts	1,226.60
Plants	296.00
Information Booth	647.05
Vintage Evaluations	90.00
<u>Vintage Fabrics</u>	<u>179.25</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$85,117.67</b>

## RELIEF SALE FUNDS FORWARDED

Mennonite Central Committee	\$64,000.00
Ten Thousand Villages Income	\$1,811.02

For questions or to review a complete financial report, contact TriState treasurer Dale L. Miller (724) 864-2037.





