

## New Vision for AMC

“Calling people into a transforming relationship with Jesus and His Church.” What you have just read are eleven words meant to shape and guide the work of Allegheny Mennonite Conference as we move into the future.

In August of 2007, the Coordinating Council met at Laurelville prior to summer conference for the sole purpose of visioning. Added to this initial discernment was your congregation’s input at the listening visits guided by Kurt Horst and Joy Cotchen; followed by more discussion at the spring delegate session at University Mennonite Church.

Coordinating Council gathered all this sharing and wisdom and attempted to focus it into a vision statement. The finished product of a vision statement is not an end; but a beginning.

Soon you may notice these eleven words in the header of Allegheny Conference News, on our conference letterhead or referred to by leadership. But the real test is if we begin noticing these eleven words coming to life in the stories of our congregations that make up Allegheny Mennonite Conference.

May I encourage this: As stories which embody our vision begin being lived locally in your church; please share those stories in Allegheny Conference News and in other settings; so that we can all be blessed and inspired by the ways God is moving as God is “Calling people into a transforming relationship with Jesus and His Church” in Allegheny Mennonite Conference.

On behalf of Coordinating Council,  
—Alan Kauffman, Maple Grove

## Siegrist Installed at Glade



Glade Mennonite Church installed Brent Siegrist as their pastor on June 29, 2008. Before coming to Glade, Brent and his wife, Katrina, served as teachers at Rosslyn Academy, an international Christian school in Nairobi, Kenya. Their last few months in Kenya were difficult as the country temporarily disintegrated into widespread violence. Brent is from Lancaster, Pa. Trina is from Elkhart, Ind. They studied together at Eastern Mennonite University, where Brent also received his pastoral training. Brent and Trina feel excited about their new mission assignment. They are encouraged by Glade’s desire to start new types of outreach and by the daily witness of Glade’s members in their places of work. —Brent Siegrist, Glade

**Brent Siegrist with wife, Katrina, and daughters, Aneka and Abigail.**

## What Would You Do.....?



What would you do to raise funds for a worthy cause? At what lengths would you go to help feed people and provide good water sources in other countries? Would you.....?

Members of Kaufman Mennonite Church recently agreed to kiss a goat in order to raise funds for a Penny Power project. Yes, a live goat! An MCC goat project provides goats to people in other countries. Just \$30 provides one goat. Beginning this past spring, a competition between the men and women of Kaufman took place to see who could raise the most money. Team leaders were chosen for each of the teams. Lila Harshberger and Mariela Hunsberger led the women's team and their husbands, Pete Harshberger and Dan Hunsberger, led the men's team. Mascots for the teams were Paco, a male goat, and Sara, a female goat. The losing team would have to kiss the opposing team's mascot. The winners

were announced at the church's annual picnic in August. The women, once again, were victorious! Since the Hunsbergers could not attend the picnic, Brian and Yvonne Devers were randomly (?) selected to take their place. After the men fulfilled their duty of kissing Sara, an auction of sorts took place. Bidders could name their price for anyone else to kiss a goat. However, that person could counter bid not to kiss a goat. A lot of bidding and a lot of goat-kissing took place and over \$1,000.00 was raised that evening alone.

Note: The Penny Power goal for this year's Tri-State Relief Sale of \$23,700.00 was not met. We can praise God, however, that \$18,272.00 was raised. The amount raised for Penny Power has decreased approximately 10% each year for the past two years.

—*Evonne Spory, Kaufman*

***Brenda Hamsher (above left) and Keith Yoder, (left) take their turns kissing goats, Paco, and Sara, respectively, in a good-hearted cause of raising money so that others can eat and drink.***

## Johnstown Unit Celebrates Ten Years

"I remember when we first arrived at the Service Adventure house in 1998. It was not ready and we had to sleep in the basement of the First Mennonite Church for the first week," said Bill Brubaker, leader for the 1998 to 2000 Johnstown unit. Lynette Plank, host family member, remembers the night Svenja Kardel, a 2007 participant, got lost while picking up the other participants at their host families. "I was so nervous because none of us knew where she was and we all kept calling each other trying to figure out where she could have gone," said Lynette.

On the weekend of July 25 - 27, 2008 three unit leaders, ten participants, support personnel, and host families came back for a ten year reunion of the Johnstown's Service Adventure Unit. The celebration started on Friday night at the Thomas Mennonite Pavilion with an ice cream social. Participants shared about their most memorable moments while they were at

the unit. On Saturday there was a covered dish picnic at the home of John and Mary Spory. A worship service of celebration was held at First Mennonite Church in Johnstown on Sunday morning with a fellowship meal following.

The Johnstown branch of Service Adventure was started in 1998. Service adventure is sponsored by the Mennonite Mission Network. Service Adventure gives young adults, ages 17-20, a ten month adventure in service, learning, and spiritual growth. There are Service Adventure units in Philippi, West Virginia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Albany, Oregon; Anchorage, Alaska; and Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

All who came to the reunion had a memorable time sharing stories about their time in Johnstown and telling how it affected their lives. Looking forward to the 20th reunion!

—*Denise Spory, New Life*

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## Pastor/Spouse Retreat

The annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat was held Oct. 10-12, 2008. Darrel and Sherill Hostetter used Philippians 3:10-11 as the focus for the weekend, entitled, *Passionate Spirituality*. In Philippians 3, the apostle Paul shows the depth of his spiritual maturity by saying, "I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness. I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself." (*The Message*) Using stories, providing time for prayer, solitude and reflection the Hostetters provided all who attended with the resources for a truly, beneficial retreat. The following "tidbits" were things I found meaningful.

**Knowing Christ personally.** Christ tells the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Did you know that neither of the sons was truly "at home with the father"? Both sons in the story were prodigals. True, the younger son spent years trying to gain significance and approval by seeking out people and their approval, affirmation and praise while the older son stayed at home and worked. The older son simply used a different method of avoiding intimacy, it's called performance. He had the knowledge that his father was there but he was not experiencing the father's heart any more than his younger brother. In fact, if I understand Jewish culture/etiquette correctly, not joining the celebration of the younger son's return was a rejection of the father himself which was a considered a greater offense than squandering wealth.

We do the very same thing. We feel virtuous and appear righteous but we are just as lost as the sons in Jesus' story. We try to satisfy the longing for intimacy with God by seeking others to affirm us. We look to relationships with other people as a substitute for God. We work hard in ministry so the Father will be pleased. We look for sensual satisfaction in pornography, romantic novels or emotional affairs. How can we appropriate resurrection power in these and other areas of life?

**Experiencing resurrection power.** Knowing Christ personally does not mean following a list of rules or trying our utmost to act as we think God would want us to act. Knowing Christ is not about us, we are not in

a rowboat trying to "catch" Jesus by rowing as fast as we can. Rowing faster will not draw us closer to Christ. Experiencing resurrection power is much more like being in a sailboat; of course there are things for us to do, such as discerning the direction of the wind, setting the rudder and paying attention but the power of forward movement is not within our control. We can only experience the resurrection power of Jesus as we release the weight of our brokenness, unfulfilled expectations and our inability to cleanse and heal ourselves. Our responsibility is to open ourselves to God's transforming power.

**Becoming a partner in Christ's suffering.** I will admit that my first response to this statement is, "Yeah, right?!" Sharing in the suffering of Jesus sounds holy and pious and might have been just fine for the apostle Paul, but it's not for me! Who of us wants to actually consider this? Suffering is something we all hope to avoid as much as possible, isn't it? We tend to be so focused on what God can do for ME that we often miss the fact that for large numbers of Christians around the world, suffering is an expected part of everyday life. We forget the fact that the resurrection power of Jesus is available to get us through the inevitable sufferings of life and not to get us out of them. We cannot come to know Christ personally or experience the resurrection power by avoiding suffering.

Might we want to develop a taste for suffering? Sharing in the suffering of Jesus creates and strengthens the connection with Jesus. It also provides grace. Who doesn't want a more intimate connection with Jesus? And we could all learn to appropriate more grace. Might we want to develop a readiness to experience whatever life holds? A deep passion for God minimizes suffering. All in all, suffering has value even though we can't understand the purpose of it.

We need a determination to remain rooted, to "stay at home with the Father". The ability to grieve loss, sin and brokenness only comes from God's unconditional love. That is the only way to experience joy in spite of suffering. It mysteriously transforms sorrow to joy.

Of course, there was also plenty of conversation, reconnecting with "old" friends and meeting new ones. I am truly honored and enormously grateful to have been a part of this event —*Maryann Yoder, University*



**Darrel and Sherill Hostetter**

Pastors: the Spring Minister's Seminar will be held May 11-14, 2009 at Laurelville. The resource person will be Anil Solanki who is a professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. The theme will be: "The Time of the Kings in Israel."

# ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE

## COMMISSIONS AND STAFF 2008-2009

### Office Ministry Team

**Conference Minister**  
**Kurt Horst**  
kurt@amc-mcusa.org

**Conference Minister of Children & Youth**  
**Joy Cotchen**  
joy@amc-mcusa.org

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Kathy Holsopple**  
office@amc-mcusa.org

PO Box 12  
Somerset PA  
15501-0012  
phone: 814-443-2007  
fax: 814-445-3418  
e-mail:  
office@amc-mcusa.org  
www.amc-mcusa.org

### Moderator

S. David Garber, *Scottdale* (2010)  
300 S. High St., Scottdale, PA 15683  
724-887-9407 dgarber@cvzoom.net

### Moderator Elect

John Bender, *Pittsburgh* (2010)  
640 Melbourne St., Pittsburgh, Pa., 15217  
412-421-0502 j.m.bender@verizon.net

### CLC Representatives/Delegates to Assembly (Constituency Leaders Council)

Kurt Horst, *New Life*  
Lynette Plank, *Kaufman* (2009)  
S. David Garber, *Scottdale* (2010)

### ► Faith, Life & Procedures Commission

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

Lynette Plank, *Kaufman* (2010)  
Conrad Mast, *Scottdale* (2011)

### ► Finance & Stewardship Commission

Brenda Benner, chair, *New Life* (2010)  
1462 Listie Rd., Friedens, PA 15541  
814-443-3265 blbenner66@hotmail.com

Dave Mishler, *Crossroads* (2009)  
Lester Yoder, *Maple Grove* (2011)

### ► Leadership Commission

Steve Sauder, chair, *Gortner* (2010)  
809 Heritage Drive, Oakland, Md., 21550  
301-334-7969 sauder\_steve@yahoo.com

Daryl (Doc) Dawson, *Canon Station* (2009)  
Marilyn Bender, *Pittsburgh* (2010)  
Wayne Yoder, *Pinto* (2011)

### ► Nurture & Education Commission

Cathy Spory, chair, *First* (2009)  
233 Kaufman Road, Boswell, PA 15531  
814-629-9846 sporycj@aol.com

### ► Missions and Service Commission

Ron Spory, chair, *New Life* (2011)  
125 Noble Road, Johnstown, PA 15905  
814-288-5617 rls173@aol.com

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

### Nominating Committee

David Eckman, *Blough* (2009)  
Anna Sauder, *Gortner* (2009)  
Julie Swartzentruber, *Pittsburgh* (2010)  
Ray Yoder, *Maple Grove* (2010)  
Mary Hertzler, *Scottdale* (2011)  
Myrah Sinko, *Martinsburg* (2011)

### Youth Cabinet

L. to R., front row: Leah Speigle, *Blough*;  
Jenna Spory, *First*; Krista Rittenhouse,  
*Scottdale*; Annika Miller, chairperson,  
*Scottdale*; Emily Spory, *Kaufman*; Kelsey  
Byler, *Maple Grove*. Back row: Jason & Sarah  
Yoder, Adult Representatives, *Maple Grove*;  
Evan Yoder, *Maple Grove*; Aaron Root,  
*Springs*; Isaac Tice, *Springs*; Joy Cotchen;  
Youth Minister, *Stahl*.

SnoKamp will be held at Laurelville, Jan. 30-  
Feb. 1. The speaker will be Peter Eberly, youth  
minister from Harrisonburg (Va.) Mennonite  
Church. Worship and music leader will be  
Jeremy Kempf, who led music at San Jose and  
will be leading music again at Columbus.



# Volunteers Bring Aid to Honduras

Ten years ago, Shari Yoder decided to pick up a couple of passport applications so that she and her husband, Carl, could travel abroad.

Unbeknownst to her, the same day her husband signed them up for a destination that they would never forget. And, they continued to visit for the next 10 years.

Shari Yoder said the couple had talked about going on mission trips for years but couldn't with three youngsters at home. When their children grew up, the time came.

Shari didn't know it, but her husband had signed them up to go on a mission trip with Pro-Papa Missions America to help residents in poverty-stricken Honduras. She had dreams of taking a glamorous vacation abroad first, but is glad her husband took her to Honduras.

The Yoders, both registered nurses—along with about 50 other volunteers that include nurses, doctors, dentists and tradesmen—have traveled together each March to Honduras to provide medical, dental and eye care for residents and to build houses for them.

Shari Yoder said her brigade has seen 35,656 medical, dental and eye patients in the past 10 years and has built 18 homes. "I fell in love with the people and their country," she said. "They welcomed us with open arms."

She said the Hondurans have close-knit families who take care of each other, plus they are spiritually inclined and willing to share what they have with others.

The Hondurans actually do more for the volunteers than the volunteers do for the Hondurans, she said. "They give us a renewed perspective of life," she said, adding that they have nothing and that Americans have plenty.

When she first started on the missions, Shari Yoder worked for Memorial Medical Center. She since has retired.

Volunteers go from village to village with tons of medicine and vitamins, much of it donated by Memorial.

Her entire family, including six of her seven grandchildren – Tessa Showalter, 7, and Tessa's twin sisters, Morgan and Madison, 5, all of Hollsopple; brothers Caleb 7, and Brooke Yoder, 5, from Harrisburg; and Nicolas Yoder, 2, of Hollsopple – help other volunteers package supplies the brigade needs for the trip. Another grandson, Christopher Yoder, 7 months, of Hollsopple, will be helping when he is old enough.

Carl Yoder, who works at Memorial Medical Center, said many Hondurans lack access to medical, dental and eye care. Volunteers have to pay their own travel expenses and use vacation time for the trip, he said. That says much about their dedication.

The Yoders, active members of Thomas Mennonite Church, have served as coordinators for the trip the past nine years.

Shari is taking a breather from helping with the mission for a while. Recently, she was recognized by fellow volunteers for her efforts the past 10 years. Her husband will continue in his role with the mission.

Pastor Patti Simonsick of First Mennonite Church, said the dedication that the Yoders have displayed with the mission is unsurpassable. "They make it so that people want to be involved and go on the mission trips," she said.

Sister Laurinda Mayer, who founded Pro-Papa Missions America in 1996 along with a former Memorial Medical Center executive, said the Yoder family is dedicated to the mission, even forgoing buying Christmas gifts for each other and donating the money toward building houses in Honduras.

—reprinted with permission from *The Tribune-Democrat*, August 24, 2008, Frank Sojak, writer.

Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) has an opening for a marketing manager to lead efforts to develop and administer strategic marketing plans for regional offices, market credit union services, and integrate all marketing activities with the MMA brand. This is a full-time position, in Lancaster, Pa., shared between MMA and Mennonite Financial Credit Union (MFCU). Qualified candidates will have a bachelor's degree in marketing, business administration or related field, professional marketing experience, and CLU, CHFC, CFP or similar professional designation (or willingness to obtain).

MMA is an Anabaptist stewardship organization that helps people integrate their faith with their financial decisions. We are an equal opportunity employer offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. For more information about this position, visit our website, [www.mma-online.org](http://www.mma-online.org). Send cover letter and resume to: MMA, Human Resources, PO Box 483, Goshen, IN 46527; Fax: (574) 537-6635; e-mail: [hr@mma-online.org](mailto:hr@mma-online.org).



**The Junior Youth Sunday School Class chose the Terra Alta Food Pantry as their service project this summer. During the month of June they collected non-perishable food items and paper products for the food pantry. These items are then distributed to people in need in the surrounding community. On July 7th, with the help of Ken & Joyce Kisamore, they delivered nearly a pick-up load of supplies to the pantry. Pictured are, L. to R., Sean Chapman, Julie Keefer, Tonya Sanders, Katie Petersheim, Ken & Joyce Kisamore.**



**Over the past three years, a Centennial Symbol Task Force comprised of faculty and staff developed a centennial symbol, along with the theme "Living The Vision: Hesston College 1909-2009." The centennial symbol depicts a stalk of ripened wheat and the Kansas sun, while the wavy lines denote the horizontal look of the prairie landscape, with the left to right movement symbolizing past to future. The symbol was developed partially in connection with the title of the forthcoming centennial history book, *A School on the Prairie: A Centennial History of Hesston College 1909-2009*, by John E. Sharp, Hesston College historian and history professor. The centennial symbol and two banners were designed by Nancy Miller, Hesston College graphic designer.**

Plans are underway to celebrate Hesston College's centennial during the 2009-10 school year.

Dallas Stutzman, vice president for Alumni and Church Relations, announced that the theme for Hesston College's upcoming centennial celebration is "Living The Vision: Hesston College 1909-2009."

"We look forward to honoring those who have gone before us, especially those who developed the vision for the college, and celebrating what God is doing and will do among us," Stutzman said. "This is an exciting time in the life of Hesston College and we invite the public to join us in this special celebration.

"I also want to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff who have served with dedication on the Centennial Steering Committee and the Centennial Symbol Task Force," he added.

The first day of classes was Wednesday, September 22, 1909 for Hesston College, known then as Hesston Academy and Bible School. But the visionaries who saw the need for a Mennonite "school in the West" spent many hours of thought, dreaming, discussion, and prayer to make it happen. That's been true of college leaders from then until now.

This vision, whether it's played out in the various college departments today or describes the passion of Hesston College leaders of the past, is the same—the biblical vision. From its beginning, Hesston College has lived the vision that education must be grounded in the biblical narrative. Hesston College faculty and staff passionately believe, like those who have gone before, that "the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Hesston College, the two-year college of Mennonite Church USA, seeks "to educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community, integrating thought, life, and faith for service to others in the church and the world" (Hesston College Mission Statement, adopted by Hesston College Board of Overseers in July 1994).

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has announced that the 2007 women's volleyball team at Hesston College has been honored for its academic excellence. Coach Vanessa Schroeder said her squad was among a record 354 volleyball teams across the coun-

try that received the Game Plan/AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2007-08 season. Schroeder also pointed out that her 2007 team was one of only 15 teams honored from two-year colleges in the U.S. and one of 5 teams from two-year colleges in the state of Kansas.

The award honors college and high school teams that have displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale during the school year. The team's GPA was 3.51.

According to Schroeder, the team set a GPA goal of 3.45 at the start of the season. "Their efforts in the classroom show the dedication this team had on and off the court to be successful," she said. "This team was made up of high achievers. They developed a deep sense of respect among the faculty and staff of Hesston College in their efforts to reach their academic and athletic goals."

An Allegheny Conference student was among the team members. **Kelly Green** was a 5'11" freshman who played opposite/middle blocker last year. Kelly is from Greenwood, Del., and attends Tressler Mennonite Church.

A play set during the Depression, "The Diviners," was performed by the Hesston College Theatre Department October 9-12. Performances in Northlawn Room 109 were given Thursday through Saturday evening, and Sunday afternoon.

"The Diviners," which Theatre Director Megan Tyner describes as an "intense, yet beautiful play, " tells the story of a discontented preacher on a journey to find what's missing in his life and a simple minded boy who is on a journey of his own."

Tyner said "The Diviners" is an intelligent and deep discussion of faith and spirituality. "It explores the need for salvation and the search for faith in the most tragic moments," she said. "The play ends tragically, but it's a real ending and it represents what theatre can do for audiences, letting them feel emotions and digest unanswerable question. The play doesn't necessarily give any answers, but I think the playwright, Jim Leonard, Jr., was brave enough to ask a lot of questions."

The cast included Allegheny Conference student, **Tom Tennefoss**, who is a sophomore from Greenwood, Del., and attends Tressler Mennonite Church.

Two Allegheny Conference students are participating on the 2008 Hesston College women's soccer team, which began its season August 29.

**Melina Hunsberger**, is a freshman, playing midfield. She is from Hollsopple, Pa., and attends Kaufman Mennonite Church.

**Bridgett Weaver** is a sophomore, playing midfield. She is from Winder, Pa., and attends First Mennonite Church.

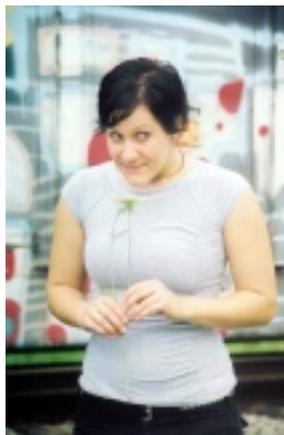
An Allegheny Conference native is participating in Goshen College's Study-Service Term (SST) in Jamaica, with 17 other students during the fall semester. Goshen offers the only three-month study abroad program that has American Sign Language (ASL) as its primary language into which students will be immersed. Director of International Education Tom Meyers believes that this is the first full semester academic ASL study abroad program in the country.

**Rachel C. Mast**, daughter of Conrad and Donna Mast of Scottdale, is majoring in American Sign Language. She is a 2007 graduate of Southmoreland Senior High School and attends Scottdale Mennonite Church. She left for Jamaica on Sept. 4 and will return to the United States on Dec. 3.

To participate in this unit, students had to study ASL for at least two semesters. The unit is based in the city of Mandeville where the students will live with host families, engage in deeper study of ASL and learn about Jamaican Deaf culture. The Jamaica Association for the Deaf will assist with the education component of the program. During the second half of the semester, all students will work in deaf schools throughout the country as the service component of the study abroad program.

Jamaica is a Caribbean island with a rich culture of music, art and cuisine, influenced by its history and blend of ethnic traditions. Jamaica also hosted Goshen College SST units in the 1970s. Jamaica has Third World realities; despite the large tourist industry, most Jamaicans are fairly poor. The country has a 15.9 percent unemployment rate. In addition the country appears to have an unusually large population of Deaf people. According to the Jamaica Association for the Deaf, more than 300 children are

diagnosed each year with a mild to moderate hearing loss. Although many developing countries have no schools for Deaf children to attend, Jamaica does have an infrastructure of deaf schools. There are more than eight schools for the Deaf, most started by mission groups, in a country slightly smaller in size than Connecticut.



**Rachel Mast**

English is the primary spoken language in Jamaica, but the Deaf community signs with a Jamaican Sign Language which is different from, but is heavily influenced by ASL. Jamaica was colonized first by the Spanish in the 1400s, later by the British and gained independence in 1962.

Web updates and photos from the group are available from Goshen College's SST Web site at: [www.goshen.edu/sst/jamaica08](http://www.goshen.edu/sst/jamaica08).

Although ASL classes have been available at Goshen College for nearly two decades, a four-year degree in American Sign Language Interpreting began in 2002, and the college now offers both a major and minor. This program offers students the opportunity to appreciate the language, culture, contributions and history of the Deaf community in the United States. The four-year degree program is designed to prepare graduates for a professional interpreting career and to use their skills in service to the community and the church. Upon completion of the bachelor's degree, students will have taken the written portion of the National Registry of Interpreters for Deaf evaluation and have a sound base on which to build their interpreting skills. Goshen is one of only three ASL/English programs in the state of Indiana and it is the only Mennonite college to offer a four-year degree in ASL/English Interpreting. For more information about Goshen College's ASL Interpreting major, visit [www.goshen.edu/asl](http://www.goshen.edu/asl).

## Conference Calendar ▼

### November 1

Fall Delegates at Stahl

### November 11

Pastor's Meeting at Bedford, Pa.

### November 21-23

Leadership Retreat, Grades 9-12, at Camp Mantowagan

### November 29

Deadline Jan.-Feb. issue *ACNews*

### Jan. 30 - Feb. 1

SnoKamp, Grades 9-12, at Laurelville

### January 27

Deadline Mar.-Apr. issue *ACNews*

### March 7

Spring Delegates at Martinsburg

### March 13-15

Junior High Retreat, Grades 6-8, at Laurelville

### May 11-14

Spring Minister's Seminar at Laurelville

### June 30 - July 4

National Youth Convention, Biennial Convention & Delegate Assembly, Columbus, Ohio

### July 14-19

Mennonite World Conference.in Asuncion, Paraguay

### July 17-18

TriState Relief Sale, McHenry, Md.

### August 7-9

134th Annual Meeting at Laurelville

#### ACNews

531 Scottdale Ave.  
Scottdale, PA 15683  
ph. 724-887-5563  
e-mail: [sendamcnews@gmail.com](mailto:sendamcnews@gmail.com)

#### Allegheny Mennonite Conference Office

PO Box 12, Somerset, PA 15501  
ph. 814-443-2007 fax 814-445-3418  
e-mail: [office@amc-mcusa.org](mailto:office@amc-mcusa.org)  
[www.amc-mcusa.org](http://www.amc-mcusa.org)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to *Allegheny Conference News*, 531 Scottdale Ave., Scottdale, PA 15683-1243.

## Camporee



**L. to R.: Brayden Thomas, Corey Ringler, Branden Hershberger, Karl Maust, Leslie Hunsberger, Samantha Haynes, Kara Waters.**

On Friday evening, September 5, fifty-five children and their sponsors converged on Pine Springs Camp near Jennerstown, Pa., for our annual Camporee weekend. The theme for the weekend was the “Fruit of the Spirit,” where we studied Galatians 5:22-23. We learned about the awesome gifts God gives us and some practical ways to use them better in our everyday lives. Other highlights of the weekend were crafts, hikes, activities led by the Johnstown Service Adventure Unit, great food, a hay ride and of course everyone’s favorite, the fire building competition. The winners for this year’s competition were the girls team from Kaufman and the boys team from Springs. Thanks to all who came out for a fun weekend and thanks to the many helpers who made the weekend possible.

—Joy Cotchen, Children and Youth Minister

The **Rev. Vincent J. Thomas**, 53, Manchester, Pa., died on June 28 at ManorCare of Kingston Court. Vince was born in Johnstown, the son of Margaret P. (Berkshire) Thomas of Elizabethtown, and the late Kermit R. Thomas. He was the husband of Martha A. (Greenawalt) Thomas, with whom he celebrated 29 years of marriage on April 29. “Pastor Vince,” as he was known throughout his congregation, was the pastor of the First Church of the Brethren in York, and was the former pastor of Christian Community Fellowship Church in Manchester, and Otelia Mennonite Church in Mount Union.

## Obituaries

**Rhoda Magdalena Ressler**, Medina, Ohio, died Tuesday, August 5. Rhoda taught in Pittsburgh and the Scottdale community for a number of years. Active in her church and the Mennonite Publishing House community, Rhoda directed a women’s choir, taught Sunday school and Bible school and cared for her aging parents until their deaths. She and her sister Ruth served with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) from 1949-52 in Osaka, Japan. She then studied at the Kobe Language School for two years in preparation for work with Mennonite Board of Missions in Hokkaido, Japan. In Kamshihoro, Hokkaido Rhoda and her sister began the first kindergarten of the Mennonite mission and the Kamshihoro Mennonite Church.

In India, Ethiopia and the United States, **Dr. Paul Conrad** served his patients with humility, caring and Christ’s love. Conrad, 89, died July 17, 2008, in his home in Goshen, Ind., surrounded by family members.

With his wife, Nancy, Conrad spent 15 years providing medical care and ministry in Dhamtari, India. He served as medical superintendent, through Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. Conrad then headed the Shantipur Leprosy Hospital near Dhamtari for one year, where he introduced innovative techniques and procedures for preventing complications of leprosy.

Paul spent 22 years practicing psychiatry in southwestern Pennsylvania. Both Conrads were active members of Scottdale (Pa.) Mennonite Church before moving in 2000 to Greencroft Community, Goshen, Ind., where they attended College Mennonite Church.