

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

bridges

SPRING/SUMMER 2016



SPIRITUAL LIFE: Teachers, Students and Alumni Making a Difference



Connecting the **DOTS**

This issue of *Bridges*
focuses on Missions
and Ministry.

GARY HILLER
EDITOR



The next issue of *Bridges* will focus on **ART.**

Are you an artist or art teacher? If you would like to be considered for a story, or if you would like to suggest someone to be featured, please email hillerg@lancastermennonite.org or submit information on line at www.lancastermennonite.org/alumni/update.

Bridges is the community magazine of Lancaster Mennonite School, sent to alumni, parents and friends. LMS exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service.

STYLE NOTE: *Bridges* magazine follows *The Associated Press Stylebook* manual of style except where superseded by MCUSA style guidelines.

Lancaster Mennonite School admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available to all students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and athletic or other school-administered programs.

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Editor's **NOTES**



Although LM encourages the integration of faith and spiritual life in *all* vocations and recognizes that persons in *all* fields can contribute to building the kingdom of God, the alumni featured in this issue are current or past ministers, missionaries and Bible/theology teachers. We have also included a few alumni who are leaders of church agencies and church-related ministries.

With more than 500 alumni having served in just one mission agency – Eastern Mennonite Missions – the list of alumni who have served in missions and ministry could scarcely be contained in one issue. Each one has a story, but we can only feature relatively few representative examples.

Not all LM students will become ministers and missionaries by profession, but all LM students benefit personally from the school's Bible curriculum and spiritual emphasis – both in and out of the classroom. And most alumni will be actively spreading the Gospel, through word or deed, to those around them, wherever they are and whatever they do for a living.

From the earliest graduating classes, LM women were doing wonderful things in ministry without being ordained, and several have been on the forefront of being licensed and ordained. Several pioneer LM alumna such as **Lena Horning Brown '52** and **Miriam Book '66** have been included in books such as *Quiet Shouts: Stories of Lancaster Mennonite Women Leaders* (Louise Stoltzfus, Herald Press, 1999) and *She Hath Done A Good Thing: Mennonite Women Leaders Tell Their Stories* (Mary Swartley and Rhoda Keener, Herald Press, 1999).

These two pioneers, along with several other alumni who are prominent in ministry and missions, have been included in a special 75th anniversary book that will be available October 7 and therefore are mentioned only briefly in this issue.

Enjoy this issue of *Bridges magazine*!

Lancaster Mennonite School has five campuses:

Hershey, grades K-12 1525 Sand Hill Road Hummelstown, PA 17036 (717) 533-4900	Kraybill, grades PreK-8 598 Kraybill Church Road Mount Joy, PA 17552 (717) 653-5236	Lancaster, grades 6-12 2176 Lincoln Highway East Lancaster, PA 17602 (717) 299-0436
Locust Grove, grades PreK-7 2257 Old Philadelphia Pike Lancaster, PA 17602 (717) 394-7107	New Danville, grades PreK-5 393 Long Lane Lancaster, PA 17603 (717) 872-2506	

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The previous issue was incorrectly identified as Number 3

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In 1950, students floated bottles stuffed with Gospel tracts down Mill Creek to bring the Good News to whoever found them. The methods have changed over the years, but LM is still spreading the message of Christ.



Transforming Lives through Missions & Ministry

This issue of *Bridges* features some of the many alumni making an impact as ministers, missionaries and Bible teachers. Behind their success is a solid foundation provided by outstanding LM teachers.

Teaching any subject at a Christian school is a form of ministry and mission. In addition to infusing faith into their classrooms, all faculty and staff serve as role models and cultivate what has been called the “invisible curriculum” of Christian faith and practice. Many LM teachers and staff have also served in formal roles as Bible teachers, ministers and missionaries.

In the process of interviewing a broad cross-section of alumni across generations, it became clear that the lines demarcating mission and ministry have become blurred. For today's generation, the mission field is right where you are, whether at a kitchen table in New Holland, PA, or on a couch in a downtown Mumbai, India, apartment.

While interviewing some older alumni for this issue, one said that mission has been defined as going outside one's own culture to

share the Gospel. This definition may still hold, but one does not need to go abroad to minister outside one's culture, as illustrated by Jonathan and Jennie Groff (p. 12).

Like the Groffs, many of our alumni caught a vision for ministry to refugees and immigrants in the USA after returning from overseas mission work. Others have remained abroad so long that, in all respects, they are now no longer outside their culture, but are ministering within their new culture, just as much as they may once have shared the Gospel with their friends and neighbors in Lancaster, PA. Some simply make no distinction whether or not a person is from another culture or where one is located — everyone needs the Lord. When asked whether he is considering becoming a minister or missionary, **Michael Rosenfeld '18** said, “I live in the mission field known as the world, so I will always be working to share the Gospel wherever I am.”

Whether in their home country or an adopted one, LM alumni have been on the forefront of transforming lives and changing our world.



**From PreK
through high
school, faith
is infused
throughout school
life, producing
alumni who are
centered in Christ,
transforming lives
and changing our
world.**



FACULTY focus

JW SPRUNGER



- LM students have benefited from an outstanding line-up of Bible teachers throughout its history, so when the late Myron Dietz was about to retire in 2002, Superintendent J. Richard Thomas wanted to ensure that this rich heritage of inspirational teaching continued at the high school level.
- Now 14 years and hundreds of glowing student testimonials later, it is evident that he found the right person for the job when he recruited JW Sprunger for the role.

When tapped by Superintendent Thomas, JW Sprunger was serving as overseer/bishop for the Johnstown Region of Allegheny Mennonite Conference, overseeing nine congregations while also working for Mennonite Publishing House in Scottdale, PA. At MPH, Sprunger had been instrumental in the development of Sunday School curriculum and the highly-regarded *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, which was a collaboration among what was then the General Conference Church, the Mennonite Church and the Church of the Brethren.

Sprunger's experience and education in pastoral ministry, theology, Biblical studies, teaching and Christian education had ideally equipped him for these roles, and Thomas saw that they also reflected an ideal candidate to be the school's high school Bible teacher.

Sprunger's long journey to LM all started with obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in History and Bible from LeTourneau University, selling Bibles to help pay his way through school. That began a long list of additional studies, including Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Jerusalem University College in Israel and Grace Theological Seminary where he earned his M.Div. in Theology and Old Testament in 1975. He would later supplement

his education with studies at the University of British Columbia and Regent College.

Sprunger got his start in pastoral ministry in 1973 as the licensed assistant pastor of his home church, First Mennonite, in Berne, IN, which he says was the largest Mennonite congregation in North America at the time. In 1976, he left Berne to become pastor of Christian education at Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen. From there, he went to Swift Current Bible Institute in Saskatchewan, Canada, where he served as academic dean and professor of Old Testament for seven years while pastoring Grace Mennonite Church in Regina. From 1983 to 1986, he was the executive secretary of the Commission on Education for the General Conference Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, and was involved with Faith and Life Press before going to Mennonite Publishing House in Scottdale.

During his first year at LM, Sprunger commuted from Scottdale, staying in the residence hall during the week and serving as a dorm advisor. The following year his wife, Deborah, joined him in the dorm, and together they served as advisors until getting their own home in 2006.

When asked for some of the secrets of his success with students, the first thing Sprunger said was,

"The student is more important than the content." However, based on testimonials, Sprunger is very effective in conveying content as well as caring. How does he do it?

"I teach from a multi-intelligence perspective," he explained. "I give students projects based on a choice of intelligences such visual-spatial intelligence."

He makes his Creation and Promise course experiential by bringing in sand tables and having students make their own little worlds so they can experience what God might have experienced when the Earth was created. Later, when they don't expect it, Sprunger dumps a bucket of water on each student's project, wiping it out like the Great Flood. The ensuing discussion of their thoughts and feelings is exquisitely poignant.

Another secret of his success, according to Sprunger, is that he can still connect with youth, despite the age differential. "I know their language," he said.

What is his ultimate objective in teaching Bible? Without hesitation he replied, "To bring honor and glory to God."

On the Lancaster Campus, JW Sprunger teaches Creation and Promise, Global Christianity, Kingdom Living and Honors Kingdom Living as well as Spiritual Formation.

JEREMIAH DENLINGER '99

The Four C's of Chapel

by Jeremiah Denlinger

Chapel is a very important part of what we do at Lancaster Mennonite. It is a unique privilege to be able to gather as a body four days each week to spend time worshiping and celebrating together through song and sharing.

Our goal for chapels is summed up in four Cs: to gather as a **Community** of faith to **Celebrate**, to **Commit** ourselves to God and each other, and to **Care** for one another and our world by sharing our gifts.

I view chapel as a chance to worship and as a way of extending our learning as well. I believe that we are to worship God in all that we do, as unto the Lord. As Anabaptist Christians, we believe that we do not separate or compartmentalize our lives; therefore, whether we are worshiping through song, or celebrating the gifts of creativity, humor and compassion that God has given us, or learning about the work of individuals and organizations in our midst that are serving the Lord by serving the world, or raising awareness about issues that we as Christians care about – in all this we are worshiping God and extending our learning.

This is at the core of what it means to be a Christian: honoring, celebrating, and serving the Lord and each other with our gifts, talents, thoughts and education.

MICK STECKBECK

In 1987, with his degree from Messiah College fresh in his hand, Mick Steckbeck joined the faculty of Kraybill Mennonite School, now the Kraybill Campus, as a middle school Bible and social studies teacher. Now the senior statesman of the Kraybill faculty, he can reflect on a long and fulfilling career of inspiring students and transforming lives.

Steckbeck has been encouraged by notes from students indicating that they accepted Christ as their savior or have been inspired to seriously follow Jesus in their daily lives. He treasures letters such as the one that said, "You've inspired me in so many ways in Bible class. You were the best teacher I ever had."

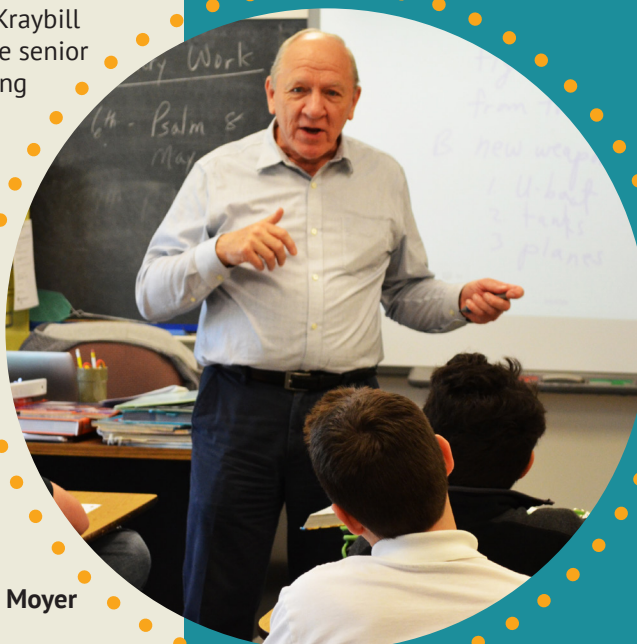
"There have been several occasions while teaching Bible that God's spirit moved in the class and touched students," Steckbeck shared. "They expressed their need for Christ in their lives. Those entire classes were transformed because of the changes in the lives of those students."

A long-time deacon and leader at Millersville Brethren in Christ Church, Steckbeck has also been heavily involved with the Roxbury Holiness Camp. All three of his children attended Kraybill, Lancaster Mennonite High School and Messiah College: **Andrew '90, Elizabeth Moyer '96 and Dorcas Landis '93.**



Jeremiah Denlinger '99 has a B.A. in Social Studies and Secondary Education from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.A. in History from the University of Delaware. He serves as school counselor and chapel coordinator at the Lancaster Campus.

"What gives me the most energy and satisfaction is getting students involved in chapel services as speakers and musicians. I also appreciate students coming to me with ideas, feedback and topics."





FACULTY focus

..... XIAODONG FAN

In 1983, Mennonite Central Committee sent English teachers to Sichuan Teacher's College where one of their students was a young man named Xiaodong Fan. This was his first contact with Christians, and it would set him on the path to LM 28 years later.

To be able to go to college, Fan had completed three years of hard labor in a work camp in order to better understand Communism and the life of the "common people." At the time, Fan had "no religion at all – the whole Chinese atmosphere was no God."

Through a one-year MCC exchange program in 1989, Fan came to Goshen College to study English and qualify as an English teacher in China, where he took Bible classes and studied Anabaptist lifestyle and beliefs. Although not yet a believer, Fan said he was "impressed by their global vision and desire for peace."

After teaching in China for three years, Fan returned to the US again in 1994 to get his master's degrees in English and Technology Education from Millersville University. Janet Gehman, a former LMH teacher who was an MCC professor in China, invited him and his family to attend Hershey Mennonite Church, where **Andy Hershey '72** was associate pastor. Fan accepted Christ as his savior and was baptized. He was part of the Hershey congregation for more than ten years, but became involved in the local Chinese Church in order to help Chinese LMH students attending there.

He was excited about the Chinese students going to a church where they could learn about Jesus from people to whom they could relate. He said that

he "felt a call to help international students grow spiritually" even as he himself was helped by others in the past.

So, in 2011, when Superintendent Thomas asked him to teach Chinese language at LMH while helping with international students on campus, he was elated. At the time, Fan was teaching Chinese language at a large public high school. "I felt very positive about my own daughter's experience at LM (**Tingting Fan-Santiago '06**), and I wanted to return service in gratitude," he said.

He also understood what it was like to go to a Christian school without knowing anything about Jesus Christ or the Bible, and he was eager to start teaching an Introduction to the Bible class as soon as he got to LM. This class would not be just for Chinese students, but for other students who needed some foundational understandings before they could benefit from LM's other Bible courses. This group would include students from Russia, the Ukraine, Japan, Vietnam, Burma, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and China.

Fan enjoys teaching Chinese to English-speaking students, but teaching the Bible inspires the most passion in him. "It's not just a job, it's a mission," Fan said.



Peter Dula '88, a former LMH Bible teacher, is currently chair of the religion and Bible department at Eastern Mennonite University. He believes that teens want to be listened to, not preached at, and encourages Bible classes to be safe places to explore faith issues. Dula is featured in the LM's 75th anniversary book available October 7.

ANDY HERSHEY '72

In 1986, while he was still studying science and mathematics at Millersville University, Hershey was called to be associate pastor in his home congregation, Hershey Mennonite Church, where he served until 1998. He is now retiring as a mathematics and science teacher after 25 years at LMH.





BRIAN DENLINGER '95

Brian Denlinger '95 was inspired to be a Bible teacher through his Bible classes when he was in high school: "When I was a student at LMH, I had the privilege of having Myron Dietz for Bible class. His love for his students and his passion for the Bible have stuck with me and encouraged me."

What does he enjoy most about teaching Bible? "I enjoy studying the Bible passages and challenging myself as well as my students to apply these teachings to our lives today."

"Recently I invited my wife (**Renita Snader Denlinger '95**) to come to several of my classes, and together we told our testimony of how God led us during our courtship. This was a wonderful opportunity to challenge the students to seek God's direction in all areas of life and especially in the area of pursuing godly relationships."

Denlinger said that, in the LM tradition, he enjoys facilitating invigorating class discussions. "I love hearing students views on the topics being discussed and attempting to model for students how to listen to each other and agree to disagree with each other in love."

Denlinger teaches Bible at the Hershey Campus.



ERIC LEE

Eric Lee (B.S. in Bible and B.S. in Health and Physical Education, Lancaster Bible College) currently teaches Bible at the Hershey Campus and serves as the director of the middle school.

"Teaching the Word of God in a classroom setting was never a part of my plan, but upon being hired for my first job, my boss informed me that I was going to be teaching the Bible. What at first freaked me out, I now have come to absolutely love!

"I love how empowering God is through the Word. It's so exciting to watch students in awe of God's extravagant grace. I love how the class itself has led to salvation commitments and discipleship relationships."



M. DEAN SAUDER

M. Dean Sauder has had a long career of ministering to young people as a youth minister and now as a high school Bible teacher at the Lancaster Campus.

"I spent 10 years serving as a youth pastor for two different congregations," Sauder explained, "but I longed to get into education. When I was alerted that a Bible position might be opening up, I applied."

After talking with him for a few moments, it becomes apparent that he loves his students and his job. "I love the challenge of taking stories, sermons and letters that are centuries old and relating them in such a way

that makes them applicable to the 21st century. I love those

'Aha' moments when things click for the students."

SUSAN ECKERT

Susan Eckert, who teaches elementary music and computer at the Hershey Campus, holds a Certificate of Biblical Studies from Columbia International University. She was a member of an international mission, SIM, from 1989-2013, serving in Niger Republic among a tribe of nomadic herdsman. She and her husband planted the first church in the outpost town of Dakoro. From 2007-2012 she was involved in urban cross-cultural outreach and hosted seminars for Christians on understanding and reaching Muslims. She is the author of the book, *Mamane's Journey – An African Muslim Youth Learns of Christ*.





STUDENT spotlight

RAJEN UPRETI '16



When **Rajen Upreti '16** helped to lead worship in chapel, it was difficult to believe he didn't know anything about Jesus when he came to the United States from Bhutan in 2009 at the age of 11.

Devout Hindus with roots in Nepal, Upreti's family was among many Nepali Hindus who started to leave Buddhist Bhutan in 2008. As he was settling into American culture and making connections in the community, American friends invited him to attend West End Mennonite Church. While there, he eventually connected with the Bhutanese Nepali Church of Lancaster that shares the church facilities with the West End congregation. "I thought it would be better if I went to a place where I could understand what they were saying," Upreti said. He started attending the Nepali language services and was baptized last summer, becoming the first Christian in his family. He soon started playing guitar in church and began to lead worship in the Nepali language.

At the Nepali church he met **Shashi Tamang '18**, an LMH student who enthusiastically recommended the school. The idea of going to a Christian school appealed to him and, surprisingly, his parents consented when he asked them whether he could enroll in LM. Although Upreti's father was "a very pure Hindu," Upreti said he liked the idea of a private school.

At LMH, Upreti felt accepted and believed that he was getting a superior education. And he really enjoyed chapel, which he said helped him understand more about Christianity while giving him the opportunity to share his new-found faith.

Music is an important part of worship for most teenagers, and Upreti enjoyed being part of LM's international team composed of Upreti, **Obse Tolla'16** and **Clara Fong '16** (pictured at left), along with **Victor Muhagachi '16**.



BRIG WILSON '16

As a high school student, **Brig Wilson '16** has already taken mission trips to Sierra Leone and Ghana. He went to Sierra Leone for three weeks with an organization called Royal Servants where he preached the Gospel, sang, and performed dramas and puppet shows in various villages. He was later in Ghana for two weeks with Arm of Hope, a group from his church, where he helped create a vacation Bible school experience for 200 children.

At school, Wilson led a worship team, alternating between singing and playing bass. He was also the service coordinator for the Hershey Campus and organized such things as a high school service day and a smaller service project in which the student council wrapped presents during the Christmas season. In his home church, Hope Community Church in Mount Joy, he plays bass for up to three worship teams each month, and every fourth week he helps with preschool children.

Wilson says that his Bible teacher inspired him to become a Bible teacher, too. Wilson plans to undergo a one-year program of intense Bible training at Word of Life that also counts as college credit. After that, he will attend Cairn University, majoring in Bible and History with a minor in Music.



Her pen is her voice;
the printed page is
her pulpit.

ABIGAIL KING '16

Abigail King '16 wants to have a significant impact on the Church and the world as a Christian writer, and she is already on her way. "God has given me this gift of being able to write," King said. "I want to use this gift to bring glory to God."

King has established herself as a regular columnist for *Currents* magazine. She launched her Point of Youth column with an article entitled, "Youth are not a Blank Slate." In it she said:

"Youth are not a blank slate. They are on their own journey of figuring out what is right and what is wrong. And while they are seeking guidance, they do not need to be overwhelmed with a one-sided viewpoint. What youth need are two-sided discussions – forums where they can voice their opinions and thoughts without fear of repercussions."

King has found such forums in her LMH Bible classes. "I've seen so many different perspectives," she said. "That has helped me to develop what I believe."

King especially enjoys the discussions in Bible classes

taught by JW Sprunger, whom she finds to be "very interesting and admirable." In her senior year, she took his class called "Spiritual Formation."

"I knew if there was an opportunity to deepen my faith I should take it," she said. "In Kingdom Living, you learn about God," she explained, "but in Spiritual Formation you meet God."

Sprunger is not alone in inspiring her. "There have been so many teachers here who have shown me that faith is something to be passionate about."

She cites retired Bible teacher Daniel Dietzel for inspiring her to use her gifts for God's glory and convincing her that she could make an impact. Through Dietzel's influence she believes, "There are a lot of things that need to be done in the Church and I can be one of those people who get things done."

Along with appreciating inspiring courses, King values the relationships she has with her peers

at LMH. "My congregation (Ridgeview Mennonite) has a small youth group. At LMH I feel connected to so many more Christian youth. I have never experienced such a sense of community."

King is currently benefiting from LM connections though an in-school internship with *Lancaster County Magazine* under the direct supervision of publisher **Jocelyn Engle '00**. King left the Lancaster Campus every school day after fifth period to work for Lancaster County Magazine where she wrote guest blogs and worked on a two-page spread for the magazine's yearly dining issue.

Along with her other writing responsibilities, King found time to serve as the opinion page editor for LMH's student-run *Millstream* newspaper. She also serves on the Atlantic Coast Conference Youth Committee and the Youth Planning Committee for Mennonite Convention 2017.



MICHAEL ROSENFELD '18

Michael Rosenfeld '18 is the chaplain of the Hershey Campus Student Council and leader of a small theology group called "The Mystery of the Master" that meets after school.

When asked whether he is considering becoming a minister or missionary he said, "I live in the mission field known as the world, so I will always be working to share the Gospel wherever I am."

"I enjoy public speaking and political science, so I plan on pursuing political science and economics after I graduate. My ultimate goal would be to serve the Lord in a local office of government; my job is to be a sign on the side of the road that points to Christ."





Featured ALUMNI



Virginia Mennonite Missions



Janet Keller Blosser '73 and **Aaron Kauffman '97** currently serve with Virginia Mennonite Missions, where Blosser is Mediterranean regional director and Kauffman is president. Kauffman is featured in LM's 75th anniversary book.

Blosser served in Italy for 15 years under VMissions. In 2011, she accepted a part-time job as Italian director, which then expanded in 2014 to Mediterranean regional director, where she gives oversight to workers in Italy and the Balkans, nurturing and caring for them, cultivating missional vision, encouraging worker support teams and walking alongside international partners.

"It's exciting to be a part of a world-wide community of faith," Blosser said. "My years at LMH expanded my horizons in the broader world context. My faith was nourished and challenged, and the experience laid a firm foundation for my work in missions. I'm grateful for my circle of life-long LM friends and the encouragement I continue to receive from them."

LM and Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) have had a close working relationship: more than 500 LM alumni have served with EMM to date, including key leaders.

One word that appears frequently throughout this issue is **Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM)** and, almost as frequently, two of its short-term mission programs: Youth Evangelism Service (YES) and Summer Training Action Teams (STAT). Now recently discontinued in favor of other models of mission and discipleship training, these two programs were the starting point for literally hundreds of LM alumni in mission and ministry.

A number of alumni featured in this issue have had key roles with EMM in the past. A few are currently on the staff, operating out of the Salunga, PA, office.

Gerry H Keener '69 (bottom right) has served as chief operating officer/executive vice president of Eastern Mennonite Missions since January, 2010, after returning from Vietnam where he and his family lived and served under EMM from 1997-2009.

He continues to be involved in leadership development and theological education in Vietnam. Keener holds an S.T.M. in Parish Ministry from New York Theological Seminary and an M.Div. from Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

As the partnership coach for EMM, **Amos Stoltzfus '71** (top right) supervises the field-based regional representatives in partnering locations – those locations with an established church presence. For three years, he led EMM GO! teams

On the Forefront of MISSION

to various parts of the world and then served in India for five years. Before serving with EMM, he pastored at Rockville Mennonite Church, Honey Brook, for 23 years.

Barry Freed '86 (top left) serves as Missionary Support Team coach for EMM. His first appointment with EMM was as a participant on the 1994 Trinidad and Tobago YES team. Since then, he served on short-term and long-term assignments to Lithuania. In his role as MST coach, he equips and encourages MSTs as they build and maintain support for workers on the field.

Joe Hollinger '78 spent 11 years on the mission field in Pontypridd, Wales, working in church development. He has led the EMM advancement team since 2008.

Trisha Good '02 (bottom left) was recruited by EMM right out of high school. Fourteen years later, she is enthusiastic about her job as an accountant helping to make a difference through her behind-the-scenes financial work to support churches and missionaries.

Until recently leaving for Mexico to serve as an international service worker under Mennonite Central Committee, **Chris Fretz '01** was the executive assistant to the president and a writer for EMM. He previously served as an MCC service worker and missionary in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He holds an M.A. in Peace Studies from Bethany Theological Seminary.





Katie Rutt '15 talked with LMS Superintendent J. Richard Thomas about her gap year in Honduras, where she served at an orphanage called Casa Feliz through EMM's GO! program.

"We've heard people's desire to live out their missional calling every day, rather than doing an assignment or joining a program," said Troy Landis, EMM discipleship coach. In response, EMM is bringing a renewed focus to helping people integrate discipleship and mission into daily life wherever they are. EMM's goal in this new approach is to invite all believers to learn how to partner with God's plan, whether people are living in their home communities or overseas.

With this current shift in short-term program focus, EMM is phasing out the

35-year-old YES program. EMM held an event May 21, 2016, at Lancaster Mennonite School to celebrate the YES program's long and fruitful ministry.

EMM will now offer coaching and resources to help organic, in-life, missional discipleship happen. These build on the discipleship resources and learnings from discipleship programs like YES and STAT. EMM will continue to send people on short-term international assignments, but with a focus on specific skills that are "transferable to ministry throughout participants' lives."



Jill Leaman Milton '01 served under EMM in Nairobi, Kenya, for 3 years teaching at Rosslyn Academy, a Christian international school. After returning from Kenya, she taught fourth grade at the New Danville Campus for two years. She was also part of the house church outreach started by **Jonathan '93 and Jennie '95 Groff** (p.12).



Hadassah Stoltzfus '14 took a gap year following graduation and went to southern Chile for a short-term missions service with EMM's YES program. She is now attending Millersville University where she is majoring in English with the goal of becoming a high school teacher.

Brown's story is included in the book, *Quiet Shouts: Stories of Lancaster Mennonite Women Leaders* (Louise Stoltzfus, Herald Press, 1999). The Alumna of the Year for 2008, Brown is also featured in LM's 75th anniversary book available Oct. 7.



JEWEL MARTIN SENSENIG '89

Jewel Martin Sensenig '89 served on two different YES teams in the Philippines and then served four years as co-director of EMM's Harrisburg Discipleship Center, training people who were entering YES and STAT. She has since been involved in prison ministries and was recently appointed to the board of the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster.



ERIC WEBER '02

Eric Weber '02 first served on a YES team to Peru right after graduating from LMH. Two years later, he led a STAT team to Hong Kong for a summer. After graduating from Messiah College, he did a year-long internship in tropical agricultural development, then put into practice what he had learned in Gambia and Guinea-Bissau with EMM's GO! program.



LENA HORNING BROWN '52

In 1987, **Lena Horning Brown '52** became the first woman in the Lancaster Mennonite Conference to receive credentials for pastoral ministry. Brown was called to be deaconess at Slate Hill in 1987 and associate pastor in 1996. Prior to her ministry at Slate Hill, Brown was a missionary teacher in Somalia and Kenya under EMM. She served on the EMM board from 1985 to 1997 and on the executive committee from 1994 to 1997.



Featured ALUMNI

RYAN SHOWALTER '98

- After years of directing discipleship training programs for EMM, Ryan Showalter '98 has completed a double M.A. at Fuller Theological Seminary and has become director of Project Engage, a training venue for emerging leaders in the BIC denomination, and associate pastor of Solid Ground Church in Rancho Cucamonga, CA.

The three things that **Ryan Showalter '98** most appreciated most about LM were:

- "The school fostered Christian community. Having coaches, teachers and friends that helped me to grow in my faith gave me the courage to go into missions immediately after high school."
- "Second, teachers who instilled in me a love for learning that I did not even know I had, eventually motivated me to go to college and grad school."
- "LM has worked at creating a culturally and ethnically diverse student body, which was more diverse than the school district that I grew up in. This helped to cultivate a love of culture, which encouraged me in my years of missions experience."

"I have always had a passion for how the Gospel translates into each culture. I get excited thinking about how God longs to speak the heart language of every unique person who bears God's image. So when I decided it was time to finish my seminary education, I looked for a school that could help me to grow in understanding diverse cultures and the beauty of the Christian story and theology. At Fuller Theological Seminary I chose a dual degree in Inter-cultural Studies and Theology so that I could better understand the unique role of the Church in presenting the Gospel to our increasingly diverse world."

In addition to his recent master's degrees, Showalter has a B.A. in Youth Ministry from Eastern University, St. Davids, PA, and has studied at Gordon-Conwell and Biblical Theological seminaries.

DAWN OBERHOLTZER WINEY '80

Dawn Oberholtzer Winey '80 began her ministry at Mount Joy Mennonite Church in 1997 as a worship pastor, eventually moving into her current role as Associate Pastor of Care. Winey attended Elizabethtown College and received clinical pastoral education at Philhaven Hospital. In 2011, she became one of the first two women invited to serve on the Executive Council of the Bishop Board of Lancaster Mennonite Conference, a position she currently holds. She is married to **Rich Winey '78**, who has served as associate pastor of worship at Mount Joy since 1997. He holds a degrees in music education and music therapy from Elizabethtown College.



After graduating from Eastern Mennonite University in 1976, where he double-majored in religion and psychology, **Sam Thomas '68** went to work for Eastern Mennonite Missions and embarked on a career that included chairing the Bible department at Lancaster Mennonite School, serving as pastor of Landisville Mennonite Church for nearly two decades, and then becoming a bishop in the Lancaster Mennonite Conference for eight years until retiring this past summer.

JONATHAN '93 & JENNIE '95 GROFF

Inspired by their time at LM, Jonathan '93 and Jennie '95 Groff always had a heart for ministering to people from cultures other than their own. However, their modes of ministry have evolved from the mission activities in which they were initially involved.

Reflecting on the directions their ministry has taken, Jennie explained, "We have sensed the Holy Spirit leading us to use whatever is in our hands to bring Him glory and worship — including a cookie business."

As owners of the award-winning Stroopie Cookie Company, their mission is to provide meaningful employment to the refugee community while making the high-quality cookies that are becoming a Lancaster County phenomenon. Winners of The Great Social Enterprise Pitch, a contest meant to encourage organizations that perform a social good while making a profit, the Groffs won more than \$25,000 in products and services to jump-start the production of the traditional Dutch confections.

While the employment of refugees is a social good, the personal involvement in the lives of displaced people from other countries provides the Groffs with an opportunity to minister at a spiritual level, too. For this, LM and their prior ministry experiences have prepared them well.

Both Jonathan and Jennie have fond memories of their time at LM. "For both of us, it was a safe place to explore what lives of mission would look like," said Jennie. Jonathan specifically credited his Bible teacher, the late J. Wilmer Heisey, for challenging him to think beyond himself and to "seek first the Kingdom of God." Jonathan also recalled that he first learned about

the YES program in an LM chapel, and this is where he first felt a desire to serve in mission by listening to stories of visiting alumni who came to share their experiences.

Both Jonathan and Jennie served in the YES program sponsored by EMM after high school. Jonathan was assigned to a team that served in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and then served on the staff of the Baltimore YES training center. Meanwhile, Jennie spent time on a YES team in Uberlingen, Germany.

After returning from Germany and graduating from Hesston College, Jennie worked at the Millersville International House, a ministry designed to share Christ with international students studying at Millersville University.

Jennie and Jonathan got to know each other after he transferred from Temple University to Millersville and started a Disciples House in Lancaster called the Petra House, using a condemned building he bought and renovated. Disciples House is a campus ministry residential home in which diverse students cooperatively live together in an atmosphere of love and support while participating in community service. They married in 2000 and chose to stay in the inner-city neighborhood where Jonathan began the Disciples House.

The couple attended Living Hope Community Church where Jonathan was on staff as a worship leader and became involved in leading small group Bible studies in their



neighborhood. Living Hope then commissioned them to start The Net Lancaster House Church Network. For several years, they hosted a house church in their home. However, over the years the focus shifted to ministering to refugee families, and they now refer to their group as the Net Lancaster Mission Team.

"Three of the other couples on the team served overseas and are now back in Lancaster looking to continue sharing the love of Christ with internationals, but in our Lancaster community," Jen said. "We are blessed to literally have the nations of the world as our neighbors, and we count it a great privilege to share the love of Christ with them in whatever way we can."

Already a quickly-growing business in the Lancaster area, The Stroopie Company seeks to build on their commitment to hire members of the refugee population. Partnering with several other confectionery makers, The Stroopie Company opened the Lancaster Sweet Shoppe in downtown Lancaster, hiring refugees for full-time positions and giving them the tools they need to successfully acclimate to the community as well as become successful in their future ventures.



Featured ALUMNI

JONATHAN HEINLY '03

Jon Heinly '03 is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Yale Divinity School, after serving as youth minister for both Lancaster Mennonite School and Lancaster Mennonite Conference from 2007-2014.

What influence did LM have on your spiritual life and/or calling to ministry?

"My time at LM, both as a student and later on as a faculty member, has shaped me in many ways. As a student, I was given many opportunities to grow in leadership while being mentored by faculty members. These experiences shaped my own passion for nurturing youth in their leadership abilities and faith journeys.

As I reflect on my sense of calling to be involved in academia and pastoral care, I recognize the examples of so many LM faculty who seek to integrate their academic disciplines with their faith. I believe that Mennonite schools are really special in this regard, and my time at LM has shaped my desire to integrate these elements in my own life."

What influenced you to pursue your current course of studies – and why Yale?

While working at LM and Lancaster Conference, I took a few courses through Eastern Mennonite Seminary Lancaster, which were very rich learning opportunities. I anticipated that at some point I would enroll in seminary full time. Toward the end of my time working for LM and LMC, I was given the opportunity to teach a continuing education course

through EMU. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience, and I felt affirmed in a growing sense of vocation that would involve teaching theology and would require further study.

In choosing a seminary or divinity school, I was looking for an ecumenical setting that had top-level academic rigor along with serious attention to pastoral formation. YDS seemed to keep academics and ministry together. Additionally, I was excited to find out that they have emphases in youth ministry and university chaplaincy.

What are your future plans after Yale?

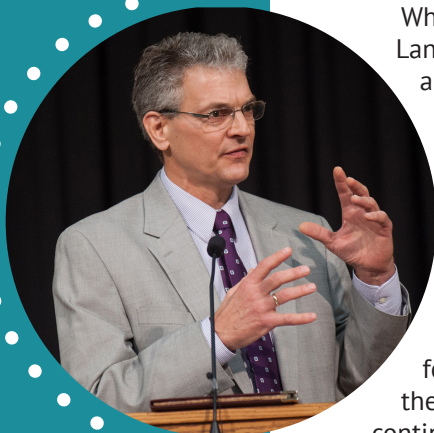
I continue to be passionate about youth ministry, but I've also been exploring university chaplaincy, including an internship with the protestant chaplain at Wesleyan University. In general, I feel called to keep one foot in academia and one foot in pastoral care. University chaplaincy provides this opportunity.

Heinly's wife, **Megan Leaman Heinly '04**, is working as Director of Social Work Services for Christian Community Action, a local non-profit that provides support, services and shelter for families experiencing homelessness in New Haven. Her brother, **Hans Leaman '96**, is also in New Haven where he is finishing his second year of post doctorate studies after completing a Ph.D. in History and Renaissance Studies at Yale.



Irvin and Janet Stoner Wenger '65 teach at the Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA) in Guatemala, preparing men and women for the ministry. Living there since 1980, they have an extensive ministry across the Spanish-speaking world, including being invited to Cuba numerous times. Janet developed the School of Sacred Music in the seminary and teaches music. Irvin teaches Bible and missions classes, has held administrative positions and ministers widely in Guatemala.

Starting out as a volunteer repairing churches in New York City under EMM, **Kevin King '76** is now executive director of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), an extensive volunteer network of more than 3,000 Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches and districts that responds to those affected by natural disasters throughout the United States and Canada.



SARAH ANN GEHMAN BIXLER '98

This fall, Sarah Ann Gehman Bixler '98 will start a Ph.D. program in Practical Theology/Christian Education at Princeton Seminary after graduating in May with her Master of Divinity degree. She hopes to train future Church leaders as a professor of practical theology.

Bixler will never forget Myron Dietz's machete-wielding march in the front of his Anabaptist history class, demonstrating the zeal of religious and government officials as they sought to persecute Anabaptists. Along with inspiring teaching, the personal faith commitment of her teachers also shined through in the classroom, Bixler recounted. "For example, I knew my physics teacher, **Andy Hershey '72**, was a pastor, and the mini-course service trip he led to Johns Island, South Carolina, was an opportunity for me to witness his faith in action."

Overall, though, Bixler felt that the school nurtured an environment for spiritual exploration and growth. "Much of my spiritual growth at LMH occurred organically rather than from institutional programming," she said.

"My close friends further nurtured my spiritual growth. One of our many social gatherings was for a discussion group, where we would pose difficult questions about society or theology and wrestle with them together." This also happened to be the place where she saw her future husband, **Benjamin Bixler '98**, whose faith she deeply admired. They were married in 2001.

Her parents were big influences, too. "Along with the teachers at LMH, my mother, **Lois Witmer Gehman '69**, set an example for me as a teacher who cared deeply about her students and, as a Christian educator, cultivated the image of God in every child. She and my father, David Gehman, who was also my pastor, formed my brother, **Matthew Gehman '05**, and me from an early age to integrate faith and practice and see the potential for the Church as an agent of God's formation. This led to my clear sense of call to serve the Church as my life's vocation."

Through her teachers, parents and congregational mentors such as **Heather Hershey Deshong '90**, she discerned a call to teaching and decided to major in English Education at Eastern Mennonite University. "EMU prepared me well with a solid foundation thanks to professors such as **Jay B. Landis '50**," said Bixler.

After college, she taught at Eastern Mennonite Middle School for four years and served as the youth minister at Zion Mennonite Church. During her eight years of ministry at Zion, she worked alongside committed and skilled youth ministry volunteers such as **Jonathan Kratz '96**, **Rebekah Kratz Brubaker '00** and **Grant H. Stoltzfus '79**. In 2010, she and Benjamin helped to plant Eastside Church in Harrisonburg, VA, where they witnessed God bring hundreds of young adults and families into that missional faith community.

During this time, she first recognized her desire for theological education, which increased as she wrote youth Sunday school material for MennoMedia, served for a year as interim conference youth minister of Virginia Mennonite Conference and later served for two years as conference coordinator, working alongside **Jason Gerlach '97**, who had assumed the role of conference youth minister.

Sara Wenger Shenk '71, then associate dean at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, listened to Bixler's sense of call and helped her confirm seminary education as the way forward. She applied to Princeton Theological Seminary because of its strong reputation for Christian education and began training in practical theology to help the Church think theologically about Christian formation.



"Without the crucial formation that LMH provided me, I seriously doubt I would be where I am today, entering doctoral study in Christian education at a leading institution in this field. I am deeply grateful for the role LMH has had in my personal formation and in God's evolving call in my life."



Sara Wenger Shenk '71, is now president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN, and is featured in LM's 75th anniversary book coming out October 7.

RON '74 & JUDY '73 ZOOK

What led to your first assignment as a pastor couple at New Holland?

"For 22 years, we served as lay pastor, preaching elder, and on the leadership team at Marietta Community Chapel. We went to Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 2000 and began at New Holland Mennonite Church in 2002.

Ron also served five years at Eastern Mennonite Missions as Voluntary Service administrator."

Did you receive any formal training to help prepare you for pastoral ministry?

"Ron earned an M.Div. at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and a D.Min. at Gordon Conwell. Judy earned an M.A. in Church Leadership at EMS. These education experiences have been formational in our own spiritual journeys and our calls to pastoral ministry."

How did you feel called to enter pastoral ministry?

Judy: "In the culture that I grew up in as a child and young adult, only men were pastors. It never occurred to me to translate my love for church ministry in volunteer roles to a pastoral role. When Ron began taking classes at Lancaster Theological Seminary and felt called to move to Harrisonburg, VA, to attend Eastern Mennonite Seminary, I considered that to be Ron's call. But Ron encouraged me to also consider taking some classes. It was through those classes and spiritual direction that my call to pastoral ministry was birthed and shaped."

What influence did LMH have on your ministry?

Judy: "Emphasis was put on Bible memorization, and Bible classes gave me a very strong Biblical foundation. I especially appreciated the enthusiastic way that Glen Sell and Myron Dietz taught. I have loved using memorized scriptures during pastoral visits and in sermons."

Ron: "LM provided significant opportunities for me to explore who I am and what I love to do. LMH gave me opportunities to operate the sound system for chapel, lead music, share my testimony, understand Scripture, ask questions and broaden my world view."

How do you divide your time between business and ministry?

"While serving at Marietta Community Chapel, we held full-time jobs to support ourselves. In 1989, we began a computer consulting and database development business called LanPlus Systems. At New Holland Mennonite Church, Ron became full-time pastor and Judy half-time pastor. Judy continued to also support our computer business part-time.

After serving at New Holland Mennonite Church for more than 11 years, we returned to our database business, developing web-based database solutions. At Laurel Street, we share a three-quarter pastor position and continue to work in our database business.

We love the diversity and flexibility we have as pastors and database developers. They provide balance in our lives and one often helps relieve the stress of the other. After working on a complex database project, there is nothing more freeing than walking up Cabbage Hill to Laurel Street, greeting neighbors along the way. And after several hours of pastoral ministry, we find it refreshing to work in our business developing an on line screen or report. We find great joy and fulfillment in both church and business."

Judy Garber Zook '73, was licensed for special ministry at New Holland Mennonite in 2002 and in 2009 was ordained as pastor.

Harold Shenk '58 retired from a long and fruitful ministry that started with Voluntary Service under EMM in Atlanta where he was involved in church planting and eventually served more than 8 years as lead pastor. After 25 years in Atlanta, Shenk and his wife, Mary Grace, both earned master's degrees in church leadership from EMS, then co-pastored Stahl Mennonite Church in the Johnstown, PA, area for 11 years. They concluded their careers as co-pastors of Hebron Mennonite Church in Hagerstown, MD, but until recently, continued to do short-term interim and fill-in work. Shenk was an early leader in advocating for equal treatment of women in regard to ministerial credentialing. After speaking on behalf of women at the Mennonite Assembly in Kitchener, Ontario, in 1962, his brother, **Norman Shenk '50**, congratulated him for his courage. The older Shenk was pastor of Erisman Mennonite Church and was an administrative leader in both EMM and MCC, serving as treasurer for both organizations. His wife Jean found a ministry role as a chaplain, but could not be ordained as a minister.

ELIZABETH '61 & KEN '61 NISSLEY

In 2007 Elizabeth Nissley became the first woman to be ordained in the Lancaster District of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

Now in retirement after more than 10 years as associate pastor at James Street Mennonite Church, Nissley's life of ministry took a circuitous route to its eventual destination at James Street.

"At LMH, I did not receive any direct encouragement to consider the ministry simply because that was not a role for women at the time," reflected Nissley. "However, Raymond Charles, our senior Bible Doctrine teacher, encouraged me to think theologically." She also cited several "subtle but wonderful influences on my development as a person and as a follower of Jesus." Among them were teachers Edna Wenger and Grace Wenger who were role models of strong, intelligent Christian women.

After graduating from LMH in 1961, she enrolled in the former Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing and then the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1970. "I pursued nursing because that seemed to be the only option open for me as a young woman from my background," Nissley said.

Nissley married fellow alumnus, Ken, in 1964. Together with Ken, she served as a missionary in Somalia from 1966-1969, 1970-1973 and 1983-1986, where she taught at a boarding school, was the school nurse and worked with women in various settings. Ken started as a math teacher, then after his first year, became the principal of the boarding school for the next five years. In the 80s they were there as mission team leaders, with Ken teaching in a technical college.

When they returned to the USA after their third term in 1983, Ken was asked to consider becoming a pastor. However, he believed that his wife was more gifted in that area than he was. "Ken suggested that I explore that option, but there were no possibilities, so I pursued a close alternative, working as a psychiatric nurse." During her 15 years at Philhaven Mount Gretna and with outpatient care at Philhaven Elizabethtown, she earned a Master of Science in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing and became a nurse therapist.

While working at Philhaven she also found her way into ministry at Mount Joy Mennonite Church where she became licensed as a deaconess and served as minister of pastoral care.

Her desire for more effective church ministry led her to Lancaster Theological Seminary and Eastern Mennonite Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree, which she completed in 2002. Following graduation from seminary, she was invited to serve as interim associate pastor for James Street Mennonite Church and, two years later, associate pastor.

While Nissley was serving at JSMC, Lancaster Mennonite Conference was still processing the issue of whether women could be ordained. Through its own discernment process, the congregation decided to move forward with her ordination in June 2007. Serving as a licensed minister for 14 years was long enough to wait! (MCUSA allowed the ordination of women at that time although the

conference did not.) In 2008, Lancaster Mennonite Conference voted to allow the ordination of women, so Nissley has two certificates of ordination: one from the church and one from the conference.

Nissley's duties at James Street, with 305 members, included preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, outreach, and youth and children's ministries.

"I loved being a pastor," Nissley said. "I think it is who I am, walking with people through life experiences, challenging them to explore Jesus' way beyond what they have always thought, and inviting them to live out in our communities and neighborhoods who we are as loving Jesus people."

Outside of church, Nissley served as a ministerial guide at the Lancaster Theological Seminary, taught in a joint Lancaster Mennonite Conference and Eastern Mennonite Seminary program for pastors who do not have college degrees, and volunteered as a mediator for Victim Offender Dialogue. She also volunteers for Domestic Violence Services and the Juliana Bookstore at the Lancaster Public Library. Ken recently retired from the Center for Community Peacemaking where he was active in his own form of ministry with victim-offender conferencing cases since 2003.





Featured ALUMNI

GINA BURKHART '86

With a degree in education, Gina Oberholtzer Burkhart's pastoral ministry has been a surprising turn in her life's vocation, and she feels blessed to serve in the congregation that helped her mature into adulthood. She is currently enrolled at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, working toward a degree in Church Leadership.

"In junior high I struggled to find the spiritual friendships and support I desired within the public school I attended, so I decided to go to LMH with my parents' blessing," Burkhart said. "I am grateful for the many lasting friendships with peers and the very significant influence of staff."

Burkhart particularly recalled Daniel Dietzel's affirmation to explore faith in challenging ways. Dietzel, along with Janet Gehman, also cultivated her interest in public speaking, which would later bear fruit in her church work. She also credits Dietzel and Gehman for encouraging her love of words and literature.

Burkhart graduated from Millersville University with a degree in English Education and from Penn State with a master's in Teaching and

Curriculum. She taught middle school language arts for five years in the Elizabethtown Area School District until she began her family of five children.

In 1989, Burkhart married **Dan Burkhart '85** (her high school sweetheart) and joined him at Landisville Mennonite where they both served as ministers of youth for several years and later as junior high advisors. She then served as associate pastor of worship from 2003-2009, interim associate pastor in fall of 2014, and was credentialed for the permanent position in 2015.

"My years at LMH helped to lay the foundation for my commitment to Jesus and the Church by giving me many real-life examples of people who found joy in following Christ," she said.



After two years abroad, **Scott Umble '06** has recently transitioned to a position on the US campus staff of Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), which centers around discipleship and evangelism. "I spent a lot of my time in high school running the opposite way from God," Umble admitted. "But although I didn't realize it at the time, two classes in particular were teaching and molding me in ways that today I realize and can recall clearly: Creation & Promise in ninth grade and Jesus' Story in tenth grade with Mr. Dean Sauder."

"At Penn State I continually found myself in the middle of opportunities to share Christ's role in changing my life and also explain the evidence behind the existence of God and the resurrection of Jesus. During my senior year, I began to strongly consider a career in doing this full-time."

DEREK KING '99

Derek King '99, is currently lead pastor at Eden Mennonite Church in Moundridge, KS, having completed his M.Div. degree at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

When asked about the influence LM had on his personal growth and ministry, King said:

"I believe I was formed by the example of many of my teachers. If there is one word I would use to describe the teachers at LM, it is *passion*. I experienced many teachers who had passion for the subjects they taught as well as passion for the development of the students."

As King went through seminary, he stayed in close contact with LM friend **Matt Correll '99**, who was also going through theological training while serving as youth pastor at a church in Beaver Falls, PA. "We were able to share our perspectives on theology and motivate one another as we learned and practiced ministry in our particular contexts," King said.



MINDY NOLT '96

Growing up in the Groffdale Mennonite congregation, Mindy Nolt '96 never dreamed that she would be a minister, but today she is a minister at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Lancaster.

Going to LMH had a deep influence on her. Nolt particularly appreciated Myron Dietz as a Bible teacher. "He invested so much to make Bible classes interesting. And he was so approachable. I remember asking him questions after class or in the hall, and he always responded with grace and interest."

Probably the single most important influence on her in high school was being part of the first group to go to Choele Choele, Argentina, with teacher Brent Hartzler as part of the school's mini-course program. "I was completely out of my comfort zone," she related, "but it caused my worldview to open up, my heart to grow bigger and my faith in a loving God to go deeper."

Another influence was her involvement in the school musical *Godspell*. "It gave me a unique and creative perspective on Jesus and the disciples and increased my interest in studying theology," Nolt said.

After graduating from LMH, Nolt went on to study at Eastern Mennonite University where she was a Liberal Arts major with a

concentration in teaching English as a second language. Her three minors were Spanish, Missions, and Justice, Peace & Conflict Studies. While there, she took several faith-related courses, including a Greek course at the seminary. Around that time, the thought first occurred to her that she might eventually become a pastor or chaplain.

That thought was put on hold as she taught English to adult refugees and immigrants for about four years and then went to Cairo, Egypt, to study for a Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies. After that, she worked with refugees as a resettlement coordinator and church sponsor developer.

So, when she first enrolled in Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2010, she was on a personal journey to learn more about the Bible and different theological perspectives rather than on track to be an official minister.

As a requirement for her M.Div., she interned at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster,



where she preached, led worship, facilitated a book study and attended pastoral team meetings to get a feel for different aspects of church life.

In 2015, the door opened for her to become Associate Pastor at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church. She had submitted her profile to Mennonite Church USA with openness to serving anywhere in the US or internationally and had received invitations to interview with several churches, one of which was Blossom Hill. After several months of discernment, Blossom Hill began to feel like the right fit for both parties.

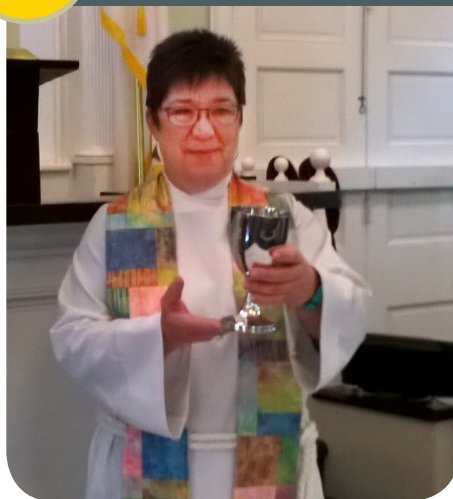
"One of my goals is to be present in such a way that church feels like a safe place to be creative and to ask questions," she said. "I also want to be a leader who encourages others to be advocates for those who feel they have no voice."

JOE LAB '08



Joe Lab '08 is currently attending Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Part of his Master of Divinity degree requirement is to complete 400 hours of ministry experience, which he is fulfilling at Hershey Mennonite Church. He previously interned there while earning a degree in Biblical Studies from Moody Bible Institute. He continues to work part-time for The Factory Ministries, providing innovative faith-based solutions to rural poverty in eastern Lancaster County.

"LMH provided me with a foundation and friendships that strengthened and stirred my affections for the faith and which grounded me in my convictions to pursue any type of occupation as a means of ministry," Lab said.



: ROSE HERR WAYLAND '74

Looking back on her LM days, **Dr. Rose Wayland '74** recalled, "Myron Dietz taught me it was okay to ask questions. I discovered that things had changed over time because there were men and women committed to following Jesus as His disciples. It was a wonder to discover that, even in the Church, things were not always the way they were at the moment."

From LMH, Wayland went on to Eastern Mennonite University where she earned a B.S. in Social Work and Psychology. During her time there, she worked with the Chaplain Service of Virginia as an assistant to the chaplain in the Women's Prison at Goochland, VA. That experience influenced her to go on to seminary at Union Theological Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, where she received a D.Min. in Theology/Pastoral Care.

"The biggest influence of my going into the ordained ministry was Rev. Marjorie Bailey, the chaplain I worked with in the prisons. She was the first woman ordained by the Southern Baptist Church in Virginia and the third in the nation. She opened up for me the possibility that what I had always thought was only an option for my brothers was also an option for me."

Thinking that she would work as a chaplain, she moved to Washington, DC, for a two-year program in clinical pastoral education at the Washington Hospital Center. While there, she learned about the profession of pastoral counseling and psychotherapy. Drawn to that aspect of the ministry, she went on to more training with the Pastoral Counseling and Consultation Centers of the Greater Washington Area. By the time she finished that program, she found a home in the Presbyterian Church USA, and was ordained for specialized ministry in November 1985.

"When it came time to explore the possibility of being ordained in the Mennonite Church, I was not willing to put my call to the ministry on hold, so I decided to find the place where I could do the work I was called to do and not have to fight the battles to be able to do it."

She met her late husband David Wayland, an Episcopal priest, while counseling at the same agency and, in 1991, they went into practice together, working for 20 years as partners in their counseling ministry, Pastoral Counseling Associates.

"Much of my counseling work was with women who were abused and exploited sexually and with many others who were rendered powerless when they were taught not to speak up for themselves," Wayland said. "Too many men and women were taught that women were receptacles for men's wants and needs. I came to believe that women being empowered and having a voice would go a long way to addressing the issues of exploitation and abuse."

While she did a good bit of supply work filling pulpits, it wasn't until 2007 that she took on a regular call in the parish setting. For seven years, she was a parish associate for a group of churches around the Winchester, VA, area. In 2014, she took on an interim pastor position with Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, a position that has recently ended as they have called their next installed pastor. Wayland said, "I have found that interim work is where my love for the Church and my counseling skills come together very well."



RANDY KEENER '03

Randy Keener '03 is a pastor at Witmer Heights Mennonite Church and a chaplain at Lancaster General Hospital in the Care Connections Program. A bi-vocational ministry was appealing to me," Keener said. "As a chaplain, I am with many who in society today are so quickly forgotten; those that have food and housing insecurity, a behavioral health diagnosis, multiple chronic illnesses, incredibly difficult and unimaginable childhood experiences."

Surprisingly, an interest in history, cultivated by LMH teacher Sheri Wenger, led him on the path of ministry. As he continued to study history at Hesston and then Goshen colleges, he was particularly impressed with the Anabaptist story, and it was a history professor (John Roth) who encouraged him to think about seminary. He received his M.Div. in 2013.

"Part of the value of an LM education is that the teachers view education as Christian formation in the way of Jesus. I greatly value that emphasis on Christian formation in my own ministry today."

BRENDA MARTIN HURST '74

"My nine months at LMH changed the trajectory of my life!" exclaimed Brenda Martin Hurst '74.

"I was groomed by my family not to seek higher education and a career, but rather to prepare for marriage and raising a family. But God had both in mind for me, and LM played a significant role in what direction my life took."

After a profound experience in which God asked her to serve the Church, she felt that Christian education would best prepare her for God's calling on her life. She begged her parents to let her go to LMH for her senior year of high school. Because transportation was a problem, she lived in the residence hall where Charlotte Holsopple was her dorm "mother" and a significant role model and mentor for her.

In addition to key personal relationships that encouraged her

to use her gifts in the Church, Hurst related: "Glen Sell's Bible classes, Myron Dietz's Mennonite Life and Thought class and Phyllis Pellman Good's Literature of the Christian Faith class laid significant ground for my post high-school studies and my interest in further studies in Bible and theology."

She married **Ray N. Hurst '70** in 1975 and, with Ray's encouragement, went to Trinity College. She and Ray also studied at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, both graduating with M.Div. degrees.

They served together as co-pastors of Tabor Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas, from 1986-1997 and were both ordained for pastoral ministry in April 1988 by the General Conference Mennonite Church.



Hurst earned her Ph.D. in History, Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in 2003 and taught as Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary from 2001-2007. Since September, 2007, she has served as the pastor of Frazer Mennonite Church. Her husband, Ray, is currently director of pastoral care for Living Branches in Lansdale, PA.

MIKE KING '76

Mike King '76 is the founder and executive director of Powered to Move (P2M), a Texas-based ministry that promotes physical fitness among persons with disabilities to increase their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

A motorcycle accident in 1978 left King, then 20, a paraplegic and wheelchair user. In his 1986 book, *The Mike King Story*, he shares his physical, emotional and spiritual journey as he pushed 5,605 miles from Fairbanks, Alaska to Washington, D.C., in 120 days and discovered God's grace and love along the way. He went on to become a wheelchair athlete, competing in track and field and road racing at an elite level all over the world, including the Pan American Games and World Games.

King joined the staff of Joni and Friends in 2007 and ministered to people with disabilities throughout the East Coast until he moved to Texas in 2013. Mike is a frequent speaker in schools, universities and churches. Along with promoting adaptive sports and disability awareness, he shares his personal spiritual journey and faith in Christ like Joni Eareckson Tada, the evangelical Christian author, speaker and founder of Joni and Friends.



Mike King '76, executive director of Powered to Move, returned to his alma mater this year to share the inspirational story of his personal spiritual journey at a chapel service.

- Some alumni featured in
- “Bridging Decades,
- Embracing the Future:
- LM Celebrates 75 years”



David Shenk '55, 2007 Alumnus of the Year, missionary, consultant and author of many books, including *A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue*.

Karen Weaver Sensenig '72, pastor at Habecker Mennonite Church, Lancaster.



J. Nelson Kraybill '72, the 2013 Alumnus of the Year, past president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, current president of Mennonite World Conference.

Don Kraybill '63, 2007

Alumnus of the Year, retired college professor and Senior Fellow in the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, author or editor of more than 18 books, including *The Upside Down Kingdom*, which won the National Religious Book Award.



John Ruth '48, retired professor and minister, prolific author.

Miriam Book '66,

2000 alumna of the year, current interim lead pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, past Associate General Secretary for the Mennonite Church General Board, past administrator for EMM, ordained for church-wide ministry in 1992.



Gievanne Gonzales Garcia '99 worked at Eastern Mennonite Seminary as director of LEAP.



Featured ALUMNI

BOB PETERSHEIM '73

Although **Bob Petersheim '73** felt a call to the ministry at the age of 13, he said that “Lancaster Mennonite gifted to me a more articulate biblical world view that began to address hidden doubts. A journey to integrate faith of heart and mind began.”

Along with helping him on his faith journey, Petersheim felt that LM teachers helped him develop both skills and confidence in expressing himself. He still recalls the shock of being selected as one of the speakers at graduation, but “that belief in me empowered my acceptance two years later to serve as youth pastor at Neffsville Mennonite Church.”

Starting as a youth pastor, Petersheim would eventually serve as lead pastor at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Gordonville, for 12 years, followed by a

series of intentional interim pastor positions. In 2009, he became pastor of Conestoga Mennonite Church, Morgantown. Along the way he served with EMM, helped with YES training, mentored pastors through Teaching The Word Ministries, and served on the general Board of the Mennonite Church as a moderator of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Mentoring the next generation remains one of his deep passions.

Petersheim has a B.A. in Behavioral Science and Bible from Messiah College and an M. Div. in Pastoral Counseling from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.



KEITH BLANK '80

Keith Blank '80 (married to **Brenda Burkhardt '78**) was born in Mexico to pioneer missionaries, Lester and Mary Lou Blank, who served among the Triqui, an indigenous people group. When his family returned to Lancaster in 1972, Blank started school at what is now LM's Locust Grove Campus, then went on to LMH.

“These years represented a safe place for me to grow and nurture God's call on my life,” Blank said. “I'm grateful for the stable environment and caring teachers who walked with me during these years of transition. My love for other cultures and my passion for the world were nurtured and encouraged.”

Following graduation, Blank attended Rosedale Bible Institute for one year, then was accepted into the newly-emerging YES program under Eastern Mennonite Missions, spending seven months in Scotland, Sweden and Germany.

After graduating from Eastern Mennonite University in 1986, he began working in the Discipleship Ministries department at EMM where, for 19

years, he administered programs that equipped teams of youth and young adults to serve around the world, prepared outreach locations in many countries, and led a discipleship training center in Philadelphia.

His journey in ministry took an interesting turn about a decade ago when he stepped into a lead pastor position at his home church, Mountville Mennonite. Through this engagement he was recently called to serve as the overseer/bishop of the Landisville Manor District of Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

“I'm thankful for the ways in which LM provided me with a context to nurture my commitment to Jesus and to the mission of the Church. It was a safe place for me to find out who I was in a season of reorientation to a new culture after moving from Mexico.”



More Alumni in MINISTRY & MISSION

Arlene Landis Hege '45 was a pioneer missionary to Ethiopia 1950-74.

Miriam Landis Bauman '51, and her husband, David, helped establish the Mt. Zion Retreat Center in Roaring Branch, PA, where they served for 13 years before David felt called to pastor an Assembly of God church in Mansfield, PA. Together they pastored the church for five years before going to a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) training school in Hawaii. They eventually established a YWAM base at the Mt. Zion Retreat Center from which they led mission trips to Ukraine, Albania, Turkey and Dominican Republic. They retired from YWAM in 2011.

Sara Risser '53 is a missionary nurse in Ecuador.

Susan Weaver Godshall '61, currently chaplain associate at Philhaven, was a missionary and Africa representative for EMM.

Janet Ranck Martin '63 graduated from Ontario Mennonite Bible Institute and worked alongside her husband, **Wilmer '63**, as he pastored at Tavistock Mennonite and Erb Street Mennonite in Canada. Martin also served as Wilmer's administrative assistant when he was president of Habitat for Humanity Canada. Today they work together as co-owners of TourMagination, where they develop, arrange and lead tours, many of which are led by **John Ruth '48**

Clyde Hollinger '64, former LM teacher, became the lead pastor at Millport Mennonite Church in 2007 and served about three years in that capacity, followed by about two years as half-time associate pastor. His credential is currently "active without charge," and he preaches and teaches as needed. He is spouse is **Elaine Landis '64**.

Priscilla Forry Garrett '65 was a missionary in Guatemala among the Kekchi people for 10 years, then worked in the EMM office for 16 years.

Fred Garber '66, married to **Linda Stoner '66**, is pastor of Bossler Mennonite Church, Elizabethtown.

J. Nelson Bechtold '68 has been pastor of Goods Mennonite Church, Elizabethtown, for more than 36 years.

Mervin Craig Zimmerman '76 is on the pastoral team at Mountain View Fellowship, Trout Run. He is married to **Grace Kennel '76**.

Paul L. Garber '60 serves as a docent for the Mennonite Information Center, giving presentations about the Biblical Tabernacle Reproduction.

Ken Reinford '68 is executive pastor of ministries for Petra Church, New Holland.

Joe Garber '74, married to **Yvonne Leaman '78**, is pastor at Byerland Mennonite Church, Willow Street.

Barry Kreider '76 is pastor of Pilgrims Mennonite Church in Akron, PA.

David Gochbauer '77 is pastor of River Corner Mennonite Church, Conestoga, since 2003.

Karl R. Landis '78 began serving as lead pastor of Mount Joy Mennonite Church in 2010. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a master's degree in Theology from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

Sharon Witmer Yoder '80 and her husband Kevin served with EMM in Somalia from 1986 to 1991. They served in Kenya from 2001 to 2007 giving oversight to EMM programs in Kenya, and serving as a liaison between EMM and the local Mennonite church. Since 2007 they have been co-pastors at Olive Mennonite Church in Elkhart, IN.

John Meck '81 is the lead pastor at Strasburg Mennonite Church with associate pastor **Clifford R. Horst '95** (who became a deacon in 2006 and was featured in the summer/fall 2010 *Bridges*), minister **John Harvey Groff '74** (married to **Yvonne Beiler '74**), and deacon **J. Stephen Good '87** (married to **Jean Groff '87**).

Dawn Ranck Hower '84. Before becoming pastor at New Holland Mennonite Church in 2014, Hower served for 11 years as associate pastor at Plains Mennonite Church, Hatfield. She graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 2002 with an M.Div.

Ron Shultz '85 served six years in Cuzco, Peru, under EMM.

Wes Siegrist '89 pastored at Erb Mennonite Church, Lititz, for 15 years and recently joined the pastoral team at Ephrata Community Church as pastor of discipleship and world missions. He is married to **Teresa Sauder '89**.

Valerie Weaver Zercher '90 is a prolific writer and editor whose essays, op-eds and book reviews have appeared in numerous national and denominational publications.

Frederick Zeiset '90 was ordained as youth pastor at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church in 2011.

Nevin Hurst '91, former LM teacher, serves as minister of nurture at Weaverland Mennonite Church. He is married to **Melissa Garber '93**.

Tom Eshleman '91 is pastor of Groffdale Mennonite Church since 2009. He came to Groffdale in 2005 as associate/youth pastor. Prior to that he taught elementary school in Harrisonburg, VA. He holds a B.A. from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.Div. from Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Jason Rissler '92 is currently pastor at St. John United Church of Christ in Strasburg, OH, after having served at LifeBridge Community North and LifeBridge Community Church. He has a degree in Bible/Biblical Studies from Rosedale Bible College and a bachelor's from Eastern Mennonite University.

Kimberly Garrett Martin '96 served in YES and went to Venezuela twice with STAT. She is

presently serving in Chile with her husband, **Courtlyn Martin '96**, teaching English as a second language. Her sister, **Kristina Garrett Wenger '86**, a former teacher at the Kraybill Campus, also served in YES in Central America and Brazil.

Derrick Garber '97 is pastor of Chestnut Hill Mennonite Church, Columbia.

Jason Gerlach '97 is associate pastor at Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA, since 2005 (half-time as youth pastor until January 2012). Previous employment includes five years at Virginia Mennonite Conference as conference youth minister. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary (B.A., M.Div.).

Benjamin Bixler '98 will begin Ph.D. studies this fall in Biblical Studies and Early Christianity with a focus on Hebrew Bible at Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey.

Joshua Smucker '99 is prayer director for the Gateway House of Prayer, which offers 24/7 prayer for spiritual renewal in Lancaster County.

Anna Groff '02, former executive director of *The Mennonite* magazine, is featured in LM's 75th Anniversary book.

Jenelle Musselman Roynon '00 served with YES in Germany, working with youth in a Mennonite church, leading her to pursue a degree in Youth Ministry and Recreation from Bluffton University. She is now the program director at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, CO, close to Pike's Peak.

Jordan Kauffman '05 is executive director of New Persons Ministries, Reading, a ministry to bring healing and restoration through Jesus Christ to those affected by incarceration by providing care to returning citizens and their families, such as housing, social service assistance and spiritual guidance.

Sarah Grosh '06, an R.N., recently returned from helping Ebola victims in Sierra Leone. She previously helped during crises in the Philippines, New York City (Hurricane Sandy) and Haiti (earthquake).

Zach Yoder '07 has concluded a term of service in Australia with YWAM and is headed to the Middle East to work with Syrian refugees.

Several missionaries killed while serving abroad were **Joseph Shenk '56**, **Danny Wenger '84**, **John Robert Hertzler '87** and **Glen D. Lapp '87**.



Of the more than 500 alumni known to have served as missionaries and ministers, *Bridges* could research and mention a small representative sample, focusing on names submitted by alumni for inclusion in this issue.



Class Reunions

Class of 1951: 65th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016

Place: Landis Homes Retirement Community

Time: Meal about noon or early afternoon.

Contact: Wilmer Hollinger at wrholl@bnin.net.

Class of 1971: 45th Class Reunion

Date: Friday, October 7, 2016.

Place: Lancaster Campus

Contact: Phil Rutt at 717-629-3877 or

prutt@ptd.net.

Class of 1976: 40th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2016

Time: 2-6:30 p.m.(including supper)

Place: Lancaster Campus

Contact: Frank Albrecht at fesolorite3@gmail.com

Class of 1986: 30th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, Sept 10, 2016

Place: East Lampeter Park, Hobson Road

Time: 4-8 p.m. (Potluck supper at 5 p.m.)

Contact: Facebook "LMH Class of 1986"

Contact: Lynette Mellinger Nisly at

klnisly@verizon.net.

Class of 2011: 5th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2016

Time: Afternoon

Place: TBA

Contact: Tasha Landis at tashajanae@gmail.com.

The class of 1966 built its 50th reunion around exercises that made it possible for them to learn about each other's lives and interests currently. Meeting at the Lancaster Campus on May 6 and 7, class members participated in three activities that involved each one of them.

Class members began their reunion by visiting around tables, guided by a series of questions that they each answered – about their life's work, their family, their special interests and commitments, and their retirement plans or activities. After 15 minutes with one table group, the groups were reshuffled, and the guided visiting continued with a new set of classmates. By reconfiguring the groups three times, everyone had the chance to visit at some length with a sizable number of classmates.

Following dinner together, the evening program was made up of each class member who was present speaking for 45-60 seconds about either "an event or experience that has been significant or meaningful in his/her life," or "a memorable moment or experience while s/he was a student." With more than 87 class members participating, the event was somewhat rapid-fire, yet full of wonderful stories, humor, tenderness, pathos and gratitude.

The class also created a book in which every class member is featured (as well as the 14 who are deceased). Each page includes the class member's yearbook photo and a current photo for most. In addition to giving basic facts, class members tell what they're especially thankful for and how they hope to be remembered.

– Phyllis Pellman Good.

[MARRIAGES]

Herbert Weaver '48 and Joyce King, December 19, 2015

Josh Lehman '07 and Julissa Eberly, January 10, 2016

Chelsea Martin HC '08 and Seth Kirby, May 29, 2016

Cullen Seavers HC '11 and Leanne, May 21, 2016

Kirstin Linebaugh HC '10 and Dave Hesson, June 18, 2016

Alexandra Iriana HC '11 and Mike Johnson, May 29, 2016

Sarah Kalend '13 and Jonathan Hurst, May 21, 2016

HC = Hershey Campus

[DEATHS]

Anna Kathryn Shenk Eby, '58, missionary and teacher, Harrisonburg, VA, March 31, 2016

Melvin L. "Bud" Beiler '60, farmer, Gordonville, PA, March 19, 2016

Paul L. Charles '60, farmer, Marietta, PA, July 8, 2015

Janet Hoover Habecker '65, farmer and volunteer, Lancaster, PA, March 9, 2016

Nelson R. Gingrich '73, truck driver, Mount Joy, PA, February 6, 2016

Linda Sue Beiler '86, Lancaster, PA, July 3, 2016

Howard Thomas Lake '02, Coatesville, PA, March 24, 2014



SPORTS Spotlight



The **LMH boys volleyball team** (top left) finished third in District III and ranked #8 in the state with a final overall record of 14-6.

LMH boys tennis team finished the regular season 8-3 and ended up upsetting the #2

seed in the first round of districts, finishing fourth in District III.

In **track** the **LMH girls 4x800m team**, composed of **Katie Ashley**, **Ashley Spangler**, **Hannah Brubaker** and **Veronica Lopez** (second from top), finished second in District III with a time of 9:56.52. LMH's **Kaden Kieffer** finished sixth overall in the boys 400m at the Lancaster-

Lebanon League championships. The **Kraybill Campus middle school track team** (third from top) placed first (girls) and second (boys) at the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference track meet. The **Hershey Campus varsity track and field team**

broke 10 of the campus's records.

Seven seniors qualified for the **E. Jerry Brooks Academic Excellence Award** for seniors who participated in at least two varsity sports their senior year, earned a minimum of three varsity letters during their high school careers, and had a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher. The LMH recipients were **Andrew Baak**, **Jeremy Newswanger**, **Naomi Bronkema**, **Josiah Kratz**, **Hannah Brubaker**, **Lucas Jemison** (left photo, l-r) and **Ben Stutzman** (upper right photo).

The **Fackler-Hower Sportsmanship medal**, for the male and female student-athletes who



demonstrated the most sportsman-like qualities throughout the year, went to **Katie Ashley** and **Seth Weaver** (bottom left in circle).

The **A. Landis Brackbill Award**, awarded to one senior female and one senior male student-athlete who have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA and lettered in two or more sports, went to **Naomi Bronkema** and **Ben Stutzman** (above). The award is based on Academic Excellence (50%), Athletic Achievements (40%), Leadership Involvement (10%).



ALL STARS

Boys Basketball

L-L League Section 4, First Team:
Richie Rosas and Kyle Kerr

Girls Basketball

CCAC All-Conference: Sarah Hennigh

Boys Volleyball

- District III AA First Team: Andrew Baak
- District III AA Second Team: Evan Augsburger
- L-L League Section 2, First Team: Andrew Baak and Evan Augsburger
- L-L League Section 2, Second Team: Julian Brubaker and Adam Peachey

Baseball

- L-L League Section 4, First Team: Austin Martinez
- L-L League Section 4, Second Team: Jeremy Newswanger

Softball

- All-State, HM: Lindsey White
- L-L League Section 4, First Team: Lindsey White, Maria Stoltzfus and Cassidy King

Boys Tennis

L-L League Section 2, Honorable Mention:
Joseph Jing

Boys Lacrosse

- Academic All-Star: Cody Hurst
- L-L League, Second Team: Cody Hurst
- L-L League, HM: Carter Hurst



School News

“Lancaster Mennonite School is seeking an energetic and dynamic leader for the superintendent position. Founded in 1942, Lancaster Mennonite School is a comprehensive preschool-12 school system rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition. The school system currently enrolls about 1,500 students on five campuses in Central Pennsylvania. The ideal candidate will: demonstrate clear commitment to Anabaptist faith and practice; show excellence in leadership; be oriented to effective listening, communication and collaboration; foster healthy diversity in community; show evidence of personal and emotional maturity; and act as a bridge builder. The superintendent is expected to assume office sometime in 2016. Persons of underrepresented racial/ethnic groups are encouraged to apply.”

International Search Underway for New Superintendent

In response to Lancaster Mennonite School Superintendent J. Richard Thomas' plans to retire in December, 2016, the school's Superintendent Search Committee has launched an international search for the school's eighth superintendent.

After garnering input from stakeholders and constituents, the committee finalized a position profile that defines what the school will be seeking in a new superintendent. When the profile was developed, Andrew Dula, chairperson of the superintendent search committee, expressed thanks to the school community for its involvement in the process, saying, “It was gratifying to hear from so many people who care deeply about the school and to feel a general consensus about the kind of person needed to lead LMS into its preferred future.”

Along with the position profile, the committee finalized a special application for the position and a narrative that describes the superintendent's responsibilities and duties. These materials and other information can be found on line.

The committee developed an announcement/advertisement and identified an initial media list through which to advertise the position and is continuing to build on this list. The committee started reviewing applications in June but is still accepting applications and nominations. Suggestions for candidates may be emailed to lmssearch@mennoniteeducation.org.

The board and search committee request the continued prayers of the school community during this time of discernment and transition.



Lovemore Bonjisi Sculpture Donated

German Collector Chooses LM for “Holy Family”

Last summer, Hans Huebert, a German Mennonite, met LMS Assistant Superintendent Miles Yoder at Mennonite World Conference, leading to his donation of a Lovemore Bonjisi sculpture to the school. Since his retirement, Huebert has dedicated himself to helping talented Zimbabwe artists get international recognition and succeed.

Huebert encouraged sculptor Bonjisi to create some Christian-oriented pieces such as the Holy Family and has been entering them in competitions and making donations of them to various schools and organizations. Bonjisi's work is

dynamic and fluid, coupled with sharp angles and smooth long necks with lifelike faces. He cites as inspiration the legendary sculptor Nicholas Mukomberanwa.

Bonjisi's sculpture has been exhibited in many galleries, including the Contemporary Fine Art Gallery (Eton, UK), Passion in Stone Exhibition (Sydney, Australia) and the Alexander Gallery (Spain), which voted him Most Promising Sculptor in 2004.

The school is in the process of determining where and how to best display this outstanding work of art on the Lancaster Campus.



TOP STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Each academic department of LMH selects one senior to receive the department's award for outstanding work, ability and leadership within the department. The LMH Department Award winners were: (front row, l-r) Jiayi Li, Science; Benjamin Stutzman, Mathematics; Maia Garber, Music; Lucas Jemison, Social Studies; Nathan Flanders, Physical Education; Abigail King, English; (back row, l-r) Holly Martin, World Language; Drew Bollinger, Technology; James Davidson, Business; Trenton Good, Agriculture; Victoria Jarvis, Family and Consumer Science, and Heather Leiby, Art.



Conner McCall '15 has been selected for the All-National Honor Ensemble Mixed Choir in the Tenor 1 category. The choir will perform November 10-13 in Texas as part of the National Conference for Music Educators. According to school records, McCall is the first LM voice student selected for the national choir.



Landis Homes announced **SuYoun Na '16** as their 2016 Art Student Scholarship Award recipient. Each year since 1995, Landis Homes selects a piece of artwork from the LMH Spring Fine Arts Festival to become part of a permanent art collection on the retirement community campus and makes contributions to the LM art department and to the student.

Hershey Campus Students Recycle 11,000 Bags

In recognition of Earth Day, the Hershey Campus's fifth grade gathered 11,000 plastic bags for the Giant Food Stores' Bags To Benches Program. On April 26, the students delivered the bags to Chad Hoch, manager of Giant Foods' Hershey store (pictured center, rear), accompanied by their teacher Cheryl Caldwell (on left), teacher Sue Eckert, who coordinated the event, and principal Miles Yoder. Hoch presented the students with a cake in appreciation for their recycling efforts.

Through its Bags To Benches program, Giant Food Stores recycles



plastic bags to make benches which they then donate to parks, schools and playgrounds. It takes approximately 10,000 bags to make a single bench. The Hershey Campus will get one of these benches as a tangible reminder of what 10,000 recycled plastic bags can make.

Students also simulated a recycling plant as they sorted

plastic household items by recycling codes, listened to speakers from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Pennsylvania Game Commission discuss wildlife conservation, made their campus a Litter Free School Zone and adopted Shank Park through the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful organization.



Commencement for the 148 members of the Lancaster Mennonite High School class of 2016 was held Saturday, June 4, preceded by a Senior Class Dedication service Friday night, June 3. The keynote speaker for commencement was Jon Carlson, pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church. Three students were chosen to speak at the Senior Class Dedication service in lieu of a valedictorian and salutatorian: **Benjamin Stutzman**, son of James Stutzman and Ann Martin, Lancaster (Presidential Academic Fitness Award, Mathematics Department Award); **Obse Tolla**, daughter of Tolla Medeksa and Mulunesh Macha, Lancaster (International Student Leadership Award), and **Alexis Jones**, daughter of Lisa Toodle, Lancaster (pictured right, l-r).



The Hershey Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School celebrated the commencement of the Class of 2016 at the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey on Thursday, June 2, with speeches by valedictorian **Sarah Hennigh**, daughter of Paul and Ruth Hennigh, Harrisburg, and salutatorian **Andrew Furjanic**, son of Martin and Michelle Furjanic, Harrisburg. Sixteen seniors graduated (pictured above).



Thank you to our donors!

With deepest appreciation, we acknowledge you, alumni and friends of Lancaster Mennonite School, for your investment in Christian education. You, along with many other individuals, businesses and congregations, gave more than \$2.1 million during 2015-16, making a huge difference in students' lives. Every dollar counts!

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Moses B. & Emma G. Glick
Susan E. '61 & Stanley M. Godshall
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Marlin G. '74 & Sue A. Groff
Groff's Home Comfort Team

As part of the school's donor appreciation program, the LMS board of trustees adopted the following giving categories:

Contributor	Up to \$149
Associate	\$150-\$499
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Partner	\$1,000-\$4,999
Leader	\$5,000 or more

If your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at 717-509-4459, ext. 701, or bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org, so we may correct our records.

Hernley Mennonite Church
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The Iron Bridge Society is a group of people who are passionate about leaving a legacy of Christian education for generations to come. These friends included LMS in their planned giving and/or estate plan. Members are invited to select school events and receive estate planning and planned giving tips.

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RETIRING STAFF

We are grateful for the teachers and staff who have invested many years in helping our school be centered in Christ, transforming lives and joining with God in changing our world. The following teachers retired at the end of this school year:

- J. Richard Thomas, 44 years (effective Dec. 31, 2016)
- Lois Kennel, 34 years
- Mark Boll, 25 years
- Andrew Hershey, 25 years
- Robert Martin, 15 years
- Rachel Denlinger, 12 years
- Cheryl Oeschger, 11 years



J. Richard Thomas



Lois Kennel



Mark Boll



Andy Hershey



Bob Martin



Rachel Denlinger



Cheryl Oeschger

MISSED IN THE LAST ISSUE

'03

Ursinus field hockey coach **Janelle Engle Benner '02** (married to **Joel Benner '03**) was selected as the 4U Field Hockey/NFHCA Division III South Region Coach of the Year.

Ursinus finished with an overall record of 19-4 and went 9-1 in the Centennial Conference regular season before rolling to its 11th league crown in 12 years and advancing to the NCAA semifinals. Since taking the reins of the program in 2011, Benner has compiled an overall record of 81-26 (.757), including a 42-8 mark (.840) in conference games and 7-4 in the NCAA Tournament. In her five seasons at the helm, she led Ursinus to four conference titles, four appearances in the NCAA quarterfinals and a pair of trips to the NCAA semifinals.



LM Turns 75!

Lancaster Mennonite School will celebrate its 75th birthday from October 2016 through October, 2017, with four major events throughout the year. According to Phyllis Pellman Good and Merle Good, co-chairs of the Anniversary Program Committee, "Each is partly a celebration; each is also a review and examination of the school's character and contribution through the 75 years."

The first event will be held as part of Homecoming weekend Friday evening, October 7, at 7 p.m., entitled, **75 Years of God's Grace — A Service of Thanksgiving**. Alumni, faculty, and staff will present five narrations of historic events from the life of the school, and an alumni choir and alumni orchestra will sing and perform. (For more information and to register to join either music group, go to www.lancastermennonite.org/finearts/music/questionnaire.) The school's

commemorative 75th anniversary book will be unveiled at this time.

"We approach this anniversary with hearts full of thankfulness," said Superintendent J. Richard Thomas. "At the same time, we want on this occasion to consider the effect the school has had on many lives and its place in the world of education. What has its contribution been? What could it have done better? What is its appropriate place in the future?"

"We're committed to telling the truth about the school's history and what it's become," said Thomas. "This Anniversary is also a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God, to rejoice about our more than 10,000 alumni, and to thank our faithful patrons and churches for their goodwill and support. We humbly receive God's gift and grace."

See right sidebar for other events.

Anniversary EVENTS

October 7 at 7 p.m.

"75 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE" —
A Service of Thanksgiving

November 13 at 2 p.m.

"VOCATIONS AND AVOCATIONS"

March 4, 2017

EDUCATION CONFERENCE
with keynote speakers John D. Roth
of Goshen College and Susan Schultz
Huxman, president-elect of Eastern
Mennonite University

October 6, 2017, at 7 p.m.

STORIES AND SONGS
by alumni, faculty and staff

More information at
www.lancastermennonite.org/newseventsnews/75thanniversary

BREAKING ALUMNI NEWS

'86

Robin Frey Felty '86 has been appointed as superintendent of the Manheim Township School District. She has held many positions in education, from teacher in the Annville-Cleona district to special education supervisor in Manheim Township, statewide curriculum advisor, and assistant superintendent in the Warwick and Ephrata Area school districts. Felty holds an M.Ed. from Millersville University, an Ed.D. from Immaculata University and an MBA from Lebanon Valley College. She received a B.S. in education from Eastern Mennonite University and has served as an adjunct professor for EMU Lancaster.

'96

Angela Hiller Myers '96 (right) won the national USA Track and Field Masters Outdoor Championship for the 400m dash in the 35-39 age group. Held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the USATF Masters Championship was for athletes over 30 years of age.

'03

Matt Eby '03 recently competed with the U.S. Men's Deaf National Soccer team in the 2016 Deaf World Cup held in Salero, Italy.





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Parents: Each alumnus receives a personal copy of *Bridges*. If this is addressed to a son or daughter who has established a separate residence, please give us the new address. Contact Keri Bloom at bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 509-4459, ext. 701. Thank you.

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Homecoming 2016



"75 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE" – A Service of Thanksgiving

Fine Arts Center • 7 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate this historic milestone
and kick-off the 75th Anniversary of LMS!

Alumni, faculty, and staff will present five narrations of historic events from the life of the school. An alumni choir and alumni orchestra will perform along with spirited congregational singing, and vocal and instrumental solos.

OCTOBER 7 & 8

Friday, October 7

**Hess's FAMOUS
Pork & Chicken Barbecue**

Take out 2:30-7 p.m. • Under the tent 4:30-7 p.m.
Adults \$12 Children \$6

Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Pequea Valley 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 8

Iron Bridge 5K Trail Run/Walk 9 a.m.

FFA Pancake Breakfast 7:30-10 a.m.

Girls Field Hockey vs. Fleetwood 11 a.m.

Benefit Auction 7 p.m.



www.lancastermennonite.org