

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

www.lancastermennonite.org

SPRING 2008

Bridges

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*Centered in Christ
Transforming Lives
Changing our World*

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Bridges is the quarterly 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. The school welcomes students without regard to sex, race, nationality or ethnic origin.

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

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–8

2257 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 394-7107

New Danville, grades PreK–6

393 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 872-2506

Address alumni and school news to
sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org.

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Large cover photo: The academic building at the Lancaster Campus will include classrooms for math, science, business, and family and consumer science, along with offices for system personnel. Smaller photo: The Kristin L. Palazzo Gallery connects Kraybill's auditorium/gymnasium to the rear of the middle school wing and art room. See page 8 for information on both projects. GALLERY PHOTO: GARY HILLER.

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

Why I favor supporting an Endowment Fund

By Merle Good

My wife, Phyllis, and I apparently made the first donation to begin LMS's Endowment Fund. It was a small donation, I'm sure, more than half a lifetime ago.

We were both teaching at LMS at the time so, knowing what teachers got paid in those days, it couldn't have been very much. Certainly it was less than \$1,000.

So why did we do it? And would we do it again?

Perhaps. First, I should explain my understanding of an Endowment Fund.

Educational institutions, like other non-profit organizations, receive donations in two main forms:

Operating Funds

Donations are made on a continuous basis toward the ongoing operations of the institutions. Depending on the organization, these Operating Funds may be for any expenses which are part of the day-to-day costs of operating the work of that institution.

For educational institutions, donations to the Operating Fund often help subsidize tuition and support the salaries of staff and faculty, and other ongoing costs of the institution.

Capital Funds

Donations to Capital Funds are normally for buildings, major improvements (renovations, landscaping, etc.), or major equipment purchases. Whereas institutions need Operating Funds continually, they request Capital Fund donations primarily when they are launching a capital program.

So what is an Endowment Fund? An Endowment Fund takes the long view. Its intention is to support the long-term health and stability of a non-profit institution or organization.

While Endowment Funds may be operated differently from institution to institution, in general they function by



Merle Good, 1964, and Phyllis Pellman Good, 1966, are owners of Good Enterprises Ltd., Intercourse.

the same principle. Donations to the Endowment Fund are generally intended to stay in the Fund permanently.

Those donated funds are placed in safe, secure investments and/or interest-bearing instruments. That interest and/or earnings are made available for the operations of the institution. But the principal is not touched except in a severe emergency.

For example, a \$1 million principal amount in an Endowment Fund may earn as little as \$15,000 a year or as much as \$100,000 a year for the institution. The money goes on earning, year after year.

The hope is always that the principal amount in an Endowment Fund will keep growing. An Endowment Fund requires donors who believe in an institution long term and are willing to see their donations create less immediate relief for the sake of long-term relief over many years.

Sorry for the long explanation! Why were we interested in starting an Endowment Fund for Lancaster Mennonite School? We were partly

influenced by our experience in grad school in New York City.

I was a student at Union Theological Seminary. Phyllis worked part time in the business office of the seminary while she was completing her master's degree at New York University downtown. Her job was assisting a staff member who oversaw the investments for the seminary's rather large Endowment Fund. That experience of hers impressed both of us about the long-term benefits of an Endowment Fund for a religious educational institution.

So a year or two later, when we moved back to Lancaster and both began teaching English, writing, and drama at LMS, we made a small donation to get an Endowment Fund started at LMS.

In closing, let me add that Phyllis and I still believe strongly in Endowment Funds. But we do have a few cautions.

Sometimes an institution's Endowment Fund can become too large in proportion to its Operating Fund. This is certainly not a danger at this point for LMS's Endowment Fund.

So how big is too big? We have this belief that non-profit organizations should be a little "hungry." Schools that need to raise donations and cultivate prospective students are stronger than those whose endowments make it unnecessary for them to nurture donors, parents, students, and other supporters.

We recommend a middle position



JEREMY HESS PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Endowment Fund makes it possible for Lancaster Mennonite School to offer a Christ-centered education that transforms lives—pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

where a healthy Endowment Fund helps to support operations, especially in years when donations and enrollment may be down a bit. But the Endowment Fund should not get so large that

administrations and staff feel self-sufficient enough that they stop cultivating donors, parents and students.

We encourage increased support for LMS's Endowment Fund. ■

Touching lives with your IRA can also boost endowment

IRA and other retirement plan assets are often a major component in individual investment portfolios. The increase in persons planning for their retirement future is good news, but there are potential estate planning implications.

IRA assets may be subject to two, and possibly three, types of taxes. While most people are aware that IRA withdrawals are subject to income tax, many have not considered the impact of estate taxation on retirement assets as part of their overall financial plan.

If you're considering making charitable gifts at death, you can increase your overall

tax benefit (and reduce the cost to your heirs) by naming Lancaster Mennonite School in your beneficiary designation. This would be a wonderful way to support the LMS Endowment Fund.

Generally, the maximum overall tax savings can be achieved by leaving part or all of your IRA or retirement plan to LMS at death. This is accomplished by naming LMS as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or IRA. Alternatively, the gift can be structured so that a non-charitable beneficiary such as a family member can benefit (for life) from the assets after your death, with the remainder going to LMS at the death of the benefi-

ciary. Naming Lancaster Mennonite School as the beneficiary of tax-deferred assets upon your death can help you avoid both income and estate taxes on the gifted amount. You will also be touching the lives of students by helping to give them a Christian education.

Many donors have found that a charitable gift of retirement assets can address tax issues as well as satisfy the desire to leave a legacy to LMS.

Please consult your financial planning advisor as you consider the benefits of such a gift. ■

Forming followers of Jesus in a hyper-media culture

By Dorcas Lehman, LMH Campus Pastor

Today's children are growing up in a culture that could produce electronic nomads, Shane Hipps told his audience at this year's biennial Mennonite Educators Conference. These nomads, he explained, are physically in one place but electronically elsewhere. They are at risk of becoming a "cotton candy community"—one that fails to genuinely connect or nourish its members in any meaningful way.

Over 600 educators from 31 Mennonite schools met in Pittsburgh January 31 through February 2 to hear Hipps' perspective on "Discipleship in the Digital Age: Forming Followers of Jesus in a Hyper-Media Culture." Hipps, a pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church in Phoenix, Arizona, is author of the book, *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel, and the Church*.

In his four keynote addresses, Hipps stressed the importance of being alert to the power of media to shape ourselves and our culture. "Bring awareness into the picture," he said. "The moment you do, everything changes. Awareness gets us 90 percent

of the way there." Hipps is convinced that the forms of media and technology, regardless of their content, are extremely powerful forces.

Hipps approached his topic by unpacking the thinking of theorist Marshall McLuhan, who in the 1960s and 1970s said that when methods of technology or forms of media change, the message automatically changes as well.

"Learn to think the way McLuhan thought," Hipps told his audience, who seemed fascinated with the theories, but even more interested in getting to questions about what awareness and response is needed in the hallways and classrooms.

The teachers weren't disappointed, as Hipps discussed new tasks, habits and assumptions for educating young people, and interacted with teachers on their how-to questions. "The best way to teach technology is not 'how to' because they know how better than you," said Hipps. "What we need is a class on how the internet serves you and changes you."

"Shane's message was very relevant," said Lynn Longenecker, technology integration coordinator for LMS. "Electronic communication is rapidly changing the way we communicate, network and socialize. That has both positive and negative effects which we might be blind to unless we stop and reflect—especially younger students who are growing up with this and don't have the perspective of life without cell phones, Facebook, online photo and video sharing, etc.

"Electronics can connect us more widely than ever but can also isolate us from those close by. For example, we can be texting or talking on cell phones ... while ignoring the people right beside us." According to Hipps, paradoxical habits like these can lead to "intimate anonymity."

Doug Ehst, middle school teacher at the Lancaster Campus, says that when people ask if the internet is good or bad, the answer often is, "It depends on how you use it." But Ehst doesn't stop there.

"I want my students to understand that the medium is the message," he said, borrowing from McLuhan. To help his eighth grade technology education class understand that, he encourages the students to take an optional day off from using electronic communications. If students choose to unplug for the day, they write about the experience—what they liked, what was frustrating. If they choose not to participate, they write their reasons for that choice.



Guest speaker Shane Hipps addresses educators during the recent Mennonite Educators Conference in Pittsburgh. Panelists are, L-R: Mary Jane Smith, fourth grade teacher at the Kraybill Campus; Joy Thomas, librarian at Penn View Christian; and Don Thomas, social studies teacher at Central Christian. PHOTO: PAUL BRUBAKER



Shane Hipps. PHOTO: PAUL BRUBAKER

Before listening to Hipps, Locust Grove middle school music and Bible teacher Jan Stauffer used to encourage her students to only choose TV programs and music that were worthwhile and positive. “But now, I try to help them think about the influence of both the medium and the message,” she said.

Brenda Bare, math teacher and director of curriculum and instruction, also believes in raising awareness. She has used news stories to talk to her students about the long-term ramifications of comments they write on-line. “Middle school students still write notes to each other,” she said, “but they also regularly use Facebook and texting, which they see as private communication, when in fact that communication can actually be very public.” She has woven comments about online etiquette into classroom conversations and believes more of that kind of guidance is needed throughout the curriculum.

Geoff Groff appreciated the conference’s in-depth discussion of the role of technology in education. He plans to create more space for reflection in his tenth grade health class. During the chapter on communication, he will give students an opportunity to think about their own use of electronic media. He plans to ask questions such as, How does your cell phone help you? How does it hold you back? What do you gain by using it? and What do you lose?

“Cell phones can make us feel more connected, yet, at the same time, more alone,” says Groff, noting the dramatic increase of cell phone use over the last few years.

Staying connected in meaningful ways seemed to be foremost in the minds of teachers. That comes at a cost. Real community is profoundly invasive, and sometimes painful, Hipps reminded us, and most of us are not prepared for it, especially when there is conflict.

Hipps cited a Stanford study which found that negotiations break down most often in this order: e-mail, phone, person to person. We might show an e-mail to a friend and ask, “What does this mean?” That is hard to tell when there is no intonation to hear or body language to see. And that is why Hipps never tries to resolve conflict by e-mail. All of us, especially young people, need help with how to have constructive, redemptive conflict, Shane says, and that happens face to face, not via the internet.

Like all of us, Hipps uses media everyday. No one at the conference proposed doing away with any of it, but rather, to become what Hipps calls error-detectors and interpreters of this media-drenched culture. And that is part of what it takes to be followers of Jesus and to call our students to discipleship in this digital age. ■

Dorcas Lehman has been a guidance counselor at Lancaster Mennonite High School for 13 years. The past seven years she also has served as campus pastor. She and her husband, Glenn, class of 1962, live in Leola and attend East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. They are parents of two LMH graduates—Sarah Lehman Schrock, 1999, and Joel Lehman, 2002.



Dorcas Lehman

Tips for parents

Limit your children’s TV watching at an early age, especially until reading develops. (Hipps reminded teachers that, while we know there are reading disabilities, there is no such thing as a TV watching disability.)

Nurture error-detection. Help your children evaluate what they see on the web, and how the internet serves or changes us.

Ask good questions such as, What kind of encounter does this medium evoke? In what ways does it limit our experience of God? In what ways could this undermine our intended message? Are we imitating culture? How are we welcoming the artist in our midst? What are we called to as persons created in the image of God?

The journey at LMH

By Chris Cote

I've been so impressed and blessed by the teachers and their dedication to education and their commitment to Christ.



Chris Cote

This story first appeared in The Latest News, a newsletter of Project E.A.R.T.H. International. It is reprinted here with permission. Fikeveni Khulekani Dlamini (Fika) and Mbongeni Sydney Bhembe (Bo), both from Swaziland, are seniors at Lancaster Mennonite High School.

A few days ago I was thinking about all the red tape and struggles I went through to try and make the arrangements for Fika and Bo to come to the USA. There were days so complicated and frustrating I was reduced to tears. On Easter 2005 I got the news that my Uncle Dave had gone to be with the Lord. While driving out to Oklahoma for his funeral I had a conversation with Dave Mast on my cell phone. I was sharing with him about my struggle. During that conversation Dave suggested that I contact Eliza Booth at LMH. What a joy it was talking with Eliza and finding out that LMH could make the process so simple. (And they did!)

LMH provides a quality education, but it's not free. It was a leap of faith financially. A leap that has been backed up with a great deal of prayer. Though we've been behind in our payments 90 percent of the time, LMH has never given us a moment of worry. They have joined us in praying for God's provision and God has provided. (Though we are trusting God for the current year's tuition, we are confident that the Lord will provide.)

I've been so impressed and blessed by the teachers and their dedication to education and their commitment to Christ.

They have inspired Fika and Bo and challenged them to learn and grow. The mission statement at LMH is "Centered in Christ, Transforming Lives, Changing our World." I can respond with an

enthusiastic "mission accomplished!"

Dorcas Lehman is the campus pastor. How awesome is that? Does your kid's high school have a campus pastor? Jon Heinly is a new addition to the staff. He's the campus youth minister! Each day of school begins with chapel. Every student is a part of a small group that meets in place of chapel most Wednesdays. On Friday mornings at 7:00 students can attend the student-led Bible Study. (Fika and Bo are a part of the leadership this year.) On any morning before school look around and you can find a small group of students gathered for prayer. I could go on and on. "Centered in Christ" are not just words in the mission statement. That phrase is a huge part of what happens at LMH.

Lives are being transformed in and out of the classroom. The faculty at LMH is second to none. I would be here for days if I shared with you about those who have stood out during Fika and Bo's three years there. I must mention Kris Horst and Dan Dietzel (English teachers) who have been such a blessing in a variety of ways. Their lives are such a testimony. They show the love and grace of Christ in their interaction with students. John Miller inspired the guys with music. Dean Sauder did an amazing job with the Jesus Story (Bible) class. Karen Diffenbach challenged the guys with geometry. Oh how I wish I could mention everyone. Let's just say: Thanks for inspiring us to "Change our world!" ■

Chris Cote is international mission director for Project E.A.R.T.H. International, based in Ephrata. He is "dad" to Fika and Bo. Chris first met Fika in 2001 when he was in Swaziland. After learning that Fika's Christian mother supported Fika's vision to become a doctor and return to Swaziland to serve his people, Chris agreed to have Fika and friend Bo come live with him. Bo also would like to return to Swaziland as a physician. The LMH seniors plan to attend Eastern Mennonite University in the fall.



Above, Fikeveni Khulekani Dlamini (Fika), left, and Mbongeni Sydney Bhembe (Bo). At right, LMS students participate in National Day of Prayer.

PHOTOS: CHRIS COTE



Pass along the benefits of an LMS education!



- **An excellent holistic education, centered in Christ** with faith-infused classroom instruction and co-curricular programs
- **A diverse, accepting community** that prepares graduates to live faithfully with others in the Kingdom of God
- **A warmly ecumenical school** rooted in Christ-centered interpretation of Scripture, personal faith and commitment to following Jesus
- **A safe environment** that values the innocence of childhood and that nurtures growth appropriate to the student's developmental level
- **A committed faculty of positive role models** called to educate and care for students in the name of Christ
- **A supportive campus community** that connects home, church and school and that builds lifelong friendships



This kind of education is a gift for life.



OPEN HOUSE Alumni Dining Hall
MAY 18 Lancaster Campus
1:00–3:00 p.m.

Representatives and displays for all 4 campuses

Lancaster Mennonite School is committed to work with all families who desire these benefits for their children.

Refer a family or student to one of our four campuses or provide us with information so that we may contact them.

Kraybill Campus, grades PreK–8
Principal John Weber, (717) 653-5236

Lancaster Campus, grades 6–12
(717) 299-0436, ext. 311

Locust Grove Campus, grades PreK–8
Principal Judi Mollenkof, (717) 394-7107

New Danville Campus, grades PreK–6
Principal Judi Mollenkof, (717) 872-2506



ASK FOR OUR NEW SCHOOL VIDEO! Our new school video is available for you to give to someone you care about. We have a youth-oriented video for those considering high school and a parent-oriented version for families considering LMS as a whole. Contact any campus for your copy!





The academic building taking shape at the Lancaster Campus is set for an autumn completion. The facility will include classrooms for math, science, business, and family and consumer science, along with offices for system personnel.

Building goes green to conserve and instruct

It is said that we shape our buildings and then they shape us. We want our students to develop creativity, wonder, awe, a commitment to holistic stewardship, and an understanding of the biblical call to caring for creation. With these values guiding the shaping of the academic building, we have chosen to incorporate green construction. Thus, besides housing rooms for instruction, the building itself will instruct and help to shape and challenge future generations to hold these LMS values. The building will feature:

Geothermal heating and cooling to reduce the use of fossil fuels, save money and protect the environment.

Energy Recovery Ventilator. Air needs to be exchanged six times during a typical class period to keep air fresh and clean. In the winter the air needs to be heated and in the summer it needs to be cooled. This unit makes that process more efficient.

Motion and heat sensors to control classroom lighting and cooling systems, thus reducing power usage.

Quartz flooring substantially made of recycled products. This will also reduce maintenance.

Natural exterior products that include masonry and natural stone.

Natural products rather than plastic or imitation marble—slate floor in lobby and granite countertops.

Radiant floor heating in lobby to reduce energy costs and increase comfort.

Classroom and office **furniture purchased with consideration for recycled content.**

Green roof with plantings for aesthetics and greater insulation value.

Wall insulation at four inches.

Increased roof insulation to an average R-value of 45.

Increased, upgraded window glass for natural light and higher insulation value.

Native Plant Landscaping and Rain Gardens. Native plants add natural beauty and provide habitat for insects, birds, and animals that rely on native plants for food and cover. Natural landscapes also can improve our soil, purify our air, protect our waters, and sequester carbon dioxide. Rain gardens, which are depressions in the landscape unlike traditional beds which are raised, retain surface runoff and are planted with native varieties that can withstand periods of wet or dry weather. By retaining water and letting it slowly percolate through the soil, the gardens reduce erosion and flooding while recharging ground water. ■

Gallery dedicated and serving students

In February more than 200 friends and staff gathered to dedicate the Kristin L. Palazzo Gallery which connects Kraybill's auditorium/gymnasium to the rear of the middle school wing and art room. This created a new rear entrance for better security, appearance and accessibility.

Kristin Palazzo, who died in November 2006 when she was an LMH junior, was a dedicated Christian, gifted artist, and excellent student. She attended the Kraybill Campus, kindergarten through grade 8. Funding for the project has been completed, thanks to the generosity of many donors, including several leadership gifts.

The school's strategic plan also calls for improvements to the main entrance as well as increased space for pre-kindergarten. A middle school common area also is planned.



PHOTO: GARY HILLER

■ Junior Erika Babikow, sophomore Carli Bowman, and senior Jung Gu Kim won national awards for artwork that was submitted to Lancaster's Scholastics Art Show this past winter—Gold Key awards for Babikow and Bowman and a Silver Key for Kim. This year, approximately 1,000 young artists and writers earned national recognition, placing them among the top one percent of all participants.



Carli Bowman, left, and Erika Babikow. PHOTO: PAUL BRUBAKER



Jung Gu Kim. PHOTO: PAUL BRUBAKER

■ Three LMH juniors participated in the 2008 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All State music festivals that were held recently at Hershey. Eric Umble, clarinet, was selected for the All-State Band Festival; Devin Troy, violin, was selected for the All-State Orchestra Festival; and Maggie Nicholas, first in soprano 1, was selected for the All-State Chorus Festival.



L-R: Devin Troy, Maggie Nicholas and Eric Umble



FBLA members, L-R: Peter Mickley, Chad Newcomer, Calvin Ruth and Laura Benkendorf. Verlen Rufenacht, front left, and Kirk Benner are FBLA advisers.

■ This spring, four Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members participated in the State Competition at Hershey—Laura Benkendorf, second place in Accounting I, plus Chad Newcomer, Peter Mickley and Calvin Ruth who placed second in a group event called Management Decision Making. The four students now qualify for the National Competition which will be held in June in Atlanta, Georgia.



The LMH girls basketball team made school history when they won the PIAA District III Championship in February. They also were section champions and advanced to the second round of state championship play. Their coach is Sheri Gorman. Team members include (front row, L-R) Kelsey Gorman, Erin LaVenice, Katelyn Vanderhoff, Melissa Sauder, (back row) Danielle Zeamer, Mary Poole, Katelyn Kreider, Stephanie Rheinheimer, Kami Skoloda, Sarah Mentzer and Eileen Darby. PHOTO: THOM SWARR

■ The Kraybill girls "A" basketball team finished the season undefeated and placed first in the Commonwealth Christian Athletic Conference, both for the third year in a row. Karen Rheinheimer is the coach.



Kraybill girls basketball team members, front, L-R: Jessica Rheinheimer, Anne Marie Baer, Lesley Andricks, Janelle Kramer. Back row, L-R: Emily Snyder, Valerie Hernley, coach Karen Rheinheimer, Alleayah Myers, Kelsie Ashley. PHOTO: HOWARD RHEINHEIMER

■ Sue Conrad, associate pastor at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, will give the commencement address at the high school on Saturday, May 31, at 10 a.m. The dedication service on Friday, planned by the Senior Class Committee, will begin with a concert by Campus Chorale at 6:30 p.m. followed by the dedication service at 7:30. Tickets are required for Fine Arts Center seating Saturday morning, (limited to the graduates and their guests), but Friday evening's events are open to the public.

■ Locust Grove grade 5 teacher Chris Peterson was elected Lancaster Bible College's Teacher of the Year for 2008.

■ In April, Director of Advancement Heidi Stoltzfus was named a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) by CFRE International. She joins over 5,000 professionals around the world who hold this designation.

■ The New Danville, Locust Grove and Kraybill campuses all have activities throughout the year that encourage a love for reading. At New Danville guests



Sue Conrad



Chris Peterson



Heidi Stoltzfus

included Scott Boyd, a member of the Pa. House of Representatives (his visit also was part of Read Across America Day, established in 1997 by the National Education Association); Lancaster Barnstormer's mascot, Cylo, who introduced the Barnstormer's reading program; and Superintendent Richard Thomas, who read *The Little Engine That Could*. In addition, a book fair invited students to expand their home libraries, and classes participated in Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) during which teachers for one week interrupted classes periodically to read to their students. "Reading is the gateway to the world and their imaginations," said New Danville teacher Sarah Fichtner.



Scott Boyd reads a Dr. Seuss book to students at New Danville.

PHOTO: EDIE HESS

Growing up with a service attitude

This year our PreK-8 students have shown many signs of thinking beyond themselves.

- In the fall, Kraybill students collected \$2,900 so Mennonite Disaster Service could repair a hurricane-damaged house in Texas.
- At Christmas time, New Danville students sent more than 100 Christmas cards to prison inmates. This spring they collected \$527 for Mennonite Central Committee's PennyPower project which is providing clean water for people around the world.
- During the 50th year of Locust Grove's Valentines Project, students raised \$3,900 for Heifer International, purchasing chicks, rabbits, sheep, heifers, etc., for families in need.
- Also, this spring, Locust Grove eighth grade social studies students learned that injustice goes way beyond not being able to chew gum in class. They raised \$2,561 for Loose Change to Loose Chains, a project of International Justice Mission, a human rights organization that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. That amount will free five oppressed persons.



Above, Locust Grove students count money that will be used to free slaves. The students are, L-R: Maddie Nathan, Emily Clouser, Natalie Brubaker, Nick Bybel, Luke Hershey and Logan Kreider.

PHOTO: BARBARA JOSEPHIAN. At right, New Danville students Aleana Glah (left) and Kerri Ressler count pennies for a project that is providing clean water for communities around the world.



■ In early April, a visit to the local jail helped 98 LMH sociology students put a human face to their classroom discussions of our prison systems and their much-needed reform. The prison visit was a real eye opener for students, and many wrote about their experiences. “Our visit contained a vast amount of educational experiences,” junior Rebecca Yoder wrote. “To study the environments of our nation’s prisons is one thing, but to walk the halls is another Now, as I pass by the facility, I try to remind myself what is really ... within the walls, and how I can begin to process the effects it has on me.” ■

May 18	Spring Open House, Lancaster Campus, 1–3 p.m.
May 18	High School Spring Concert, 3 p.m.
May 20	Kraybill Middle School Choral Program, 7 p.m.
May 20	Lanc. Campus Middle School Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
May 30	High School Dedication Service, 6:30 p.m.
May 31	High School Commencement, 10 a.m.
August 18	Lancaster Campus New Student Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
August 20	First day of school



Lancaster County Prison training officer Carl Jones prepares LMH students for their prison visit on April 2. To Jones’ right is LMS Youth Minister Jon Heinly. To Jones’ left are another prison staff person and LMH social studies teacher Sheri Wenger.

LMS summer day camps & enrichment

Apply by May 30 to avoid late fee

For a brochure and application, go to www.lancastermennonite.org, or call Rachel Denlinger at (717) 299-0436, ext. 310.

Basketball

Girls basketball, grades 5–10July 7–11
Boys basketball, grades 5–10July 21–25

Field Hockey

Jr. high field hockey, grades 6–8June 9–13
Sr. high field hockey, grades 9–12August 4–8

Boys Lacrosse

Advanced skills, grades 9–12June 16–19
Learn to play, grades 6–12*June 16–19

Soccer

Elem. Coed soccer, grades 1–5June 23–27
Jr. high boys soccer, grades 6–8July 7–11
Girls soccer, grades 6–12July 28–August 1
Sr. high boys soccer, grades 9–12August 4–8

Tennis

Intermediate tennis, grades 4–8July 28–Aug. 1
Advanced tennis, grades 9–12Aug. 4–8

Girls jr. high volleyball, grades 6–9July 14–18

Summer enrichment opportunities

Coed culinary arts, grades 4–9July 14–18
Intro. to Stop-motion animation, grades 6–10** ..July 15–17
Intro. to video production (iMovie), gr. 7–10**July 14–18
Intro. to digital photography, grades 6–10July 21 & 22
Middle school drama, grades 6–8July 28–Aug. 1
Digital video editing, grades 6–12July 23–25
Spiritual fitness, grades 10–12June 6–8

*Will be held at the Locust Grove Campus

**Will be held at the Kraybill Campus

All other camps will be held at the Lancaster Campus.

Register by June 1 for fall season!

MENNONITE SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Schedule

Fall: Boys soccer, PreK-6

Girls field hockey, grades 1-6

Winter: Boys and girls basketball, grades 2-6

Spring: Girls soccer, PreK-6



Providing Christ-centered sports opportunities for elementary-age children

For more information and to register, please go to www.mennonitesports.org or call (717) 394-7107.

CLASS NOTES

John Buckwalter, 1956, Lititz, recently retired as part-time director of gift planning at Landis Homes but will continue one day a week as a planned giving counselor.

In April **Lorraine Murphy, 1960**, Sarasota, Fla., sang with the Lancaster-Franconia Choral Singers for their presentation of *Elijah* at Neffsville Mennonite Church. Lorraine sings with Key Chorale, the official chorus of the Florida West Coast Symphony and also with the Gloria Musicae, Sarasota's premier choral ensemble. Recently, she became minister of music and adults at St. John's United Methodist Church in Sarasota.

Paul and **Judi Horst, 1966, Kauffman**, Plain City, Ohio, have accepted a three-year mission assignment in Spain with Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

Janet Breneman, 1967, Lancaster, was ordained in January by **Linford King, 1968**, a Lancaster Mennonite Conference bishop. Breneman is a pastor at Laurel Street Mennonite Church.

Aldine Weaver, 1971, Musser, Stephens City, Va., was ordained as a minister of the gospel on November 18, 2007, by the Virginia Conference. She is co-pastoring with her husband, Jim, at Stephens City Mennonite Church. Aldine is a graduate of Hesston College, Millersville University, and St. Joseph's, and is currently attending Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Prior to their move, Jim and Aldine ministered at Bethany Birches Camp, Vermont.

Jeanine Pfeiffer, 1983, Maynard, Mass., has joined Earthwatch Institute (www.earthwatch.org) as program director for social sciences. She received an MS in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis, as well as a Ph.D. in Ecology. Jeanine founded the Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for South East Asia (www.ecosea.org) which works with indigenous peoples and national counterparts to research and conserve biocultural diversity.

Krista Miller, 1988, Higham, Lancaster, graduated with a master's in library science from Clarion University in December 2006 and is employed as the Access Services Librarian at Millersville University Library.

Guillermo DeNovais, 1994, Gladstone, Va., received a National D License from the United States Soccer Federation in September of 2007. He is currently coaching a youth soccer club in Amherst, Va., while pursuing further education through the USSF and NSCAA.

Dustin Gingrich, 1995, along with wife Sarah and their three children, will return for a second three-year term to Puerto Montt, Chile, where they are serving with Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Ryan, 1997, and **Bethany Umble**, and their two children, are beginning a three-year term of service this spring with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In addition to full-time language study, they will work with a young Mennonite church, ministering to university students and supporting church initiatives.

Benjamin Myers, 1999, Arlington, Va., had his black and white photographs exhibited during January in the Hartzler Library, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. The exhibit is titled "Beyond Closed Doors: An Insider's Look at the Nation's Capitol." He is photo editor for *The Hill* newspaper, published four times a week for lawmakers, lobbyists and political staff members.

Jana Oberholtzer, 1999, MacKay, Elizabethtown, graduated in May 2007 from the Erikson Institute of Chicago with an MS in Child Development with an administration specialization. She interned as an administrator at the Cambridge School of Chicago. Currently she teaches Suzuki flute and Suzuki piano through the Elizabethtown College Preparatory Division.

Pete Connelly, 2002, LaGrange, Ill., graduated from Wheaton College in May 2006. He is a first-year medical student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Matthew Eby, 2003, Washington, D.C., was recently named to the USA Deaf National Soccer team. Eby has been participating in USA Deaf Soccer since 2004. The national team will compete in Greece July 1-12 in the inaugural World Deaf Football Championships. Eby is an assistant coach for Gallaudet University's soccer team. He

was a three-time All-Capital Athletic Conference performer when he played soccer for Gallaudet.

MARRIAGES

Robert Buckwalter, 1985, and Tracey Gilbert, September, 2004. They live in New York, N.Y., where Bob is a founding member and president of the Blue Coyote Theatre Group, Inc., located in lower Manhattan.

Brent Forshey, 1993, and Anamarie Brown, September 8, 2007. They live in Iquitos, Peru, where Brett is doing medical research in virology. He graduated from Gettysburg College and Vanderbilt University with a Ph.D. in virology.

Hans Rauch, 1993, and **Karen Miller, 1994**, October 15, 2005. They live in Philadelphia.

Kristina Miller, 1997, and Jonathan Shirk, August 7, 2004. They live in Pittsburgh where Kristina works as a rehabilitation physical therapist at UPMC Mercy Hospital.

Anthony Siegrist, 1997, and Sarah Stewart, October 7, 2007. They live in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, where Anthony is a lecturer at Prairie College and a Ph.D. student at the Toronto School of Theology.

Chris Burkhart, 1998, and **Kari Lefever, 2000**, November 24, 2007. They live in Lancaster. Chris received a master's degree in plant pathology and works for Little Britain Agri Supply. Kari has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Milligan College and is teaching ESL at New Holland Elementary.

Christopher, 2001, and **Lindsey Frey**, July 9, 2006. They are doing community development in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, with Mennonite Central Committee.

Doug Stoltzfus, 2002, and **Mandi Smucker**, June 24, 2007. They live in Gap and own and operate a produce stand at Booth Corner Farmers Market near Philadelphia.

Jonathan Heinly, 2003, and **Megan Leaman, 2004**, September 22, 2007. They live in Harrisburg.

Joy Zimmerman, 2003, and **Thomas Haller**, July 7, 2007. They live in Denver.

BIRTHS

Kevin, 1981, and Sherry Goss **Lapp**, Lancaster, third child, second son, David Michael, born July 5, 2006, in South Korea, and adopted January 3, 2007.

Daryl, 1988, and **Jennifer Diener, 1990, Hoover**, Akron, third son, Jedidiah Lynn, October 25, 2007.

Steve Zook, 1988, and **Charity Shenk, 1998**, Akron, first child, son Gavin Zook Shenk, March 24, 2008.

Neil and **Donna Harnish, 1989, Reinford**, Smoketown, first child, Joshua Dean, January 7, 2008.

Jay and **Linda Livengood, 1993, Brenneman**, Lancaster, first child, Ryan Andrew, January 31, 2008.

Thatcher, 1996, and **Michele Peter-sheim, 1994, Book**, Lancaster, first child, Parker John, September 16, 2007.

Ryan, 1997 and Bethany **Umble**, Atglen, second child, first son, Kai Reagan, December 17, 2007.

Jake and **Janelle Beller, 1997, Stoltz-fus**, Strasburg, second son, Luke Thomas, March 23, 2007.

Scott Stoltzfus, 1997, and **Angela Stutzman, 1996**, Strasburg, first child, Addalie Joy, October 24, 2007.

Denise Hoover, 1998, and Nathan **Olmstead**, Croghan, N.Y., third child, second son, Clay Nathan, January 31, 2008.

Vince and **Melissa Landis, 1998, Eilenberger**, Altoona, first child, Roman Vincent, April 30, 2006. Melissa is a graduate of Grove City College and Lock Haven University with a physician assistant degree.

Amos and **Jodi Nolt, 1998, Burkepile**, Elizabethtown, first child, Karissa Jewel, September 17, 2007.

Geoff, 1998, and Stashia **Nolt**, Denver, third son, Caden Nathaniel, February 15, 2008.

Trent, 2000, and **Emily Parmarter, 2003**, Hess, Lancaster, first child, Anne Margaret, November 2, 2007.

Alumni: Please send information for *Bridges* to Deborah Sprunger at sprungerdl@lancastermennonite.org or mail to the Locust Grove Campus, 2257 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602.

DEATHS

J. Glen Miller, 1957, Lancaster, January 29, 2008.

Harold S. Stauffer, 1955, Lancaster, February 13, 2008.

Paul R. Hurst, 1962, Lancaster, March 13, 2008.

Carol Martin Hottenstein, 1965, Mount Joy, February 28, 2008.

Mary Frankhouser, 1976, Streetsboro, Ohio, February 16, 2008.

CORRECTION

Phoebe Mae Blank Mellinger, Lancaster, who died December 5, 2007, was incorrectly identified in the winter issue of *Bridges*. She attended LMS in 1949-50 with the class of 1953. ■

JOHN MILLER DROP-IN FAREWELL

Former music and drama students and/or parents are invited to a drop-in farewell for Mr. Miller on Sunday, June 1, 2-6 p.m. in the LMS music room. Mr. Miller will lead a 10-minute hymn sing at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00. RSVP to handwerksa@lancastermennonite.org. No gifts, please.



Earl Rohrer, 1945, enjoys chatting with classmates and other alumni when he helps with the LMH alumni phonathon.

It's probably not surprising that a person who has worked at the same business for 62 years would also be a committed alumni phonathon caller. Earl Rohrer, 1945, who retired from P.L. Rohrer & Bro. in January, has been helping make phonathon calls at LMS since 1988. Since volunteering is part

of his retirement plans, chances are he'll continue his treks back to his alma mater. "I enjoy speaking to alumni, challenging them to give and hearing their interest and concerns for the school," he said. "Most alumni ... express their appreciation of the school and continue their support each year. "LMS is performing a very important task in the lives of our young people. They are receiving a well-balanced education with a biblical basis. I believe LMS teachers and administrators are challenging our young people to make a difference in their world."

Faithful phonathon caller helps make a difference

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This year Earl and other phonathon callers told alumni about a Challenge Fund that is matching any giving increases of \$25.00 or more. Matching funds are provided by alumni and other LMS friends. According to Director of Alumni Relations Jeff Shank, the special fund makes a huge difference in dollars raised—something that is necessary, he says, so the school can continue offering an affordable tuition.

The phonathon ran through mid-March, but gifts, due by May 31, are still arriving. Please mail your gift in the attached envelope and earmark it for the alumni phonathon. Watch for a full report in the summer issue of *Bridges*. ■

A model of Christian grace

When the Harrisburg Rotary Club named Lena Horning Brown the 1986 Volunteer of the Year for her involvement in helping Vietnamese and Laotian refugees resettle in the Grantham, Pa., community, Brown's response was, "I wasn't looking for honors. I was just doing the work God called me to do."

A year later Brown became the first woman in the Lancaster Mennonite Conference to receive credentials for pastoral ministry. Again, Brown wasn't seeking attention for herself.

"I didn't think about blazing a trail," she said. "I just thought about getting back to work" (Louise Stoltzfus, *Quiet Shouts: Stories of Lancaster Mennonite Women Leaders*, Herald Press, 1999, p. 153).

On Saturday, April 26, during the school's annual dinner theatre, Lancaster Mennonite School celebrated that humble spirit and obedience to God when Superintendent Richard Thomas named Brown the 2008 Alumna of the Year.

In a letter of affirmation, Lancaster Conference Bishop Paul W. Nisly called Brown, "a most deserving candidate."

"In her public service at home and abroad, in her extraordinary care for others, in her gift of teaching, and in her commitment to her master, she exemplifies the best that Lancaster Mennonite can hope for in her graduates," he said. "Always Lena responded to the call of the church, but she never alienated people through pushing herself forward and was, in fact, a model of Christian grace. A book title, 'You were gentle among us,' would be very appropriate for Lena."

Vocation and service

Brown's 15 years of teaching assignments took her to Weavertown Mennonite School; Gehman Mennonite School; Jamama, Somalia, with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM); and Rosslyn Academy, Nairobi, also with EMM.

Returning to the States in the mid-1970s, she plugged into Slate Hill Mennonite Church, where she gave

leadership to helping Vietnamese and Laotian refugee families resettle. Her work ranged from finding apartments and furniture to all kinds of social service tasks such as getting medical assistance cards and locating jobs. She also taught a Lao Sunday School class. It was in recognition of her service that Brown was called to be deaconess at Slate Hill in 1987 and as associate pastor in 1996.

Brown also served on the board at Eastern Mennonite Missions 1985-97 and on their Executive Committee 1994-97. Today she and husband Michael are retired and live in Denver, Pa. They attend Gehman Mennonite Church, Adamstown, where Brown teaches adult Sunday School and in the Released Time Religious Education program. In addition, she serves on the church's Outreach Team and assists in the Book Savers program. The Browns have two children—Miriam and Lowell—who both attended Lancaster Mennonite. Lowell graduated from LMH in 1990.

Brown talks about her LMH experience

During the LMS Dinner Theatre, Brown told over 200 guests about her early dreams to become a teacher and credited her own teachers, including those at LMH, for encouraging that dream.

"It was here that I met ... great teachers who modeled for me the master teacher, Jesus," she said, "teachers who showed concern, who cared for the individual student, and who took time to listen."

"Brother Lester Brubaker was one of those," she continued, describing a recitation assignment in which she pronounced "vine" as "wine" in John 15's vine and branches account—much to her embarrassment and to the enjoyment of the class.

"I was far too Dutchified to know what amused my classmates," she said,



Lena Horning Brown, who graduated from LMS in 1952, was recently named the 2008 Alumna of the Year. Superintendent Richard Thomas, right, and Director of Alumni Relations Jeff Shank presented Brown with a framed fraktur that was donated by the artist, Emily Smucker Beidler.

"but kindhearted Brother Brubaker pulled me aside, explained his mirth, gave me pointers on how to improve, and restored my self-confidence.

"It is not only for LMH teachers that I am thankful. I am also thankful for our chapel periods, times of prayer, student programs, Bible classes, and opportunities to build wholesome, lasting friendships with both students and teachers. Lancaster Mennonite gave me what I needed in a very formative period of my life. It helped to reaffirm my commitment to Christ and the church and it gave me the foundation I needed to pursue my dreamed-of teaching career.

"Perhaps most important, LMH gave me the foundation and challenge to pursue further service for Christ and the church. When we graduated, the motto of the class of 1952 was "He Goeth Before"—a wonderful reminder that Jesus, our Shepherd and guide, leads his children. I can testify to the truth of our motto. It is only because of his goodness and guidance in my life that I stand here tonight." ■

Be there!

Fall Festival & Homecoming

September 26–27, 2008

Watch for a special insert in the next edition of *Bridges*, complete with full schedule and registration materials.

The LMS Homecoming Committee is planning a very special Fall Festival and Homecoming event for Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27, at the Lancaster Campus. Here is a taste of what's planned.

Friday

- 12:30 p.m.Linda Ebersole Memorial Golf Tournament
- 4:30-8 p.m.Pig Roast/Chicken Barbecue
- 7 p.m.Choraleers/Campus Chorale Reunion Concert with Arnold Moshier
- 9 p.m.Coffee House with classmates and former/current teachers

Saturday

- 7:30 a.m.Blazers Fun Bike Ride
- 8 a.m.3 v 3 Brent Nauman Endowment Basketball Tournament
- 9:30 a.m.Iron Bridge Benefit Run/Walk
- 10 a.m.–1 p.m.Specialty Auction to benefit LMS Annual Fund
- 11 a.m.Varsity girls field hockey game on artificial grass field
- 1–3 p.m.Alumni reception
- 3 p.m.Alumni Mens Soccer Game
- 5–7 p.m.Cookout near new artificial grass field
- 7 p.m.Varsity Boys Soccer Game on artificial grass field

Class Reunions

- 1948 September 27, 2008
- 1958 June 28, 2008
- 1963 Sept. 19–20, 2008
- 1973 October 11, 2008
- 1978 September 20, 2008
- 1987 June 7, 2008
- 1988 June 22, 2008
- 1998 August 2, 2008

For more information, go to www.lancastermennonite.org or call (717) 394-7107.

For a report on the 1972 class reunion and a personal story shared by Julia Sensenig, go to the school web site and click on Alumni, and Reunion Reports.

Give to the LMS Annual Fund and help students like Eric prepare to follow Jesus in life

I am so glad I had the opportunity to attend Lancaster Mennonite School. Being at New Danville for kindergarten through grade 8 was a great start for me, and then LMH offered me so many areas where I could continue to grow.

The wide variety of LMH classes helped me discover the gifts and abilities God has given me, and Advanced Placement courses helped prepare me for college. Involvement in PALS (Peer Assisted Leaders) helped me develop my leadership skills. I have terrific memories from PALS that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

The school also has given me so many opportunities to grow spiritually, including Bible classes, chapels, and Friday morning Bible study.

If I have the chance to send my kids to Lancaster Mennonite, I definitely will. I would want them to experience the same awesome Christian education I have had these past 13 years.

- Eric Albrecht, LMH senior



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Transformed lives changing our world

In late April the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal* ran an article with the headline, “Local construction firm goes green.” It was about a business that was started in January by Lancaster Mennonite graduates Michael Stoner and Jesse Pellman. In the article these graduates talk about stewardship of the environment and building for a sustainable tomorrow.

Stoner and Pellman exemplify the statement in our graduate profile that says that an LMS alum “will practice stewardship of all that God has entrusted to him/her, including the natural environment.” On page 8 of this issue of *Bridges*, you can read about green aspects of the academic center under construction on the Lancaster Campus. We want the building to house instruction, yes, but we also want it to be constructed in a way that models the creation care that our faith calls us to teach and practice. We celebrate the leadership of these two recent alums to help our local community to become more green.

We are pleased to have alumni of distinction, like Pellman and Stoner, who embody the LMS Graduate Profile in so many ways. Another example is Lena Horning Brown (page 14), teacher and later a Mennonite Church pastor, who graduated from Lancaster Mennonite in 1952. After accepting the 2008 Alumna of the Year Award, she told a large dinner theatre audience how LMS helped to form her vision and values.

Also, in this issue, alumnus Merle Good reflects on the importance of growing the Lancaster Mennonite School endowment to keep tuition affordable and programs strong so we can continue to form alumni of distinction. Lancaster Mennonite senior Eric Albrecht, who started kindergarten at the New Danville Campus, says that he would want his kids to experience the same “awesome Christian education” he has had these past 13 years. A growing LMS endowment will help make this dream a reality for more persons.



J. Richard Thomas

In *Bridges* we also recognize and celebrate significant achievements of current students. It will be exciting to follow the future of each of these students as they care for creation, pastor congregations, and, through their varied callings, live the LMS Graduate Profile in daily life. May they, and all of us, use our transformed lives to glorify God and produce positive changes in our world.—jrt



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