



Bird Seed

A chicken in every pot - even better - an Amish made *fresh chicken pie* on your dinner table. Today, April 9, is your last chance to order pies and support Jonothan Spicher and Hans Weaver's trip to Argentina. \$10 per pie. Contact Jon or Hans.

Universal remote - Need a replacement for that one you lost? Contact CMCL office. "It didn't work for us, but it may work for you." Free to first taker.

Apartment wanted - Shawn Hunter, a former EMU roommate of our son's, recently got a job at MCC in Akron and is looking for small economic apartment options in the Lancaster area. He is single and interested in renting alone or sharing. Can be reached at 215 593 0430 or shawn.hunter@gmail.com
Nancy Brubaker

Four harness floor loom - Would you like to try your skills at weaving but not ready to invest in a loom? Contact Rod Houser. He's willing to give you a loom on indefinite loan which his father used between the age of 85 and 100.

To be or not to be...

Peace School is scheduled for June 13-15. Part of our understaffing this past year has resulted in various things falling under the radar. One person is lined up for planning Peace School and we did not catch the need for additional people in time to put out the call in the last months. Usually planning for Peace School begins in January.

Peace School began at CMCL as a time to learn more about the ways of peacemaking. It has been held the third week in June on Tuesday through Thursday evenings. Adults serve as storytellers, activity leaders and escorts. We alternate years of focusing on local peacemaking and global peace.

We will hold the possibility open for several more weeks to see if a group of people emerge who want to plan the three evening event. Contact the CMCL office if you're interested in being part of a core group of planners. By the end of April we'll make a decision whether to cancel this year's Peace School or move ahead. If we cancel Peace School this year it may build more energy and desire for holding it again in June of 2007 or we may realize that something else is being formed in its place.

CMCL to participate in upcoming Alban Institute program

Out of discussion in Pastoral Team, Program Commission and Congregational Council, we have chosen to move ahead to be a pilot congregation for Alban Institute's work with "Dialogue and Deliberation." This possibility emerged when Susan Nienaber was working with us in 2005. She has studied this movement in the U.S. and Canada and wants to look at the impact on congregational life particularly in growing congregations.

"Dialogue and Deliberation" brings together people to discuss subjects that matter. It provides guidelines for discussing sensitive subjects together and promotes regular conversation to avoid people falling into "camps" who become isolated from people with different views.

When CMCL was a smaller congregation, these conversations happened regularly without much formal planning. As a congregation grows in size, more conscious planning is needed for keeping people and groups in contact with each other. Through regular conversations with each other, understanding and trust can grow.

How will these conversations happen??

We will first use gatherings already organic to who we are such as adult Christian Ed classes, existing small groups and committee meetings. Then we'll look at what is missing and ways to bring different kinds of people together. Susan did not stipulate a certain number of conversations that are needed. She has several pilot congregations and can be flexible to what CMCL can offer. Her services to us are free of charge in this program.

First step: 8-12 facilitators are needed

Our work with Susan will begin Thursday evening, April 27. During that evening Susan will train 8-12 group facilitators from the congregation. These people will lead several group discussions throughout the year and write short evaluations of the process and method for Susan. Call the CMCL office if you're interested in this training. Susan's work on this will continue during 2006-07. Call Pam Dintaman or Janet Lind with questions.

Could it be? (beyond the pilot program)

Could it be that we may find a new way of being church and doing church business through experimenting with these conversations? Susan's counsel to CMCL was to move towards a transparent participatory model of decision making where directions and ideas are tested

with the congregation and more permission is given to smaller leadership groups to make decisions and move forward. When the congregation has a place to speak and be heard, leaders can move forward. This will not be the focus of Susan's work, but could be an outgrowth for CMCL.

Susan is excited to have CMCL involved. In 2005 she led groups of 15-18 people in conversation about their experience at CMCL. She remembers people to be very open and ready to exchange ideas. This is the kind of place where she would like to use and test this model.

Tearing the roof off

What in the world is a World Cafe?

We used the World Cafe model of meeting for our March 29 Wednesday night "Tearing the Roof Off" conversation. About 40 people attended and enjoyed conversation, bread and chocolates.

The World Cafe model is a way for a large group to have one conversation. It's been used for groups of up to several thousand people or when there are too many people to have one conversation. A question or topic is designated for the evening. People talk together around small tables of four for 15-20 minutes. At that point, three people are designated as "travelers" and separate to go to different tables. One person stays at the table as the "host."

At the second table, people share some things from the first table conversation and go on from there. Already at each table, four table conversations are merging into another. We were able to have three rounds of table gatherings ending with one larger common conversation together before leaving.

Wednesday night

At Wednesday's gathering, we used the theme from the Feb 19 Mark 2 sermon "tearing the roof off" remembering the friends who lowered the paralytic man down into Jesus' presence for healing. "What's God already doing among us? Do we want to join in?"

People noted they were amazed at the new people coming to CMCL and delighted at ways newer people are joining in and participating. We sense people coming because they see CMCLers as being curious and wondering people and want that for their own lives too. Newer people are responding to Anabaptist theology and excited to see the gospel solidly linked with peace-making.

Questions and affirmations

What do we do with new growth? How do we maintain a calm core while welcoming the new and allowing the Spirit to move among us in surprising ways? Several people noted that they have qualms about tearing the roof off, not knowing what new things may be coming or that enough is happening already in our lives.

There was strong affirmation for the experience of growing more deeply in Christian faith and gratitude for

the respect of other faith traditions. Appreciation was expressed for the adult Christian Ed classes and the spiritual awareness and study of scripture coming in various ways.

Emerging

Several people expressed a desire to relate to Lancaster youth and local issues surrounding them. There is the possibility of the youth doing a summer experience within Lancaster, staying in local homes and understanding more about people around us. We recognized we want to build on what is already happening and take care not to add layers of duty to our lives. CMCL health care workers and those in other kinds of work need a place to receive their burden and care when they get overwhelmed with their work. People are talking about retirement in the city. (Rod Houser — contact person)

The best

The best part was sitting and talking together with people we don't normally get to be with — including some of the senior youth — and recognizing what is good. The intergenerational conversation was a highlight. Thank you to the youth who mingled with us and participated at the tables.

Panoramic Macro Photo-art

by Jim L. Bowman

Artist Reception, April 14th, 7 - 9 PM.

Glick Audio & Video Sound and Vision Art Gallery

1920-B Lincoln Highway East

Lancaster, PA 17602

All that JAS

- On February 17, 2006 our small group provided the snack for the Alpha Club. We went early and joined in their activity for the evening. The Alpha Club is a weekly social event sponsored by the Mental Health Association. Once a year CMCL is asked to provide the snack. It was a good time of service and connecting for us with persons recovering from mental illness. *Herb Myers*
- The JAS Committee has given a Samaritan Grant of \$250 which will be matched with \$250 by Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) to aid a Mesketian Turk family with their rent. This family is being sponsored by a committee of the Lancaster Friends Meeting and was nominated by Glen Lapp.
- The JAS Committee has given a Community Outreach Grant of \$250 that will be matched with \$250 from MMA to the Buchanan Elementary School for their playground project. Elaine Lapp Esch nominated this grant.

Budget Update – March 26, 2006		
9/1/05 – 8/31/06	9/1/05 – 3/26/06	
Budget	Budget	Giving
\$351,000	\$204,750	\$194,144

