

Childcare

1st Service— Laura Boll, Cynthia Kilbourn
Christian Ed— Desiree Reesor, Donna Stoltzfus
2nd Service— Esther Becker, Deb Kraybill

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors.

- Join us for coffee at 9:40 a.m. in Christian Ed foyer.
- Assisted Listening Devices are available. Usher will assist you.
- Sign visitor card in back pocket of hymnal.
- Pick up info booklet in foyer to learn more about our faith community.
- Contact church office to receive announcements and/or sermons by email.
- Sunday parking is available at Groff Funeral Home, 1 block east.
- Recordings of past services are available in the church library.
- Restrooms on lower level near kitchen

Adult Christian Education—10 a.m.

Healthcare Access Study—Meets in sanctuary

This will be a common time for the congregation to look at healthcare access issues. Our denomination asks each church to spend time together becoming more aware of the issues before us as a community and as a nation. This will again be a focus at the Mennonite Church USA assembly in San Jose, CA, in July, 2007.

Facilitators: Prem Dick, Laurel Martin, Jeff Roth Martin, Carol and Jim Spicher

The Parrot Café: Newspapers, Conversation and Coffee—Meets in basement Fellowship Room

Join us for an informal space to gather. There are tables where you can read or talk, and enjoy coffee available in the Christian Ed lobby.

Facilitators: Leon Kraybill

This week at CMCL

Today, January 21—Congregational Meeting, 6 p.m.

Monday, January 22—JAS Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23—Pastoral Team

Wednesday, January 24—Congregational Council, 7 p.m.

Church Information

Contact the pastor or the church office staff at: 392-7567, cmcl@mennonite.net

Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Christian Ed—10 a.m.

Information for bulletin due in church office by 4 p.m., Wednesday

Pastor: Pam Dintaman (day off—Thursday)

Elders: Laura Boll, Dennis Clemmer, Phil Kauffman-Jantzi, Marilyn Kennel

Website: www.communitymennonite.org

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

January 21, 2007

Re-covenanting Sunday

Called by name: Beloved!

Prelude

Call to worship

Singing

God of the earth, the sky, the sea

Hymnal #53

Children age 4 and under may go to childcare.

Activity sheets are available for others through grade five.

Healthcare Moment

Emily Smucker-Beidler

Congregational Call

Excerpts from "The Gathering" by Earl Martin

(a poem penned and offered one January re-covenanting Sunday)

Once upon a time, a time there once was...a small band of strong, yearning women and gentle, curious men gathered in a cottage on the edge of their town. Laughter and good spirit flowed richly among them as they assembled around the light of the six candles burning in the room. Then the discussion started in earnest. "But where would we find a place?" said the one with the heavy black beard. "And who would lead us...or would we all be leaders?" asked the woman with the blazing blue eyes. The candles had burned low before the assembled pilgrims took leave of the gathering...

But the decision had been made: yes, they would form a community for all wandering pilgrims who sought solace and good cheer for the journey, all who wander lonely, or far from family and friends, all who are broken or bereft. Yes, and this community of love and acceptance they would simply call The Gathering.

And so it was to be. Every week, yea sometimes several times a week, this band of pilgrims gathered... Together they read the words of Scripture that had become sacred to their community, as indeed did all of life become sacred to them. They often broke bread together and shared the fruit of the vine... Sometimes they embraced lovingly to remind a sister, a brother, a child...we are not alone...And the music they made together...ah my friend, the music from that band of pilgrims stirred the very heart of God.

And the band grew. Sojourners heard word of The Gathering, and they would stop by to visit, to accept a mug of honeyed tea...but many returned, again and again... and, ah my friends, when they came, they brought treasures with them. Yes, they brought their zithers and flutes, their horns and drums, and their sensuous, melodious voices.

And they brought children. Many children, in ones or twos and even three at a time!

And all of the sojourners brought a most prized gift: they brought their stories.

Ah, the stories...stories of encounters in distant lands. Stories of happy or terror-filled childhoods. Stories of children estranged from parent and then found again. Stories of slowly learning to love oneself. Stories of relearning the songs of faith.

The Gathering knew how to laugh and sing, they also knew how to weep.

Yes, friend, The Gathering knew its share of pain and brokenness...

They knew that when they learned to grieve deeply, only then could they know the fullest chalice of joy.

And as was the way of The Gathering, they took their sorrows and their joys and braided them together with the Great Story of the One whose very name is Love.

The One who time and again visited in spirit and called each of them by name. Beloved!

Beloved!

Reflection Time

The gathered community

an open time for the sharing of stories, scriptures and songs that shape us

Recalling the stories, scriptures and songs that shape us...help us recognize the values (the gold) we bring, open our eyes to see God in the ordinary, encourage us to practice "gratitude" for what we have been given, build an identity as a faith community and become the raw materials that lead to congregational vision and ministry.

Our stories may be fragments of memories, authors/books that influence and shape us, songs, stories, scriptures that particularly move and inspire us, biblical verses or characters that stay with us and challenge us, people who have been significant to us, songs that come up while driving/mowing, the stories around us (in our families or locally, internationally) that cause us to grieve or celebrate, our own failures or successes, learning experiences, proverbs we have grown up with or acquired ("see each day as a gift" or "live above reproach", etc.) confessions, about finding companionship for the journey, experiences in giving or receiving, in learning generosity and joy, dreams, visions, desires, stories around loving God, neighbor as self or the desire to do so.

Renewing Our Covenant Together

Offering/Offertory

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction *The Lord bless you and keep you* Songbook #20

Worship Leader—Pam Dintaman

Song Leader—Daryl Snider

Environment—Kristina Roth Martin, Cheryl Weber, Beky Weidner

Sound Technician—Ken Kulp

1st Service Greeter/Ushers—Herb Myers/Carolyn Weaver, John Kanagy

2nd Service Greeter/Ushers—Audrey Patterson/Cheryl Young, Christy Heatwole

Faith Statement

Jean Sensenig

After many years of being connected to this church (could it be almost 15 years?), I am finally taking steps to make a more formal commitment to my community here! Many of you already know that making big (and sometimes small) decisions is challenging for me, so this may not come as a real surprise!

I grew up in the Hinkletown Mennonite Church and became a member there MANY years ago. It is where my Mellinger grandparents went and so did our family after we returned from Vietnam in 1973. While I have not participated in that church community for many years, I am grateful for the sincere interest and care they gave me, especially during my childhood and adolescent years.

Some of you may know that Daryl and I are preparing to go to Northeast Brazil for a year with MCC (perhaps by early June). Given this major change, I felt like this would be a good time to formalize my commitment to CMCL. This church community has provided me with many rich learning opportunities and lots of support over the years. I am realizing this especially as I sort through lots of photos and old cards/letters that I have collected over the years! (One of my many projects for the next few months.) Many thanks for your part in making me feel at home here.

I wrote in my faith statement for MCC that my Christian faith is like a journey. Some days I feel like I have a map, a destination and a familiarity with the route I am on. Other days I wonder if I have missed a turn or if it is still up ahead; it is an anxious and uncertain time. Still other days I am content to take in the beauty (and at times the ugliness) of my surroundings, to stop and visit with my fellow travelers and not worry where my path 'should' be going.

Through input of the community of faith around me, Scriptures, and the many words and examples of Christ, I trust my journey will continue to be inspirational and challenging. The verse I will need to recall with regularity in the coming year or two is John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."