



July-August 2009

www.ohio.mennonite.net

Ohio Evangel

NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Lee Heights members find solidarity with others fighting poverty

By Laurie Oswald Robinson

A recent Mobilization to End Poverty conference hosted by Sojourners in Washington, D.C., surprised Al Anthony of Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland with a level of passion and commitment he didn't expect.

Anthony, a longtime member of the multiracial congregation, has attended many issue-oriented conferences — but none quite like this one. As usual, it provided a folder of colorful hand-outs and a roster of great speakers. But it also flooded his heart with something much bigger and stronger than he'd ever experienced before.

"We are a demographically diverse congregation, and there are people in poverty in our church, so the issue is not new to us," Anthony said. "But we were energized by the new solidarity we felt from many others. It was a real shot in the arm to see so many people be so passionate about a topic that has mattered to us for a long time," he said.

"And we believe more fervently than ever in the power of the Holy Spirit, and that by working together across many classes and communities locally and nationally, we can make an impact. We have new hope that we are not alone."

Mennonite Church USA is making sure that congregations such as Lee Heights aren't alone. The de-



From left, Rochele Beachy, Sylvia Docking, Sacara Martin, Marita Beachy, Al Anthony, Orene Anthony, Lee Bradley, Antonio Ewell and Crandall Millder were part of the Lee Heights group that participated in the Mobilization to End Poverty Conference in Washington, D.C. Photo by Greta Brackman.

nomination, with MCC East Coast and MCC U.S. — Outreach Partners that helped plan and support the event — jointly provided \$3,000 in scholarships for student/young adult and Racial/Ethnic participants to attend the conference held April 26 to 29.

Anthony and 13 others from Lee Heights joined the 1,200 participants from 44 states and 24 denominations, as well as from several other

countries. At least 40 Mennonites, including the Lee Heights group, participated from across Mennonite Church USA. Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, director of the MCC Washington office, hosted the Mennonites for a gathering during the conference to share their reflections and their hope.

"This is an example of how interchurch collaboration is happening

Continued on page 4

Your testimony in about 10 words

Recently, as I was reading Kidron Mennonite Church's newsletter, I learned that the congregation was going to be presenting "cardboard testimonies" during a morning worship service.

Having never heard of cardboard testimonies, I read the instructions. Each person participating was asked to write a testimony of about 10 words, with about five words on each side of a piece of cardboard about 24 inches wide, written large enough to be seen from a distance. Sharing of the testimonies would entail simply silently showing one side of the piece of cardboard and

then the other, allowing the congregation to read how God had been at work in each person's life. Participants were encouraged to consider questions such as "What have been the storms in your life?" and "What have been the ways that God has been proven faithful?" Other possible questions included "What had defined your life?" and "How has Christ redefined or transformed you now?"

The newsletter also suggested using Google to search for "cardboard testimonies" in order to see YouTube video presentations of

cardboard testimonies. Since I was having a hard time visualizing how such testimonies would actually work, I viewed several videos. Many people were shown giving testimonies such as "Shattered by my anger/ Restored by his love," and "Abandoned by my earthly father/ Forever, unconditionally loved by my Heavenly Father."

As I watched, I realized that very powerful testimonies can be packed into just a few words, and I was prompted to wonder: If I were giving a testimony of just 10 words, what would I say?

Central to host relief sale

The 44th annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale will take place July 31-Aug. 1 at Central Christian School in Kidron. The sale helps fund the efforts of Mennonite Central Committee in disaster relief, development and conflict resolution.

Activities begin at 4 p.m. Friday. The quilt, wood and art and collectible auction items will be on display, and the needlework, plant and international craft stands will be open. Food also will be available. The evening program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment from Bear Hollow Bluegrass.

New this year is a cornhole tournament, which will be held on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. Teams can find a registration form online at

www.ohiomccreliefsale.org. Registration cost is \$15 per team.

Food will be available during the day on Saturday, beginning with an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet beginning at 7 a.m. Also on Saturday there will be a 5K Fun Run and Walk at 8 a.m. The art and collectibles auction will start at 9 a.m., as will the auction of wood items. The main event, the quilt auction, will begin at 10 a.m. In addition, there also will be a special Children's Auction beginning at 10:30 a.m. Admission, parking and hayride shuttle service are free. For more information or to donate, contact Rich and Laurel Horst at (330) 682-4843 or info@ohiomccreliefsale.org. Additional information also is available at www.ohiomccreliefsale.org.

Officers of the Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church

Moderator: John Rohrer, 11285 Converse-Chapel Road, Plain City OH 43064
 Assistant Moderator: Ginny Cress, 202 S. Westwood Drive, Lima OH 45805
 Administrative Secretary: Judy King, Ohio Conference Office, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636
 Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth, Ohio Conference Office, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636
 Regional Pastor: Andy Stoner, 5465 Dutch Hollow Road, Elida OH 45807
 Regional Pastor: Matt Hamsher, Box 138, Kidron, OH 44636
 Conference Minister: Tom Kauffman, Box 140065, Toledo OH 43614
 Credentialing Ministry Chair: Mona Sauder, 16449 SR 2, Wauseon OH 43567
 Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Bruce Glick, 6692 County Road 624, Millersburg OH 44654
 Stewardship Ministry Chair: Ova Helton Jr., 8753 Daly Road, Cincinnati OH 45231



Ohio Evangel
NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Vol. LXII, No. 6
 July-August 2009

Editor: Ann H. Leaman

Ohio Evangel (USPS 404-500) is published monthly except May and August by the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636, telephone (330) 857-5421, fax (330) 857-5485.

All material for publication should be submitted to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641, or via telephone/fax: (330) 453-3793, or e-mail: ohioevangel@earthlink.net, one month prior to desired publication date.

Ohio Evangel is distributed to all households of Ohio Conference congregations, other interested individuals, and church agencies.

Ohio Evangel is printed at Ohio Business Forms Inc., 6410 Wise Ave. NW, North Canton OH 44720.

Send subscription information and address changes to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641. Periodical postage paid at Kidron OH 44636.

Resource Team Coordinator works with groups to help achieve goals

Since April 1, Ohio Conference's Resource Team Coordinator, Sherah-Leigh Gerber, has begun working with numerous resource teams throughout the Conference. Resource teams are groups formed to achieve a specific purpose, such as promoting prayer throughout the Conference (Prayer Ministry Team), or planning resource events for people working with youth (E³ Youth Ministry Training Team). The Resource Team Coordinator serves as the liaison between the Ministry Development Team and the resource teams of the Conference.

A Resource team may be formed in one of two ways. The Conference's Ministry Development Team may request a Resource Team be formed to respond to a need or dream within the Conference. Constituents may also submit requests for a resource team to address a specific need.

While technological advances allow quick communication, the Conference values community and relationships. The Resource Team Coordinator is available to travel and meet with resource teams or team leaders as needed.

Several steps are involved in the formation of a resource team:

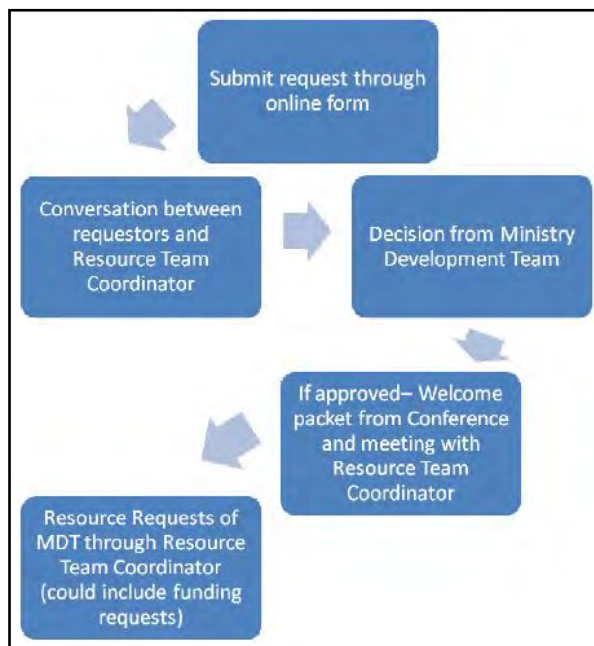
1. A resource team request is submitted via an online form at www.ohio.mennonite.net. (Click on "Resource Teams.")
2. The Resource Team Coordinator communicates with key leaders of the resource team.
3. The Ministry Development Team approves the resource team, and the team receives a welcome packet, including a letter of welcome, a job description of the Resource Team Coordinator,

- and a funding request form.
4. The Resource Team Coordinator works with the resource team to develop goals and a timeline.

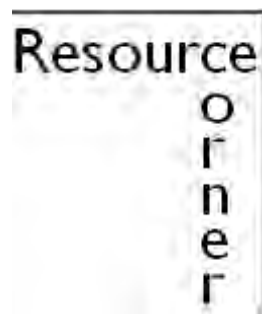
Finally, the resource team communicates regularly with the Resource Team Coordinator until the project is complete.

To learn more about current Ohio Conference Resource Teams or to propose the formation of a Resource Team, see the "Resource Teams" section of the Ohio Conference Web site:

www.ohio.mennonite.net.



Numerous resources available about stewardship of creation



By Norma Duerksen
Ohio Conference Resource Advocate
Ecology and stewardship of creation are

important topics for Christians.

Here are the current study books for adult Sunday school class options:

For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Faith, and Creation Care. Thirteen sessions are included for women's groups. I have read this book and do not see any reason why men cannot use this study as well. Order from www.mpn.net.

Creation Care published by Mennonite Mutual Association. This book is in the *Living Stewardship Series*. A great study! Order from www.mma-online.org.

The cookbook *Simply in Season* has a teacher's guide that will create a tasty and inspiring study on how our food choices affect the world at large. Order from www.mpn.net. There's even a children's version.

Check out the Mennonite Creation Care Network for interesting articles at www.mennocreationcare.org.

If you have questions about what resources are available from Mennonite agencies, please contact Norma Duerksen at pnduerksen@aol.com.

Mobilization to End Poverty

Continued from page 1

on many levels — in the denomination, in area conferences and in congregations,” said André Gingerich Stoner, Mennonite Church USA’s director of interchurch relations. “Lee Heights really took the lead

ing as a Sojourners’ “Windchanger,” put his new skills to use in forming that team.

“The Windchanger term was born from Jim Wallis’ [Sojourners’ leader] belief that elected officials

Lee Heights conference participants will do worship services on poverty in their congregation and in several others this summer. They will also help Lee Heights engage in community gardening, adding that ministry to the longtime Hunger Center ministry they’ve funded.

“I think the wider church has difficulty with poverty ministry because it has been so hidden in our country,” Beachy said. “But the economic downturn is making poverty more visible. And a new administration on Capitol Hill promises to be more responsive. All these factors are causing people to look more closely and to really see the pain and struggle.

“Mennonites have generally done better with the overseas thing, and a lot of rural churches love to come to the city and do service. But it is really hard for people to engage with this issue unless it directly impacts them. We are realizing that we do not have to be one pay check away from poverty ourselves to be passionate about economic justice.”

Conference participants passionately engaged leaders on the issues during Capitol Hill Day. That’s when participants visited their congressional and senate legislators and shared their concerns about poverty. Statistics show 82 Senators and 210 Representatives received visits.

To read more about the Mobilization to End Poverty conference, see <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/News>.

The Ohio Conference Reduce Poverty Team has created several resources for congregations interested in working to reduce poverty in their neighborhoods. These resources are available on the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. If you are interested in joining the Ohio Conference Reduce Poverty Team, contact Crandall Miller at cranm@sbcglobal.net.

“I think the wider church has difficulty with poverty ministry because it has been so hidden in our country. But the economic downturn is making poverty more visible. And a new administration on Capitol Hill promises to be more responsive. All these factors are causing people to look more closely and to really see the pain and struggle.” — Rochele Beachy

and showed us how congregations can tackle these issues on the local level. We wanted to be part of this event because of the urgency of the issue of poverty. We also wanted to support grassroots efforts and strengthen relationships with Sojourners and other kindred groups.”

Conference-level initiatives

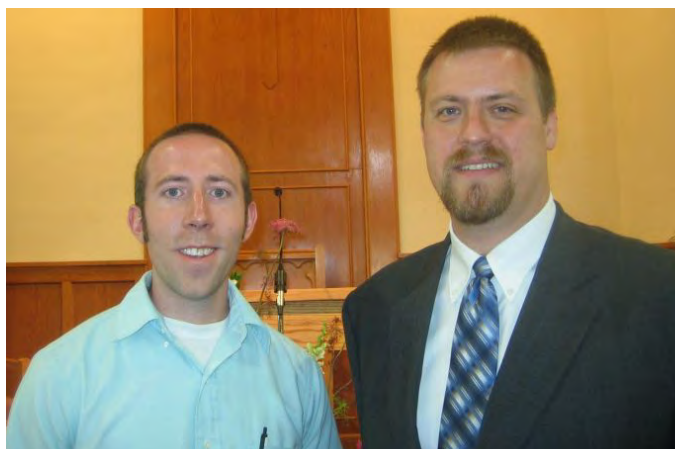
Ohio Conference, one of Mennonite Church USA’s 21 area conferences, is also a big reason why Lee Heights has new hope. In March 2008, the Lee Heights conference attendees proposed a resolution to work to reduce poverty, which was adopted by Ohio Conference. Crandall Miller and Nathan Beachy of Lee Heights helped form a Resource Team to Reduce Poverty to create initiatives that stem from that resolution. Miller, who had received train-

always have their finger in the air to test the wind and see which way it is blowing,” Miller said. “The way we create change is by letting them know what matters to us and what we need them to do. He references how the Civil Rights movement began in southern churches and then became a groundswell, from which legislation arose. That’s the same way it will work with poverty, too.”

Speaking up, moving out into neighborhood and nation

Tackling poverty in our neighborhoods as well as in our nation is part of the new groundswell Mennonites are increasingly joining, said Rochele Beachy, Lee Heights, conference attendee and member of the Ohio Conference’s Reduce Poverty Resource Team. For example, the

About people



Rick Stoner, left, was installed as youth pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty on June 7 after graduating from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in May. He is pictured with Dave Maurer, senior pastor at Bethel.



Doug Zehr was installed as pastor of Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville on Sunday, May 31. Pictured left to right are Lois Kaufmann, Central District Conference Minister; Doug Zehr; Miriam Zehr; and Tom Kauffman, Ohio Conference Minister.

Pastoral notes

Rick Stoner was installed as youth pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty on Sunday, June 7. Bethel's senior pastor, **Dave Maurer**, preached a sermon titled "Forks and Faith," about each person having gifts of ministry useful in God's church, just as all "utensils" (2 Timothy 2:20) are useful in various ways in the house and at the table. **Andrew Stoner**, regional pastor, led in the installation service.

Rick's undergraduate degree is from Bluffton University, with a major in youth ministry. On May 23 he graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary with a Master of Arts degree in missions and evangelism. Reflecting on his seminary experience, he said, "I have been really challenged in my classes at AMBS to think about God's mission in the world and how I am a part of that mission. From reading the Bible, to conflict, to church history, to

missions, I have been challenged to see God's movement in the world as a movement of shalom. I think as I leave AMBS I will always remember that I must be joining in with God's movement, giving hope to the hurting and challenging the powers of oppression in our midst."

Rick and his wife, **Jessica**, moved from Archbold to West Liberty for him to begin his assignment at Bethel June 1. He wants to continue his professional training along with his work, and Jessica is seeking employment in the area.

...

On May 31 Douglas Zehr was installed as pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville. Both **Lois Kaufmann**, conference minister for Central District Conference, and **Tom Kauffman**, conference minister for Ohio Conference, officiated at this installation since Oak Grove is a dual-conference congregation. Doug's wife, Miriam, has also been called to a non-credentialed staff position at Oak Grove.

The sermon was a dialogue preached by **Sarah Schlegel**, associate pastor at Howard-Miami Mennonite Church in Kokomo, Ind., and **Sherah-Leigh Gerber**, Resource Team Coordinator for Ohio Conference. Sarah did her Ministry Inquiry Program under Doug's ministry at North Leo Mennonite Church while a student at Goshen College. She found this to be a pivotal experience that led her into ministry at Kokomo, where she has been ordained. Sherah-Leigh is Doug and Miriam's oldest daughter and a recent graduate of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Sarah and Sherah-Leigh preached from Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1-5, using the image of flowing water as a source of healing, renewal, and life. At the end of the service there was opportunity for worshippers to come to the front and dip their hands in one of three fountains as a way of experiencing this empowering message. A fellowship meal followed the morning service.

Continued on page 6

About people

Continued from page 5

Goshen College

This summer an Ohio Conference student is one of 10 Goshen College students participating in the Camping Inquiry Program (CIP), where they are working at Christian-based summer camps throughout the country to develop leadership skills and grow in their faith.

Sarah Rody, a sophomore mathematics major from Archbold, is working at Camp Luz in Orrville. Rody, the daughter of **Joe Rody** and **Susan Gotwals Lehman**, is a 2008 graduate of Bellefontaine High School and attends Jubilee Mennonite.



Students participating in CIP receive a \$1,500 scholarship and a \$500 summer stipend.

Ministry Inquiry

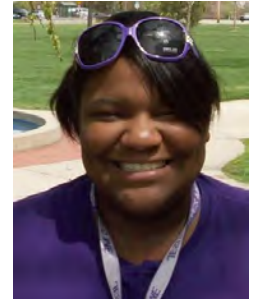
This summer two students from Ohio Conference are among 11 Goshen College students participating in the Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP), where they have the opportunity to work with pastors from a church and explore their interests in ministry.

Arienne Johnson, a junior history and Bible and religion double major from Herndon, Va., is working at Washington Community Fellowship in Washington, D.C. Johnson, daughter of **Mike** and **Barb Johnson**, is a 2006 graduate of Archbold High School and attends Zion Mennonite.



Jennifer Speight, a junior English major from Cleveland, is working at Friendship Mennonite Church in Cleveland.

Speight, daughter of **William** and **Karen Speight**, is a 2007 graduate



of Jane Addams Business Careers and attends Friendship Mennonite.

Under close supervision from host pastors, students take on various worship, pastoral care and administrative roles during their 11-week terms, including preaching, leading worship, youth ministry and hospital and home visits.

At the end of the summer, each student receives a scholarship of up to \$1,500 toward tuition costs for the next academic year, and a \$500 stipend from the host congregation.

Sixteen from OC graduate from EMU

Thirteen undergraduate students and three graduate students from Ohio Conference congregations received degrees from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., during commencement on April 26.

Those Ohio Conference students earning undergraduate degrees include the following:

Katherine Brubaker, a Spanish major, is the daughter of **Clifford** and **Marilyn Brubaker** of Hillsdale, Mich. and a member of Central Mennonite.

Rosanna Coblantz, a nursing major, is the daughter of **Ora** and **Marilyn Shetler** of Kidron, and a member of Sonnenberg Mennonite.

Andrew Gascho, a communication and photography major, is the son of **Arlis** and **Marilyn Gascho** of West Liberty, and a member of Oak Grove Mennonite (West Liberty).

Brian Hershberger, a nursing major, is the son of **Maynard** and **Jean Hershberger** of Canton, and a member of First Mennonite (Canton).

Joseph Horst, a camping, recreation and outdoor ministry major, is the son of **Robert** and **Deb Horst** of Dalton, and a member of Martins Mennonite.

Jason Horst, a chemistry major, is the son of **Lloyd** and **Carol Horst** of West Salem, and a member of Wooster Mennonite.

Valerie Kauffman, a liberal arts major with a special education licensure, is the daughter of **Barry** and **Lynne Kauffman** of Orrville, and a member of Martins Mennonite.

Jessica King, an accounting and business administration major, is the daughter of **James** and **Darlene King** of Archbold, and a member of Zion Mennonite.

Katrina Lehman, a biology major, is the daughter of **Eric** and **Marcia Lehman** of Archbold, and a member of West Clinton Mennonite.

Sylvia Meyer, a psychology major, is the daughter of **Daniel** and **Julia Hooley** of Canton, and a member of First Mennonite (Canton).

Lindsey Reinford, a social work major, is the daughter of **Ralph** and **Barbara**

Reinford of Wooster, and a member of Wooster Mennonite.

Andrew Troyer, an international agriculture major, is the son of **David** and **Lynn Troyer** of Alva, Fla., and a member of Beavertam Mennonite.

Susannah Wirick, a recreation and sport leadership major, is the daughter of **Neil** and **Peggy Wirick** of Cable, and a member of Bethel Mennonite (West Liberty).

The following three students from Ohio Conference are members of the graduate class of 2009 at EMU:

Debora Dutcher of Sugarcreek, a member of Walnut Creek Mennonite, received an M.A. degree in education.

Nate Koser of Harrisonburg, a member of Berlin Mennonite, received an M.A. degree in counseling.

Kristy Koser of Sugarcreek, a member of Berlin Mennonite, received an M.A. degree in counseling.

Summit Mennonite member appointed Herald Press editorial director

WATERLOO, Ont. and SCOTTDALE, Pa. — Amy Gingerich, a member of Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton, has been appointed to the newly created position of Herald Press editorial director at Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN).

“I am very excited about the work of Herald Press, and its mission of addressing issues important to Mennonites and other Christians today,” says Gingerich, presently working as managing editor of Gather 'Round, a Christian education curriculum for children, youth and adults published cooperatively by MPN and Brethren Press.

“At a time when many people are interested in Anabaptist ideas, I believe Herald Press can be the

voice of Anabaptism to the broader church.”

At the same time, Gingerich is “passionate about the future of the Mennonite church. I look forward to collaborating with Mennonite agencies and authors on books that will shape our understandings of what it means to be followers of Jesus.”

“We are excited to have Amy join us,” says MPN executive director Ron Rempel. “Her passion and skills will help us to build on the strong foundation of Herald Press, and grow in new directions so we can better serve the church and its witness in the world.”

Prior to her work with Gather 'Round, Gingerich worked as a reporter, section editor, copy editor, columnist and page designer from

1998 to 2004 for the South Bend, Ind., *Tribune* and the Vacaville, Calif., *Reporter*.

In addition to teaching Sunday school and being part of the worship and nurture committee at her church, Gingerich was a member of the planning committee for the 2009 Mennonite Church USA Assembly.

Gingerich has a Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkley, Calif., and a B.A. in communication and Bible-religion from Goshen College. She also studied at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.



Amy Gingerich

Bluffton grads include 18 from OC

Bluffton University held its 109th commencement May 3. Eighteen students from Ohio Conference congregations were members of the class of 2009:

Sarah Marie Bruner, daughter of **Mark and Jane Bruner** of Pettisville, earned a bachelor's degree in intervention specialist with a minor in coaching. She is a member of West Clinton Mennonite.

Karen Renee Coblentz, daughter of **Moses and Irene Coblentz** of Holmesville, earned a bachelor's degree in family studies with a minor in recreation management. She is a member of Moorhead Mennonite.

Joseph Allen Creque, son of **Doug and Wanda Creque** of Streetsboro, earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He is a member of Aurora Mennonite.

Laura Maye Frey, daughter of **Marlin and Lori Frey** of Pettisville, earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish with minors in English and TESOL. She is a member of North Clinton Mennonite.

Shawna Renee Gerber, daughter of **Steve and Delo Gerber** of Kidron, earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and intervention specialist. She is a member of Sonnenberg Mennonite.

Alexandra Lynn Gingerich, daughter of **Brent and Rhonda Gingerich** of Archbold, earned a bachelor's degree in early

childhood education and intervention specialist. She is a member of Zion Mennonite.

Teresa Renae Hershberger, daughter of **Leon and Esther Hershberger** of Wooster, earned a bachelor's degree in religion. She is a member of Wooster Mennonite.

David Houser, son of **Rich Houser** of Mentor and **Sharon Houser** of Euclid, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is a member of Lee Heights Community Church.

Jenna Marie Kauffman, daughter of **Merle and Bonita Kauffman** of Wooster, earned a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition. She is a member of Sonnenberg Mennonite.

Danae Elizabeth King, daughter of **Glen and Judy King** of Dalton, earned a bachelor's degree in history. She is a member of Orville Mennonite.

Noe Daniel Mendez, son of **Leo and Alma Mendez** of Fayette, earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in communication. He is a member of Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor.

Lydia May Nofziger, daughter of **Ross and Jo Nofziger** of Archbold, earned a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in biblical studies. She is a member of Lockport Mennonite.

Shannon Renae Ramer, daughter of **Robert and Judith Ramer** of Dalton, earned a bachelor's degree in family studies with a minor in psychology and family and consumer sciences. She is a member of Day-spring Christian Fellowship.

Andréa Beth Ressler, daughter of **Wayne and Beth Ressler** of Kidron, earned a bachelor's degree in communication with a minor in business administration. She is a member of Orville Mennonite.

Laura Lin Rosebrock, daughter of **Phil and Linda Yoder** of Killbuck, earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education with a minor in TESOL. She is a member of Millersburg Mennonite.

Justin Michael Rufenacht, son of **Terry and Terri Rufenacht** of Pettisville, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in accounting. He is a member of West Clinton Mennonite.

Erica Jade Lynn Weston, daughter of **Eileen Dowdell** of Cleveland, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. Weston is a member of Lee Heights Community Church.

Stephanie Lynn Yoder, daughter of **Douglas and Jennifer Yoder** of Pettisville, earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She is a member of North Clinton Mennonite.

For more Ohio Conference news and information, visit the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Back page briefings...

John and Naomi Lederach will be the presenters for the Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat, which will be held Nov. 6-8 at the Mohican State Park Lodge in Loudonville. A brochure about the retreat has been sent to each Ohio Conference congregation. The brochure also is available on the "Publications" page of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Prayer Prompter is a bimonthly newsletter which includes prayer requests from Ohio Conference congregations and Conference-related agencies. Prayer requests are compiled by Mattie Marie Mast, a member of the Ohio Conference Prayer Ministry Team. If you would like to receive *Prayer Prompter* by e-mail, contact Mattie Marie Mast at mmmast@zoominternet.net. *Prayer Prompter* also is available on the "Publications" page of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

STRASBOURG, France — Unable to attend Mennonite World Conference's Assembly 15 in Asunción, Paraguay, July 14-19? You can still keep up with what's happening at this global gathering of Anabaptists via the Mennonite World Conference Web site.

Plans call for www.mwc-cmm.org to carry daily updates of assembly activities, including worship sessions, Bible studies, workshops and seminars. There will also be interviews with persons attending as well as brief summaries of major addresses.

BLUFFTON, Ohio—The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University will host two Beyond Borders open houses Tuesday, July 21, and Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to browse through the shelves of more than 5,000 volumes of children's literature on peace and peace-related topics, enjoy the art and sculpture both inside and out and discover for themselves how

choosing peace is a daily choice. The names of two guests will be drawn at the end of the day to receive a free gift from the center. The Lion and Lamb is located on Spring Street in Bluffton. Follow signs to Riley Court lower level. The event is free and open to the public.

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center is a place where students and teachers are challenged with various aspects of peacemaking and justice through fine arts and literature. An understanding and appreciation for other cultures, global awareness and non-violent life styles are emphasized. Beyond Borders seeks to connect community members with The Lion and Lamb. For more information, visit www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/.

Conference calendar

July

- 14-19 Paraguay 2009, Mennonite World Conference Global Assembly, Asunción, Paraguay
- 31-Aug. 1 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Central Christian School, Kidron

August

- 7-9 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz
- 11 Ministry Development Team Meeting

September

- 19 Youth Worker Training Seminar with Walt Mueller, Central Christian School, Kidron
- 18-20 Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat, Camp Luz

November

- 6-8 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Loudonville

March 2009

- 12-13 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Mennonite Church, Archbold