



March 2009

www.ohio.mennonite.net

Ohio Evangel

NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Conference is featured in new DVD

“Doing Together What We Cannot Do Apart” is the theme of a new DVD about Ohio Conference which is being sent to all Ohio Conference congregations this month.

The DVD, which includes an 18-minute video about Ohio Conference and a six-minute video about Annual Conference Assembly, was created by Denver Steiner of Orrville Mennonite Church.

In addition to examining the ways that Ohio Conference supports its member congregations, the video features information about various parts of the Conference structure:

- Leadership Team
- Ministry Development Team
- Resource Teams
- Gift Discernment Ministry
- Stewardship Ministry
- Credentialing Ministry
- Choice Books

Information about mission cells and brief features about Ohio Conference staff members also are included.

The video segment about Annual Conference Assembly has information about the theme of this year’s meeting, which was held March 13-

14 at Central Christian School. Also included is information about the keynote speaker, Jim Amstutz, pastor of Akron Mennonite Church in Akron, Pa., as well as comments about business sessions, new pastors in the Conference and congregations joining the Conference.

Hartville Mennonite Church to host youth speaker Phil Chalmers

Phil Chalmers is coming to Hartville Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It is a free event.

Phil’s “Destructive Decision” presentation focuses on recreational sex, purity, chemical abuse, teen violence and suicide. This presentation is geared to junior high and senior high students, although all are welcome to attend.

With large numbers of teens sexually active, and approximately 1 million teen pregnancies every year, Phil will talk about sex, purity, modesty, sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence, and mutual respect for those of the opposite sex. In light of the increased rate of teens using drugs and alcohol, and the rise of more dangerous drugs like crack, meth, and inhalants, Phil will talk

about substance abuse, showing the after-effects of those who use and abuse chemicals. Several before and after photos of drug users, photos of the consequences of drunk driving, and much more will cause students to question the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol.

Because of the rise of school violence, and the prevalence of bully-

Continued on page 3

Where does my help come from?

“I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” — Psalm 121:1-2

I first learned to really appreciate Psalm 121 years ago when it was a Bible memory passage for a seventh- and eighth-grade Sunday school class which I was teaching. As we worked together to memorize these eight verses, I found the psalmist’s words very encouraging.

These days, many people seem to need the words of encouragement in Psalm 121. The more I read and

listen, the more I find people who are anxious and unable to rest, not knowing what the future holds. Personal financial difficulties, worries about continuing employment, questions about the whole country’s financial stability — all of these have the potential to steal our sense of peace.

Verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 121 describe God’s continuing care: “The Lord watches over you — the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the

sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.” Do we really comprehend the constancy of God’s care for us? Or are we more likely to feel that we are “going it alone?”

I confess that I am often tempted to act as if God isn’t interested in my situation, as if I need to take care of everything on my own. Recognizing that tendency and reminding myself that God indeed is in control makes all the difference.

— ahl

Connecting faith and money is theme of Day Apart

On Saturday, April 4, a contemplative day apart will be held at the Hermitage at Beaver Run in Warsaw. The theme of the day is “Connecting Faith and Money.” Harriet Taylor from Ministry of Money (Church of the Savior, Washington,

D.C.) will be the presenter for the day. For more information or a brochure, contact Beulah Steiner at bsteiner25@gmail.com or (330) 262-2321.

Relief Sale dinner planned

The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Kick-off Dinner will be held April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dutch Valley Restaurant in Sugarcreek. Guest speaker for the event will be Arli Klaasen, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee. Special music will be provided by an ensemble

from Lake Center Christian School. Tickets are free, but an offering will be taken to cover dinner and pre-sale expenses. Seating is limited. Call Perry Miller at (330) 815-5700 or Beth Miller at (330) 473-2253 for reservations or additional information.

Officers of the Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church

Moderator: John Rohrer, 11285 Converse-Chapel Road, Plain City OH 43064
Assistant Moderator: LaVonne Hartman, 6290 Billymack Road, Elida OH 45807
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, 11026 Old Oak Trail, Fort Wayne IN 46845
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. LXIII, No. 3

March 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.

'What Would Lloyd Do?' coming to Ohio

Central Christian School in Kidron is hosting an evening program by Ted & Company Theaterworks on April 1 at 7 p.m. The performance, which will take place in Central's Performing Arts Center, is titled "What Would Lloyd Do?"

"What Would Lloyd Do?" tells the story of Mike Webber (Ted Swartz), a struggling inner-city church pastor who recruits a new music director, Jeff Nelson (Trent Wagler). They find themselves in charge of a tired radio show that must be broadcast each Sunday morning in a church where no one attends. Pastor Webber also finds his marriage dissolving as he struggles to find a reason to go on as a pastor.

Things come to a head when Jeff begins asking questions and pushing for answers. The resulting changes in the radio program, in the church and in Pastor Webber give the audience lots to laugh about, and even more to think about. This show also includes a radio show engineer, Doug, played by Jay Lapp, and a choir of local singers.

Tickets cost \$10 per person or \$8 per person for groups of 10 or more. For more information, contact Central Christian School at (330) 857-7311 or see the flier on the "Publications" page of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.



"What Would Lloyd Do?" will be presented April 1 at Central Christian School at 7 p.m.

Phil Chalmers

Continued from page 1

ing, Phil will discuss teen violence, school violence, crime prevention, and well as the consequences of using violence to solve problems. He also will touch on suicide, self-abuse, bullying, violent and destructive entertainment, and the value and dignity of human life.

Phil Chalmers has been writing books, studying youth culture and speaking nationwide since 1985. Phil has a passion to guide teens to-

ward a more positive, healthy and safe lifestyle. He is the author of several books and documentaries, including *Can You Handle the Truth*, *True Lies*, *Music to Die For* and *I Don't Listen to the Lyrics Handbook*. His latest book, which will be released May 5, is titled *Inside the Mind of a Teen Killer*.

Phil resides in the Cleveland area with his family.

For more information, contact Joe Troyer at Hartville Mennonite Church at (330) 877-2050 or joe@hartvillemennonite.org.



Phil Chalmers will bring his "Destructive Decision" presentation for youth to Hartville Mennonite Church March 25 at 7 p.m.

Did you know...

That John D. Roth, professor of history at Goshen College, was the speaker for the **Winter Bible Institute** which was held Feb. 21-22 at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville?

That Steve Steiner presented a program titled "Themes of Peace" at West Clinton Mennonite Church on March 1? He shared stories and pictures from his recent trips to work

with Mennonite missionaries in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Laos.

That the Peace & Justice Project, a gathering of people in the Fulton County community concerned about peace and justice, meets weekly to share local and global concerns about justice and to pray for discernment? The meetings, which are open to all, are held on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at Zion Mennonite Church.

Camp Luz emphasizes relationships

By Deb Horst, Camp Luz Director

Camp Luz had its beginning in 1947 when 26 persons pledged \$100 each toward the establishment of a church camp. Camp Ebenezer, which was sponsored by the Ohio Mission Board for six weeks, and the Young People's Institute sponsored by the Ohio Christian Workers' Conference for one week annually, were both without a permanent location. Since the needs of both groups were very similar, the best move seemed to be to build a camp together. The first summer of camping was held in 1953.

Several goals of Christian camping were stated: souls turning to Christ and accepting Him as Savior and Lord, a place to encounter God, to develop a closer walk with God, and to encourage serving God through His church.

At Camp Luz our mission is to promote the ministry of the church by providing a camp setting that exalts Jesus Christ, a place where people can gather to exercise body, mind and spirit for personal growth in the beauty of God's Creation through recreation, outdoor learning activities, fellowship, nurture and the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Camp Luz was started for youth, to evangelize youth and to nurture them in their spiritual development. This foundation is still strong, even as we prepare for our 56th summer of camping! Our tri-fold ministry (summer camp, retreats and guest groups) is designed to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to make disciples, and teach them to make disciples. We are partners with parents and the church in evangelism, mission, discipleship and leadership development.

Many people often call youth the "future church," and that is true, but they are also the church *now* and we need to make a commitment to their generation to walk with them in their

spiritual formation. Psalm 78:1-6 expresses this desire profoundly! We who know the Good Shepherd must point him out to the lambs; we must help them learn to recognize the voice of our Shepherd when there are so many other voices out there calling to them.

Maybe in this economic upheaval the cost of sending a child to camp will be considered a luxury that a family will not be able to afford, or an extravagance that can be cut from a household budget. We want to challenge each Ohio Confer-

- Pay the deposit for the week of camp.
- Create a fund to which people can donate and from which tuition can be paid according to individual need.
- Pay half the tuition.
- If your congregation does not contain camp-age youth, find some in your community and sponsor their attendance.
- If your congregation does not have any contacts with camp-age youth, send a donation to the Campership Fund that assists

We want to challenge each Ohio Conference church to commit to the faith development of youth by gathering around their families with children and making sure that finances will not be the block that God's enemy will use to keep kids from hearing the Gospel at camp this summer.

ence church to commit to the faith development of youth by gathering around their families with children and making sure that finances will not be the block that God's enemy will use to keep kids from hearing the Gospel at camp this summer. If every Conference church would send just 10 young people to camp, we would be full with more than 700 kids. What would a full summer of youth seeking God's face say to the enemy? What a proclamation of **hope** for now, and for the future of the Kingdom!

Here are some creative ideas that some churches are already employing to assist families financially for camp tuition:

- Allow youth to earn partial tuition through Bible memory work.

families with financial needs.

In our post-modern individualistic society, relationships are seen as less important and yet so desperately needed. Camp Luz is a Kingdom outpost that emphasizes relationships — with God and with others. I ask you, our partners in this mission, to stand against society, to model and proclaim the better way of God's Kingdom community! Proclaim with us, "We're not keeping this to ourselves; we're passing it along to the next generation!" — *Psalm 78:4, The Message*. Please pray for the camp staff, the summer staff and the campers as we lift Jesus' name high!

Visit www.campluz.com for more information on the ministry of Camp Luz and for downloadable summer registration forms.

Volunteers accept Conference posts

Members of Ohio Conference congregations who volunteer their time play a vital role in the life of the Conference. Without the help of numerous volunteers, many of the programs and functions of the Ohio Conference could not take place.

Much of the work of Ohio Conference is done by the Leadership Team, the Ministry Development Team, the Credentialing Ministry, the Stewardship Ministry and the Gifts Discernment Ministry.

Here is some information about the people who have agreed to serve, starting in the new Conference year which begins April 1:

Assistant Moderator

Name: Ginny Cress

Home Congregation: Salem (Elida)

Occupation: Retired educator (elementary principal in the Lima City School System), supervise



student teachers for Bluffton University, intermittent employee for Ohio Department of Education

Previous Service: I am currently an elder at Salem and serve as worship leader on a rotating basis. I previously served on Church Council and have been a Sunday school teacher.

Family Information: Husband, Larry Cress; and son, Steven Cress

Goals: I hope to assist with providing resources for worship and service ministries to local congregations within the Ohio Conference.

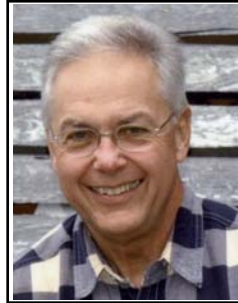
Hobbies/Special Interests: I enjoy reading, skiing, biking, traveling and visiting with family and friends.

Ministry Development Team

Name: Dean Falb

Home Congregation: Martins

Occupation: Retired banker, now farming and volunteering at MCC Connections



Previous Service: Ministry

Development Team member, Sunday School teaching, men's Bible study leader, church treasurer

Family Information: Married to Jan, a preschool teacher; one son, Matt, an epidemiologist in Albuquerque, N.M.

Goals: Increased young adult involvement in local congregations, Hispanic and other minority integration into our church programs

Hobbies/Special Interests: Ham radio, horticulture, reading and refurbishing farm equipment

Ministry Development Team

Name: Rachel Bucher Kauffman

Home Congregation: Jubilee

Occupation: Volunteer

Previous Service: Conference Council, President of Ohio WMSC, Sunday school teacher, pastoral care



Family Information: husband, Roger; three grown sons and two daughters-in-law; five grandchildren
Goals: To encourage individuals and churches to find and carry out the ministry to which they are gifted and called

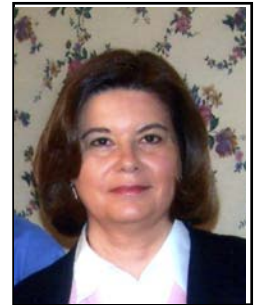
Hobbies/Special Interests: Making comforters for MCC, reading, spending time with grandchildren, travel

Ministry Development Team

Name: Pamela Miller Matsos

Home Congregation: Oak Grove

(Smithville)
Occupation: Principal, Montessori School of Wooster



Previous Service: Member

of Ministry Development Team, Gifts Discernment Committee member

Family Information: Husband — Spiro T. Matsos, owner of Matsos Family Restaurant; son, Christopher, who is married to Tory and is finishing a Ph.D. in theater at Ohio State University; son, Lee, who lives in Washington, D.C., and is a writer for *Washington Business Journal*

Goals: To continue to push the vision of what Ohio Conference can be when listening to what our churches would like to do

Hobbies/Special Interests: I have directed many plays when I was a teacher at Central Christian High School. Theater, music, reading and writing all are important to me.

Ministry Development Team — Prayer Focus

Name: Mattie Marie Mast

Home Congregation: Sonnenberg

Occupation: Associate pastor

Previous Service: Ministry Development Team member



— Prayer Focus, Evangelism Commission, City on a Hill board member, currently a board member

Continued on page 6

Volunteers

Continued from page 5

of Mennonite Mission Network and Church Extension Services

Family Information: Married to Mike Mast; four adult children; seven grandsons; one granddaughter

Goals: To foment the urgency for churches to be engaged in mission and nurture “third way” communities of healing and hope

Hobbies/Special Interests: Biking, reading, seeing life through the eyes of my grandchildren

Ministry Development Team —

Faith Focus

Name: Herman F. Myers

Home Congregation: Kidron (currently serving Midway)

Occupation:

Pastor, currently transitional minister

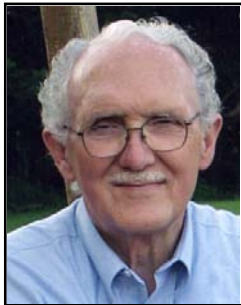
Previous Service: Modera-

tor, Leadership Commission, interim regional pastor, overseer

Family Information: Widowed; three daughters; two sons; four grandchildren

Goals: Help congregations discover opportunities for working together in mission

Hobbies/Special Interests: Golf, hunting, reading, writing poetry, writing autobiography



Credentialing Ministry

Name: Larry Augsburg

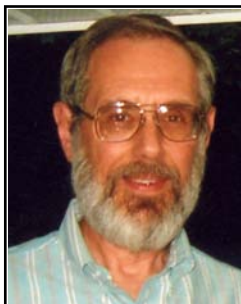
Home Congregation: Sonnenberg

Occupation:

Transitional pastor

Previous Service: Thirty

years as a pastor, secretary of



Conference Council and Executive Committee for four years

Family Information: Wife, Jeananne; two adult daughters, Ellen and Miriam, who are both music teachers

Goals: To continue to ensure quality leadership for Ohio Conference congregations

Hobbies/Special Interests: Reading, walking, biking and gardening

Ministry Development Team—

Worship Focus

Name: Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells

Home Congregation: Lee

Heights

Occupation:

Associate Pastor, Teacher

Previous Service: Elder,

Presiding Elder, Conference

Council Member-at-Large, Damascus Road

Family Information: Husband, Mark; son, Kamaal; daughter, Cynthia

Goals: To be humble to God’s will

Hobbies/Special Interests: Reading, writing, line dancing, staying busy



Credentialing Ministry

Name: Jay Conn

Home Congregation: Beaverdam

Occupation:

Pastor

Previous Service: I have

served as pastor for 3 and a

half years at Beaverdam. Before that I was

assistant pastor at Martins Creek. I also



served on Conference Council for four years.

Family Information: Married to Vicki Conn for 14 and a half years; three children, Brady (10), Whitney (8) and Chloe (7)

Goals: To assist congregations and pastors as they discern their calling and follow the Holy Spirit’s leading

Credentialing Ministry

Name: Dee Custar

Home Congregation: Salem

(Mich.)

Occupation: Pastor

Previous Service: Member of Credentialing Ministry

Stewardship Ministry

Name: Karla Roth

Home Congregation: Lock-

port

Occupation:

CPA — Steyer, Huber & Associates, Inc., Archbold

Previous Service: Steward-

ship Commission chair, Conference delegate, and Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and financial stewardship teacher

Family Information: Daughter of Dave and Geneva Smucker of Smithville. Married to Wynn; three daughters, Madalyn, Emily and Natalie

Goals: To encourage young adults to take on more leadership roles in the church and Conference

Hobbies/Special Interests: Walking, singing in quartet, sewing



Continued on page 7

Volunteers

Continued from page 6

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Nathan Beachy

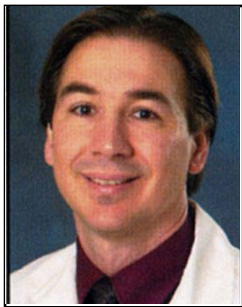
Home Congregation: Lee Heights

Occupation: Family practice doctor

Previous Service: Member of Gifts Discernment Ministry

Family Information: Wife, Rochele Miller Beachy, also a family practice doctor; son Jared, 19, a freshman at Goshen College; daughter, Marita, 17, a senior in high school; son Caleb, 15, a freshman in high school
Goals: To bring persons into Conference work who are not the usual suspects

Special Interests: HIV/AIDS, poverty, basketball, philosophy



Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Glenn Nofziger

Home Congregation: Lockport
Occupation: Farmer, substitute teacher

Previous Service: Member of Gifts Discernment Ministry

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Dottie Hathaway

Home Congregation: Salem (Elida)

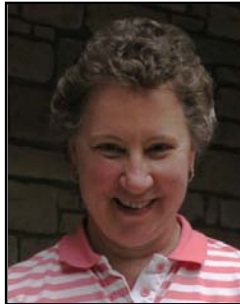
Occupation: Nurse educator at Rhodes State College

Previous Service: Member of Gifts Discernment Ministry, former Nurture Commission member, adult Sunday school teacher and worship leader at Salem

Family Information: Married to Mel, pastor at Salem

Goals: To provide people with an opportunity to use their gifts to serve the church

Hobbies/Special Interests: Reading, traveling, Lima Sym-



phony orchestra concerts, a good cup of coffee

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Jean Schmitt

Home Congregation: South Union

Occupation: Retired registered nurse

Previous Service: Member of Gifts Discernment Ministry

Family Information: Husband, Howard; two adult children — one daughter, Valerie (Gary) Jones of Plain City and one son, Jeffrey Schmitt of Cambridge, Mass.

Goals: To work intentionally to find persons from many districts and churches to fill positions

Hobbies/Special Interests: As a pastor's wife, I enjoy assisting in planning meaningful worship services. I also enjoy quilting, card making and entertaining.



About people

Pastoral notes

Ann Nofziger is serving Southside Mennonite Church in Springfield as part-time interim pastor. Previously she served as pastor of Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship.

...

Philip Clemens, former pastor of the Beaverdam Mennonite Church and more recently pastor of Pike Mennonite Church near Elida, passed away at his residence shortly after noon on Sunday, March 1, following a 16-month battle with cancer. A memorial service was held at Pike Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 4.

Goshen College

Alex Troyer of Wooster is one of 15 Goshen College senior art majors displaying the culmination of their studies and work in three annual senior art exhibitions in the Hershberger Art Gallery at the Goshen College Music Center.

Troyer is displaying his work in sculpture during the Senior Art Exhibit II, which is being exhibited March 22 to April 2. The show will have an opening reception on Sunday, March 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A graduate of Central Christian High School, Troyer is the son of Jeffery and Brenda Troyer. His

home congregation is Wooster Mennonite Church.

Hesston College

Two students from Ohio Conference congregations were members of the cast of Hesston College's production of *Godspell*. The production took place Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 26-28.

Sophomore **Lauren Zehr** of Wauseon, is a sophomore at Hesston. Her home congregation is North Clinton Mennonite.

Matt Lehman of Kidron is a freshman at Hesston. His home congregation is Kidron Mennonite.

Back page briefings...

Two daylong prayer retreats led by Deb Horst will be held at Camp Luz on Saturday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 8. Using Scripture, reflection, music, silence and prayer walks (indoor and outdoor options), the retreat invites the participant to journey with Jesus during his last earthly week, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. The retreat deliberately ends leaving the participants grieving Jesus' death and reflecting upon his suffering and sacrifice, kneeling at the foot of the cross and wondering at the healing blood shed there. This will prepare the worshiper to anticipate the coming resurrection Sunday.

Both retreats will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Donations for lunch will be accepted (suggestion \$5 per person). Please RSVP to campluz@zoominternet.net or (330) 683-1246 before March 31.

Smithville Mennonite Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 17, 2009. Services will begin with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., followed by the worship service at 10:25 a.m. Following the morning service there will be a dinner, followed by a service of celebration. If you have ever been affiliated with Smithville Mennonite, we would love to have you join us in this celebration. For more information contact the church office at (330) 669-3601 or lmsmucker@smithvillemennonite.org.

Author and pastor Rachel Hartzler will lead a retreat for widowed people, their friends, caregivers, pastors and counselors at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center April 24-26. Hartzler, pastor of Pleasant Oaks Mennonite Church in Middlebury, Ind., is the author of *Grief and Sexuality: Life After Losing a Spouse*, published by Herald Press in 2006. The weekend will include group input sessions, worship, and time for reflection. For more information see <http://www.laurelville.org/Program/>

Grief.html or contact Erin at (800) 839-1021 or erin@laurelville.org. You may also contact Rachel at rach@maplenet.net.

Conference calendar

April

- 2-4 Believers in Conversation, Central Christian School, Kidron
- 4 Prayer Retreat, Camp Luz
- 8 Prayer Retreat, Camp Luz
- 17-18 Ministry Development Team Retreat
- 18 Ohio Mennonite Women's Spring Day of Inspiration, Lockport Mennonite, Stryker
- 24-26 Marriage Seminar, Central Christian School, Kidron

May

- 1-3 Hispanic Retreat, Camp Luz
- 17 50th Anniversary Celebration, Smithville Mennonite Church

June

- 16 Ministry Development Team
- 27-28 Centennial Celebration, Orrville Mennonite
- 30-July 5 Mennonite Church USA Convention 2009, Columbus

July

- 14-19 Paraguay 2009, Mennonite World Conference Global Assembly, Asunción, Paraguay

August

- 7-9 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz

September

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