



October 2009

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Ohio Evangel

NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Cultures meet at Fiesta



More than 150 people gathered at Central Christian School in Kidron Sept. 20 for an Intercultural Fiesta. The event, sponsored by Open Arms Hispanic Ministry, was a chance for English speakers to get to know their Hispanic neighbors. To foster conversation, interpreters were provided and groups met at round tables to enjoy refreshments. The afternoon also included singing in both Spanish and English and special music provided by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland.

Advocates to support youth pastors

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team has approved a proposal to have two volunteers serve as youth ministry advocates in the Conference.

The purpose of the youth ministry advocates is two-fold: First, youth ministry advocates are asked to educate congregations about the role of youth pastors. Second, they also are asked to assist in maintaining healthy relationships between

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Resource Library adds books on worship

By Sherah-Leigh Gerber
Resource Team Coordinator

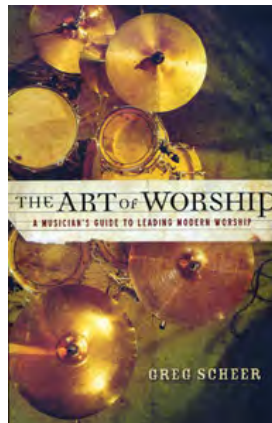
As part of a Worship Renewal Grant, the Calvin Institute has provided the following books for the Ohio Conference Resource Library:

- *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship* by Greg Scheer

Focusing on creating and leading praise and worship music, this book outlines techniques and logistics of contemporary worship practices. While technical, Scheer provides an excellent account of the complexities

of worship planning and leading that is helpful for anyone working with worship.

Scheer begins by outlining the significance of praise and worship music, noting the shift in spiritual expression, expanded worship ex-



pression and increased awareness of the value of worship that has come with the energy around contemporary music. He provides a set of helpful assessments that ask key questions that reduce the tension and conflict around worship styles in congregations.

Detailed and practical, this is a helpful resource for any congregation that works at or wants to include worship teams as part of their worship repertoire.

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A difficult task: taming our tongues

“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?” — James 3:9-11 (NIV)

Recently, my congregation, Beech Mennonite, spent time looking at the book of James during our worship services.

James has lots of practical advice for putting our faith into action, but this time through the book of James I was especially struck by his

thoughts on controlling our speech. While I don’t often think of my tongue as capable of causing a raging fire (see James 3:6 for this imagery), I do admit that keeping watch over what comes out of my mouth is an ongoing task.

people’s opinions but also expressing that disagreement with personal attacks on the other person’s character, intelligence, or both. In many cases, it seems these speakers and writers have forgotten something James hastens to remind us: Those

James reminds us that it’s way too easy to use our voices to praise God and then turn around and curse other people.

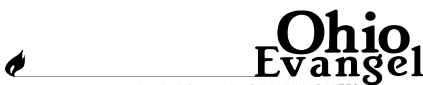
In current times, James 3:9-11 seems particularly appropriate for us to contemplate. James reminds us that it’s way too easy to use our voices to praise God and then turn around and curse other people.

While there have always been people who attack others verbally, it seems all too common in what I hear and read today. I don’t have to look very far before finding people who are not only disagreeing with other

people we disagree with, however flawed or misguided we think they may be, are made in God’s image.

Many of us may say that we in the church avoid such behavior, and perhaps it’s true in most cases, but I wonder: How do we respond when we witness such attacks? Is our response making the situation better, or feeding into the problem?

— ahl



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Did you know...

That Martins Mennonite Church and Pleasant View Mennonite Church held a joint celebration Aug. 9 marking the congregations’ 175th anniversary? People from both congregations gathered at Martins for a carry-in meal and fellowship. They then traveled to Pleasant View for a program including video clips, special music, singing and ice cream.

That North Clinton Mennonite Church operated the Grandstand Diner at the Fulton County Fair? The food service at the fair was a means to serve others and have a positive presence at the fair. Members of the congregation worked at the diner during the fair, and the funds raised benefited Wauseon FISH.

Officers of the Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church

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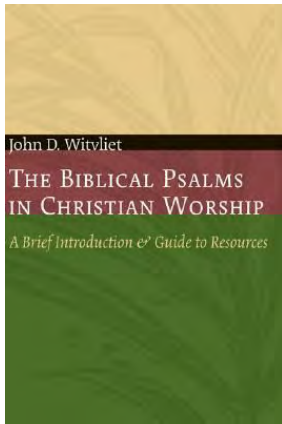
Worship

Continued from page 1

- *The Biblical Psalms in Christian Worship: A Brief Introduction and Guide to Resources* by John D. Witvliet

This book is a well-written and accessible resource for exploring the Psalms.

Witvliet has designed this book as a catalyst for renewed engagement with the Psalms in the context of public worship. Believing that the



- *Sing! a new creation*
This collection of worship songs from the past 50 years of hymnody has been created to supplement other hymnals. Featuring new hymns, songs from around the world and contemporary choruses, this resource provides a wide variety of music for congregations looking to include more recent musical expressions. Many psalms are



church and world. The final chapter defines worship as narrative engagement, dialogue, covenant renewal, and creation to re-creation.

While useful for worship planning groups who need fresh perspective on why they do what they do, the gift of this book is in the short essays scattered amidst the chapters. The 12 assumptions about shaping worship are particularly insightful.

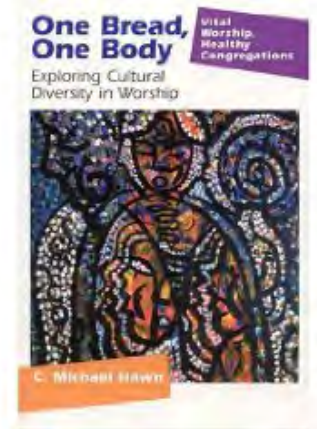
- *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship* by C. Michael Hawn

Written to combine the why and how of cultural diversity in worship, this book provides case studies and a number

appendices for congregational application. Defining worship

as the nourishing center of congregational life, Hawn lays out four ways worship and culture relate: (1) worship as transcultural, (2) worship as contextual, (3) worship as counter-cultural, and (4) worship as cross-cultural.

Hawn also calls for an “enlivener” in every congregation.



“One of the ways we learn good communication habits with God is by participating in public worship.” — *The Biblical Psalms in Christian Worship*

psalms are really prayer, and prayer is conversation with God, Witvliet offers this resource to leaders as well as Christians who long to go deeper in the Word.

This text is inspiring for preachers and worship planners. It also includes reflections on the historical and literary context of the Psalter, making it an excellent resource for a Sunday school class or small group that would like to explore the Psalms. Witvliet references many sources and uses examples to illustrate his suggestions for revitalizing the Psalter’s use in worship as well as providing glimpses of historical perspectives on the role of the Psalms.

included with interesting musical arrangements. The hymnal also includes a variety of readings and prayers.

- *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking about Christian Worship Today* by Cornelius Plantinga Jr. and Sue A. Rozeboom, editors

Outlining the historical context for worship engaging culture and wrestling with the development and role of Contemporary Worship, this book provides a theological framework for preparing and leading worship. Written in accessible terms with helpful illustrations from culture, this conversation focuses on how to do worship at the crossing of

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Worship

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This person serves as a bridge in leading music in worship. He then outlines a variety of strategies for helping congregations shift into more culturally diverse habits which include leadership that reflects the diversity of the congregation and community as well as hospitality that integrates with worship.

While including practical resources, Hawn's Methodist framework is very high-church liturgical in its approach. The introductory material and appendices may offer helpful information for congregations interested in connecting with the culturally diverse community in which they find themselves, but the specific guides are less helpful for congregations that are less liturgical in their worship structures.

- *Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church* by Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly

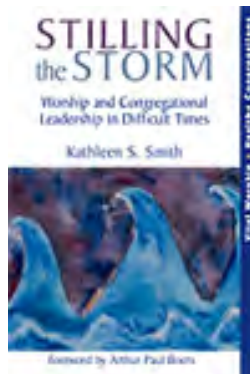
"Worship is the most important and most consistent element of congregational life. It is the practice of worship that defines a church as a church." With this starting place, Bush and O'Reilly use vignettes of rural Canadian congregations to outline the challenges of small church ministry. This accessible text does an excellent job of outlining the struggles and affirming the gifts of small church ministry. Geared for multiple-point ministry, this book may be helpful for people who wish to have a deeper understanding of the dynamics of small churches.



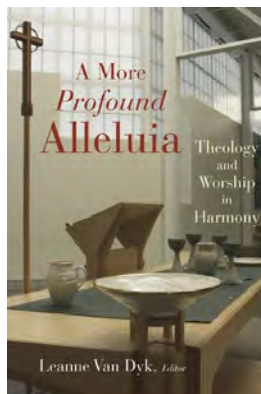
“What predicts beyond-the-ordinary performance in meaningful worship? Two factors matter: congregations that have empowering leaders and worshipers who are growing spiritually.” — *Where 20 or 30 are Gathered*

- *Stilling the Storm: Worship and Congregational Leadership in Difficult Times* by Kathleen S. Smith

Written to respond to the need for resources for congregations in difficult times, this book combines practical resources with substantive exploration of the dynamics of congregational life when facing transition, conflict or crises. Using stories of congregations, Smith outlines the dynamics and impact these types of situations have on congregational life. Through the formative act of worship, Smith demonstrates how leaders can help congregations weather storms.



- *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony* by Leanne Van Dyk



“The best theology has always been doxological and the best worship richly theological” is the premise for this collection of essays reflecting on why we do what we do in worship. Beginning with the Trinitarian logic of worship, the book explores the various movements of worship and the theological underpinnings of each. While liturgical in emphasis, the exploration of the theological basis for worship is rich and meaningful. This book is a helpful resource for worship planners or pastors who long for renewal when worship feels routine.

All of these books are available from the Ohio Conference Resource Library, which is located in the Ohio Conference office in Kidron. A listing of books, CDs, audio cassettes, video cassettes and DVDs available from the Resource Library can be found on the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. (Click on “Resource Library.”)

Borrowing items from the Resource Library is free, although the Conference does request that borrowers pay the costs to ship the items back to the Conference office. To request a resource, contact Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net.

About people



Steve Heatwole, pictured at right, was installed as lead pastor of Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker on Aug. 30. Steve comes to Lockport after more than 25 years of pastoral experience in Pennsylvania. Also pictured are Steve's wife, Bonnie, and Regional Pastor Andy Stoner.



Hector Velez, pictured at left, was licensed for special ministry as a chaplain during the worship service Sept. 6 at Good Shepherd Mennonite Church (Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor) in Archbold. Hector is serving as chaplain with Disciples of Jesus, a motorcycle gang. Also pictured are Hector's wife, April, and Regional Pastor Andy Stoner.

Pastoral notes

Steve Heatwole was installed as lead pastor at Lockport Church in Stryker on Aug. 30. Steve comes to Ohio after more than 25 years experience pastoring two congregations in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, **Bonnie**, have two adult children. Since Bonnie was raised in the Archbold area, this move is a return to home for her.

During the installation service, Steve's brother-in-law, **Reid Short**, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church near Toledo, read scripture and offered prayer. Regional Pastor **Andy Stoner** preached the morning message and led in the formal installation ceremony. The message, songs, and scripture followed a "shepherding" theme, making application to the work of a pastor among God's people. A carry-in dinner followed the service.

...
On Sunday, Sept. 6, **Hector Velez** was licensed for special ministry as chaplain of a motorcycle gang named Disciples of Jesus.

Hector and his wife, **April**, are members of Good Shepherd Mennonite Church in Archbold. Hector's role as chaplain will take him into hospitals, prisons, bike rallies, counseling with biker families, potentially conducting weddings and funerals for bikers and their families. The Christian motorcycle gang covers the Tri-state area of Ohio/Michigan/Indiana.

Hector was miraculously delivered from a life of drug use and dealing, and is now following God back into relationships with his former buddies, to share God's love, and proclaim God's word of grace and healing. We pray God's blessing on Hector in this specialized ministry, which is an example of a new form of missional outreach.

Regional Pastor **Andy Stoner** preached the message and led in the licensing ceremony. The congregation gathered around Hector and April in praying for them. A fellowship meal followed the service.

...
Kidron Mennonite Church held a Celebration Sunday on Aug. 30

to mark the conclusion of **Terry Shue**'s service as pastor. After the worship service, the congregation held a carry-in meal in the church fellowship building.

...
Mel Hathaway was installed as pastor at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron Sunday, Sept. 13. He and his wife, **Dottie**, moved to Dalton from Elida, where they lived 14 years as Mel pastored Salem Mennonite Church in Elida.

Mel graduated from the Pastoral Ministries program at Hesston College after having a career as a builder and carpenter. He and Dottie met at Hesston.

The morning's theme focused on shepherding, and compared being a pastor to the way King David "shepherded" God's people, Israel (Psalm 78:70-72). Mel and Dottie were received into membership before the installation service, led by Regional Pastor **Andy Stoner**, who also preached the morning message. A delicious carry-in meal was enjoyed by everyone! Friends

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About people

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Regional Pastor Andy Stoner (left) congratulates Mel and Dottie Hathaway at Mel's installation as pastor of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron Sept. 13. Mel previously served as the pastor of the Salem Mennonite Church in Elida for 14 years.



Ed Diller was commissioned Aug. 23 for his work as moderator of Mennonite Church USA. Pictured left to right are Joel Miller, pastor, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship; Ron Byler, acting executive director, Mennonite Church USA; Mim Shirk, vice president of Mennonite Health Services Alliance (and Byler's spouse); and Karen and Ed Diller.

of Dottie came from Pennsylvania, and others came from the Lima area.

Mel began as pastor Sept. 1. In June **Larry Augsburger** concluded a two-year transitional pastorate, following **Mike Mast** as lead pastor at Sonnenberg. Dottie has accepted a position as part-time nursing instructor at Malone University. Welcome to eastern Ohio, Mel and Dottie!

...
Ken Benner, associate pastor of Kalida Family Outreach Center in Kalida, died Saturday, Sept. 26, at his home in Elida. He had been diagnosed with brain cancer in August. He was 76 years old.

Benner is survived by his wife, **Anna Mary**; and five children, **Sheryl Hoover** and **LaVonne Hartman**, both of Elida, and **Jeryl Benner**, **Lisa Mast** and **Keith Benner**, all of Loveland, Colo.; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and three brothers, **Doug Benner** of Marietta, Ga., and **Dale Benner** and **Herb Benner**, both of Hatfield, Pa.

He was a pastor for more than 40 years. In addition to his work at Kalida Family Outreach Center, he served Bartonsville Mennonite Church in Bartonsville, Vt., Pike Mennonite Church, Sharon Mennonite Church and Cornerstone Mennonite Fellowship.

Funeral services were held Sept. 29 at Lima Community Church. Burial was in Pike Cemetery in Elida.

MC USA

The new moderator for Mennonite Church USA, **Ed Diller** of Fort Thomas, Ky., was commissioned in his home congregation, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, on Aug. 23.

The congregation's pastor, **Joel Miller**, noted that all members are called by God to service in the reconciling work of Christ and included Diller's wife, **Karen**, in the commissioning. "Today we bless Ed and Karen Diller for giving their time and gifts to Mennonite Church USA," he said.

On behalf of the congregation, council chair **Linda Headings** pre-

sented a quilted wall hanging to the Dillers. "Your gift of listening without judgment, of recognizing our strengths and bringing people together despite their differences will serve you well as moderator," she told the new moderator. She noted Ed's servant heart and Karen's compassionate service on behalf of others.

"Our prayer is that you will help lead our wider church to become the body Christ calls us to be," Headings said.

Ron Byler, acting executive director of Mennonite Church USA, represented the denomination at the commissioning.

"May your desire to follow in the way of Jesus Christ help all 900-plus congregations in Mennonite Church USA grow as communities of grace, joy and peace," Byler said to Diller.

EMS

Jessica Colwell of Sharon Mennonite in Plain City is involved in LEAP365 (Learning, Exploring and Participating) at Eastern Menno-

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God's 'instruments' gather for OMW Retreat



Sixty-four women gathered at Camp Luz Sept. 19-21 for the annual Ohio Mennonite Women Retreat. Keynote speaker Marilyn Rossiter of Kidron Mennonite Church focused on the theme "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace." In keeping with the theme, the worship area was decorated with stuffed animals playing all kinds of musical instruments.

About people

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nite Seminary this year. In July, Jessica and 11 other youth spent time on the campus of EMS with faculty and staff learning about call and vocation. They also traveled to New Orleans, La., for a week of cross-cultural exploration. Jessica will choose a mentor from her home congregation and complete a year-long intentional mentoring cycle supervised by LEAP staff.

Goshen College

An Ohio Conference native is participating in the Goshen College Study-Service Term (SST) in Peru during this fall, along with 10 other students.

Senior **Brook Blough**, daughter of **Rhoda Blough** and the late **Ron Blough**, is majoring in Bible and religion. She is a 2004 graduate of Central Christian High School and a

member of Beech Mennonite Church. She left for Peru on Sept. 1 and will return to the United States on Dec. 1.

Students spend the first six weeks studying with private language teachers, as they live with families in Lima — a modern, growing city with as many as 10 million people. During daily seminars, students explore the Incan and pre-Incan history and the 1980s civil war, as well as hear lectures on the success of the women's movement in Peru. During the second half of their three-month stay, students spread out across the country to live with families and volunteer at service assignments.

Web updates and photos from the group are available from Goshen College's SST Web site: www.goshen.edu/sst/peru-fall09.

Advocate

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youth pastors and their congregations.

The proposal calls for youth ministry advocates to perform three main tasks:

- **Walk with youth pastors as they relate to their lead pastors, elders and others they work with, particularly at times of disagreement and tension.** They will be an advocate for the youth pastor when the youth pastor's voice needs to be heard, and will be available to give counsel to the youth pastor during a conflict.
- **Work with congregations and regional pastors in the youth pastor search process to gain an understanding of what the congregational expectations are of a youth pastor and help to "decode" the job description.**

The youth ministry advocates will be asked to give particular attention to churches looking for their first youth pastor, conduct exit interviews with youth pastors that are transitioning out of their roles and work with new youth pastors to welcome them and orient them to the Conference.

- **Support youth ministry within the Conference.** The youth ministry advocates will be asked to be available for youth pastors when they have a need and to address concerns before they become a crisis.

Randy Keeler, assistant professor of religion at Bluffton University, has agreed to serve as youth ministry advocate for congregations in the western part of the state. He has earned a B.A. from Bluffton University and an M.Div. from Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

The Conference is still seeking a volunteer to serve as youth ministry advocate for congregations in the eastern part of the state.

Back page briefings...

Ohio Conference plans to hold its 41st Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) March 12-13 at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold. The 2010 ACA Planning Committee has begun meeting and has chosen Matthew 8:18-27 as the theme text for the Assembly. Committee members include Dean Beck, Sherah-Leigh Gerber, Tom Kauffman, Judy King, Mattie Marie Mast, Lora Riegsecker, Steve Sauder, Jeff Smith and Anita Roth.

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center will hold a retreat for artists and anyone interested in connecting to God in visual ways. "Beyond Words: Imagining a Visual Spirituality," which will be held Oct. 23-25 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, will include visually focused worship, artist-led workshops, firing of the wood-fire kiln, and open time and space for rest, reflection and fellowship. For more information, see www.laurelville.org/beyond_words.html or (800) 839-1021.

The 2009 North American Young Adult Fellowship Retreat will be held Oct. 23-25 at Menno Simons Christian School in Calgary, Alberta. The retreat is intended for young adults in Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. The planning committee is encouraging each conference to send a representative to this retreat. The theme of the retreat is "And When They Shall Ask." Planners are hoping to hear and be inspired by a variety of stories from young adults from across both denominations. A brochure with more information is available on the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. (Click on "Publications.")

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has developed a set of materials focusing on cluster munitions as one current aspect of United States militarism. These materials describe the global scope of the problem, MCC's long history of involvement, interactive Bible studies, and practical tools for education and advocacy within the

congregation. These materials should be of special interest to youth leaders and peace educators. For more information, see mcc.org/clusterbombs.

NEWTON, Kan. and ELKHART, Ind. — Mennonite Church USA Executive Board named Ervin R. Stutzman of Harrisonburg, Va., the denomination's next executive director at a special meeting held Aug. 25.

Stutzman is vice president and seminary dean as well as professor of church ministries at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg. He served on the Executive Board for Mennonite Church USA from 1999 to 2005 and as denominational moderator from 2001 to 2003. He expects to begin as executive director in early 2010.

Conference calendar

October

17 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Beech Mennonite, Louisville

November

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

7-8 25th Anniversary Celebration, Dayspring Christian Fellowship, Massillon

December

9 Advent Day Apart, Camp Luz

12 Ministry Development Team Meeting

January 2010

16 Ministry Development Team Meeting

March

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