



September 2009

www.ohio.mennonite.net

Ohio Evangel

NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Youth ministry training seminar to feature Dr. Walt Mueller

“Understanding Today’s Youth Culture” is the theme of Ohio Conference’s E³ Youth Ministry Training Seminar, which will be held Sept. 19 at Central Christian School in Kidron.

“Our goal is to help bridge the gap between changing youth culture and the church,” said Joe Troyer, youth pastor at Hartville Mennonite Church and one of the E³ organizers. “We live in an era in which youth culture is moving and changing so fast, it is hard to keep up. Youth are dealing with many issues and life

crises that we never had to face as young people,” he said.

This seminar is designed for youth pastors and others who work with youth, such as youth sponsors or Sunday school teachers.

Dr. Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, will be the presenter for this one-day seminar, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dr. Mueller has been working with young people and families for more than 30 years. He is a recognized authority on youth culture and family issues, and has appeared on

numerous media outlets internationally to discuss teenagers and their world. A regular seminar and conference speaker, he

communicates effectively with adults and teenagers alike.

For a registration form, go to the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.



Regional pastor experiences Mennonite World Conference

By Matt Hamsher
Regional Pastor

Mba'éichapa? Iporã! How are you? I am well! This common greeting and response in Guaraní, one of the two official languages of Paraguay, welcomed participants to Mennonite World Conference’s Assembly 15 in Asunción, Paraguay, July 14-19. Almost 6,000 Mennonites gathered in one location to worship together and learn from one another’s experience of being the body of Christ in many different parts of the world. We met to demonstrate our unity in Christ, to deepen our fellowship with one another, and to bear witness to what

God is doing in our home churches and in our own hearts and lives.

A typical day began with a bumpy, lurching bus ride from our hotel to the Iglesia Centro Familiar de Adoración (Family Worship Center), a brand-new Pentecostal church large enough to host our joint worship sessions, workshops, and mealtimes for the week. After arriving, there was time to wander for a bit on the grounds next to the church with tents representing Mennonite churches from different continents. Many people found their way to a back corner selling ice cream and other snacks as well as flavored *yerba maté*, a very popular drink in

South America much like tea, sipped through a metal straw and shared with friends.

Morning worship in the sanctuary with its thousands of gleaming white plastic chairs began each day at 9:30. We filled the room with the sounds of praise and joy as we sang together in many different languages. Headsets provided translation into English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, French and indigenous languages. We were moved by the hymns and choral arrangements of choirs from Africa, Europe, North America, and South America and a worship team from Indonesia. The

Continued on page 3

It's good to meet together

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” — Hebrews 10:25

By the time this issue of *Ohio Evangel* is printed and mailed, about two months will have passed since Convention 09, the Mennonite Church USA gathering which took place in Columbus June 30-July 5.

Convention 09 marks the fourth time I have participated in delegate sessions, once as an alternate in Nashville, and three times as a delegate in Charlotte, San Jose and Columbus.

I would be the first to admit that delegate business sessions can get long, and that conventions can be tiring, not to mention expensive.

And yet, each time I come away from a Mennonite Church USA convention, I am encouraged and inspired. One might think that the music and speakers at the worship services are the things that inspire me most, but that's not the case.

I am most inspired by the time I spend with other delegates around the table, talking with people from

around the country. It's encouraging to learn to know them and to hear how they are facing the challenges of living as God's witnesses in their communities.

Yes, meeting together may not necessarily be the most efficient way to “do church,” but the rewards are large. I'm glad that Ohio was able to host Convention 09. Thanks to everyone from Ohio Conference who worked to make it all possible!

— ahl

Testimony in Worship songs now on Conference Web site

Two new recordings are now available for listening or download from the Ohio Conference Web site. As part of the Revitalizing Testimony in Worship Project, Christine Nafziger, co-pastor of Millersburg Mennonite Church, composed two songs, “We Will Stand, We Will Speak,” and “I Will Stand.”

One of the songs, “We Will Stand, We Will Speak,” was introduced to delegates at the Annual Conference Assembly in March. Both songs focus on testifying about what God has done.

Writing about the composition process, Christine Nafziger noted, “Because testimony is first and foremost about God, I wanted to start the song by naming a few of the countless things God does to/for us. I then wanted to name our response to all

God is doing — to open our mouths and testify to God's great deeds!” She added, “May these songs be a blessing to you and your congregation, and may they challenge you to tell others what God is doing in your life and in the world around you.”


Recordings of both songs feature Christine Nafziger on piano and Toby Hazlett of Millersburg Mennonite Church on vocals.

The recordings can be found in the “Worship Resources” section of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. Sheet music and lyrics for both songs also are available for download.

CDs of the songs can be borrowed from the Ohio Conference Resource Library. Contact Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net or (330) 857-5421 to borrow a CD.

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



NEWS & VIEWS OF OHIO CONFERENCE MENNONITES

Vol. LXII, No. 7
September 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.

World Conference

Continued from page 1

sight and sound of two dozen Paraguayan harps played simultaneously in one service was spectacular!

Our theme for the week was “Coming together in the way of Jesus Christ” and we examined Philipians 2:1-11 and other passages to understand what it meant for so many people from different nations and cultures to come together and have “the same mind...that was in Christ Jesus” (v. 5). Bible studies in the morning and sermons in the evening provided biblical teaching on how to apply the way of Christ to our own lives, uniting and serving together in Christ.

Helmut Isaak and Jonoine, a chief of the Ayoreo tribe in the Paraguayan Chaco, provided a powerful example of the unity we experience in Christ and the way Jesus has demolished the dividing wall of hostility that used to exist between us (Ephesians 2:14). In a gesture of reconciliation, Jonoine gave to Helmut the spear that he had used to kill Helmut’s brother, Kornelius Isaak, more than 50 years ago, and Helmut responded by reading a statement of forgiveness before the two men embraced.

Moments like these reminded all of us that in spite of so many differences in dress, culture, language, and worship style, what we shared together was greater by far — an experience of the love of God, a decision to follow Jesus, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Even though not everyone could dance to African rhythms or sing a cappella in rich harmony, we were all called to have the same mind of Jesus Christ. Despite differences in the form our worship takes, how much more important is its content, centered on the person and work of Jesus.

Following worship, assembly volunteers, like the disciples of Jesus, were faced with the task of feed-



Nearly 6,000 Mennonites from around the world attended Mennonite World Conference 15 in Asunción, Paraguay.

ing the 5,000 a nutritious meal in a short period of time — maybe not quite a miracle, but certainly a massive accomplishment! Lunchtime also provided an opportunity to meet and converse with many different people. I was even able to eat one meal with Danisa Ndlovu from Zimbabwe, the new president of MWC. In what other denomination would the worldwide president be humble enough to go through the lunch line with everyone else and welcome conversation with whoever happened to sit down at his table?

The afternoon offered opportunities to take field trips to ministries and organizations around Asunción as well as workshops. I learned a lot from workshops on the shared convictions of global Anabaptists, just peace work by German Mennonites, global Anabaptist theology, and church conflict. I also visited CEMTA (Centro Evangélico Menonita de Teología Asunción), an international Mennonite school providing college-level music instruction and theological education.

After another two hours of worship in the evening, another mad rush through the meal lines for supper, and another bumpy, stop-and-go ride on our shuttle bus, we finally arrived back at our hotel, exhausted

by our long day but also encouraged by the events of the day and enriched by the fellowship we had experienced. Attending Mennonite World Conference was a truly rich experience that I would recommend to anyone who is able to go. It was a wonderful way to experience the unity, fellowship, and witness of the global church.

Unfortunately, there is not enough space in this article to describe everything that I learned and experienced on this trip, including our enlightening and encouraging visit to the Toba people of northern Argentina and the Mennonite mission workers there or the fascinating tours we took in the Mennonite colonies in the Chaco with their amazing stories of faith, survival, and flourishing in difficult circumstances.

If you would like to hear more about my trip, I would love to share more with you individually or with your congregation on a Sunday or Wednesday evening. Feel free to contact me at matthamsher@gmail.com or (330) 749-9692 to schedule a presentation at your church. You can also view videos and pictures from Mennonite World Conference on the Internet at www.mwc-cmm.org/en15/.

God continues to exceed the boundaries of our imagination

By Tom Kauffman
Conference Minister

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Eph. 3:20-21 NRSV)

God is always more expansive than we imagine or comprehend. Therefore, when we do begin to comprehend more of God, it does not restrict our awareness and understanding, but instead expands it. We need to be ready to be stretched, challenged, amazed, and (at times) overwhelmed.

in society, scientific achievements, religious developments, etc. I got the image of a rubber band that had been stretched to the breaking point. I found myself wondering, “Who am I to break this person’s ‘rubber band’ with the latest new theological development?”

This image has stuck with me and given me tolerance for those who are trying to change, but find it impossible to go that next step. Yet the challenge is how to keep together a body of believers that contains both those whose rubber bands are stretched to the limit alongside those whose rubber bands are only beginning to flex. For those wanting to

adaptability to God’s expansiveness can happen.

Rather than resistance which tends to pull the rubber band back to an original position (or breaks it if it is too much for the cord to sustain), this process enables flexibility and stretching to become the new norm. The physical therapist told me that our bodies have abundant amounts of tough connective tissue called “fascia.” They support our body structure and work in a multi-dimensional layering to hold everything in its proper place as well as allow smooth movement with varying degrees of elasticity and stability. This fascia, when injured, stressed or traumatized, creates its own “sling” to protect the injured area from further trauma. Sometimes that pulls a portion of the body out of proper alignment, binding nerves, muscles or even internal organs in unhealthy ways. Occasionally when the injured portion heals, the fascia forgets to release this tension. Like the rubber band, if it is attempted to be stretched back into a former shape, it will tend to resist that and remain in its current, unhealthy, state.



We need to be ready to be stretched, challenged, amazed, and (at times) overwhelmed.

Previously an image that I had about this awareness was inadequate, yet seemingly accurate. More recently I have been given another image that seems more adequate (but will likely in the future also be rendered inadequate when replaced by yet a more adequate image).

The image I developed in my second pastorate was that described by one of our older congregational members. She noted that in her lifetime (confined to the 20th century) she had experienced profound change: where the toilets were located (from outhouses to indoor plumbing), what kind of transportation models existed (from foot travel and horse and buggy to cars, trains, planes and more), the role of women

find what kind of expansiveness is possible, it is frustrating to be “held back” by those whose rubber bands are already stretched to the maximum.

After much cajoling from my wife, I recently went to an alternative therapy physical therapist for potential healing of my tinnitus. Traditional medical wisdom is that one simply needs to find ways to live with the constant sound in the ears, rather than be able to reduce it. But this therapist has had some modest success with some patients. It remains to be seen if I will be one of those success stories. But as she explained what she was doing, I received a new metaphor for understanding how flexibility and

But the body is different from a rubber band in that the fascia contains the protein “collagen” which makes up the thin sheets and cords of the fascia. The unique properties of collagen include allowing the fascia to be reshaped through appropriate therapy to once more find a

Continued on page 5

Choice Books of Ohio in merger talks

Discussions are underway for a merger of Choice Books of Ohio, a ministry of Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA which is headquartered in Kidron, with Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale, Irwin, Ohio, a ministry of Rosedale Mennonite Missions. The Choice Books of Ohio Board,

chaired by Galen Sommers, has been exploring options since the resignation of director Jan Sohar several months ago.

Choice Books of Ohio serves Choice Books displays in Ohio north of U.S. Route 30 and northwest Pennsylvania, while Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale serves the remainder of Ohio, northern Kentucky, western New York, Indiana, and Michigan. A merger seems like the best and most efficient option for the growth and development of the Choice Books ministry in the region. The proposal being considered would be a no-cost transfer of the assets of Choice Books of Ohio to Choice Books of Great Lakes - Rosedale. Agreements include offering employment to current staff and continuing with the Kidron office/warehouse as a service district for at least several years. Management services could transfer in October or November with the business of Choice Books of Ohio concluding Dec. 31, 2009.

Choice Books of Ohio and Choice Books of Great Lakes -



Rosedale are part of the larger Choice Books ministry that currently operates through a network of eight regional Choice Books distributors working cooperatively with a central office in Harrisonburg, Va. The total organization employs approximately 250 staff and volunteers and services more than 9,700 displays scattered across the continental United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The organization's mission is "to share the 'good news' of Jesus Christ in the general marketplace through inspiring and wholesome reading material." Displays can be found in supermarkets, general merchandise stores, airports, mass merchandisers, drug stores, travel centers, gift shops, Army and Air Force bases and a variety of other retailers. For more information about Choice Books, please visit the Choice Books Web site at www.choicebooks.org.

Musings

Continued from page 4

healthy tension without having to "snap back." The collagen enables the fascia to find a new healthy position while still retaining its elasticity.

As I reflect on this theologically, it seems that God has made our bodies in such a way to help us understand how we can grow theologically as well as physically. While holding our bodies together, the fascia and collagen work together to enable growth in the human body as we mature from infant to adult, and even corrective change to take place once physical growth has stopped that stretches us, but doesn't break us. So it is entirely possible that God wants us to grow theologically (in our comprehension of our Divine Creator) in ways that stretch us without breaking us. Simply because we are stretched, we will not lose our "theological elasticity." We will still have identifiable shape and form (as followers of Jesus), but we will have an expanded awareness of what that means and what that calls us to do and be.

God continues to be at work within us, calling forth from us far more than we can ask or imagine. God may be stretching us in ways that we would have never imagined, but is doing so in ways that continue to keep us flexible. And it is all for God's glory. I think I could come to enjoy being a part of a church like this! How about you?

'Celebration of Peace' event intended for grades 3-7

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University will host a two-day conference Oct. 23-24 for students in grades 3-7.

"Celebration of Peace: Beyond Borders" is designed for students who are interested in impacting their home, school, community and the world through positive attitudes and actions.

Registration cost is \$40 per child if received by Sept. 15. The cost for each additional child from the same family is \$30 if received by Sept. 15. From Sept. 16-Oct. 1, the cost is \$55 per child.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, Bluffton University and Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes. A brochure with registration form is available on the Ohio Conference Web site at

www.ohio.mennonite.net. (Click on "Publications.") For more information, see www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/conference/.



About people



Regional Pastor Andrew Stoner (at left), installed Naomi and Jess Engle as co-pastors of West Clinton Mennonite Church on June 28.



Walt Morton (pictured at right) was installed as interim pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church on July 12. Regional Pastor Andrew Stoner led the installation ceremony. Also pictured is Walt's wife, Sue.

Pastoral notes

Jess and Naomi Engle were installed as co-pastors at West Clinton Mennonite Church on June 28. They had previously pastored at Aurora Mennonite Church in Streetsboro for more than six years, following graduation from Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Their two older daughters are enrolled at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. Their youngest daughter, Marie, moved with them to Pettisville.

There were many congregational expressions of thanksgiving for God's leading over the past several years, bringing the Engles to West Clinton and for the transitional ministry of **Tim Lehman** following the long tenure of **Jim Roynon**.

Jess preached the morning message titled, "Who Are They?," noting that in the same way John the Baptist knew who he was and was not, Jess shared who they were and were not, and what their desire as pastors was for themselves and the congregation (John 1:19-23). Regional Pastor **Andrew Stoner** led in the installation service, followed by

leadership team and spouses laying on of hands in a prayer of blessing for the Engles' ministry in their midst. A carry-in fellowship meal followed after the service.

...

Walt Morton was installed as interim pastor at Toledo Mennonite Church during the morning worship service on July 12.

Regional Pastor **Andrew Stoner** preached from the story of Jethro found in Exodus 18. In many ways, Jethro was an interim leader for God's people, coming to the people of Israel, listening to their story of how God had blessed and led them, making suggestions for helpful changes in the way they did things, and then leaving. This story is an example of what an interim pastor does, in that he as an outsider comes to a congregation, listens to their story, offers helpful ways of preparing for further ministry, and then leaves.

Following the morning message, Andrew Stoner installed Walt as interim pastor, and Conference Minister **Tom Kauffman** led in a prayer of blessing. A fellowship meal followed.

...

On July 19 Conference Minister **Tom Kauffman** ordained **Martine Audeoud** for Christian service in West Africa. The ordination service took place at Gilead Mennonite Church. Martine has been a mission worker for Mennonite Mission Network with primary responsibility for teaching indigenous pastors in various seminaries in West Africa. She and her husband, **Gary Wittig**, are currently living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where they are both engaged in mission work.

Ernie Hershberger, lead pastor at Berlin Mennonite Church, preached the ordination sermon. A potluck meal followed the worship service. Gary and Martine's two sons, **Antony** and **Samuel**, were also in attendance in the service. Prior to going to West Africa, Martine and Gary had worshipped with the Gilead congregation as she taught at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Peace Mennonite Church in Elyria held a special celebration July 26 marking the retirement of **Allan Patterson**, who served the congregation as pastor for 19 years.

Continued on page 7

About people

Continued from page 6



Martine Audeoud was ordained for Christian service in West Africa July 19. The ordination service took place at Gilead Mennonite Church.

A native of Plain City, he attended Bluffton College and then Miami (Ohio) University, where he received a master's degree in teaching. After serving for two years with Mennonite Central Committee as a teacher in Newfoundland, Canada, he began a career as a teacher in the Oberlin City Schools. After 20 years of teaching, he attended Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., for a year. He became pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in 1990.

During the farewell program on July 26, the congregation presented him with a cash gift, a memory book with contributions from many adults and youth, a framed pencil sketch of an eagle, and a framed photograph of the church building with the dates of his service, 1990-2009.

Following Pastor Patterson's retirement, **Jim Sutton** is serving the congregation as interim pastor.

Gary and Sandy Stuckey have concluded their service as interim co-pastors of Good Shepherd Mennonite Church in Archbold.

Travis and Charis Spann have concluded their service as youth



Peace Mennonite Church in Elyria honored Pastor Allan Patterson with a farewell program July 26. He retired in July after 19 years as pastor of the congregation.

pastors at Grace Community Church in Bryan. **David and Wendy Falls** began serving the congregation as youth pastors July 1.

Mel Hathaway concluded his pastorate at Salem Mennonite Church in Elida Aug. 16. **Doug Lugbill** began as interim pastor in September.

Larry Augsburger concluded his work as transitional pastor of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church at the end of June. **Mel Hathaway** is beginning as pastor in September.

Mark Bartsch concluded his time as pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church in June.

Cliff Brubaker concluded his work as transitional pastor at Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker Aug. 9. **Steve Heatwole** was installed as pastor of the congregation Aug. 30.

Youth peace award

The Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA honored **Laura Bowman**, a



James Roynan, facilitator for the Peace and Justice Support Network, presents the first A Different Drummer Award to Laura Bowman July 4 at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Columbus. Photo by Ryan Miller. Copyright 2009 Mennonite Mission Network.

high school student from Zion Mennonite Church, with the first Different Drummer Youth Peace Award for Mennonite youth. She received the award July 4 during the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Columbus.

Bowman was honored for her commitment to peace, which has been demonstrated in numerous ways, including organizing peace vigils and recycling projects, distributing material about alternatives to military recruitment to her high school counselor, and working with Zion Mennonite's Peace and Justice Project.

Bluffton University

In the list of Bluffton grads in the July-August issue of *Ohio Evangel*, **Kyle Wetherald** was omitted.

He is the son of **Tom and Terri Wetherald** of Columbiana. He earned a bachelor's degree in religion. He is a member of Leetonia Mennonite.

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

Back page briefings...

Open Arms will hold its third annual Intercultural Fiesta Sunday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Participants will be meeting around tables in the gymnasium of Central Christian. Many people have said they don't know their Hispanic neighbors. An interpreter will be provided for each table to help neighbors to get acquainted while they enjoy a light snack. Music will be provided by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church and a Hispanic group. All are welcome.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministries has been welcoming Hispanics to Wayne County and surrounding areas since 2001. Open Arms has depended on the donations of area churches, individuals, and several grants from Ohio Conference. More recently it is expanding its ministries further through the efforts of Haroldo and Esmirna Nunes. Haroldo is the Hispanic pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster.

For more information about the Intercultural Fiesta, you may call Raul Tadeo, the coordinator, at (330) 828-0040, or e-mail him at rvtadeo@zoominternet.net.

Dayspring Christian Fellowship in Massillon will be celebrating its 25th anniversary Nov. 7 and 8. The theme of the celebration is "Rooted, Established and Growing" with events scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The celebration will include drama and music reflecting Dayspring's history, food and fellowship, a recognition of pastors and an MYF homecoming. Guest speaker for the celebration will be Glendon Blosser. Everyone is invited to join the congregation in celebrating this milestone. See the anniversary schedule at www.dayspringcf.us.

Total proceeds from the 44th annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale were \$294,600. The sale, which took place at Central Christian School in Kidron, was held July 31 and Aug. 1.

The quilt auction, which featured quilts, comforters and wall hangings, raised more than \$86,000. The quilt "Pennsylvania Sunburst" brought in the highest bid of \$5,300. The quilt was donated back to be sold again, and the second auction brought \$3,000.

The results and winning bid prices have been posted on the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Web site at www.ohiomccreliefsale.org. Final sale numbers will be posted as soon as they are available.

Conference calendar

September

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

November

- 6-8 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Loudonville
- 7-8 25th Anniversary Celebration, Dayspring Christian Fellowship, Massillon

January 2010

- 16 Ministry Development Team Meeting

March

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