

Meyersdale Church of the Brethren Meyersdale, PA

SUNDAY FEB. 19, 2006

The Mountain Anthems are on the road again. Temperatures dipped below zero through the night. After the mild temps of January, it had us nearly believing spring was just around the corner.

Warm smiles and pleasant greetings welcomed us to the church this morning. New people joining the chorus this year are Judith, Doug, Lynita Yoder, and Rhonda Kinsinger.

Jr. Beachy is our new spiritual leader. Before the concert, he asked us to divide into our singing parts and have a special time of prayer. This is always refreshing and a necessary part of preparation before the service.

We lined up in 4 rows of 6, 24 singers in all. A small group all together. Menno led the service. Among others we sang, "*O Lord, our Lord,*" "*The Lights of Home,*" and Loretta did, "*I Thirst.*"

After the service, there was some discussion as to whether the evening service at Maple Glen should be cancelled. Viewings were being held at Newman Funeral Home both afternoon and evening for Kimberly Bender. Menno spoke by phone to Merv Brenneman. He said they wanted us to come. You can be a healing balm to a hurting church.

Kimberly Sue, the 8 yr. old daughter of Alvin and Lil Bender, died Friday morning of an inoperable brain tumor.

Maple Glen Mennonite Church Grantsville, MD

Evening

What was a hurt you experienced in your life and how were you ministered to? This was the question Jr. had us respond to during the evening devotional time. We had some good sharing.

A lot of tears fell during the evening service. We did, "*For Those Tears I Died,*" "*The Music of Heaven,*" then Mike had the congregation help with "*You're Something Special,*" in memory of Kim.

At break time, the quartet did, "*Would You Truly Long for Heaven?*" We did "*The Holy Hills*" last, which was a request.

It seemed the congregation was really ministered to. An Amish lady thanked us for singing. It was their first time with us and they really enjoyed it. Another lady said, "You blended so well. You were so attentive to Mike's directing. So precise. The service was really good!"

Mountain Top Church Rocky Gap, MD

SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2006

A nippy, chilly, 20 degree morning with bright sunshine. We rolled out of the parking lot at 8:20 headed for Cumberland.

Jerry had a dog. His name was Barky.

Barky lived in a little house. Jerry had made it for him. One morning Barky came to the window of the farm house.

"Bow wow, bow wow," he said.

Brooke is learning to read and is doing well at it. It used to be I'd read to her. Now she is reading to me.

I was finding the names of different kinds of cheese in a block of scrambled letters in my Word Puzzle book when Brooke came to help me. She found several words on her own which was pretty exciting.

"Look Brock," she said to her brother, "this is kind of hard."

Brock took one look and turned on his heel. "I can see THAT!" he said.

LATER: "BROCK, COULD YOU PLEASE LET ME USE YOUR BINOCULARS SO I CAN SEE THE WORDS BETTER," BROOKE ASKED.

Before the service, the chorus met in the basement for a time of meeting with the Lord through prayer and singing.

In the first half, we did "*God Leads Us Along.*" Menno said his dad requested the Mt. Anthems record that song. When he lay dying, his joy was listening to the recordings.

The Beachy trio did "Feel Like Flyin." The choice of the Men's Quartet was, "Oh My Loving Brother" (The Fire Song).

Mike has a great interest in Middle Eastern affairs. In the old days, people said, "Jesus is coming soon!" As Mike sees the events in the Middle East shaping up, he said he thinks it's for real this time. The Bible says there will be wars and rumors of war. According to the news things are really heating up.

On the internet, Mike noticed the other day that the US moved four AC 130 planes over to Iraq recently. There has to be strategy behind a move like that even though no one explained why it was done.

Marty said he thinks it would be great to be able to go to Jesus and be able to come back with him

when he comes to take the church home. It would be like having a front row seat to be able to observe things from that perspective.

Counting the Mt. Anthems and the visitors, we were about 2/3 of the entire group in attendance this morning. A number of visitors came from SMBI. Some from Oregon, were friends of Angela, Anita, Kevin and others.

Slanesville Community Church Augusta, WV

EVENING

We arrived at 3:30. The new stone church house is set back from the road by a long, circular driveway. Black, board fences mark surrounding properties of open, rolling meadows.

The congregation was excited about our coming. A lot of community folks were in the audience. One woman said if she lives till the end of the month, she will be 90 yrs. old. Menno said she is to get a free cassette or CD of her choice. The next oldest person in attendance received the same. He was 86 yrs. old, a survivor of Pearl Harbor.

Requested tonight were *"I Found the Lily in my Valley,"* by Loretta and the Beachy Trio's, *"Feel Like Flyin."* Menno did *"Stand by Me."*

Menno and Mike did a lot of joshing back and forth; he had Mike introduce Lynnette and said they'd be married in June.

We enjoyed a delicious meal after the service with the congregation. Lettuce/meat subs, veggies and dip, salties, and gobs, fruit pizza, cookies, and more. Really good.

Second Baptist Church Cumberland, MD

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006

It was a sunny, chilly morning again, 26 degrees. Wheels on the windmills were spinning on the horizon. Lorraine Yoder was home from FMH on a visit. Mike Petersheim was along as a visitor. We left shortly after 9, headed for Cumberland. .

The church house was quite full with a lot of smiling faces; many young folks were in attendance. On one bench were a number of boys again from the detention center. Pastor Sherill Dillon could not be there since he is in Ireland.

Before the service we met in the gym. Jr. had us stand in a circle and ask the person to our right if he/she had a special prayer request. Then we had silent prayer.

Menno directed and we did the service in one standing. It was good to sing *"Bless the Lord."* Requested today was *"God on the Mountain,"* by

Marty and *"Cross in the Middle,"* by Menno.

In the audience were the Merle Beachy family, Jason and Kathy Beachy, and Aaron and Irene Tice.

After the service a woman said she really enjoyed the service. She was helping to sing along.

We enjoyed a variety of soups and salad for lunch. Had cake and pie for dessert.

At 2 p.m. we stopped at the building for a rest stop and so the Oakland people could pick up their cars. Our arrival at St. Mark's Lutheran, about an hour later, aroused us from our naps.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Oakland, MD

EVENING

For devotions Jr. led us in thoughts about how often the children of Israel were unthankful and complained. Do we do that? Either we look back and wish for things from the past or we wish for things in the future and we miss today?

"I'm no kin to the monkey,

the monkey's no kin to me

I don't know much about his ancestors

but mine didn't swing from a tree!"

Aren't you glad that you didn't descend from an ape? Or that the world didn't evolve after a big explosion millions of years ago? How futile it would be to live, to do anything, if all was then to end in the grave.

We got a lot of smiles when we did the monkey song amidst cries from Lorraine's little stuffed monkey.

Menno led the first half of the service. He asked the congregation to help with *"How Great Thou Art."* Requested was *"Ready to Go"* and *"The Cross in the Middle,"* by Menno.

In the second half, Mike had Olen and Miriam Schrock from the audience stand, then Mike and Delores Yoder, and he pointed out Angela in the chorus to demonstrate the age of the chorus. That's 3 generations. For the sake of visitors new to the Mt. Anthems, Mike gave a little history of how we got started. He also pointed out other former chorus members in the audience.

Mike talked about the different blood types in the human body. A few are rare and some are rather common. The blood of Jesus is very precious and rare yet is always available to anyone who needs it.

We did *"Our God, He is Alive!"* *"Gone,"* and *"Wish You Were Here."*

--Lena Eicher