



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

March 2007

Meyersdale Church of the Brethren

Meyersdale, PA

Sun. March 4, 2007

We began our 2007 travels on a very blustery March morning! We all enjoy our winter break, but when we give that first program of the year, the spark that burned low for a few months is fanned into a flame again, ready to encourage and bless people through music.

There are some new faces among us this year. Brent and Alissa Schrock, Wesley Sommers, and Byron and Krista Yoder have decided to join hands with us in ministry. It's exciting to see new young people catch a vision for this work.

Menno directed our morning program. We sang many songs of salvation and the blood. There were 4 requests for Menno's solo, "*The Cross in the Middle.*" He also did his newest solo, "*Stand by Me.*"

Marty blessed the people with "*I Claim the Blood,*" and Loretta did, "*Wish You Were Here.*"

We found out later there was a girl in the audience who had recently lost her grandmother. God seems to lead us to just the right song for the needs of the congregation..

Before the service, a lady spoke with several of the girls in the basement. She takes care of her 80 year old parents. She had her cell phone along so she could call them to let them listen to us as well.

At the end of the service, Menno announced we would sing, "*Jesus is Coming Soon.*" He made several other remarks then said, "Alright! *Jesus is Coming Soon,* and then we'll leave the platform!"

Needless to say, there were some large grins and a few chuckles noted among the chorus members.

Marty was trying out a new gadget this week-end. He had one of those small in-ear monitors that pipes sound directly into his ear. Haven't heard yet what he thinks of the results.

The ladies from the church had again prepared a wonderful ham dinner, which was shared by both the chorus and the church folks.

Since the program was in our own community, it was a treat to go home afterward rather than spending the afternoon on the bus, which is what we do most Sundays when we are out.

Maple Glen Conservative Church

Grantsville, MD

Evening

This evening wasn't exactly pleasant to go out for a program. Snow and wind dominated the weather. As a result, the crowd was small.

We all went to church in our own vehicles except for our faithful bus driver, Marty and his wife, who brought the bus with our equipment.

Mike Yoder directed the program. We sang quite a few songs about heaven and the future life. Last year when we sang here it was over the time of Kimberly Bender's viewing. Mike spoke to Lillian, Kim's mom, in the basement before the service and she requested this.

Heartbeat sang, "*He Still Would Have Come.*" Brock and Brooke introduced their new song, "*Into my Heart.*" The arrangement is similar to the one on the children's recording.

Mike asked for a show of hands from chorus members who helped with that recording as children. Menno thinks over half the chorus members raised their hands.

The twins were a little nervous to sing. We found out even preachers get nervous but they have to go ahead anyway. Brock said he was so nervous he almost dropped his mic. Brooke said her legs were sha-a-aking!

Lillian Bender wanted to hear one of the songs we had sung while they were at the viewing. So we did "*You're Something Special.*" We also dedicated "*Sheltered in the Arms of God*" to the Alvin Bender family.

-by Joye and Loretta

Calvary Baptist Church



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Cresaptown, MD

March 18, 2007

It's wonderful to be back on the road again after winter break, the trouble is, it still feels too much like winter. Ice and snow glinted off the banks as we made our way, with a full bus, to Cresaptown.

Menno and Grace weren't able to be along today. Since her recent cataract surgery, her eye needs special care so Menno thought it better to do it at home. However, as the bus left the parking lot, Menno said part of him was on the bus. He waved to us from the door of the church just as he was entering.

Mike led the service. We did "*Marriage Supper of the Lamb*." Marty was asked to do "*God on the Mountain*." Mike had 3 couples from the church to introduce themselves who had recently become engaged. "Relationships are fragile," he said. "Guard them with care." Then he introduced all the dating and married couples in the chorus.

We discovered how rusty we are on "*Thank God I am Free*." We must rehearse it before we do it again. It was the same way with Loretta's solo "*There is a Haven*." We trust God can still use the songs in spite of our imperfections.

I overheard an older lady telling Mike after the service, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! That was wonderful."

"Please convey to your group what a blessing they were," said an older gentleman.

A young fellow who looked to be about 12 years old, asked for a picture of us with an autograph. "You guys were great!" he said.

For lunch, we walked across the campus of Calvary Christian Academy to the gym. Colorful tulips and daffodil centerpieces brightened round tables scattered throughout the place. The walls were covered with large business signs, supporters of the school.

Choices. Choices. How could anyone try all the delicious dishes laid out on the long tables for our enjoyment?

After lunch, we honored two requests, one was to sing "*Happy Birthday*" to a lady turning 76. Next we did, "*The Cross in the Middle*." The audience really seemed to enjoy it.

Joye asked, "Where would men be without women?" Rodney replied, "In the Garden of Eden."

Sipesville Church of the Brethren Somerset, PA

Evening

For devotions, Mike Pete (our new spiritual leader) read, "*The Giving Tree*." How many of us just take of God's blessings without regard for what God would like from us? He really wants us to be happy but there's more to life than happiness. A very thought-provoking meditation. We ended with a time of prayer.

The church tonight was an ancient, red brick structure. Pictures downstairs on the wall, taken probably at the turn of the century, show a vast army of people lined up outside. One would think the whole town used to attend this church. Where have all the children and grandchildren gone?

Out of approximately 150 people, mostly senior citizens, there were only two other children in the audience besides Brock and Brooke; two girls, Sophia and Mattie, also twins.

It was a pleasant service, a receptive audience. We sang, "*Don't Give Up*." Mike did "*Where No One Stands Alone*." Loretta did, "*Wish You Were Here*."

During question and answer time, a gentleman said "a lot of your music gets played at our house and it's a real comfort."

Both this morning and this evening, Brock and Brooke sang, *Into My Heart*. Tonight when Mike and Loretta asked them what they wanted to sing, they inclined their



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heads and looked at each other with raised eyebrows, very like a Mr. and Mrs. consulting with each other. It brought laughter from the audience.

More people than I can count, thanked us and said how much they enjoyed the service. Praise the Lord! We were glad to serve in this way.

-Lena Eicher