



# The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

July 2007

## Morrelville Church of the Brethren

Johnstown, PA

SUN. JULY 8, 2007

This is a sunny morning with high humidity, it will probably be a scorcher. Menno led in prayer before our departure at 8:08 AM. Guests along today are Amanda Yoder and daughter Trina.

"We Meet at the Corner With Jesus," the church slogan, is quite fitting since this huge old brick place of worship dominates the corner of Springs and Chandler Avenue with only a sidewalk between it and the streets.

Summer sunshine lighted this cathedral-like sanctuary through enormous stained glass windows.

The powder blue padding on the dark brown benches matched the color of the carpet.

In the diagonally arranged auditorium, an eye-catching ancient painting was recessed in the corner stage of Jesus talking with Nicodemus.

None of the regular sound crew was along today since some had gone to Canada to teach Bible School and Loren and Monica had responsibilities at home. So with Rodney in charge, the rest of the fellows helped him set up, then they asked Marty to check the sound for them.

Mike began the worship service with "*Marvelous and Wonderful*" and "*Bless the Lord*." The audience applauded after every song. In life we encounter frustrations, Mike said. At their place this spring The Battle for Blueberries ensued. Again and again he and Lynnette had to cover the bushes with netting so the birds wouldn't steal them. But the wind would mess up and tear the netting.

One afternoon when Mike was getting ready to go camping with his friends, the netting had to be draped again. Tired of the job and running short on

time, Mike said a few words he immediately regretted. He had to take time out to apologize to Lynnette. We followed this account with "*Love Song*."

*"Love is patient and kind, slow to anger,*

*Love delights in truth.*

*There is nothing that love cannot face*

*And love endures, love endures."*

Other songs we did were "*I Forgive You*,"

"*Grace Enough*," and Loretta's solo, "*I Thirst*."

## Laurel View Village Rest Home

Davidsville, PA

### AFTERNOON

We arrived here at 1:45 PM, the travel time too short to take a much needed nap.

We did this concert in two standings. Menno directed. The senior citizens in the audience listened attentively, responding to the singing with warm, smiling expressions. Some even helped sing.

Songs we sang this time were, "*The Hills of Home*," "*For Those Tears I Died*," and "*It Will Be Worth it All*." Loretta did "*Sheltered in the Arms of God*" which was followed by Marty's solo, "*How Big is God!*" Menno did "*After All*."

Wes Yoder, the chaplain, asked how many Yoders were in the group. The audience was surprised at the number of hands that were raised.

Menno asked if they have our CDs. When he discovered they didn't, he said we'll give them the entire set if they'll play them. They promised they would.

Driving from the rest home to our next concert we traveled on a road so narrow the heavy pine and laurel branches brushed the top of the bus.

Sunshine filtered through the branches down into

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steep, wooded hillsides, a meandering creek, and deep ravines.

All at once we were out in wide open space. Ahead rose a hillside covered with gray tomb-stones.

## Thomas Mennonite Church

### Johnstown, PA

#### EVENING

Thomas Mennonite Church sits on the side of a hill done in red brick with a gray roof and white steeple. It is surrounded by an expansive parking lot.

For devotions tonight, Mike "Pete" shared with us "Principles of Guidance." Four main sources he mentioned were 1) Scriptural truth 2) Prayer 3) Circumstances 4) Counsel of other more mature Christians.

Several points:

- God is not as interested in what we do for Him as in who we become.
- Act on what you know already; obey revealed will.
- The Will of God does not mean previous disobedience is a sentence to mediocrity. God always starts with us where we are. Consider John Mark.
- It is harder to get out of the will of God than most of us realize . . . if we *really* want it.

The main word everyone was thinking tonight was WARM. With no A/C and a fairly full house, it felt like the heat of an engine room when we walked into the auditorium.

Mike led the entire service. We started with, "*Oh, let the Hills.*" When we finished I thought the next song should be "*Even Winds Whisper His Name.*" Sure enough, Mike was right on :-)

*"Even winds whisper His name,  
Even winds whisper His name,*

*Of all things He is Master,*

*Of all kings King,*

*Even winds whisper His name."*

What a triumphant thought that if God holds my hand I can face the great unknown "*Where No one Stands Alone.*" This was Mike's challenge to the people.

In my opinion we don't hear enough from the men's quartet. But tonight they satisfied us by doing 3 songs: "*Oh, my Loving Brother,*" "*Would We Truly Long for Heaven,*" and "*Resurrection Ground.*"

Throughout the service, running sweat drops tickled down our backs. Our clothing clung to us in the heat. Sometimes it takes all of our efforts just to concentrate.

Facing us from the back of the auditorium was a huge picture of a lion sketched on cloth, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Before him in heaven someday we will "*Bow on our Knees and Cry Holy.*"

Someone requested that we do both "*The Lily in my Valley*" and "*Wish You Were Here.*" Because the chorus had had a long evening in the heat, Mike asked Loretta to do just the first solo.

## Pleasant Ridge Church of the

### Brethren

#### Needmore, PA

**JULY 22, 2007**

This is a relaxed morning. At leaving time, 8 AM., we have bright sunshine over hazy mountains adorned with spinning windmills.

Just as we've had exceptional heat this summer, we've had bouts of especially cool mornings for Somerset County this year.

Along Rt. 522 cornfields are spiked with stalks lifting their leaves skyward. They must be in need of rain.

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We arrived at the church at 9:30. Our faithful sound crew quickly unloaded equipment and hurried to set up for the 10:30 service.

Yours Truly provided brownies for the whole gang this morning after a strong hint was dropped by a young chorus member. Y.T. frequently hears groans of hunger emanating from behind her when we are lining up to sing. Now another hint has been dropped suggesting steak. Yours Truly does not promise to deliver :-)

The church this morning is L-shaped brick with a tall, snowy white steeple. Did you know that in the old days in Europe, no building, business or otherwise was allowed to be taller in a town than the church steeples?

Across the road from the church is the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery behind a white iron fence. A town of people fill the place. Here and there American flags flap in the wind.

Mike led us in *"Take Time to Be Holy,"* *"Boundless Love,"* and *"Come to the Water,"* among others. He did the solo, *"Early in the Morning."* Before the break Marty did *"I'm the Lamb."*

During break, Brent found a basket ball to dribble and toss into the hoop while Brock looked on.

After the break, Mike had us come in guy girl, guy girl and stand along the auditorium side walls. We sang several children's songs. *"Put a Smile on Your Face,"* *"I'm no Kin to the Monkey,"* and *"Obedience."*

We again enjoyed a sumptuous picnic in the pavilion behind the church under the shady oak trees. What a spread! We had a little time afterwards to prepare for the afternoon session here at this same church.

## AFTERNOON

With Menno in charge, we did *"Don't Give Up,"* *"Show a Little Bit of Love and Kindness,"* and *"Blessed Jesus, hold my Hand."*

During the service, a lady Menno had met beforehand, came up to the mic to share her testimony.

Gail Bechtal is a teacher at the local Fulton County Christian School. Last year she had the opportunity to go to Taiwan to teach English.

The moment she stepped off the plane, she could feel the darkness of that place, the presence of evil spirits.

A friend from church had sent a care package with her. Among the things was our CD, *"What a Savior."*

Gail had to pass three Buddhist temples on her way to school. At the school she played the CD and what peace descended on that place! She said when she was tired at night, weary from spiritual battles, she'd play the CD and peace came again.

She testified to the congregation that the Mt. Anthems sing in the power of the Spirit. God's blessing is on this group.

Loretta did the solo, *"You Can have a Song."*

*"You can have a song in your heart in the night,*

*After every trial, after every mile;*

*Anyone can sing when the sun's shining bright,*

*But you need a song in your heart at night."*

Menno blessed the congregation with *"Ready to Go."* Near the end of the service, Loretta did *"Wish You Were Here."* We finished with *"Marriage Supper of the Lamb."*

Traveling on I. 70, we ran into a slow-moving traffic jam. Still, we made it to the next church on time.

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## Long Meadow Church of the Brethren Hagerstown, MD

### EVENING

The grass here was so brittle it wasn't inviting to lay out on under the shade trees. I was happy to find a picnic table to sit at and enjoy this Sunday evening.

Seated in the large audience tonight was Jason and Kathy Beachy, former chorus members. Jason is employed in the Hagerstown area but frequently makes the trip home to our community on week-ends.

Mike started us off with a number of praise songs. Then the theme changed to dealing with our sins. We did, "*They are Nailed to the Cross*," "*Deeper Than the Sin Stains*" and "*Because He Forgives*." Marty did the solo, "*Sin Will Take You Farther*." Mike sang, "*I Know a Man Who Can*."

As we dismissed for break, Mike had the men stay on stage and sing, "*Wonderful Story of Love*." After break the ladies returned first to do, "*Lean on Me*."

The twins chose to sing "*Into My Heart*," with the chorus doing back-up. Loretta again did the most requested number of all time, "*The Lily in My Valley*."

"*Midnight Cry*" by the men's quartet, ended the service.

Mike told the congregation we were not made to be selfish people. We are that way because of the fall. If they were blessed tonight, they should go out and share the message of the songs with others. Blessings were made to be shared.

A preacher from Wisconsin sat in the audience tonight. He said if we ever come up that way we are invited to pay his church a visit.

As we were traveling along the dark interstate, Lyndon got a cell phone call from Jason Beachy. Jason wanted Lyndon to know he was just getting ready to go to bed now. What a comfort. And we still had several hours until we got to hit the sack. Lyndon had the roguish idea to call Jay back when we got home and get him out in the wee hours to let him know he is crawling in now too.

-Lena Eicher