



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

June 2009

June 7, 2009

Calvary Baptist Church Cresaptown, MD

We met at 9:15 this morning for a full day of programs. This morning we sang in a well-filled church with lots of young people in the audience. We opened the service with "You Are My All in All" and "Great and Awesome God." Marty sang "God on the Mountain" and Mike sang "Had It Not Been." This was also the first time this year that we did "Prayer of Thankful Praise." We did it once or twice last year but hadn't been happy with the results. That meant we needed to work on it in practice a bit more!

At the end of the service, the Pastor invited anyone to come forward who wished to dedicate their life to Christ. One young man stepped forward. He had gotten saved the past Sunday. This Church had been praying for him for several years. We ended the service with "I'm Not Ashamed" and dedicated it to this young man. We had a fairly well-balanced group this weekend. It feels good to be able to sing without worrying about the amount of volume you're producing!

We were served a delicious meal of chicken, baked potatoes, and green beans. I had an absolutely delicious carrot cake for dessert! (If you can't find chocolate, that will make a good substitute.) We were a little bit pressed for time and had to rush to our next appointment.

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church Cumberland, MD

This has become one of our regular stops. We were asked to come back next year as well because it will be Father Bevan's last year there. They always treat us well when we come.

In contrast to the a.m. service, this one had very few young people and half of the benches were empty. However this is a wonderful church to sing in. It has great acoustics. We had no sound system set up, but it still echoed. Father Bevan told us one time that someone can stand on the balcony and hear someone at the front of the church whispering to them. To my knowledge we've never actually tested it.

Mike chose several "story songs" like "I Forgive You," Marty's solo "I'm the Lamb," and "Under His Wings." Other songs included "Living Water," "Lean on Me," and "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." The Men's Quartet also sang "What Will You do With Jesus."

After the service, the pipe organ was once again an attraction. There's just something majestic about the sound of a huge pipe organ being played in an almost empty church. The sound just seems to fill the whole place! Doug even had a chance to play it. He thought he'd have enjoyed playing it more if there wouldn't have been so many people standing around watching him.

The church has a nice little fish pond out back and some people enjoyed relaxing and watching the Koi while waiting for the others to come to the bus. Once we were all on the bus and the wheels were rolling, I settled in for a nice nap. I am not as young as I once was and it seems to be more of a necessity now-a-days.

Pinto Mennonite Church Pinto, MD

Pinto Mennonite is always a fun church to sing in. We always receive a warm welcome. They served wonderful food as usual. This time it was Sausage Corn Chowder and Chili Soup for the main dishes. We had a little bit of time to relax and clean up before devotions.

Tonight's devotions consisted of a time of sharing. One thought given really struck me: "Blessing is a privilege, not a right." Too often I tend to take my blessings from the Lord for granted and fail to give Him the praise He is due.

There were three songs we sang at every service this weekend: "Prayer of Thankful Praise," "Cross in the Middle," and "Great and Awesome God." This evening the Ladies' Trio sang "Tools in His Hand." As part of that trio, I can tell you that I made numerous mistakes and it did NOT go well. I pray that the message still came through despite my failure. Marty shared two solos this evening: "God on the Mountain," and "Prodigal Son."

Tonight we have a short trip home. That's always nice. Compared to our long trip home from Indiana, this is just a hop, skip, and a jump! It makes it so much easier to get up and go to work the next morning if you're not getting home at 2:00 a.m.

By Joye Yoder

June 21, 2009

Goshen Mennonite Church

Laytonsville, MD

We left this morning at 6:45 a.m. The weather was cool, but there was a promise of sunshine and warmer temperatures. Conversations ranged from the recent rain storm and subsequent damage, to gardens and fields and fertilizer, and then diverting to Alissa's mission trip to Guatemala. Before long people were reading, listening to music, or napping.

It is always a creative challenge to get the big bus into the narrow, gated entrance at Goshen. But Marty, true to form, eased gently through. We were then greeted with an exuberant, "Good Morning! God bless you so good you can hardly stand it!" Lee Mummau is always a "breath of fresh air." Morning preparations were leisurely this morning, no need to set up sound in this small, historic country church. We started the service this morning with "Purify Me" and "Take Time to Be Holy," asking God to cleanse us and encouraging us to take time out of this "rushing world" to talk with God and strive for holiness. We then sang several praise songs. Marty sang "The Prodigal Son." During intermission, the Men's Quartet sang "The Many Mansions." Mike sang "I'm Not Ashamed." Many in the audience appreciated that song and requested it again. Marty closed with "Sin Will Take You Farther Than You Want to Go."

The weather was pleasant enough that we were able to enjoy a refreshing lunch outside at the picnic tables. By 1:30 pm. we were back on the bus and easing out the gated entrance once more. The afternoon journey was uneventful with more reading and napping.

Slainville Community Church

Slainville, WV

We arrived at our evening destination at approx. 4:00 pm. There was still some time for a nice walk before supper. After a delicious supper of haystacks and

desserts, we got ready for the evening service. For our devotions this evening, Kenton encouraged us with the fact that Jesus is our advocate and that we are without condemnation if we are in Christ Jesus.

We had a time of prayer and then lined up to sing. The moderator requested that Mike have a devotional for the congregation before we sang. He challenged them to not only invest their God-given talents wisely, but also to be a good investment themselves.

We began our program with "Breathe on Me Breath of God" and continued with some praise numbers including "Prayer of Thankful Praise." Requests this evening were: "What A Happy Meeting," "Alive, Alive" medley, "Great and Awesome God," and "Our God He Is Alive." Marty blessed the audience with "The Prodigal Son" and "He Giveth More Grace." The Men's Quartet sang "What Will You Do With Jesus." Brent does a good job substituting for Lyndon when he is flying somewhere above the clouds.

The second half of our service, we sang a lot of songs about heaven. Those songs really struck a chord with the local congregation because they had in the last 6 months lost a dear member of their church. At the end of the service, the emcee commented about their recent loss and then opened it up for sharing. There was a request for "Hallelujah Square." As we sang that song, there were many tears being shed. Mike had a special prayer for these people, remembering their loss and grief, and asking God to give them peace and comfort, enrich their faith, and strengthen their trust.

After the service there were many friends and relatives to greet. It was nice to see some "home folks" in the audience.

On the way home, Mike told us that he was given a box of cookies from the ladies at Goshen this morning. The box was passed, and the cookies much enjoyed during random conversations and books. We arrived home approx. 11:00 pm.

By Lynnette Yoder