



New York Mennonite Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

LIFE

In New York Mennonite Conference

Register Now for Celebration '08!

Children, youth and adults—this is your weekend. Celebrate with us at beautiful Camp Casowasco, near Moravia, NY, from Friday, September 5 to Sunday, September 7th.

Registration forms are available at your church now. Register early and save, and take \$20 off for each adult if you've never come to Celebration at Camp Casowasco before.

Adults: Clair Good, former missionary to Kenya and now Africa Area Representative for Eastern Mennonite Missions, will lead us on the theme "Transformed Hearts for a Missional People" both Friday and Saturday evenings and in Sundays worship. Delegates will meet on Saturday morning, while other adults and youth are invited to an informal story time with Clair Good. On Saturday afternoon, join in workshops on themes such as "Interpreting the Bible," "Emotionally



Camp Casowasco's Lakeview Chapel



Morning mist at the camp's waterfront



Joanna Clark

Healthy Spirituality," or Mennonite Mission Network. Or, enjoy the beautiful lake front, games, or hiking on your own. **Youth:** Come be challenged! Joanna Clark, YES team member and then co-leader for trips to Albania, now with Penn-York Camp, will bring Friday night's message. Kevin Gallagher, YES team member to Guinea-Bissau, Africa, short-term mission worker in Honduras, and now volunteer staff person with Young Life, will lead on Saturday evening. Enjoy an informal story time with Clair Good on Saturday morning, and games and swimming on Saturday afternoon.

Infants and toddlers: Nursery available for infants and toddlers during adult sessions

Children (3-10 years): Join our lively Children's Program.

Middle School: New this year! A separate program for middle schoolers led by Corning's Margie Seiderman.

God is transforming our hearts to be a missional people. Come celebrate God's work among us!

Healthy Spirituality," or Mennonite Mission Network. Or, enjoy the beautiful lake front, games, or hiking on your own.

Youth: Come be challenged! Joanna Clark, YES team member and then co-leader for trips to Al-



Kevin Gallagher

New direction for Bethsaida

Gene Miller

God's Spirit was sensed among us as a recently appointed Strategic Planning Group composed of Ephraim, Tadelech, Roger Kurtz, Sonya Kurtz, Gene Miller, John Powell, Don Siegrist and Milton Zehr met for our first meeting on June 4 at Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship.

We joined together in worship, prayer and fasting just as the Antioch church did in Acts 13:1-3. In this multi-cultural context, Paul and Barnabas, were named by the Holy Spirit for mission. They launched the most successful missionary venture in history.

The Strategic Planning Group recognizes that Ephraim and Tadelech have a ministry that is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural; their ministry extends beyond Rochester, to Niagara Falls, for example. They have a gift in bridge building and working toward unity in various contexts, especially Ethiopian Pentecostal/Protestant and Orthodox as well as other ethnic groups. Tadelech feels called to church planting/forming a congregation while Ephraim feels called to teach. Their connections and involvements to New York Mennonite Conference are highly valued. We also affirmed the sense of partnership that is developing with RAMF.

Bethsaida, cont'd on p. 2

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News from Conference Congregations

Editor: Kirk House

New Bremen: "Detox"

During the first week in June the youth at First Mennonite of New Bremen joined with youth from New Life Fellowship (a local non-denominational congregation) and took time for "detox". What is "detox"? It's short hand for "detoxification". We took time to fast from food, video games, cell phones, arguing with parents... in order to pray for our schools, families, and ourselves. The goal was to look closer at where God is calling us to be more in his kingdom. We kicked the week off with a joint service at First Mennonite. We played games, worshiped, learned about the kingdom, and even practiced foot washing together. Youth signed up for meals to fast from and were given a candle to use during their prayer times. We ended the week worshiping and taking communion together at New Life. All the candles that were taken home during the week were brought together to form a circle of light and prayer at the end of our time together. It was a great symbol of unity across denominations as we prayed for each other and that Jesus' light would be the center of all we did together and in our world. We hope to do many more activities with New Life as well as other churches in the area.



Youth from both churches joined hands in a game

Bethsaida, cont'd from p.1

It was decided to change the name from Bethsaida Church to Bethsaida Ministry. Bethsaida Ministry is "a cross-cultural outreach of NYMC in partnership with RAMF." They will work toward a church plant and continue building bridges with other groups including immigrants. They will continue to lead cell groups developing in various locations toward communities of worship (congregations). We agreed to work with NYMC toward credentialing or licensing for special ministry.

The Strategic Planning Group provides accountability and support while RAMF provides a closer to home and week-to-week brother/sister relationship – a spiritual home for Ephraim and Tadelech. RAMF

Corning: MDS Work

On April 12-19, 2008 eighteen people from the Corning fellowship traveled to Port Sulfur, LA—which is south of New Orleans—on a mission/service trip working with Mennonite Disaster Service in rebuilding homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.



NYMC: EMU Graduates

The graduating class of 2008 at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., included three members of NYMC.

Rachel M. Miller, Corning, received a B.A. in liberal arts and elementary education licensure, summa cum laude. She is the daughter of Harold and Karen Miller and a member of Community Mennonite Fellowship of Corning.

David S. Schmidt, Cowlesville, received B.S. in health and physical education and PreK-12 licensure. He is the son of Donald and Paulette Schmidt and a member of Alden Mennonite.

Wendy S. Gerlach, Harrisonburg, Va., received a M.A. in counseling. She is the daughter of Tom and Brenda Houser of Lowville and a member of Lowville Mennonite Church. She is the wife of Jason Gerlach.

provides logistical support such as meeting and office space. RAMF and Bethsaida will discern mutual ways they can work at ministry.

The NYMC will continue to provide financial support. Donations from individuals and congregations are needed. Milton Zehr is urging conference members to consider contributions from their expected government tax refunds to be made to Bethsaida support. Money can be sent to John Buckwalter, conference book keeper.

We concluded our meeting by gathering around Ephraim and Tadelech

Yorks Corners: New Members

Yorks Corners had 11 being baptized and or becoming members Sunday, June 22.

Covenant Partners Information Day

The Covenant Partners proposal is designed to strengthen the conference in fulfilling its call to be missional—to be like Jesus.

Come learn more about the proposal before Delegates make the final decision at Celebration '08.

Saturday, August 2, 2008

Seneca Falls Community Center
(35 Water St., Seneca Falls, NY)

9 a.m.-noon: information and questions, meet Theresa McMorris

1-3 p.m.: meet with others exploring their call to involvement, or stay to pray for discernment

Lunch: bring your own, or order out from a local deli

Join us for just the morning, for lunch, or all day. Whether you're simply curious, are considering being a Covenant Partner, or want to hold the process in prayer, we'd love to see you there.

for laying on hands and prayer; parting with a sense of Holy Spirit affirmation, unity and clarity.

We in NYMC are uniquely privileged to have Ephraim and Tadelech in our midst. The blessings will flow both ways as we partner together. Invite them into your congregation to receive and give a blessing.

Save the Dates:

Information Day (above) ☞ Aug. 2, 2008

Ministers' Retreat ☞ Aug. 11-13, 2008

Mission Speakers ☞ Aug. 17, 2008

Celebration '08 ☞ September 5-7, 2008