



Springs
Mennonite Church
Annual Reports

September 1, 2017
to
September 1, 2018

Submitted at Annual Members' Meeting
Tuesday, October 23, 2018



Vision Statement

We, the Springs congregation, have been changed by Jesus Christ. Saved by His love and forgiveness, we are empowered to carry forth His ministry, through obedience, teaching, service, and healing. Reaching out to all people, by faith we journey together praying, worshiping, and making disciples. By our living in the Spirit, we reflect His love, joy, hope, and peace.



Springs Mennonite Church is a member congregation of Mennonite Church USA.

Time after time, the Spirit in the form of a dove announces the coming of God to us. As Mennonites, we recognize the centrality of Christ as proclaimed in Scripture, revealed through the Holy Spirit and discerned in Christian community. The dove represents Jesus and the missional calling to joyfully follow Jesus into the world. This symbol reflects these basic understandings.

Table of Contents

Vision Statement	2
Membership List [Purposely omitted on the web version]	4
Membership Change [Purposely omitted on the web version]	9
Church Officers	9
Sunday School Officers	11
Church Council Appointments.....	11
Paid Staff	11
Sunday School Teachers (2018-2019).....	11
Congregational Chair.....	12
Church Council Meetings Significant Items	14
Congregational Meeting Minutes	16
Church Office.....	16
Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version]	17
Auditors [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	19
Proposed Budget [Purposely omitted on the web version]	20
SS Class #1 Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	20
SS Class #4 Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	20
SS Class #5 Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	21
SS Class #7 Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	21
SS Class #6 Finances [Purposely omitted on the web version].....	21
Sunday School Attendance	22
Adult Sunday School Superintendent.....	22
Junior Dept. Sunday School Superintendent	22
Cradle Roll	22
Gifts Discernment Committee	22
Board of Elders.....	23
Board of Elders Significant Items	23
Pastors.....	27
Daughters of Dorcas [Financial report purposely omitted on the web version].....	28
Trustees	28
Van Trustee	29
Bible School Committee	29
Cemetery Committee	29
Allegheny Mennonite Conference Delegate Sessions	30
Exploratory Committee	33
Hospitality Committee	33
Everence Advocate	34
Library: New and Donated Books and DVDs 2017-2018.....	34
HOPE Committee.....	35
Junior Youth Fellowship.....	35
Mennonite Youth Fellowship	35
Ministers of Visitation	35
Music Committee	35
Outreach Committee.....	36
Mennonite Disaster Service.....	36
Retreat Committee	36
Correspondent	36
Sports Coordinator.....	37
Student Aid Committee	37
Tri-State Relief Sale	37
Visual Arts Committee.....	37
Worship Committee	38
College Students.....	38
Mennonite Voluntary Service.....	38

Editor's Note: This Report Booklet is arranged (generally) to follow the sequence used in our "Plan of Organization for the Springs Mennonite Church" (October 2013) document.

Springs Mennonite Church Officers 2018-2019

Bible School Committee	Angie Piwonka.....	2016-2019
	Christa Dever	2017-2020
	Sandy Brenneman	2018-2021
Board of Elders	Enos Tice	2016-2019
	Melinda Gibson, Secretary (completing Willis Beitzel's term)	2017-2019
	Don Green, Chair	2017-2020
	Phoebe Wiley.....	2017-2020
	Karin Miller	2018-2021
Cemetery Committee	Don Green	2016-2019
	Greg Miller	2017-2020
	Eugene Shoemaker	2018-2021
Church Council	Terry Livengood, Congregational Chairperson	2016-2019
	Jane Benson, Daughters of Dorcas President	2018-2019
	Maryanna Durst, Congregational Treasurer	2018-2021
	Wendy Brenneman, Secretary	2018-2021
	Don Green, Board of Elders Chair	2017-2020
	_____, Board of Trustees	2016-2019
	Ani Beitzel / Molly Piwonka, MYF Representative(s)	2017-2018
	Holly Clark, Jr. Department Sunday School Superintendent	2017-2019
	Julia Tice, Adult Department Sunday School Superintendent	2018-2019
	Roxie Livengood, At-Large Member	2017-2020
Kim Miller, At-Large Member.....	2018-2021	
Conference Delegates	Shirley Brandes.....	2016-2020
	Doug Berg.....	2017-2021
	Julia Tice	2018-2022
Delegates by virtue of position in Allegheny Conference:		
Karin Miller, Treasurer; Molly Piwonka, Youth Cabinet; Enos Tice, Moderator		

Control Room	Ryan Critchfield.....	2018-2019
	Donald Green	2018-2019
	Noel Livengood	2018-2019
	Byron Miller	2018-2019
Congregational Chair	Terry Livengood	2016-2019
Congregational Secretary	Wendy Brenneman.....	2018-2021
Congregational Treasurer	Maryanna Durst.....	2018-2021
Daughters of Dorcas	Jane Benson, President.....	2017-2018
	Ruth Miller Yoder, Vice-President	2017-2018
	Darlene Miller, Secretary/Treasurer	2017-2018
	Miriam Lindeman & Carolyn Tice, Work Committee.....	2017-2018
Gifts Discernment Committee	Doug Berg.....	2016-2019
	Rick Critchfield	2016-2019
	Ruth Miller Yoder	2017-2020
	Lois Hepler	2018-2021
	Angie Piwonka	2018-2021
H.O.P.E. Committee	Nancy White	2016-2019
	Diana Detrick	2017-2020
Hospitality Committee	Kathy Pattison	2016-2019
	Deb Brenneman (2 yrs)	2018-2020
	Steve & Angie Fazenbaker	2018-2021
Librarians	Beth Green	2016-2019
	Kim Miller	2017-2020
Ministers of Visitation	Shirley Brandes.....	2017-2019
	Diana Detrick	2017-2019
	Ken Detrick	2018-2020
	Marvette Hollada.....	2018-2020
	Dixie Otto	2018-2020
Music Committee	Byron Miller	2016-2019
	Karin Miller.....	2017-2020
	Dixie Otto	2018-2021
MYF Advisor/Mentor	Julia Tice	2018-2020
Outreach Committee	Fay Yoder	2016-2019
	Sherry Abel	2017-2020
	Tammy Miller	2018-2021
Retreat Committee	Rosie Cupler	2016-2019
	Kim Miller	2017-2020
	Adrienne Vogt	2018-2021
Trustees	Bob Green (1 year)	2018-2019
	Greg Miller.....	2016-2019
	Jerry Abel	2018-2021
Ushers, Main Floor	Jerry Abel	2018-2019
	Bob Brenneman.....	2018-2019
	Diana Detrick	2018-2019
	Ryan Miller	2018-2019
	Jeff Pattison	2018-2019
	Tom White	2018-2019
Ushers, Balcony	Casey Beitzel.....	2018-2019
	Rebekah Mast.....	2018-2019
	Madison Mast.....	2018-2019

Video Personnel	Reuben Tice.....	2017-2018
	Laban Tice (computer projection)	2017-2018
	Sally Miller (computer projection).....	2017-2018
Visual Arts Committee	Rosie Cupler	2017-2019
	Janet Bender.....	2018-2020
Worship Committee	Shirley Brandes.....	2018-2019
	Sandy Brenneman	2018-2019
	Beth Green	2018-2019
	Glenn Miller	2018-2019
	Tammy Miller	2018-2019

Sunday School Officers

Adult Dept. Superintendents	Julia Tice	2017-2019
	Nancy Green	2018-2020
Junior Dept. Superintendent	Holly Clark.....	2017-2019

Church Council Appointments

Annual Report Booklet Editor	Carolyn Tice	2017-2020
Auditors	Dixie Otto	2018-2020
	Roxie Livengood	2018-2020
Church Historian	Richard I. Yoder	2017-2019
Correspondent	Lois Hepler.....	2017-2019
Cradle Roll Superintendent	Rebecca Shoemaker	2017-2019
Everence Advocate	Nancy Green	2017-2020
Mennonite Disaster Service	Reuben Tice.....	2017-2020
Sports Coordinator	Jamie Clark.....	2018-2019
Student Aid Committee	Beverly Critchfield.....	2017-2019
Van Trustee	Lyndon Saylor	2017-2020

Paid Staff

Interim Pastor	Secretary	Wendy Brenneman
Grass Cutting	Janitors	Debbie Brenneman and Shelly Yoder
Snow Removal		Ephraim Tice

2018-2019 Sunday School Teachers

	Julia Tice & Nancy Green Adult Department Superintendents	
	Holly Clark, Junior Department Superintendent	
Class # 1	(Room 3, Sewing Room)	Ken Detrick, Rich Yoder
Class # 4	(Curtain Room, Basement)	Norma Doyle (coordinator) Rick Critchfield, Enos Tice, Ruth Miller Yoder
Class # 5	(Room 22)	Mark Folk, Tom Lindeman, Alvina Livengood, Gary Miller
Class # 6	(Front of Auditorium)	Ryan Critchfield, Melinda Gibson, Phoebe Wiley
Class # 7	(Gym)	Rich Beitzel, Doug Berg, Don Green
Class # 8 MYF	(Room 23)	Pat Haglund
5th-8th Grades	(Basement)	Janet Bender, Jamie Clark, Becky Shoemaker
1st-4th Grades	(Basement)	Sherry Abel, Holly Clark, Beth Green
Age 3-Kindergarten ...	(Basement)	Christa Dever, Kim Miller, Carol Tice

Congregational Chair

September 2017 both the incoming and outgoing council members met to prepare a new budget for the Church Year 2017-2018.

The proposed Operating Budget of \$234,100 was presented to the congregation at the Annual Members meeting October 24, 2017. At the time of the budget presentation, projects such as painting, picnic area, playground, landscaping, etc. had all been completed. There were no major projects anticipated for the coming year. Following discussion, the members approved the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget as presented.

The church year projects presented many challenges trying to stay within budget. Detailed work and decisions of the Council can be found in the monthly Significant Items.

During the church year, Total Receipts were 23.2% below budget. Total Expenses were 7.2% below budget. During the month of August, one of our CD's matured. It was recommended by Council that we withdraw \$15,000 to help cover expenses for August and September and reinvest the remainder into a new CD.

According to the 2016-2017 Report Booklet financial reports, there was an additional \$65,000+ in funds disbursed as love gifts, local needs, missions, MDS, MCC, etc. through Sunday School giving and other organizations of the church. This is the fifth year that each Sunday School class and/or other organizations of the church appointed two people from their class/group to review the financial records prior to the report being submitted for the Annual Report Booklet.

The Cemetery Fund at year end is approximately \$5,000 ahead of the beginning year balance due in part to the implementation of the \$250 Perpetual Care assessed for all new grave purchases and donations.

March 16, 2017 the Exploratory Committee was formed by the Board of Elders and Church Council to evaluate the church's compatibility with Mennonite Church USA, Allegheny Mennonite Conference and other conferences. Where are we the best fit?

Conference Selection Process:

After 10 months of discernment, prayers and interviews, the Exploratory Committee completed much work interviewing five conferences: Franconia Mennonite, Ohio Mennonite, Allegheny Mennonite, Virginia Mennonite and Atlantic Coast. They presented their findings to the Board of Elders and Council on January 16, 2018 (meeting #1).

Following the January 26, meeting #2, a letter written and signed by Don Green and myself, a copy of the Exploratory Committee's letter, the five conference summaries, a selection survey sheet, a request for a voting ballot, and a stamped self-addressed envelope were mailed to all members of Springs Mennonite Church.

February 15 - Congregational meeting #3, 75 members and 5 non-members attended the meeting. It was decided to continue the process, complete the Survey Form, leadership bring the information results back to the members and go from there.

March 6 - meeting #4, Combined Elders and Council, a timeline for the process was established. Approximately 30 requests that Lancaster Conference be considered.

March 18 - Summary of the Conference Selection Survey results were distributed.

April 10 - Meeting #5, Congregational meeting, 79 members present, the next plan of action was to create a new survey sheet eliminating Atlantic Conference and adding Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Surveys were distributed and asked to be completed within a two-week period. A goal was set to narrow the voting down to three conferences.

April 15 - meeting #6 There was no Sunday School time or Worship service, the time was used to have a congregational conversation about conference affiliation. Pastors Luann and Robert led in the group discussions.

A compilation of the flip charts generated from table discussions on April 15 were distributed to the members.

May 1 - Exploratory Committee members Sandy Brenneman and Noel Livengood provided additional information clarifying only men are qualified to become a Bishop in the Lancaster Conference.

May 5 - update on the conference selection process survey collected April 29 were available in the church mailboxes.

May 9 - Congregational meeting, meeting #7, 68 members attended the meeting.

The results of the 100 surveys that were completed correctly, Franconia and Ohio appeared to be out of the mix. Virginia scored high due to the number 2's and Lancaster and Allegheny's number 5's. When combining Virginia yes/no's equals 100% of the total surveys. As a possible way forward can we agree:

- Springs will not hire a gay pastor; will not perform gay marriage ceremonies in our church,
- money going to Allegheny Conference (designate giving – on a particular Sunday(s),
- moratorium on talking about this, get on with what we are really about.

Also at this meeting, Robert used a flip chart illustration of x's representing the people of Springs as a group. He asked people to tell him what groups make up the Springs congregation. He circled the group as they were called out. There were 17 groups noted. After seeing the many circles, he then drew a black line down the middle and asked would this be hard to split?

Eric Haglund, spoke as our former pastor, the most difficult struggle he had was seeing how hard it was trying to bring the congregation together. He read Luke 5:31 and Mark 2:17. He compared our physical needs to going to a hospital, versus our spiritual needs going to a church for our spiritual healing. Very sincere words spoken from his heart with the Holy Spirit directing his words. Most important, choose a conference we can live with, choose to move on; celebrate Christ. There will always be differences. Our split will only leave us victims. Get on with the laws of Christ and get on with our burdens.

May 30 - meeting #8, Congregational Meeting, 61 members were present for the meeting to meet with Virginia Mennonite Conference Executive Conference Minister Clyde Kratz. Questions and themes were compiled for Clyde based on previous congregational meetings and surveys so that he could review in advance of the meeting. Copies of this information was posted outside the church office for anyone wishing to have a copy.

June 2018 - Springs Mennonite Church Policy regarding pastoral expectations on the issue of same-sex relationships was distributed to the members. At the bottom of the proposal was a cut off for the members to reply yes – I affirm the new policy, or no I cannot affirm. Affirmation ballots were asked to be returned by June 24.

July 1 - meeting #9, Congregational meeting, 60 members and 5 non-members were present.

Results of the Affirmation of Policy and Pastoral Expectations on the issue of same-sex relationships were read. There were 147 affirmation ballots distributed, 83 affirmations returned. There were 75 yes, 7 no and 1?. A show of hands was asked for who would affirm the proposal and who could not affirm the proposal. There were 58 yes, and 2 no. The proposal was adopted by Springs Mennonite Church.

Summary of this meeting:

- Several people suffered loss today with the decision of the affirmation of the pastoral expectation on the issue of same-sex relationships. -Change is hard – loss is worse. -We need to pull together and compromise.
- A conference does not rule the church – the love of the people make the church.

There was a straw vote whether we are ready to make a decision regarding Virginia Mennonite Conference?
Results: yes 48, no 6, ?4.

July 8 - Bulletin included an insert for the Final Voting Process for Selecting a Conference of “Best Fit” as approved by the Church Council and Elders of Springs Mennonite Church. This represented the 30 day waiting period after publication of the proposed action before a vote can take place.

July 18 - meeting #10, Congregational Meeting, 44 members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with David Mishler, Allegheny Mennonite Conference Minister. David gave an update of Allegheny Conference for the past three years. Following his presentation, there was a time for questions.

July 22 - There was an opportunity for more conversation during the Sunday School time.

July 29 - There was an opportunity for more conversation during the Sunday School time.

August 2 – 145 ballots were placed in members' church mailboxes and 12 ballots were mailed.

August 12 - ballot box was moved to the pastors' office.

August 13 - meeting #11 – 6 pm - Church Council and Elders along with Luann and Robert counted the ballots, several people waited in the sanctuary for the results.

There were 150 ballots distributed, 115 ballots returned, 66 or 57.4% ballots affirmed moving to Virginia Conference, 49 or 42.6% could not affirm. The proposed action required a 66.67% affirmation to be ap-

proved. This means Springs Mennonite Church will remain in Allegheny Conference. This means that the conference selection process is over.

At 7 pm, the above information was read to the people waiting in the sanctuary.

Following the announcement, the same message was read over the phone tree.

August 14 – Written results were placed in the members' mailboxes.

August 15 – Luann and Robert contacted Clyde Kratz and David Mishler with the results of the ballot vote.

I feel the Church Council members were good stewards of the congregation's financial affairs.

I would also like to thank everyone from areas represented on council for their willingness to serve. There were extra meetings this year and I thank you all for giving your time and support to attend and prepare for these meetings.

Submitted by Terry Livengood

2017-2018 Significant Items from Church Council Meetings

September 19, 2017

1. Out-going and in-coming members met to prepare the budget.
2. Wengerd Roofing has installed a ceiling in the pavilion.
3. The river rock and plants project has been completed.
4. Sunday morning fellowship time will be coordinated by the Adult Sunday School Superintendents starting January 1, 2018.
5. Daughters of Dorcas sent 160 comforters to MCC during this past year.
6. Congregational meeting has been set for October 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.
7. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

October 3, 2017

1. Robert and Luann Yutzy, transitional pastors, were present for the meeting.
2. Congregational Meeting Tuesday, October 24, - 7:00 p.m. Meeting Agenda: Review Annual Report Booklet; Approve FY 2018 Budget; Other Business (any concerns that you would like to discuss at the congregational meeting, please contact the chairperson prior to the meeting.)
3. Annual Missions Offering will be taken November 19. More information to follow.
4. The Music Committee is in need of song leaders and accompanists. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Esther Beitzel.
5. Allegheny Mennonite Conference will be held Saturday, November 4, in Hyattsville.
6. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

October 24, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting

- There were 31 members present.
- The Annual Report booklet was approved after 8 changes were noted.
- The Budget was approved with one change which increases the bottom line to \$234,100.
- No New Business or Old Business was brought before the group.

November 7, 2017

1. \$1,500 of our \$3,000 commitment has been paid to Igna Haglund's mission project support from Designated Funds.
2. Annual Missions Offering will be taken November 19, 2018.
3. Grantsville Area Food Pantry: \$2,000 off the top; Somerset Co. Mobile Food Bank: \$2,000 off the top
MCC: 50% of remaining balance; MDS:50% of remaining balance
4. Allegheny Mennonite Conference/Missions Allocations for 2018. First payment will be made in November.
Allegheny Conference, General Budget: \$17,000; Mennonite Missions Network: \$4,000; Mennonite Education: \$1,000; MennoMedia: \$1,000; Total: \$23,000
5. A new copier lease agreement was approved. Will be getting a new machine.
6. The Covenant of Understanding between SMC and Robert and Luann Yutzy was approved.
7. The Pastors' Housing Allowance was approved: \$28,000.
8. Daughters of Dorcas sent 34 Comforters and 450 empty kit bags in September to MCC.
9. Robert and Luann will be greeters for the Community Thanksgiving dinner, November 16.
10. Junior Department is beginning to work on a Children's Christmas Program.
11. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

December 5, 2017

1. Annual Missions Offering was taken November 19. Grantsville Area Food Pantry: \$2,000.00; Somerset Co. Mobile Food Bank: \$2,000.00; MCC: \$2,561.75; MDS: \$2,561.75
2. First payment to Allegheny Mennonite Conference/Missions Allocations for 2018 was made in November.
3. For the first quarter ending November 30, Receipts are under budget.
4. New copier has been installed.
5. When attending a conference/seminar, Council needs to approve the expense prior to attending.
6. Robert and Luann participated in their first funeral (Dan Puffinburg), assisting Pastor Joe Byler.
7. Jr. Department Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17 during the worship service.
8. Robert and Luann will be out of the office December 17 - 21.
9. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

January 3, 2018

1. Mileage reimbursement for 2018 will be 54.5 cents.
2. Fellowship Time 2018 schedule is posted in the kitchen.
3. There will be an AED refresher class led by John Wright in the next several months. No date has been set.
4. 100 copies of Five Wishes booklet will be available to the congregation. (Living Will outline)
5. The Exploratory Committee has completed their interviews with four conferences. Council, Elders and the Exploratory Committee will be meeting January 16, to discuss how and when to present this information to the congregation. We will be announcing soon when a Congregation Meeting will be held.
6. A contract with Eastern Elevator Co. has been signed that will provide maintenance, emergency calls, and semiannual inspections for the elevator.
7. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

February 6, 2018

1. Registration forms will be distributed to the children for Laurelville Summer camp. The church will pay half as they have done in the past.
2. The Conference Selection packets have been distributed/mailed. A reminder that the Congregational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2018 7:00 p.m.
3. AMC spring Faith and Gathering will be held Saturday, March 3, at Stahl Mennonite Church.
4. Noel Livengood has agreed to oversee the maintenance and operation of the elevator.
5. We received a thank you note from the Somerset County Mobile Food bank for our donation.
6. Worship Committee purchased 6 weeks of bulletins for Lent.
7. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

April 3, 2018

1. John Wright will be teaching an AED refresher class April 17, 7 p.m.
2. Kim Miller has agreed to complete Deb Hoover's term on the Bible School Committee.
3. Spring clean-up is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.
4. Members meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.
5. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

May 1, 2018

1. John Wright taught an AED refresher class April 17. Three people were recertified.
2. Three children will be attending Laurelville Church Camp this summer.
3. The results from Survey #2 were distributed and discussed.
4. Agreed to postpone the conference interviews scheduled for May 7 and May 9.
5. Schedule a congregational meeting (pending Elders agreement) for May 9 to discuss the Survey #2 results.
6. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 5, 2018

June 5, 2018

1. Expenses continue to exceed receipts.
2. Allegheny Mennonite Conference quarterly payment was made in May.
3. Donation of appreciation was received from the Dale Otto family for the funeral meal.
4. The colored printer in the church office is not operational and parts are no longer available.
5. Reminder: Allegheny Mennonite Conference will be held August 3-5 at Laurelville.
6. Luann and Robert will be helping with Bible School.
7. Luann and Robert will be offering a Communion service at Goodwill on June 14.
8. There was discussion regarding the May 30, congregational meeting. Additional information for the SMC bylaws or Standing Rules will be gathered/written concerning pastors and LGBTQ issues. Luann, Robert, Don and Terry have agreed to work on document language.

9. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

July 3, 2018

1. Excluding Designated Funds, receipts exceeded expenses for the month of June.
2. Council Appointments for 2018-2019 year
3. Auditors – Dixie Otto and Roxie Livengood 2018-2020
4. Sports Coordinator - Jamie Clark 2018-2019
5. Volunteers are needed to help operate the soup/sandwich booth at the Springs Folk Festival due to lack of MYF and JYF kids.
6. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, August 14, 2018.

August 14, 2018

1. Reminder that Sunday School classes and other organizations' financial reports need to be reviewed by two people prior to the Annual Report Booklet submission.
2. Budget request forms have been put into the church mailboxes for the coming year.
3. Brayden Thomas' Service Adventure has been fully funded.
4. \$15,000 will be withdrawn from the CD that becomes due 08/15 to help cover expenses for Aug. & Sept.
5. MCC reported that they are not in need of school kit supplies at this time.
6. A thank you note was received from Mennonite Mission Network for our support of Inga Haglund's Service Adventure program during the past 10½ months.
7. Sunday school superintendents are currently in the process of contacting teachers for the coming year.
8. This being Luann and Robert's last Council meeting, they together gave an overview of their experiences for the past 11 months. They have felt the support of both Springs and the conference.
9. Sunday School classes will be asked to discuss how they feel would be the best way to funnel funds to conference or if people do not want their giving to go to conference.
10. Volunteers are needed to help operate the soup/sandwich booth at the Folk Festival due to lack of MYF/JYF kids.
11. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 18, 2018. This will be the combined meeting of both outgoing and incoming Council members to prepare next year's budget.

Minutes from Congregational Meeting on October 24, 2017

Terry Livengood began the meeting 7:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

There were 31 members present and Cade Critchfield.

In Carolyn Tice's absence, Sharon Livengood read changes that previously were submitted to Carolyn.

- Jason Bender's phone numbers 814-422-2147 and 240-500-6058
- Correspondent's Report was omitted, previously printed in the church bulletin. Reports were written for the Mennonite World Review every other month. Items included in the reports are information about congregational celebrations, worship services, special projects, fundraisers, births, marriages, and death. Submitted by Lois Hepler

Membership Change September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017 Changes noted: **Losses by death 4:**

Lynn Otto February 1, 2017 (added); **Total Losses: -10; Net change in total membership: Loss of 7**

Other corrections noted:

- Shawn Peck's house number should be 7920 instead of just 720
- Joseph Miller's new address is: 233 Lurgan Lane, Centerville, MD 21617
- Page 3 – Zachary Cupler's address change: 631 Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046
- Page 8 – Board of Elders Phoebe Wiley term 2017 – 2020
- Page 25 – Daughters of Dorcas – Sharon Livengood, Church Council representative

No further corrections were noted. A motion was made to approve the Annual Report Booklet, motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Terry then asked if everyone would turn to page 16 to review the Proposed Budget 2017-18. He noted that the Pastor Benefits Health Insurance number changed. When the budget was prepared, we had preliminary numbers, later received a more firm number of \$17,000. This would increase the bottom line to \$234,100.

A motion was made to accept the budget including the additional \$7,000. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Terry reported the major projects such as painting, picnic area, playground, and landscaping, etc. has been completed. There are no major projects anticipated for the coming year.

Terry again thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. A motion was made, seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Livengood, Church Secretary

Springs Mennonite Sunday School Record of Attendance 2017-2018

Class	Teachers	Avg. Att.	Enrollment	%.
# 1	Ken Detrick, Rich Yoder	14	24	58
# 4	Richard Critchfield, Enos Tice, Delmas Yoder, Ruth Miller Yoder	11	15	73
# 5	Mark Folk, Gary Miller, Tom Lindeman, Alvina Livengood	7	9	78
# 6	Ryan Critchfield, Melinda Gibson, Phoebe Wiley	13	22	59
# 7	Doug Berg, Don Green, Noel Livengood	12	26	46
# 8 (MYF)	Pat Haglund	2	2	100
Jr. Youth	Janet Bender, Jamie Clark, Becky Shoemaker	3	5	60
Middler	Harriet Berg, Holly Clark, Beth Green	3	6	50
Preschool	Christa Dever, Kim Miller, Carol Tice	3	5	60
Totals		68	114	65

Visitors: 58

Submitted by Wendy Brenneman

Adult Sunday School

There were seven Sunday school classes this past year which included the Adult Uniform Series, different books of the Bible and several book studies. Julia Tice and I would like to thank all the teachers for their dedication for all their time spent in preparation and effort in studying to teach their classes during this past year.

Submitted by Ken Detrick

Jr. Department Sunday School

During the 2017-2018 year, there were three Junior Department classes (ages 3 - kindergarten, grades 1-3, and grades 4-8). The curriculum used in the classes was Shine, which is published by MennoMedia. Each Sunday, all of the children sang songs, recognized birthdays, and collected an offering before going to their classes. As in the past, the offering collected was given to the church treasurer and put toward My Coins Count. The children also memorized lines for the Christmas program, which took place during the worship service on December 17. This summer, we had three children and youth attend camp at Laurelville. Janet Bender, Harriet Berg, Holly Clark, Jamie Clark, Christa Dever, Beth Green, Kim Miller, Becky Shoemaker, and Carol Tice served as Sunday school teachers.

Submitted by Holly Clark

Cradle Roll

There is one child on the cradle roll:

Kyla Colleen Critchfield born 2-28-17 daughter of Ryan and Clarissa Critchfield

Submitted by Rebecca Shoemaker

Gifts Discernment Committee

We had our first meeting in January to start selecting people for positions to fulfill the needs of our church. First, we picked people for the Board of Elders and then we started to make lists of people to fill the positions we needed for the other positions in the church. We finished finding people by the middle of August.

It was a pleasure to work with the people who served on the Gifts Discernment Committee.

Thanks to all the people that accepted roles in our church.

Peace and God Bless.

Submitted by Rebecca Shoemaker

Board of Elders

Again, this year the Elders continued to use some basic ground rules, agreeing to treat each other and members of the congregation with integrity. Many of our traditional tasks were carried out on a routine basis. These included the following: arranging for someone to preach when we had no pastor or on Luann and Robert's Sunday off, suggesting nominees for congregational affirmation to fill various positions the Elders are responsible for, responding to special requests for financial assistance, praying for needs in the church and community, and planning for communion.

The Elders, in collaboration with Church Council and our Conference Minister, David Mishler, continued our work to identify an interim pastor. David Mishler was a very helpful resource as we considered what God had in store for the Springs congregation. During September the Elders took responsibility for making sure pastoral duties were addressed during the transition time without a pastor. Thankfully, Luann and Robert Yutzy answered the call to come to Springs. The Elders were blessed and very grateful to have them as pastors and part of the Elders.

As the Exploratory Committee neared the end of their work in gathering information regarding different conferences that Springs might affiliate with, it was deemed a conflict of interest for Enos Tice, Chair of Elders, to continue as a representative to Church Council. This was due to Enos also serving as Moderator of Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Hence, the Elders asked Don Green to be our liaison to Church Council. Don graciously accepted this request. Some joint meetings were held with the Elders, Church Council, and the Exploratory Committee to hear from the Exploratory Committee and decide the best way forward. Terry Livengood (Congregational Chair), Don Green (liaison for the Elders), and Luann and Robert Yutzy (Interim Pastors) did much of the work to plan a process, in consultation with the Church Council and Elders, to help the congregation make a decision regarding a conference affiliation.

We want to thank Luann and Robert for having served as our pastors for eleven months of this fiscal year. They provided many thoughtful sermons and had many positive interactions with members of our congregation. We wish them God's blessing as they continue their ministry in Kansas. The Elders have started the process of looking for another interim pastor and are keeping Church Council informed about our process and progress. The goal is to soon have a long-term pastor search committee in place that will use a more extensive process to search for a long-term pastor. In both cases, David Mishler, Conference Minister, is serving as a resource in locating a pastor.

The Elders encouraged Sunday School classes and small groups to consider participating in the Journey Forward Pathways study of Mennonite core values. Several Sunday School classes are starting this study in September.

Our congregation has gone through, and is continuing to experience, transitions. We encourage everyone to continue to pray for the congregation and to also stay engaged as a participant of the congregation as we share God's love with each other, our community, and the world. May we live our vision statement.

Submitted by Enos Tice, Chair

Board of Elders 2017-2018 Significant Items

09/13/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance except Willis Beitzel, ad hoc member

1. Felicia has been reviewing the pastor's email address and forwarding items to Enos and others if any action needs taken.
2. Upcoming Sundays and speakers were discussed.
3. The congregation was informed last Sunday we are considering a couple who are both pastors as our interim pastors. No concerns were raised and we intend to pursue a mutually agreed on covenant with this couple. Names for a committee to work on the covenant were suggested and will be presented to Council for their approval or additional suggestions.
4. We reviewed and prepared some documents we felt would aid the new pastors to get to know us and the community more easily.

The meeting adjourned in a time of prayer.

09/27/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. Plans for communion were set for October 1st with James Rissler, guest speaker, leading the service.
2. Sundays were planned through October with Luann and Robert Yutzy as interim pastors preaching their first Sunday on October 8th. An installation service will be held on Oct 15th which is also Retreat weekend. Willis Beitzel would also like to share on that Sunday. We will participate in a MC USA's Great Day of Singing on October 22nd with a service of singing.

3. Comcast is discontinuing business email soon. Todd Gibson will be contacted to decide how we should proceed.
4. The Worship committee will need a replacement for Naomi Tice starting in January as she will be leaving for a service mission. Names were suggested for the committee.
5. The Yutzys, interim pastors, are scheduled to arrive in Springs on September 30th.

The meeting adjointed in a time of prayer

10/11/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance and Robert & Luann Yutzys as interim pastors

1. The Yutzys reported on their first week as interim pastors.
2. The Elders recently approved an Alms Fund distribution.
3. Luann and Robert's installation will be Oct 15th led by Dave Mishler, Conference Minister. Also Willis Beitzel will be sharing on that day before he and Greta move away from the area.
4. A policy was set up for usage of the DVD/TV players the church owns.
5. We reviewed the Elders' yearly responsibilities.

The meeting adjointed in a time of prayer.

11/01/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. Robert and Luann again reported on getting to know the congregation.
2. We agreed on a Covenant agreement between the Board of Elders members.
3. We decided to see if any group could still pull together a community Thanksgiving dinner at this late date.
4. The Exploratory Committee has one more conference to meet with. The Elders would like to meet with some of the committee afterwards to discuss presentation of their findings.
5. A plan to call off of church due to inclement weather was arranged.
6. A Covenant of Understanding between the Yutzys and the congregation is near completion.

The meeting adjointed in a time of prayer.

11/29/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. Briefly reviewed items from previous meetings and then we were joined by Council members.
2. Elders and Council started to plan how we proceed once the Exploratory Committee is finished with their research on different conferences. We will need to meet again after discussion with the Exploratory Committee.

12/14/2017 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. Five Wishes documents were discussed and will be presented to Council.
2. Luann and Robert attended a Pastor Peer meeting in Bedford recently and received some training for credentialed leaders in MCUSA on "Maintaining Healthy Boundaries."
3. Robert and Luann have been meeting with the Exploratory Committee. The committee is finalizing their findings and will soon meet with Elders and Council.
4. The Covenant of Understanding between the Yutzys and the church has been signed.
5. Norm Arrington who play acts characters from the Bible will be bringing a service in March.

The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer for the congregation and other concerns.

01/10/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance except Don Green

1. Luann and Robert met with the Ministers of Visitation recently.
2. Because of his involvement in Allegheny Conference, Enos Tice requested we consider choosing someone else to serve as liaison to Council. We affirmed our desire for him to remain Chair of Elders.
3. A joint meeting with Council and the Exploratory Committee is set for January 16th.
4. A Brotherhood fund disbursement was approved.
5. Phoebe Wiley agreed to serve as liaison to the Gifts Discernment Committee.

The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer for the congregation and other concerns.

01/24/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. Don Green agreed to serve as Elders liaison to Council.
2. Luann would be willing to visit anyone who would like a pastoral visit that she is not currently already visiting. Feel free to let her know.
3. The Monday night Ladies Bible study and the Prayer Ministry team have joined together with Luann to organize regular times of prayer at the church for the church. A tentative date was set for February 1st.
4. Recently Robert and Luann met with the groups that coordinate Sunday mornings: Worship committee, Music committee, sound room, and Wendy Brenneman as church secretary.

5. Sundays in March with guest speakers were discussed.
 6. There will be a service on Maundy Thursday.
 7. A joint meeting between Elders and Council is set for January 25th. We will discuss how to send out the Exploratory committee's findings to the congregation and set up a date for a congregational meeting.
- The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer.

02/07/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance except Don Green

1. Approval was given for Robert to be away February 18 – 23rd.
2. Guest speakers for March 11th and 18th will be Ervin Stutzman and Norm Arrington, respectively. Plans were discussed to have them also be available during the Sunday School hour.
3. A Maundy Thursday service is being planned and for Good Friday the church will be open for prayer.
4. Life Touch photography offered to produce a church photo directory for us. We decided it was not necessary at this time.

The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer for the congregation and other concerns.

02/28/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance except Richard Yoder

1. Updates and scheduled events from the Meyersdale Ministerium were discussed.
2. The Gifts Discernment Committee has started the process of filling positions for the next church year.
3. Details for the upcoming Sundays with guest speakers were finalized.
4. Maundy Thursday plans will include a light meal and communion. The Worship Committee is planning an early service on Easter Sunday in addition to the regular service.
5. The congregation survey box will be opened tomorrow and the results tallied. A joint Council and Elder meeting will be planned afterwards and then a congregational meeting to discuss the results.
6. Reflections on the congregational meeting in February were shared.

The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer.

03/14/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. We discussed Ervin Stutzman's Q & A on Mennonite Church USA.
2. Gift discernment committee has Luann contacting potential Elder candidates.
3. ANYONE desiring a pastoral visit or care, please contact the Yutzy's, an Elder, or the church office. One doesn't need to be sick or shut-in.
4. Plans were finalized for Norm Arrington's service on March 18th.
5. The Yutzy's will be attending the Spring Bible Study in Laurelville the end of April.
6. Maundy Thursday and the Easter service plans were discussed.
7. A congregational meeting is scheduled for March 27th to present the Exploratory Committee's findings on Lancaster Conference.
8. Due to medical issues, Deb Hoover resigned from the Bible School committee. Kim Miller has agreed to fill her position for this summer.

The meeting adjourned with a time of prayer for the church and community.

04/04/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. The congregational meeting was changed from March 27th to April 9th to allow the Exploratory committee time to develop their summary on Lancaster Conference.
2. A handout will be in church mailboxes the Sunday before the meeting.
3. Wendy Brenneman, church secretary, will be on vacation May 5 – 12.
4. Luann is starting a class on April 12th open to the congregation called "Welcoming God in the Rhythm of Life". An announcement is in the bulletin.
5. Luann continues to contact candidates for Elders.
6. Naomi Tice will be commissioned on April 22nd for her service position in the United Kingdom that is to start this summer. Representatives from Mennonite Missions Network will also be here that Sunday. A fundraiser dinner for Naomi is being planned for April 21st by her support team.
7. Naomi's position on the Worship committee will need to be filled.

The meeting adjourned with a brief time of prayer.

05/02/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance; in addition Council members Terry Livengood, Sharon Livengood, Roxanne Livengood and Kim Miller were in attendance for first part of meeting.

1. Don Green and Terry Livengood presented the results from the 2nd survey of the congregation regarding their conference preferences.
2. A congregational meeting was set for May 9th.
3. Robert and Luann gave their 90 day notice which is only one month earlier than their contract. The congregation will be notified at a later date.

The meeting adjourned with a time of prayer for the church and community.

05/23/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance and Karin Miller

1. Robert has agreed to give the invocation at Salisbury-Elk High School's Senior Baccalaureate service
2. Luann is planning a group communion service at Goodwill
3. Two people have expressed interest in joining the church. A member's class will be offered in case others are interested.
4. We discussed the congregational meeting of May 9th.
5. We reviewed the positions to be filled by the Elders for the upcoming church year.

The meeting adjourned with a time of prayer for the church and community.

06/06/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance

1. The current Worship committee members all agreed to serve for another year.
2. Luann has scheduled a group communion service at Goodwill Home on June 14th at 10 am. The Thursday morning Ladies Bible study members are assisting.
3. Harry Mimna will be bringing the message through song on June 10th.
4. Communion will be held on June 24th.
5. Affirmation of Karin Miller serving the remainder of Rich Yoder's term and incoming Elder for the new church year will be sought on June 10th.
6. Continued with suggestions for positions the Elders need to fill for the upcoming church year and updates on positions that have been filled.

06/20/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance except Karin Miller

1. Communion went well at Goodwill with about 45 in attendance.
2. July 1st there will be a congregational meeting during the Sunday school and worship hour continuing to discern what conference Springs wishes to belong. We discussed some ideas on conducting the meeting.
3. Plans were finalized for communion on June 24th.
4. Allegheny Mennonite Conference will be having a Reconciliation ceremony at Annual Summer Conference the first weekend of August.
5. With the decrease in MYF members, we are looking for someone to be more of a mentor on an individual basis rather than planning group activities.
6. Continued with suggestions for positions the Elders need to fill for the upcoming church year.
7. Discussion on the need for another interim pastor or pastor team as of Sept 1.

The meeting adjourned with a time of prayer for the church and community

07/25/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance including Karin Miller, replacement for Rich Yoder and incoming Elder

1. The Yutzys have gone on four Cadillac rides with congregants to destinations their guests have chosen.
2. Robert and Luann would like to attend the Sunday worship service at Allegheny conference's annual weekend at Laurelville. Guest speakers were suggested.
3. Ideas for guest speakers for the month of September were discussed.
4. A sample ballot regarding our conference affiliation is available and is being distributed during the Sunday School discussion group meeting this Sunday. A slide presentation of the ballot will occur during the worship service. Ballots will be distributed August 2nd with a due date of August 12th.
5. Phoebe has agreed to serve as an Elder representative on the Worship Committee while we are in between pastors.
6. Our delegates to conference are meeting to prepare for Springs' part in the services at Allegheny Conference's annual weekend.
7. Updates on positions that have been filled for the upcoming year were given.

08/15/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance. We met at Robert & Luann's residence.

1. On Sunday August 19th we will affirm Steve & Angie Fazenbaker into membership as well as commission Brayden Thomas for service with Mennonite Missions Network in Alaska
2. Continued planning for September's speakers for worship service

3. Church positions filled by Elder appointments have been filled and will be published in bulletin with confirmation sought on September 2nd.
4. Since the conference selection has been completed, we can now start the search for an interim pastor. We will meet with Dave Mishler, Allegheny Conference minister as soon as it can be arranged.
5. The Board reorganized for the coming year. Don Green was selected as chair and Melinda Gibson as secretary.
6. There will be a commissioning ceremony for Karin Miller as incoming Elder on Sunday, August 26th.
7. With it being our last meeting with Robert & Luann, they shared some insights and advice for the Elders going forward.

08/29/2018 Elders' Meeting Significant Items

All members in attendance. In addition: Terry Livengood, congregational chair, and Dave Mishler, Allegheny Conference minister met with us.

1. We discussed with Dave how to proceed in finding an interim and/or a full-time pastor. It was decided to begin looking for an interim pastor immediately with a short term of service until a full-time pastor is hired. A pastor search committee will be set up as soon as the new Gifts Discernment committee meets and elects a chairperson. The chair of Elders, the congregational chair, and the chair of Gifts Discernment will be in charge of finding members for the search committee.
2. Dave shared two possible candidates for the interim term and will send us their information.
3. Arrangements for several funerals were discussed.
4. Continued planning for speakers in September and October
5. We divided some tasks amongst ourselves and picked liaisons to various committees: Elder liaison to Gift Discernment – Enos Tice; Meyersdale Area Ministerial – Enos Tice; Worship Committee – Phoebe Wiley; Ministers of Visitation - Karin Miller

Pastors

Looking back over our year as co-interim pastors at Springs Mennonite, we realize we had challenges from the beginning. It became apparent very quickly that the transitional work we came to do with the congregation was not going to be possible. A congregation can best utilize transitional work which includes looking at history, identity, vision and communication/organization when a group is cohesive and not entrenched in the challenges of a major theological decision and deep disagreement. We began to rethink our role and how we could be the most help to Springs and refocused our work to offer guidance to Springs' discernment process to choose a conference affiliation and to work to improve communication and build trust among leaders and the congregation.

The avenues given to us of preaching and pastoral care were ways to include some of the foundations of transitional work. We sensed it was hard for some people to immediately trust us, that we had their best interest in mind and didn't come with an agenda. We came as strangers and we realize it is hard to invest in pastors who will be leaving in a short time.

One-on-one conversations, meeting people in their homes and at Goodwill became rich experiences for us as we were allowed into personal lives and stories. Taking communion to people in their home was meaningful.

All throughout our time it was clear there were differing views on what we should actually be doing as pastors. We have described this as being in a dance we didn't know. We looked for opportunities to give suggestions for communal discernment on the conference selection process beginning with the Exploratory Committee. Our training and experience are in helping people talk through difficult conversations, listening to each other, and to the invitation of the Spirit. We regret more of this kind of discernment did not happen with the whole congregation.

We grew to love the congregation of Springs and we have felt the love and affirmation of the congregation for our time and gifts we brought. We enjoyed being present at the various ways people meet together whether it was Bible Study groups or the MCC Relief Sale. Getting to experience living in the mountains has been something we will take with us, the bird sounds, the beauty of the snow and the lushness of the trees, driving on River Road on a warm summer evening smelling the mown hay.

We hold the congregation in our hearts as well. We could feel and hear tension between people in the congregation and we carried that closely within us as a deep sadness. We hope that you, the faith community at Springs, will continue to live out of the deep love God has for you as you continue to seek to be Christ to one another, the local community and beyond.

Grace and Peace,

Co-interim pastors, Robert and Luann Yutzky (10/01/2017-08/31/2018)

Daughters of Dorcas

Quilting, knotting and finishing comforters, cutting school and relief kit bags continues each Tuesday as it has in the past. Norman and Martha Yoder continue to cut patches for our comforters. Comforter tops, backs and kit bags are sewn at home. Several people crochet or knit caps for Christian Aid Ministries.

This year we sent to MCC in Akron, PA 450 empty kit bags, money for 800 hygiene kits, 60 relief kits and 10 sewing kits. MCC's need for school kits was already filled for this year. We completed and sent 132 comforters along with 2 large bath towels and 1 blanket.

To Christian Aid Ministries we sent 200 knit or crocheted caps.

For the TriState Auction we finished 4 quilts, 3 comforters and 4 table runners.

For our TriState work day in April we again had a number of Amish women join us to help quilt three large quilts and tie three comforters for the auction as well as tie a number of smaller comforters for MCC.

Officers for the coming year remain the same as last year: Jane Benson, President, Ruth Miller Yoder-Vice President, Darlene Miller, Treasurer and Carolyn Tice & Miriam Lindeman, Work Committee.

We wish to thank each one of you who have donated money to help to fill the various kits. At one time a lot more money was raised with the quilts we completed for individuals, who paid us to quilt their quilts. Our quilting group keeps getting smaller as well as many people are having their quilts machine quilted rather than waiting for the hand quilters. Our invitation is always open to anyone who would be available and willing to spend time with us on Tuesdays from 9 to 3:30 to quilt or knot! Or we would welcome your willingness to do some easy sewing for us at home!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Submitted by Jane Benson

Trustees

No report submitted.

Van Care

Odometer	Date	Maintenance Description
68,670	09/30/17	checked van; looked at front rotors.
68,698	10/30/17	checked van.
68,710	11/02/17	checked van. changed to winter tires, 50 psi front 60 psi rear, battery ok, anti. -45, windshield washer reservoir full.
69,411	04/13/18	checked van, battery 12.3 static 14.4 charging, replaced wipers.
69486	04/18/18	checked van, front and rear rotors, put summer tires on, rotate front tires, check for inspection, front pads 7/32" rear 13/32", new air cleaner, greased but not enough miles to change oil, battery 12/14.4
69521	05/23/18	checked van.
69601	07/28/18	checked van, battery static 11.7 charge 14.3
69621	08/15/18	check van battery dead, charged and check later 12.2 volts static, replaced front driver side turn signal bulb.

Submitted by Lyndon Saylor

Editor's Note: The church van was used for a total of 1,017 miles this fiscal year, a decrease of 432 miles from last year. A log of its use is maintained in the church office. The following statistics are gleaned from that log:

333 miles for church conference	291 miles for Delegates
345 miles for activities related to TriState Relief Sale	39 miles for SS classes
9 miles for maintenance	

Vacation Bible School

This year saw a return to a traditional structured Bible School for ages Pre K – through 5th grade on July 8, 9, and 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We used Menno Media curriculum entitled; Peace Lab- Discovering God's Way of Peace. Everyone gathered downstairs which was decorated with a camping theme. Julia Tice led us with examples of peacemakers through the Bible and ways to incorporate this into our own lives. Our memory verse was: Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall inherit the earth. Ken and Diana Detrick did a drama each evening which both entertained and reinforced what we were being taught. Then, Ron Beitzel led us in fun songs. After large group, we were divided by age level into two groups. We made a craft and made a food craft which we ate. Then Luann and Robert Yutzy did fun outdoor activities with us. The evening ended with large group where we talked about what we learned and sang a couple songs.

Our offering of \$270.50 went to GLOW (Go Light Our World) which has ties to our congregation though the Beitzel family. The organization is dedicated to diminishing poverty with solar solutions. They strive to cultivate compassion for the Earth and all living beings through authentic acts of selfless service. The first night of Bible School Felix Kioko talked about some of the projects GLOW is working on in Africa.

We learned a lot this year while having fun. We're thankful for the support from the congregation and all the volunteers. Eighteen children attended.

Thank you to the inspired, creative and dedicated volunteers who helped to make our Bible School a success as we learned about God's way of peace.

Worship Leader-Julia Tice; Drama-Ken & Diana Detrick; Music-Ron Beitzel; PreK-thru 2nd grade-Nancy Green, Paula Resh, and Ani Beitzel; 3rd through 5th grade-Becky Shoemaker and Beth Green; Crafts-Holly Clark and Beth Bolden; Snack-Deb Brenneeman and Carolyn Tice; Activity-Robert and Luann Yutzy; Video-Isaac Tice; Bible School Committee- Angie Piwonka, Kim Miller, and Christa Dever

Submitted by Angie Piwonka

Cemetery Committee

This year the Cemetery Committee received no donations. There were five lots sold and seven burial fees of \$250.00 received.

The Committee would like to give a very big thank you to Denzel Moser who did an excellent job keeping both cemeteries looking great again this year.

Submitted by Gene Shoemaker

Allegheny Mennonite Conference Delegate Sessions

November 4, 2017

The AMC Fall Gathering was held at Hyattsville Mennonite Church. Attending from Springs MC were Enos & Naomi Tice, Shirley Brandes, Phoebe Wiley, Molly Piwonka, Harriet Berg, Robert and Luann Yutzy. Opening worship was led by Hyattsville MC. Dave Mishler, AMC Conference Minister, was unable to attend due to the fact he was recently discharged from the hospital.

Marv Friesen, AMC Moderator, has resigned as moderator due to his relocation to Canada. Enos Tice, Moderator-Elect, will fill that position. LeAnne Zook, Hyattsville MC was elected as the new Moderator-Elect.

Jayne Byler has been installed as the new pastor at Stahl MC. Maple Grove MC has withdrawn from AMC and transferred to Lancaster MC.

Three AMC congregations shared stories (highlights:)

Pittsburgh MC – many babies have been born in the congregation since 2014, plant vegetable gardens to share with neighborhood, small groups share meals with people from many backgrounds, many early leaders have moved, their large 25,000 sq. ft. building presents a challenge, artist members have contributed to the Carnegie Museum of Art Harlem exhibit.

Springs MC –new Interim pastors Robert & Luann Yutzy, Sunday School classes support community through love gifts, meals, free yard sale, members are involved with prison ministry, Service Adventure, MDS & MCC, small groups, supported youth at Folk Festival fundraiser and sponsor a community picnic and Thanksgiving meal.

Hyattsville MC – members from all over DC area, lots of kids and high energy, sponsor “gratitude buddies” by texting or emailing a fellow member on a daily basis, value the arts through music and art gallery talks, connect with refugees in community, host baking and language classes, connect with local police department to develop relationships (pastors considered community chaplains), lots of transition, need to be creative regarding the future.

Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference minister was one of several visitors from Central District Conference. Doug reported the CDC consists of 41 congregations and would be open to a variety of affiliations. He commented AMC’s youth program is a gift.

Network Team reports were presented by LeAnne Zook, Hyattsville MC and Julie Swartzentruber, Pittsburgh MC.

Kimberly McClain, International Guest House - a good space for mission, located 15 minutes from Hyattsville MC and is open to volunteers to serve long and short term.

Phoebe Sharp and Dave Mishler attended the MC USA Constituents Leadership Council meeting in Kansas City October 19-21, 2017.

Erin Leatherman, Morgantown MC, AMC Treasurer, presented the budget. Discussions were held regarding financial implications and future staffing. Numerous delegates stated that AMC youth programs are of huge importance for the youth.

Delegates voted to move forward into formal conversations with Central District Conference exploring possibilities of future affiliation.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference – May 3, 2018

The AMC Spring Gathering was held at Stahl Mennonite Church, Johnstown, PA. Attending from Springs MC were Enos, Isaac & Naomi Tice, Shirley Brandes, Phoebe Wiley, Molly Piwonka, Doug & Harriet Berg, Robert & Luann Yutzy. Opening worship was led by Stahl MC.

Enos Tice, AMC Moderator, announced Allegheny Mennonite Conference consists of twelve congregations. The highest priority is to walk in the path of Jesus who is the center of our faith.

New titles for the AMC newsletter were presented for a vote.

Two AMC congregations shared stories of their churches:

Stahl MC – Floyd Lehman reported the Stahl MC building was built in 1882 and the first Sunday School began in 1886. The congregation is involved with Honduras missions, the St. Francis Thrift Store, local food pantry, Meals on Wheels, and sponsor a free soup dinner every Wednesday to the community. He stated they are small in numbers but big in spirit.

Crossroads Community Church, Johnstown, PA – Larry Davis reported their church is not as structured as some and are very accepting of each other, making it feel welcoming. They have the ability to lean on each other through their strengths and weaknesses. Due to a shortage of Sunday School teachers they have developed a social time which is appreciated by the neighborhood. Their hopes are to have no needs among the congregation and that all can be heard.

Delegates prayed for each congregation following their presentations.

Dave Mishler, AMC Conference Minister, thanked everyone for helping with his recent illness. AMC helps churches with pastor searches, provide resources for pastors, holds bimonthly pastor/peer gatherings and sponsors youth activities.

Dave reported he and Enos met with Central District Conference (CDC) and discussed possibilities of a merger. The AMC volunteer task force has been engaging with CDC. Since the CDC only meets in June, information may not be available to the AMC delegates at the August meeting but hopefully by the November meeting. A final decision is hoped for by the November 2018 meeting or depending on response from CDC by the summer meeting of 2019. CDC and AMC representatives felt they were compatible. CDC presently consists of 47 congregations and recommend moving forward to some type of affiliation. They also have a camp as well as Bluffton College in their area. CDC structure refers to congregations as associates which are not controlled by the conference.

He stated three to four other congregations have also showed an interest in AMC. Discussion by the delegates followed. The CDC website contains more information about their conference - www.mcusacdc.org

Also the CDC newsletter has recently reported on the discussions about a possible affiliation with AMC in their newsletter which can be found at <https://www.mcusacdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/January-2018-Reporter.pdf> p.4 of the newsletter. A copy may be found on the credence stand in the foyer.

Erin Leatherman presented the proposed budget for 2018-2019. Joy Cotchen's part-time position as youth leader will be decreased to 0.3 time versus 0.5 time presently. The proposed budget represents 84% of the 2017-2018 budget. The budget was approved following discussion. The budget is available upon request from the Springs Church office. Erin will be leaving the area this summer and was thanked for her service. AMC is soliciting names for a new treasurer.

Edits for AMC bylaws were accepted. Proposed edits were recommended by the Leadership Council to better reflect our current realities (e.g. fewer churches) and the current vision and direction of AMC. Revisions included deleting regions since they no longer serve the original purpose; changes regarding qualifications and joining AMC; and stated that individuals may request that AMC hold their membership for up to two years if their congregation withdraws.

An election was held for expiring positions. New members selected for the Nominating Committee were Leah Lumeya, University MC and Paul Lehman of Crossroads Com. Church. New members to serve on the Leadership Council are Karrie Peterson, Hyattsville MC and Lester Lind, Philippi MC.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference – Aug. 3-5, 2018

The AMC Summer Celebration of Congregations and Conference was held at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. Attending from Springs MC were Enos, Carolyn and Isaac Tice, George Dooley, Shirley Brandes, Phoebe Wiley, Molly Piwonka, Brayden Thomas, Julia Tice, Doug & Harriet Berg, Robert & Luann Yutzy.

Worship was led by Pittsburgh MC. **Michelle Burkholder of Hyattsville MC** shared thoughts on pilgrimage for people of faith – being holy in every moment with the goal being closeness to God along a path of transformation. Over the weekend, churches shared summaries of their pain and joy experienced by their congregation. (The text of what we shared on behalf of Springs follows this report.)

Joy Cotchen, Conf. Minister of Children & Youth, reported that the summer camp programs went well. The theme was Peace Rocks, presenting the challenge of becoming imitators of Jesus. Joy challenged us to allow youth to ask us the hard questions. The director and half of the staff was from AMC. Molly Piwonka and Brayden Thomas confirmed the importance of being on Youth Council. Youth Council met on August 6.

Enos Tice, AMC Moderator, reported that both Central District Conference and AMC feel there is value to AMC keeping a separate identity rather than merging. **LeAnne Zook, moderator-elect**, reported the Affiliation Task Force has explored all possibilities for AMC organization and announced a report will be presented in November 2018. **Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference minister**, reported they discussed conversations with AMC at their annual meeting. "Both get along well, share missional goals and admire AMC's youth development program."

Dave Mishler, AMC Conference Minister, thanked everyone for helping with his recent eye problems. He reported AMC held several pastor peer gatherings as well as Spring Pastor Seminar; commenting how important pastors are to Conference. **International Guest House** is doing well and announced the **Pittsburgh MC** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary Sun. August 12- all are invited to the celebration.

After twenty-five years the **Philippi MC** will no longer have a service adventure intern. They are considering hiring a pastor part time who would also be employed in the area as a social worker.

Doug Berg reported the TriState Relief Sale went well in its 20th year though attendance was down.

Ben Wideman, University MC, reported on the fifth year of his Penn State campus ministry. (3rd Way

Delegates thanked and prayed for **Robert and Luann Yutzy** for their service at Springs MC; and for **Amy Yoder McGloughlin**, visiting from Germantown, who will be leading a Christian Peacemaker Team to Palestine.

Wayne Yoder, Pinto MC, has been serving as interim treasurer but will be moving to Harrisonburg in October. A new treasurer needs to be nominated. He reported the positive financial news that we have \$35,000 in reserves. The weekend offerings will support the youth programs.

Robert (Bobby) Yoder, formerly of Salisbury, presently employed with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, staffed an information table this weekend. He thanked AMC for helping to establish his pastoral identity. He reported the Indiana/Michigan Conference is contributing to AMC to assist with delegates attending Constituency Leadership Conference.

Several Workshops were held: 1) Brainstorming AMC's next steps; 2) Creating a one-of-a-kind piece of art, symbolizing God's creation of man that cannot be duplicated nor replaced - led by the Young Adults; 3) Engaging with MC USA - led by Michael Daner of MC USA.

A sing-a-long and instrument jam session was held Saturday evening.

Jayne Byler, pastor Stahl MC, gave the message Sunday morning, stating God can do immeasurably more; we should pay attention to what God is doing. Worship was followed by a communion service. Everyone contributed to the creation of a mosaic by inserting tiles.

For more information, go to the Allegheny Mennonite Conference web site where updates will be continually posted. You may also sign up to receive updates via email. <http://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/>



Springs Mennonite Church – Pain and Brokenness **Remarks shared during Summer Conference**

We, the Springs Congregation are experiencing pain and feelings of brokenness. Much of this pain stems from the diverse ways in which we understand the Bible. These differences have existed throughout much of our congregation's history. However, our congregation's process of evaluating our relationship with Allegheny Mennonite Conference due to decisions made by Conference regarding LGBTQ issues has served to highlight, and severely strain our tolerance of, this diversity. This straining of our tolerance has already brought us loss as members have left because of our discussions. As we are making a decision, we fear even greater loss from the very strong possibility that we will lose more members, or even experience a church split; threatening our future viability.

As we have held conversations around our congregation's affiliation with AMC, we have been forced to discover just how deep and painful our differences are. In the past, we could simply hide behind the mantra that ignorance is bliss, only tertiarily admitting that someone viewed things in a different way than we did. Unfortunately, this division has led some members to choose a side and defend their views simply by refusing to participate in dialogue and seeing no need for further discussion. At its most extreme, the depths of our differences have caused the straining and even breaking of relationships, both within congregation as well as the conference. Alongside of these hurt relationships there are some members who are suspicious enough of each other that they have lobbed false accusations at each other.

As our congregation struggles to discern its affiliation, many of us are experiencing denial, be it of self or of others. There are several members who are rejecting those who favor AMC and several who reject anything but AMC. Many within our congregation are at a point where they feel that they must dispassionately decide on our congregation's affiliation, in order to preserve membership, rather than seeing an option that they want to actively embrace.

Many within our congregation are disappointed that our focus has become so myopic, allowing this one issue to become so divisive. This is joined by the disappointment that we have lost, or will lose, our identity as a congregation not just because of our intent focus on a single issue but also that we either will no longer be as welcoming of the diversity that comprised our history, or that we will start condoning sin.

The youth program is shrinking due to loss of members.

Springs Mennonite Church – Joys and Hopefulness

We find Hope:

- In our having taken time to discern our congregation's affiliation, instead of making an impulsive decision, after some members raised concerns about the reinstatement of Hyattsville and credentialing an openly LGBTQ pastor.

- In recognizing that throughout our sometimes-painful discernment process we have continually seen some members expressing compassion and deference towards others.
- In our times of fellowship outside of the church such as: rides with our pastors in a classic red Cadillac (there's a bit of a backstory) and a last minute "flash mob" meeting at a congregant's local ice cream shop.
- In the expressed desire of many to live with our diversity of opinions as we firmly believe Jesus Christ is our center.
- In our acceptance of a female pastor.
- In the publicly stated commitment by several members that they will maintain their relationship with Springs Mennonite Church no matter the outcome of the conference affiliation decision.

We find Joy:

- In our gathering for a time of fellowship over breakfast every Sunday morning before Sunday school and church.
- In Sunday school classes' love gifts toward community projects.
- In our youth's participation in the broader church through Laurelville, Mennonite Church USA Conventions, and Youth Cabinet.
- In our support of missions, through projects such as the World's Attic, Tri-State Relief Sale, and Daughters of Dorcas (sewing circle), as well as sending and supporting members in programs such as Mennonite Disaster Service, Service Adventure, and long-term missions through Mennonite Mission Network.
- By engaging children in our worship service by having them collect My Coins Count offerings during our worship.
- In our various forms of community outreach including: sponsoring a community picnic, hosting a free community Thanksgiving dinner, and holding a "free" yard sale.

Submitted by Harriet Berg, Delegate Liaison

Exploratory Committee

The Exploratory Committee began its work in early 2017. Our group was made up of a diverse representation of our congregation in age, thought, and belief. Several of our initial meetings were spent discussing how we would go about meeting with representatives from the different conferences. The group came up with 10 questions which were presented to conference representatives prior to meeting. Then a time to meet was set up with conference representatives.

We met with 5 different conferences and they were able to give feedback on the 10 questions plus other information as meetings progressed. After meeting with each conference, a summary of the information gathered was drawn up and reviewed by the group. After all information was gathered and reviewed surveys were put together for the congregation to review and attempt to decide on a best fit for congregation.

Several meetings with the congregation were held where they were given opportunity to ask questions as to how we arrived at our conclusions. We were both encouraged and challenged by the congregation's questions and insights. After these meetings the Elders and Council moved forward with how things would proceed. The end result, as all are aware, was a vote between VA Conference and Allegheny Conference with a 66.67 % or 2/3 affirmation required to move to VA. Voting results: 115 ballots returned: 66 ballots or 57.4% affirmed moving to Va. Conference; 49 ballots or 42.6% could not affirm Va. Conference. Final result: Remain with Allegheny Conference.

We would like to thank those who served on the Exploratory Committee giving of their time and efforts. Thank you to the congregation for your prayerful support and encouragement. We are proud of the congregation for going through the process. Now as we move forward we are challenged to see what God has for us individually and collectively.

Blessings.

Submitted by Deb Brenneman and Julia Tice

Hospitality Committee

During this past year the Hospitality Committee prepared and served 3 funeral meals: Dan Puffinburg, Esther Kolb and Ruth E. Yoder. We also arranged several carry-in meals, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Easter Breakfast.

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank the many people who gave of their time to help prepare food, serve meals, set up and clean up events.

Submitted by Julia Tice

Everence Advocate

Everence grants were received during the past year. The grants were used to help provide health insurance to a member of the congregation and local concerns.

Submitted by Nancy Green

Church Library New and Donated Books 2017-2018

New Purchases—Adult

Alexander, Tamera. *A Beauty So Rare.*
A Lasting Impression.
A Note Yet Unsung.

Andrews, Mesu. *Miriam.*

Bischof, Joanne. *The Lady and the Lion Heart.*

Eakes, Laurie Alice. *A Lady's Honor.*
A Stranger's Secret.
The Mountain Midwife.

Eckhardt, Kristin. *A New Chapter.*

Ellis, Mary. *Magnolia Moonlight.*

Fabry, Chris. *The Promise of Jesse Woods.*
Under a Cloudless Sky.

Green, Jocelyn. *The Mark of the King.*

Hauck, Rachel. *The Writing Desk.*

Hunter, Denise. *Blue Ridge Sunrise.*
Honeysuckle Dreams.
Married 'til Monday.
Sweetbriar Cottage.

Johnson, Liz. *The Red Door Inn.*

Karon, Jan. *To Be Where You Are.*

Kaufman, Heather. *Loving Isaac.*

Ladd, Sarah. *The Curiosity Keeper.*

Laureano, Carla. *The Saturday Night Supper Club.*

Lucado, Max. *Anxious for Nothing.*

McHale, Celeste. *The Sweet Smell of Magnolias*
and Memories.

Martin, Charles. *Long Way Gone.*

Mason, Susan. *Love's Faithful Promise.*
A Worthy Heart.

Pachey, Urbane. *More Than One Thing Is True:*
Agony and Ecstasy Below Cloud Nine.

Rivers, Francine. *Leota's Garden.*

Sawyer, Kim. *Beneath a Prairie Moon.*
Room for Hope.

Stewart, Ann. *Stars in the Grass.*

Thomas, Sarah. *The Sound of Rain.*

Troyer, Marty. *The Gospel Next Door.*

Wade, Becky. *Her One and Only.*

Wingate, Lisa. *Dandelion Summer.*
Tending Roses.

Wright, Jaime. *The House on Foster Hill.*

New Purchases—Junior Youth

Barnhill, Kelly. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon.*

Esther Kolb Memorial Donations

Benton, Lori. *Many Sparrows.*

Fabry, Chris. *Looking into You.*

Hauck, Rachel. *The Love Letter.*

Hunter, Denise. *The Wishing Season.*

Sawyer, Kim. *Bringing Maggie Home.*

Wingate, Lisa. *A Month of Summer.*

Budd Wengerd Memorial Donations

Moore, Beth. *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus.*

Peterson, Christiana. *Mystics and Misfits: Meet-*
ing God through St. Francis and
Other Unlikely Saints.

Rubart, James. *The Long Journey to Jake Palmer.*

Donations—Adult

Austin, Lynn. *Return to Me.*

Cracker, Lorilee, ed. *Homespun: Amish and*
Mennonite Women in their Own Words.

Evans, Richard. *The Christmas Box Miracle.*

Groeschel, Craig. *Weird: Because Normal Isn't*
Working.

Guengerich, Twila. *Krista's Story: A Testimony*
of God's Love and Faithfulness.

Gunn, Robin. *Wildflowers.*
Woodlands.

Hedlund, Jody. *The Doctor's Lady.*

Hewitt, Brad. *Your New Money Mindset; Create*
a Healthy Relationship with Money.

McHenry, Janet. *Prayer Walk.*

Mock, Melanie. *Worthy: Finding Yourself in a*
World Expecting Someone Else.

Moore, Osheta. *Shalom Sistas: Living Whole-*
heartedly in a Broken World.

Raney, Deborah. *Forever After.*

Stutzman, Ervin. *From Nonresistance to Justice.*

Weaver, Sonia. *What Is Palestine-Israel?*

Yoder, Brenda. *Fledge: Launching Your Kids*
Without Losing Your Mind.

DVD Donations

The Christmas Candle.
Christmas Child: A Max Lucado Story.

Submitted by Beth Green

Helping Other People's Emergencies (HOPE) Committee

We have such a caring, giving and loving congregation who always step forward when asked to help others who need some extra encouragement throughout the year!

This past year was a busy one for reaching out and helping with meals for precious people who needed to know we care and that they are loved...and there was always a yes when calls were made and a willing heart to share and serve!

A BIG thank you to all those who provided and delivered meals. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity!

May we all have an attitude of gratitude for all the blessings we have that we can share with those in need and as I always say.... "KINDNESS MATTERS!"

Keep serving in any way you can and make a difference in this world, in our Church, and in our community!

Submitted by Diana Detrick

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)

There were not enough children for this group to function this year.

Springs Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF)

The MYF members, while a small group, participated in Fall and Spring retreats at Laurelville in the past year. Hannah Bodes served as their adviser for these events. We also had a productive festival season with the MYF booth earning funds which helped to support attendance in these retreats.

Submitted by Pat Haglund

Ministers of Visitation

The Ministers of Visitation stayed very busy this year...

We began by gathering for a meeting to decide what is appropriate to say or not say when we visit those in nursing homes, hospitals and homes and to make a list of all those who would benefit from visitors. Our team compiles a list of names and decided who would visit these dear people. We also talked about how we are the ones who are blessed by being the hands and feet of Jesus to others. This isn't a job, it's a privilege and it's a win-win position!

Those serving this year were Shirley Brandes, Dixie Otto, Marvette Hollada, Ken Detrick and Diana Detrick. We were also blessed to have Robert and Luann Yutz make many visits to shut-ins.

Thank you also to many others in our church family who take time to visit and serve with their time and their hearts. Kindness truly matters and spending a quality time with others is a special gift for the ones receiving and the ones giving.

Submitted by Ken & Diana Detrick

Music Committee

Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. Psalms 81:1

Music has always been an important part of worship, especially here at Springs. Over the past year, the Music Committee has been involved with scheduling song leaders and coordinating special music with the worship committee. We were blessed several times this year with small group chorus times for special services. The Worship Team led the worship and the music for numerous services and we had some special singing services involving different people of the church.

We faced some challenges this year with the changing face of the Springs church. Several of our song leaders stepped down due to various issues they were facing. We have been blessed to have others join the list of available song leaders even when they were not especially comfortable in that role. They have done an amazing job and we are so thankful for their service. Due to availability of Worship Team members, towards the end of the year it became more difficult to schedule the group on a regular basis.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved over the past year: song leaders, accompanists, planners and organizers, Worship Team singers and musicians, those involved in special music, and the congregation for your participation in the music each Sunday morning. Let us continue to pray for the challenges we face as our church finds its new normal and we move forward during this challenging season.

Submitted by Esther Beitzel, Music Committee Chair with Byron Miller and Karin Miller

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee sent out 18 cards to sick and shut-ins during the month of November 2017 for Thanksgiving remembrances; and 20 Valentines during the month of February. From October 2017 through October 2018, 64 visitor cards were sent out. The highest were sent during Mothers' Day and the Christmas holiday. Cost for these was absorbed by a committee member.

In June, Chair of the Outreach Committee, Jean Maust, resigned due to personal commitments. She was replaced by Tammy Miller. Feeling she was not able to give the help that was needed, Fay Yoder also stepped down the first week in September due to health reasons. She continues to send out the post cards and additional cards to shut-ins until she can be replaced.

In August, the Outreach Committee organized the Springs Community Picnic with a lot of help from others. We had the famous barbecued chicken. We also played bingo. Both bingo and door prizes were donated by the Grantsville Rotary Club. We had at least 80+ in attendance.

Submitted by Sherry Abel

Mennonite Disaster Service: Casselman Valley Unit

The Casselman Valley Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service helped to complete the Clendenin, WV home just before Christmas 2017. The homeowner had lived in a camper for over a year and a half and was so thankful to finally move back into a home. A dedication service was held February 28, 2018. Lynford Maust extended a sincere thank you to everyone who helped on the project.

We did not have a local fundraiser dinner last year and no other projects were addressed.

Submitted by Reuben Tice

Correspondent

Reports were written for the Mennonite World Review every other month. Items included in the reports are information about congregational celebrations, worship services, special projects, fund raisers, births, marriages, and deaths.

Submitted by Lois Hepler

Church Retreat

Our annual church retreat was held October 15-16 at the church. It was a weekend filled with lots of food, laughter, and games. Willis amazed us with a viewing of the international space station! Sunday service was filled with songs of praise and a meditation from our new interim pastors, Luann and Robert Yutzy.

Submitted by Rosie Cupler, Lori Otto, Kim Miller, and Nancy Green

Springs Church Men's Softball Team

The team was in the Grantsville Men's Christian Softball League. The season ran from May through September. The final regular season record was 10-18, placing 6th. We appreciate that Kim Miller and Becky Shoemaker kept the score book for us and appreciate all of the fans who came to support us. Jamie Clark and Steven Yoder served as umpires for the league as needed. We only had enough players from Springs to make up about half of the roster, and we also welcomed players from Pentecostal Apostolic and Cornerstone churches to complete the team. The team was blessed with the opportunity to fellowship with other men of faith, from seven other teams, in the game of softball. The team represented the church well with sportsmanship and fairness. We encourage more men from Springs to come out next year for another great season.

Submitted by Jamie Clark

Student Aid

Early in the spring each high school senior or their parents were contacted to find out what their college intentions were and to make them aware of the \$1000 grant that was available to them if they attended a Mennonite-affiliated college.

During the 2017-18 school year, one student, attending Eastern Mennonite University, received aid from the Student Aid Fund.

Submitted by Beverly A. Critchfield

Tri-State Relief Sale: July 20 & 21, 2018

The Springs congregation was again very supportive of the mission of MCC and the work that went into the success of this year's sale. One of the most visible ways that this support was shown was each Sunday morning when the children collected or coins from us during the morning's offering!! This year the My Coins Count (MCC) equaled \$2,979. Last year, our total was \$1,876. With the matches that we received from the Springs congregation, we were able to send \$5,979 to the Tri-State Sale. THANK YOU, KIDS!!

This year, our sale faced a major transition. One of the founders of the sale and our treasurer, Dale Miller, was forced to retired due to health reasons. Dale and his family not only managed the money; they also were our IT staff. Melinda Gibson became our new treasurer. She and Jesse Maust also revamped our accounting and auction software and the sale went off without any problems. THANK YOU-MELINDA!!

This was a down year for the sale. The last couple of years we were able to send between \$65,000 and \$70,000. This year we will only be able to send \$50,000. The shortfall was due to \$6,000 less being raised for MCC and \$9,000 less being raised in pre-sale fund raisers and contributions. Total pre-sale income from ads and fundraisers was \$3,491.82, or 5.32% of the total. The total income from both the silent and the Saturday auction was \$62,204.56, or 94.68% of the total. Expenses included auction and food items purchased as well as an assortment of administrative fees, plus various publicity costs totaling \$6,993, or about 45% of the total expenses. Other costs incurred include rent, utilities and maintenance fees that totaled \$5,940.70. However, another concern was that attendance was down by 300 people (38%). (The sale's detailed, final financial report is available upon request from Melinda Gibson.)

Submitted by Douglas A. Berg

Visual Arts Committee

The Visual Arts Committee is asked to "provide flowers or other visual aids for each Sunday worship service as well as special times..." Our desire is to help provide a meaningful worship experience.

We frequently place centerpieces on the tables that are used for Sunday morning fellowship time, meals following a funeral, carry-in meals, and the community Thanksgiving dinner.

We ordered lilies, tulips and hyacinths for use at Easter, and poinsettias for use during Advent and at Christmas. In addition to the special Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter displays, other visuals enhanced the Christmas Eve candlelight service and the Maundy Thursday communion and Good Friday services. "Prayer knots" were displayed during Lent, and a special display was done for Pentecost Sunday.

We are grateful for the help and support of many people, including the Worship Committee, those who ordered poinsettias, left floral arrangements following a funeral, provided flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, gave suggestions, pictures, and advice; donated items, helped to construct props, and contributed and transported needed visual elements. Special thanks is given to, but is not limited to: Jerry Abel, Rich Beitzel, Jane Benson, Sandy Brennehan, Isaac Tice, Julia & Laban Tice, and Luann Yutzky.

We thank you and welcome your suggestions.

Submitted by Jan Bender & Rosie Cupler

Worship Committee

Each week, someone from our committee is responsible for:

- Securing a worship leader;
- Helping to craft the order of service;
- Communicating with the individuals involved in the service.

Both the Music Committee and the Visual Arts Committee have been receptive to our ideas and requests.

For Advent and Lent, we adapted materials provided by Mennonite Church USA. In conjunction with Pastors Luann and Robert, we planned a Christmas Eve Service and an early service on Easter morning. Children's stories, dramas, special music and visuals enriched our services throughout the year. An Easter chorus and the children's Christmas program were special additions.

We were challenged and encouraged by the messages and wisdom of Pastors Luann and Robert. Guest speakers who inspired us during the year included Phoebe Wiley, Naomi Tice, Willis Beitzel, Sherry Abel, Linford Stutzman, James Rissler, Earl Yoder and Ervin Stutzman. Norm Arrington ministered to us through drama and Harry Mimna brought a message through song.

When Naomi left for her new assignment, Sandy agreed to fill her spot on the committee. We deeply appreciate the many people who accept our requests to contribute in some way to our services. We thank God for your faithfulness and commitment to the church.

Submitted by Beth Green, Shirley Brandes, Sandy Brenneman, Glenn and Tammy Miller

Current College Students

Mennonite Voluntary Service

Brayden Thomas

Naomi Tice