

August 2017

# The Chestnut Corner



Souderton Mennonite Church

[soudertonmennonite.org](http://soudertonmennonite.org)



## 2017 Youth Convention

by Nate Johnson

Early in the morning on July 4th, twenty-three teens and chaperones met, prayed and boarded a plane for the Mennonite USA Youth Convention in Orlando, Florida. The theme was “Love is a Verb” and students were challenged to put their faith into action. Throughout the week, the students were led into worship by a band that combined the best of (magnificent) four-part hymn-singing with high energy contemporary worship choruses. Scott Roth was the stand-out speaker encouraging students to be their own superhero in the “League of Infinite Potential” serving an infinite God who empowers and fills us. One evening, Michael Sharp’s parents were Skyped into the service and, with tears and aching smiles, remembered their son. They challenged students to follow M.J.’s example of passionate service and sacrifice for the Kingdom of God. In the middle of the week, we enjoyed Universal Studios theme

parks, and on the final full day, we visited an addiction recovery ministry and worked on a painting project. It was a week of fun, service, worship, building meaningful relationships and being called to give our all to Christ.

Thank you to all who gave to make this possible!





Vacation Bible School was an exciting adventure in the jungle!

We discovered that God is CREATOR, PROVIDER, PROTECTOR, SAVIOR, & KING!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped this year.



# My Hospice Story

by Claude Good

“There’s really nothing more we can do – it’s up to your body now to see what it can do,” the doctor said as he gently put his hand on my knee. The antibiotics had not worked and I was told the bacteria had colonized and taken over my body. It all started because I was not drinking enough due to being a light sleeper and wanting to take less trips to the bathroom at night on my wheelchair. That led to a urinary tract infection but the antibiotics I was given, including a 24-hour heavy intravenous dose, did not help me and the doctor was not optimistic about my future.

I was still able to go to the dining room, but it was not a pleasant experience. I couldn’t understand why others at the table said the food was good because it tasted very bad to me and even told my daughter it was “revolting.” I could only force myself to eat about half a portion, so consequently, I lost about 30 pounds which affected my overall health. A decision was made to send me to the skilled care unit where I could receive more care, but I continued to grow weaker. Then one day my blood pressure dropped to 60/20. Our daughter, Marcia was with me at the time, and realizing that I was in serious condition, she called her siblings together because the doctor and nurses really didn’t think



I would live.

During this time, hospice was called to give me “end of life” care. The whole point of hospice was to take me off aggressive medications that were supposed to “fix” me but were also painful and made me focus on what made me comfortable. These nurses took excellent care of me, but became very anxious and I felt I could not do anything about it. I was very aware of scripture like Phil. 4:8, “Be not anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes understanding, will keep your heart and mind.” I repeated that one to myself over and over again. The last couple of verses of Habakkuk state, “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails

and the fields produce no food... yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior." I don't know how many hundreds of times I repeated that one to myself. Another one was Zephaniah 3:17, The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing." I found out that anxiety has to be fought with truth.

Then surprisingly, something happened that started turning the situation around, and my nurse informed me that I would be taken off hospice since I was continuing to improve. The improvement was dramatic; instead of looking at food as a hard chore to get down, I soon had a voracious appetite. The same food that tasted so bad became wonderful.

Soon the therapy department began to rather strongly insist that I needed exercise. They said I should go out in the hallway with the wheelchair and go back and forth for a half hour, six days a week. I thought that would be impossible since I was still very weak, but I found out that we can often do much more than we think we can. I am still going out every day for that exercise, and even though I still do not have nearly the strength I used to have, I am better than I was when I was at my weakest. I have found people in the hallway are very encouraged and that it helps me greatly to be encouraging to others.

Another great benefit is that I found I could read better than I thought I could. For a couple of months, I read practically nothing. I was bedfast 24 hours a day. But now I get up three times a day for an hour or two for meals, which is a total of about 5 hours a day in my recliner. When I'm sitting up, I can reach my Bible in the drawer. I've found a great interest in reading my many underlined portions and God has been teaching me what it means to be made in his image, full of the same will and emotions that he had.

During the time I was at my weakest, I assumed that I would be passing on in the not too distant future. But I am glad I was wrong.

## Another Young Adult Update

### **Kassandra Moyer**

I graduated from Drexel University in June 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. I am currently living in Langhorne, Pennsylvania and working full time as a structural designer at a structural engineering firm called JT Engineering in Lawrenceville, NJ.



On Sunday, July 16th Souderton Mennonite Church enjoyed a time of worship, fellowship, food & games at the Souderton Park. The weather was beautiful and the time out in the community was special. Thank you to everyone who helped make this time a success!



Photo credit: Sam Kulp.



## Morwood Park Baptism

by David Miller

God's spirit was present on this beautiful Sunday afternoon. At 3:00 on June 25, 2017, family and friends gathered on the creek bed as Nate Johnson led us in song and Pastor Tim conducted the baptisms. It was a marvelous spiritual experience and physical observance of

baptism beside and in the creek at Morwood Park. Davry Longacre, my grandson, was baptized in the creek along with another young man from Rockhill Mennonite Church. About 60 or more Christians had gathered to observe, pray, sing and wish them well on their lifetime journey with Jesus while here on earth. The persons baptized spoke commitments of faith in Jesus before moving into the creek. It was a complete physical down-

in-the-water-and-up-out-of-the-water observance. It signified their entrance into repentance from sin, a cleansed washing of self, and a commitment to Jesus Christ, their Messiah, Savior, Lord and King. It also signified being a part of Jesus' local church here on earth, an acceptance into God's eternal family and part of the heavenly hosts forever. And from now on, they are disciple followers of JESUS!"

## Sundae in the Park

At the beginning of the summer, Souderton Mennonite Church led off the weekly Sundaes in the Park summer program held by Souderton Park. Lead Pastor Tim Bentsch sang with the soprano, Veronica Chapman-Smith, and the two were joined by members from SMC's choir for the finale!



Photo credit:  
Sam Kulp.

## Dance Workshops!

From July 17th-21st SMC's children's ministry director, Sarah Scorzetti, led a dance workshop that 20 girls attended! Each day Sarah taught a different style of dance. Other than dancing, the girls spent time doing crafts, journaling, listening to stories and devotionals, and participating in special activities.



**SOUNDERTON**  
mennonite church

105 W. Chestnut Street • Souderton, PA  
215-723-3088 • soudertonmennonite.org

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 am  
Sunday School for all ages: 10:50 am

# Bethany Birches Service Trip

by Ruth Walter



Our group consisted of eleven people who went to serve the Lord in beautiful Plymouth, Vermont. Our purpose was to work at projects that needed to be done prior to the camping season opening. The group consisted of Steve Halteman (Our Leader), Don Housel, Alan Landis, Len Walter, Shirley Frankenfield, Linda Gehman, Wendy Clemmer, Sally Kolb, Wilma Keller, Gail Alderfer, and Ruth Walter.

Our group met in the church parking lot at 8:30 AM Sunday morning, May 21 and were sent on our way with prayers for safety and blessings from our pastors: John, Jenifer, and Tim. We arrived late afternoon with enough time to take some walks and get acquainted with our surroundings. Wilma Keller and Gail Alderfer were our cooks for the week, so they were busy making a tasty meal for us. They probably worked harder than the rest of us in order to always have delicious meals ready for hungry workers.

Monday morning found us all getting up bright and early and getting ready for the days ahead. We always had breakfast followed by devotions from "Our Daily Bread" and prayer to get our day started. The cooks asked that two people would do dishes after each meal and we were ready to work by 8:30 and 10:15 was break time with Wilma and Gail providing drinks and snacks. Lunch was usually at 12-12:30 and then work until 3-3:30. The evenings were spent either playing games, reading, hiking or just sitting around talking.

Our work for the first few days was staining the new pavilion that the camp took occupancy of in 2016. We all worked on the pavilion the first two days, some on the ground, some on ladders and scaffolding, and a couple people were brave enough to go on the roof. They weren't both men either. You notice the women outnumbered the men and we all worked hard. We also worked at cutting down trees, splitting and stacking wood. The limbs and debris were loaded on to a wagon and taken to a burn pile.

What I perceived as a God moment was when a couple of the women found an interesting rock that had a cross in the grain of the rock. It was not etched on the surface of the rock but the grain went through the rock. I'm hoping that rock will be displayed in some way at the camp as a reminder of the camps mission.



# Hope for Health



## Haiti—June 18 to June 25, 2017

By: Amy Adams

Our group of 15 included Glenn Bauman, Nathan Wong, Joanna Benner, Frankie Rosenberger, Patricia Kracht, Sarah Sofia, Weston Carpenter, Jonathan Keach, Christopher Keach, Brenda Carranza, Abell Carranza, Andre Carranza, Cady Adams and Amy Adams. Prior to the trip there was much to be accomplished including passports, vaccines, medical forms, team meetings, work nights and meeting financial needs.

We gathered at SMC at 11:59 PM on June 17. Our travel to JFK and then to Haiti was uneventful. Once in Haiti, we loaded one Jeep and one van to begin our 5 hour ride to the guest house. This was one of the hardest parts of the trip for me. I couldn't imagine how it is to live in a third world country until I saw it for myself. This made me grateful for all I have but also made my heart go out to the people of Haiti.

We spent most of the trip working but there was always fun some where in the mix. The teens took advantage of some free time to play soccer. Others

just took in the scenery and went up on the roof. Monday we stayed at the guest house and prepared for the clinics. We bagged up medicine, mixed dental powder and lotions to be given out at the clinics. The evening was more getting to know each other and playing with the children in the village.

We started the clinics Tuesday morning. The normal clinic day was getting up about 6:30 am to be ready for breakfast and devotions by 7 am. We set up the clinics, registration, checked height and weight of children, administered vitamin A and deworming pills, checked blood pressures and iron levels and sent them to check out. Check out included measuring the children's growth, asking them about any issues, and reviewing all the findings. These clinics reached 1,538 individuals.

Several experiences stood out to me and impacted me. The first would be the Jeeps breaking down not once but three times. This allowed me to visit with the children on the roads of their towns. The amount of people that stopped to help complete strangers and foreigners was amazing. The Jeep got fixed every time in the most

unconventional ways.

We did have an experience during the week that was faith changing for all who witnessed it firsthand. Weston, a teenager on his third trip to Haiti, shared he was struggling with his faith. On the first day he lost his wallet. After searching all evening he chalked it up as gone. He had given up on ever having the money returned, but sent up a prayer to God that his wallet and his license could be found. Two days later at one of our clinics, our driver got a phone call from a local pastor, looking for Weston Carpenter. He was told that someone had found his wallet (money included) on the road two days earlier. Later that week, we got to meet the boy that found the wallet and his mother that taught him to "never keep anything that isn't yours." This miracle not only restored Weston's faith, but also strengthened the group's.

Finally, the biggest challenge for me was not being able to speak their language. I realized by the end of the trip that it really didn't matter. We brought them a friendly face and smile and hope but most of all we shared with them a universal language: GOD'S LOVE!