

Evangel



A Passion for the World Mission-hearted Janet Pleshert to Address Delegates at Mt. View 2006

By Susan McCarthy Palmer

"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

Janet Pleshert is a Mennonite whose heart beats for all the world. Since 1987, she and her family have been Mennonite missionaries, involved in reaching the nations with the Gospel. So when the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Board contacted her, inviting her to address its delegates on the theme of "Calling and Nurturing Lives of Service," Janet nearly leaped at the opportunity. "It's just such an important topic," she enthused during a phone conversation with Evangel editor Sue Palmer in March. "The Church is God's chosen instrument, called to serve one another, both within our own community and then the world beyond."

It is this vision of service that Janet plans to share when she addresses delegates and others at Mt. View 2006, June 23-25, in Kalispell, Montana. "Service can be understood on so many levels and from many perspectives," Janet explained, noting that her own messages would seek to exhort involvement in lives of service for all believers. "The church is called to be salt, dispersed among the world." That "salt" she said, finds its base and development in what we learn in the local church. "The more are nurtured in service in our local church, the more we can be used to transform others in the world."

Executive Secretary (Director) of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, the missions department of the denomination, Janet and her family served as missionaries from 1987 to 2000, traveling first to Congo, then Brazzaville Congo, and finally Brazil. Then, in 2000, she began serving as an administrator of missions for the Commission on Overseas Missions and Mennonite Board of Missions. In 2002, she was named executive director for MC Canada Witness' International Missions Program and, this past January, was appointed head of the entire Witness department.

Registration materials for Mt. View 2006 were sent to churches at the end of March. Readers interested in participating may contact their pastors for detailed information.

I AM My Brother's Keeper PNMCers Help MDS with Gulf Disaster Projects

By Susan McCarthy Palmer

It doesn't take much for a person to become overwhelmed when looking at pictures of the devastation caused last August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina foisted its fury on the Gulf Coast communities of the United States. Whole villages shattered, their remnants strewn about for hundreds of miles around, millions left homeless. MDS Katrina Project (Continued from Page 1)

Bryan Shepherd knows about being "shattered" and "homeless". He lived as a

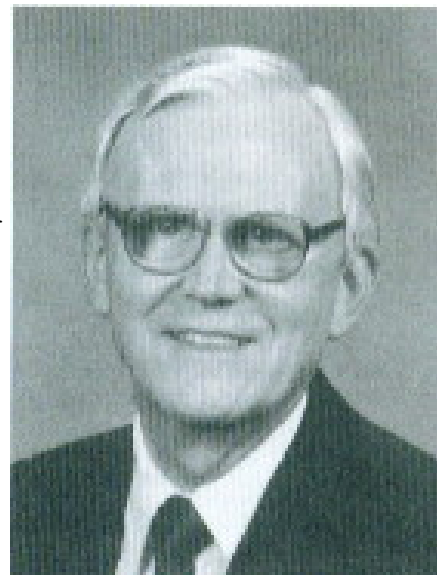


Bryan Shepherd, one of numerous PNMCers who helped MDS this winter in Gulf Coast cities ravaged by hurricanes last summer.

Continued on Page 4

A Word from Our Moderator

- In my first article three years ago this summer I wrote the following paragraph: "Since Moses Lake, I have especially been praying for wisdom to serve as Moderator. I have always been impressed with the account of King Solomon in I Kings 3 where he asks God to "... give your servant a discerning heart ..." to serve as King. I am praying for a discerning and sensitive spirit so that I might serve faithfully." It is my hope and trust that is how I have been serving.
- I am a strong believer in and supporter of conferences. I began serving around 1959 or 60 and have enjoyed serving in various capacities since. This is my fourth term as Moderator. I have enjoyed each term and it is interesting to reflect back to the variety of things we faced in each one. This current term has had its own pain and grief including one church choosing to leave and for the reasons they left. One of the things I enjoyed so very much was to visit the member churches. I met so many wonderful people and enjoyed worshipping with them and talking together. While it was time consuming this truly was a highlight for me and I was blessed over and over again! Remember that you are part of a network of churches scattered throughout the Northwest, each attempting to be faithful to God and His church in their own setting.
- My term is a three year transitional term and will end June 30, 2006. We have now begun the structure of selecting a Moderator Elect to serve for two years and then becoming Moderator for two years. I believe this will work well. The Structure and Vision Task Force will be presenting a new vision and core values at our annual sessions this summer. They will then make recommendations at the annual sessions in 2007 regarding the structure of PNMC.
- Another item we will act on at Mt. View 2006 will be a new covenant with our sister conference "Convencion de Iglesias Evangelicas Menonitas del Noroeste de Mexico" (CIEMNM) in Northwest Mexico. The former covenant expires this summer and we plan to replace it with a new five year covenant.
- I look forward to seeing you at Mt View 2006, June 23 – 25 in Kalispell, Montana! Our theme is "Calling and Nurturing for Lives of Service" with a focus for youth. Please encourage your youth to attend! Our guest speaker is Janet Plenert, who was one of the speakers for youth at Charlotte 2005. Other articles in this issue tell more about what to expect. The planning committees are working diligently to plan program and local arrangements. Please remember Mt. View 2006 in prayer.



Receive my blessing for you:

"May hope in the risen Christ sustain you;
May faith in the risen Christ strengthen you;
May the joy of the risen Christ radiate from you today and in the days to come;
Live in peace."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Willems".

John Willems, Moderator

The EVANGEL is a quarterly publication of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

Susan McCarthy Palmer, Editor
19532 NE Glisan St.
Portland, OR 97230
503-492-4216 office@pnmc.org

Editorial Deadlines:

Spring 2006: March 10, 2006	Summer 2006: July 7, 2006
Fall 2006: September 1, 2006	Winter 2006: Nov. 3, 2006

Subscription changes to Ray Nussbaum, Western Mennonite School., 9045 Wallace Road NW, Salem, OR 97304 or raykay@teleport.com

The word "Evangel" written in a large, bold, stylized font with a brush-stroke or calligraphic appearance. The letters are dark and have some internal texture.

Volume 60, Number 4 Winter 2005
ISSN# 1088-7210 USPS #353-420
Postage Paid at Newport, Oregon



The Importance of Vision

By Duncan Smith

What is vision? What role does it play in our lives? How important is having a vision anyway?

To Solomon, declared by God to be the wisest man who ever walked the earth, it was critical. "Where there is no vision," he writes in Proverbs 29:18, "the people perish." Clearly, this leader of God's people, whose first recorded prayer to the Almighty seeks the vision necessary to lead and guide that multitude, vision is the necessary commodity which guides and leads us, which gives us life.

Consider, for example, Jesus' own declaration, recorded in Luke's Gospel and read from the Book of Isaiah: "For the Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19) Wow, that's a vision!

Vision is a reminder of who we are as God's people. It is like a refresher course that takes us back to remember what we've known, while allowing us to move forward in newer and better ways. It is like a plumb line, that visual tool which keeps us on target, moving ever forward to our objective, while also helping us to notice when we wander off course.

Never think that vision is created merely for its own sake. Real vision does not come about only for the sake of filling a void, allaying boredom, or giving us something new to do. When vision is grounded in the depth of God's grace and love for this world, it leads a people to a deeper life in God.

For more than a year now, it has been my pleasure to sit with the Structure and Vision Task Force and experience God working in our midst. We have spent time reflecting on Scripture, listening to each other, disagreeing with each other, praying, looking at paradigms, and, overall, seeking God's "vision" for the PNMC.

There have been special sacred moments, sharing of our lives, moments of "aha" (where we think we get it), and moments of "duh" (how long has that idea been sitting there waiting for us to see it). Mostly, it has been a process where we have experienced God in our midst.

During this time, Colossians 3: 11-17 has been one of the guiding set of verses for the group. Verse 12 of this passage reads: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Amazing how, even in this one verse, a person can find vision and direction for a people of God!

I encourage you to read this entire passage, reflect on it, and consider what these might mean for you, your congregation, but also the PNMC. Consider also the Proposed Vision, Mission, Core Values and Core Processes of the PNMC, as detailed in the sidebar story at right. What we have written is only the beginning of the process which must, to be fully representative and effective for all of us in this portion of Christ's body, involve the input of you all.

I think I can speak for the SVTF by saying that we only hope that what you read here, or have heard about and discussed in other settings, articulates the leading of God that the Task Force has felt.

Help Us Chart PNMC's Course for the Next Ten Years!

By Susan McCarthy Palmer

As Duncan Smith has so pithily pointed out in his column this issue, vision is critical to fulfilling God's plan, whether that is for us as individuals or as larger corporate entities, such as congregations or conferences.

For this reason, in January 2005, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors established the Structure and Vision Task Force (SVTF) to examine the goals and activities of the PNMC as established in 1994, assess how effectively those goals were being met, and determine what, if anything, needed to be adjusted, both in terms of its objectives, as well as the methods and activities used to meet those objectives. Included in the analysis would be God's overall calling for the PNMC over the next 10 years, examination of the structure of the conference, number of staff, services provided and what changes might be possible and/or advisable in the future. The process would also involve the participation of individuals throughout the conference, whose own thoughts and opinions would be sought in establishing the future course, methodology and practices of the PNMC.

It is with such a purpose in mind that the SVTF would like to share with you the proposed future vision, mission, core values and processes of the PNMC and seek your questions, thoughts and opinions. Following are statements that the SVTF has drafted as the proposed vision, mission, core values and processes of the PNMC as we progress into the 21st century:

- Proposed PNMC Vision (flows out of existing MC USA Vision: Hope and Healing): "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."
- Proposed PNMC Mission: "As the PNMC, God calls us to:
 - Promote individual spiritual development

Continued on Page 5

PNMCers Help MDS Katrina Projects (Continued from Page 1)

homeless person for several years before Steve Kimes, pastor of Anawim Christian Community, a Portland, Oregon, Mennonite church of the homeless and mentally ill, took him into his home.

So when the opportunity presented itself for Bryan, along with two other people from Anawim, to work with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in Long Beach, a Mississippi community near Gulfport, where Katrina had created a great deal of damage, Bryan knew almost immediately that God was calling him to go.

Now an active member of both Anawim and Peace Mennonite Church, also in Portland, with a fledgling lawncare business taking shape, Bryan didn't "really feel needy" himself any more. "I depend on God and all my needs are taken care of. If my needs are taken care of," he reasoned, "then I need to give something back to the community and to do something that's righteous before God."

The disaster he encountered during his December week in the Gulfport area was far more than he expected. "I was

surprised to see the devastation of what a storm could do," he commented. "When you say 'people lost everything,' you don't realize what 'everything' means until you see people's things pushed out onto the sidewalk: their couches, refrigerators, TVs. Everything is just out into the street!"

Bryan and his pals were part of a team of people from all over the country, assigned to help cut down trees and pick up debris that was scattered throughout the neighborhood where they worked. Their hours were long, lasting from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for the first four days, then 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the final few.

Sounds like an exhausting tour of duty but Bryan, who said "absolutely" he'd go to help out again, called his week in the Katrina disaster area "like a vacation!" How so? "Well, you could go on vacation and come back feeling like you needed to go again. You're more tired than when you left." In working with MDS, however, he "felt good about what I accomplished and that, without hesitation, I'd done what God called me to do."

Bryan wasn't the only one who felt called of God to help the people in Mississippi. A team of 14 people from Menno Mennonite also joined with MDS for a week in

January. Their assignment: bringing the storm-ravaged Gospel Bible Camp back to liveability. "The dormitory had suffered roof damage from the hurricane and falling trees," Charlotte Hardt, moderator of PNMC's Board of Directors and a member of the Menno team, explained. "Amish workers with MDS had earlier put a new roof on, but the interior ceilings, which were soaked and wet, had to be torn down, along with soggy insulation, various dead bugs and squirrel leavings." The crew from Menno worked during the week "doing the necessary mucking out, rewiring and putting up new wall board. Others in the group put on new doors, installed new plumbing, and wall board in a woman's home. Still others helped put a roof on a new house.

The Menno group was also stunned by the devastation that met their eyes. "You could drive for 120 miles along the coast and see nothing but destroyed buildings," Charlotte recalled. "For about two or three blocks back from the shore there was nothing left but foundations and poles that used to hold signs. As you went back a bit further, you could see where the buildings that were washed away were piled on top of others."

Even buildings spared from total devastation, bore marks of Katrina's passing. "They were covered with the infamous blue tarps, which were already starting to shred. Houses that from the outside looked okay were completely devastated on the inside. Water had been above the ceilings and everything was moldy and thrown about."

Simply finding one's way around town was difficult, Charlotte said. "There are few street signs, as the winds blew them away...so you have to count streets from a known street or a building that someone has spray-painted an address on. There are also few public (toilet) facilities around."

Charlotte agreed with Bryan that the time spent helping the hurricane victims was well worth it and that each of the team from Menno would gladly return to help again.

As this edition of the Evangel went to press, it was learned that many others from other PNMC churches have also traveled to the Gulf Coast to help the devastated victims of Katrina and the other 2005 hurricanes. These included members of Calvary Mennonite Church, Aurora, OR; Pacific Covenant Church, Canby, OR; and Portland Mennonite Church.



Cement posts are all that's left of a Mississippi home, after hurricanes tore down this street last August, leaving nothing but rubble — and broken lives — in their wake.



Bryan Shepard of Anawim Christian Community and Peace Mennonite Church, both in Portland, "cutting up" while cutting down trees in Mississippi neighborhood.



Menno Mennonite Church Group who assisted with clean-up of flooded Mississippi homes during their week of service with MDS from January 8-13, 2006

Help Us Chart PNMC's Course for the Next Ten Years!

(Continued from Page 3)

- Nurture healthy congregations
- Make strong connections within our conference
- Connect to God's mission in the world"
- Proposed PNMC Core Values: "Our values will help us bind congregations together. We will:
 - Celebrate our similarities while embracing our differences
 - Be yielded, flexible and patient while faithfully discipling
 - Make peace while practicing justice
- Our vision of community with these values would be lived out in accordance with Colossians 3:11-17: "Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, Giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
- Proposed PNMC Core Processes:
 - Connect -- e.g. in writing, through the Evangel; through cluster meetings; through annual meetings and worship
 - Encourage -- e.g. pastor/spouse support and annual retreat; pulpit sharing; prayer calendar; Peace & Justice partnership and support
 - Lead -- e.g. pastoral credentialing; mission partnerships; cross-cultural Connections (NW Mexico)
 - Teach -- e.g. core courses for pastors; Regional, local and central courses (e.g. leadership training); pulpit sharing

As you consider the above:

- What do you affirm about what you have seen and heard?
- What concerns you about what you have seen and heard?
- Do the Vision, Mission, Core Values and Core Processes reflect your vision for the future of PNMC?

Please send your replies by April 30 to: Larry Hildebrant, Board of Directors and Structure Vision Task Force Member, 1370 West Way NW, Salem, OR 97304,
503-363-5576, ljhildebrant@comcast.net.

Re-“Structuring” at Drift Creek Camp

By Ken and Mabel Snyder

In our language, the word “structure” gets used in different settings. The obvious use has to do with buildings. Right now, the cabins at Drift Creek are being rebuilt – restructured. More on that later. Also right now, the Camp is experiencing significant staffing pattern restructuring.

STAFFING:

1. New to Drift Creek Camp since December is the Ogg family, Steve, Ann and their seven children. The Board had decided that instead of just one couple living on site for care taking, housekeeping, and more, we should have two couples and have the food service also managed from there instead of by the Director couple. The Ogg family agreed to cover it all. They are a wonderful family who do their own home schooling at the camp. Please get to know them and give them a warm welcome next time you are at Camp.
2. Jerry and Amy Markus are ending their time as Directors at Drift Creek. They will be greatly missed! This is also an opportunity to review the job description and do more “restructuring”. Not only will this position no longer directly manage food service, it is being changed to concentrate in a more focused way on program and overall administration as well as outward relations and development. The Board decided to explore the option of having the Director live in the Willamette Valley, for instance, so that the Director can relate more easily with our constituent Mennonite congregations for personal connectedness as well as to be a presence for the Camping ministries in DCC's primary constituency. Though the Board was given ample notice of Jerry and Amy's departure, finding a replacement has not succeeded at this point. Please join us in praying for a replacement person as well as for someone to come for an interim



Continued on Page 6

- period until the permanent person can be found and settle in.
3. Part of restructuring the Director's job is to relieve the position of work which should be done by an Administrative Assistant. This includes secretarial and financial bookkeeping duties. Starting immediately, the Board is looking for a person, possibly someone newly retired, who can become responsible for this work. The schedule would be flexible and would probably not exceed half time. Hopefully this can be a volunteer to begin with. The person would establish a home office here in the Valley for Drift Creek Camp with a phone connection and computer and would also manage a Camp bank account. Please help Drift Creek find someone prepared to dedicate themselves to a rewarding ministry in this way.

To give suggestions, leads, or to apply personally for any of this contact Ken Snyder at kenmabel@open.org or by phone at 503-362-5535.

CABINS:

Four of the five A-frame cabins, well used and rapidly decaying, were removed last fall and "re-structuring" is now taking place. The fifth one may need to wait until after the coming summer. The new cabins will not be A-frame so that the floor space is fully useable. With thanks to God and willing donors, money has been received for all the new cabins! The concrete work is nearly finished as of this writing and the structures will soon be rising. Volunteers are needed to help complete this by camping season. A couple skilled persons are committed to making some of the new bunk beds, at six per cabin. Help may be needed to complete the number required.

The contact person for this project is Gerald Mast at christmast@juno.com or by phone at 503-651-3757 or cell number 503-319-7014.

Draft Counselor Workshop Attracts 30 for Info and Training

By Al Lind & Jack Knox

Because of growing concern about the possible reinstatement of the military draft, a Draft Counselor Training workshop was held in the central Willamette Valley on the weekend of November 4-6. The presenter was Bill Galvin, a Counseling Coordinator for the Center on Conscience and War (CCW) in Washington, D.C. CCW was formed in 1940 by an association of religious groups including Mennonites, Quakers, Brethren and Methodists. Initially known as the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, the CCW set out to defend and extend the rights of conscientious objectors. Today, the CCW opposes all forms of conscription and supports all who question participation in war.

The November 4-6 weekend included a presentation for the general public on Friday evening at Albany Mennonite Church, an all day training workshop on Saturday at Salem Mennonite Church for those interested in becoming Draft Counselors and a presentation on Sunday afternoon also at Salem Mennonite Church specifically for pastors, youth leaders and people involved in congregational Peace Committees. Organizing the weekend was a cooperative effort of the Peace Cabinets at Salem Mennonite Church and Zion Mennonite Church.

The key event was the all day training session on Saturday at Salem Mennonite Church. The response was overwhelming. Originally, we hoped that we would be able to attract the minimum number of registrants (15) that the CCW requires in order to hold such a workshop, but we actually reached the maximum (30) and had a waiting list of people to call in case one of the registrants had to cancel. Participants in the represented PNMC churches from Eugene to Seattle. In addition, the event attracted non-Mennonite participants from other denominations and from Willamette University.

Those who participated in the Saturday training session acquired skills necessary for raising awareness of draft issues and for initiating ongoing community response to militarism. They are also able to counsel and to provide reliable information to young people and active military persons who have concerns about militarism and military service.

There is an obviously growing concern about global conflict and specifically the *war on terrorism* led by our government. Accordingly, Draft Counselors are a valuable resource for our churches and communities. If your congregation was not represented in the training session, we encourage you to contact the Peace Cabinet of Salem Mennonite Church if you are seeking assistance in preparing your youths to become conscientious objectors and to make good decisions about draft registration and other related issues.

Perry Yoder to Speak in PNW

Thanks to a \$1000 grant from the Peace & Justice Support Network, the Peace and Justice group of Zion Mennonite Church will be sponsoring a teaching tour on peace and justice issues by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Old Testament Professor Emeritus Perry Yoder. Professor Yoder's tentative schedule is as follows:

September 29 - October 1: Seattle and Evergreen Mennonite Church

October 6-8: Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA

October 13- 15: mid-Willamette Valley, OR

October 20-22: Idaho Mennonite Congregations

October 26 - 28: Regional Peace Gathering, Albany, OR

October 29: Sunday morning visit to valley congregation to be determined

Sunday, October 29: Young Adult Event, Salem Mennonite Church

November 3 - 5: Annual Members Meeting, Drift Creek Camp

Further details will be featured in the Summer 2006 issue of the Evangel.

WMS 34th Annual Auction Gets Underway

By Andrea Wall

Since Western Mennonite School's humble beginnings in 1945, one thing has been very clear: God is guiding the school and is shaping and molding the lives of each student. Over the last 61 years God has used our community to bless Western. Through the Benefit Auction, the school's largest fundraiser, the community has rallied together and the auction has grown from \$1,800 in 1968 to \$125,000 in 2005, making it the largest auction in the school's history and one of the premier school auctions in Oregon.

The auction kicks off with the first ever Stampede for Students 5K Fun Run/Walk starting at 8:00 am and the auction starting at 9:00 am. The family event includes 11 different food booths, a Children's Corner and over 350 items to bid on through the general auction and silent auction. Admission is free and parking is \$3. This year we are giving God the glory and you're invited to the celebration as we help impact students and build the future of Western Mennonite School.

A.I.D. Western: How You Can Help

- **Attend.** Join the Celebration May 6 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and support the students through your donations.
- **Invite.** \$5 Gift Cards can be purchased at the WMS Office. They are valid at any of Western's 11 Auction Food Booths and the money goes directly to support the students. Extend the Western family and invite a friend!
- **Donate.** Quality Items, Baked Goods and Fruit Pies are all needed for the auction. Quality items such as quilts, woodworking, recreation items, lawn & garden items and more are needed. Contact Charlene Schultz at 541-967-1849. Please bring your baked goods to the Pioneer Pantry and your fruit pies to the Pie Booth on the day of the auction. Pie tins are available at the school office.

For more information contact the school at 503-363-2000, or visit them online at www.westernmennoniteschool.org for a schedule, directions, 5K registration and more. The Bidder Guide will be available online at the end of April.

Building for Excellence: A Community Project

By Darrel White, Executive Director - Western Mennonite School

Western's Basketball Team overcame the odds and went to the State Tournament as the number one 2A team in the state in March. Twenty-four hours before the Pioneers final game, a group of fans came up with the idea for a catered BBQ at a hotel in Pendleton. After the disappointing loss to Bandon, an estimated 250 people attended the spontaneous event hosted by parents, Hans and Shauna Hendgen. Instead of just a celebration, the event turned into a blessing as the community grew closer together. After the Western fans left that night there was a new spirit among them. One parent commented to me, "This sense of community is why we chose Western." The evidence of this community continues to play out and continues to touch the lives of all those associated with the school.

John & Erma Jantzi and Jake & Marilyn Van Pelt are creating another chapter in Western's wonderful history. They know the importance of the proposed 12,500 sq. ft. Academic Center to Western's educational program, to the students and their families and to the mission of the PNMC conference churches. The Vision for Excellence campaign has made great strides and is now within \$1,800,000 of reaching its \$6,450,000 goal. The majority of the remaining funds are for the construction of the library, science classrooms, computer lab, offices and student workrooms that make up the Academic Center.

To accomplish this goal, the Jantzis and Van Pelts approached Western with the idea of building a house on the 5.6 acres the school owns to the north of King Creek, the former home of Marcus and Katie Lind. The property would then be sold and the money given to help achieve the campaign goal and construct the much needed Academic Center. The concept is consistent with how we have worked as a church and school community for many years. The Jantzis and Van Pelts are volunteering to lead the project and will be inviting others to join them, offering labor or donating supplies or cash, to maximize the donation that will go towards the new center.

The Western School Board and Polk County have given initial approval. Preparations for site work are beginning as this is being written with hopes of starting construction near May 1.

I appreciate the people who are committed to helping Western be an exceptional school both spiritually and academically. I am grateful for people who not only give but also demonstrate and keep alive the strength of Christian witness and community. This had a significant influence on me during the two years I attended Western and I know our youth are being affected and influenced by similar actions today. What a joy to see this witness continue.

To learn more about this community project, to volunteer or to donate, call Darrel White at 503-363-2000 or 1-866-343-9378 or djwhite@westernmennoniteschool.org.

WMS Calendar of Events

May 6	34 th Annual Benefit Auction at Oregon State Fairgrounds
May 17-19	Spring Musical: Into the Woods, 7:00 pm
May 20	Spring Musical: Into the Woods, 2:30 pm
May 16	Middle School Visitors' Days
May 18	High School Visitors' Days
May 25	Middle School Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, Free Admission
May 26	High School Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, Free Admission
June 2	8 th Grade Graduation, 7:00 pm
June 10	Alumni BBQ
June 11	Commencement, 2:30 pm

New Congregation Birthed in Bend

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006, River Mennonite Church, Bend, Oregon, will hold its first service. The founding pastor is Sam Adams. Further details on this new church plant will be featured in the summer issue of the Evangel.

Youth and Young Adults Inspired at Winter Retreats

Both teenagers and young adults, age 18-31, were inspired and invigorated by separate retreats held this winter for each of them.

Nineteen young adults, both married and single, gathered for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and making new friends at Drift Creek Camp the weekend of March 17-19, 2006

Sarah Gammell Matthews of Portland Mennonite Church provided thoughtful meditations for the retreat on the relevance of God in her life. We enjoyed times of worship together, including a Taizé style contemplative service on Saturday evening.

The group also played games together such as Taboo and Cranium, enjoyed quiet time for reading, took walks around the campground, had a rousing game of Ultimate Frisbee on the playing field, and "hiked to the Giants." The camp provided wonderful meals, as always.

"We would like to thank Drift Creek and the PNMC Congregational Nurture Committee for financial support and making our retreat possible," said Jennifer Gingerich, retreat organizer and youth pastor of Salem Mennonite Church. "A good time was had by all who attended. Thanks to all who came! Hopefully we'll do it again next year!"

Being the hands and feet of Jesus was the theme of the New Year's Youth Retreat, held Dec. 31-January 1, also at Drift Creek Camp. The goals for this second annual event for youth included: getting conference youth to connect with one another, giving youth a safer alternative to other New Year's celebrations, and offer youth a chance to hear more about mission opportunities.

This year's retreat was attended by 30 youth and 10 sponsors from 8 different churches. Speakers included Seth Ediger (SWAP), Kelsey Yoder (SALT), Darren Stauffer (SALT), and Debbie Sprunger, International Visitor Exchange Program.(

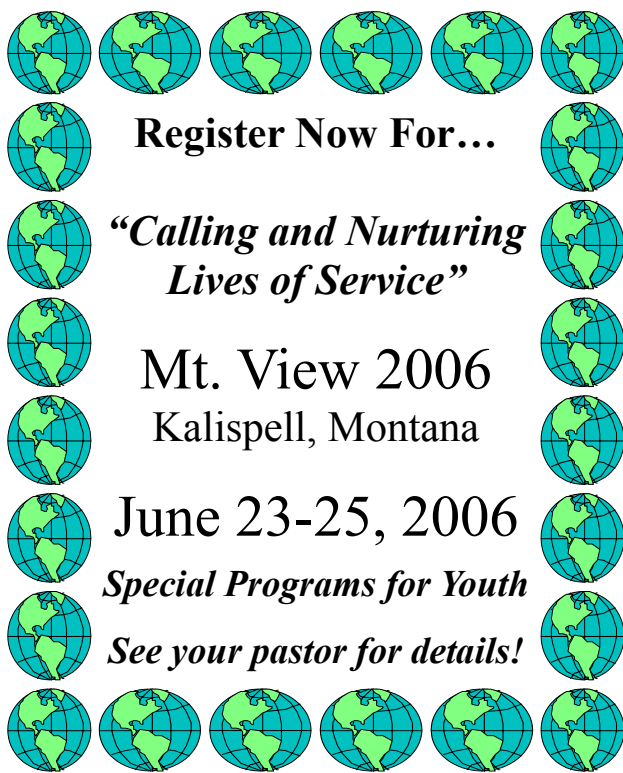
PNMC Students Make Dean's List

A number of college students from PNMC churches were named to the fall semester 2005 dean's list at their respective schools.

Six attend Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA. They are:

- **Eliza K. Barnhart**, a first-year nursing major. She is the daughter of William and Cheeri Barnhart of Rickreall, Oregon and a member of the Western congregation.
- **Monica K. Detweiler**, a senior social work major. She is the daughter of David and Martha Detweiler of Albany, Oregon and a member of the Lebanon congregation.
- **Jenna R. Martin**, a senior Spanish major also pursuing an education licensure PreK-12 and minors in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) and English. She is the daughter of Eric and Susan Martin of Salem, Oregon and a member of the Salem congregation.
- **Kelly A. Smucker**, a sophomore biology major. She is the daughter of Ray and Valerie Smucker of Oregon City, Oregon and a member of the Pacific Covenant congregation.
- **Karen A. Snook**, a first-year mathematics major. She is the daughter of Roger and Mary Snook of Lebanon, Oregon and a member of the Lebanon congregation.
- **Hannah E. Yoder**, a sophomore English major also pursuing a concentration in literature. She is the daughter of David and Julie Yoder of Hubbard, Oregon and a member of the Zion congregation.

Another dean's list achiever is **Rebecca Claasen**. Rebecca attends Bethel College in Newton, KS and is a member of Menno Mennonite Church in Ritzville, WA. A graduate of Moses Lake High School, where she was part of the wind ensemble and local Honor Society, Rebecca is a freshman at Bethel, where she plans to major in biology and pursue a career in veterinary medicine.



Register Now For...

***"Calling and Nurturing
Lives of Service"***

**Mt. View 2006
Kalispell, Montana**

**June 23-25, 2006
*Special Programs for Youth***

See your pastor for details!