

Evangel

Spring 2010

Volume 65, Number 1

the quarterly newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Our Vision: Healing & Hope

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.

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A First for PNMC:

Annual Meeting to be held in Alaska

We do not yet know all that will make PNMC's 16th Annual Meeting historic, but we do know one element: this will be our first meeting in Alaska!

We also know that the Alaskan landscape will provide a fitting backdrop for guest speaker, David Radcliff, as he challenges us on *Caring for God's Creation*, the theme for this year's meeting.

Our conference spans from Alaska to Montana

and it is not often that we have the opportunity to gather together for worship, lively discussion and recreation. In these rollercoaster economic



Anchorage taken by Frank Kovalchek

times, it may be an extra financial challenge to make such a trek. The Tech/Communications Team is working on ways

to connect all of us - even those who may not be able to attend in person.

In this *Evangel* issue, you will find information to help us prepare for our

momentous gathering including an article from our host, Prince of Peace Mennonite Church and a pull out page with All-Things-Anchorage.

Whether you can travel to Anchorage or not, we invite everyone to pray for PNMC before, during and after this historic event.

Our Gracious Host: Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

John David Thacker, Pastor of Prince of Peace Mennonite

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church held its first services in Anchorage, Alaska in 1989. Jim and Faith Carpenter, supported by the Mennonite Board of Missions and Northwest Mennonite Conference, moved to Alaska from Michigan that year with the goal of planting a Mennonite

congregation in the state.

Prince of Peace is the northernmost church in Mennonite Church USA and the only MC USA congregation in Alaska. About 50 people attend worship regularly. Most attenders are life-long Mennonites who have moved to Alaska. Perhaps a third are long-time Alaskans who sought out an Anabaptist congregation.

Many attenders are young children and adults in their twenties and thirties. In over 20 years, there has never been a funeral in the congregation.

Anchorage is a transient city and the congregation reflects this movement; no one has been in the congregation for more than 11 years.

Continued on page 7 (click here)

looking back, looking forward

A Word from our Conference Moderator



“ *I have said it many times before, and I'll keep saying it: the passion and energy you all feel for PNMC never fails to* **”**
amaze me.

During the past four years on the PNMC Board, I have sometimes wished for more regularity in the life of the conference, and in my role as Moderator. I wonder what it might have been like to experience longstanding, stable patterns that continued from year to year. As my time on the Board winds down, I recognize that the experience of leading a steady-state organization will (hopefully) be my successor's privilege, not my own.

The past four years in PNMC's life have been characterized by a great deal of change and new endeavors. Yet I am ultimately thankful for the challenges and transitions that came my way. It certainly has been a great privilege to walk this road with all of you and face these challenges together.

I have said it many times before, and I'll keep saying it: the passion and energy you all feel for PNMC never fails to amaze me. The things we have accomplished these past four years would not have happened without the time, talents, and resources of many, many people.

One of the major accomplishments of the past year has been the launching of the new Executive Conference Minister (ECM) position. Iris de León-Hartshorn has been working in the ECM role since last September, and I have already noticed the reduction in my workload.

Iris has also hired two very accomplished people to assist her with the daily work of PNMC: Barb Buxman, Administrative Assistant, and Brenda Zook Friesen, Communications Specialist. It is a great relief to have these roles filled after a long interim period.

Many thanks go to Don Bacher, long-time Board member, Treasurer, and interim Administrative Assistant extraordinaire for holding things together during

the past year. I am quite sure that when he started his "interim" position in the fall of 2008, he had no idea he would still be in the role more than a year later!

The Delegate Book and PNMC Handbook take a lot of work to put together. I owe Don a huge debt of gratitude for completing these projects, as well as keeping up with conference communications and finances, for a fraction of the budgeted expense.

Speaking of expense, the 2009-10 fiscal year expense report is the accomplishment that pleases me the most. After many years of sizable budget deficits, PNMC income exceeded expenses! Much of the credit goes to all of you, for even in this difficult recession, congregational giving matched the budgeted amount. Thanks go to Ed Miller, Treasurer, for his tenacious efforts in tracking our finances and contacting congregational treasurers to make sure the funds came in.

Thanks also to Linda Dibble and the entire Board for making the tough decisions to restructure our staffing to more financially sustainable levels, and to staff and volunteers for keeping a tight rein on expenses. I am hopeful that PNMC is now in a financial situation that can be maintained over the long term, without continuing to draw down our reserves.

Finally, I hope to see many of you in Anchorage in June. The planning committees are working hard to prepare an exciting and meaningful gathering for all of us. While I know it is expensive to get to Alaska, holding PNMC's annual meeting there is an historic first. This may be the largest gathering of Mennonites ever to meet in Alaska. Join us as we worship God together and marvel at God's wonderful, bounteous Creation!

Dave Hockman-Wert



Evangel

Evangel is the quarterly newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Newsletter submissions, feedback and subscription information can be sent to Brenda Zook Friesen, Editor: brenda@pnmc.org or 1728 A St, Forest Grove, OR, 97116.

Let us know if you would prefer to receive a mailed hard copy. Newsletters are published in January, April, July and October. The next deadline for submissions is June 30, 2010.

Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy archived issues here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel>.

Anchorage 2010

16th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Caring for God's Creation

Thurs, June 24 – Sat, June 26

Guest Speaker

David Radcliff

Director of New Community Project
Ordained in Church of the Brethren

David speaks around the US emphasizing living responsibly with the earth, while acting respectfully and justly with our neighbors. He is a graduate of Bethany Seminary (MDiv, DMin), teaches classes at Elizabethtown College, leads learning tours around the world, and has traded his car for a bicycle.

Please consider staying for worship on
Sunday, June 27 with our

Host, Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

Meeting Location:
University of Alaska, Anchorage

Join together for

- Worship • Fellowship • Delegate Sessions • Seminars
- Children & Youth Activities • Sightseeing

Denali, photo by National Park Service

RECOMMENDED READING ~ Some suggestions from PNMC Board Member Pat Senner

For Adults/Adolescents

Raising Ourselves: A Gwich'in Coming of Age Story from the Yukon River by Velma Wallis (2002)

The Firecracker Boys: H-bombs, Inupiat Eskimos, and the Roots of the Environmental Movement by Dan O'Neill (1994)

For All Ages

Two in the Far North by Margaret E. Murie & Terry Tempest Williams

Trapline Twins by Julie Collins

Deneki: An Alaskan Moose by William Dale Berry



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Denali Learning Tour: June 27-July 2

Led by David Radcliff, this tour will allow you to experience Denali in a more rugged, earthy way. The trip is appropriate for ages 10-ancient, and is limited to 15 participants. Register TODAY. For details, visit: http://pnmc.org/Meetings/Annual_Meetings/Anchorage_2010#Denali

Alaskan Cruise: June 14-24

organized by TourMagination

Led by Hubert & Mary Schwartzenruber, this cruise begins in Vancouver, BC, traveling along the Inside Passage to Whittier, as well as visiting Denali National Park. There are only a few spaces left — make your reservations now! For details & itinerary, visit: <http://www.tourmagination.com/content/view/199/42/>

All the information you need for Anchorage 2010 is here:

http://pnmc.org/Meetings/Annual_Meetings/Anchorage_2010

To pay or not to pay?

Honorariums for Worship Service Guest Speakers

Don Bacher, Albany Mennonite Church

Throughout the year, there are times when congregations must fill their pulpit with a guest speaker. These speakers come from a variety of sources but generally speaking they fit into two categories: External and In-House.

The external speakers are those that come from sources outside the local congregation. Examples would be pastors from other congregations, or representatives from denominational or community agencies. In-House speakers would be those that attend the local congregation.

The question for the congregation becomes two fold: what should their compensation be and do we compensate In-House speakers differently than External speakers?

Since this question comes up periodically in my congregation, I thought it would be interesting to poll the congregations in our Conference and see how other churches deal with it. I polled 19 of our congregations and received answers from ten. Following are the results.

Of the ten responses, seven pay their external speakers \$75 - \$100. One congregation pays \$50, one \$150 and one \$200. Several of the congregations indicated that they have a range (i.e. \$75 - \$100), and they pay the higher amount if the speaker comes from a distance. Four congregations indicated that they also provide a mileage rate and one of those also provides for lodging expenses if the speaker needs to stay overnight.

As regards In-House speakers, only one of the congregations routinely pays In-House speakers. Of the others, only two indicated that they will pay if there is a special need, i.e. the speaker is unemployed or a college student. One response indicated that the pastor takes the speaker out for lunch.

Paying In-House speakers can also be a philosophical question that congregations may choose to discuss. Two responses indicated "...we do not provide an honorarium for members of our congregation and we utilize numerous gifts in the congregation," and "We typically don't pay people from our own congregation but view it as

their contribution to the ...church family."

This same question has also been raised regarding visiting speakers from our own Mennonite Church Agencies. Since many of these folks have a travel allowance and are actually paid to speak in our congregations as part of their job, should we also be giving them an honorarium?

That question came up in my congregation several years ago and in talking with several of our agencies, I discovered that if they are representing the agency, the honorarium goes back to the agency and replenishes the travel account. Of course, if they are not speaking as a representative of the agency, then they are free to use the honorarium as they choose.

Finally, however a congregation decides to deal with compensation for guest speakers, it should be part of a written policy and guidelines followed by the congregation. This will provide consistency and avoid questions of fairness and equity. Also, if mileage is a part of the policy, using the "IRS rate" as a part of the policy language is a good one to follow.



PNMC Finance Report *from Ed Miller, PNMC Treasurer*

2009 Financial Results

We are grateful that the 2009 fiscal year (February 2009 – January 2010) ended with a surplus of \$13,814. Member church contributions were slightly above budget, while expenses were significantly lower than budgeted. The 2009 financial statements and comments can be viewed at <http://pnmc.org/Teams/Finance/Reports>.

2010 Budget

The 2010 budget was approved by the Board on January 23. This is the first full fiscal year to reflect the new PNMC organization, and there is still a lot of "learning" involved in projecting the expected expenses for the coming year. The detailed budget and comments can be seen at <http://pnmc.org/Teams/Finance/Reports>.

Contributions to PNMC

The biggest portion of PNMC's income has always been the contributions from PNMC congregations. However, there are some individuals who make regular contributions to PNMC, and others who give from time to time. We welcome contributions from individuals, and encourage you to consider PNMC when planning your personal giving.

This can be done as pledged regular giving, planned year-end giving, or periodic gifts as you are able. Checks can be sent to the PNMC office, made out to PNMC. We also have the capability for online giving using either credit or debit cards. This can be done through the PNMC website at <http://pnmc.org/Home/Donation>.



Church Connections: Evergreen Mennonite Church

Jeanne Rempel, Pastor; Kathryn Smith Derksen, Administrator.

Our congregation began in 1991 as an outgrowth of the Seattle Mennonite Church. SMC members gathered to meet and plant a new church for those members living east of Lake Washington and Seattle.

The first service was held Sept. 24, 1991, at the "Little School" in Bellevue; by Feb. 28, 1993, Evergreen had outgrown this site and held a "Charter" Service at the Northwest Community Arts Center in Bellevue, where we stayed for 17 years.

Each month we paid the City of Bellevue for the use of a worship space, Sunday school rooms, kitchen and storage. Members took turns unpacking the storage space, setting up worship, and then putting our piano, pulpit, nursery equipment and hymnbooks away after the service. Our pastor had a home office.

Over the years, some began to question if the Arts Center was best for the congregation. In a quiet and very affluent suburban area, it was not attracting new members and made local ministries difficult. Rent increased and some felt

uncomfortable that our payment was going to a City (that was often hostile to the homeless Tent City we regularly supported), rather than a church.

In 2005, a facilities task force was created to consider other options. Many calls and visits to churches ensued, in an area where the number of churches in proportion to population is lowest in the country and most church buildings house multiple congregations. The decision to worship on Sunday mornings narrowed our options, plus the city renegotiated our fees so we decided to stay.

Two years later, we were invited to rent office space in the Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Kirkland. This became the pastor's office and a room for meetings and classes. This past summer, another renting congregation moved and we were offered the Sunday morning worship slot in the daylight basement Fellowship Hall.

For some members, this felt like an answer to prayer. KCC-UCC was affordable, highly visible near Kirkland City Hall, and was already involved in similar minis-

tries. However, we would lose the quiet autonomy of the Arts Center, and the new location was a further commute for several members (though closer for others). After a couple trial Sundays and good discussion, the decision to move was made at a congregational meeting in Oct., 2009.

Our transition was rapid – we had a farewell service in Bellevue on October 18, complete with sharing old pictures and stories. Then many from the congregation packed up our belongings in members' trucks and we moved to our new site. Our first official service was the next week. The KCC-UCC congregation is very pleased to have us and we are grateful they invited us.

That being said, it is taking a little time to settle in and feel "at home." We still unpack and pack most of our things each week. We are getting to know our host congregation, learning about each other's ministries, and learning how to share a building. We have been able to help in some facility improvements and are excited about the possibility of doing local outreach together.



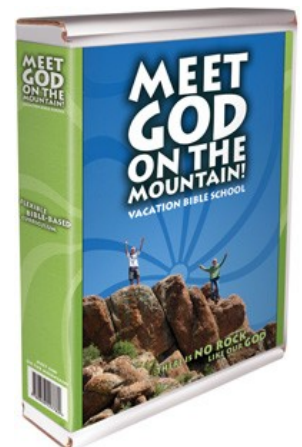
Children perform their Christmas Pageant in Evergreen's new sanctuary

“For some members, this felt like an answer to prayer.”

Vacation Bible School 2010: Meet God on the Mountain!

Bible stories of mystery, power, and truth will take kids age 4 - grade 8 on an exciting journey to the mountaintop, and help them experience God's presence in their lives. The schedule for sessions is flexible, adaptable to your times and needs. For details, including options for ordering, visit Mennonite Publishing Network:

<http://www.faithandliferesources.org/curriculum/vbs/>



Become the leader you were called to be ... and have fun doing it!

Pat Shaver, Seattle Mennonite Church

What does exemplary leadership look like? Churches and regional conferences are complex organizations in which pastors and lay people provide leadership year after year, at times in difficult situations, but how often do we consider the quality of leadership within these organizations? What criteria would we use? Are there ways to assess effectiveness? How does faith effect leadership practices?

We are used to the idea of corporations investing in leadership training for employees, but we don't tend to think about it when it comes to church life. Churches often ask people to lead in complex situations, but we rarely consider how to help those leaders develop more effective leadership skills. *How would the quality of leadership within our churches or businesses be different if we nurtured leaders by giving them the chance to learn:*

- ✿ about the qualities of exemplary leadership,
- ✿ how Anabaptist faith values and their individual leadership style dovetail to serve as the foundation for outstanding leadership,
- ✿ how to work with the leadership styles of others,
- ✿ how strengths and weaknesses are reflected in leadership habits,
- ✿ how to work with teams,
- ✿ how to nurture other promising leaders, and
- ✿ how to embrace and manage change?

Fortunately seven Anabaptist organizations have gotten together to create the **Values Based Leadership Program**, a five day conference in two sessions. It is a very dynamic, interactive program held at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Pennsylvania. The program is aimed at anyone (not just church workers)

who wants to learn effective leadership skills integrated with Anabaptist values and faith, including senior managers, executive team members, pastors and senior leaders from business, education, church-related organizations, area conferences and congregations.

I know, why would anyone go to Pennsylvania (twice!) for a leadership class? The combination of stellar program content, the holistic approach which incorporates faith and values with practical, empowering tools, an excellent resource team who have clearly dedicated themselves to deeply living out their faith in and through their business practices, and other students who also want to live their faith in every part of their lives was a treasure. I urge you to read about the program at <http://www.laurelville.org/VBLP/index.html>.

Marketing materials often paint a rosier picture than what actually occurs. Although the website information paints a glowing picture, it still can't quite convey the lively, effective, thorough, inspiring, empowering, holistic, community building, fun experience. Consider investing in your pastor or lay leaders' leadership abilities by sending them to this program!

“Although the website information paints a glowing picture, it still can't quite convey the lively, effective, thorough, inspiring, empowering, holistic, community building, fun experience.”

**Many thanks
to Sue Palmer who
served as Editor for
the Evangel until
September 2009.**

As the new Editor, I'm soliciting your feedback. What do you find useful or interesting? Do you toss the *Evangel* in the virtual recycling bin? And if so, why? We want this newsletter to be a resource for you. So please, drop me a line: brenda@pnmc.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Brenda Zook Friesen

The Corinthian Plan

Keith Harder, Project Director, Healthcare Access for Pastors and Church Workers

Thank you Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference for your strong support of The Corinthian Plan. 74% of the congregations in the conference are active participants, which is the highest rate of participation of any Mennonite Church USA conference. Overall, more than 450 Mennonite Church USA congregations are participating. This includes 56 congregations that are receiving assistance from The Fair Balance Fund which is funded by each participating congregation contributing \$10 per regular attendee. Nine Pacific Northwest congregations are receiving a total of \$61,887 in premium assistance.

We are pleased to announce that beginning April 1, Duncan Smith has agreed to continue as a regional representative of The Corinthian Plan. Duncan will be glad to field questions and concerns and, as time permits, to meet with congregations or pastor clusters.

Praise God for the generous support of this effort to work together to make health care more available to our pastors and church workers!

PNMC Ministerial Updates

Rachel Ringenberg Miller
Portland Mennonite Church
Ordained: October 18, 2009

Kathy Bilderback
Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church
Ordained: November 15, 2009

Curt Weaver
Portland Mennonite Church
Licensed: November 22, 2009

Wendell Amstutz
District Pastor
Licensed: December 12, 2009

Matthew Shedden
Lebanon Mennonite Church
Licensed: January 28, 2010

Nan Gascho
Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church
Licensed: March 28, 2010

Timothy Gascho
Evergreen Heights Mennnoite Church
Licensed: March 28, 2010

Matt Friesen resigned as *District Pastor* effective January 31, 2010



Iris de León-Hartshorn (r) officiates the ordination of Rachel Ringenberg Miller (l) of Portland Mennonite

PNMC District Pastors

Wendell Amstutz: Oregon CIHAN, Centro Cristiano Pentecostes, Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Salvacion, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostes, Ministerios Restauracion, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita

Iris de León-Hartshorn: Prince of Peace Mennonite, Anawim Christian Community

Byron Gingrich: Portland Mennonite

Larry Hauder: Evergreen Heights Mennonite, Filer Mennonite, Peace Community Mennonite

Jeryl Hollinger: Menno Mennonite, Warden Mennonite

Brent Kauffman: Albany Mennonite, River of Life Fellowship, The River Mennonite

George Leppert: First Mennonite, Hyde Park Mennonite

Al Lind: Calvary Mennonite, Eugene Mennonite, Pacific Covenant Mennonite, Zion Mennonite

Cecil Miller: Mt. View Mennonite, Shalom, Spring Valley Mennonite

Lynn Miller: McMinnville Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, Western Mennonite

David Morrow: Evergreen Mennonite, Seattle Mennonite

Duane Oesch: Emmaus Christian Fellowship

Rod Stafford: Bethel City Church, Peace Mennonite Church, Springwater

Dave Stutzman: Corvallis Mennonite, Lebanon Mennonite, Logsden Neighborhood Church, Plainview Mennonite Church, Prince of Peace Community

PNMC College Students

Ellie Barnhart, a junior nursing major, attending **Eastern Mennonite University**, is on a cross-cultural seminar this semester in the Middle East. She is the daughter of Will and Cheeri Barnhart of Rickreall, OR, and a member of *Western Mennonite Church*. Follow Ellie on EMU's blog: <http://emu.edu/blog/crosscultural/category/middle-east-2010/>.

GOSHEN COLLEGE 2009-10 Fall Semester Dean's List*

Audrey Ellen Good Engle, daughter of David & Marjorie Engle, Salem, OR; Western Mennonite graduate, attends Salem Mennonite

Benjamin James Handrich, son of Anthony & June Handrich, Salem OR; Western Mennonite graduate, attends Salem Mennonite

Kristina Rae Mast, daughter of Fred & Linda Mast, Corvallis, OR; Crescent Valley H.S. graduate, attends Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship

Rachel Anne Miller, daughter of Terry & Debra Shank Miller, Seattle, WA; Ballard H.S. graduate, attends Seattle Mennonite Church

James Abraham Pauls, son of James & Linda Pauls, Dallas, OR; Dallas H.S. graduate, attends Salem Mennonite

Leah Joyce Yoder, daughter of Jonathan & Joyce Yoder, Salem, OR; Western Mennonite graduate, attends Salem Mennonite

* students hold at least 3.75 GPA while completing at least 12 hrs course work for letter grade

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

continued from front page ...

Service Adventure, a voluntary service program of Mennonite Mission Network, has been an important ministry of the congregation. The church is currently hosting its 13th unit. Many leaders and participants have remained in Anchorage after their terms of service.

The congregation owns the house where the volunteers live but does not own a church building. Prince of Peace currently meets for Sunday worship in the chapel of a Catholic retreat center on the edge of town. The church also hosts SOOP (Service

Opportunities for Older People) volunteers on occasion.

The church transferred its membership to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference in 2001 following the creation of Mennonite Church USA. That same year, John David Thacker became pastor.

Carpenter served as pastor until 2000. Prince of Peace Mennonite Church is looking forward to hosting the 2010 annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We anticipate a rewarding time of fellowship and worship with our brothers and sisters from the Lower 48.



Dale Hardel, Fred Kilheffer & Jeff Chisholm at POP Mennonite's summer camp-out, Nancy Lake, AK

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Find us on Facebook
Group Name: PNMC



Our Mission Statement is to:

Promote personal spiritual development,
Nurture healthy congregations,
Make strong connections, and
Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Apr 16: *Empty Bowls for Haiti*, MCC Fundraiser at George Fox University, Portland, OR

Apr 18-19: *Days of Prayer and Action for Peace*, organized by MCC Washington Office, all congregations invited to participate

Apr 23-25: *OR Mennonite Women's Retreat* at Drift Creek Camp, OR

Apr 30-May 2: *Mennonite Women's Women in Conversation 2010*, Hesston, KS

May 1: *Western Mennonite School Annual Auction*, Salem, OR

May 5: *MMA Stewardship Reference Council gathering* at the Hochstetler Epp's home, Portland, OR

May 6: *MMA Stewardship Reference Council gathering* at Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR

May 6: *MMA Stewardship Reference Council gathering* at McMenam's Kennedy School, Portland, OR

May 8: *ID Mennonite Relief Festival* at College Church of the Nazarene, Nampa, ID

May 10-13: *Youth Ministry Council Annual Event*, Pittsburgh, PA

June 18- July 23: *Summer Camps* at Drift Creek Camp, OR

June 30: Deadline for *Evangel* submissions for Summer issue

June 14-24: *TourMagination Alaskan Cruise* preceding Annual Meeting

June 24-27: *PNMC Annual Meeting*, Anchorage, AK

June 27-Jul 2: *Denali Learning Tour* with David Radcliff, Alaska

July 16 (Seattle), **17** (Portland), & **18** (Albany): *MCC Benefit Concerts*

July 28-31: *AMBS Peace Among the Peoples* gathering, Elkhart, IN

Oct 2: *Mennonite Country Auction*; Ritzville, WA

Oct 2: *OR Mennonite Festival*; Albany, OR

Oct 8-9: *Sister-Care Seminar* (Mennonite Women) at Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church, Caldwell, ID

Oct 15-16: *Sister-Care Seminar* (Mennonite Women) at Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR

Oct 22-23: *Sister-Care Seminar* (Mennonite Women) at Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA

October 24: *AMBS Presidential Inauguration* of Sara Wenger Shenk, Ed.D., Elkhart, IN

July 4-9, 2011: *Mennonite Church USA Convention* in Pittsburgh, PA

* The **PNMC e-Bulletin** is distributed bi-monthly and includes details for the events listed above, as well as other PNMC and churchwide announcements. If you would like to subscribe, send an email to brenda@pnmc.org with "Subscribe e-Bulletin" in the subject line. Archived issues can be found here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>.