



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches* Shalom NEWS

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018

The Garifuna Story A Tale of Overcoming Obstacles



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

Habecker Mennonite Church | Maple Grove Mennonite Church

LMC PROJECTS

The LMC website includes a Projects section where congregations can post ministry needs to recruit potential helpers and volunteers more broadly across the conference. Check it out today:

➔ lancasterconference.org/opportunities/projects



FEATURED PROJECT

Volunteer with the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

150-20 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355 | 718-762-5905 | www.murrayhillflushing.com

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association (MHNA) is inviting qualified persons to help us grow and strengthen our ability demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors. For volunteers driving in from outside NYC, overnight housing options may be available. This is an excellent opportunity for retirees!

MHNA is a growing faith-based, non-profit neighborhood organization dedicated to serving low-income and immigrant households in the ethnically diverse NYC neighborhood of Murray Hill in Flushing, Queens. Our vision is to demonstrate the love of Christ to our neighbors through community service.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- ▶ Coaching and Staff Development (flexible hours)
- ▶ Office Administrator (3-5 hours weekly)
- ▶ Program Development (3-5 hours weekly)
- ▶ Fund Raising (flexible hours)
- ▶ Promotion and Outreach to Churches (flexible hours)
- ▶ After School Tutor (6-9 hours weekly)
- ▶ Computer Lab Instructor/Director (3-6 hours weekly)
- ▶ ESL Tutor (2-3 hours weekly)
- ▶ Food Pantry Assistant (3-4 hours weekly)
- ▶ Summer Staff Assistant (flexible hours)
- ▶ Family Counseling / Outreach (flexible hours)
- ▶ Prayer Coordinator (flexible hours)
- ▶ New Program Development (flexible hours)

For more information, contact Mark Perri at mhna150@gmail.com or call 917-596-5372.



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ON THE COVER:

Members of Evangelical Garifuna Church in New York City celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary.

The Garifuna Story

A Tale of Overcoming Obstacles

BY PASTOR E. OMAR GUZMAN

LMC has a number of Garifuna Mennonite Churches. LMC also has connections with a network of Garifuna churches around the USA and in Central America. This group of churches does amazing Kingdom work. So perhaps, we should ask, "Who are the Garifuna?"

SOME HISTORY

The story of the Garifuna stands as a modern tragedy in western civilization. The people called Garifuna originated from two migrations, one voluntary and one forced. It is believed that some African peoples crossed the Atlantic, perhaps as early as 1300, and came ashore on some of the islands in the Lesser Antilles chain off the northern coast of Venezuela. Here, they intermarried with other tribal groups in the Caribbean. Other Africans came to the Caribbean as a result of the western slave trade. When slave ships ran aground on the reefs and islands of the Lesser Antilles, survivors of those wrecks found refuge and intermarried with other Caribbean groups. They are sometimes referred to as Black Caribs.

By 1635, one large community emerged on Saint Vincent Island in the Lesser Antilles. Although few mineral resources existed on the island, its shores contained abundant fish. Saint Vincent was largely ignored by the colonial



A Garifuna man in La Ceiba, Honduras, takes down the sails on his fishing boat. Photo by iStock.



Above: Sambo Creek, Honduras: young garifuna men playing traditional drums outdoors. Photo by Barna Tanko / Alamy Stock Photo.

Left: Depiction of the 1773 treaty negotiations between the British and the Black Caribs.



Members from the Evangelical Garifuna congregation honoring Pastors Celso and Zulma Jaime.

ing Garifuna, perhaps as few as 5,000, and expelled them from the island. Many were exiled to Roatán, a small bay island off the coast of Honduras. By 1797, with the approval of the Spanish government, many Garifuna migrated from Roatán to the Honduran coast.

powers because of the lack of resources. However, by the early 1700s both French and British navies sought to take over Saint Vincent. By 1795, the British controlled the island, slaughtered most of the Garifuna population, and murdered the leader, Joseph Chatoyer. The British captured the remain-

In the 20th century, the growing Garifuna community, which was mostly employed as fisherman, began to move into agriculture, textiles, and service industries. Unemployment concerns also generated emigration pressure to neighboring Central American countries and to the coastal urban centers such as the USA and some coastal European countries.

Today as many as 300,000 Garifuna live along the coasts of Belize, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and especially Honduras. More than 100,000 have emigrated to the USA. The Garifuna language is a mixture of Arawak (the native language), Spanish, French, and other Caribbean languages.

AN LMC CONNECTION

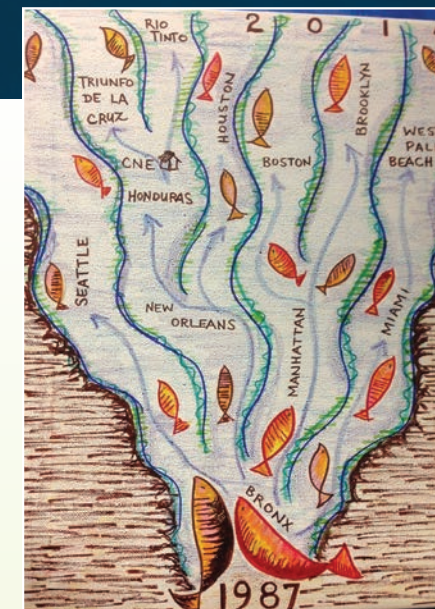
EMM missionaries started a Garifuna congregation in Honduras in the late 1940's. In 1986, EMM began a Garifuna congregation in New York City, the Evangelical Garifuna Church in the Bronx with Celso Jaime as pastor. In 2006 after much discernment, the Bronx church sent me to Manhattan to start a new congregation, the Evangelical Garifuna Church of Manhattan.

From this beginning in New York City, a multiplication move-

ment, the Mennonite Garifuna Mission, emerged. Over the last 10 years new congregations opened in Brooklyn, a second congregation in the Bronx, and one each in Miami, Houston, New Orleans, Boston, Seattle, Wilmington, NC, and Los Angeles. Mennonite Garifuna Mission also started two churches that are not necessarily Garifuna churches. Mennonite Garifuna Mission also supports other Garifuna churches that are not Mennonite churches.

Four churches were planted in Honduras, one of them in the capital, Tegucigalpa. Over the next few years, we are preparing to start new churches in Spain and France. We hope to send missionaries back to Africa in the future.

Many of the new Garifuna churches emerged from the Manhattan Garifuna Church. In Manhattan, we regularly identify, train, and send one, two, or three young couples to new places to start churches. When the Manhattan church decided to plant our first church in Brooklyn, we only had 30 members, including children and young people, at the time. A church need not be large to start another congregation. We choose young people to send before they are locked in to buying homes, getting a good job, and other western, materialistic temptations. We select the candidates carefully, and then mentor them in the home congregation for six months to two years until they are ready to go.

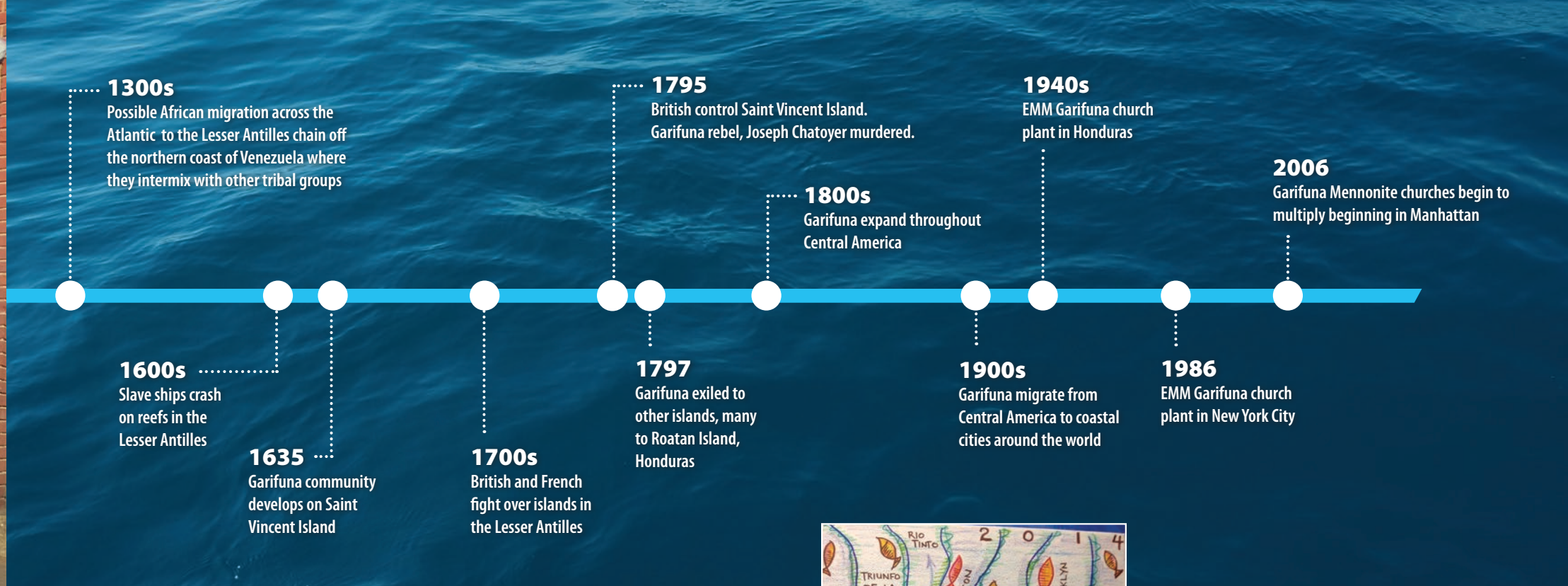


Creative timeline of Garifuna church plants, many that were birthed from the Manhattan congregation, beginning from 1987 through 2014.

Mennonite Garifuna Mission church planters.

Leaders of Mennonite Garifuna Mission travel constantly to visit these families and help them to define a strategy to follow in the area and stay well connected to them. These leaders bring reports to the other churches in the network, and we do not abandon them if difficulties emerge. It can take two to five years for a new church to form and gain enough strength to function on its own.

Spiritually, we bathe our spiritual life in prayer. Congregations generally hold a prayer meeting every Sunday night for intercession. Prayer occurs regularly during the week. Prayer and fasting occurs once a month as a congregation. The churches commit to fast in January, June and October each year. Prayer



Today as many as 300,000 Garifuna live along the coasts of Belize, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and especially Honduras. More than 100,000 have emigrated to the USA.

Garifuna Mennonite Churches & Church Plants



Pastor Omar with the leaders of the Garifuna church plant in Houston, TX.

La historia de los garífunas – *un relato sobre vencer obstáculos*

POR PASTOR E. OMAR GUZMÁN

LMC cuenta con un cierto número de Iglesias Menonitas Garífuna. LMC también posee conexiones con una red de iglesias Garífunas alrededor de los EE. UU. y Centroamérica. Este grupo de iglesias realiza un increíble trabajo del Reino. Por lo tanto, quizá deberíamos preguntarnos “¿quiénes son los garífunas?”

UN POCO DE HISTORIA

La historia de los garífunas constituye una especie de tragedia moderna en la civilización occidental. El pueblo garífuna se originó a partir de dos migraciones, una voluntaria, la otra forzada. Se cree que algunos pueblos africanos cruzaron el Atlántico, quizá hace tanto como en el año 1300 y llegaron a algunas de las islas de la cadena de las Antillas Menores al norte de la costa de Venezuela. Allí, se mezclaron con otros grupos tribales del Caribe. Otros africanos llegaron al Caribe como resultado del tráfico occidental de esclavos. Cuando los barcos de esclavos encallaban en los arrecifes e islas de las Antillas Menores, los supervivientes de esos naufragios encontraban refugio y se mezclaban con otros grupos caribeños. A estos a veces se les llama caribes negros.

En 1635 emergió una gran comunidad en la Isla de San Vicente en las Antillas Menores. Aunque en la isla existían pocos recursos minerales, en sus costas abundaba el pescado. San Vicente fue mayormente ignorada por las potencias coloniales debido a su escasez de recursos. Sin embargo, a inicios de los años 1700, tanto las armadas de Francia como de Gran Bretaña buscaron apoderarse de San Vicente. Para 1795, los británicos controlaron la isla, masacraron a la mayor parte de la población garífuna y asesinaron al líder, Joseph Chatoyer. Los británicos capturaron a los garífunas restantes, quizá tan pocos como unos 5.000 y los expulsaron de la isla. Muchos fueron exiliados a Roatán, una pequeña isla de bahía en la costa de Honduras. Para 1797, con la aprobación del gobierno español, muchos garífunas migraron desde

Roatán hasta la costa hondureña.

En el siglo XX, la creciente comunidad garífuna, la cual en su mayoría trabajaba en la pesca, comenzó a trasladarse hacia la agricultura, la industria textil y la de servicios. La preocupación por el desempleo también generó una presión migratoria hacia los países centroamericanos vecinos, así como a centros urbanos costeros de los EE. UU. y de algunos países costeros europeos.

Actualmente, tantos como unos 300.000 garífunas viven a lo largo de las costas de Belice, Nicaragua, Guatemala y, especialmente, Honduras. Más de 100.000 de ellos han emigrado a los EE. UU. El idioma garífuna es una mezcla de arahuaco (el idioma nativo), español, francés y otros idiomas del Caribe.

UNA CONEXIÓN CON LMC

Los misioneros EMM fundaron una congregación garífuna en Honduras a finales de los 1940. En 1986, EMM fundó una congregación garífuna en Nueva York, la Iglesia Evangélica Garífuna en el Bronx con Celso Jaime como pastor. En 2006, después de mucho discernimiento, la iglesia del Bronx me envió a Manhattan para iniciar una nueva congregación, la Iglesia Evangélica Garífuna de Manhattan.

A partir de estos comienzos en Nueva York, emergió un movimiento multiplicador, la Misión Menonita Garífuna. En el transcurso de los últimos 10 años, se abrieron nuevas congregaciones en Brooklyn, una segunda congregación en el Bronx y congregaciones individuales en Miami, Houston, Nueva Orleans, Boston, Seattle, Wilmington, NC y Los Ángeles. La Misión Menonita Garífuna también fundó dos iglesias que no son necesariamente iglesias garífunas. Igualmente, la Misión Menonita Garífuna apoya a otras iglesias garífunas que no son de denominación menonita.

En Honduras se plantaron cuatro iglesias, una de ellas en la capital, Tegucigalpa. En los próximos años, nos preparamos para fundar nuevas iglesias en España y Francia. Esperamos enviar misioneros de vuelta a África en el futuro.

and fasting takes place in the context of intentional discipleship. New believers and emerging leaders have a mentor that walks with them on the Christian journey in order to provide some accountability. That is what we mean by intentional discipleship. Mentors are typically drawn from the leadership team in the congregation. We believe the preparation of new and young leaders that we send to new locations, must be done by leaders.

Pastors who do not want to lead in this fashion — discipling and sending — are replaced by those who do have such a vision. Creating a growing, expanding movement cannot take place any other way. Our vision is to spread what God put in us to the church, and then the church sends more leaders into the world to new places

New believers and emerging leaders have a mentor that walks with them on the Christian journey in order to provide some accountability. That is what we mean by intentional discipleship.

to repeat the process. We are now beginning to see some of the congregations we have started to begin the process of starting new congregations themselves. This is multiplication vision. To God be the glory. ■

Omar Guzman is the pastor at Evangelical Garifuna Church of Manhattan, lead church planter for the Garifuna Church Planting network and church multiplication coordinator for LMC under Church on the Other Side (COTOS).



Garifuna youth pray during a February 2018 mission training in Triunfo de la Cruz, Honduras. This mission workshop was one of a series of workshops planned for the next two years, until Mennonite Garifuna Mission is able to begin training missionaries to go to Spain, France, and parts of Africa. Photo provided by Omar Guzman.

Muchas de las iglesias garífunas nuevas surgieron a partir de la Iglesia Garífuna de Manhattan. En esa localidad regularmente identificamos, entrenamos y enviamos de una a tres parejas jóvenes a sitios nuevos para que abran iglesias. Cuando la iglesia de Manhattan decidió plantar nuestra primera iglesia en Brooklyn, solo contábamos con 30 miembros, incluyendo niños y jóvenes. Una iglesia no necesita ser grande para abrir otra congregación. Escogemos personas jóvenes antes de que se involucren en tentaciones materialistas occidentales tales como comprar casa, buscar buenos trabajos y otras. Seleccionamos a los candidatos cuidadosamente y luego les instruimos en la congregación local por espacio de seis meses a dos años hasta que están listos para partir.

GARÍFUNA, CRISTIANO Y MENONITA

Ser garífuna conecta a una persona con un idioma, una cultura y una historia; en este caso, una historia trágica, una cultura de vencer obstáculos y un compromiso con la misión de Dios. El empleo y la seguridad financiera han representado obstáculos consistentes a lo largo de los siglos, los cuales han creado presiones migratorias. La búsqueda de trabajo empujó a los garífunas hacia los principales centros urbanos de la cuenca del Atlántico y la costa occidental del Pacífico. Las comunidades garífunas que se juntan en esos centros urbanos se convierten en locaciones de interés para los plantadores de iglesias de la Misión Menonita Garífuna.

Los líderes de la Misión Menonita Garífuna viajan constantemente para visitar a esas familias y ayudarles a definir una estrategia a seguir en el área, así como para permanecer bien conectados. Estos líderes llevan reportes a otras iglesias en la red y no los abandonamos si surgen dificultades. Para que una nueva iglesia se forme y adquiera suficiente fortaleza como para que funcione por sí misma pueden pasar de dos a cinco años.

Espiritualmente, bañamos nuestra vida en oración. Las congregaciones general-

mente se reúnen todos los domingos por la noche para orar por intercesión. La oración ocurre regularmente durante la semana. La oración y ayuno ocurren una vez al mes como congregación. Las iglesias se comprometen a ayunar en enero, junio y octubre de cada año. La oración y ayuno toman lugar dentro del contexto del discipulado intencional. Tanto los nuevos creyentes como los líderes emergentes cuentan con un mentor que los acompaña en su travesía cristiana para proveer un cierto grado de responsabilidad. Eso es a lo que nos referimos cuando decimos discipulado intencional. Los mentores son típicamente seleccionados a partir del equipo de liderazgo en la congregación. Creemos que la preparación de los líderes nuevos y jóvenes que enviamos a nuevos lugares debe ser realizada por los líderes.

Los pastores que no desean liderar de esta manera (discipulando y enviando) son reemplazados por aquellos que sí tienen esa visión. Crear un movimiento que crezca y se expanda no se puede hacer de ninguna otra manera. Nuestra visión es divulgarle a la iglesia lo que Dios puso en nosotros y luego la iglesia envía más líderes hacia nuevos lugares en el mundo para que ellos repitan el proceso. Ya estamos comenzando a ver algunas de las congregaciones que hemos fundado iniciar por sí mismas el proceso de crear, a su vez, nuevas congregaciones. Esta es la visión multiplicadora. A Dios sea la gloria. ■

Omar Guzmán es el pastor de la Iglesia Evangélica Garífuna de Manhattan, líder plantador de iglesias para la red de Plantación de Iglesias Garífuna y coordinador de multiplicación de iglesias para LMC bajo la Iglesia en el Otro Lado (COTOS).



Above: Tin Aung and Hser Eh Paw sing a song for Palm Sunday. Above right: Easter Sunday communion. Left: A wedding ceremony during Sunday morning worship.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

Habecker Mennonite Church

DISTRICT: Landisville-Manor District

LOCATION: 451 Habecker Church Road, Lancaster, PA 17603

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1724

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 150

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 a.m.



PASTORS: Chris and Dawn Landes

Habecker Mennonite Church was established in the 1700's by young immigrant farming families looking for a community of peace and faith. Today that spirit continues as Habecker is now an intercultural congregation of about three-fourths native Karen speakers and one-fourth native English speakers who worship their One God together in two languages. Our focus is on welcoming those who come and sharing our faith and gifts.

The Karen, originally from Myanmar/Burma, began coming to Lancaster around 2008 from refugee camps in Thailand. They brought with them their gifts of hospitality, singing, gardening and weaving, which fit so well with the Habecker members who hosted the first Karen families. Sewing circle is a busy place each month where old and young alike speak a common language of love, making comforters and kits to send to people in need around the world through Mennonite Central Committee.

Weekly gatherings include Sunday school and worship as well as afternoon thanksgiving services in different homes, celebrating birthdays or other significant milestones in the community. Of course those gatherings are not complete without a meal of cake, noodles and rice!

There are many opportunities to get involved in cross-cultural ministry at Habecker. It's a great place to build friendships, help with homework, teach English, share Bible stories with children, play soccer with the youth, drive people to appointments, or teach them how to drive! The children would also love more people to help organize activities.

Check out our website at www.habeckerchurch.com to learn more. ■



Leonard Yoder, Maple Grove treasurer, presents a check to MCC Thrift Shop Manager, Brucette Metz, as MG Thrift Shop Volunteers look on.

Far right: Wyatt and Jovie Kauffman practicing on dulcimers.



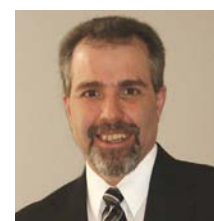
DISTRICT: Western PA

LOCATION: 115 Maple Grove Road, Belleville, PA

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1868

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 105

WORSHIP SERVICE:
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.



PASTOR: Alan Kauffman

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

Maple Grove Mennonite Church

Maple Grove Mennonite Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary in August of 2018. We were the first Mennonite Church in what we know as the Big Valley in north central Pennsylvania. While there were other Anabaptist groups, including Amish in the area long before 1868, we emerged from a progressive split from one of the Amish churches. There are currently many expressions of Anabaptist faith in the Big Valley, including three different Amish groups identified by the color of their buggies: yellow, black, and white. In many ways, our community mirrors Lancaster County but without all the tourists, traffic, and restaurants.

When we ask the community around our church who they think Maple Grove is, the answers we get depend on who you ask. There are still some who equate Mennonites with Amish. These people are somewhat surprised to learn that they are welcome to worship with us and can join our church. Visitors generally respond by saying they find the Maple Grove congregation warm and welcoming.

Maple Grove has developed a number of leaders and pastors over the decades. We identify and develop emerging leaders consistently and send them in various ways. Alan Kauffman, the current pastor, was raised and nurtured from within the congregation. He was later identified as having pastoral gifts and was first called to serve as pastor at Glade Mennonite church (also part of LMC) for 12 years before returning to Maple Grove in 2003. Because many leaders were identified, trained and called over the years at Maple Grove, we were one of the featured congregations in a video focused on internal leader development back in the 1990s. The Mennonite Church produced this video to highlight this "called from within" process and encourage other churches to do the same.

Maple Grove gives in a variety of ways, and we engage the community around us and beyond. We regularly offer our facilities and our van to people in the community. We participate in a number of mission efforts, including a local homeless shelter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Operation Christmas Child, MDS, Sewing Circle, MCC, Meals on Wheels, Vacation Bible School and more. When there is a need, we rally to meet the need as we are able. In 2015, Evan Yoder, a young adult in our congregation, was involved in a swimming accident, leaving him paralyzed from the shoulders down. We were a major part of a larger community effort to raise money and to build him a state-of-the-art apartment attached to his family's house.

We are in the middle of a five-year goal focus. In our first year, we focused on the Bible with our "Year of the Bible." Currently, our focus is missions. We are considering the start of a "Parents Nite Out" program, which provides babysitting services for the parents in the congregation and the community in order to give couples time alone for a few hours. Yet to come will be a two-year focus on current congregational structure. ■

FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE



SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

About 100 individuals gathered on May 4 at Slate Hill Mennonite Church to learn about racism and increase awareness about multi-cultural dynamics in congregations. The program was a joint initiative between the Brethren in Christ's Barnabas Initiative and LMC. Three main presenters provided input. Table discussions provided opportunity to interact with speaker comments. A panel discussion brought a diverse group of LMC leaders into the dialog.

STEP STUDY AWARD

With the administrative move of the STEP ministry program from EMU to LMC, access to the EMU Keystone Scholarship ended. To replace those dollars for STEP students, the Conference Executive Council took action to create a new fund, the STEP Study Award, solely for STEP students. Anyone wanting to make a donation to this fund to help STEP students should contact Brinton Rutherford, interim Director of STEP, at the LMC office.

PRAYER ROOM SET UP AT LMC OFFICE

Pastors, individuals, and small groups are invited to use the new prayer room at the LMC office. Staff have appointed the room in worshipful ways. Feel free to use it prior to scheduled meetings or schedule a time for yourself or your group to gather and intercede.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN TANZANIA

The Mennonite Church in Tanzania hosted a conference for women from June 11–17. Women from Byerland Mennonite Church and a congregation in Ohio were invited to attend. The theme of the conference centered around Joshua 1:1–7. Women focused on witness, community engagement, deliverance, and trauma healing. A final goal of the conference was to start a new church.



HILL TOP FUN FEST

The annual Slate Hill Mennonite Church Fun Fest occurred on June 2. The HillTop Fun Fest provides free food and lots of fun to the whole community. Visitors enjoy food, games, live music, and fellowship while learning about area ministries and Slate Hill Mennonite Church. This year activities included cornhole tournaments, a bounce house, kids crafts and a variety of games, face-painting, a petting zoo, hayrides, and a juggling performance at the end of the evening.

STEP FORMALLY MOVED TO LMC

On July 1, the STEP ministry program went under the control of LMC. Interim Director, Brinton Rutherford, oversaw the transition during the 2017–18 academic year. EMU will continue to provide the 30 credits for successful completion of the program. One of the results of the administrative change is a decrease in overhead costs, which has been passed on to students. Tuition will decrease from \$3,300 per year to \$3,000 per year. STEP



offices are located at 2160 Lincoln Highway East inside the LMC office space. Mindi Hoover, the new administrative assistant, provides support to students and instructors. Orientation for the 2018–19 STEP class will take place on August 18. Interest in participating in STEP should be directed to interim Director Brinton Rutherford at brutherford@lanasterconference.org.

MISSIONAL PATHWAYS

Missional Pathways continues to be available to individuals, groups, congregations, and ministries who seek help to start new ministries or grow existing ones. Missional Pathways works to connect needs with existing resources, coaches and experts. www.missionalpathways.org



REVIVE INITIATIVE AT EPMC

On July 7, LMC partnered with East Petersburg Mennonite Church and Howard and Cathy Wagler from South Central Conference of MC USA on the Revive Initiative. Revive is a ministry of the Waglers who lead Journey Mennonite Church in Kansas. The Initiative is designed to allow leaders to connect with other leaders in order to develop their gifts and find resources for individual and communal transformation. The goal of the day was to aid in the building of sustainable and joy-filled ministry.

WOMEN'S EDUCATION GRANT

The Quiet Shouts fund recently disbanded and the funds in the account were divided between LMC and Atlantic Coast Conference. LMC has placed these funds in an account to fund educational opportunities for women. The fund should be in place for disbursement of funds by the fall.

NEWS NOTES

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

The following men and women were licensed, ordained or installed in recent months:

Josef Berthold (*Brenda*), was installed as bishop of the West End Network.

Jeremy (Jay) Conn (*Vicki*), was ordained as lead pastor at Martins Creek Mennonite Church.

Leonard Dow (*Rosalie*), began his role as pastor of Finance Stewardship for Everence.

Rodney Martin (*Angela*), was installed as bishop of the Lancaster, Lititz and Mellinger Districts.

Daniel B. Martinez (*Marlene*), was licensed for specific ministry as missionary to Uruguay under Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom.

Marlene D. Martinez (*Daniel*), was licensed for specific ministry as missionary to Uruguay under Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom.

Jonathan Merwarth (*Carol*), was ordained as elder at Marantha Family Christian Fellowship.

Joseph Miller (*Julie*), was installed as bishop of the Lancaster, Lititz and Mellinger Districts.

Miguel Ramos (*Maria*), was ordained as lead pastor at Roca de Restauración.

Albert James Schwartz (*Mary Carol*), was ordained as associate pastor at First Mennonite Church, Berne.

Victor Vargas (*Virginia*), was ordained as lead pastor at Iglesia Pentecostés de Woodburn.

Efrain Zayas (*Lissed*), was ordained as lead pastor at Iglesia Mennonita Palabra de Vida.

LMC NAME ADAPTATION



As you may have noticed, we've begun transitioning to the updated LMC name here in *Shalom News*, our website and other communication materials. We plan to complete the transition in the coming months.

NEW CHURCHES CONNECTING

Bishop Board accepted into fellowship True Vine Tabernacle, Elkhart, IN, Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Ebenezer in Bronx, NY, Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Atglen, PA and Yellow Creek Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN in their June meeting.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

The Strategic Directions Task Force completed its task early in 2018 and presented its findings to the Bishop Board. Over several

months of assessment of the report, the Bishop Board affirmed the work. Currently the implementation process is being staffed by the Conference Executive Council. Probably a "guiding coalition" will oversee implementation of the recommendations and the coordination of the findings with a new decadal plan. Celebration of Church Life in 2019 will likely provide the first broad look at the findings by LMC churches.



STEP GRADUATION

The 2018 STEP class graduated on May 12 at Capitol Christian Fellowship in Lanham, MD. Twelve students completed three years of study and practice in their congregational settings. They earned a Certificate of Pastoral Ministry from EMU. Some final classwork in the morning ended with a celebration banquet at noon. The graduation ceremony after the meal brought the number of STEP graduates to 118. The graduates were Samuel Admassu Legesse, Gabriel Njika, Ruth Oben Njika, Akeia Had-dox-Rossiter, Paris Rossiter, Nathanael Thorne, Admassu Wol-demichael, Dustin Martin, Sherri Martin, Vinh Nguyen, Kenneth Sweigart, Melchizedek Tirtasaputra.

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE

Keith Weaver joined the MWC General Council meetings from April 23–26 to represent LMC. One of the first actions of the General Council was to receive LMC as a full member of MWC. Participation in MWC will help LMC nurture valued partnerships with our fraternal partners in the global South. The gathering gave strong consensus to LMC's application for admission.

MINDI HOOVER JOINS LMC STAFF



Mindi Hoover began work as a part-time administrative assistant for LMC in May. Beginning in July, she will begin as the part-time Administrative Assistant for the STEP ministry program. Mindi lives in New Holland with her husband, Sheldon, and five children. They served for three years with New Hope Uganda and attend Byerland Mennonite Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at LMCchurches.org.

Monday Night Prayer Gathering

Every first Monday of each month

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.

717-293-5246

Thursday Night Quarterly Prayer Meeting

July 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.

717-293-5246

LMC Youth Worker Monthly Breakfast

Every fourth Tuesday of each month

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Lyndon City Diner, Lancaster, Pa.

facebook.com/groups/LMCYouthWorkers

Discipleship Conference 2018 with EMM

August 24, 7 p.m.

and 25, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church,

Elizabethtown, Pa.

www.emm.org/discipleship2018

LMC Fall Leadership Assembly

September 29, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Strasburg Mennonite Church,

Strasburg, Pa.

[www.LMCchurches.org/leadership-](http://www.LMCchurches.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing)

[assembly-resourcing](http://www.LMCchurches.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing)

2018 Disciplemakers Summit with EMM

October 29 – November 1

MCC's Welcoming Place, Akron, Pa.

www.emm.org/disciplemakers

Women's Regional Gathering

November 3, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Stumptown Mennonite Church,

Bird-in-hand, Pa.

[www.LMCchurches.org/event/](http://www.LMCchurches.org/event/womens-regional-gathering)

[womens-regional-gathering](http://www.LMCchurches.org/event/womens-regional-gathering)

EMM Vision and Fundraising Banquet

November 3, 6:30 p.m.

Eden Resort Courtyard, Pa.

www.emm.org/banquet

LMC Celebration of Church Life

March 15–16, 2019

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.

[www.LMCchurches.org/](http://www.LMCchurches.org/celebration-church-life)

[celebration-church-life](http://www.LMCchurches.org/celebration-church-life)



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or call 717-390-4891.



You're also invited to ...
A Sending Celebration:
worker commissioning
July 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Oakwood Chapel
Black Rock Retreat,
Quarryville, Pa.
emm.org/commissioning

Global Fair July 7, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.
emm.org/globalfair





September 8, 2018

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