

HILLTOP NEWS

In This Issue:

Upcoming Events.....	2
tech4Tanzania News.....	3
Connect, Engage, & Relate	4
Scholarship Awards	5
Cumberland Vista/Slate Hill Calendar.....	6
It's Show Time!.....	8
New Hope Ministries Events/Needs	9
End-of-Year News from Friends of Shirati	10
Rachael Hoover/The Second Tunic.....	11
WPFG Christian Radio Banquet	12
Anniversaries/Birthdays.....	13
Ministry Assignments 2015-2016	14

Nations shall come
to your light,
and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



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Camp Hill, PA 17011
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E-Mail: slatehillmennonite@gmail.com

Website: www.slatehillmennonite.org

Pastor: lynn_shertzer@verizon.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 9:00-4:30;

Friday by appointment

Pastor: Lynn Shertzer

Associate Pastor of Community Life: Joy Fasick

Administrative Assistant: Fran Leiter

Lay Elders: Jen Fredrick, Dave Bauman, Caleb Miller,
Ron Hershey

Staff E-mail Addresses:

Lynn Shertzer: lynn_shertzer@verizon.net

Joy Fasick: jfasick@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant, Fran Leiter: slatehillmennonite@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday	No office hours
Tuesday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday	By Appointment



Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4** Ladies Fellowship & Bible Study ~ 9:30 AM
Cumberland Vista; Decorate Christmas Cookies ~ 6:30 PM
- Dec. 5** Cookie Walk Benefit for tech4Tanzania ~ 9:00 AM
- Dec. 6** Southeast Asian Fellowship Worship/Lunch ~ Noon
- Dec. 9** Christmas Caroling after WNO meal ~ 7:00 PM
- Dec. 12** Ladies Christmas Gathering at Rosalie Roland's ~ 6:30 PM
- Dec. 13** Potluck Lunch and Congregational Meeting ~ Noon
- Dec. 16** Christmas Caroling with New Hope Sr. Citizens; Mechanicsburg.~ Noon
- Dec. 18** Ladies Fellowship & Bible Study ~ 9:30 AM
Christmas Caroling with New Hope Sr. Citizens; Dillsburg ~ 12:30 PM
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service followed by a ham dinner for all ~ 6:00 PM
- Jan. 1-3** Jr. High Retreat at Camp Hebron
- Jan. 8-10** MYF Retreat at Camp Hebron



Kitchens are warm and the tantalizing aroma of cookies baking is wafting throughout homes in readiness for the second annual tech4Tanzania Cookie Walk on Sat., Dec. 5th from 9:00 AM to noon! It is with great appreciation and joyful hearts we extend our thanks to all who are participating one way or another to help make the Cookie Walk a success.

Bakers, please take a blue slip from the tech4Tanzania cookie table outside the sanctuary to complete and return with your cookies so we can keep shoppers apprised of allergens. The information requested for each batch of cookies you donate is: your name, the name of the recipe, an indication of whether or not they contain nuts or dairy products, or are gluten-free. Shoppers were delighted and surprised to find a display of gluten-free cookies last year and we'd like to accommodate them again this year! For planning purposes, we'd also like to know the number of cookies included in each batch you donate. Please bring your cookies to church either the evening of Wed., Dec. 2nd during WNO or on Fri., Dec. 4th between 6:00-8:00 PM.

Thanks goes out to all the volunteers too who assisted with planning, signage, purchasing, set-up, staffing, or loaning display trays, etc. We covet everyone's prayers also for the event to be well received and attended!

Last, but not least, you are urged to attend the event to shop the amazing array of beautiful and tasty cookies. Start making up a list now of those you'd like to show appreciation by giving them a gift of Christmas goodies. Don't forget the barber/beautician, teachers, postman, neighbors, friends, relatives, coworkers, etc. What a memorable way to Connect, Engage, and Relate this Christmas season!

Your support makes it possible for educational, medical, and technology supplies gathered throughout the year to be shipped to Tanzania where they will be distributed to hospitals, schools, colleges, and churches. The current shipment was loaded onto the truck Tues., Nov., 17th and left the NY port on Sun., Nov. 22; it is currently riding the high-seas! It may be several months before the shipment arrives in Tanzania. Prayers are needed for a smooth transition of the cargo from the ship to its intended destination without additional expenses or delays by governing agencies along the way. May God be glorified!

Submitted by Fran Leiter



During 2015, a Connect, Engage, and Relate committee met several times to plan activities to help guide thoughts of ways to Connect, Engage and Relate with not-yet-churched neighbors and friends.

The committee placed a glass vase at the front and right side of the sanctuary so each Sunday people could celebrate God-given opportunities to connect with others while going about their daily activities. During the offering, people can lower a small rock into the vase to symbolize a C-E-R activity they engaged in that week. It is amazing to see how the vase has grown as the year has progressed. It is also an excellent visual reminder to Connect, Engage, and Relate to those around us.

Each month during the service, someone would share a brief snapshot of a C-E-R moment in which they had participated. It is interesting and challenging to hear about opportunities grasped in various ways such as a malfunctioning washing machine led to close encounters at a laundry mat, and a team of Slate Hill women provided loving, nurturing care to an at-risk pregnant immigrant woman that resulted in a beautiful, healthy, normal baby girl, and forever-grateful parents!

The second annual “Fun Fest” provided more new contacts and is yet another cause to celebrate opportunities to Connect, Engage, and Relate. Another event, “Trunk-or-Treat” held in October, provided opportunities to connect with neighbors even though the event had to move inside because of the rain. Children came, got their faces painted, collected candy and ate sundaes, along with the adults who manned the trunks.

Lists of suggested C-E-R activities were provided each month for both children and adults as reminders and to stimulate new creative ideas for interacting with others.

Plans for 2016 include a PA-German Heritage Day to invite the community to celebrate our 200-year history as a church.

Let’s keep the enthusiasm going in 2016 and beyond!

Submitted by Myrna Eshleman

Continued next page:

As we prepare to open our hearts to celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus, let us remember to include all of God's earthly children as well. Below are some ways you might Connect, Engage, and Relate to others during December. The adult and youth lists are combined this month as most of these ideas work for people of all ages.

- * Invite a friend or coworker to the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 6:00 PM.
- * Bake cookies with friends at Cumberland Vista on December 5.
- * Connect to someone you don't yet know while you shop for cookies at tech4Tanzania's Cookie Walk on December 5.
- * Share Christmas Cookies with a neighbor you don't yet know well or one who could use some extra cheer this year.
- * If you are a hunter, share your harvest with someone in need.
- * Volunteer to assist with New Hope Ministry's *Christmas Blessings Express* event or other areas in need of support.
- * Spread Christmas joy by joining in the caroling at New Hope on December 16 or 18. See page 8 of the December Hilltop News to learn more.
- * Shovel snow for a neighbor.
- * Attend a local school Christmas concert then enjoy friendly conversation with people you haven't met before.
- * Go to a local restaurant to watch a college or pro football game. Keep your eyes open for those God would have you to connect with while you're there.
- * Something else God lays on your heart!



Scholarship Awards

The Wildcat Foundation/Mechanicsburg Club has awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to each of two of our own members - Marc Hershey and Faith Onelangsy. Marc is attending Eastern University in St. Davids, PA majoring in Mathematics. Faith attends the University of Pittsburgh and is studying Pre-Med/Neuroscience.

Congratulations Marc and Faith!



Joshua Dean (purple shirt) with Cumberland Vista residents (L to R) Lonie, Chris and Brian.



Jimmy Redline flexes his muscle for Janet Zimmerman.

Slate Hill Mennonite and Cumberland Vista 2015-16 Events

Everyone at Slate Hill is invited to befriend the wonderfully grace-filled residents of Cumberland Vista. For those who may be unfamiliar with Cumberland Vista, it is a Christian group home in Dillsburg for eight intellectually disabled adults. A variety of special events are planned this year to strengthen the ties between Slate Hill and these neighbors. You are encouraged to choose an event that interests you, or looks like fun, then come on out and get your feet wet experiencing some of God's grace.

2015

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--|
| Dec. 4 | 6:30PM | Christmas Cookie Decorating at Cumberland Vista |
| Dec. 6 | 9:30AM | Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class |

2016

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--|
| Jan. 3 | 9:30AM | Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class |
| Jan. 9 | 6:30PM | Pizza and MOVIE NIGHT at Cumberland Vista |

Feb. 5	6:30PM	Skit, Songs, Snacks at Cumberland Vista
Feb. 7	9:30AM	Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class
March 4	6:00PM	Set up for Spring Fling (SHMC volunteers only—we need your help!) A pizza supper will be provided for volunteers.
March 5	12-4:00PM	SPRING FLING at Slate Hill Mennonite
March 6	9:30AM	Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class
April 1	6:30PM	Skit, Songs, Snacks at Cumberland Vista
April 3	9:30AM	Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class
May 1	9:30AM	Cum. Vista joins Slate Hill for worship followed by a Special Needs Sunday School Class
May 6	6:30PM	Homemade Ice Cream, Skit, Songs, Snacks at Cumberland Vista

TO BE ANNOUNCED: HERSHEY BEARS Game (on a Sunday afternoon)
 HARRISBURG SENATOR'S GAME (on a Sunday afternoon)

CUMBELAND VISTA is one of three Christian group homes for intellectually disabled adults operated by C.R.O.S.S. Inc. (Christian Residential Opportunities & Social Services). Cumberland Vista is located behind Cumberland Valley Brethren In Christ Church, at the top of the hill.

Directions to Cumberland Vista from Rt. 15 and Lisburn Road

Head west on Lisburn Road 1.3 miles.
 At traffic light at Williams Grove Road make a LEFT (heading south) for 2.1 miles.
 At the stop sign at 74 North (Carlisle Road/York Road) make a RIGHT. Go 0.5 miles.
 Slow down as you approach the **Cumberland Valley Brethren In Christ Church** on your left.
 Make a LEFT into the church parking lot and keep going straight up the driveway and up the hill.
 The driveway will eventually turn to the right and then curve to the left up the hill.
 Cumberland Vista is at the top of the hill.
 Park either in the back lot (basement level) which you will come to first OR in the top parking lot (which is actually the front of the house but faces the back of the property).
 We usually begin meeting in the basement. For special events (where we will be cooking/baking), we usually converge on the first floor which is the top entrance.

For more information, contact Ulli Klemm (724) 464-8748 or ulliklemm@yahoo.com



It's Showtime!

You are invited to join others from Slate Hill to help lead Christmas caroling (sacred and a few secular songs) at New Hope Ministries' Christmas Parties for impoverished senior citizens. For the past six years, Slate Hill Mennonite has been honored by being asked to provide musical entertainment for these events. Instrumentalists and kids, as well as big-hearted vocalists, are welcome to come out to spread cheer and remember these oft overlooked persons who are so appreciative of being included at a Christmas party. The dates and times are as posted below:

Wed. Dec. 16, 2015

12:00-2:00 PM

New Hope Ministries

West Shore Center

5228 E. Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg PA 17050



Friday, Dec. 18, 2015

12:30-2:30 PM

New Hope Ministries

Dillsburg Center

Event hosted by Calvary United Methodist Church

203 Mumper Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019

Sign up at the bulletin board or contact Ulli Klemm at ulliklemm@yahoo.com or (724)464-8748 if you'd like to be part of this missional outreach.



New HOPE Ministries

Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs

Serving the Mechanicsburg Community

5228 East Trindle Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

(717) 766-7333

www.nhm-pa.org

Your Local Manager: **Mary Wheeler**

Engage

It's time for "Christmas Blessing Express," where our guests are able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family and then, if they desire, our volunteers wrap the gifts for them. You cannot imagine the difference you make in the families' lives by your willingness to help make their Christmas a special one, full of wonderful memories. New items can be dropped off at the center **before December 15th**, Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Please check our website for more details.



Wish List

Peanut Butter
Tuna
Canned Chicken
Pasta
Ketchup
Mustard
Mayonnaise



Do you have a couple of hours to give?

The following volunteer opportunities are available:

Drivers: regular & holiday pick ups

Food Pantry USDA Desk

Food Pantry Hospitality

Computer & Soft Skills Teachers & Assistants

Cooking Class

Afterschool Program

Volunteer applications can be obtained by visiting our website or by stopping by the center.

Merry Christmas!

~ Mary



End-of-Year News

from Friends of Shirati

November 20 was a landmark day for Friends of Shirati, a nonprofit organization providing medical, development, and educational assistance to Shirati Hospital in Tanzania. Friends of Shirati was one of more than 300 organizations based in Lancaster that benefited from the *2015 Extraordinary Give*, organized by the Lancaster County Foundation. Billed as “Lancaster County’s largest day of online giving,” the *Extraordinary Give* raised more than 6 million dollars for local organizations. Friends of Shirati received twenty-six donations on that day, totaling \$2,975. Begun by missionaries from Lancaster County in 1936, the Shirati Hospital is now a ministry arm of the Tanzania Mennonite Church, and Friends of Shirati supports the work of the hospital through finances, volunteers, and medical supplies.

A new pediatric ward at the Shirati Hospital is almost complete. This remodeling and expansion, which cost \$55,000, allows the Shirati Hospital to improve their treatment of pediatric patients, who in the past sometimes needed to share beds because of overcrowding. Other recent developments include the removal of asbestos roofing in preparation for the installation of solar panels. Solar energy currently powers several departments of the hospital, including one of the operating rooms, and the addition of solar panels will enable the entire hospital and nursing school to run off of solar power. This will reduce the hospital’s electricity costs and give it more independence from the sometimes unreliable electrical grid of the country.



In other news, Slate Hill members contributed money toward a playground set for the children in the pediatric ward, and that playground equipment will be installed soon. Slate Hill members also generously contributed toward the hospital costs of children whose families are unable to pay.

Rachel Hoover, who graduated with a nursing degree from Messiah College in 2015, is currently living in Shirati and working at the hospital and nursing school. Rachel was an active participant at Slate Hill during her years at Messiah College. In a recent letter to supporters, Rachel shared that she is enjoying learning some Swahili and looking forward to beginning her teaching role in the nursing school.

--Submitted by Valerie Weaver-Zercher



Rachael Hoover Serving With The Second Tunic

Rachel Hoover, a '15 Messiah grad and frequent worshipper at Slate Hill during her four years at Messiah, is serving through The Second Tunic organization to teach in the Nursing School at Shirati Hospital. Ulli Klemm serves with two others on the support team for Rachel and files these praises and prayer concerns.

Praise God that Rachel:

- Has more comfortable and familiar living quarters; she is living with a nurse from Switzerland. Here she has her own space, can enjoy friendship with someone who shares a similar cultural heritage, is being helped with Kiswahili, has access to a clean (treated) water and a stove/oven;
- Is adopting well to Tanzanian culture, and had the experience of living with a Tanzanian family;
- Is healthy and is maintaining her sense of humor;
- Has been centering herself and finding meaning, understanding and purpose through daily devotions;
- Is trusting God with things she doesn't understand, including trying to sort through all her pre-arrival expectations;
- Has raised all her financial support.

Pray that Rachel:

- Will find her way as a teacher at the nursing school and ALL it entails;
- Will find satisfaction in small things she can be proud of, whether meeting a new friend, learning another phrase in Kiswahili, trying a new food, receiving a smile or a hug from a student....
- Will find contentment in being and resting in God's grace vs. her own need to feel a sense of accomplishment;
- Will continue to find her devotional times as a source of life and grace and that she will discern/hear God speaking in her life;
- Will release any preconceived notions of some of her (Western) assumptions about what Shirati would be like, so that she can truly learn from this experience;
- Will find just as much value in building relationships as she does in accomplishing and reaching goals;

- Will work through the experiences of seeing what we might perceive as preventable deaths;
- Can see the world with its blessings and thorns as those in Tanzania have learned to see the world, and how their worldview influences their view of God, and faith, life and death, and enables them to celebrate and live in the present;
- That God would expand her trust in Him so that she can join her Tanzanian friends in their refrain that “everything is fine” (even when short-staffed, without a hospital director on-site...) because in fact God does have the whole (often chaotic) world in His hands;
- Would be given deep rest each night to face the challenges of each day.

If you would like Ulli to place a copy of updates from Rachel in your church mailbox, let Ulli Klemm know.

WPFG Christian Radio Banquet

Each year, the WPFG Christian Radio station holds a fundraising banquet to assist with operating costs so the Gospel message can penetrate the airwaves to reach the lost and to help Christ followers grow in knowledge and grace. A number of Slate Hillers attended last year and many returned this year to continue their support.

What a delightful evening! The West Shore Evangelical Free Church hosted the event, thus allowing a greater number of people to attend. The delicious meal was catered by different businesses, each providing a portion of the meal. The climax of the night was the Christian comedian ventriloquist, Ryan and Friends, whose program ended all too soon. Laughter permeated the auditorium throughout the entire program, leaving many with sore sides from laughter, and there was not a dry eye in the house! Some in the audience were called on stage to participate in the program which added spontaneity to the show. I'm sorry if you missed it!

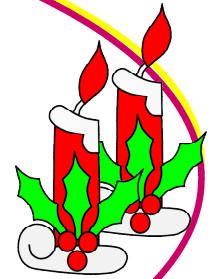


Ryan Bomgardner is a full time ventriloquist and comedian who lives in central Pennsylvania. He graduated from a ventriloquist college - did you even know there was such a thing? Each year, he performs over 140 shows throughout North America plus shows around the globe. Ryan's performances range from corporate events and resorts to churches, theatres, cruises, and TV appearances. When he is not performing live, Ryan is a comedy columnist and he hosts a regional TV show. Check out his website at <http://www.ryanandfriends.com/> to get his schedule and to peruse his on-line store where you can obtain some of his materials - they would make great gifts for kids, young and old! I hope you will take the opportunity to attend a Ryan and Friends local performance - it will become a life-long memory!

Submitted by Fran Leiter



Happy Anniversary!



ONELANGSY, Rathasamy & Yoomie	12/03
HART, JR., William & Beth	12/17
KRUG, Jeff & Kathy	12/27
VIRAYA, Somphone & Keomani	12/29

Happy Birthday

REDLINE, Jimmy (Cumberland Vista)	12/01	BAUMBACH, Elaine	12/16
EWING, Jason (Cumberland Vista)	12/02	SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Eric	12/18
KLEMM, Ulli	12/02	WEAVER, Joseph	12/18
FREDRICK, Ben	12/07	LY, Matthew	12/20
RIOUX, Jackson	12/07	MITCHELL, James	12/20
QUICKEL, Julie	12/10	ZIMMERMAN, Norm	12/20
SAENGDY, Khamsene	12/10	RIOUX, Julia	12/21
TOTHERO, Jenna	12/12	ZIMMERMAN, Christopher	12/21
ZERCHER, Henry	12/12	DETWEILER, Florence	12/22
BAUMAN, Debra	12/13	HARTZLER, Ernest	12/23
RIDER, Amanda	12/13	BOUNMA, Khaek	12/24
CLARK, Kendra	12/15	ESHLEMAN, Ken	12/24
EDWARDS, Gabriel	12/15	LAMB, Brad	12/25
MAYES, Tara	12/15	SACHS, Ron	12/26
SAENGDY, Loun	12/15	WITMER, Lonie (Cumberland Vista)	12/27
		HOOVER, Deborah	12/27

Ministry Assignments for 2015-2016

Elder Team

Lynn Shertzer
Joy Fasick
Dave Bauman ('17)
Jen Fredrick ('16)
Ron Hershey ('18)
Caleb Miller ('17)

Church Board

Lamarr Widmer, Chair ('16)
John Eby, Treasurer ('18)
Lynn Shertzer
Debbie Bauman ('18)
Ray Leiter ('17)
Myrna Eshleman ('16)
Lyndon Hess ('16)
Tom Miller ('18)
Lee Roland ('18)
Ben Myers ('16)

Christian Education

Myrna Eshleman, Chair ('16)
Joelle Beck ('17)
Rhoda Hershey ('18)
Lori Monivong ('17)
Stacy Petersheim ('18)
Julia Rioux ('16)
Rachael Zimmerman ('16)

Evangelism, Peace and Service

Tom Miller, Chair ('18)
Sara Chubb ('17)
Ken Eshleman ('18)
Lucinda Gish ('17)
Mark Preston ('16)
Jim Mitchell ('18)

Trustees

Lyndon Hess, Chair ('16)
Jeff Beck ('17)
Dwayne Gish ('16)
Lionel Hess ('18)
Gary Musselman ('16)
Rich Musselman ('17)
Eric Schwartzentruber ('18)
Paul Zimmerman ('17)

Worship Commission

Lee Roland, Chair ('18)
Lynn Shertzer
Judy Walter ('16)
Dale Weaver ('17)
Valerie Weaver-Zercher ('18)

Stewardship

Ben Myers, Chair ('16)
John Eby ('18)
Mike Fasick ('18)
Cassandra Ly, Financial Secretary ('17)
Holly Myers ('16)
Roger Springer ('16)

Food and Fellowship

Cindy Musselman, Chair ('16)
Matt Fasick ('18)
Tara Hess ('16)
Fran Leiter ('17)
Lucy McAloose ('18)
Jen Musselman ('16)
Megan Myers ('17)
Dawn Shertzer ('16)
Debbie Weaver ('18)
Janet Zimmerman ('18)

Pastoral Relations

Judy Walter, Chair ('18)
John Pechart ('17)
Trang Rioux ('18)
Deborah Saline ('16)
Richard Mininger, Bishop

Technology Committee

Tom Ly, Chair ('18)
Chris Hawley ('18)
Jeff Krug ('17)
Isaac Shertzer ('18)
Ed White ('16)

Wellness Committee

Joy Fasick, Chair ('17)
Hope Alexander ('18)
Roger Myers ('17)
Rod Petersheim ('16)
Ben Simcox ('18)
Connie Werner ('17)

Gifts Discernment

Barb Springer, Chair ('16)
Lee Roland ('16)
Stacy Petersheim ('17)
Janet Zimmerman ('17)

Lancaster Conference Delegates

Lynn Shertzer
James Burkholder ('17)
Carol Moser ('18)