

CHRONICLES

SUMMER 2004 THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY BRETHREN-MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTER VOL II NO.2

Board welcomes new executive director, projects 2004 events

During its Annual Dinner Meeting April 17 in the Martin Chapel of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, the CrossRoads Board welcomed Steve Shenk as Executive Director, reviewed highlights of 2003, projected plans for 2004 and heard Luanne Austin's address entitled, "Show & Tell."

Austin, feature writer for the Skyline Section of the Daily News-Record, used a painting, a tattered doll, and a piece of pottery to show how a friend's loving actions rather than aggressive witness laid the groundwork for her commitment to Christ, made in the quietness of reading a book.

She also told her 140 dinner guests that she was glad that "you have come to the place of wanting to share your faith story," but suggested that it be "the boasting of the Lord" (1 Cor. 1:31).

After Robert Alley, Board president and pastor of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, introduced board and committee members, he paid tribute to outgoing board members and staff, and welcomed Steve Shenk as the new executive director.

In his greeting, Shenk noted that, "We're on a journey - to share the story of Jesus Christ as it has been lived by the Brethren and Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley," and to do it with humility.

A slide show prepared by Early Photography highlighted Turner's Mill and the CrossRoads site dedication on September 7, and Interim Director

Luanne Austin

Doris Showalter outlined these upcoming events:

- ◆ The May 21-22 symposium on the Civil War
- ◆ A CPS program June 19 featuring a video, discussion and exhibits
- ◆ A tour of sites important to Brethren and Mennonites of the Civil War era July 17 (see back page)
- ◆ A dialog between persons doubling as Menno Simons and Alexander Mack
- ◆ Informal worship services in a transformed sink hole at the CrossRoads site
- ◆ A fall tour of historic homes of interest to Mennonites and Brethren
- ◆ A September 25 presentation by Donald Durnsbaugh to help Brethren and Mennonites understand their similarities and differences
- ◆ A Harvest Festival in October
- ◆ Moving the Whitmer Schoolhouse from Mathias, West Virginia to CrossRoads.



Harvest Festival takes shape

The Program Committee and staff are planning an event and a product that could become a trademark for CrossRoads. This venture will accent a key feature of Brethren and Mennonite life in the valley — farming.

Earlier this spring, Kenton Brubaker, retired EMU professor of biology, began working with two area farmers and volunteers from area churches, to plant, cultivate and harvest a patch of sorghum at the CrossRoads site.

When the sorghum is harvested this fall, it will be turned into molasses as part of a newly formed Harvest Festival. Stay alert for ways in which you can help with this effort.

CPS program set for June 19

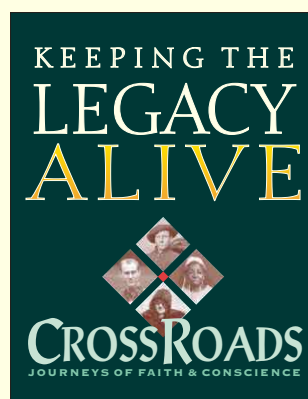
A special program on Saturday, June 19, 2 PM, at Garbers Church of the Brethren, will explore the Civilian Public Service program available to Conscientious Objectors during World War II. The video, "A Life of Peace in a Time of War," will be shown, followed by a discussion. Various exhibits, with photos and artifacts, will help to highlight the CPS story. Al Keim, first director of CrossRoads and author of *The Politics of Conscience* (1985) and *The CPS Story* (1990) is the program coordinator. No pre-registration is required.

Workday scheduled

Saturday, June 5, beginning at 8 a.m., You are invited to a workday at the CrossRoads site, 711 Garbers Church Road. Bring chain saws, tree trimming tools, brush cutters, and trucks. Bring your own lunch; drink and dessert will be provided.

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