

Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)

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# Greater Things

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## “Arise and Walk in Your Baptism”

*from Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration and Community Life*

Easter Sunday is one of the best Sundays of the year! It's not just the services of celebration, the Easter breakfast, and the family dinners. What makes Easter so special is that Christ's resurrection gives us the hope to arise and walk with him each and every day throughout the year. Not only did his resurrection defeat death and confirm our eternal life, but it assured us that we will never walk alone in this life.

Perhaps that encouragement to arise and walk is a reminder of our baptism. When we are baptized we are raised to our feet by the words, "In the name of Christ and the church, I give you my hand and bid you to rise and walk in the newness of life by the same power that raised Christ from the dead." The inspiration for those words come from Romans 6:3-4 that say, "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

We celebrate this on Easter for sure, but do we celebrate it each and every day that we awake? It seems like we often go through life without acknowledging or remembering the power of this "New Life" in our everyday lives. Perhaps we should remember our baptism more often or maybe celebrate our baptism in ways that remind us that the resurrection is an ongoing reality not just a nice Sunday during the spring season.

What if we woke up each morning and sat on the side of our bed and said, "Arise and walk in the new life of Christ," before we took our first steps? Would it help us to remember the day we received Jesus into our life? Would it help us to remember our baptism? Would it help us to live each day with repentant hearts and turn our eyes to God throughout the day?

In article 11 of the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective it says this, "Baptism is a testimony to God's gift of the Holy Spirit and the continuing work of the Spirit in the lives of believers. Through the Spirit we repent and turn toward God in faith. The baptism of the Holy Spirit enables believers to walk in newness of life, to live in community with Christ and the church, to offer Christ's healing and forgiveness to those in need, to witness boldly to the good news of Christ, and to hope in the sharing of Christ's future glory." By reading that paragraph you can see how

important it is for us to live out our baptism each and every day. It is our testimony that yes, I have received Jesus Christ into my life and through the Holy Spirit He gives me everything I need to live my life to the fullest.

On Sunday, March 27 we will be celebrating Easter! But on several Sundays in April and May we are going to celebrate baptisms at AMC. On each of these occasions we are going to remember the covenant relationship we have with Jesus Christ and the difference that covenant can make in our lives 365 days of the year. How about we try saying those words to ourselves before we take our first steps each morning, "Arise and walk in the New Life of Christ today!" By doing that we in a sense will be celebrating our baptism continually. Baptism is not the moment of salvation, but it is a sign to our brothers and sisters in Christ that we are living in the resurrection power of Jesus. Perhaps that sign should become a part of our everyday lives if it is not already.

I pray that the Lord will bless you and your family this Easter season and may the remembrances and celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost remind us once again of God's everlasting presence in our lives.

*... the resurrection  
is an ongoing reality,  
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spring season.*

# THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

## Cross-training Our Faith

from Ashley Litwiller,  
Minister of Youth and Worship



I am very thankful for training I was put through as an athlete. It helped put Hebrew 12:1 in perspective for me. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sins that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

I was never a great runner; the reason I chose to run track was because some friends were there, the workouts kept me in shape for volleyball season, and because my dad, coaches and mentor athletes, told me that being a well-rounded player would pay off more in the long run. I was in as many sports and activities as possible in high school, but the only thing I focused on year round was band & chorus.

A new book from Herald Press came out recently: *Overplayed: A Parent's Guide to Sanity in the World of Youth Sports*. If you have children interested in sports, read this! David King, director of athletics at EMU alongside a mom of young athletes, Margot Starbuck, are bringing to light the current problems in youth sports' world today. I encourage you to read the book for the full story, but the piece I want to share with you is the overwhelming amount of encouragement for athletes to NOT specialize in a sport until their sophomore or junior year in high school. This is for 2 main reasons: they get burnt out and they end up with life-changing injuries. Some situations result in kids dropping out of sports altogether, parent/child relationships suffer, and physical and emotional scars. Using professional athletes as examples (such as Tommy John, Clark Humphreys, Walter Payton, USA Women's Soccer Team, my favorite story of Erik Kratz and more) they explain that training in more than one sport is mentally and physically healthy if youth want to continue sports later in life. Coaches have said that those with "tunnel vision" tend to drop out of sports sooner than others.

When it comes to our faith, we tend to have tunnel vision. Don't get me wrong, tunnel vision can be helpful when persevering storms, but in order for us to truly have a handle on what our faith is, we have to train our faith in multiple ways. For the same reason, when you are preparing for a marathon, you don't just run your heart out. That tunnel mindset can be only "doing church" on Sunday mornings. "Doing Church" on Sunday mornings is a great thing! But if we just see God in that context, we may get burnt out and let our journey with God fall to the back burner. It's helpful to train our faith in many different ways: Bible studies, mission trips, chatting with friends about it, fundraising for needs, going on solo trips to the desert or even to an empty field, read a book pertaining to faith, getting behind causes, sponsoring a child, daily solo prayer time with God etc.

There is no "one-size-fits-all" answer. My Challenge for you is to figure out what type of cross-training your Faith journey needs. If you're worried about falling behind on other things or not coming in first place, remember "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first" (Matt. 19:30)

## GETTING TO KNOW:

### Anna Mary Borntrager

#### An AMC Personal Profile

*Anna Mary and her husband Floyd live in Mattoon. They have four children and eight grandchildren.*



**What is your job and what does it consist of?** I have worked at JCPenney for 19 yrs. I started in the catalog and later moved to the home department. My title is Merchandise Associate. I am responsible for the home department, keeping the shelves stocked and putting new merchandise out. I also answer calls from other associates if they need assistance and I am available. I enjoy the customers and helping them find what they need.

**What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?** My favorite verse would be from Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.*

**Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?** I felt God's presence and comfort in my life during the sudden death of my older brother Elam from Hesston, Kansas in Jan 2011.

**What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church?** My favorite song would be what was known as No 606. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

**What are some interesting facts about you that we may not know?** I was raised on a Dairy farm in Belleville, PA. My Dad, "Pop" as we called him, was a minister and I had 4 older brothers and 1 younger sister. I attended a Christian school 1-12th. I met Floyd in Ohio at winter Bible School where my Dad was an instructor.

**What is the happiest memory of your life?** One of my happiest memories from my childhood is my mother singing. She sang all day long while doing her housework, working in her garden and flower beds.

**What hobbies do you enjoy?** I enjoy traveling and in 2002 Floyd and I were privileged to visit our daughter Crystal and her husband Jon Shellenberger in El Salvador while they were there 2000-2003 under MCC. We had a wonderful time experiencing another culture. We came home with a new love and appreciation for the people there and for running water and all of our conveniences that we take for granted. They had running water but only a couple days a week, then it was turned off and directed to another village.

Our youngest daughter was married in Jamaica in 2009. All of our children went to the wedding and we had an awesome time!

Every year in July my siblings meet at a lodge in the mountain at Belleville and spend a week together. We have been doing that for close to 20 yrs.

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement or accomplishment?** We are the parents of 4 children. One son and 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren. I feel our (Floyd and I) greatest and most satisfying achievement or accomplishment is raising our four children and watching them become responsible adults and loving parents.

# CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

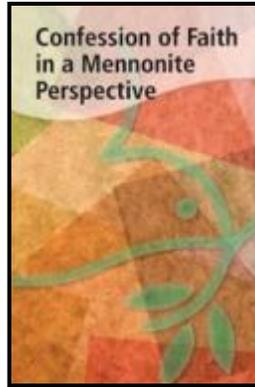
## Article 4 ~ Scripture

*Editors Note: This is the fourth in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the twenty four articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed in what they express.*

We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. We seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the church.

We believe that God was at work through the centuries in the process by which the books of the Old and New Testaments were inspired and written. Through the Holy Spirit, God moved human witnesses to write what is needed for salvation, for guidance in faith and life, and for devotion to God.

We accept the Bible as the Word of God written. God has spoken in many and various ways through the prophets and apostles. God has spoken above all in the living Word who became flesh and revealed the truth of God faithfully and without deception. We also acknowledge the Scripture as the fully reliable and trustworthy Word of God written in human



language. We believe that God continues to speak through the living and written Word. Because Jesus Christ is the Word become flesh, Scripture as a whole has its center and fulfillment in him.

We acknowledge the Scripture as the authoritative source and standard for preaching and teaching about faith and life, for distinguishing truth from error, for discerning between good and evil, and for guiding prayer and worship. Other claims on our understanding of Christian faith and life, such as tradition, culture, experience, reason, and political powers, need to be tested and corrected by the light of Holy Scripture.

The Bible is the essential book of the church. Through the Bible, the Holy Spirit nurtures the obedience of faith to Jesus Christ and guides the church in shaping its teaching, witnessing, and worship. We commit ourselves to persist and delight in reading, studying, and meditating on the Scriptures. We participate in the church's task of interpreting the Bible and of discerning what God is saying in our time by examining all things in the light of Scripture. Insights and understandings which we bring to the interpretation of the Scripture are to be tested in the faith community.

## BEN & BETH WEISBROD AT AMC ~ Tuesday, April 19th

Mennonite Central Committee Regional Directors from West and Central Africa, Ben & Beth Weisbrod will be speaking at AMC on Tuesday, April 19th at 7 p.m. Their work in Africa involves strategic planning and oversight of five MCC programs throughout Africa. Plan to come and hear what they have to share with us!



### FIRST FRUIT GIVING

*Giving God Our Best*

#### Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
2/28/16	125	\$3,288
3/6/16	167	\$3,772
3/13/16	140	\$4,587
3/20/16	155	\$5,332



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ervin Yoder	April 2	Duane Oye	April 13
Sherrill Shunk	April 2	Elizabeth Miller	April 17
Taylor Miller	April 3	Lynn Marner	April 19
Chad Yoder	April 3	Isabella Miller	April 25
Derek Rhodes	April 4	Colby Herschberger	April 25
Liz Diener	April 7	Bailey Mentzer	April 27
Bill Kauffman	April 8		

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

### APRIL 10TH with Everence

*Join us Sunday, April 10th as representatives from Everence share with us about Stewardship. Brian Veeder will have the message titled "Speedy Delivery" from 2 Corinthians 8*

*There will also be two adult Christian Education Classes:*

***"Teaching Children About Money & Values" led by Greg Liestman***

***"You Can't Spell Stewardship Without a Why?" led by Brian Veeder***



**ILLINOIS  
MENNONITE  
CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**



**ELEVATOR FUNDRAISER**  
Sunday, April 24th at AMC

Join us for a good old fashion auction in the fellowship hall as we raise funds for the AMC elevator/lift. The elevator will allow for greater access to the fellowship hall and the east basement of the church. What a great idea! Come and show your support. A light meal will also be served (bbq sandwiches, grilled hot dogs, nachos and homemade desserts).

If you have items you would like to donate for the auction please call the church office. All items are welcome! Baked goods, event tickets, themed gift baskets, handmade furniture, sports cars, hey—feel free to get generous and get creative!



April 8-9 in Morton, IL

First Mennonite Church of Morton

Everyone is invited to attend the IMC annual assembly. Traditionally, only leaders from AMC have attended but if you are interested you are more than welcome to go!

The focus this year is on discernment and Ervin Stutzman, from MC USA will be one of the featured speakers.

Talk with Glen Rhodes or visit the website [illinoismennonite.com](http://illinoismennonite.com) for more information.



**Eastern Mennonite High School Choir**  
*Concert at AMC on April 7th at 7 p.m.*

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

Scott & Karen Litteral April 6th  
Joe & Lanora Gingerich April 8th  
Cliff & Kathy Yoder April 17th



Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to [arthurmennonite@gmail.com](mailto:arthurmennonite@gmail.com)

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