



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

June 2006

Mt. Grove Church of the Brethren Faulks Run, VA

SUN. JUNE 11, 2006

The Willis Sommers family and Mike Petersheim joined us for the day, so the bus was pretty well filled.

Sights Along the Way

A creek meandering through the woods
A sign for strawberries
Daisies lifting pure white petals to the sun
Pine trees against a rich blue sky
Round hay bales scattered through a field
An American flag
Tall mountain ranges in subtle shades of green
Three deer in a creek bed
Lavender crown vetch on a knoll
A reflecting pond

We arrived at this large brick church at 9:30. Straight ahead from the parking lot, the graveyard lies on a steep hill. There I met a lady visiting her father's grave. He had been an out-going, friendly man, and well loved. He had been the owner of the Diamond Cab Co. in Washington D.C. Her parents had been married 53 years and since his death in '02, he has been sorely missed.

On stage we enjoyed a warm, receptive audience. We did "*He's the One*," and "*God Leads Us Along*." Loretta did "*Wish You Were Here*."

Menno said since 9 p.m. last night, he's had a burden for this church that there are special needs. Marty did, "*Sin Will Take You Farther*," then asked for a raise of hands for anyone who needed prayer. Hands went up all over the audience as we sang, "*Just As I Am*." One man came forward for prayer.

We finished with, "*We'll Be There*." A lot of people said how much they enjoyed the service.

Out of the corner of my eye, all through the service, it looked like someone in the back was raising a hand. In reality, it was a pair of praying hands on a raised stand.

For lunch, we drove several miles from the church to a picnic area, the Faulk's Run Ruritan Club. There we enjoyed a great spread of food and warm hospitality.

From Faulk's Run to the evening service was quite an experience. We climbed mountains, winding

back and forth taking hairpin curves all the way to the top. From here we looked down into bowls of treetops and miles across the expanse to a distant horizon. Then we took switchbacks all the way down again. We'd cross the valley floor and climb the next mountain. What breath-taking views!

Set Free Mennonite Church Bolar, VA

EVENING

Finally the road ran along the base of a tall mountain range. On top of a hill to the left we saw a large assembly of people gathered by an open building. Scattered around were animal sheds and cows grazing in the field nearby. As the bus chugged up the hill along side the people we saw long tables loaded with food.

"Welcome to Bolar, VA and Set Free Mennonite Church," Mike Puffinburg greeted us when he came onto the bus. "This is part of all the ends of the earth," he said. "And we are 1 1/2 hrs. from the nearest Wal-Mart."

The place reminded me of Switzerland except that the mountains were green instead of gray rock. There was hardly a flat place anywhere around.

Mike Puffinburg caters bar-b-que'd chicken at fairs and other events so we enjoyed a taste of his delicious recipe among other things.

The church house, I was told, was built for our coming. The cement had been poured within the last two weeks(?). There was just the long wooden structure, folding chairs, and electric lights in the ceiling. During the service cool mountain air blew in on us through windows yet without glass. There were only two restrooms. So after supper some of us brushed our teeth out behind the animal sheds.

Requested tonight were "*I Know a Man Who Can*," and "*Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet*." "*Peace Speaker*" went well in spite of not having sung it for quite a while. It was neat to sing to such an attentive audience.

At break time all three of the of the small groups sang; Heartbeat, The Sommers Trio, and the Men's Quartet who finished with "*Midnight Cry*."

Way up in the mountain several black dots moved across an open meadow. We thought they might be black bears. Rodney was fascinated with them but

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when he looked closely though his scope he discovered they were only cows!

Our visit to this church was indeed refreshing. Seldom do we sing in the midst of such beauty and so close to nature.

Too soon, we started our trek home Arrived back at the Mt. Anthems building at 12:45 a.m.

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren Mt. Pleasant, PA

SUN. JUNE 25, 2006

Gerald led in prayer before we rolled out of the parking lot at 8:35 a.m. He also read a note to the group from Menno who would not be along today. He is still recovering from the infection in his foot.

"To My Most Beloved People On Earth,

My heart rejoices that my people have another opportunity to proclaim the good news of Jesus on Sunday.

Since I can't go, I have designated Gerald to be your leader and Kenton to be your director since Mike isn't there either. Kenton has the privilege to ask whom ever he wants to direct. One can learn much on that birthday video about the qualities of Loren's directing. He swings his arms uniquely. He is off-pitch and hopefully his rough edges will smooth as he develops. It would be well if he could mature more and hopefully it would bring on more polish before he goes public. It would be better if he would learn more about setting up sound properly before he goes into directing. . .

May God's special blessing be on a special people I love much.

Menno"

A lot of the conversation, this wet, foggy morning, focused on the happenings at Mike and Lynn's outdoor wedding yesterday. I believe the rain of today is that which was held off by all the people's prayers yesterday.

We arrived at the church at 9:55 and did the program in two standings. We raised in pitch on a few of the songs. Kenton blew the pitch for "Bless the Lord" and we started too high. We had to start over. We also did, "So Many Reasons" and "Christ Liveth in Me." The twins sang "Love One Another." Loretta and Brooke did, "Jesus Loves Me."

TRAVELING FROM MT. JOY TO GRANTSVILLE, THE TWINS TOLD THEIR DAD THEY'D REALLY LIKE IF THE BACK OF THE BUS WOULD SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THEM. THE BACK OF THE BUS OBLIGED, REALLY LAYING IT ON. WHEN THEY FINISHED, BROOKE TOLD HER DAD BROCK HAD TEARS IN HIS EYES. DAD TOLD US HE THINKS IT WAS BROOKE WHO HAD THE TEARS :-)

Grantsville Park Grantsville, MD

AFTERNOON

Wet grass . . . mud . . . smiling faces . . . music coming from a pavilion . . . raindrops on seats, picnic tables . . . people milling about eating hot dogs and French fries from a concession stand . . . gray skies . . . people in lawn chairs under umbrellas . . . mothers pushing baby carriages . . . kids on the merry-go-round and on the climbing bars . . . This is Grantsville Days.

Kenton told the crowd the Bible says God lets it rain on the just and on the unjust. He would let each of them decide which they are. He directed all but about 15 minutes of the service after which he turned over to Gerald who led a few songs and introduced his family. He had Loretta sing, "I Found The Lily In My Valle". Loretta and Brooke introduced "The Lord is my Shepherd," in rounds.

The Beachy Trio, *Heartbeat*, did, "Feel Like Flyin' Away," which was a request.

Thank you all for your prayers this month. We appreciate your support.

-Lena Eicher