



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

October 2008

October 4, 2008

Springs Folk Festival Springs, PA

For many years the Mt. Anthems have been singing at the Springs Folk Festival. We sing for about an hour from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. This year was no exception. The sky was cloudy and the breeze was cool, but it wasn't snowing or raining, which is a big improvement over some of the years I've been there. ☺

We started off the program with some of our newer songs and then sang some of the older ones. We also sang some songs from *Sing Unto the Lord*. Marty sang "God on the Mountain" in response to a request. Menno was sitting in on the service "to see what all goes on." A lady spotted him and requested "Hallelujah Square." He obligingly came up on stage and sang it for her.

We always have a smaller group to sing here—some people can't leave their jobs. This year each part was adequately represented except for the bass. They're a small group even when they're all in attendance. When one of them is missing it seems so much smaller. God bless those who made an effort to attend!

Unlike our other concerts, this one is very informal. The audience moves in and out of the building at will, you can hear people talking outside (and sometimes inside), and the PA system occasionally blares out a message. It can be very distracting! I have to make a concentrated effort to focus my attention on the director. I'm a "people watcher" and this audience is diverse enough to tempt even the most blasé of us. Despite these things, God is faithful and blesses people with the message in our songs. We get various comments and letters from the audience after the concert telling us of the blessing they received.

October 12, 2008

Second Baptist Church Cumberland, MD

Soon after we arrived at Second Baptist, Menno, Grace, and Fannie pulled into the parking lot. They'd missed the bus. I think that's the first time that's ever happened to Menno. At practice we discuss our leaving time for the weekend. A 9:00 a.m. leaving time was announced, but for some reason Menno wrote down 9:30. He thought that seemed a little bit late for a trip to Cumberland, but didn't bother to say anything. We left at

9:00 a.m. as specified. No one knew if Menno's were planning to come along or not. Since they didn't show up, we left. Imagine our surprise when we saw they had followed us. Menno said he got to the building and couldn't figure out why Marty hadn't pulled the bus out of the shed yet. He opened the door and "the cupboard was bare." ☺ Kevin Coblentz was our other guest this trip.

Our service centered on the themes of peace and security. Menno came up and sang his solo, "Stand by Me." This was the first time Marty shared "The Prodigal Son" in public. I thought it went very well for a first time. We still want to do some work on the ending, but that's a minor detail.

We left at 1:30 p.m., heading for our next stop in East Berlin (Pennsylvania, not Germany ☺). We made one stop along the way to drop off Menno's vehicle. Menno, Grace, and Fanny will travel the rest of the day with us, and then they'll pick it up again on our way home.

Mummerts Church of the Brethren East Berlin, PA

Our afternoon drive took us through Gettysburg and the battlefields. Our arrival at the church was delayed by several traffic jams. I don't know if they were caused by tourism or accidents, but we're grateful for God's protection over us. We had a light snack before the service: fruit and vegetable trays, cheese and crackers, and drink.

We had a good evening service. Menno fulfilled a request for "The Cross in the Middle", and Marty shared "The Prodigal Son" again. At the end of the service, Mike invited those who wished they could sing with us to join us up front for several songs. We sang "Christ Arose," "Lift Your Glad Voices," "Our God, He is Alive," and "Amazing Grace." It sounded wonderful! I always enjoy having the audience members join us up front.

We had packed lunches for our drive home. There was a group of us congregated in the back of the bus to eat together and fellowship with each other. Suddenly Marty slammed on the brakes (He felt them hit the floor.) and swerved over to the next lane. Tires squealed and people went flying forward. Some even fell out of their seats. One of the girls, who had been standing, flew about three seat lengths and landed in the aisle on her back. A car was headed the wrong way on the freeway. We think it entered from an exit ramp. Marty's quick

reflexes and God's great mercy preserved us from serious injury.

The ride home was spent in the usual activities with the addition of some singing "just for fun." We had quite a group crowded into the back of the bus, and it got very warm by the time we were done (too many people for such a small space). We sang several songs in rounds, and then sang 5 songs at once. I know there's a technical term to describe it but I can't remember it. (It's not medley.) "What were the five songs?" you ask. "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "What a Mighty God We Serve," "This Train Is Bound for Glory," and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." Amazingly, nothing clashes horribly when you do this. I will admit that with so many songs all together, it's hard to understand the words! ☺ We had a wonderful time "making a joyful noise."

It's nearly midnight, and we have about an hour's drive yet. I think I'll snuggle down for a nap. Good night!

October 26, 2008

Indian Head Church of God

Indian Head, PA

We met this morning with plans to leave at 8:30. The bus was backed out of the shed, waiting for the last few members of the chorus to board. Mike led us in prayer, and we were ready to go down the road. The bus, however, having had a memory lapse, continued to sit in the parking lot. It refused to go into gear, so Arlin turned it off and waited the required five minutes before starting the bus again. Now, being reawakened, the bus decided it was a beautiful morning to drive after all and cooperatively went into gear. We proceeded merrily down the road.

What a gorgeous day for a drive! Bright sunshine, clear blue skies and a few colorful leaves clinging tenaciously to the trees. One of the conversations on the bus was about the hunting adventures of the past week. Marvin and Mildred Yoder traveled with us as guests this weekend.

Our service this morning was at 11:00. We started the service with some praise and worship songs which included the debut of "Prayer of Thankful Praise." There was a request for Marty's solo "God on the Mountain." Later in the service, we sang another new song entitled "Love Will Bring Us All Together." This one has some wording that's easy to get confused, but we did okay. Menno directed three songs and then closed with his solo, "Come on Home."

We received several requests at the recording stand for Menno's and Marty's solos. While I was helping one lady, another little Miss, about eight or nine years of age, came up to me and said, "Excuse me, please. You did a good job today." I thanked her, and she happily went on her way.

We were served a delicious lunch before starting down the road again at 1:30.

by Lynnette Yoder

Red Creek Church of the Brethren

Dry Fork, WV

The road to West Virginia was winding and hilly. One of the turns we made, onto a small country road, was so sharp we needed to do a two-point turn. We enjoyed the scenery along the way. We arrived a bit late, so we didn't have a lot of spare time. We were told they'd be giving us a snack. What a snack! We had several different kinds of soup, sandwiches, and desserts. One of the girls told them, "We thought we were only getting a small snack!" They replied, "This is a Hillbilly snack." ☺

We've never sung in this church before. Our service started at 6:00 p.m., so we didn't have time for our usual devotions together. Each person was responsible for their own devotions. The church was small enough that we didn't need to set up our sound system. Sometimes that makes it harder to sing, because we don't have the monitors giving us any input. Despite this minor setback, our program went very well.

We started our service with "O, Sing unto the Lord." Mike asked Menno to sing "The Cross in the Middle," and later there was a request for "Hallelujah Square." Marty sang "I'm the Lamb." We sang a lot of songs about heaven tonight. During testimony time, a lady shared with us that we had made her homesick for heaven. Her pastor had also preached about heaven this morning. I also felt refreshed and encouraged after we were done singing. This may have been a small church, but I heard many comments of appreciation and praise to the Lord for the blessings people received tonight. It was a good way to end the year.

This was our last program before we take a three month winter break. We always need that time to refresh our spirits. Please continue praying for Mike as he chooses songs for us to work on next year. I'd also like to encourage you to pray for God's direction regarding whether or not we should consider a new recording project for this coming year. May God bless you for praying for us.

I'm going to enjoy my break from writing newsletters, although I've enjoyed sharing with you, and you'll hear from us in about three months, Lord willing.

Joye Yoder

For the Mt. Anthems