



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

March 2010

March 14, 2010

Second Baptist Church

Cumberland, MD

The first trip of the 2010 chorus season has finally arrived. The sky is a dull gray and spitting rain, while the wind has a distinct chill to it. However, the snow banks are rapidly diminishing and for this we rejoice! ☺

We left at 8:45 a.m. and headed for Cumberland. We sing at this church on a regular basis, and the people always seem to enjoy our programs. This morning was no exception.

Mike began the service with "When Peace like a River," followed by "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." The only solo shared this morning was "He Giveth More Grace" by Marty. We ended our 45 minute program by singing "What a Meeting in the Air."

Following the service we were given a meal of lasagna, salad, and a variety of desserts. There was an abundance of food. They even sent some leftovers with us.

We left those kind folks around 1:20 p.m. and headed back up the mountain to Salisbury, PA. The "Oaklandites" were invited to rest at more local residences for the afternoon. We had about four hours to rest between services, and it's always a treat to spend it at home.

As you think of us in this coming year, please remember us in your prayers. Some of the more specific things you can pray for this year:

- Praise God for giving us these talents so that we may bring honor and glory to Him. That is our ultimate goal.
- The new members joining us: Jennifer Kauffman, Andrea Schrock, Katrina Sommers, Danielle, Kristoph, and Londa Yoder.
- Menno and Grace Beachy. Menno is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- We are considering making a new recording this year. Please pray that God would direct us in choosing the right people to head up this project, that Satan would be defeated in his attempts to ruin the project, and that we would maintain Christ-like attitudes throughout the process.

God bless you all throughout this year. If you have a chance, come to one of our concerts. We would love to meet you in person.

Maple Glen Mennonite Church

Grantsville, MD

Our evening service was a local one. Friends and relatives were abundant throughout the audience. Sometimes that makes it more difficult to sing. They will know if you make mistakes. ☺ We did make mistakes, but God's spirit was present, and I pray that the message in our songs came through very clearly.

Solos tonight were "God on the Mountain" by Marty, and "I Know a Man Who Can" by Mike. Mike dug through the older repertoire tonight and pulled out some good songs: "Even Winds Whisper His Name," "In the Valley He Restoreth my Soul," and "Kind Shepherd" to name just a few. The men's quartet sang two numbers during our break: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Would You Truly Long for Heaven." We closed the service by singing three requests with the audience: "Til the Storm Passes By," "Great is Thy Faithfulness," and "It is Well With my Soul."

Since most of us were close to home, we had ample time to visit with all those friends and relatives I mentioned earlier. It's amazing how much visiting you get done in a short amount of time. ☺ It makes a pleasant change from always having to rush off after the service.

March 28, 2010

Friendship Haven Church

Cumberland, MD

8:00 a.m. and time to get the bus wheels rolling. We have several visitors on the bus today. We are heading for a church that began as a mission outreach of Mountain View, our home church. Since our last concert in this church (which was a while ago), they have moved to a new building. This one is much larger, and the audience is now greater in number than the chorus. We have many friends and relatives in this church as well.

We opened this morning's service with "Father's House." There were also a number of requests given to Alma Beachy from the ladies in the community, which she passed on to us. Most of these were older songs, some of which we hadn't attempted for several years. They were: "For Those Tears I Died," "Where No One Stands Alone," "I Know a Man Who Can," "Jesus Signed My Pardon," "Where Will You Be," "The Lighthouse," "Fill My Cup, Lord", and "Praise Medley." It made some of us nervous, but I felt we did rather well considering everything. ☺ Of course that credit goes to

God for providing us with good memory recall. Marty's brother, Mayard, had also requested some of Marty's older solos. He did three of them: "I'm the Lamb," "He Giveth More Grace," —and one that was requested by someone else—"God on the Mountain." Mike also did three solos: "Had it not Been," "I Know a Man Who Can," and "Where Will you Be?"

After the service, several people came by the recording stand to request pieces of music with certain songs. Others just stopped by to chat. By the time I was finished "catching up" with all of them I only had ten minutes to eat before we were supposed to be moving on. It was worth every minute!! I finished in the nick of time. Now I'm sitting on the bus watching rain drops trail down the windows. It's already time to get ready for the next program.

The Church of Saint Patrick Cumberland, MD

The afternoon service was in a Catholic church. Despite the rain, the grounds of the church were awash with bright, sunshiny daffodils. (I'm not sure if sunshiny is actually a word, but it worked for me.) ☺ We missed Father Bevins' smiling face. There is another priest here temporarily. He never heard us before and I don't think he knew quite what to expect. Kenton gave him a brief lesson in Anabaptist history. He seemed very interested. He mentioned being at Whispering Pines several times and learning to know some of the employees there.

I know I've said this before, but this church has the BEST acoustics!! I always enjoy singing here for this reason. Today we decided to set up our sound system. Joyce said it sounded alright in the back, however, I thought the echo up front was very distracting. These things can be a way for Satan to disrupt my enjoyment in the service. I turned my concentration to the message of the songs and was blessed despite the sound.

We had a few requests for this morning. One of them was Mike's solo, "I Know a Man Who Can." Marty also sang his solo, "Prodigal Son." Other songs were "I Forgive You," "Gone," and "Christ Arose" — another request. We ended the service with the final request, "Triumphantly the Church Will Rise."

As soon as the recordings were loaded, we headed for our next appointment. We had to load up in the rain.

Several people made comments regarding the infrequency of such an event. God often blesses us with dry weather for loading/unloading equipment even when the skies are gray and stormy. Sometimes it stops raining just long enough for us to get everything under cover before it starts to rain again. Such are the wonders of our God.

Christian Light Church Bedford, PA

We had our evening meal at this church. The hot ham and cheese sandwiches sure hit the spot. We also had veggies with dip, chips, brownies, and ice cream. For some reason I was very cold so I avoided that last item. I even broke down and got a cup of coffee to help warm up my hands. Thankfully it didn't go to waste because someone else drank it. ☺

We opened the service with "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord." One of the other songs which blessed me was "The Lord is My Light." There was a request for "Where No One Stands Alone," which Mike gladly did. Marty also did a solo, "I Claim the Blood." There was also a request for "Our God, He is Alive." (Mike would almost say you aren't a Mennonite if you don't know that song.) ☺ We sang that one with the audience as well as "Jesus, Hold my Hand."

It took awhile for folks to make their way to the recording stand, but eventually the crowd cleared and we were able to pack up and head home. There was a very interesting conversation in the middle of the bus. It all started with the thought that some fellows (who are not part of the chorus) should attempt to write a journal and pass it off as a girl's. Then the girls on the bus thought they should try to figure out what fellows write in their journals. They weren't too successful. The gentlemen, however, had been listening to them talk and made some accurate guesses as to what kinds of things ladies might write in their journals. This whole conversation was accompanied by bursts of laughter. I was distracted by all this and had trouble writing this article in a timely manner. ☺ We do enjoy each other's company despite how much time we spend in the close confines of the bus. In fact, I look on these people as an extended family. They are such a big part of my life!