



# The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

June 2010

**June 3, 2010**

## **Saint John's Lutheran Church**

Red House, MD

Thursday evening is usually our weekly chorus practice. However, this particular Thursday we had a program scheduled at a local church. It's a small church but always well-filled when we sing here.

Due to Baby Caleb's arrival, Kenton Yoder once again did the directing. We had a pretty good personnel turnout if you didn't count the tenor. Three of our lead tenors were missing in action. I thought the tenor did a great job under the circumstances. There were only a few places where they faltered. Songs I remember from this service included "I Believe in a God," "Because He Forgives," and "I Bowed on my Knees and Cried, Holy."

They always serve us a bountiful snack after the service. It gives us a wonderful chance to fellowship with the folks there. We arrived home in a timely manner, and once again we owe God a debt of gratitude for a safe and blessed journey.

**June 6, 2010**

## **Sunnyside Mennonite Church**

Cochranton, PA

We left the building bright and early this morning at 6:00. The sky was downcast and there was some talk of a tornado, but we arrived at our destination safely.

Mike started the service off with "Be Still and Know that I am God." Marty sang "I'm the Lamb" as a request and Mike sang "The Cross In the Middle." We also sang "You Are My All in All," "The Holy Spirit Came at Pentecost," and finished up with "Even so, Lord Jesus, Come."

Mike told the audience he feels like only half of him is there. He then introduced his wife (who was not along) and showed the audience a picture of his newborn son. We're anxious to have you travel with us, Caleb!

This church fed us a delicious lunch, including a decorated cake in our honor. We quickly brushed our teeth and hit the road for our next service!

## **Mt. Hope Church**

Cochranton, PA

Our service in this church was at 2:00. The guys didn't have to set up any sound in this church because of the good acoustics.

This was a very interesting church to sing at. The people seemed attentive, although I did see a few heads nodding off to sleep.☺ The one lady said she had surgery three weeks ago and was very encouraged by our singing.

Songs in the first half were "Deeper than the Sin Stains," "Great and Awesome God," and "Boundless Love." Several people had tears in their eyes when Mike sang "The Cross in the Middle." The ladies sang "Lean on Me" just before break, and afterwards Marty sang two solos, "God on the Mountain" and "I'm the Lamb," again as a request.

This church had LOTS of cupcakes and punch for us to eat afterwards. The one lady started at 5:30 the day before and made cupcakes until 3:00 in the afternoon. They sent a whole pan along with us to eat on the way home.

One little old lady came through and was shaking our hands. She remarked, "Well, it turned out to be a pretty decent day." :) Another lady gave each of us a hug because she "loves all of God's children."

## **Pleasantview Mennonite Church**

Cochranton, PA

We drove approximately 15 minutes to get to our next concert. This building used to be an old people's home but is now rented out to different groups. It is a very nice place. For supper they served us sandwiches, macaroni salad, chips, and delight.

There was some concern about making the sound carry to the back of the building, but I thought it sounded very well. We had quite a large audience tonight and sang a lot of newer songs including "Standing on the Solid Rock," "I'm Not Ashamed," and "I Believe in a God." We also sang "Gone" and "Don't Give Up."

At the end of the service, Mike asked for volunteers to come up and sing the last three songs with us. Quite a number of people came up, and we sang "Low in the Grave He Lay," "Jesus Lives," and

"Blessed Jesus, Hold My Hand." We really made the rafters ring! That was fun.

These people really seemed to enjoy having us there. At the end of the service, the moderator wanted us to sing one more song with the audience. "We have to get our money's worth," he said. That brought chuckles from the chorus.

These kind people sent popcorn, ice cream sandwiches and soda to enjoy on the way home. That was a treat since we don't usually get popcorn on Sunday evenings with the chorus.

Several of the girls were discussing what it would be like to drive the bus. They were informed by one of the guys that if they did, all the guys would evacuate. ☺ We finally left the church at about 9:00 and got back to the Mt. Anthems building at 12:30.

*All of June 6 written by Jennifer Kauffman*

**June 19, 2010**

**Shekinah Christian Fellowship**

Middleburg, PA

We left at 12:30 p.m. for our second overnight trip of the year. This is Caleb's first trip. He's only three weeks old, and his parents are a little bit concerned about how he will do. He travels pretty well in a car so they hope that translates to bus life as well. His nanny used to sing with us years ago, so this is nothing new for her. After one rest stop and several hours of driving, we arrived at our destination. The gentlemen had time to set up sound before we ate at 5:00 p.m.

The auditorium was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full when we came in to sing, and nearly everyone was sitting toward the back. Mike spent a little bit of time talking about the burden's we all have to carry. Our first song was "Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary." Some of the other songs in the first half were "You Are My All in All," "Prodigal Son," and "Standing on the Solid Rock." We've been working on a skit for the children. Tonight we debuted it to rave reviews.

Mike took requests for the second half, and we got five: "God on the Mountain," "Fill My Cup, Lord," "I Know a Man Who Can," "Where Will You Be," and "Come on Home." The final one didn't go so well. It's been a long time since we sang it, and I'm not sure if Mike has ever done that particular solo before.

At the end of the service, someone asked us when we got started as a chorus. Marty thought the singing school probably began in the 50's sometime. The gentleman sort of whispered under his breath, "That's really

old!" Mike said, "Look out you 50's models. Heaven is coming for you." We shared a good laugh.

**June 20, 2010**

**Free Grace Brethren Church**

Millersburg, PA

After a restful night, we gathered together again at 8:00 a.m. An hour and 15 minutes later, we arrived at our next destination. This is a large building with several couches and chairs for comfy relaxation. We had awhile to wait before we sang due to the preliminaries they were taking care of. We sang for approximately a half hour. Songs included "I Claim the Blood" (Marty's solo), "I'm not Ashamed" (Mike's solo), "For Those Tears I Died," and "What a Meeting in the Air."

Once folks were done checking out the recordings, we made our way to the basement for lunch. Salad, chicken casserole, peas, cake, and fruit were the items on the menu. It was a very satisfying meal.

By 1:30 p.m. we were on the road once more. Most people settle in for naps ASAP, while others dig out a good book to read, or in some cases Deer Hunting magazines. ☺

**Big Valley Brethren in Christ**

Belleville, PA

Since we didn't have a program this afternoon, we were able to relax for a while after we arrived at the church. The people here were very hospitable, as churches usually are, and fed us a nice supper. After supper we took a group picture as a temporary update for our Mt. Anthems poster. We want to take a more official one later this summer, but for now this one will do. The one we've been using is very outdated!

The crowd this evening was a very mixed audience with people from many different denominations. I appreciated Mike's comments about unity. He talked about how we tend to squabble in our churches about little things, but he thinks God is pleased when we learn to get along despite some differences of opinion. In the first part of the service we sang a lot of newer songs. Mike took requests for the second half, and that filled all of the time.

We did our children's skit, "Hailing the Chief" by John Duckworth, for the second time this evening. It is kind of an allegory on prayer in the Christian life. The skit is about a President who receives visitors at

the Oval office who have come to talk to him. Most of them come in, say their piece and leave, totally ignoring the fact that the president wants to communicate with them. It illustrates how we often “pray” without even thinking much about what God might think. I am writing this on the bus at 11:40 p.m. The bus has been shaking extra much on the homeward trip. We are just

on the road again after they stopped to check out the problem. They think it may be a tire starting to go bad, but they think it will get us back home. That’s a good thing, because I really don’t want to be stuck an hour away from home!

12:49 a.m. Back safe and sound!!

By Byron Yoder