



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

2015

May/June

May 3, 2015

First United Methodist Church
Monongahela, PA

Hello everyone,

This morning we sang at First United Methodist Church. It was an absolutely gorgeous morning! The church was pretty big, and it kinda looked like an old-time building. We sang for about half an hour from 11:00 am to 11:30 am. It was a shorter service, but it was a good service. God is awesome and so worthy of our praise.

After the service, a lady asked if there was a Rachel Kauffman in our group. Apparently she is a lady that met Rachel years ago. Rachel was selling cards that she had made, and this lady came and bought all of Rachel's cards. So she met and talked to Rachel afterward. She said that she had given a lot to other Methodist people, and then she ended up giving the rest back to Rachel that morning. It is so neat how that happened. :)

God has given us a good morning, and may everything that was done be to His honor and glory.

Thanks for listening. :)

~Amber Beachy

May 3, 2015

Mount Joy Church of the Brethren
Mount Pleasant, PA

It was a beautiful afternoon for a drive between the two churches with the sun shining and the flowers blooming. After a short drive we got to Mount Joy Church of the Brethren. While the sound guys set stuff up, other people were sleeping or reading, and some also went for a walk in the graveyard.

While lining up to sing there was quite a bit of shuffling, because most of the new members were

singing this evening, so we had to find out who was taller than whom. =) After all that we felt like there were a lot more singers than usual.

Some of the songs we sang this evening were "Stand Still," "Merciful Savior," "Great and Awe-some God," "You are my all in All," and Marty sang "Under Control." After singing this evening we hopped on the bus for an hour and half ride back to the building.

~Rachel Swartzentruber

May 31, 2015

Cabin Run Wesleyan Methodist Church
Keyser, WV

The service this morning was somewhere beyond Keyser, WV, so quite a number of Bittinger and Oakland folks drove separately.

It was sooo warm this morning, especially in the first half. Several of the guys said they felt like they were about to pass out. Normally because of the cut and style of their black shirts, they keep the top button closed, but in the second half, Mike gave the guys permission to let their top buttons open because of the heat.

We sang for quite a while this morning. Some of the songs we sang were "Oh let the Hills," "Under Control," and "Oh what a Day."

We sang "I'm Not Ashamed," which several people mouthed the words along with us and/or stood in agreement. So then we sang the chorus again with the congregation. Not all of them knew it, so Mike told them that the next song, "Put a Smile on Your Face," they can all participate in.

Mike asked the audience if they remember Gerald and Loretta Tice and their twins. Enthusiastic nods came from the congregation. Yes, they definitely remembered. Then Mike asked them to guess how long ago that was, which they did pretty accurately. And then Mike introduced them to Brooke, the "little girl all grown up." Ooohs and aahhs came from all over the room. :)

May 31, 2015
Aldersgate Evangelical Center
Terra Alta, WV

After packing back into the bus following our morning service, having eaten some delicious food, most people started showing signs of extreme exhaustion. Before long there were sleeping bodies strewn all across the floor as we wound our way around the sharp turns and beautiful mountains of West Virginia.

The Aldersgate Evangelical Center is some sort of camp that hosts meetings and conferences. We sang in the camp's chapel building starting sometime around seven.

This was only my third program to be singing in and I knew *almost* all the songs. It was good to see some folks from our home church in the audience.

Something sort of funny that happened took place just as we were preparing to go back up after our break. One of the girls whispered in a horrified tone, "I forgot to put my hose on." It must be a struggle! :)

Since I am writing this about a week after the program, I forget many of the songs that we sang. One was Marty's solo "Like a Prodigal Son." To close the service we sang "Just as I Am" as a request. The audience seemed quite receptive, and I think most of them really enjoyed the service.

To God be the ultimate glory for everything that happened that weekend and the ones in the past as well. Until next time.

~Jalon Sommers

June 14, 2015
Goshen Mennonite Church
Laytonsville, MD

"Here at this little church, you'll make memories you won't soon forget," Mike told us as we pulled into the driveway of an eccentric little church built in the 1700's. A number of the older chorus members can remember the days of needing to use the little red outhouse nestled to the side of the church. This is considered a historic building, and has a balcony with a separate entrance originally built for the slaves to sit in.

When Mike first contacted this church about us coming, they weren't sure they could make it work since they had Bible School the following week. But then they decided they would like to be filled up before a week of ministry. They seemed to enjoy it very much, and I noticed a number of cell phones recording us during the service.

These people were exceptionally friendly, and a number of the young people came up and introduced themselves. They ate and chatted with us, and afterward their youth and a number of us sang awhile in the auditorium. Unfortunately I missed out on this part of it, but I heard that they 'bout raised the roof! :)

As we were leaving, all the children and youth and even some adults came out to the road to wave us off. It so happened that we had to drive around the block, and then passed them again. Sure enough, they all waved enthusiastically again, and then most of them ran alongside the bus, waving till we were out of sight!

June 14, 2015
Long Meadow Church of the Brethren
Hagerstown, MD

After our very enjoyable time at Goshen Mennonite Church, we traveled to Longmeadow Church of the Brethren for the evening service. I cannot say exactly how long that took, because I was napping enthusiastically most of the way there. I partially woke up when we arrived and saw that it was lightly raining. Some went into the church, but those who wanted to continue to sleep stayed on the bus.

No one wanted to set up in the rain, and we had a bit of time before the evening meal at 4:30, so the guys went inside and planned what their setup would be and then waited for the rain to cease. While waiting, Matt and Rodney took the opportunity to counsel Shannon, one of our new "recruits," on the importance of keeping one's eyes on the director while singing and not looking around for pretty girls and many other similar helpful tips. I stood beside Shannon during the concert later, and I can testify that he seemed well behaved. However, I cannot vouch for what his eyes were looking at....

Just before 4:30 we were called to go eat. We were served chicken salad sandwiches and ham sandwiches; or you could make your own from a meat platter (ham, turkey, roast beef, etc.), a cheese tray with two types of

cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, and so on. There was a vegetable tray with dip, and a bowl of watermelon and cantaloupe chunks for dessert. And COOKIES! (I love cookies!) Water or iced tea to drink completed the meal. It was good food, and we appreciated their kindness to us.

While freshening up and prepping for the evening service (in crowded conditions), one of the ladies was combing her hair with her barrettes lying on the back of one of the commodes. Yes, the lid was closed. But one barrette slid off the back of the commode, THROUGH the crack between the lid and rim, and kerplunk! Into the drink it went. The errant article was retrieved, much soaping and cleansing followed, and the show went on!

For devotions Josh Kauffman spoke briefly to us about worship. Worship needs to be from the heart, in truth and in spirit, and in holiness. Everything that has breath should praise the Lord. We joined in singing several worship songs, and then split into small groups for a time of prayer for the evening service. I believe that God answered our prayers, because he blessed us with a wonderful time with this congregation.

As we were lined up ready to enter for the first standing, the pastor encouraged us, telling us that we had no idea of the impact and blessing that our singing would have on them. They were really looking forward to our ministry.

“Under His Wings,” “Because He Lives,” “‘Til the Storm Passes By,” “Where No One Stands Alone,” and “God on the Mountain” were some of the requests that we sang that evening. The other songs that we performed were a mix of old and new. The audience just soaked it up, and we really enjoyed our time with them. We sang “When We All Get to Heaven,” and “Blessed Assurance” with them. They sang really well, and it was a highlight of the evening for me.

~Kenton Yoder

June 28, 2015

Morrellville Church of the Brethren

Johnstown, PA

We had two services in Johnstown today, which makes for a very easy day.

The service today was done in one standing. “Living Water,” “Then Came the Morning,” and “Be Strong” were a few of the songs we sang.

We closed the service by singing “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” with the congregation.

They served us a delicious lunch of fried chicken.

June 28, 2015

Walnut Grove Church of the Brethren

Johnstown, PA

This evening we sang at a Brethren church in Johnstown. We had a long break in the afternoon between programs, so many of us napped.

They fed us a delicious supper of soup and sandwiches. After supper we cleaned up and got ready for devotions. Scott talked about things happening in America today and how we as Christians can intercede.

We broke into groups by parts and prayed for the town of Johnstown. The program was a more quiet, worshipful kind of evening. We had two requests, one of which involved Gloria singing “I Found the Lily in my Valley.” We ended the program with “No Kin to the Monkey.”

~Destiney Nazelrod

~Compiled by Jennifer Kauffman