



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Spring 2012

News

Center plans conference on Alexander Mack Jr.

To commemorate 300th birthday of important Brethren leader

The Young Center will host “Pietist and Anabaptist Intersections in Pennsylvania: The Life and Influence of Alexander Mack Jr.” on June 6, 7, and 8, 2012. The conference will focus on the life of Alexander Mack Jr., the most significant Brethren minister in the eighteenth century.

Born in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1712, Sander Mack, as he preferred to be called, lived with the group from Schwarzenau during their temporary stay in the Netherlands and moved with them to Pennsylvania in 1729, settling in Germantown. He became a member of the Ephrata Cloister, and then returned to Germantown in 1748. He settled in Chestnut Hill, married Elisabeth Neis and had a family of eight children, making his living as a weaver. After his

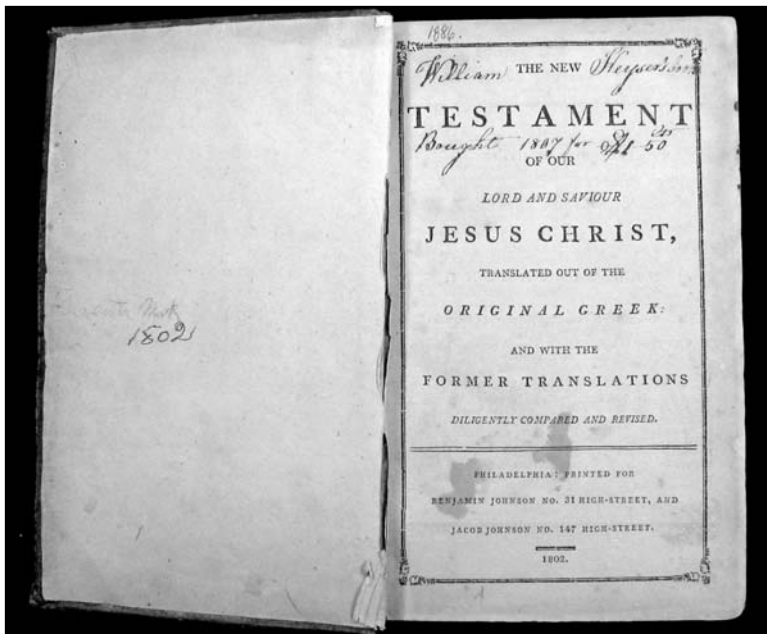
election to ministry, Sander Mack gave pastoral leadership from 1749 until his death in 1803. He wrote several doctrinal and devotional works, and his poetry expanded the body of Brethren hymn texts.

One goal of the conference is to expand the understanding of Sander Mack’s influence on the Brethren. Although he was an important minister in the eighteenth century, little has been written about him in comparison to his father, the first minister of the Brethren. In 1912 Samuel Heckman published a book of many of Mack’s German poetic texts and prose translations, but he provided little commentary on the texts. Donald F. Durnbaugh and Edward Quinter translated Mack’s daybook, which was published with both German and English texts in 2004. Otherwise, little research on Mack has appeared.

The conference will take an interdisciplinary approach in its exploration of the significance of Mack’s life. Marcus Meier, a Young Center Fellow in 2006 and recipient of the Brown Book Award in 2009, will give the opening address. Hedda Durnbaugh, also a Young Center Fellow, will give a major address on the hymnody of Mack. Other speakers include Dale R. Stoffer, Stephen Longenecker, Denise Kettering Lane, and William Kostlevy. Paper topics include Sander Mack’s theological views and spirituality, his career in the context of religion in Pennsylvania and early America, and his connection to Ephrata.

Conference registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, followed by a reception at 5:00 and the opening address at 7:00. Thursday’s schedule includes breakout sessions, Durnbaugh’s address on hymnody, and a program and dinner in the evening. Additional breakout sessions will be held on Friday, and the conference will conclude at 4:00, following a wrap-up panel discussion.

(continued on page 3)



One of the last Bibles that Alexander Mack Jr. owned, with his name inscribed in his hand and dated 1802, a year before he died. The Bible is on loan from the Brethren Church Archives, Ashland, Ohio, and will be in the Young Center exhibit on Mack’s life.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

In June we will host a conference on the life and work of Alexander Mack Jr., the most important Brethren minister of the eighteenth century because of his ministry, his writing, and the length of his career. By the time he died in 1803, Brethren had gone through many changes. The church had spread as far as eastern Missouri. Ritual practices had standardized and annual meeting became a regular expectation. Brethren maintained their opposition to slavery. They upheld their peace witness through two major wars. The Brethren changed some patterns of worship and organization, while maintaining important commitments.

Change seems to be a constant in these times. The speed of change seems dizzying at times. Change can bring new

opportunities, as it has with the arrival this year of a new college president, Carl Strikwerda, and a college-wide strategic planning process. Change will continue as we plan for the future of the Young Center's research and teaching mandate, as well as the mission to interpret our research to the general public. We will also hold on to healthy habits of scholarship that serve the Center well.

As we welcome fellows this spring from Israel, Germany, and Slovenia, studying topics related to the Amish and to German Pietism, we maintain our commitment to excellent research and expand our international connections. As we welcome visitors from afar, like the groups from Nigeria and Bulgaria, or host Sunday school classes or retirees, we find new ways to talk about peace,

religious tolerance, and how Anabaptist and Pietist groups embody these values in a changing, complicated yet interconnected world.

As change comes in our times, the Young Center will continue to take advantage of the new opportunities it brings. We will also hold on to the values that serve as well us a research center, a place of learning, and a forum where the general public and specialists can mingle, ask questions, and learn. I invite you to be a part of that learning at our programs and conferences. I am grateful for those who have journeyed with us for several years, and look forward to welcoming new friends to join us. Hopefully we can all find ways to hold on to what is good and to explore good opportunities that can come with change. ■

Visitors call at the Young Center

The Young Center welcomed numerous groups of visitors in recent months, including several international guests. In September, a group from the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN) visited the Center for discussions about peace making in the midst of religious conflict in Nigeria. They also brought their unique insights to the conference on the power of forgiveness.

Other guests in September included a group of over fifty Old German Baptist Brethren (New Conference) members from across the country on a Brethren heritage tour in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Director Jeff Bach met with them and spoke about the influences of Pietism and Anabaptism on the Brethren. The visitors showed great bravery as the Young Center gave them a

sojgy welcome on a day when remnants of tropical storm Lee brought heavy rains to eastern Pennsylvania. Jeff Bach and Steve Scott the role of religious toleration and religious minorities in Pennsylvania and in America. The conversation also turned to the tensions between religious tradition and cultural secularism. Their visit was part of a program sponsored locally by the International Visitors Council of Philadelphia under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

They discussed with Young Center staff members

The Young Center will welcome other visitors in coming months, including a group from Germany that is touring sites related to the impact of German Pietism in America. Led by Dr. Hans-Jürgen Schrader, an expert on Radical Pietism, the group will visit the Ephrata Cloister and Moravian Church Square in Lititz before a presentation by Director Jeff Bach on Radical Pietism in America.

Through connections with visitors and friends, the Center extends the reach of its scholarship and mission to continue building bridges of understanding. ■



Visitors from Bulgaria and their translators visited the Young Center in October 2010 during a tour of Amish country in Lancaster County.

Wolfgang Breul to serve as 2012 Kreider Fellow

Center Fellows and Doctoral Fellow pursue varied research interests

Wolfgang Breul has been named the Kreider Fellow for Spring 2012. Breul is a professor at Johannes-Gutenberg-University in Mainz in Germany, where he teaches church history with a focus on Reformation studies. He has also specialized in Pietist studies during his doctoral studies in Marburg under Hans Schneider, the foremost authority on Radical Pietism.

Among Breul's recent books are *Radical Pietism: Perspectives and Research*, co-edited with Marcus Meier and Lothar Vogel (2011), and *Love, Sex and Marriage*, co-edited with Christian Soboth (2011), both published in German. Breul is working on a new handbook on Pietism to be published in the fall of 2012 in German. His current research interests include the role of social nonconformity among Pietists in Germany in work and recreational settings.

During his time as the Kreider Fellow, Breul plans to study the ways that nonconformity was expressed among Pietists. He looks forward to working at the Young Center as a central location for pursuing his research while in the U.S.

Maja Stekovic will travel from Slovenia to Elizabethtown to serve as the Center's doctoral fellow for Spring 2012. Stekovic is a Ph.D. student at the University of Ljubljana, where she is studying English language and literature. The specific focus of her academic research is the Amish in American literature and culture.

While at the Young Center, she plans to make use of books and other resources that are not available in Slovenia. "Being at the Young Center is of crucial importance for my research, since it is otherwise virtually impossible to put together a balanced picture of how the Amish are represented," she says. "Not only will I be able to meet leading researchers in the field and access reliable theoretical sources, but I will also be able to acquire primary sources, such as *Die Botschaft*, *Young Companion*, and other Amish publications."

Stekovic, who teaches general and business English to adults and teens, anticipates that her time here will also contribute to her professional development as an English teacher, since it will help her gain a clearer perception, not only of the Amish, but also of broader American culture.



Wolfgang Breul



Maja Stekovic



Benjamin Neuberger

Benjamin Neuberger, professor of political science and African studies at the Open University of Israel, will arrive at the Young Center in April to serve his delayed residency as Snowden Fellow. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and has taught at Tel Aviv University, the University of Pennsylvania, Haverford College, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Swaziland.

Neuberger is currently working on a comparative study of the Amish and the Israeli ultra-Orthodox and their respective relation to the state. "I am thankful for the opportunity to continue my research at the Young Center, which is undoubtedly the ideal place to study the Amish, through personal contacts with members of the Amish community, with colleagues at the Center, and through the use of the college's library," Neuberger says.

The Young Center invites nominations and applications for Snowden, Kreider, and doctoral fellows. Visit the Center's website for details. ■

Alexander Mack Jr. conference *(continued)*

An optional bus tour is offered on Wednesday from 8:00 to 5:00, before the conference opens. Participants will visit sites of Mack's activity in the Germantown area and then travel to the Ephrata Cloister for a guided tour explaining the involvement of Mack and his older brother at Ephrata. Cost for the tour is \$60, which includes transportation, admission fees, and a box lunch.

The conference fee, which includes meals, is \$110 if registered by May 18,

and \$125 if registered between May 19 and 25. The fee for students is \$90. Single-day registration is also available.

The deadline for submission of paper proposals has been extended to February 17. Send proposals to Jeff Bach by e-mail at bachj@etown.edu or by postal mail at Elizabethtown College, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Visit the Young Center's website, www.etown.edu/youngctr, or call (717) 361-1470 for registration details. ■



Young Center
Spring 2012
News

- DIRECTOR
Jeff Bach, Ph.D.
- SENIOR FELLOW
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.
- RESEARCH STAFF
Stephen Scott
Cynthia Nolt
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Hillary Daecher

Young Center News is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the address below.

Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies
Elizabethtown College
One Alpha Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298
Phone: (717) 361-1470; Fax: (717) 361-1443
E-mail: youngctr@etown.edu
Web site: www.etown.edu/youngctr

Forgiveness conference wrap-up

The fifth anniversary of the October 2006 shooting in an Amish schoolhouse provided the backdrop for a September 22 conference, “The Power of Forgiveness: Lessons from Nickel Mines,” organized by the Young Center. The Nickel Mines school tragedy occurred when an emotionally troubled non-Amish neighbor, Charles Roberts IV, opened fire in the school. Although Nickel Mines was the impetus, the primary thrust of the conference was the complexity and promise of human forgiveness in various situations.

About 250 participants, including 70 Amish people—some directly involved in the 2006 incident and others from Ohio and Indiana—explored the moral dilemmas that arise from violence and the potential power of forgiveness. Therapists, pastors, scholars, Elizabethtown College students and faculty, and even some Nigerians from the Church of the Brethren visiting in the U.S., attended the conference, looking for answers to questions about forgiveness.

“Forgiveness is a way of life,” keynote speaker L. Gregory Jones said Thursday morning. “It is, at heart, a set of communal practices.” Jones, vice president and vice provost for global strategy at Duke University and a senior strategist and pro-

fessor of theology at Duke Divinity School, wrote *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis* and co-authored *Forgiving as We’ve Been Forgiven: Community Practices for Making Peace*.

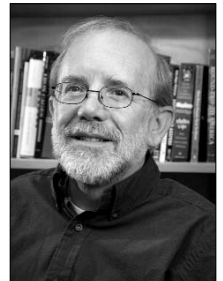
Afternoon seminars led by therapists, authors, and scholars dealt with various aspects of forgiveness, including a reconciliation in 2010 between Lutherans and Anabaptists after a 500-year-old episode of persecution in Europe at the outset of the Anabaptist movement.

An evening program included Terri Roberts, Charles Roberts’ mother, who spoke about her own experiences with forgiveness and another presenter who described the worldwide witness of the Nickel Mines forgiveness story.

Donald Kraybill, who organized the conference and gave the opening address, was surprised by the attendance of Amish people. “Their presence,” he noted, “added a dose of integrity to the conference and kept our discussions grounded in reality.” Many conference attendees expressed deep appreciation for the fact that the conference included Amish parents who lost children, the mother of Charles Roberts, in addition to therapists and scholars. “This was a rare and historic event that far exceeded my expectations,” Kraybill said. ■

Rod Janzen to give 2012 Durnbaugh Lectures

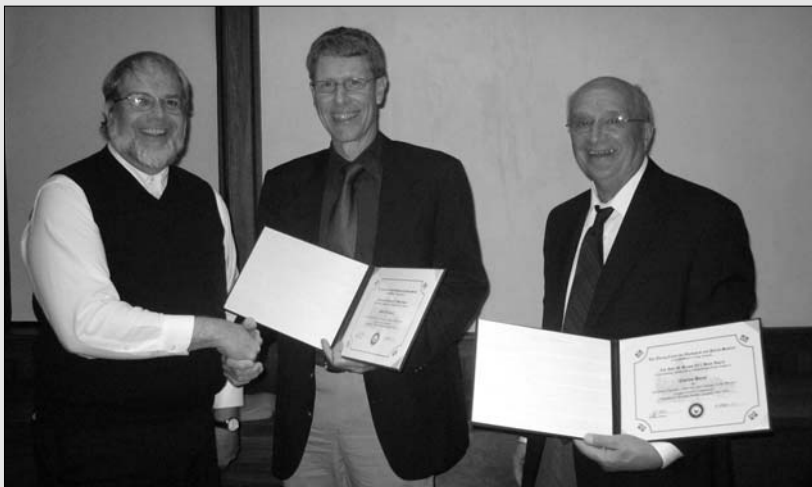
The Young Center is pleased to announce that Rod Janzen will deliver the 2012 Durnbaugh lectures. Janzen is Distinguished Scholar and professor of history at Fresno Pacific University, where he has taught for the past 22 years. His research interests include Anabaptist and Old Order Christian history, as well as utopian and communal groups in the United States.



Rod Janzen

Janzen is the author of numerous scholarly articles and several books that deal with communal, Anabaptist, and/or utopian societies, including *The Prairie People: Forgotten Anabaptists*, *The Rise and Fall of Synanon: A California Utopia*, *Paul Tschetter: The Story of a Hutterite Immigrant Leader*, *Pioneer and Pastor*, and *The Hutterites in North America*, published in 2010 by the Johns Hopkins University Press. He is also the editor of *Communal Societies*, the academic journal of the Communal Studies Association.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, the Durnbaugh lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. This year’s presentations will be held on April 19 and 20. The Thursday lecture will follow the Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room. The Friday seminar will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Young Center. ■



Young Center director Jeff Bach congratulates David McConnell and Charles Hurst on receiving the 2011 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Hurst and McConnell presented a lecture on their book, *An Amish Paradox: Diversity and Change in the World’s Largest Amish Community*, in October 2011.

RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

For e-mail notification and a link to each new issue of *Young Center News* as soon as it’s available, please send an e-mail message to youngctr@etown.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Unchristian Slave Trade: Brethren and Slavery

JEFF BACH

Thursday, February 2 ■ 7:00 p.m.

The Brethren were strong opponents of slave holding. Some Brethren even paid for slaves in order to free them. However, a few rare individuals held slaves. Bach's lecture will examine these tensions among Brethren, especially in the period just prior to the Civil War.

Jeff Bach is director of the Young Center and associate professor of religious studies at Elizabethtown College. He is the author of *Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata* and co-author of *Genius of the Transcendent: Mystical Writings of Jakob Boehme*.

Communal Peace during World War I

RYAN LONG

Thursday, February 23 ■ 7:00 p.m.

Long will discuss the challenges facing Hutterite colonies during World War I. The Hutterites used the events of the war to strengthen their identity and reconnect to their history, actions that secured their future as a separate communal society in North America.

Ryan Long is a 2011 graduate of Elizabethtown College with a major in religious studies.

Starvation Volunteer: A Conversation with an Elizabethtown Alum

Tuesday, March 20 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Robert Willoughby '47 will discuss his experience as a conscientious objector during WWII and his participation in U.S. government research on human starvation. (This program is co-sponsored by the Center for Global Citizenship, the Open Book Initiative, and the Office of the Dean of Faculty.)

■ Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

The Unchristian Slave Trade: Brethren and Slavery

Jeff Bach

■ Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

Communal Peace during World War I

Ryan Long

■ Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Starvation Volunteer: A Conversation with an Elizabethtown Alum

■ Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

Annual Young Center Banquet

■ Thursday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

DURNBAUGH LECTURE

The Hutterites in 2012

Rod Janzen

■ Friday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

Aspects of Hutterite Life: Communal Christianity and 21st-Century Challenges

Rod Janzen

■ Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

SNOWDEN LECTURE

The Amish and the Haredim: Ultra-Religious Communities and the Modern State

Benyamin Neuberger

Annual Young Center Banquet

Thursday, April 19 ■ 6:00 p.m.

(Reception at 5:30 p.m.)

Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall

The annual Young Center dinner gives faculty, staff, students, church leaders, and other friends of the Young Center the opportunity to socialize and learn about the Center's activities and programs. Cost for the banquet is \$18, and reservations are required by April 5.

A reception for Durnbaugh Lecturer Rod Janzen will be held at 5:30, preceding the dinner.

2012 Durnbaugh Lectures

ROD JANZEN

Rod Janzen is Distinguished Scholar and professor of history at Fresno Pacific University, where he has taught for the past 22 years. Since 1999 Janzen has served as editor of *Communal Societies*, the academic journal of the Communal Studies Association. He is the author of a number of books that deal with communal, Anabaptist, and/or utopian societies, including *The Hutterites in North America*, published in 2010 by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

The Hutterites in 2012

ROD JANZEN

Thursday, April 19 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall

Janzen will give an introduction to the life of this growing population of 50,000 communal Anabaptists. The presentation will include a brief history of the Hutterites, a discussion of their essential beliefs, and a review of their present challenges.

Aspects of Hutterite Life: Communal Christianity and 21st-Century Challenges

ROD JANZEN

Fri., April 20 ■ 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Durnbaugh seminar will focus in greater detail on important characteristics of contemporary Hutterite life as well as major conflicts, including the influential attraction of evangelical Protestantism and recent divisions.

Cost of the seminar, which includes lunch, is \$10. The deadline for reservations is April 5.

(continued on page 6)



Elizabethtown College

YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST
AND PIETIST STUDIES
ONE ALPHA DRIVE
ELIZABETHTOWN, PA 17022-2298

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

The Amish and the Haredim: Ultra-Religious Communities and the Modern State

BENYAMIN NEUBERGER

Thursday, April 26 ■ 7:30 p.m.

These two highly religious and visible communities in the U.S. and Israel have fought numerous legal and extra-legal battles with the state in the name of basic principles like religious freedom. Neuberger will discuss the groups, comparing their basic attitudes towards the state, its political system, government, laws and judiciary.

Benyamin Neuberger is professor of political science and African studies at the Open University of Israel. He has published widely on nationalism and ethnicity. Neuberger was named the Snowden Fellow for 2010, but was unable to fulfill his appointment until this spring.

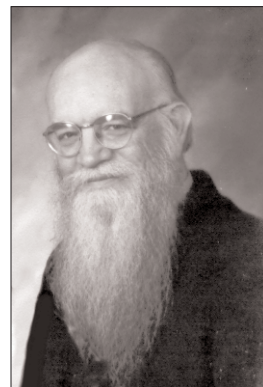
“Pastor, Poet, Weaver, Writer: The Life of Alexander Mack, Jr.”

A new exhibit interpreting the life of Alexander Mack Jr., the most influential minister of the Brethren in eighteenth-century America, opens this month in the Young Center lobby. Sander Mack's life spanned two continents and most of the first century of the Brethren. He gave vital counsel ranging from maintaining peace during the American Revolution to a controversy over the visions of a young Brethren woman, Catherine Hummer. He carried out his ministry while raising a family and working as a weaver.

The exhibit brings together unique artifacts from Mack's life that have never been displayed together previously. The last Bible that he owned, an English New Testament from 1802 with his signature, will be on loan from the Brethren Church Archives in Ashland, Ohio. From the Cassel Collection at Juniata College come some letters from or to Mack. His daybook, an important record of his business accounts, religious poetry, and family information, will be on loan from the Brethren Historical Library and Archives in Elgin, Illinois. The exhibit will also include copies of poetic and hymn texts that he wrote and an interpretation of his family life and career as a weaver.

“Pastor, Poet, Weaver, Writer: The Life of Alexander Mack, Jr.” opens on Monday, January 16, and continues through June 22. It will be available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Individuals and groups are invited to call the Young Center to arrange for an interpretive tour of the exhibit or to set up a visit at a time when the Young Center is not normally open. ■

In Memory of Steve Scott



Stephen E. Scott, Research and Administrative Associate at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, died unexpectedly on December 28, 2011. His funeral was held on January 2, 2012.

Steve was born on April 12, 1948, in Portsmouth, Ohio, and grew up in Beavercreek, Ohio. He attended Cedarville College and Wright State University in Ohio. His religious convictions led him to become a pacifist and he did alternative service at Lancaster Mennonite School starting in 1969. While living in Lancaster County, Steve joined the Old Order River Brethren and eventually met and married his wife of 38 years, Harriet (Sauder) Scott. They have three adult children, Andrew, married to Emily (Wenger) Scott, Hannah Scott, and Catharine Scott, and four grandchildren, Heidi, Wanita, Liliana, and Isaac Scott, all of Lancaster County.

Early in life, Steve developed a curiosity about various cultures, especially Native American peoples. He also had a strong interest in history. These early interests led to his lifelong study and interpretation of plain churches. Steve conducted wide-ranging, detailed research on the distinctive traits of plain groups, including their dress, modes of transportation, family life, schooling, music, and rituals. His interests led him to develop close personal friendships with members of many of these groups across North America.

After working for Good Enterprises in Intercourse, Pennsylvania, for twelve years, Steve was hired at the Young Center in early 1997, where he worked until his death. Steve was instrumental in broadening and deepening the Young Center's research on Anabaptist and Pietist churches, especially plain groups. His publications include *Plain Buggies* (1981), *Why Do They Dress That Way?* (1986), *The Amish Wedding and Other Special Occasions of the Old Order Communities* (1988), *Living Without Electricity* (1990), *Amish Houses and Barns* (1992), and *An Introduction to Old Order and Conservative Mennonite Groups* (1996), as well as entries in reference books and articles in periodicals.

Steve contributed significantly to recent books by Donald B. Kraybill, including *Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, and Mennonites* (2010) and a current project on the Amish in America. Steve's ability to track and retain minute details built a renowned reputation for the Young Center's annual update on Amish migration and population growth in North America. He was an invaluable guide to researchers from around the world, from high school students to senior professors, who visited the Young Center to study Anabaptist or Pietist groups. Steve was also a popular speaker in many venues and was invited to Japan in 2010 to give presentations about the Amish.

Steve's deep faith and care for people revealed his gift for humor and his humble attitude in relating to others. His depth and breadth of knowledge were sometimes underestimated because of his personal humility. He will be remembered both for his contributions to scholarship and for his friendships.