



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Fall 2007

News

Center hosts international conference on the Amish

More than 350 people from 21 states, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the UK, and the Netherlands attended the conference.

University of Wisconsin professor emeritus Paul Boyer discussed the Amish community's relationship with the larger culture and the larger culture's view of the Amish; Goshen College professor Steve Nolt described the diversity among the Amish; University of Winnipeg professor Royden Loewen traced the history of Old Colony Mennonites in Latin America and Canada; and Clinic for Special Children director Holmes Morton spoke about research, treatment, and patient care within Plain communities. These four plenary speakers joined nearly 90 other presenters at "The Amish in America: New Identities and Diversities," an international conference organized by the Young Center in early June.

More than 350 people from 21 states, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the UK, and the Netherlands attended the conference. They came to hear scholars expound on topics as diverse as history, linguistics, the portrayal of the Amish in the media, and the role that *Die Botschaft* and *The Budget* play in Amish life. They came to hear physicians and researchers discuss their medical and genetic research, and to hear extension educators and other service providers discuss agricultural safety, mental health treatment, and nutrition education. Between sessions, the participants enjoyed opportunities to network with their colleagues, attend film screenings, and browse the conference bookstore.

The conference planners received many positive comments from attendees; among them, "The sessions were well structured, interesting and informative," "The diversity of offerings was impressive, ranging from theological to practical. It was refreshing having a broad cross section of academics and non-academics participating in the conference, including Amish folks themselves," and "I met a number of interesting, unique, impressive individuals, and my appreciation and understanding of the Old Orders was enlarged."

The conference was part of a three-year collaborative research project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project, led by Donald B. Kraybill and two colleagues, professors Steven M. Nolt (Goshen College) and Karen Johnson-Weiner (SUNY Potsdam), will result in a book on the Amish of North America. ■





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

With great joy I joined the Young Center staff on August 1, serving as director. This position offers exciting opportunities to continue my research interests related to Anabaptism and Pietism, and to teach for Elizabethtown College. I am glad to work with the excellent staff at the Young Center. Their professional work and friendliness have helped greatly in welcoming me and in making the transition to a new job. I thank Don Kraybill for his dedicated work as acting director, especially while dealing with the events related to the tragic shootings at Nickel Mines last fall. We are excited that Hillary Daecher joined us in mid-July. While a couple of us are learning more about our new jobs, Don Kraybill, Cynthia Nolt, and Steve Scott help us all to work well together. I am also grateful for the excellent work of Dawn Houff throughout the past two years and during the training period for Hillary.

Another new development is the good news that the Young Center has received donations and pledges to nearly meet the goal of \$2 million to qualify for a matching NEH grant. Thank you to all of our supporters for these gifts. We are glad to receive any contributions that may still come in. This generous support helps the Young Center to build on the good, strong foundation of the past twenty years.

In the coming year we will celebrate the anniversary of the Young Center, and host several events related to the 300th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. In July the Young Center had an exhibit booth for the first time at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. President Ted Long also spoke about the relationship of Brethren colleges to the Church of the Brethren and potential mutual benefits. As chairperson of the Anniversary Committee planning

the events for the 300th anniversary, I am pleased to see this interactive relationship. I hope people will come to the events and exhibits related to the Brethren anniversary, whether or not they are members of the church. The Young Center will offer a good look at this religious group that has roots in both Anabaptism and Pietism.

As my wife, Ann, and I have concluded our time living and working in Richmond, Indiana, we are grateful for the experiences and relationships we have had there. We are equally grateful for the warm welcome we have received in the Elizabethtown community.

At the Young Center some new developments will emerge in coming years. We will continue to cultivate the strength of the past years. I am excited to be a part of both the old and the new, and I invite you, old and new friends of the Young Center, to stop in and visit. ■


Summer work at the Young Center

While staff members Don Kraybill, Steve Scott, and Cynthia Nolt were busy with the usual and not so usual tasks, and new director Jeff Bach was moving east from Indiana, a variety of projects were undertaken by the doctoral and undergraduate students in residence at the Young Center this summer.

Doctoral Fellow Anthony Siegrist, a student in systematic theology at the Toronto School of Theology, was at the Center for five weeks during June and July researching Mennonite, Amish, and Brethren understandings of baptism. "Having access to the Durnbaugh collection and the special collection at the High Library has been an excellent resource for me," Siegrist said. "The research that I have done at the Young Center will contribute to my dissertation, which is focused on the way contemporary believers church groups practice and think

about baptism." Tomomi Naka, a Ph.D. student in anthropology at the University of Iowa, arrived on July 31 to spend four weeks researching disaster-related projects of Mennonite church members and national Mennonite organizations involved in disaster response. "Being a Doctoral Fellow at the Young Center is helpful for me to refine my thesis and develop my current research project. I can talk with people face to face about my dissertation work and my current project, because many of my research participants are in this area and many Mennonite offices (MDS, MEDA, and MCC) are nearby. At the Young Center, I am also able to do library research, finding documents that otherwise are not easy to come across. I also enjoy seeing how the upcoming exhibit about love feast is being prepared."

(continued on p. 3)



■ DIRECTOR
Jeff Bach, Ph.D.

■ SENIOR FELLOW
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.

■ RESEARCH STAFF
Stephen Scott
Cynthia Nolt

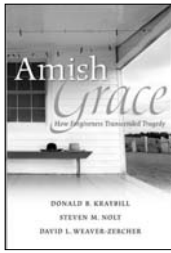
■ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Hillary Daecher

■ NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Cynthia Nolt

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



Book on Amish forgiveness set for September release

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy, a new book exploring the Nickel Mines school shooting and the Amish community's response to it, will be available in September from Jossey-Bass. In it, authors Donald B. Kraybill, Steve Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher describe the incident and its aftermath, enumerate the religious beliefs and habits that undergird the forgiveness extended by the Amish,

and discuss the relevance of the Amish example for mainstream society.

According to the publisher, *Amish Grace* has been receiving strong interest at booksellers' trade shows this summer. Publishers Weekly gave the book a starred review on June 25, saying in part, "Kraybill and his colleagues present a compelling study of 'Amish grace'... This intelligent, compassionate and hopeful book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on forgiveness." ■

Summer work at the Young Center *(continued)*

Doctoral student Kate Eisenbise was back for the summer, working on a multitude of tasks including copyediting, co-authoring a reference book chapter on Mennonites in the US, and creating an inventory of the Young Center historical archives. "The interesting part of that project was that I saw how many famous scholars and authors (at least in the Anabaptist world) have been somehow affiliated with the Young Center in the past 20 years," Eisenbise said. "This seems to be a pretty popular place!"

Eisenbise's other tasks included the love feast exhibit and preparations for October's Brethren heritage conference.

Three Elizabethtown College students also worked at the Young Center this summer. History major Jillian Chilcoat worked on the love feast exhibit, which will open next month, and the hymnody exhibit, which will open next spring. "I enjoy working with the artifacts and old hymnals," she said, "and I'm learning a lot about the history of the church and its rich traditions."

Megan Memoli, a communications major, prepared materials for and staffed the information desk at the Amish in America conference, sorted through dozens of boxes and folders of Young Center historical materials, and worked on a project tracking Amish migration. She particularly enjoyed meeting and talking to the conference attendees.

Business major Rachael Yearwood generated statistical data and prepared reports from the Church Member Profile 2006 survey results. She also managed the Amish conference bookstore operations. Both projects "have allowed me to refine my quantitative skills, data analysis capabilities, and also gain valuable bookkeeping experience," Yearwood said. ■



Back: Jillian Chilcoat, Megan Memoli, Rachael Yearwood. Front: Kate Eisenbise, Anthony Siegrist. (Tomomi Naka arrived after this photo was taken.)

NEH Grant update

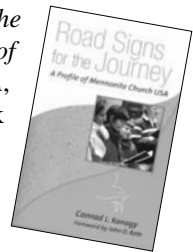
"We are making good progress toward meeting the goal of raising \$2 million for the NEH challenge grant," reports Allen Hansell, director of church relations. The National Endowment for the Humanities pledged a gift of \$500,000 to establish a Young Center endowment if the college could raise \$2 million. January 20, 2008, is the deadline for receiving gifts toward the program. Thanks to widespread interest and the generosity of many friends, college officials are optimistic that the goal will be reached by the January deadline.

A celebration marking the completion of the campaign and recognizing the donors is planned for April 5, 2008. If you would like information about making a challenge grant donation, contact Allen Hansell at (717) 361-1257 or hansella@etown.edu. ■

CMP reporting continues

During the spring of 2007, results of the survey of Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church USA, and Brethren in Christ church members were shared with denominational leaders. Additional reports will be prepared for church agencies and academic publications later this year and in 2008.

Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA, Conrad Kanagy's book that interprets the Mennonite survey data, was released at the Mennonite Church Assembly in San Jose, California, in early July. A CD/DVD package, *Resources for the Journey*, was released in conjunction with the book. Produced by David Sollenberger, it is a collection of worship, small group, and Sunday school resources for congregations. Both the book and the CD/DVD can be ordered from Herald Press. ■



Thomas Finger receives 2007 Brown Book Award

A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology *named outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies*

Thomas N. Finger's book *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology* has won the 2007 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Published by InterVarsity Press, the book describes the development of Anabaptist thought, discusses the major themes essential to Anabaptist theology, and presents Finger's own constructive effort. The book has been hailed by reviewers as "an unparalleled contribution to today's Christian community," and "highly recommended for both novices and professional theologians across the ecumenical spectrum."

Finger earned a B.A. from Wheaton College (IL), a B.D. from Gordon Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and systematic theology from Claremont Graduate School. He currently spends his time writing on Anabaptist theology, history, and spirituality, representing Mennonite churches in ecumenical and interfaith circles, and teaching world religions part-time.

From 1976 to 1986, Finger taught at Northern Baptist Seminary in Lombard, Illinois, which was on the same campus as Bethany Seminary. "I was a colleague of both Dale Brown and Don Durnbaugh then, and continued to enjoy their friendship since that time. So giving the Durnbaugh lecture in 2002 and receiving the Brown Award bring me great personal happiness, as well as vocational satisfaction."

The judges, scholars in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, reviewed 32 books published between 2004 and 2006 and nominated for the award by 17 different publishers. Their comments include "[This book] is not only a comprehensive volume, but a significant effort of contemporary scholarship interpreting Anabaptist theology for the post-modern era. Finger has produced a remarkable work which brings Anabaptist thought of the

last 60 years into focus and dialogue" and "Among the many noteworthy features of this book is its impressive scholarship—Finger orients the reader not only to a range of North American Anabaptist theologians at work today, but draws as well from leading theologians dating to the Reformation and before."

...a remarkable work which brings Anabaptist thought of the last 60 years into focus and dialogue.

BOOK AWARD JUDGE

The national award, which recognizes an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies, was named for noted author and theologian Dale W. Brown, who served as Young Center Fellow in 1993.

Finger will give a public lecture on October 25 at the Young Center. Nominations for the 2008 Dale W. Brown Book Award will be accepted until December 10, 2007. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details. ■

Anniversary Committee plans

How do you plan a birthday party for someone turning 300 years old? It's a large order, one that will take a group of six people eight years to plan. The Church of the Brethren collectively will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the beginnings of the Brethren in 2008. Young Center director Jeff Bach has served on the Anniversary Committee since it was formed by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in 2000, and has served as its chair since 2004.

The committee has developed several worship and study resources, as well as a DVD about Brethren faith and practice. They have also planned several events related to the anniversary, including an opening celebration at Germantown Church of the Brethren, the oldest COB congregation, on September 15-16, 2007. The main event of the celebration will be Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, July 12-16, 2008. Part of the con-

ference will be held jointly with the Brethren Church (headquartered in Ashland, Ohio), another branch of the Brethren family. A special day of worship, educational events, and a celebration of the international family of Brethren will take place on July 13.

Together with Chris Douglas in Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, the Anniversary Committee also trained and sponsors a network of pairs of high school and college youth from most of the Brethren districts to travel to congregations and lead worship and educational activities for the anniversary.

While serving on the Anniversary Committee has taken a large commitment of time and energy, it also brings many joyful blessings in this year of celebrating the beginnings of the Brethren at their first baptisms in Schwarzenau, Germany in August 1708. ■



Musa Mambula, provost (president) of Theological College of Northern Nigeria, served as Young Center Fellow for Spring 2007. During his three-month stay, Mambula delivered 76 talks and lectures in churches, schools, and colleges, primarily on the topic of Christian-Muslim relations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy

DONALD B. KRAYBILL, PH.D.

STEVEN M. NOLT, PH.D.

DAVID L. WEAVER-ZERCHER, PH.D.

Tuesday, September 25 ■ 7:30 p.m.
E-town Church of the Brethren

The authors of *Amish Grace* will speak about the results of their research on the Amish forgiveness story that emerged in



Donald B. Kraybill



Steve Nolt



David Weaver-Zercher

the wake of the Nickel Mines shooting. They will also discuss the challenges of writing a book together. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation, and copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

Kraybill is distinguished professor and senior fellow at the Young Center. Nolt is associate professor of history at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. Weaver-Zercher is associate professor of American religious history at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania. All three have studied and written extensively on the Amish.

Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren Heritage

Thurs., October 11 – Sat., October 13
Young Center

This national conference will focus on the historical development and cultural life of the Church of the Brethren and related groups. Scholars in numerous

■ Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy

Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.

Steven M. Nolt, Ph.D.

David L. Weaver-Zercher, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, October 11 through Saturday, October 13

Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren Heritage

■ Saturday, October 13, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Traditional Love Feast

■ Thursday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.

Does Anabaptism Have a Theology?

Thomas N. Finger, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Brethren, Solitaries, and Sabbatarians: The Emergence of the Ephrata Community

Jeff Bach, Ph.D.

academic disciplines and practitioners in various avenues of ministry will give presentations on the Brethren experience since its beginnings in 1708.

Visit www.etown.edu/brethren2007 or call the Young Center for details. Register by September 7 to receive a discount.

Traditional Love Feast

Sat., October 13 ■ 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Jeff Bach will lead this Brethren service of communion that includes a time of self-examination, feetwashing, a love meal, and the bread and cup of communion. The service combines scripture readings, devotional commentary and hymn singing during the component parts of the love feast. A traditional meal of beef-and-bread soup will be served during the love meal. The service will last approximately two hours, and a freewill offering will be taken.

Registration is required and can be made by sending an e-mail with your name, phone number, and time of service to brethren2007@etown.edu or by calling (717) 361-1470. The deadline for registration is September 20.

Does Anabaptism Have a Theology?

THOMAS N. FINGER, PH.D.

Thursday, October 25 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center

Finger will discuss several attempts to write an Anabaptist theology in the last 25 years, including his own, and compare them with sixteenth-century



Thomas Finger

Anabaptism, the eighteenth-century Brethren movement, and contemporary Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox theologies.

Thomas Finger writes on Anabaptist theology, history, and spirituality, and represents Mennonite churches in ecumenical and interfaith relationships. He also teaches world religions part-time. Finger wrote a portion of *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology* as a Young Center Fellow in 2002. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

Brethren, Solitaries, and Sabbatarians: The Emergence of the Ephrata Community

JEFF BACH, PH.D.

Thursday, November 1 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



Jeff Bach

Bach's lecture will explore commonalities and differences that led to the separation of Conrad Beissel's followers from the Brethren of Pennsylvania. Some of the distinctive features of Beissel's thought and the practices at Ephrata will be presented in the context of German Radical Pietism.

Bach is the Young Center director and the author of *Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata* (Penn State, 2003). He has served as associate professor at Bethany Theological Seminary.



Elizabethtown College

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Love feast exhibit opens September 4

The early Brethren, in an effort to restore the beliefs and practices of the early Christians, revived the observance of the love feast, or agape meal, as part of their communion service. The ritualized fellowship meal, in combination with footwashing and the bread and cup of communion (Eucharist), constitutes what is referred to as the “three-fold communion.”

Artifacts, photographs, and descriptive material about the love feast and the changes in its observance are featured in this extensive exhibit in the Young Center lobby, which will run from September 4, 2007 through March 15, 2008.

The exhibit features two very special items: pewter communion cups on loan from the Codorus Church of the Brethren. Colonial pewterer Johann Christoph Heyne (1715-1781) made these matching cups in the shape of a beaker. Born and trained in Germany, Heyne joined the

Moravians and came to America, living in Lancaster County in his later years. He was an outstanding colonial pewterer whose work combines continental style from his training with adaptations from English-style pewter work. Very few examples of his beakers remain.

The Codorus congregation used the cups until the early 1950s. The men used one cup for communion and the women used the other. The Young Center thanks the Codorus congregation for this generous loan to help interpret the Brethren love feast.

The exhibit will be open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and at other times by appointment. ■



Exhibit organizers Steve Scott, Kate Eisenbise, and Jillian Chilcoat arrange love feast artifacts.