



Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Spring 2007

News

Jeffrey A. Bach named Young Center director

He is a highly regarded scholar and academic leader, and I look forward to the Center becoming even stronger under his leadership.

TED LONG,
COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Jeff Bach, an associate professor of Brethren and historical studies at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, has been appointed director of the Young Center. He will begin his new role August 1, 2007.

"I am very pleased that Jeff Bach has accepted our offer to lead the Young Center," said President Ted Long. "He is a highly regarded scholar and academic leader, and I very much look forward to the Center becoming even stronger under his leadership."

"I am excited about joining the Young Center staff and value their tradition of excellence in Anabaptist and Pietist studies," Bach said. "I look forward to bringing my research and teaching experience to the work of the Young Center."

As a member of the seminary faculty for the past thirteen years, Bach has taught courses in peace studies, Brethren history and theology, and the history of Christianity. Bach's current research focus is on trans-Atlantic connections and communication between dissenting religious groups in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

He is chair of the Annual Conference 300th Anniversary Committee for the Church of the Brethren, a position he has held since 2004.

Bach has led faculty and students on tours of Europe, most recently in May 2006 when he led Bethany faculty members on a visit to Brethren and Anabaptist historical sites in Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Bach has published numerous scholarly articles in *Brethren Life and Thought* and other journals and given many presentations related to Brethren history and Pietist studies. In 1998, he presented the Durnbaugh Lectures at the Young Center on the topic of gender issues and his recent research at the Ephrata Cloister. His book, *Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata* (Penn State Press, 2003), received the Young Center's first Dale Brown Book Award for outstanding scholarship in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies and the 2005 outstanding publication award from the Communal Studies Association.

Bach served as director of Bethany's peace studies program from 1994 to 1999. He was bibliography editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation* (Oxford University Press, 1996) and scholar in residence for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at Ephrata Cloister.

An ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, Bach served as pastor of a Brethren congregation in Prairie City, Iowa, for seven years.

Bach received his doctorate in religion with a focus in history of Christianity from Duke University. He also holds a master's of divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree in German linguistics and elementary education from McPherson College.

Bach is married to Ann Mason Bach, also an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. They have two daughters in college. ■





FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Donald B. Kraybill

The Young Center was bustling with activity during the 2006 fall semester. Our seven public lectures were very well tended; it was standing room only at some of them. Five of the lectures were taped by Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) and will be shown periodically on that network.

The shootings at the Nickel Mines Amish school in October generated hundreds of requests for information. On the day of the incident, Young Center staff members answered three telephone lines for eight hours. Interviews and information given by our staff were featured on virtually all of the national television networks and in print media around the world. Media requests continued for several weeks following the tragic event.

I'm very pleased to report that bookcases for the Donald F. Durnbaugh book collection have been constructed. Special thanks goes to volunteer George Snavely who designed and crafted special shelving for the material. The Durnbaugh research collection of books and papers is now being used by scholars.

More than 30 books were nominated for the 2007 Dale Brown Book Award. Two judges are reading the finalist books and the award will be announced at the Young Center banquet on April 19.

The national Amish identity and diversity project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, has made steady progress in 2006. In October, Steve Scott spent a week in Ohio, gathering information on Amish groups.

Along with two colleagues, I gave presentations at a conference in Indiana on mental health issues among the Amish. A major international conference on the Amish will be hosted by the Young Center June 7 to 9. See our web site for registration details.

The Young Center staff is also organizing a variety of activities related to the 300th anniversary of the Brethren movement. Funded by a special grant from the president's office, "Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren Heritage" will include various lectures on campus, a hymnody exhibit, a love feast celebration, and a national conference. We hope you can join us for these events. Please check our web site for periodic updates. ■

Hymnody exhibit and concert slated for 2008

One of the components of the Church of the Brethren 300th anniversary celebration is an exhibit on hymnody. Con-

ceived by Betty Long and proposed to both the Fine Arts Council at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and to the Young Center as part of the anniversary celebration, the project will present the hymn traditions of Anabaptist and Pietist groups and, where possible, highlight linkages to Lutheran hymns. The exhibit will also point out the interrelatedness of hymns used by all three groups.

"My hope is that both religious communities and the general public will begin to absorb and appreciate the history—some of it is shared history—and that there will be a greater appreciation of each of the religious traditions," Long says.


"An important component of both the Lutheran and the Church of the Brethren tradition is music, particularly hymnody," Long continues. "This exhibit is an opportunity to lift up and celebrate that significant aspect of both traditions." The project will also feature texts and tunes used by early Pietists, Mennonites,

and the Amish.

The project committee is currently selecting hymns and hymnbooks for inclusion in the exhibit, and determining the artwork that will be used and how it will be displayed.

The exhibit will open at Lutheran Theological Seminary in early 2008 and then move to the Young Center in mid to late March. The Elizabethtown College Choir under the direction of Matthew Fritz will present a choral concert of hymns related to the exhibit at the seminary in late February 2008. The choir will perform the same concert at the college on April 5, 2008, as part of a gala event celebrating the Church of the Brethren's 300th anniversary, the Young Center's 20th anniversary, and the successful completion of the NEH Challenge Grant campaign.

In addition to Long, the hymnody project committee includes hymnody scholar Hedda Durnbaugh, Steve Scott, David Rempel Smucker, Donald B. Kraybill, and Dawn Houff. ■



■ INTERIM DIRECTOR & SENIOR FELLOW
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.

■ RESEARCH STAFF
Stephen Scott
Cynthia Nolt

■ 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.

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Press to release next books in Young Center series

Johns Hopkins University Press will release *Growing Up Amish: The Teenage Years*, an in-depth study of Amish adolescence by Richard A. Stevick, in late spring. In this second book in the Young Center series, Stevick, professor emeritus of psychology at Messiah College, discusses the rituals and social forces that persuade a vast majority of Amish youth to choose the Amish way of life.

Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities is slated for release in early summer. In it, Goshen College professors Steve Nolt and Tom Meyers explode the myth that the Amish are a single homogeneous group. Using their fieldwork in nineteen Amish settlements in Indiana as a base, they describe community life and the factors of migration history, church discipline and ethnicity that influence each Amish settlement. ■

NEH Grant update

Contributors have continued to support the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, which will establish an endowment of \$2.5 million for the Young Center. In order to receive \$500,000 from the NEH, the Young Center must raise \$2 million by January 2008.

“It was a huge challenge,” says Allen Hansell, director of church relations and the NEH/Young Center campaign, “but we entered it with good faith, knowing that those who love the Young Center would pitch in to help us achieve the goal.”

“I am delighted to report that as of January 15, 2007, we have received cash and pledges of \$1.9 million,” Hansell continues. “That brings us within \$100,000 of reaching the goal. I am very hopeful that we will complete the pledging portion of the campaign by spring.”

A special celebration marking the completion of the campaign and recognizing the donors is planned for April 5, 2008, in conjunction with the Young Center’s 20th anniversary.

If you would like information about making a challenge grant donation, please contact Allen Hansell at (717) 361-1257 or hansella@etown.edu. ■

Church Member Profile 2006 update

The data gathering is complete for CMP2006, the national study of members in the Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church USA, and the Brethren in Christ. Some 5,000 questionnaires have been returned and keystroked into data files for analysis.

The response rates have averaged about 70 percent, which is far above the typical rates of 25 to 30 percent for mail surveys to church members. The high response rate gives the researchers greater confidence in the information and likely reflects the strong interest and engagement of members in their churches.

The survey results are now being analyzed and reporting will begin this spring. In February and March, three Young Center lectures will present the initial findings. ■



George Snavelly builds bookcases in the Young Center reading room to house the books in the Durnbaugh collection.



Student assistants Courtney Fellows and Megan Memoli pore over documents related to the October 2 shooting at the Nickel Mines Amish school. Young Center staff and students worked diligently to collect and organize hundreds of news articles and op/ed pieces that were published in national and international media in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Visiting scholars pursue diverse research interests

Marcus Meier and Musa Mambula serve as 2006-07 Center Fellows

Marcus Meier, Ph.D., a research assistant in Reformation Studies and Radical Pietism and an instructor in church history at Philipps University in Marburg, Germany, served as Young Center Fellow for Fall 2006.

During his time at the Center, Meier taught “The History of the Church of the Brethren” for the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and presented the Durnbaugh Lectures. He also presented lectures at the Brethren Heritage Center in Brookville, Ohio, at Bethany Theological Seminary in Indiana, and at “Pietism and Community in Europe and North America 1650-1850,” an international conference held at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

“I have benefited from my stay at the Center in many regards,” Meier says. “I had access to the Durnbaugh collection

(plus the rare books) with a wide range of articles, papers, and publication on different topics. I had the opportunity to use different libraries like the Muddy Creek Farm Library, the Mennonite Historical Library, and the High Library. I also appreciated the chance to attend different lectures and communicate with the scholars at the Young Center.”

“We were extremely pleased to have Marcus as a visiting Fellow,” Donald B. Kraybill says. “It was especially helpful to have him here to catalog the Durnbaugh collection.”

Musa Mambula, Ph.D., provost of Theological College of Northern Nigeria, will arrive in March to serve as Center Fellow for the spring semester. An administrator, writer, and religious leader of Brethren-related groups in Nigeria, Mambula has a special interest in Christian-Muslim relations.

While at the Young Center, he will write and speak on pacifism in Nigeria, a challenging issue for Christian churches there. He will give a public lecture, “Friends or Enemies? Christian-Muslim Relations in Nigeria,” at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4, in the college’s Gibbel Auditorium, and he will be the featured speaker at the Young Center’s



Marcus Meier taught Church of the Brethren history to Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center students during Fall 2006.

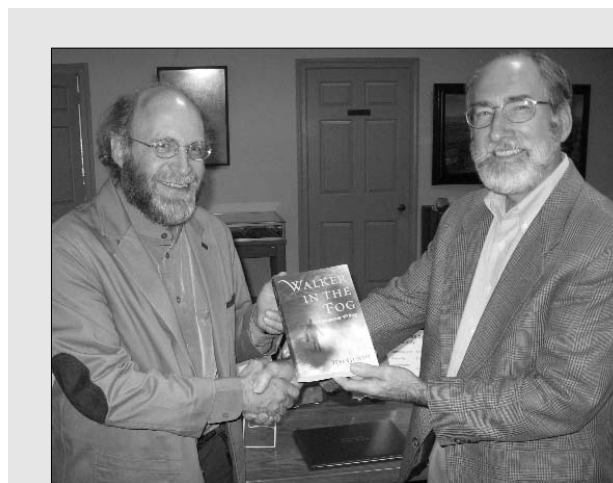
annual banquet on April 19. Mambula will also speak in classes on campus, visit churches in the area, and speak at other colleges and universities.

The Young Center’s visiting fellows program was established to encourage scholarship related to the faith, history, and culture of Anabaptist and/or Pietist movements. Center Fellows typically spend one semester at the Young Center conducting research, and teaching a seminar, presenting a public lecture or organizing an interpretive event. The Center invites applications and nominations for Center Fellows and Doctoral Fellows. Visit www.ETOWN.EDU/youngctr for more information. ■

Center receives grant from the Fetzer Institute

The Young Center has received a grant from the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to study Amish forgiveness. This project, arising from the Amish school shooting in October 2006, will investigate the distinctive aspects of Amish forgiveness and explore how it is central to their spirituality. The project will also compare Amish forgiveness with forgiveness in other religious traditions.

The project’s three investigators, Donald B. Kraybill, David Weaver-Zercher (Messiah College), and Steve Nolt (Goshen College), are writing a book based on their research. *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transformed a Tragedy*, under contract with Jossey-Bass, will be published in the fall. The Fetzer Institute supports research and scholarly study of love and forgiveness. ■



Young Center interim director Donald B. Kraybill congratulates Jeff Gundy on receiving the 2006 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Gundy presented a lecture on his book *Walker in the Fog: On Mennonite Writing* in September 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Profile of the Brethren in Christ

RON BURWELL, PH.D.

Thursday, February 22 ■ 7:30 p.m.



Burwell will present an overview of the beliefs, values, and behavior of members of the Brethren in Christ based on a national sample of members who partic-

ipated in the 2006 Church Member Profile. Burwell's lecture will also pinpoint recent demographic changes in the denomination.

Burwell is a professor of sociology at Messiah College, where he also chairs the department of sociology, social work, and criminal justice. A graduate of New York University, his research interests include denominational studies, exploration of faith development among college students, and assessment of learning outcomes in higher education.

A Profile of the Church of the Brethren

CARL DESPORTES BOWMAN, PH.D.

Thursday, March 15 ■ 7:30 p.m.



Bowman will present an overview of the beliefs, values, and behavior of members of the Church of the Brethren based on a national sample of members who partic-

ipated in the 2006 Church Member Profile. Bowman will also discuss recent demographic changes in the denomination.

Bowman is a professor of sociology at Bridgewater College, where he also chairs the department. He has served as director of survey research at the University of Virginia's Post Modernity Project and is the author of *Brethren Society: The Cultural Transformation of a "Peculiar People"* (Johns Hopkins, 1995).

■ Thursday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.
A Profile of the Brethren in Christ
Ron Burwell, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
A Profile of the Church of the Brethren
Carl Desportes Bowman, Ph.D.

■ Monday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.
**Documentary Film Screening:
"The Power of Forgiveness"**

■ Thursday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.
A Profile of Mennonite Church USA
Conrad Kanagy, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.
Annual Young Center Banquet

■ Thursday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
**Are There Limits to Pacifism?
The Nigerian Dilemma**
Musa Mambula, Ph.D.

A Profile of Mennonite Church USA

CONRAD KANAGY, PH.D.

Thursday, March 29 ■ 7:30 p.m.



In this lecture, Kanagy will summarize key findings about Mennonites in the U.S. (including special emphases on racial/ethnic Mennonites and Mennon-

ite pastors), based on a national sample of members who participated in the 2006 Church Member Profile.

Kanagy, who holds a Ph.D. in rural sociology from Penn State University, is an associate professor of sociology at Elizabethtown College, where he has taught since 1993. He is currently writing a book that summarizes the 2006 CMP findings among members of Mennonite Church USA.

Documentary Film Screening: "The Power of Forgiveness"

Monday, March 19 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Leffler Auditorium

This new 90-minute documentary film, produced by Journey Films for public

television broadcast later this year, examines the role of forgiveness in alleviating anger and grief, as well as the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits that accompany forgiveness. The film features a variety of stories including Amish forgiveness following the Nickel Mines school shooting. It also includes interviews with people from many faith traditions including Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

The screening will be followed by a discussion facilitated by filmmaker Martin Doblmeier. A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

Annual Young Center Banquet

Thursday, April 19 ■ 6:00 p.m.

Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall

Enjoy socializing with faculty, staff, and friends and learning about the Young Center's activities. Following the dinner and program, Musa Mambula will speak about Christianity and Islam in Nigeria.

Cost of the banquet is \$15.00, and reservations are due by April 2.

Are There Limits to Pacifism? The Nigerian Dilemma

MUSA MAMBULA, PH.D.

Thursday, April 19 ■ 7:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall



Mambula will explore the delicate and often difficult relations between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria in recent years. Can peacemakers make a

difference in this volatile situation that is often hostile and sometimes violent?

Mambula, provost of Theological College of Northern Nigeria, is the Young Center Fellow for Spring 2007. He received a doctorate in education from the University of Maiduguri and a master's degree in theology from Bethany Theological Seminary.



Elizabethtown College

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Young Center will host two conferences in 2007

International Amish conference to be held in June; Brethren conference to be held in October

The Amish in America: New Identities and Diversities,” an international conference on the Amish in North America, will be held on the Elizabethtown College campus June 7 to 9, 2007. Sponsored in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the conference is one component of a three-year research project on Amish identity and diversity conducted by the Young Center. Several hundred people are expected to attend the conference.

Conference planners have received more than one hundred proposals for papers from scholars and service providers in the United States and numerous foreign countries.

The conference will include four plenary sessions: “Understanding the Amish in 20th Century America” by Paul Boyer, historian and professor emeritus at University of Wisconsin; “Who are the Real

Amish?: New Identities, Growing Diversity” by Steve Nolt, history professor at Goshen College; “Completing the Plain Puzzle: Old Orders in Canada and Latin America” by Royden Loewen, professor of history at University of Winnipeg; “Cultural Intervention: Lessons from the Amish” by D. Holmes Morton, cofounder and medical director of the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, Pa.

In addition, more than ninety presenters will speak during thirty-five concurrent sessions in seven different time slots. Their topics will include literacy, education, family, linguistics, healthcare, technology, agriculture and agricultural safety, tourism, and Amish publications, among many others.

For details and registration information, visit www.etown.edu/amish2007, call (717) 361-1470, or send an e-mail to amish2007@etown.edu.

The Young Center will also host “Honoring a Legacy, Embracing a Future: Three Hundred Years of Brethren Heritage,” a special conference on the 300th anniversary of the Brethren movement (1708–2008) October 11 to 13, 2007. Designed for scholars, pastors, leaders, and others in various forms of ministry, the conference will feature plenary speakers and more than two dozen papers related to Brethren history and contemporary issues.

On Saturday evening, October 13, following the conference, Jeff Bach will lead and interpret a special love feast celebration at the Young Center. Attendance is by advance registration only.

Registration for the Brethren conference will begin May 1. More information will be available on the Young Center web site by late spring. ■