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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[www.AllianceOfMennoniteEvangelicals.org](http://www.AllianceOfMennoniteEvangelicals.org)

*Menno said it . . .*

*“For all truly regenerated and spiritually minded conform in all things to the Word and ordinances of the Lord. Not because they think to merit the atonement of their sins and eternal life. By no means! In this matter they depend upon nothing except the true promise of the merciful Father, **given in grace** to all believers through the blood and merits of Christ, which blood is and ever will be the only and eternal medium of our reconciliation; and not works, baptism, or the Lord’s Supper, as*

*said above repeatedly. For if our reconciliation depended on works and ceremonies, then grace would be a thing of the past, and the merits and fruits of the blood of Christ would end. Oh, no, **it is grace, and will be grace to all eternity**; all that the merciful Father does for us miserable sinners through His beloved Son and Holy Spirit is grace.”*

-from *True Christian Faith*, pp. 396,397 in *Complete Writings of Menno Simons*, 1956, Herald Press



*Menno Simons, an engraving by Christoffel van Siche, ca. 1605*

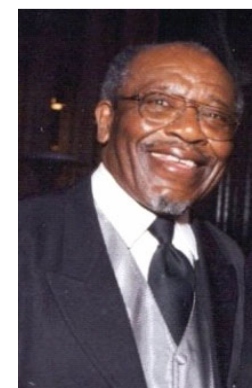
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# InterLink

*Alliance of Mennonite Evangelical Congregations*

## John Perkins Speaks at Second Mennonite



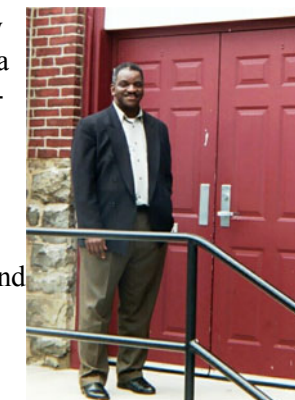
Dr. John Perkins

The Rev. Dr. John Perkins of Jackson, Mississippi, was guest speaker Sunday Morning, June 1, at Second Mennonite Church in Philadelphia. Founder of Mendenhall Ministries and the Voice of Calvary, Dr. Perkins is also director of the Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development.

Born the son of a Mississippi sharecropper and dropping out of school in the third grade, Dr. Perkins today is recognized internationally for his work in racial reconciliation, indigenous leadership development and community development. He is the author of nine books and has sat on the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including World Vision, Prison Fellowship and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Dr. Perkins was in Philadelphia speaking at a weekend conference sponsored by Kingdom Builders Anabaptist Network held May 30, 31 at Philadelphia Mennonite High School. Kingdom Builders is a partnership of the twenty Mennonite and Brethren in Christ congregations in the city of Philadelphia and represents a dozen languages and many cultural backgrounds.

Having Dr. Perkins in the pulpit of Second Mennonite was especially meaningful for Darryl Wallace, pastor of Second Mennonite. As a young man growing up in Mississippi, Brother Darryl’s life and walk with the Lord was greatly shaped by the ministry and influence of Voice of Calvary, having been disciplined and trained through several of its varied programs. Pastor Wallace and the congregation at Second Mennonite were honored by Dr. Perkins presence and



Pastor Darryl Wallace

## Pulpit Transition at Paradise Mennonite

“My passion in serving the body of Christ is to equip believers to know and love the God of the Bible more intimately.” So stated Pastor Tim Rogers as he outlined for the 268-year-old congregation at Paradise Mennonite his ministry philosophy. He went on to say, “I believe that what we think about God determines what we think about families, neighbors, co-workers, culture, world events, and on and on.”

Those quotes from the “newly minted” lead pastor were actually part of his presentation even before the congregation voted to have him succeed Pastor Fred Martin. After nearly twenty-eight years in the Paradise pulpit Pastor Martin started the chain of events by stating

his intention to retire and gave his blessing to a pastoral search. It’s no secret that scarcely could anyone be found who thought “it’s time” for Pastor Fred to retire. But he himself was firm and said, “it’s time and I’m really at peace about it.”

As the Search Committee began it was only natural that Associate Pastor Del Sauder be consulted as to whether he wished to be considered. For his own reasons he did not choose this role and thus a five-member committee started the process. Nearly a dozen names quickly surfaced, but just as quickly the name of Tim Rogers remained on the “short list,” and in time became the obvious choice. The 275-member congregation

*Continued on page 2*

**Transition at Paradise (continued)****Tim, Jen and Megan Rogers**

received word of this name on January 5, with a sermon by the prospective pastor on January 12 and subsequently a vote which resulted in a 95% positive vote.

Defying conventional wisdom, Tim came on staff March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, serving three months along with Pastor Fred. Both men welcomed this arrangement and both will say it was most beneficial in many ways, not the least of which was the opportunity for Pastor Fred to visit members in retirement homes, introducing the new pastor. Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> was the day Tim was installed as Paradise Mennonite's new Lead Pastor, with leadership responsibilities also for the missions program of the church. Del Sauder, continuing as Associate, also became Minister of Christian Education.

Tim Rogers was born in Grenada of missionary parents, moving soon to Barbados, then to Paradise, Pennsylvania. Tim's father, Jerry, is now Eastern Representative for UFM, formerly Unevangelized Fields Missions. Tim attended Pequea Valley High School, then Lancaster Bible College, graduating with

high honors in 1998.

While at LBC he served more than a year as Director of the Factory Youth Center in Paradise. Also in 1998 Tim married Jen Smoker, a member at Paradise Mennonite. After a year on staff at LBC in the admissions department, Tim enrolled at Dallas Theological Seminary, earning the Th.M. degree in 2002.

While in Dallas he served as Missions Intern at Northwest Bible Church, gaining valuable experience in strategic planning, prioritizing and ministry partnering. Tim and Jen are the parents of Megan Grace, born July 25, 2001.

Perhaps, given that Tim Rogers came without Mennonite background, he and the congregation will continue pondering questions such as the one he posed to the Search Committee, "Is what was distinctive about being Mennonite in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the same as in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?" It is Tim's hope that we can become a people at Paradise who seek to honor the Lord with all that we have, recognizing that discipleship is at the heart of authentic Christianity.

**A Festival of the Word,  
October 26 at Bally**

AMEC's Eastern Region is again sponsoring a "Festival of the Word and Worship" to be held this Fall at the Hereford Mennonite Church in Bally, Pennsylvania.

The 6 PM Service on October 26, the last Sunday of October, will feature guest speaker Donald Jacobs, longtime mission worker and Christian statesman.

This Service, open to all, is an opportunity for all ages to join together for a time of exalting the Name of our Lord Jesus, and to reaffirm our commitment to the importance of proclaiming the unchanging Word in a changing world.

Bally is on PA Route 100, midway between Allentown and Pottstown. The Hereford Church is located at the junction of Old Route 100 and Main Street.

**Pastor's Retreat  
Rescheduled**

Remember the Blizzard of '03? In addition to record breaking snowfalls in southeast Pennsylvania last February it meant the last minute cancellation of the AMEC Pastor's and Christian Workers Retreat. That Retreat has been re-scheduled and will be held on February 15 & 16 at the Spruce Lake Retreat Center near Canadensis in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

Pastors, missionaries, and other credentialed Christian workers and their families are invited to share the fellowship and mutual encouragement that this retreat can provide.

This two day event, which occurs on the President's Day holiday weekend, is sponsored by the AMEC Eastern Region but is being made available for any Alliance members, regardless of region.

To make reservations and for detailed information, please contact: Steve Strunk at AMEC, PO Box 267, Milford Square PA 18935.

**Waterfall at Spruce Lake  
in winter****An AMEC Congregation  
Celebrates 250 Years  
of God's Faithfulness**

The Springfield Mennonite Church of Pleasant Valley, Pennsylvania will conclude a year long observance of their 250<sup>th</sup> year with a Homecoming Service, Sunday Afternoon, September 28, at 2 PM. Guest speaker will be Rev. John Kulp, from Saucon Mennonite Church of Coopersburg, and a former pastor of the Springfield congregation.

Springfield was established in colonial days under the leadership of Peter Meyer, one of four brothers that came from Switzerland in 1741. The stone meetinghouse which replaced a 1753 log building was built in 1824 and is still in use though since enlarged through additions. The congregation is experiencing continuing significant growth under the energetic leadership of Pastor Greg Stenson and his wife, Jackie.

**Springfield Mennonite Church**

Do you have your own copy of the "Purposes and Principles"? It's AMEC's booklet with the light gray cover.

Containing the doctrinal basis for our partnership and the by-laws of the organization, it is a helpful way to introduce others to the perspectives and convictions of the Alliance of Mennonite Evangelicals.

Copies are available in quantity for the asking. Contact AMEC North America at: P O Box 97, Paradise PA 17562.

**See us on the web!**

Have you visited the AMEC web site recently?

Photos of the church buildings of the member congregations can be seen by clicking on the "Charter Members" button.

Answers to frequently asked questions, purposes and principles, articles and links to reference materials are just some of the resources also available on the site.

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