



- **Dini and Klementina Shahini** will be in the area to tell the story of the **Lezha Academic Center** in Albania. All churches are invited to attend this presentation at Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 pm. Klementina is the school administrator and her husband Dini works for both the school and the local Mennonite congregation. There will be a time for Q&A, and an invitation to support the school.
- **David and Grace Shenk, Andres Prins and Sheryl Martin**, members of the **EMM Christian/Muslim Relations Team**, will present at a public forum at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, in Martin Chapel (Eastern Mennonite Seminary). The goal of the forum is learning how to be better equipped to know, love, and share Jesus with Muslim members of our community. The presenters all bring many years of experiences and knowledge of the Muslim world. The EMM Christian/Muslim Relations Team desires to equip Christians around the world for life-giving relationships with Muslims through dialogue, witness, peacemaking and hospitality. In a world where complex conflicts sometimes divide Muslims and Christians, and where mutual suspicion can build walls, this team speaks boldly and trains persistently to build bridges of loving and respectful connection between Christians and Muslims, while faithfully confessing Christ.
- The **Festival of Praise** is an annual praise-filled concert of men's *a cappella* singing groups and combined chorus directed by Jared Stutzman. This year, the Festival celebrates 15 years of song and raising money for Virginia Mennonite Missions. Join us on Sunday, November 6 at 4:00 pm at Eastern Mennonite School, 801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va. There will be an offering to benefit VMissions.
- The **Bridge of Hope Annual Locavore Luncheon & Fashion Show** will be Saturday, November 12, at Park View Mennonite Church. Come enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Bowl of Good and created by local food blogger, Jennifer Murch. Browse and bid on the silent auction items, and be entertained by the fashion show featuring clothing from Gift & Thrift and accessories from Ten Thousand Villages. All proceeds to benefit Bridge of Hope, a ministry serving homeless and at-risk single mothers and their children in our community. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25, or contact a board member or call our office, 478-2356, to reserve a ticket. Doors will open for the silent auction at 11:15 with the meal beginning at 12.
- **A retreat for inner healing:** Tilda Norberg will be leading a two-day **Opening to Grace Retreat** at Highland Retreat Center in Bergton, Va., November 17-19, 2016.
- **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** is a class for believers from all walks of life to get threaded into God's story and experience God's heart for all peoples. *Perspectives* will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they are relevant to your life. The Spring 2017 class will meet at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Center, 711 S. High St, Harrisonburg, Va. The first two sessions are free. For registration details, find the class at perspectives.org or contact Carol Tobin at 540-435-9887.

· **Save the Date: The next Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 in the Williamsburg, Va., area. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage."

Courses and learning tours:

- **Registration is now open for "Places, People, & Prayers, A Cross-Cultural Encounter with the Holy Land,"** an Israel/Palestine study tour offered May 4-27, 2017, through Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Trip leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, and Kevin A. Clark, EMS Campus Pastor. "Places, People, & Prayers" is open to all interested travelers, with or without seminary credit. NOTE: All MCUSA pastors are eligible to apply to the MCUSA "Come and See" program for a \$500 scholarship to assist with trip costs. If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu at your earliest.
- Register now for **Christmas in Egypt**, a *Partners in Mission* learning tour through Virginia Mennonite Missions, with leaders Esther and David Stenson. Build relationships through conversations and worship, deepen discipleship through cross-cultural encounters with Egyptians, Christian and Muslim, and visit ministry sites in Port Said, Cairo, Alexandria, and Anafora. The tour will be December 16-27, 2016. Cost is \$3,250 (scholarships are available). For more information, contact Martin at partners@vmmissions.org or call (540) 434-9727 or (800) 707-5535.