



- **Virginia Mennonite Missions** invites you to participate in **#GivingTEAMday**, our 2016 Giving Tuesday campaign on Tuesday, November 29. We want to reflect team participation that is over and above regular individual or congregational giving to Virginia Mennonite Missions. For a 24-hour period, if you give an online donation of any size, you will be able to enter an optional TEAM name of your church or organization, etc. We are hoping for at least 300 participants to help us reach a goal of \$3,000 – getting us back to last year’s Mission Fund giving level. Learn more at vmmissions.org/how-to-help/online-giving/
- The **Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center** presents an evening concert with **Good Company: A Cappella**, Sunday, November 27, 7 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church. Good Company, a six-member a cappella group, formed in 2013 and released their first CD in 2014. The group shares music from a wide variety of musical genres, eras, styles, and regions, and their voices meld in harmonies that strengthen, encourage, and comfort audiences. A Christmas CD is in the works for December 2016. A free-will offering will be received to support the work of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.
- The **Shenandoah Valley Children’s Choir**, under the direction of Janet Hostetter, will present “The Stars Point the Way” on Sunday, December 4, 4:00 p.m. at EMU’s Lehman Auditorium. The concert will feature professional instrumentalists on strings, trumpet, flute, timpani, steel drum and organ. Tickets are available on-line at emu.edu/box-office or by calling 540-432-4582. Admission is \$16 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students and \$8 for children age 12 and under.
- **All are invited to the Gemeinschaft Home Christmas Open House**, on Sunday, Dec. 4 between 1 and 3 pm to learn more about our work of assisting former prisoners re-entering their communities and how to help. An update on Gemeinschaft’s programs, including the new Day Reporting Center, will be provided at 1:30 pm. Residents will conduct house tours, and light refreshments will be provided. The Gemeinschaft Home is a therapeutic community that helps prepare non-violent, non-sexual offenders for re-entry into their communities following incarceration. There is no charge for the open house, but contributions are welcomed from all.
- **Celebrate Christmas at CrossRoads** (Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center) on Saturday, December 10, 3-7 p.m. with music and refreshments. Enjoy the Trissels Chime Choir, a children's Christmas sing, instrumentalists in our 19th century buildings, carolers along lantern-lit walkways, and a live Nativity candlelight walk through woods ending at a stable with carol singing. Hands-on family crafts will be featured from 3-5 p.m. including old-fashioned paper tree ornaments, popcorn balls and decorative chains. Come see Father Christmas and delight in tasty treats. CrossRoads is at 1921 Heritage Center Way in Harrisonburg, off Garber's Church Road and above Harrisonburg High School. Adults \$7, Students \$5, Children 5 and under free.

- The community is invited to a **Christmas Lessons and Carols service** featuring music from the EMU vocal ensemble Emulate and scriptural readings from the EMU theater and campus ministries programs. Gather on the EMU campus in Lehman Auditorium from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12.
- **Eastern Mennonite School presents Handel's Messiah** on December 13 and December 15, both at 7:30 PM in the EMS Auditorium - 801 Parkwood Drive). Join us as as our Junior and Senior Choir chorus (120 student voices!) sing the Christmas portion and selections from the Easter portion of Handel's Messiah. They'll be accompanied by an orchestra of professional and student musicians, including harpsichord. FREE and open to the public. Invite your friends and family for this joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior!
- **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. Main 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.
- The **School for Leadership Training**, January 16-18, 2017 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary will explore why it's so hard to get along with those who aren't like us as we learn more about how we can live into Jesus' teaching to love our neighbor. Learn more and register at www.emu.edu/slt.
- **Virginia Mennonite Conference Winter Delegate Session** will be February 4 at Waynesboro Mennonite Church from 8:00 - 3:00. The church is located at 1801 Monroe St, Waynesboro, VA.
- **Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Va. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage." Learn more and register at virginiacommunity.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-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.