

Retreat offers rest for women in ministry

Last October 16 women representing a variety of ministries gathered in Mansfield for a Women in Ministry Retreat led by Mattie Marie Mast and Hannah Steiner. The two-day retreat featured time to rest and meet with God through music, art, prayer and silence.

This retreat was made possible with financial support from Ohio Mennonite Women and the Ohio



Conference Ministry Development Team.

Andy Stoner thanked for years of service

Regional Pastor Andy Stoner, who is retiring at the end of June, has been an important resource for many pastors during his 10 years as Ohio Conference Regional Pastor.

At the June 13 meeting of the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team, Assistant Moderator Norma Duerksen presented Andy with a gift of a clay pot and spoke words of blessing on his retirement. The July-August issue of *Ohio Mennonite Evangel* will feature some parting words from Andy Stoner, as well as infor-

mation about the two new half-time regional pastors, Ralph Reinford and Wanda Stopher.



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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Ann Leaman, editor: ohioevangel@earthlink.net



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Strengthening congregations by supporting pastors



Participants enjoy a laugh at the Couples in Ministry Day Away at Camp Luz May 9.

While your pastor is nurturing and supporting members of your congregation, who is nurturing and supporting your pastor? Realizing the stresses that pastoral ministry can bring, Ohio Conference seeks to support pastors throughout the Conference, not only through pastor peer groups and contact with regional pastors, but also

through various special events, such as the Couples in Ministry Day Away, Pastor-Spouse Retreat and Women in Ministry Retreat. Read on to learn more about how Ohio Conference is caring for pastors so that they in turn can care for congregations.

*Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations*

Couples in Ministry meet at Luz



The Couples in Ministry Day Away at Camp Luz provided ample opportunities for conversation, both during formal input sessions and at mealtime.



“How Mutual Ministry Messes with your Marriage” was the theme for the second Couples in Ministry Day Away May 9. Camp Luz in Orrville was the perfect place for the retreat, which included group discussion and time for couple and individual reflection, as well as gender discussion groups.

The main input was facilitated by Regional Pastor Andy Stoner. Regional Pastor Matt Hamsher and Sherah-Leigh Gerber, Coordinator of Volunteers, facilitated the other discussion times. Currently there are nine pastoral couples serving within Ohio Conference.

Pastor-Spouse Retreat offers time for relaxation and renewal

Ohio Conference is planning a Pastor-Spouse Retreat Nov. 11-13, 2011, at Mohican State Park Lodge in Loudonville.

This retreat will provide opportunities to nurture couples who experience the unique challenges and stresses of ministry. The weekend will include time for worship, fellowship, quality couple time, discussion and learning, as well as a few surprises.

Retreat leadership will be provided by Ervin and Bonnie Stutzman of Harrisonburg, Va. Bonnie serves as a chaplain, and Ervin works as Executive Director for Mennonite Church



USA. They will be sharing from their more than 20 years of marriage and ministry experience. Music leadership for the weekend will be provided by Tim Shue.

Cost for this weekend is \$380 per couple. Thanks to generous gifts from Ohio Mennonite Women and Mennonite Mutual Insurance, 30 pastoral couples will be able to participate in the retreat at a reduced cost. All those reduced-cost registration slots already have been filled, but other pastoral couples are still welcome to participate. A brochure with more information and a registration form is available in the “News Feed” section of the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. Registration and payment are due to the Conference office by Sept. 1.

