

Calendar of Events

Water	Canceled
Family Week	Aug. 2-6
Staff Retreat.	Sept. 16 - 17
First Term	Sept. 18 - Oct. 20
Choir Ministry Tour	Oct. 21 - Oct. 28
Second Term	Nov. 1 - Dec. 10

- Contact the office for a full catalog and application materials, or visit us at SMBI.org for class schedules and descriptions, student handbook, application materials and more.

Family Week 2021

August 2-6

Growing Spiritually (Youth) - Larry Bergey
Parables (Adults) - Byron Wolfer
Servant Leaders in the Home (Men) - Larry Bergey
Embracing the Changing Seasons of Life (Ladies) - Linda Bergey
Nature's Riches and God's Open Hand (All) - Dana Atkinson
Freedom Through Discipline (Youth) - Samuel Heatwole

During the morning, child care is provided for the 0-5 year olds, and there are classes for the 6-12 year olds, youth, and parents. In the afternoon, there are additional activities, free time and more with chapel and recreation in the evening.

the Monitor • Vol. 44 • Issue 02 • April—June 2021

Return Service Requested

Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute
7304 Lincoln Hwy., Harrisonville, PA 17228
ph 717.485.4341
fax 717.485.0641
smbi@smbi.org
smbi.org



Another Perspective

By Clifford Schrock

When my wife and I married and moved to SMBI in 2004, our elderly neighbor lady soon became a friend. Over the years, she attended almost all the birthday parties of our five children. She had numerous health struggles over the years, but was holding her own. In January, she contracted COVID. She spent a few days in the hospital, but did not recover. She passed away January 30.

Another close friend and brother in the church, taught Sunday school on a Sunday morning. By Wednesday, he came down with COVID and went to the hospital on Saturday evening. He passed away the next Saturday, May 1. We grieve with their families and miss both of them.

There have been other losses, as well. My parents are both gone. My father-in-law was taken by a heart attack at 60 years of age. There are friends and acquaintances of all ages that have been taken by various illnesses, auto accidents, and other causes. Most reading this have probably lost family or friends in recent months. All are sorely missed!

We are created in God's image and as part of that, we are created for life. We were not made to die, and so it is right that we have a will to live. We should enjoy life and the opportunities it presents. It is natural to look forward to the next day and fight for survival. If someone has lost the desire to live, something is certainly wrong physically or emotionally.

At the same time, there does come a time when one is "ready to go." When we visited my mom in December of 2015, she was still healthy and enjoying life at 86 years old. I recall her saying that she could not identify with those that were just longing for the time when they could go home. Life was good, she was enjoying here apartment and family, and she was content where she was. However, in May, 2016 she experienced some mini-strokes that significantly changed her life. She could still get around, but needed assistance with daily needs. Just a couple months later in July 2016, we visited again. This time she said, "Now I understand. Life isn't fun any more. I'm ready to go." She passed away a few months later in September, 2016.

This year, I have been reading through the Martyr's Mirror. I don't expect that I will finish it this year. However, I have observed that many of the martyrs have a different perspective on life and death. I am sure they had families and friends and a will to live. They did not seek to be arrested and frequently fled when they could. However, when faced with the tortures of persecution

and death, they understood the bigger picture.

In 179, Epipodius, a young man of Lyons, France faced the persecution of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. When interrogated before the governor his answers enraged the judge and Epipodius was smitten on the cheek in such a manner that he bled from his nose and mouth. This made the young champion only bolder and stronger. He said, "I confess that Christ, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, is the only true God; and I deem it right, that I should pour out my soul (that is, my life) for Him who is my Creator and Redeemer; for this, my life will not be taken from me, but changed into a better one. Besides, it matters but little, how and in what manner this weak body is released and separated from the soul, only so that the soul be returned to God, its Creator." Following this steadfast confession, he was further tortured with cutting hooks and claws before being beheaded. (p. 117)

In 261, Fructuosus, bishop of the church in Spain, was arrested and accused of being a "teacher of a new-devised religion." He was soon sentenced to be burned alive along with his two deacons. As they were led into the arena, he perceived that the faithful Christians wept on their behalf. He said, "Why weep ye?... Believe me! What you see before your eyes is no punishment; it passes away in a moment of time, and does not take away life, but restores it. O Happy souls! Who through this temporal ascend into heaven unto God, and who on the last day, shall be saved from everlasting fire." (p. 140)

I have no doubt that these men and women would have chosen to return peaceably to their lives and families if granted freedom. However, when faced with death, they understood, with Paul, that "to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil. 1:21)." They had learned to "fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matt. 20:28)."

Immediately following these challenging verses in Matthew, Jesus continues on to say, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows (v. 29-31)

In conclusion, it is right and normal to want to live and to grieve when a loved one is called home. I hope to enjoy more years with my family and friends. It is an amazing life. However, we need not fear death. It is our gateway from the groaning and travailing of this life, to an even better life.

"My life will not be taken from me, but changed into a better one. Besides, it matters but little, how and in what manner this weak body is released and separated from the soul, only so that the soul be returned to God, its Creator." "



It was an exciting day as excavation began on April 13. The project has progressed smoothly despite the supply challenges and elevated costs the construction world has experienced this summer. The framing and mechanical trades are finished, and drywall should be complete by early July. So far, everything is staying on schedule for completion by mid to late August.

On the finance side, we have been abundantly blessed by the contributions of generous suppliers, contractors, and donors. Currently, expected project costs are fully funded. Thank you to all who have made it possible!!!



~Births~

David III & Beth (Zucconi) Bennett
~Angelina Anbrasi

Myron & Valonna (Miller) Eby
~Grant Raphael

Duane & Crissy (Beiler) Fisher
~Jeniya Raine

Charles IV & Cretora (Mast) Kline
~Hudson Jace

Jared & Charlene (Stoltzfoos) Miller
~Quinton Dean

First Term Course Schedule (There are still openings for men and ladies) September 18 - October 20, 2021

Spiritual Life - Elijah Yoder
The Life of Christ - Byron Wolfer
I, II Thessalonians - Larry Bergey
Local Church Evangelism - Elijah Yoder
Hymnology - Samuel Heatwole
Developing the Servant - Larry Bergey
Christian Family I - Clifford Schrock

Choir Ministry Tour ~ October 21-28



Congratulations, Graduates!

Kendra Kennell - Weston Hochstetler - Alex Coblentz - Valerie Miller



Set up a recurring contribution on the support page at [SMBI.org](https://www.smbi.org). Expand the impact of "small dollar donations." Every dollar counts!



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What Happens at SMBI During the Summer?

This is a frequent question for those of us that stay around campus during the summer months. It is definitely a change of pace, but a lot still happens and memories continue to be made. This summer 17 family and church groups are scheduled to use the facilities. They help to keep the hallways lively! Usually, the WATER program brings students back on campus for the last week in June. That was cancelled this year due to continued challenges with international travel. The first week in August brings more than 200 to campus for the annual Family Week. Amid all that is preparations for the beginning of the regular term schedule in mid-September. Your prayers and support are needed and appreciated all year round!