

## Calendar of Events

<b>W.A.T.E.R.</b> .....	June 22 - July 31
<b>Family &amp; Youth Week</b> .....	Aug. 3 - 7
<b>Staff Retreat</b> .....	Sept. 17 - 18
<b>First Term</b> .....	Sept. 19 - Oct. 29
Post-Term Opportunities.....	Oct. 19 - 29
Wrap-up.....	Oct. 29
<b>Second Term</b> .....	Nov. 2 - Dec. 10
Christian Nurture Conference .....	Nov. 13 - 15
Thanksgiving Vacation.....	Nov. 26 - 27
Choir Tour .....	Dec. 11 - 18

[www.sharonsingers.com](http://www.sharonsingers.com)

**New email address:**

## Family & Youth Week August 3 - 7, 2015

A Nurturing Family (Men & Women)  
 Backyard Treasures (Youth)  
 Becoming Spiritual Giants (Men)  
 Let There Be Praise! (Ladies)  
 The Beatitudes (All)  
 The Word Comes Alive (Youth)  
 Choir (Youth)  
 Character Training (ages 6-12)  
 Child Care (ages 5 & under)

~Instructors for the week ~  
 Eugene Sommers, Dana Atkinson, Glenn Weaver,  
 Joyce Weaver, Kenneth Martin & Elijah Yoder

Please contact the office if you would like a  
 brochure or go to our website [smbi.org](http://smbi.org).

Return Service Requested

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



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# the Monitor

## Living a Legacy

By: Clifford Schrock

In his letters and papers from prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “In marriage you are a link in the chain of generations that God, for the sake of [His] glory, allows to rise and fade away.” After attending two weddings recently and teaching on Christian Family Living for the past six weeks, this succession of generations and our place in it, has been in my thoughts. Frequently, when we think of legacy, we think of the end of life, of funerals, and of what is left behind. However, living a legacy is something that happens every day.

Recently, I saw a wall plaque which said, “Enjoy this moment, for this is your life.” Yes, living a legacy happens moment by moment. How quickly the moments become hours, the hours days, the days years, the years a lifetime, and the lifetime becomes a legacy. Each moment, each decision, each investment of our life is contributing piece by piece to the legacy of our lives.

This past year, SMBI has been privileged to be a part of the legacy of hundreds of individuals and families as they attended WATER, Family Week, First Term Enhanced, one of the six week terms, or Minister’s Week. Even those who have visited for a few hours or a few days or been here for a family reunion have added this place to their legacy. For some it has been a life-changing experience in their journey, for others perhaps of little significance. However, for all, the time here has contributed to the unchangeable story of their lives which is being written moment by moment.

As I ponder this, the time spent writing this article becomes part of my legacy and the time you spend reading it, becomes part of your legacy. What else am I doing with my legacy today? What is being contributed for better or for worse?

As Anabaptists, we “pride” ourselves on

our spiritual legacy. There are a lot of strong values in our heritage. However, I’ve worked with enough young people to know that beneath the surface, that legacy is not always as strong as it may appear. Someone says it this way, “A spiritual legacy is passing down to the next generation what matters most.”

In the day to day decisions and life of your family, what is being communicated about what matters most? As I’m writing this article and my three-year-old son comes in wanting some of my time, I have a decision to make about what matters. When I’m tired and I face the choice of some extra minutes of sleep or quiet time with God, I am building a legacy. When there’s a financial decision to be made, the choice will reflect what is really important. Today is your spiritual legacy, even if it is Monday or Tuesday.

This past term, in teaching on family life, we spent time thinking about the influences that shape our lives. Very high on the list is our family story. Again, as Anabaptists we tend to “pride” ourselves on our family values. We have a low divorce rate and high regard for biblical family structure. However, there is a significant breakdown of the legacy when the rest of the story is told. Unfortunately, there are far too many *Secret Shadows* lurking in our homes.

A covenant commitment in marriage is essential. However, it involves far more than a commitment to living in the same house. It is a commitment to oneness. Ultimately, marriage is a picture of Christ and the church and will heavily influence how we think about God and His relationship with us. What is the marriage legacy you have received? What legacy are you building?

In the big picture, the size of your estate or the positions you have held will be of little significance in your legacy.

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~Births~

Eldon & Delia (Morhart) Bear  
~Hailey Jo  
Peter & Brianna (Krabill) Byler  
~Zaiden Pierre  
Milton & Judy (Dueck) Dueck  
~Alissa Meshawn  
David & Kristin (Mast) Gingerich  
~Keagan Jay

Tyler & Heather (Riehl) Hochstetler  
~Brittan Raine  
Charley & Lena (Bergen) Kornelson  
~Lisenia Carlene  
Jesse & Krista (Hollinger) Kropf  
~Zander Daniel  
Samuel & Sarah (Richey) Near  
~Shiloh Frederick  
~Josiah & Andrew (by adoption)  
Nathan & Evelyn (Hostetter) Nissley  
Camden Luke

Kyle & Marlene (Schrock) Stoltzfus  
~Devin Joseph  
Kevin & Krista (Riehl) Yoder  
~Asher Kent  
Steven & Jenna (Krabill) Yoder  
~Burkley Daniel  
Tim & Janelle (Hochstetler) Zook  
~Logan Reece

New Look:

In 1977, the Green Hill School became SMBI. A trademark of the building was the large pillars guarding the front entrance. In honor to the local community, those pillars were added to the front of the building during the expansion in the late 90's. Many will remember those pillars supporting a tiny roof at the front of the building. However, the aesthetics were never satisfactory and it was recently replaced with a larger porch incorporating a smaller version of the original pillars. We anticipate it will be frequented by students and will become a favorite spot for family portraits during the many family reunions held here during the summer. Thank you to all who helped make this project possible.



Upcoming Project:

While details are still in development and will be announced in the July-September Monitor, we plan to construct additional faculty housing later this year. If you wish to contribute to funding for this project, please add a memo to your contribution marked "building fund." If you are interested in assisting with materials or labor please contact the office.

~Weddings~

Stephen Harms & Susie Penner ~ 1.25.15  
Wendell Good & Maria Bowman ~ 2.21.15

Cody Stolz & Lorenda Kropf ~ 3.21.15  
Giovanni Spagnolo & Megan Mong ~ 3.25.15  
Paul Bear & Rhonda Hostetler ~ 4.18.15  
Anthony Nisly & Melissa Troyer ~ 4.18.15  
Kendall Good & Bethany Troyer ~ 5.9.15  
Andy Bontrager & Jolene Schwartz ~ 5.15.15

Benjamin and Ann Good moved to SMBI in the fall of 2012 and joined the staff team as instructor, choir director and assistant administrator. We have been blessed with their ministry. However, Benjamin is stepping down from the assistant administrator position to focus more attention on his teaching and music responsibilities and allow more time for his family.

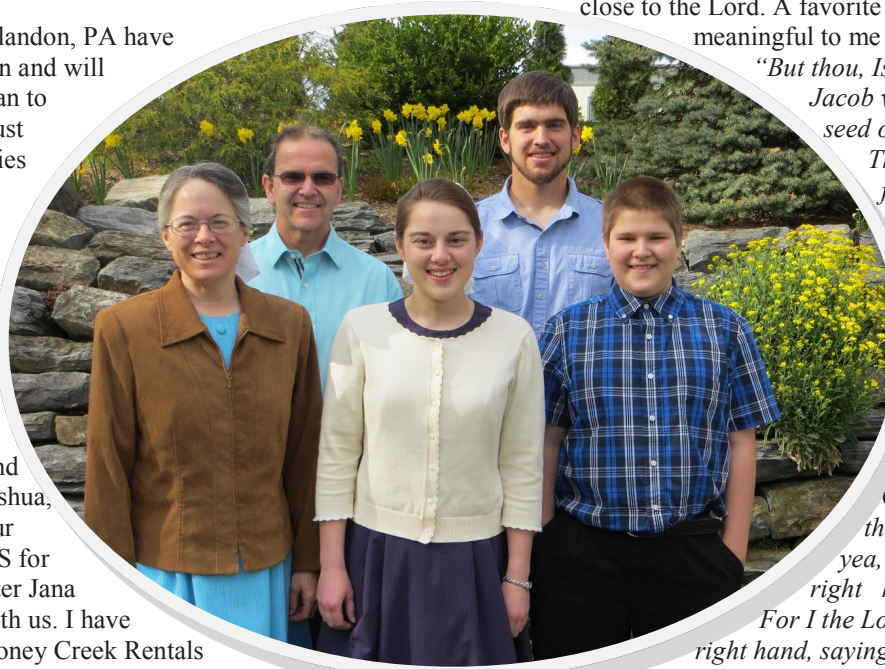
Byron and Doris Wolfer of Blandon, PA have accepted a full-time faculty position and will assist with administration. They plan to move to the SMBI campus in August 2015 and will assume responsibilities with First term Enhanced in Sept. Byron writes the following about their life journey.

"I first arrived at SMBI from Oregon in October of 1987 as a student for two terms. There I met Doris Gehman from Pennsylvania, whom I later married. My wife and I have now been married for nearly 26 years and have 4 children. Our oldest son, Joshua, is married and lives in Virginia. Our second son, Josiah, is going into VS for a year at Bradford, PA. Our daughter Jana and son Judson are still at home with us. I have been employed as a salesman at Stoney Creek Rentals for the past seven years and had my own painting business for eighteen years prior to that. My wife has home schooled all of our children, three of whom have graduated.

After a couple years of marriage we began attending Blandon Mennonite Fellowship. In 1994, I was ordained as a preaching deacon at Blandon, an office I held for over thirteen years. For the past eight and one half years I have served as pastor. I enjoy trying to make Bible teaching practical to everyday life and encouraging people to walk close to the Lord. A favorite passage that has been meaningful to me since ordination is,

*"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:8-10,13*

My family and I look forward to serving God at SMBI and covet your prayers as we follow God on this new path of life to which He has called us."



There are still openings for Men and Ladies for First Term Enhanced, Second and Fifth Terms.

~First Term Enhanced is a 4 week term with a 10 day hands on opportunity after term for Urban Ministry, Music Ministry or Wilderness Development.~

Staff Update:

With the beginning of fifth term, Carolyn Fisher of Kinzers, PA began her responsibilities as SMBI secretary. She has attended SMBI as a student and served in the kitchen as assistant cook. She has served as an EMT with her local ambulance service, and is a member at Gap View Mennonite Church.

She is accepting the position since Bethany Troyer left after fourth term and was married to Kendall Good on May 9.

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As someone has said, "The only truly significant thing in life is investing in the lives of other people." Yes, the only enduring legacy will be the people you have touched. Only they are eternal.

In conclusion, James Sire says in his book, *Universe Next Door*, "So long as we live, we will live either the examined or the unexamined life." Have you examined your legacy recently? Perhaps part of your legacy needs to include gratitude and recognition of God's grace in your life. Maybe part of your legacy needs to include repentance and change. We cannot rewrite a legacy, but we can redirect it. As Albert Mohler once said, "If you live your life knowing that you are an ancestor, that will change the way you make your decisions, the way you live your life." Live your legacy today.

<sup>1</sup>Secret Shadow is one family's story written by Loreen Plett and published by Christian Light Publications.

