History to intrude on politics in new October event

Dirty election-year politics will be the topic of conversation at recently-announced event at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship, October 8, 7:00 pm.

David L. Holmes, professor emeritus at the College of William and Mary, will put this year's election in perspective with a review of the United States' presidential election of 1800, where Federalist incumbent John Adams took on a Democratic-Republican challenger—his own vice-president, Thomas Jefferson.

The two parties were passionately divided by ideology and personality. Federalists attacked Jefferson as un-Christian and carelessly populist; Republicans opposed moves toward a strong centralized government, including expansion of the army and navy.

The Federalist party was split between the leadership of John Adams and Alexander Hamilton, and the Democratic-Republican party swept the election. But, because of a tie in the electoral vote count, it fell to the outgoing Federalist congress to decide which of two Republican candidates would be president and which would be vice-president.

Homes, a religious studies scholar and author of *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers*, will discuss the role religion played in that contested election. His points will be underscored by a rare political poster acquired last year by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, on display for the first time.

“The Menonists, the Tunkers, the Quakers & others conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, will perhaps … ‘BE DEPRIVED OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP, EVEN TO THE THIRD OR FOURTH GENERATION,”’ if the country elects Jefferson, the poster reads.

John L. Kraft, a local historian and former director of the Ephrata Cloister, will introduce the document, known as a broadside.

“It shows that religion—or the lack thereof—was used as a political card to persuade people, much like today’s rhetoric,” Kraft said.

Landis Valley Christian Fellowship is located at 2420 Kissel Hill Road, Lancaster. The event is free and open to the public.

Archives as ministry?

by Colleen McFarland

Twenty years ago, when I was eagerly anticipating my graduation from the College of Wooster with a shiny new bachelor of arts in German and history, I could not have imagined myself as an archivist of the Mennonite Church. I would have laughed heartily at the prospect of having any calling or ministry, and I probably would have told you it was more likely that I would have a career in the NFL.

After several years of graduate study, I settled for a career in librarianship. I decided to become an archivist only after I began paying close attention to what I loved about my work as a reference librarian. I delighted in helping library users find primary sources—the first-hand accounts of historical events or phenomena that are the backbone of the study of history. And the kind of primary source I enjoyed the most were people's stories from the past—the diary of a gold rush bride, the life narrative of a Herrero herdsman as told to a missionary, an oral history interview with a Hispanic migrant worker in California, the correspondence of a French soldier to his sweetheart during World War I.

Visiting people from the past through historical documents is like visiting people from the present who inhabit another country or culture. We may choose to close ourselves to them because they are not like us or condemn them for not being like us. Or we may seek to understand the source of our difference, cultivate compassion and love for them in spite of that difference, and welcome them into fellowship with us.

I love enabling present-day researchers to welcome strangers from (Continued on page 4)
Upcoming Lancaster Roots events

Lancaster County cultural events organized by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) and the 1719 Hans Herr House. All events meet at LMHS unless otherwise specified. For a complete list, go to www.LancasterRoots.org.

**Saturday, October 6, 10 AM–3 PM**
**Snitz Fest**
Celebrate autumn at Lancaster County’s popular festival of Pennsylvania German food, crafts and farm life. 1719 Hans Herr House. $

**Monday, October 8, 7 PM**
**The Election of 1800**
Take a look at politics two hundred years ago with David L. Holmes, author of *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers*, at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship. (See page 1.)

**Saturday, October 13, 9 AM–2 PM**
**Auction of Rare and Used Books**
A special auction of the Dr. Robert Hess collection at Fivepointville Fire Hall, 1087 Dry Tavern Road, Denver, Pa. Please note new date, time and location. (See page 3.)

**Monday, November 12, 7 PM**
**Christianity and the Native-American Religious Experience**
Consider America’s past and present with author and Brown University professor Linford Fisher at Landisville Mennonite Church. (See page 3.)

**Tuesdays–Saturdays, November 17–December 29, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM**
**Pennsylvania German Folk Art Sale**
Buy handmade work by over two dozen local artists at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s Book and Museum Store. Opening reception: Friday, November 16, 6-8:30 PM.

**Friday, November 30, 7 AM–8 PM**
**Field Trip: Christmas in Bethlehem**
Take in more of Pennsylvania’s historic “Christmas city” through food, shopping and the arts: sculpture, film, theater, and the famous Christkindlmarkt.

**Saturday, December 1, 8 AM–8 PM**
**Field Trip: Winterthur and Longwood Gardens**
Beautiful decorations can be a wonderful expression of the joy, and excitement we experience at Christmastime.

**Thurs & Fri, December 6 & 7, 6–8 PM**
**Christmas Candlelight Tours**
Ring in the holidays with music, stories and treats at the oldest home in Lancaster, the 1719 Hans Herr House. Reserve tickets by calling (717) 464-4438.

**Friday, December 14, 6:30–8:30 PM**
**Auction of Rare and Used Books**
Dennis Stephan’s exceptional reproduction fraktur and Zettlemoyer Pottery’s brightly glazed redware ornaments illustrate the range of unique handmade gifts featured at this year’s Pennsylvania German Folk Art Sale. Opening reception is Friday, November 16, from 6:30–8:30 PM.

**FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION FORM**

- Christmas in Bethlehem $118 members; $128 nonmembers
- Winterthur and Longwood Gardens $90 members; $100 nonmembers

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Grad of Lancaster Bible College, Harvard to introduce new book

Linford Fisher, assistant professor at Brown University and the author of a new book on American religious history, will speak on “Christianity and the Native American Religious Experience” at Landisville Mennonite Church, Monday, November 12, at 7:00 PM.

Fisher graduated from Lancaster Bible College in 1999. He received masters degrees in religion and church history from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2002 and completed his doctorate in American religious history at Harvard in 2008. The topic of his dissertation—how the 18th-century religious “awakening” in New England impacted Native Americans—is also the theme of his first book, The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America.

Religious change is more ambiguous than the idea that “religious conversion” conveys, Fisher writes. “This is particularly the case in colonial contexts, or in situations where missionaries offer a competing set of religious beliefs and practices as part of an imposing, conquering presence.”

The Indian Great Awakening highlights the variety of responses to Indian encounters with European religion and culture in New England as they played out over decades, he said.

“Christianity and the Native American Religious Experience” is the final event in an annual series of presentations organized by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. The Society seeks to understand Native American history as a critical part of both the Mennonite and the Lancaster County story, director Rolando Santiago said.

It has been difficult for contemporary Americans to recognize Native presence and activity in our history as a country, Fisher writes. But in the 18th century, “questions about Native presence, land rights, sovereignty and religious practice” were impossible to forget; they “embroiled entire towns.”

In retelling these stories from our shared history, he hopes to spark conversation about why the stories were forgotten in the first place.

In addition to his address at Landisville Mennonite Church, Fisher will appear at three receptions to sign his new book: Friday, November 9, 6:30 PM, at Community Mennonite Church, Lancaster; Saturday, November 10, 2012, 2:30 PM, at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster; and Monday, November 12, 2012, 2:00 PM, at Westview Community Room, Landis Homes, Lititz.

Landisville Mennonite Church is located at 3320 Bowman Road in Landisville, Pennsylvania. The Historical Society is located at 2215 Millstream Road, just off Lincoln Highway East. The Society’s book and museum store sells The Indian Great Awakening for $34.95. Visit lmhs.org, call (717) 393-9745, or e-mail shop@lmhs.org for details.

Doctor’s books favor rare magazines, history, theology

When local family physician Dr. Robert B. Hess passed away on July 14 this year, he left behind a trove of old and rare books on topics ranging from nature to Mennonite history to the Civil War.

On Saturday, October 13, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM, much of Dr. Hess’s prized collection will be sold in a book auction at the Fivepointville Fire Company, 1087 Dry Tavern Road, Denver, Pa.

The sale will include dozens of first editions and copies autographed by authors, including Mennonite and church literature and theology from C.S. Lewis, Harold Bender, Guy Hershberger, Orie Miller, and John Howard Yoder. A first edition of Amos B. Hoover’s The Jonas Martin Era is one of only 650 copies in print.

A mosaic of publications on local history includes a rare 1875 atlas map of Lancaster County by Everts and Stewart and hundreds of agricultural almanacs printed in Reading and Lancaster as early as 1839. Local family and church histories are also available in good condition.

National Geographic magazines from the early 1900s will be sold in complete sets, with some runs stretching over two decades. These and other iconic twentieth-century periodicals—The Guardian, The London Illustrated News, The Saturday Evening Post—often include advertisements coveted by collectors.

Robert Buckwalter Hess (1923-2012) of Terre Hill, Pennsylvania, delivered over 14,000 babies in his career as a doctor from 1950 to 2007. When he wasn’t practicing, Dr. Hess often had a book in his hands.

A free catalog is available at www.lmhs.org. Printed catalogs may be purchased for $8.00 ($4.00 for Society members) by writing to usedbooks@lmhs.org or calling (717) 393-9745.
the past into their minds and their hearts—facilitating radical hospitality. I love it when researchers laugh with, cry for, or express outrage on behalf of the stranger they are studying. I know something amazing has occurred when a student researcher simply cannot stop reading old letters or diaries—despite the difficult handwriting and funny spellings—because they have to know how things turn out in the end.

And that’s only half of it! I also love bringing new life to the dead. I love honoring them simply for having lived and gone through all that living entails. I love the exposure of the silent (or sometimes not so silent) injustices they experienced and committed, and I love holding the hope that they know the belated work of reconciliation has begun.

The beautiful, complicated, and messy place where this important work happens—where the living and the departed comingle, where the Communion of Saints is almost palpable—is the archives. And I, the archivist, am like the boy in the miracle of the loaves and fishes as told in the Gospel of John—the boy who brings forward the five loaves and two fish to feed the crowd. I offer up the historical record, inadequate though it is, and I witness the miracle of Christian community formed across time.

So, what exactly is an archives? I get that question a lot. An archives is a library of unpublished documents. It may hold the noncurrent records of an organization, institution, or corporation, such as meeting minutes and annual reports. It may hold manuscripts donated by private individuals and families, including diaries, letters, and scrapbooks. We collect nontextual documents: films, photographs, and oral history interviews. We are trying to figure out how to collect blogs, “born digital” documents, and e-mail.

And we provide access to nearly everything we collect. The openness of archives has been critically important to Mennonite history. Many of the accounts of Anabaptist martyrdom told in the Martyrs Mirror had been forgotten until Van Braght’s research in the city archives of Amsterdam and Dordrecht gave them new life.

It was not a Mennonite archives that preserved these stories, but a government archives. As a denominational archivist, it is interesting to me that Christian churches, as institutions that show reverence and respect for tradition, often engage very superficially with their own history—as if tradition and history were two completely unrelated things.

The ancient Greek word for tradition, paradois, literally means “handed over.” Not “handed down”—which, to me, suggests the passive reception of something more for show than for use—but “handed over,” suggesting a more active relationship with what is received, and an imperative to use it to our best purpose.

When Mennonites share in communion a few times a year rather than every week, we see tradition at work. But do we understand the tradition? Do we know why it evolved? Are we aware that it has been handed over to us, for us to use as it serves us in Christian mission? Or does it just make us feel good? Does it display our pride in what makes us different from other Christians? Does it fulfill our nostalgia for the church of the 1950s—the church we attended because our parents and neighbors did? Does it help us feel secure and allow us to retreat into something safe and unchanging in a world of constant risk and change?

Religious archives provide us with clues for answering such questions. Come visit me in the archives, and I will, quite literally, hand a box of history over to you. And you will be invited to grapple with a past not your own, but one that is resplendent with the trials and tribulations, joys and sufferings of another who endeavored to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Christian tradition of living a life informed by the Gospel is the most important tradition we have. That is a tradition that truly spans all times, places, genders, and ages. That is a tradition not simply to be revered, but to be taken up and incorporated into our lives as we seek to become faithful disciples.

Colleen McFarland is archivist for Mennonite Church USA.
Bookworm Frolic posts best earnings ever

The 2012 Bookworm Frolic was the highest-grossing sale in its 32-year history, Historical Society bookkeeper Dorothy Siegrist reported last month. The August sale took in $49,261, up more than $5,500 from last year and $3,500 more than its previous record, in 2010.

The large annual used-book sale is the Society’s biggest single fundraiser. Proceeds go toward operating expenses, which include salaries, utilities, equipment and maintenance.

“Operating funds aren’t glamorous, but they are essential for everything we do—from preserving church records to researching family histories to organizing community events,” said director Rolando Santiago.

The Society has seen a steady decline in contributions from church congregations over the past decades, which has put increasing pressure on individual donors and special events like the Frolic.

“Although this sale made the most money, we also spent more money to get there,” Siegrist said.

The Society took out ads in Lancaster and other community newspapers, purchased new signs for Route 30 and set up a large food tent.

A survey taken throughout the sale revealed that half of the shoppers were attending for the first time, and that nearly a third had learned about it from advertising.

“Volunteers and donations are what keep this sale profitable,” said Justin King, who called hundreds of volunteers to help with this year’s Frolic.

Ideally, Santiago said, an independent volunteer organization would plan and run the sale on the Society’s behalf, allowing staff to keep working on historical projects.

As it is, staff member David Sauder personally handles many of the 40,000 books himself, whether carrying them from donors’ cars, storing them in the Society’s basement, or helping the volunteers who sort them into categories.

Sauder receives books and coordinates book sortings all year, and a paid intern begins calling volunteers and handling publicity beginning in May. During the week of the sale, all staff is involved.

“The more volunteers we have, the easier it is,” Sauder said. “This year, Neffsville, Landisville, Pilgrims and East Petersburg Mennonite congregations all sent volunteers, and that was a tremendous help.”
Director’s Reflection: Teach the children well

By Rolando Santiago

We dream that our children will grow to love God and others with all their heart, mind, and soul. Each of us aspires to become disciples of Jesus who contribute to healthy families, nurturing churches, and just societal institutions. Growing into God’s image is often part of discerning our lifelong vocation.

So, how do we achieve these high-reaching goals? Certainly, it takes God’s grace. But we also must have a desire to learn and to teach what we have learned.

Moses spoke to the Israelites the words of the Lord: Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deut. 11:18-19).

In his 1981 book, Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning, psychologist-theologian James W. Fowler proposed that people develop their faith through seven stages, from childhood to adulthood. Through these stages, they move toward an ultimate environment of meaning in which inclusiveness, justice and love are some of the highest values one can reach.

Sara Wenger Shenk, president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, argued in her 2003 book, Anabaptist Ways of Knowing: A Conversation About Tradition-based Critical Education, that there are particular narratives and practices that provide identity and meaning to a community. She believes that in the Mennonite community, education occurs through stories and experiences that emphasize Christian discipleship and an understanding of the church as a tradition-based, prophetic community ready to transform the culture around it.

If we heed the admonition of a well-known song to “teach your children well” and to “teach your parents well,” church congregations, conferences and educational institutions must join to plan and implement an educational program that helps us grow as healthy communities, families and people of faith throughout our lives.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is an organization that literally “keeps the faith” in the form of stories, documents and artifacts of church history. As such, it is an invaluable resource for teaching faith to each generation of believers.

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