

\*\*\*\*\* Last Week’s Stats \*\*\*\*\*

Attendance	Offering	
One Service – 136	General Offering	\$ 4,765.00
	Bldg. Fund	160.00
	Deacon’s Fund	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	Total	\$ 5,925.00

\*\*\*\*\* Volunteer Schedule \*\*\*\*\*

Greeters:	Today	Anna Nolt
	Next Week	Ed Griffin
Nursery:	Today	Donna Benner
Ushers:	Today	Grace Ingalls
	Next Week	Jim & Ruth Delp

Closing church building in Aug. Alan & Tara Gilmore

\*\*\*\*\* Youth and Adult Sunday School Class locations and topics \*\*\*\*\*

**Youth Class** meets in basement of the house next door to discuss various topics.  
**Young Adult Class** meets in first classroom on the left in the basement. For the summer they will discuss content & theology of various forms of media.  
**Men’s Class** - middle room on right in the basement. “Call Sealed with Promise”  
**Women’s Class** – Book study of I & II Timothy in secretary’s office behind stage.  
**Mixed Adult Class** meets in the sanctuary to study “What’s So Amazing About Grace?” Discussion is led by Alan Kratz and Rich Longacre.  
**Prayer Room** – upstairs at rear of sanctuary for sharing prayer needs, etc.

\*\*\*\*\* Announcements\*\*\*\*\*

**Camp Men-O-Lan’s** Senior Citizens Meeting will be held Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 1 pm. James Hite, the program director, will be sharing the great things the Lord did this summer and leading a few worship songs. Menu includes roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, salad, and rolls. Dessert, coffee and tea will follow. RSVP to Lauren Detweiler, 215-679-5144 by Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\* Prayer Requests \*\*\*\*\*

Pray for the Elder Team, Pastor Bob, Ministry Directors, John and Bev Ehst.

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# Finland Mennonite Church

*Looking up, Moving forward, Reaching out*  
[www.finlandmennonitechurch.org](http://www.finlandmennonitechurch.org)  
Pastor Robert Nolt  
Pastor’s email: [bjehst@gmail.com](mailto:bjehst@gmail.com)  
Pastor John’s office hours: Tues. 9-4, Wed. 12-6 pm, Thurs. & Fri. 9-4  
Church office - 215-679-8980  
Church email: [finlandmennonitechurch@comcast.net](mailto:finlandmennonitechurch@comcast.net)  
Elders – Alan Kratz 215-679-3311, Stacey Kolb 215-541-0392, Greg Ingram 215-529-9852,  
Visitation & Care Team - Marvin & Rachel Reinford 215-679-8598 Mary Carlson 215-538-5422

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*August 30, 2009*

*No. 35*

Pre-service Prayer Meeting 8:40 – 8:50 am  
One Worship Service only at 9:00 am  
**No Sunday School Today**  
**Nursery facilities are available during the worship service.**

**Worship in Song** - *If you need to sit down during the singing, please feel free to do so.*  
**A Ministry Moment** *Rose Longacre – Witness Director*  
**Scripture Reading** *Philippians 3:10-16*  
**Message – “Pressing On”** *Pastor Bob*  
**Litany of Farewell** *Led by Alan Kratz*  
**Offering** *Worship Team – Offertory*  
*(Please pass the attendance pads located under the seat by the center aisle.)*  
**Sharing Time** *Alan Kratz – Elder in charge*

**Closing Blessing**  
**Doxology – #638 “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”**  
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**Please note:** Today and next Sunday there will be no Sunday school classes or Kids Kinection because so many of our families are away. Both will resume again on **September 13<sup>th</sup>**, when we will also go back to two services. First service is 8:30 am, Sunday school from 9:45 to 10:30, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the basement prior to the second service at 11:00 am.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** a new Sunday school class will begin in the sanctuary as a “Sermon Response” class for those who attended the first service and will double as an “Introduction to the sermon” for those who will be attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. The adults who want to continue the “What’s So Amazing About Grace” series will meet in the garage next door.

To Our Guests:

We welcome you to our fellowship. We would like to get to know you better. Please tell us about yourself by filling out the form below and placing it in the offering basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am attending for the first time.
- ☐ I would like information about your church.
- ☐ I would like a call from the Pastor.

How can we minister to you?

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## *This Week at Finland*

**Tuesday, 7:00 pm** – Ministry Council & Elder Team meeting

**Tuesday, 7:15 pm** – Jeff's worship team practice

**Wednesday, 7:15 pm** – Youth hang-out

**Friday, 7:30 pm** – Tim Moyer's small group

### **Announcements**

**Today is the last Sunday** Pastor Bob and Anna will be with us. Our lives have been enriched and changed because they came and were part of us. "Thank you, Pastor Bob and Anna, for everything you've done for us here at Finland over the past 2 and a half years."

**John Ehst** will begin his pastoral role here at Finland this Tuesday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. His office hours are listed in the heading inside the bulletin. Mondays will be his day off. His sermon title for next Sunday is ***The Living Christ Says "Come"***, and is taken from Matthew 14:21-33.

**Thanks to everyone** who helped make our Chicken BBQ a success. To those who baked cookies, served, or helped set up and clean up, a big Thank You. We couldn't have done it without your help or without the support of all of you who came to eat. The total that was raised for the Building Fund was \$1,740.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Because of the Labor Day holiday, please note the change in date to Monday & Tuesday, September 14 & 15.

**"A tisket a tasket, a green and yellow basket"** – You're invited to our church picnic on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 2:00 pm. This year we're all about baskets. Good food, fun "basket" games and fellowship. You won't want to miss it! Finland families, we need your help. Empty baskets are placed around the sanctuary. If you or your family would care to fill one with new or gently used items as prizes for basket bingo, please take it and return the filled basket to church by next Sunday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Instructions are attached to the basket. If you have any questions, contact Jan Bannon at 215-538-2035.

**Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 pm**, there will be a congregational meeting to discuss information regarding our building project and the new facilities.

**Reminder:** The Finland Book Club will meet again on September 23, 7:30 pm. The book to read and discuss is **Unlikely Angel** by Ashley Smith. The book chosen for the month of October is **My Sister's Keeper** by Jodi Picoult.

**Our Daily Bread** devotional books for Sept, Oct, Nov, are under the mailboxes, as well as a few copies of the **MAMA** newsletter. Please help yourself.

**August 30, 2009 insert**

There is lots of news on the bulletin board. Newsletters from **Morning Star Ministries**, **Child Evangelism Fellowship**, **The Connection ("We Care" prison ministry)**, **Our Story (David & Debbie Landis' 10 years with "We Care")**, and events at Karen's Place coffee shop. Also see posters for the following three events that require an RSVP: **Habitat for Humanity celebration at Emerald Hollow Estates in Trumbauersville on September 26**, **The Bowery Mission appreciation banquet on Friday, Oct. 16**, and **Liberty Ministries fundraising banquet on Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>**. **Montgomery County Community College is offering classes on Hebrew, Latin, and English as a second language as well as a PR workshop.**

**The Mennonite Conference Center** in Souderton needs a volunteer with carpentry skills before September 25<sup>th</sup> to take apart book shelves that are permanently fixed onto walls, floors, or other shelves. These shelves need to be moveable and portable. If interested, please call 215-723-5513 ext. 110.

**MDS Update: Current needs:** Two RV couples/singles are needed for the Green Valley Lake project immediately until September 30. For October, New Orleans, LA needs an office manager and assistant cook. Dulzura, CA needs crew leaders. Long-term volunteers are needed for the fall bi-national projects in the Gulf and California. We are in need of office managers, cooks, construction managers and crew leaders. For more information, please contact the Akron office at (717) 859-2210 or (800) 241-8111. **Jerry Grosh, Director of Field Operations, tallied up the MDS year to date:** There were 6 projects in the Gulf, five in Texas, two in California, two in Alaska, and one in Oklahoma. There was a month of clean up from the ice storms in Kentucky, another month in Kentucky and West Virginia from floods, and clean up from a tornado in Arkansas. A house was built at the MC USA convention in Columbus, Ohio and sent to the Gulf. The Partnership Home program completed two homes and eight more are in process. This is not an exhaustive list, and there are still 4 months to go. Thank you for enabling this to happen. May God be praised!

# Litany of Farewell

**Alan:** A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Pastor Bob's time as our interim pastor has come to an end and so today we say farewell to Pastor Bob and Anna.

**Pastor Bob:** Today I thank the Finland Mennonite Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown to me these past 29 months. I ask for your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations unmet. I am grateful to God that so many here have accepted my leadership. With deep joy I recall the many things that we have been able to accomplish together and with sadness I remember the things not accomplished. As I leave I carry with me many good memories of experiences we have shared together.

**People:** We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures and our heartfelt thanks for all accomplishments in our renewed mission and ministry. We now acknowledge your departure from this congregational ministry and accept that you now leave as our interim pastor. We express our gratitude for your time among us and ask for your forgiveness for our shortcomings....and sometimes our flagging faith.

**Pastor Bob:** I forgive you for your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together, and our parting, is pleasing to our forgiving God and to the Christ we are called to serve.

**Alan:** Do you, the members and friends of the Finland Mennonite Church, now release Pastor Bob from the duties of interim pastor? Do you offer your support and encouragement to Pastor Bob in the next step in his journey?

**People:** We do with God's help.

**Alan:** Do you, Pastor Bob, release Finland Mennonite Church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Pastor Bob:** I do with God's help. *(Ritual of turning in the keys)*

**Alan:** Let us pray together:

**All:** O God, whose love for us all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time when we were together here saw our laughter, our tears, our hopes, and disappointments. Guide us as we hold close these cherished memories, but now move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Alan:** Go now, Pastor Bob, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen