

House of Yoder News (October 2002)

The Year in Review

It has been a year since our last newsletter was sent to you. Significant progress has been made since that time towards the final construction on the Yoder House including the installation of the thermal heating system, the laying of stone walls in the root cellar, the construction of an outside ramp to make the house handicap accessible, the finishing of the interior walls on the upper two levels, and the completion of the rough electrical wiring. A stone has also been placed by the front of the house with an inscription introducing the purpose and progress of the house. The Yoder House was also open July 12-14 during the Annual Summer Festival in Grantsville. On Sunday July 14, a worship service was held in the Yoder House fashioned after Home Church as practiced during 1750-1800s. 35 people attended the service representing seven denominations.

Come to the 7th Annual Meeting-Saturday, November 9

The 7th annual meeting of the House of Yoder will be held in the Yoder House (a first for us) on the grounds of Spruce Forest Artisan Village/Penn Alps on Saturday, November 9 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Our **guest speaker** will be **Elmer S. Yoder** from Hartville, Ohio. Elmer is a son of Simon, a son of Lewis, a son of Solomon D. Yoder. He was born near Salisbury, PA., moved as a child with his parents to Kempsville, near Norfolk, VA. He married Esther Yoder of Hartville, Ohio. They are the parents of three children and are also grandparents. Elmer earned his bachelors and masters degrees at Kent State University in Ohio. He taught in both elementary and high schools for a period of 32 years. Elmer is an ordained minister in the Conservative Mennonite Conference. He has served as pastor, past editor of their official publications, and currently is the Conference Historian. He has written a number of books on church and family histories. The title of his talk at our meeting is: "**Views from my tree house within the family tree.**" The annual meeting will also include reports and the annual election. Following the meeting at noon a **catered meal served by the Maple Glen Mennonite Church** will be available at a cost of \$6 per person. The menu will include: Yoder ham sandwiches and chicken salad sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, cheese platter, ice cream, and hot and cold beverages. To top the meal off, blueberry cobbler will be prepared over the open fire in the Yoder House and served to those who are present and purchase the meal. Please come and join us for this annual time of fellowship and support for the Yoder House.

Help Complete the Construction of the Yoder House

The push to finish the house over the past year has left our treasury depleted. We have had to borrow significant funds (just over \$14,000) to push forward with the completion of the house. Therefore, we invite your financial support for the Yoder House at this time. We have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience to send your contribution or renew your membership. If everyone on this mailing list sent in just \$50, that would raise over half the money needed to repay our loans. We are hoping that many of you will be able to contribute even larger amounts as we work towards finishing construction over the next year. We look forward to your contribution (tax deductible) to preserve and pass on our rich Yoder family heritage. And thank you for your kind support since 1993 when we began this family history project.