

mPress

God's Table Y'all Come – Luke 13:29

inside 67°F

isolated thunderstorms

83°F/71°F

Issue 3

News of the Mennonite Church USA – Atlanta 2003

Sunday, July 6, 2003

Inside

T-bonding

Youth groups come to convention dressed to match, p. 4

"A"-Free for all

Everyone loves giveaways in A-Junction, p. 5

Little hands, big fun

Kids come to God's Table, p. 7

mPress on the net

The daily newspaper for Atlanta 2003 also has an online counterpart, launched Friday. Records indicate that mPress online was viewed approximately 310 times on Saturday.

Web surfers have accessed mPress from countries such as Canada, Germany, China, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan and the Dominican Republic. View mPress at www.goshen.edu/mpress.

—Sarah Phend

Prayer

Tom Price

Mennonite Mission Network

A quick train ride away from the controlled environment of the Georgia World Congress Center, beyond the commercial sites, lay paths where one can trace the footsteps of living history.

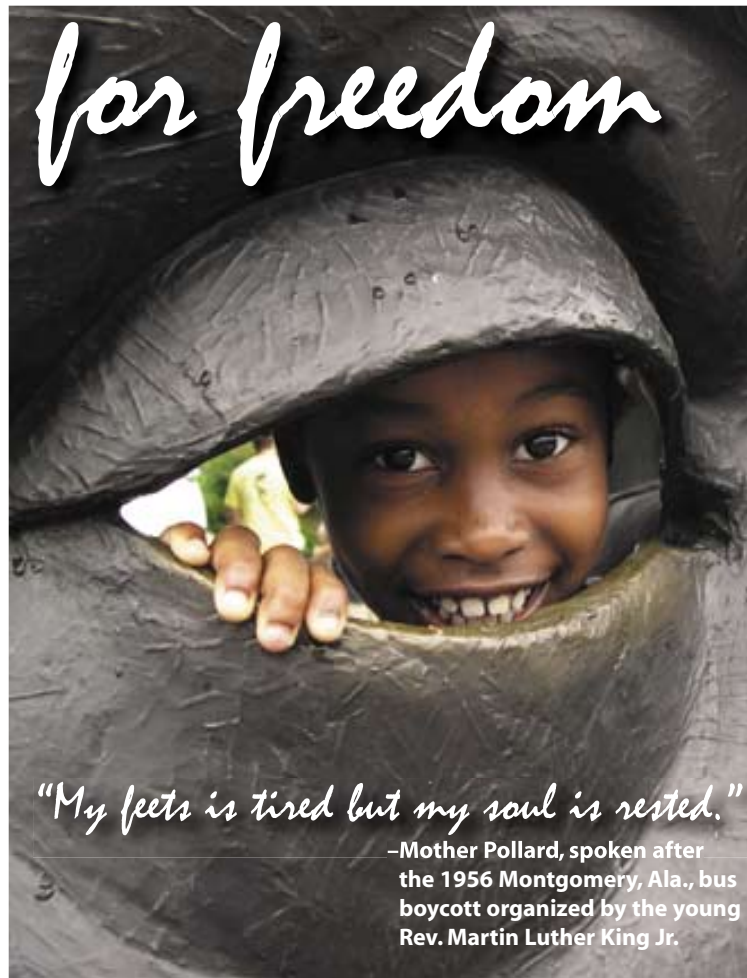
In groups of 40 to 50, Mennonites are emerging from the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority station, in the "Sweet Auburn" neighborhood, the heart of Atlanta's black community in the 1950s and '60s.

"We invite you to be a part of this tour not only as an opportunity for learning history, but as a people of prayer," Regina Shands Stoltzfus, an organizer of the daily walks, told several groups yesterday. "Imagine you're walking as part of your walk with God."

Indeed, the journey is more than simply a pilgrimage into 20th century history. Signs are evident to even the most casual witness that Martin Luther King's dream has not been fully realized.

Five men sleep along Auburn Avenue beneath the I-75/85 overpass. Two more rest at the front door of a church, seeking protection from the drizzle. A woman asks for money for food. A homeless man sells newspapers as his livelihood. A garish billboard screams, "We buy ugly houses."

Still, participants come away with an awesome sense of having



"My feet is tired but my soul is rested."

—Mother Pollard, spoken after the 1956 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott organized by the young Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Photo by Sarah Shirk

Dobbs Plaza: A girl peers through the eyes of the John Wesley Dobbs statue at a stop on the prayer walk. Dobbs, who nurtured black political power in Atlanta, increased registered black voters from 600 to over 20,000 in the course of 10 years.

been among a great cloud of witnesses. They walk among the stone streets that gave birth to such institutions as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

They get further insight into local institutions such as Georgia State University (one of the most integrated in the South), Grady Hospital (once a segregated

hospital serving only blacks) and the Silver Moon Barber shop (the city's oldest black-owned business).

They walk in the landmark Ebenezer Baptist Church, now part of a King national historic site, see King's birth site and resting place, and learn of a thriving ongoing church — one of many with vital

See *Freedom*, p. 3

Abortion statement passed

Robert Rhodes

Mennonite Weekly Review

Mennonite Church USA delegates voted by a broad majority yesterday to approve a statement on abortion, affirming the sacredness of life and calling on the church to act with compassion on the issue.

With 847 ballots cast, 687 delegates voted for the statement, 160 voted against and 13 abstained. The statement, which required a two-thirds majority to carry, passed with 81 percent approval.

"I'm glad that it passed," the Mennonite Church USA moderator, Ervin Stutzman, said after the final tally. Though the statement generated substantial discussion in the minutes before the final vote, Stutzman said he believes more delegates will come to a clearer understanding of the statement as they discuss it in their table groups in coming days.

The afternoon delegate session

concluded before the ballot results were announced. During the morning session, the assembly's resolutions committee presented a proposal to amend the statement. The amendment would have deleted language discouraging the pursuit of anti-abortion legislation.

Sharon Waltner of the resolutions committee said the amendment had been called for by several delegates. Because the committee felt the deletion would not substantially change the intent of the statement, it was brought to the entire assembly.

Leah Ann Alcazar, who worked on the statement as part of a committee appointed by the church's Constituency Leadership Council, said the committee knew it would be impossible to draft an abortion statement satisfactory to all. Instead, they focused on remaining consistent with Anabaptist values. She said there

See *Abortion*, p. 2

Top Ten

Giant inflatable characters we'd like to see on stage at youth worship

10 Menno Simons. 32 entries

9 Veggie Tales' Junior Asparagus, Bob the Tomato or Larry the Cucumber. Jacob Slager, Hopedale, Ill.

8 The Flying Monkeys from "The Wizard of Oz." Elizabeth Nachtigall, Hoedale, Ill.

7 Thirstbourne band members. Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, Mich.

6 The Superhero "Escalator Etiquette Man." Ryan Krehbiel, Newton, Kan.

5 Jiminy Carter Cricket, Menno Mouse, Tony the Tiger Campolo or John Paul Jacob Jingleheimer Smith Lederach. Peggy Roth, Millersburg, Ohio

4 Ted and Lee, Missional Man or Arnold Swartzentrubber. James Webber, Reading, Pa.

3 A Goshen College Maple Leaf vs. a Bethel College "Thresher." Roselawn Mennonite youth group, Elkhart, Ind.

2 Sponge Bob Menno pants (champion of underwater peace). Matt Yoder, Lancaster, Pa.

1 Keychain with #1012 on it, for the VW Bug. Kelly Shenk, Goshen, Ind.

Tomorrow: Top Ten CNN headlines about the Mennonite convention.



Win a CD!

Turn in your answers to the Mennonite Mission Network or Goshen College booths in A-Junction, or the mPress office. Claim your prize at the Mission Network booth.



Youth worship: Members of First Mennonite Church, Berne, Ind., sing during worship. Services are held twice daily in Exhibit Hall B-5.

Photo by Sarah Shirk