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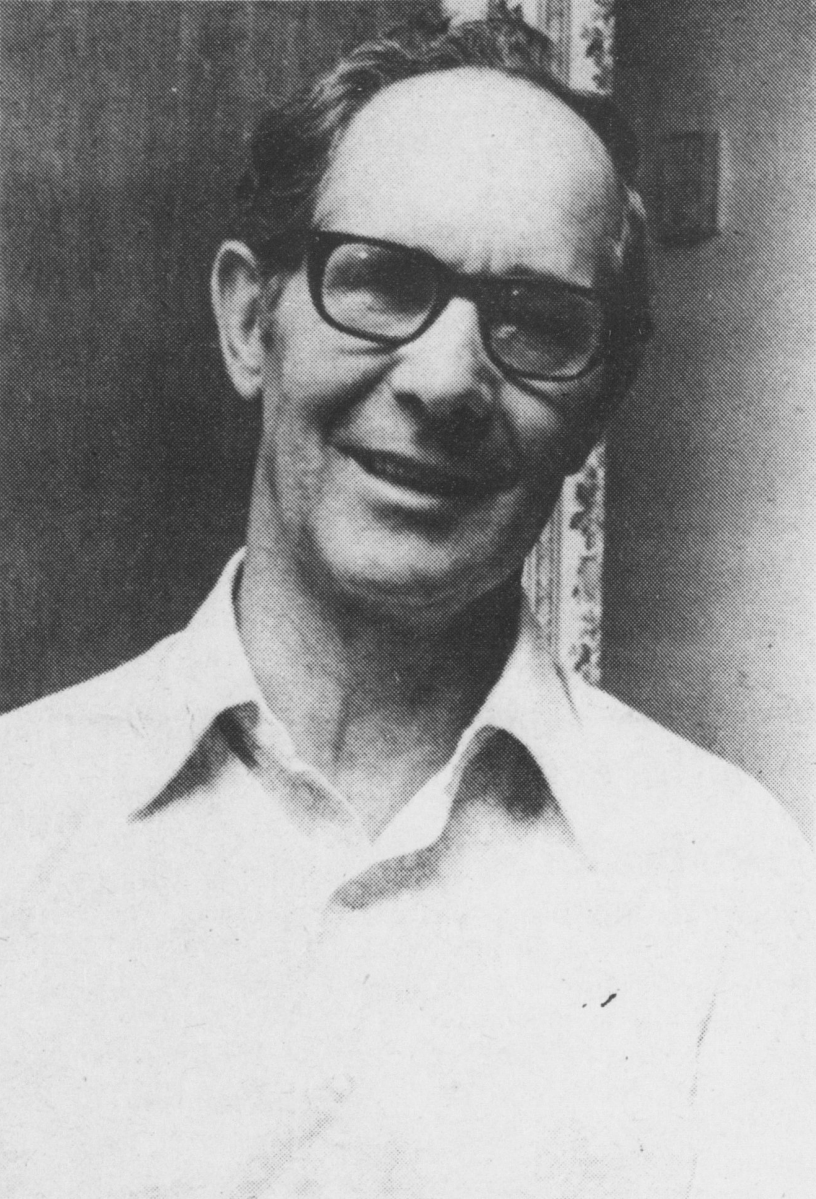
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Rev. Shelley Shellenberger

Heard call at age 20—ordained minister at 53

The life of Rev. Shelley Shellenberger, senior pastor at the Mount Joy Mennonite Church, began in Oakland Mills, Juniata County. His parents moved to Lancaster County during the depression in 1931. Rev. Shellenberger says, "We always had plenty to eat and were well taken care of, but we never had bananas and ice cream. I know what it is to go through hard times."

His family's farm was just north of Erisman's Mennonite Church, where the Shellenbergers worshipped. The farm is owned today by Rev. Shellenberger's younger brother, Robert, and his wife, Ruth Shellenberger. Robert is a supervisor of Rapho Township.

Rev. Shellenberger married Margaret Miller, who lived just west of Florin, and he and Mrs. Shellenberger worked for two years after their marriage on a dairy farm. Then they began farming for themselves on the Jonas B. Brubaker farm near Ramsey's Tollgate on Route 743. Two years later they moved to the old Zercher farm, which was owned by S. Nissley Gingrich, on the southern edge of Mount Joy. The Shellenbergers worked on that farm for eleven years; their fifth and last child was born there.

Richard is the oldest of the Shellenbergers' children. He married Pamela Givler and operates the Kreider Dairy Store on the road between Manheim and Lititz. Richard and Pamela have a daughter, Malissa.

Their second son, Donald, married Lois Ann Wert from Leola. He is a licensed veterinarian, working with Dr. Landis at Smoketown.

Donald and Lois have two daughters, Tiffany and Kimberly.

Rev. and Mrs. Shellenbergers' daughter Eileen is married to Donald Detweiler. The Detweilers are both teachers at the Conestoga Christian School; they have one son, Jamie.

The Shellenbergers' fourth child, Henry, is single. He their youngest son, Harold, are now running the Shellenberger farm on Colebrook Road. Harold is married to the former Cindy Herr. They are living on the homestead.

In the spring of 1960 the Shellenbergers moved to the farm on Colebrook Road, a former Cameron estate farm. On this 180-acre farm the Shellenbergers have developed an unusually fine herd of Holstein cattle, which includes 75 registered Holsteins and a young herd of 100 head. They ship cattle they bred and raised all over the U.S. and to foreign countries too, like Spain, Germany, Italy and Puerto Rico. Some of the finest Holstein pedigrees in the world are to be found on the Shellenberger farm.

Rev. Shellenberger spent over 25 years building his unusual herd. "It doesn't happen overnight," he says. "Often you don't know what you've done until it's too late."

Meanwhile, all his life, another side of Rev. Shellenberger was unfolding; his role in the Mennonite Church. Rev. Shellenberger had been baptized at age 16 at Erisman's Church on the road to Manheim by Bishop Henry E. Lutz, father of John Lutz, the welder. At age 20 he had experienced a "call" to the ministry, but he did not know exactly

what his ministry was to be. At age 22 he married Margaret Miller and started attending the Mount Joy Church, the church his wife had always attended, and where he has always been active.

He held different offices in the Sunday School and served on many committees in the church. He taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School superintendent, as well as Bible School superintendent. With each new post in the church, he told himself, "Maybe this is what my ministry is to be" (the ministry to which he had been called at age twenty).

Then in 1974, at age 53, after the previous senior pastor resigned, Shelley Shellenberger was called to become the co-pastor of the Mount Joy Church, along with Melvin Graybill. Like Rev. Shellenberger, Rev. Graybill had been born in Juniata County. They had been friends before they were married and were well suited to working together as co-pastors. Unfortunately this cooperation was to last only three years; Rev. Graybill died of a malignancy of the thyroid, and Rev. Shellenberger was left with the sole responsibility for shepherding the Mount Joy Church.

After serving alone for one and a half years, he was joined in August, 1973 by Nathan Showalter as associate pastor. Rev. Shellenberger is "very thankful for an associate pastor like Rev. Showalter, who has many abilities."

In addition to his pastoral duties in Mount Joy, Rev. Showalter is employed part-time by the Home Missions Office, of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in Salunga, Pa.

The duties of his ministry were taking more and more of Rev. Shellenberger's time. In the fall of 1978 he and Mrs. Shellenberger moved to 222 Delta Street in Mount Joy and turned over the operation of the farm to their two youngest sons, Henry and Harold.

This past August another associate pastor was installed at the Mount Joy Mennonite Church, Rev. Joseph Sherer, who serves as youth pastor.

The congregation at the Mount Joy Mennonite Church numbers 380 people. Young members of the church are serving throughout the United States and in foreign countries, doing Voluntary Service. Some are part of Youth With A Mission, doing evangelistic work. There are husband and wife teams from the Mount Joy church in Cyprus, England, Colorado, and Texas. The Mount Joy Church supports and promotes their work. "We are happy that our young people are involved in this type of service," says Rev. Shellenberger.

There are 50 young people of high school age involved in the youth organi-

zations of the church. They work and play under the direction of adult couples in three departments: Faith, Fellowship, and Service. In the Faith department they study their Bibles; in Fellowship they might play basketball; in Service, they will sometimes clean up lawns or wash windows for elderly people.

The Mount Joy Church is organized into five departments. Each department is directed by a committee which may include one of the pastors and a large number of lay members. The Worship and Nurture department includes the bishop, two pastors, a deacon, and three elders. It is concerned with the spiritual aspects of the congregation.

The Church Cabinet includes the chairman of the congregation, the secretary, the financial secretary, the head of each department, plus the pastors.

The Stewardship department oversees the financial affairs of the church.

The department of Christian education is responsible for the Sunday School and Bible School curriculums.

Evangelism and Service is composed mostly of lay people engaged in personal Christian witnessing.

The department of Youth is composed of adult sponsors and the youth pastor.

Broad participation by the lay members in the activities of the church is the basis for an effective church, Rev. Shellenberger believes.

Sensing that he was called to some sort of Christian ministry when he 20, Rev. Shellenberger was not quite certain of the full nature of that ministry until he was 53 years old, when he was ordained. He says, "It is a great satisfaction in my spirit to be a minister. I feel that the ministry is one of the highest callings a person can have. I love people. I guess that's why I enjoy being a minister."

"I believe there is good in every person, and my challenge is to help every person arrive at his utmost."

"The thrill of being in the ministry is the transformation that Christianity can bring into people's lives. I've seen people changed from hate to love."

Hartzler (cont.)

[continued from front page] Hartzler family life. They attend Mount Joy Mennonite Church where Dr. Hartzler is associate chairman of Christian education.

Mrs. Hartzler is a Sunday School teacher and is also active in the inter-church council which plans joint services among the churches in Mount Joy. She is also active in parent-teacher activities at Mayown Elementary School, where she is co-chairperson to enlist parents in helping teachers.