

## Preserving History and Maintaining Values

**F**airmount is more than a retirement community—it is a reflection of Mennonite faith, service and tradition. Founded by members of the Weaverland Conference Mennonite Church, it was built with the mission to offer support and create a true sense of home for elders in a Christ-centered environment—welcoming all who share in its values of care, compassion and community.

Few understand the depth of Mennonite history and tradition better than Amos B. Hoover. A local lifelong historian, writer and collector, Amos dedicated much of his life to preserving the past so that future generations would understand their heritage and learn from the past.

### *A Lifelong Passion for Learning*

Amos' love for history grew from a deep curiosity and determination to learn. In a community where education often ended after eighth grade and work was prioritized, he pursued learning independently. Books became a passion, and over time, he began collecting publications that spoke to his own roots. "If there is a sentence about Lancaster County, I need to read it," he once told a friend. This pursuit of knowledge led him



*The library has a vast collection of Bibles, mostly in German, English and Dutch.*

to write and publish numerous books and historical articles documenting family and history and the unique ways in which the Anabaptist communities continue to live out their faith.

But Amos' dedication to preserving history wasn't just about books and artifacts, it was about people. He saw firsthand how Mennonites lived out their values through acts of service. He recalled a barn fire in 1951, when neighbors and church members showed up daily for months to rebuild. "I never saw community at work like that" he said. That spirit of generosity and shared responsibility would become a guiding force in both his life and work.



*On display is Rev. Benedikt Brechbill's Bible; he immigrated from Switzerland in 1717 and resided in Lancaster County*

*...continued on page 3*

Fairmount *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

### Core Values

Community • Compassion  
Dignity • Integrity  
Quality • Teamwork  
Trust

### Board of Directors

#### CHAIRMAN

Kenneth N. Burkholder

#### VICE CHAIRMAN

Ernest H. Hahn

#### SECRETARY

James E. Witmer

#### TREASURER

Edwin N. Martin, Jr.

David H. Martin

Michael D. Martin

Harold J. Rutt

Carl G. Sensenig

#### PRESIDENT/CEO

Jerry D. Lile

#### V.P. OF OPERATIONS &

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Kent E. Richard

#### DIRECTOR OF MARKETING &

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mitchell Hanna

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Kirstin Patterson

#### EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Ellen Livingood

#### Photo Credits

Kirstin Patterson, page 1

Dale Ebersole, page 2

Kirstin Patterson, page 3

Dorothy Witmer, page 3

Vinny Tennis, page 4

*Fairmount complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.*

*Fairmount cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.*

*Fairmount 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。*

Please visit our website for additional information and to download an Application for Residency.  
[www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org)



LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK

@FairmountHomesRetirement

## Our Mission—An Extension of the Anabaptist Call to Service

### The President's Perspective

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, a faith tradition rooted in discipleship, community and service. Emerging in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525 amidst the Protestant Reformation, the Anabaptists called for a radical return to the teachings of Jesus, emphasizing believers' baptism, peacemaking and caring for one another in practical ways. Today, these values continue to shape Mennonite communities worldwide—including ours at Fairmount Homes.



*Celebrating 500 Years: The official logo commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement*

To mark five centuries of Anabaptist faith, Anabaptists worldwide are being challenged by the theme "The Courage to Love." This theme, articulated by Anabaptist leaders globally, echoes the call to live in community and embody Christ's love in tangible ways. César García, General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference, reflects:

"This anniversary is an opportunity to renew our commitment to Jesus-centered faith, to walking together in community, and to extending God's peace to the world." These commitments are evident in the daily life of Fairmount Homes because our mission is an extension of the Anabaptist call to service and compassionate care. More than just a place to live—it is a community

where residents, staff and families experience love, respect and dignity. Following Jesus' model of servanthood, we ensure that each resident receives care that honors their individual needs while fostering a strong sense of belonging.

Our emphasis on peacemaking and reconciliation is reflected in how we cultivate relationships among residents and staff. Inspired by Anabaptist teachings on nonviolence and community harmony, we foster an environment of kindness, patience and mutual support. Additionally, we uphold the Anabaptist values of simplicity and stewardship, seeking responsible ways to manage resources while providing high-quality care.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary, we recognize that our calling is not only to remember the past but to live out its principles today. The legacy of the Anabaptist movement challenges us to continue serving with humility and grace, following Christ's example in all that we do. At Fairmount Homes, we are honored to be part of this ongoing story—embodying Anabaptist values in every act of care, every word of encouragement, and every shared moment of community.

May we continue to follow Jesus together, honoring the past while looking forward with faith and purpose.



*Jerry D. Lile*

**Jerry D. Lile**  
President/CEO

# Preserving History and Maintaining Values

(continued from page 1)

## ***Muddy Creek Farm Library: A Home for Mennonite History***

What began as Amos' small, personal collection grew into an archive of invaluable historical documents, books and artifacts chronicling the stories of Lancaster County Anabaptists, Lancaster history and beyond. Because it was established on land Amos bought in Denver, PA, in 1955—on a road fittingly named Muddy Creek Road—the library became known as the Muddy Creek Farm Library.

As the years passed, Amos' growing collection needed a larger and more permanent home—one that would ensure its preservation for future generations. With the support of Fairmount's Board, the library was relocated to its current space on campus. For Fairmount residents and staff, many of whom have deep Mennonite or local roots, having access to this treasure trove of history reinforces their sense of community here.



*Photo of Muddy Creek Farm Library at 296 Wheat Ridge Dr, Ephrata, PA*

### **Muddy Creek Farm Library Hours**

9:00am – 5:00pm: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am – 8:00pm: Tuesday, Friday

9:00am – 4:00pm: Saturday

Closed: Sunday

## **Orchard Terrace Update**



*Pre-construction view taken behind 106 Farm Crest Drive, looking along the future path of Orchard Terrace Drive*

Exciting news—final approval has been granted for the Orchard Terrace project! EG Stoltzfus will be leading the construction, with groundbreaking expected in May. Interest in this new cottage community has been incredible, with all 16 cottages already reserved! If all goes according to plan, we look forward to welcoming our first residents in early 2026. Stay tuned for updates as this vision becomes a reality.

## **Thank you, Quilters!**

During this year's three-day quilting event in February, over 170 dedicated volunteers worked diligently to complete eight stunning quilts and made significant progress on several others for our Benefit Auction on September 13. A heartfelt thank you to the event coordinators and those who generously provided food for the volunteers.





# Fairmount

333 Wheat Ridge Drive  
Ephrata, PA 17522-8558  
717.354.1800  
[www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 415

**Electronic Service Requested**

***Mailing List Update:***

If you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please call 717.354.1887, write the managing editor at the address above, or email [KirstinP@FairmountHomes.org](mailto:KirstinP@FairmountHomes.org). Perspective issues are available at [www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org).

## Items of Interest

***Central PA Blood Drive***

On Thursday, June 12, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30am–6:30pm. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 800.771.0059 or visit [www.cpbb.org](http://www.cpbb.org).

***Outdoor Concert Planned***

Enjoy an evening of music as the Nottingham Four Quartet performs on Tuesday, June 3, at 6:30pm. on the Wheat Ridge campus. Sponsored by Fairmount, this free concert is open to the public—just bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the show! In case of rain, the concert will be rescheduled to Thursday, June 5, at 6:30pm. For weather-related updates, visit [FairmountHomes.org](http://FairmountHomes.org).



**You're Invited!**



## Spring Open House

***Save the date for our Spring Open House on***

Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16,  
from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Sign up and learn more by calling 717.354.1811  
or visiting [FairmountHomes.org](http://FairmountHomes.org)