

SPIRITUALITY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT “ENCORE: THE FESTIVAL”

Garden Spot Village to host Leonard Sweet, Blind Boys of Alabama and others

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — May 3, 2011 — Spirituality will take center stage at “Encore: The Festival”, a day-long celebration of vitality scheduled for Sat., June 4, at Garden Spot Village. From the evangelism of Dr. Leonard Sweet to the soul-stirring gospel harmonies of The Blind Boys of Alabama, faith and the role it plays in living and aging well will be a key theme.

“We have put together a program that is focused on Anabaptist values and reflects our organization’s mission,” said Chet Yoder, director of pastoral services at Garden Spot Village.

Sweet a theologian, futurist, preacher and author of numerous books, including *The Gospel According to Starbucks*, *A Cup of Coffee at the Soul Café*, *New Life in the Spirit* and *FaithQuakes*. He has served as the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University and president and professor of church history at United Theological Seminary. At “Encore: The Festival” he will talk about how adults in the “third age” of their lives can make an impact on the world.

A sense of spirituality, community ties and strong family values are among the common factors shared in demographic pockets around the world known as “Blue Zones,” where longevity and vitality go hand in hand. Dan Buettner teamed up with National Geographic to learn what these populations have in common. He will share lessons learned and secrets for living a longer, happier life.

Lancaster County resident Janet Oberholtzer will offer an inspiring presentation on how her faith helped her return to running in 2008 after nearly losing a leg (and her life) four years earlier in a motor vehicle accident. Susan Eckman, president of the United Way of Lancaster County, encourage participants to share their time and talents with the community. The local Mennonite Historical Society will also offer a number of seminars.

The Blind Boys of Alabama, winners of five Grammy Awards and inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, will wrap up the festivities with an evening concert. The group just released its first traditional country-gospel album, *Take The High Road*, featuring performances by Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams Jr., Lee Ann Womack and The Oak Ridge Boys.

For more information and tickets, visit www.EncoreTheFestival.org.