



I remember as a small girl (maybe 5 or 6 years old) going with my mother, Ruth Horst, to the annual sewing circle meetings for the Women's Missionary and Service Commission. The meetings were often held at Mellinger's Mennonite Church at the edge of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

I remember there were often reports of needs in other countries as well as in the eastern U.S. There would be someone up front, and they would be reading off a list of items needed for missionaries and local mission workers. We actually lived in Reading, Pennsylvania at a mission church, so sometimes there were things needed for Reading.

Ladies from various sewing circles would raise their hands to say they would fill the orders. We would always eat lunch there too. I remember the smell of coffee wafting up the stairs as it would get close to lunch, then we would all head to the basement to eat together. I was in awe of some of the women that told stories of things happening in the countries where they served.

Esther Martin is a member at Red Run Mennonite Church in Denver, Pennsylvania.