

NEWS & NOTES

February 15 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Tuesday 1:30 pm, Caregivers at Marian Miller's
Wednesday 7 pm, Library Committee
Thursday 7 pm, Worship Ministry

Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-12; Friday 9-2
Doug Thursday, Friday, 9-2
Steve Friday, 8-12

Happy Birthday! ☺

Elizabeth Buschert Tuesday, February 17
Bruce Nofziger Thursday, February 19

Announcements

This afternoon to Wednesday Doug will be at a seminar.

Mel and Loretta Kauffman have requested that their church letter be sent to College Mennonite Church. Please talk with the pastors if you have questions.

The current February 3 issue of *The Mennonite* called "Mennonite in America" is a response to Doug Kaufman's resolution at the San Jose 2007 Mennonite Church USA convention calling for a "process that helps us explore our identity as Mennonites living in what many consider to be the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth. We of course encourage you to read it. We also plan to explore this issue congregationally at a later date, perhaps in June. So please hold on to your copy or bring it to the church and place it in the designated box on the foyer table. The box will be a way to save copies until our study, and people who do not receive *The Mennonite* can pick up a copy if they would like to read it now.

Offering

February 8 2009 Regular Offering	\$1,843.00
Year to Date Needed	\$61,525.00
Year to Date Received	\$64,460.00
Difference	\$1,843.00

Are you considering baptism as a sign of your commitment to Christ and his body the church? The pastors plan to begin a baptism preparation class next month to help people decide if they are ready to make this commitment. Talk to Doug or Brenda if you are interested or you have any questions about taking the class.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Tickets for *Rags*, a musical based on the book by Joseph Stein with lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and music by Charles Strouse, go on sale **Monday, February 4**, at **Bethany Christian High School**. With an energetic and beautiful score, *Rags* is a personal look at the plight of Russian Jewish immigrants at the beginning of the 20th century. Human relationships and lots of humor accompany a family's encounters with poverty, tradition vs. America, exploitation of workers, the start of the labor movement, the boss system, and the inner strength that carries them through. The musical will be performed Feb. 26-28 and March 1. Thursday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., the Friday performance at 8 p.m., and the Sunday performance at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and may be reserved by calling the school at 574 534-2567.

Bethany Seeks Interim Business Manager to serve in March and April during the current business manager's maternity leave. Preference will be given to candidates with CPA certification and related experience. To apply, submit a resume and letter of application to Allan Dueck, principal, 2904 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526. Contact: 574 534-2567 or akdueck@bethanycs.net.

Congregations are warmly invited to any of three events in Goshen with an international **Mennonite World Conference** team: a youth gathering at **7 pm Wednesday, March 4**, at Eighth Street Mennonite Church; an **8:30 am Thursday** gathering hosted by the Mennonite Mission Network Auxiliary at Greencroft Senior Center; and a World Day of Prayer potluck supper at **6:30 pm, Friday, March 6**, at Silverwood Mennonite Church (bring a dish to

share, table service and beverages provided). Phone 574-266-7684 for details.

Interested in a retreat for men? The Spirit of Man experience connects men with God, self and other through the lens of four archetypal images of male spirituality: Warrior, Sage, Lover, and King. Men who have gone through Richard Rohr's M.A.L.E.S (Men As Learners and Elders) rites of passage are facilitating this men's retreat March 6 & 7 at The Hermitage. This will be a safe space for up to 20 men to explore what it means to be male in the company of other men. Check out www.hermitagecommunity.org/spiritofman or register by calling The Hermitage at 269-244-8696.

All Hesston College alumni and friends are invited to submit recipes for the Centennial Cookbook as a part of the college's "Living The Vision" 2009-10 Centennial Celebration. Recipes can be submitted until March 31 online at <http://cookbook.hesston.edu> or mailed to: Centennial Cookbook, Hesston College, Box 3000, Hesston, KS 67062. More information is available at www.hesston.edu/centennial. Cookbooks will be available for purchase during Homecoming 2009, September 25-27.

Emerge Ministries has opened a transitional home. Due to the economy, we have been faced with numerous people in need of shelter. Interfaith, located in Goshen is set up to house people overnight. The Women's shelter house domestically abused women for 90 days, and Faith Mission has 163 beds for men, women and children. We work directly with Faith Mission, IFIT and United Way 211 (a referral agency) and all homeless prevention agencies, assisting families as they transition from homelessness to having their own home. Emerge Ministries is opening a transitional home for women with children for 90 days, who are homeless. We offer addiction, parenting and budgeting classes and our Outreach program will be available to clients as they transition into their own home. Our goal is to be available to families and individuals in need of emergency assistance. The expansion of providing a transitional home will help us have a solid foundation increasing partnership with the Elkhart Homeless Coalition, foundations, churches and donors. Also, the NAP grant awarded to us each year requires that we be able to house persons in need of emergency housing. We need \$16,000 to completely sell our tax credits which must be sold by June 2009. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 574-293-0776.

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. invites mature individuals to register for its upcoming *Hospice 101 Community Volunteer Orientation* on **Wednesday, March 18, 9 - 10 a.m.** This is your chance to learn about the volunteer opportunities available, requirements, and benefits of becoming a hospice volunteer with no strings attached. Contact Jackie at 243-3127 for information, location, and registration.

Just for fun:

Vanity license message. In response to a *Wider View* column by Phil Wagler at *Third Way Café* titled, "The Separation of Church and Plate" one reader wrote, "Thanks for this lovely reflection. In response to your question, 'Who, on God's green earth, has really been influenced to do anything because a license plate told them to do it?', I have a small anecdote. Two days prior to Valentine's Day 1993, my future wife was driving home contemplating how to respond to my likely (and predictable) request for her hand in marriage during our time together on the most romantic of days. While approaching a major traffic choke point (a tunnel), my future bride closed her eyes in prayer and asked, 'Lord, what should I say when he asks me?' To her astonishment, and my eternal gratitude, a vehicle merged abruptly in front of her as she opened her eyes, and its vanity plate read, 'Say Yes'. She did and we are now in our 15th year of wedded bliss."

-- from Links@MennoMedia

Shane Claiborne to speak on "Living a countercultural faith." [Shane Claiborne](#), founding partner of [The Simple Way Community](#) and author (*The Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*), will be at Goshen (Ind.) College **March 18-20**. Public events planned for his stay are two chapels: **March 18 and 20**, both at **10 a.m.** in the Church-Chapel (also College Mennonite); and an event on **March 19, 7-8 p.m.** at the Goshen Theater (Downtown 808). All are welcome! See: gconline.goshen.edu/public/prod/eventcal/bin/?dMonth=Mar&dYear=2009 (scroll to March 18 for the link)

Send announcements and bulletin information to bulletin@bentonchurch.org.
Deadline for submitting information is Thursday evening.