

NEWS & NOTES

February 22 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Tuesday 7 pm, Pastoral Leadership Team
Wednesday 6:30 pm, Benton at Greencroft Manor II

Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-4
Doug Tuesday – Thursday, 9-2, Fri 9-11:30
Steve Friday, 7-11

Happy Birthday! ☺

Galen Johns Thursday, February 26
 LaJane Yoder Thursday, February 26

Announcements

This Friday and Saturday Rich and Brenda Meyer, Mary Ann Weber, and Janelle Martin will be at the MCC Great Lakes board and annual meeting in Archbold, Ohio.

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.

Remember that we encourage you to either hold onto or bring your February 3 issue of *The Mennonite* to the church and place it in the foyer box so that it is available as we study "Mennonite in America."

Offering

February 15 2009 Regular Offering	\$3,545.00
Year to Date Needed	\$64,200.00
Year to Date Received	\$68,005.00
Difference	\$3,805.00

Lent Worship

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and next Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. Once again our worship series will follow the season of Lent. As many changes occur in our world today, with a new president and a new party in power, there are those who look to the future with hope and those who look to it with fear. Yet as followers of Jesus we know that ultimately our hope lies not with world leaders but with the faithful who put their trust in God.

This year the Old Testament Scriptures tell the stories of God's great covenants. In the gospels of Mark and John we walk with Jesus from his baptism to his death on the cross, from anointing by God to surrender into the hands of God. These Scriptures call the faithful to continue in their faithfulness, grounded in God's own faithfulness demonstrated in the covenants and in the example of Jesus' self-giving love.

So Lent his year calls us to put our trust in God. The theme is "Our lives are in your hands," based on a song by Francis Patrick O'Brien. We again are basing our services on the resources from the Mennonite Church found in *Leader*. We are invited into a Lenten journey of trust and surrender. May we grow in trust and joy on this journey of faithfully following Jesus, knowing that our lives are indeed in God's hands.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Ash Wednesday Evening Song and Prayer

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary invites you to an Evening Song and Prayer service on Ash Wednesday, **February 25, beginning at 9 pm** in the seminary's chapel, 3003 Benham Avenue. Join in singing, silence, Scripture reading and prayers to begin the season of Lent. For information, call 574.295.3726.

Lent is upon us! Join Goshen College on a journey through the season as students, faculty and staff share their insights, perspectives and prayers through online Lenten devotions. The weekday devotions are based on the upcoming Sunday's lectionary Scripture passages and reflecting on the theme: "Our lives are in your hands..."

To access the devotions, to sign-up to receive them as e-mails or to add them to your RSS reader, visit:

www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Tickets for the musical *Rags* are on sale 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 this Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, this Friday at 8 pm, and next Sunday at 3 pm. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and may be reserved by calling the school at 574 534-2567.

A Lenten Invitation for Centering Prayer

Lent is another season of the church year that invites us to consider new ways to make space for God in our lives. The gift of being with others on this journey of faithfulness through time together in Centering Prayer is one way to challenge ourselves. Centering Prayer allows us to "be with God" in silence. The focus is deepening our relationship with the Living Christ.

A Group Centering Prayer experience will be held each Monday evening of Lent at College Mennonite Church. The dates are March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. This ecumenical time of prayer is open to all women and men from any denomination or congregation. There will more details following next week. We invite your participation.

If Centering Prayer is new to you, don't hesitate to come. There is guidance for our times together. If you cannot come to all the sessions, come for those to which you are able. You will not need to sign up. Invite other friends who may also be interested. We will meet in the Koinonia Room on the south side of the church building. There will be signs at the doors to guide you.

7 pm, Friday, March 13, 2009

A Special Evening with Hesston College

at LVD's Concert Hall in the Historic 1896 Old Bag Factory. Alumni and friends are invited for a wonderful evening of music, comedy entertainment, and dessert. A special announcement about the Hesston Centennial Celebration will be made. Performers are professional baritone and faculty member Anthony Brown '68, and northern Indiana comedian Jon Helmuth '91. Tickets are \$25 per person. Proceeds go to the 2008-09 Hesston

College student financial aid. Seating is limited.

Reservations and payment are required by Friday, March 6. Doors open at 6 pm. Call toll free 866-437-7866 (866-HESSTON).

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. invites mature individuals to register for its upcoming ***Hospice 101 Community Volunteer Orientation*** on **Monday, March 16, at 1 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m.** at the new Elkhart Hospice House and Business Office, 22579 Old US 20 East, Elkhart. This is your chance to learn about the volunteer opportunities available, requirements, and benefits of becoming a hospice volunteer with no strings attached. Contact Kathy Frey, 574-264-3321 to register.

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)

The **India Children's Choir** will come to Indiana this year to share their testimony of how the Hmar people of northeast India found Christ, as told through their musical, "Headhunters to Heart Hunters." Their desire is to inspire and encourage the Body of Christ in their missions and ministry to their communities and the world. The dates available for hosting in Indiana are **June 3–7** and **June 17 or 18**. If you would like to welcome these children to your church, contact Dori Frankel: 800 265-8236 or dfrankel@bftw.org. Also see online: www.bftw.org

An experienced plumber is needed for MDS work at the Dulzura, California site immediately. The project in Dulzura is all new construction. For more information, call Sarah Yoder at (800) 241-8111.

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.