

# NEWS & NOTES

March 1 2009

## HERE AT BENTON

### This Week

**Thursday**, March 5, 7 pm, Nurture Ministry at  
Mary Ann Weber's

**Thursday**, March 5, 7 pm, Service and Witness at  
Arlene Hershberger's

### Staff Hours

**Brenda** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 9-3  
**Doug** Mon-Tue 9-2, Wed 9:30-2, Thu 11:30-2  
**Steve** Friday, 8-12

### Happy Birthday! ☺

Petar Lazarevic Sunday, March 1  
Barbara Ostrander Tuesday, March 3

### Announcements

**Barnabas Ministers:** check-in and resource session  
*Wednesday, March 18 from 7-8:30 pm* here at the church.  
Brenda will lead the resource time on listening to and  
praying with each other.

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. Talk to Doug or Brenda if you are interested or you  
have any questions about taking the class.

The current issue (February 17, 2009) of *The Mennonite*  
features an article by Eleanor Kreider called "**Communion  
Questions: Communion and Mission can go together.**"  
The article addresses some of the discussions our  
congregation is having. If you do not receive *The Mennonite*,  
you can read it at [http://www.themennonite.org](http://www.themennonite.org/issues/12-4/articles/Communion_questions)  
/issues/12-4/articles/Communion\_questions.

### Offering

February 22 2009 Regular Offering	\$2,162.00
Year to Date Needed	\$66,875.00
Year to Date Received	\$70,167.00
Difference	\$3,292.00

### New small group

You may not have heard, but there is a new small group at  
Benton. For lack of a better name, call us the green group.  
The focus is being environmentally friendly and how that  
might impact our lifestyles. We meet on Wednesday  
evenings, about every other week. We have met five times  
and have discussed both what we are doing now to care for  
the environment and what we would like to do in the  
future. Here are some of the things people are doing now:

- using compact florescent light bulbs (and turning them off!)
- riding bike, carpooling, using public transportation
- cleaning with baking soda and vinegar
- driving hybrids
- using solar energy to heat water and dry clothes (it's called a clothesline)
- buying from the farmer's market and the co-op
- recycling
- energy auditing

Some things that we would like to do more of:

- gardening (this is a big one)
- riding bike
- using wind power

We discovered that we can learn a lot from each other—  
and we could learn from others at Benton so we are  
exploring ways we can communicate earth-friendly ideas.  
We hope to have a church bicycle repair day in the spring  
and a chance to learn from the gardeners in the  
congregation. If you are interested in joining, sharing your  
ideas, or hearing more about caring for the environment,  
just talk to one of us.

—Lyn and John Buschert, Dave and Pat Baer, Stan and Mary  
Grove, Janie Beck, Martha Williams, Roger Hooley, Jonny and  
Hannah Gerig Meyer, Ashley Fecher Johar, Deanna Fecher

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**We want to thank you** for your generous support of the  
work at MDC Goldenrod. Your total contributions for  
2008 were \$831.

-- David Heisinkveld, Executive Director & Dan Steiner,  
Development Director

Michiana congregations related to Mennonite World Conference (MWC) are warmly invited to any of three events in Goshen with an international MWC team: a youth gathering *March 4, 7 pm* at Eighth Street Mennonite; a gathering *March 5, 8:30 am* hosted by the Mennonite Mission Network Auxiliary at Greencroft Senior Center; and a World Day of Prayer potluck supper *March 6, 6:30 pm* at Silverwood Mennonite (bring a dish to share; table service and beverages provided). Team members are Cynthia Peacock (India), Tigist Tefaye (Ethiopia), Bert Lobe (Canada), and Dr. Pakisa Tshimika (Congo and California). Call 574 266-7684 or see online: [im.mennonite.net/news/news.php](http://im.mennonite.net/news/news.php).

**Lectures will focus on the Psalms** Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary will host John Witvliet of Calvin Theological Seminary for the 2009 Theological Lectureship. Dr. Witvliet will explore the Psalms in worship in three sessions in the seminary's chapel at 3003 Benham Avenue: *Wednesday March 4, at 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 5 at 1:45 p.m.; and 7 p.m.* All are invited to attend at no charge.

**Lent Quiet Day** Rainbow Connection: Lent for Lovers and Dreamers. Spend a day in quiet meditation at the beginning of the Lenten season. This year's theme recalls the story of Noah and leads us to examine God's covenant and preserving will. There will be ample time for personal reflection as well as focus on the theme material. Lunch is provided. Cost: \$50 for the day; \$75 with an overnight stay. Contact The Hermitage (269) 244-8696 or email [thehermitage@juno.com](mailto:thehermitage@juno.com) to register for the day: *9 am – 3 pm, Wednesday, March 4, OR Friday, March 13, OR Saturday, March 14.*

**Students in grades 5-11** interested in exploring Bethany Christian Schools can shadow a student for a day on *Monday, March 9*. Interested students must register ahead by calling Sarah Yoder at 574 534-2567 or emailing [admissions@bethanycs.net](mailto:admissions@bethanycs.net). Monday, March 16, is the deadline for students in grades 6-12 to qualify for the early enrollment discount at **Bethany Christian Schools** for 2009-10.

**Join Goshen College Professor of Theater** Doug Liechty Caskey and Professor of Music Debra Brubaker, the directors of the spring mainstage production as they offer a sneak preview behind the scenes in the making of the GC opera/musical "The Gondoliers" during the next Goshen College Afternoon Sabbatical. It will meet *Tuesday, March 10, 1 pm*, in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. Learn

more about what happens in the months prior to opening night as student and faculty artists collaborate in many different areas to bring together a successful stage production. The event is free and open to the public.

*Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm*

**Michiana MEDA event** at the Schrock Pavilion (411 West Plymouth Ave., Goshen): "Focus is Business: Impact is Life" -- Successfully Sustaining Business in Tough Times. A meal made from locally grown, organic ingredients will be followed by a panel discussion by members of the local Sustainable Business Network about implementing sustainable, responsible practices -- environmental, business, community, and home -- to strengthen our communities. Meal and program costs are \$15/members, \$20/non-members, \$5/students. *RSVP by March 9:* 877 787-6332, (online) [www.michianameda.org](http://www.michianameda.org) or (e-mail) [reservations@michianameda.org](mailto:reservations@michianameda.org)

*7 pm, Friday, March 13, 2009*

**A Special Evening with Hesston College LVD's Concert Hall at 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).

**Shane Claiborne to speak on "Living a countercultural faith."** Shane Claiborne, founding partner of [The Simple Way Community](http://TheSimpleWayCommunity.org) and author (*The Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*), will be at Goshen College *March 18–20*. Public events planned for his stay are two chapels: *March 18 and 20*, both at *10 am* in the Church-Chapel (also College Mennonite); and an event on *March 19, 7–8 pm* at the Goshen Theater (Downtown 808). All are welcome! See: [gconline.goshen.edu/public/prod/eventcal/bin/?dMonth=Mar&dYear=2009](http://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](mailto:bulletin@bentonchurch.org).  
Deadline for submitting information is Thursday evening.