

NEWS & NOTES

March 8 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday, 9:30 am, Friendship Circle Sewing

Thursday, 7 pm, Pastoral Leadership Team

Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-3, Friday 9-1

Doug Tuesday – Friday, 9-2

Steve Friday, 8-12

Announcements

The Gifts Ministry would like to invite nominations for the position of Community Life Chair for a three year term beginning in September of 2009. Marian Miller has had the position for about 5 years and does not want to continue. There is a half sheet with more information in mailboxes and feedback may be put into the mailbox of Bruce Nofziger (chair of Gifts) or an email may be sent to bpnofziger@verizon.net. Please have any feedback to Bruce or any Gifts member by March 15th. Other Gifts members include Dorvin Schlabach, Helene Hoover and Brenda Meyer (ex-officio).

Our congregation will furnish grocery, paper, and personal items for MDC Goldenrod in mid-April. A suggested list from MDC is in your mailboxes. You can begin bringing your items anytime.

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.

Offering

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|-------------------------------|-------------|
| March 1 2009 Regular Offering | \$3,573.00 |
| Year to Date Needed | \$69,550.00 |
| Year to Date Received | \$73,740.00 |
| Difference | \$4,190.00 |

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.

Mennonite Mission Network thanks Benton Mennonite Church for contributing \$10,380.00 received from February 1 2008 through January 31 2009. These gifts, along with your prayers and participation, help to create ministries of healing and hope across the street and around the globe. May you experience God's blessings as together we seek to share all of Christ with all of creation.

- *Stanley Green, Executive Director;*
Sandy Miller, Director of Church Relations
Mennonite Mission Network

IN THE COMMUNITY

Monday, March 9, at 7:30 – 8:45 pm

The second of six ecumenical Lenten Centering Prayer services takes place in Koinonia Room (on the south side) at College Mennonite Church.

It begins promptly and will last about a half hour, followed by a teaching via DVD about this contemplative practice. Fathers Thomas Keating and Richard Rohr will be heard over the series. Both men are writers and teachers about growth in our spiritual lives.

Come to any or all of the sessions each Monday of Lent. Invite other friends who may also be interested.

Tuesday, March 10, 1 pm

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 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 12th, 4:30 pm – 7 pm

Haystack Supper to benefit The Window.

Church Women United of Goshen is sponsoring a Haystack Supper to benefit **The Window** at **Waterford Mennonite Church** on. Tickets purchased at The Window in advance are: Adults; \$6.00; Children ages 5-12; \$3.00; Children under 5; free. The price of the meal includes drink and dessert. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$7.00.

All proceeds will benefit the programs of The Window. The Window, an agency of Church Women United of Goshen, Inc., provides services to help meet basic needs of the elderly and anyone with a limited income.

Time is running out! 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. Call admissions director Sarah Yoder at 534-2567.

Menno-Hof needs your help as a volunteer in two areas: 1) persons to serve as host/hostess for guests visiting Menno-Hof, 2) help plant and maintain the quilt flower garden this summer. A volunteer orientation is scheduled for March 23, 9-11 AM at Menno-Hof. For more details call (260) 768-4117.

The Depot MCC Thrift Shops are in need of clothing, household and furniture donations to continue supporting the local community and Mennonite Central Committee. While you are spring cleaning, consider donating your used but useful items to The Depot MCC Thrift Shops, 1013 Division Street, Goshen. You will receive a tax receipt along with the satisfaction of knowing you are helping those in need and caring for God's creation through recycling. For information about large item pick ups, call Denny at 534-1828.

Saturday-Sunday, March 14-15

Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, 64901 County Road 11, Goshen, Renewal weekend, will feature guest speaker Harry Kraus M.D. Harry comes from Harrisonburg, VA where he is a practicing General Surgeon and has authored 12 books which include his most recent works, *Breathing Grace* and *The Cure*. He and his family spent the last 3 years as medical missionaries in Kajabe, Kenya. Harry uses medical metaphors and a clinical flavor to bring to life spiritual truths. Service times are Saturday, March 14, 6 pm and Sunday, March 15, 9 am and 1 pm.

Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 pm, Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor

The public is cordially invited to attend author presentations and book signings featuring **Camilo Mejía**, author of *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía*.

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía became the face of the antiwar movement in early 2004 when he applied for a discharge from the National Guard as a conscientious objector. His book, *Road from ar Ramadi*, is his unflinching account of how it felt to be a soldier on the ground in Iraq in the early months of the war, and shows why so many are now speaking out about their war experiences. For more information, call Karen Jacob at 574-206-5753.

Friday-Sunday, March 20–22

Scrapbooking retreat at Amigo Celebrate the arrival of spring by expressing your creativity at Amigo's Spring Scrapbooking Retreat! Enjoy a weekend away, scrapbooking with friends old and new. The relaxed schedule gives you the freedom to do what you want, when you want. Cost: \$100. Call 269 651-2811 or see: www.amigocentre.org

Saturday, March 21

Growing and Eating Faithfully at Amigo This spring, Mennonite camps and retreat centers across the U.S. and Canada are celebrating each community's local food movement. Amigo's *Growing and Eating Faithfully* day will explore Michiana's unique place in this movement. Cost: \$30 (2 meals). Call 269 651-2811 or see: www.amigocentre.org

Tuesday, March 24

Friends of Amigo Banquet at Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury. Come and hear about the ongoing ministry of Amigo and the work that is being done on Vision2020. To host a table or purchase individual tickets, contact Amigo: 269 651-2811 or info@amigocentre.org

Bookstore manager position open: The Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Co-op Bookstore is seeking a manager to begin *April 6, 2009*. Responsibilities include overseeing the operation of the bookstore, supervising employees, and maintaining inventory, involving 15 to 20 hours per week. A position description with information about how to apply is at www.ambs.edu/employment.