

NEWS & NOTES

March 15 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday, 7 pm, Barnabas Ministers
Thursday, 10 am, Caregivers at Marian's
Thursday, 7 pm, Worship Ministry

Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday 10-4 Wednesday, Friday 9-12
Doug Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9-2;
 Thursday 10-2
Steve Friday, 8-12

Happy Birthday! ☺

Roger Hooley, Monday, March 16
 Patty Nofziger, Saturday, March 21

Announcements

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.

Hot pads for peace? During the MCC delegation to Iran we plan to spend one afternoon participating in a public peace witness organized by Muslim women for peace. They are suggesting that we all contribute some hot pads that could be given away as a part of this witness. If you are interested in contributing a (new, preferably homemade) hot pad by March 29, see Brenda.

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.

Offering

March 8 2009 Regular Offering	\$2,902.00
Year to Date Needed	\$72,225.00
Year to Date Received	\$76,642.00
Difference	\$4,417.00

MCC Great Lakes Annual Meeting

by Brenda Meyer

February 27-28 the MCC Great Lakes held our annual meeting at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold Ohio. The Great Lakes staff (based in Goshen, Kidron, Chicago and Appalachia) met on Thursday, the board met Friday, and then we all gathered with congregational representatives and others for worship Friday evening, business sessions and workshops Saturday, and a final worship service Saturday evening.

Some highlights for me:

Getting acquainted with Dan Wiens, a Manitoba farmer who serves as the MCC food and agriculture coordinator. and preached both Friday and Saturday evenings. I was inspired by his vision for food sustainability, and the way he and his family are putting their vision into practice. He also told fascinating stories of exploring agricultural work for MCC in North Korea – MCC evangelism at its best.

An animated presentation by a young man from Colombia who is here in the US with MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP), and a chance to talk with him and another IVEPer, a young woman from Paraguay, over dinner one evening.

Listening to several board members share their passionate concerns and visions for MCC's current revisioning process (New Wines, New Wineskins). This is top priority board agenda in the coming months, and I am trying to listen carefully.

Finding that a previous seminary classmate, Jeff Smith, has been the pastor at Central for the last ten years. Making other connections with people who know people I know.

Attending Gwen Gustafson Zook's workshop on Iran. She was in Iran last year and will be leading the delegation that I am part of in early April. I had never seen her pictures and heard her stories, and it made me even more eager to get a visa.

Worshipping, conversing, making decisions with and learning to know people who are part of this local network of Christ's body, and who are so tied in to the global network of Christ's body. I am grateful to be adding my prayers and work to that of MCC. Thanks for your support!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Today, 2 pm

The 18th Annual Mennonite Youth Choir Festival worship concert at Goshen College. The festival brings together young people from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio to make music together! The prelude begins at 1:30 pm, with Ruthie Saunders, a pianist who combines classical, gospel, praise and worship, and hymns. Guest director: James Heiks of Appleton, Wis. Cost for the concert: \$5/adult, \$3/senior or student. Tickets are available at the door.

Thank you for your continued interest in the ministries at **The Window**. Your thoughtfulness has made it possible for us to assist many within our community. If you ever want a tour of our facility or want someone to share about The Window's ministry, please contact Ed Swartley at 533-9680. [Ed Swartley is a former member of our congregation.]

"Once upon a time ... signs and wonderings" will be the theme shaping **IN-MI Conference's Annual Sessions 2009**, to be held June 18–20 at Clinton Frame Mennonite in Goshen, Ind. All are welcome to participate in this time of storytelling! Hosts are the congregations of the Southeast Goshen Mennonite Ministerial Association: **Benton Mennonite**, Clinton Brick Mennonite, Clinton Frame Mennonite, River of Life, Waterford Mennonite and Wawasee Lakeside Chapel.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary will host the annual Peace and Justice Guests next week. Margaret Pfeil and Michael Baxter, both professors at Notre Dame and active in the Catholic Worker movement, will share their experiences **Tuesday through Thursday, March 17–19**. Join the seminary community for chapel on Tuesday at 11:45 am, Colloquium on Tuesday at 12:30 pm, and Forum on Thursday at noon. A light lunch is available on Thursday for \$5 beginning at 11:30 am.

Friday, March 27

Bethany Christian Schools' 16th Annual Fun Fest Benefit Auction and Carnival. This community event includes a live auction, silent auction, carnival, and food. Proceeds from the events lower tuition costs for all Bethany

students. Can't make it to the event? Bid [online](#) March 9–23. See online: www.bethanycs.net/funfest

Saturday, March 28, 7 pm and Sunday, March 29, 3 and 6 pm
4th Annual Project Promise Easter Drama will be performed at Bethany Christian Schools. Almost all elements (acting, music, and narration) are performed by adults with a disability. The drama is an expression of faith and a chance for participants to exercise artistic gifts. A free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses. Project Promise is a program of MDC Goldenrod, a local ministry to people with disabilities. For more details call MDC Goldenrod, (574) 533-9720 ext. 1.

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. Amigo Centre will host a Friends of Amigo Banquet on, 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

Check out ***The Dark Night*** by **Dan Schrock**, pastor at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship., published recently by Mennonite Publishing Network. Dan writes that periods of feeling abandoned by God are fairly common, even in Scripture, and are not necessarily related to emotional depression. You can purchase this book online at www.heraldpress.com or by calling 800 245-7894.

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