

NEWS & NOTES

March 29 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday, 7 pm, Library Committee

Saturday, 7 am, Men's Prayer Breakfast at Old Mill Inn

Staff Hours

Brenda Learning Tour/vacation

Doug Tuesday, Thursday 9-11, Wed, Friday 9-2

Steve Friday, 8-12

Happy Birthday! ☺

Mervin Swartzentruber, Today, March 29

Emil Broni, Tuesday, March 31

Ruth Shaum, Wednesday, April 1

Lane Meyer-Reed, Saturday, April 4

David Baer, Saturday, April 4

Dale Patten, Saturday, April 4

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.

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.

The cell phone number for **Bruce Nofziger** in the new phone list is incorrect. The correct number is 202-1396.

Offering

March 22 2009 Regular Offering	\$4,172.00
Year to Date Needed	\$77,575.00
Year to Date Received	\$81,986.00
Difference	\$4,411.00

Might you be a mentor?

***Mentor** a: a trusted counselor or guide b: tutor, coach (Webster)*

The mentoring program at Benton has been an important step in relationship building and integration into the community church. Around age 12, young people are paired with adults in order to build relationships, keep the young person connected to the church, and to reach out to the community. The program formally ends when the young person graduates from high school, but many times the relationships continue beyond this time.

Mentors and mentees connect with each other at church and at other times throughout the year, during both formal and informal activities. It provides opportunity for the young person to feel connected to church beyond Sunday morning and gives the adult a chance to take interest in the life of a young person.

Several young people at Benton are at an age when they are paired with mentors. If asked to be a mentor, is it something that you would consider? If so, or if you would like more information, please contact Mary Ann Weber at 533-3583 or maweber815@yahoo.com.

Next Sunday, at 7 pm, there will be a **Messiah sing-along** here at Benton in place of our usual Messiah concert. Come to sing or listen; bring your friends and family, and a Messiah score if you have one. Darrel Hostetler will be leading, and there will be string and piano accompaniment.

The Clinton-Benton churches' Good Friday service on April 10 will be a passion play written by Zion Community Church's Jim Wysong. Children interested in singing and acting in the play are invited to Rock Run Church of the Brethren at 5 pm for a rehearsal and meal. The worship begins at 7 pm.

Donations of candy and other small items that fit inside eggs for the **Easter egg hunt** on April 11 will be appreciated. There are fliers in the foyer to invite family and friends. Everyone is welcome. See Donna Risser if you have any questions.

Benton women: Consider taking a short weekend to interact with Mennonite women from the area on the topic of nurturing our lives in Christ and our care for each other. On Friday evening May 15 and all day Saturday May 16, Belmont Mennonite Church will host a Sister-Care seminar. Registration is \$30 due April 10, and covers meals, lodging (if you want it), and a training manual. Talk to Marian Miller or Ruth Schlabach if you are interested in attending.

Brenda hopes to be traveling to Iran with an MCC Great Lakes Women's learning tour, leaving Tuesday March 31 and returning Saturday April 11. If the group does not receive Iranian visas, Brenda plans to take a week of vacation to travel with Rich to Denver to visit their son Eric, returning Tuesday April 7.

Doug has agreed to serve Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference as an assistant regional conference minister for the Southeast Goshen and Swa-nee area councils for April to June. This area includes the churches from Waterford to Warsaw and from Yellow Creek to South Bend. This role will be similar to the proposed "cluster pastor" idea introduced at the recent regional gatherings. Doug will be responsible to work with these pastors and congregations in their ongoing life and ministry. Another staff person will handle pastoral transitions. The projected time commitment is 10-15 hours per month.

The local chapter of the Salvation Army recently sent out a call for additional donations to support their efforts in working with those effected by the recent economic problems. The regional office of the Salvation Army released over \$3 million for matching funds to be used specifically for this fund raising effort. We receive many telephone calls at the church asking for assistance and often encourage the callers to contact the Salvation Army. For this reason, the Ministry of Service & Witness sent \$300 on behalf of Benton Mennonite Church in response to this request for additional donations. These funds were disbursed out of the Christian Service line item of the Ministry of Service & Witness. If you would like further information, please contact Grant Martin.

The Christian Service line item was created by the Ministry of Service & Witness to support members and participants of our congregation in their efforts to reach out to the community. It can be used for just about anything related to your efforts to help, work with or support those

you encounter in your daily life. Helping a neighbor with home repairs? Taking someone to a doctor's appointment? Going on a service trip like Youth Venture, Service Adventure or another volunteer opportunity? Helping someone plant a garden? Need a pair of work boots for the MDS trip? These and many other things could receive financial assistance from the Christian Service line item. So far this year, we have supported the following individuals or agencies through the Christian Service fund: Anna Hade, the Salvation Army of Elkhart County, Eddie and Anita Martin, and Jacob and Katie Meyer-Reed. If you would like to know more about the Christian Service fund or would like to request assistance for something you are doing, please contact Grant Martin.

IN THE COMMUNITY

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

The Window has computers available to use for filing unemployment claims. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has provided two computers to help meet the current demands of those needing to file for unemployment benefits. The use of these computers will be available Monday – Friday, 11 am – 3 pm. Those who need to set up a first time claim, please contact The Window to set up an appointment. Help will be available. Please call or stop in for more information. To file for a weekly claim voucher, please register at the front desk during the above hours. The Window is located at 223 South Main Street, Goshen; Phone 533-9680.

Stuart Murray Williams, pastor, mission worker, church planter and leader in the Anabaptist Network in the United Kingdom, will be a guest at **Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary**, March 30 to April 2. He will present a public lecture on Monday, March 30, beginning at 7 pm in Waltner Hall. He also will speak in chapel on Tuesday at 11:45 am, and at Forum on Thursday, at noon. A light lunch is available on Thursday beginning at 11:30 am.