

NEWS & NOTES

May 10 2009

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday, 9:30 am, Friendship Circle Sewing
Thursday, 7 pm, Ministry of Service & Witness, at
Arlene's apt.
Sunday, 1 pm, Congregational meeting

Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday, 9-3; Wednesday, 1-3; Friday, 9-12
Doug Tuesday, Friday, 9-2; Thursday, 9-12
Steve Friday, 8-12

Happy Birthday! ☺

Monday, May 11, Jerrol Shaum
Thursday, May 14, Jill Kaufman
Friday, May 15, Mary Grove

Announcements

On Wednesday morning, **Doug and Brenda** will be on a team retreat.

Noah Kaufman will be meeting with Brenda over the coming weeks to explore the possibility of baptism.

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. 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

Offering

May 3 2009 Regular Offering	\$3,893.00
Year to Date Needed	\$93,625.00
Year to Date Recieved	\$97,219.00
Difference	\$3,594.00

Getting an early start!

What happens when you bring junior youth parents together to generate summer activity ideas for their kids? You get ideas like: bowling, canoeing, amusement park, movie night and attending junior youth convention in Columbus, Ohio. Is that correct? Yes, it is correct! Seven junior youth and two brave parents are attending this year's convention. The attendees include: Josh & Jenny Bustos, Chelsea and Nik Risser, Eddie Martin, Sam Meyer-Reed and Jacob Kaufman. The lucky sponsors who will help initiate these young youth to convention are Steve and Lori Bustos. Steve is betting he can keep up with them, okay maybe only for a day or two. ☺

There are actually four separate gatherings occurring simultaneously at convention. They include children's, junior youth, MYF and the adult gathering that will all focus on the theme, Breathe and Be Filled. The junior youth will have full days that include times of worship, small group sessions, servant projects, games, concerts and many other activities.

To help cover some of the junior youth expenses to attend Convention the group will have a fund raiser this coming Sunday, May 17. Prior to the congregational meeting the junior youth and their parents will provide and serve a haystack lunch. Your generosity will help our junior youth get off to an early start in experiencing convention.

Convention is a wonderful way for our young people to experience the broader church in action as well as to meet new people and build a stronger bond as a group. So, remember your junior youth as they go where no other Benton Mennonite junior youth has ever gone before, to Columbus, Ohio and beyond!

On Sunday June 7, we will have our **annual worship service at Merry Lea**. This year we will focus on the Sermon on the Mount, celebrating those who have memorized all or part of it. Come search for Mount Merry Lea.

Congratulations to Steve Bustos who was selected from three finalists to receive the *Field and Distribution Leaders Church Relations Manager of the Year Award* at the MMA National Conference Awards Dinner on Saturday evening,

May 2. Orv and LaJane Yoder were also present at the event to celebrate with Steve! Orv is serving on the MMA President's Council of Advocates for 2009-2010.

Adult Sunday school classes will again move to electives during the summer months of June, July and August. Two choices will be offered: 1. The uniform lesson taught by Dave Miller; and 2. A potpourri of hot topics including one on nationalism using materials put out by Mennonite Church USA, a DVD series on aging along with discussion, and sermon response.

"Thank you for your contribution of \$1900 for the **Bethany** operating fund. Your support helps Bethany provide students with learning that lasts and faith that lives."

—*Scott Richer, Advancement Director, Bethany Christian Schools*

"Thank you for choosing to support **The Salvation Army** with your gift of \$300.00. I want you to know just how much your compassion means to our struggling neighbors."

—*Captain Jason Pollom, Commanding Officer, The Salvation Army*

IN THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 pm, Maple City Chapel Fellowship Hall
Gospel Echoes Team Annual Banquet The evening will include a delicious home-style dinner, music by the Gospel Echoes Harvest and New Life teams, ministry road report, prison testimonies, and multi-media presentation. Former inmate Jim Newsome will be guest speaker.

Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm

Bethany Christian High School choirs and instrumental groups will present their **spring concerts** in the school chapel. There is no admission charge and all are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm, at Pleasant View Mennonite Church

The **Bel Canto Singers** and music director Bradley Kauffman of Hesston College, will perform a concert of fine music. A reception following will feature history writer John Sharp sharing Hesston Centennial stories and Bel Canto on the lighter side. **Alumni and friends are invited to this Hesston College special event in Indiana!** Bel Canto will also sing at Bethany Christian School chapel on Wednesday.

Saturday, May 16, 1 pm at Merry Lea's Farmstead site

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College will hold a Greener Congregations workshop. Luke Gascho, Merry Lea's executive director, will lead the group in considering how and why a church might form a creation care leadership group and what that group might do to encourage holistic stewardship. The workshop will take place during NatureFest, a family-friendly weekend of outdoor activities for people of all ages. Come just for this event or bring the family and stay for the weekend. See www.goshen.edu/merrylea/merrynews/NatureFest09.php to register or learn more about NatureFest.

Wednesday, May 20, 9 am to 5 pm

How many comforters can be finished in a two-day effort for Mennonite Central Committee's overseas comforter program? Mennonite Women of College Mennonite Church in Goshen, is sponsoring a **"Comforter Blitz"**. All are welcome (women, men and children) to join this come-and-go time dedicated to getting comforter tops off our shelves, knotted, finished and delivered to MCC. Enter any door at College Mennonite Church and follow signs to Gathering Rooms 141 and 142. Any amount of time will contribute to getting warm bedding to persons in need. Please contact Edna Reed at 574-773-3622 with questions.

Saturday, May 23, 2:30 pm, College Mennonite Church

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary **Commencement Service**. Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister for Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA, will be the speaker.

Thursday, May 28, 8 am – 12 noon, Greencroft Goshen Senior Center

Senior Health and Wellness Fair is being held as part of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging's Homecoming Week celebration. More information is on the bulletin board.

A Summer of excitement is just around the corner! If you haven't registered your child for **Amigo's summer camps** yet, you may want to do so soon, to ensure their spot! If you need a brochure, you can download one from Amigo's website at www.AmigoCentre.org. For questions on camps or any of Amigo's other ministries, call the office at 269 651-2811 or send an email to info@AmigoCentre.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer!