



For we are strangers no more... *Ephesians 2:19-20*

NEWS & NOTES

August 2 2009

Rain Barrels: How do they help?

By Stan Grove

Stormwater runoff is the leading type of residential non-point source pollution. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from rooftops to use later for lawn and garden watering. Water collected in a rain barrel would normally pour off your roof directly or flow through roof gutter downspouts and become stormwater runoff. Depending on your yard, this runoff can travel onto paved surfaces and eventually into a storm drain.

The BMC Green Group is developing a Rain Barrel Construction activity for the BMC Retreat at Amigo Center in September. You are encouraged to sign up in advance on a sheet posted in the BMC lobby for purchasing a rain barrel. Even if you cannot use a rain barrel, you could purchase one or more for friends or relatives at \$25 each. You do not need to make a purchase to help with the construction project. Any that do not find homes with BMC folks may be sold after the retreat to others as a building fund raising project.

If you have any questions, check with one of us in the Green Group, which includes John and Lyn Buschert, Dave and Pat Baer, and Roger Hooley.

Here at Benton

Brenda is at Lake Michigan this week with the Meyer family.

On Tuesday Doug begins his new half-time assignment as interim conference minister of leadership transitions for Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, something he will do alongside his half-time work at Benton.

New Book in Library: MC USA recently sent each member congregation a copy of *Jesus matters: Good news for the 21st century*. The essays feature intergenerational theological reflection. Shane Claiborne's foreword says we need older folks who are willing to come alongside a new generation of Christians and allow them to reimagine church and make their own mistakes, as well as younger folks who know they don't have to make all the same mistakes, and who want to come alongside elders who have treasures of wisdom and scars to prove it. Check the list of writers—you should see a familiar name!

Friendship Circle is sponsoring the collection of School Kits again in July and August. Rather than asking you to take bags to fill, you may bring contents for the kits. There will be a fun evening planned later to fill the bags. Contents are 4 spiral **notebooks** about 8.5" x 10.5" and

STAFF HOURS

Brenda Vacation
Doug Wednesday, Friday, 1-5
Steve Friday, 8-12

BIRTHDAYS

Today, 2, Emily Baer
Wednesday, 5,
Andrew Buschert

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

70-80 sheets; 4 unsharpened #2 pencils; 1 ruler, flexible plastic indicating both 30 cm and 12 "; 1 box of colored pencils (12-24); 1 large pencil eraser.

Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse is a document that our church has put together in order to consider this issue. Those who work with children, such as Sunday school teachers and mentors, as well as others who are interested, should review the document on a regular basis. Join some Nurture Ministry members for a review on Wednesday, August 26, 7, pm at the church.

In the Community

Monday, August 3 2009, 7-8:30 pm, Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen

“Asperger & Autism Basics” An Introduction to Asperger Syndrome and High-functioning Autism. The Asperger/High-Functioning Autism Parent Group of Goshen invites the public to their third annual informational seminar. The evening is intended for parents, friends, youth leaders, pastors, Sunday school teachers, babysitters, grandparents, mentors, teachers, coaches, and any members of the community interested in learning more about children and youth on the autism spectrum. For more information contact Christine Guth christine@adnetonline.org, 534-2718 or Kaylene Ediger akediger@comcast.net, 825-1460.

Friday, August 7 2009, 7:30 pm, Eyedart Studio, Goshen

Doors of Goshen Benefit Auction These doors from the Hattle and Shoots buildings have been creatively repurposed by local artists. Visit www.gofridays.com to see the doors and more information on this event. The doors will be displayed at Eyedart Studio and on the corners of Main and Washington streets the week before the auction. LaCasa will receive part of the proceeds from the auction to use for programming. Eyedart Studio is located at 128 S Main St.

Sunday, August 9, 7 pm, Maple City Chapel
Concert by the internationally acclaimed African Children’s Choir. There is no admission

Mennonite World Conference Quiz Question

Which continent has the largest Mennonite and Brethren in Christ membership?

Answer to MWC quiz question for July 26:
Communion (Koinonia), community, witness

charge. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Choir’s efforts back in Africa.

CPT request for volunteers Christian Peacemaker Teams has recently purchased a foreclosure 3 flat at 2649 W 21St, Chicago, IL, 1 mile from their current location. The building is structurally sound but much work needs to be done for this building to be useable by CPT. The building will be used as office space, trainings and peace and justice events. We are hoping to use as much volunteer help as possible. We invite individuals and small groups to come help us with this “barn raising” project in the middle of Chicago. Yes, we need people with building expertise and people who are eager to work. We need immediate help but work will continue into August, September, October... It is helpful that we know the skills of the people coming. So look at your calendars and schedule a time to come. Come for a day, a weekend, a week. Contact volunteer coordinator Joyce Cassel at jjc636@gmail.com or 708.445.1998 (home) or 630.606.5670 (cell).

Wednesday, August 12 2009, 9 am – 11 am, Salem Mennonite Church Cabin

Free Screening Mammogram Vouchers The Goshen Center for Cancer Care will be handing out vouchers for Amish and Mennonite women who are uninsured at Salem Mennonite Church Cabin located at the corner of CR 13 and CR 46. See flier on the north bulletin board.

If a young man in your congregation is looking for an interesting two-year service opportunity, the MCC meat canner still needs one worker for the next canning season. Contact Mary Ann at the MCC Great Lakes office for details, 574 534-4133.