



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

NEWS & NOTES

August 9 2009

Fall Emphasis

By Doug Kaufman

With the congregation's decision to start a campaign to raise \$200,000 for a building project, the Pastoral Leadership Team has been working on how our worship and Sunday school times can support this important work. We will have a fall worship theme tentatively titled "Being generous people." We will look at generosity from a number of perspectives, basing our reflection first on God's generosity made abundantly clear in creation and in Jesus Christ. From this base we will look at being generous with our gifts and skills, generous in our welcome, generous in prayer, generous in our time, and of course generous with our money. In spite of how this might sound, it is not all about how much we can give. Part of recognizing God's generosity is recognizing that we do not need to do everything. We need only do our part, and part of our goal is to help each of us discern what our part will be in the building campaign. We will ask for pledges to the building campaign in November, after we have had time to discern what God is calling each of us to do. Along with the times of worship the adult Sunday School classes will be studying the book *God, Money, and Me* by Edwin Friesen of the Mennonite Foundation of Canada. Other activities will also be planned by the campaign leadership team. This will be an intense time of study, prayer, and discernment that I hope will lead

to the blessing of being able to move forward on making our building more accessible.

Here at Benton

The church retreat is September 11-13. Please turn in your intentions for the retreat to Troy/Donna Risser as soon as possible!

Doug has a new cell phone number: 574-536-6151.

Wednesday, August 19, 7 pm
Congregational meeting.

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 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**.

Wednesday, August 26, 7 pm

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 at the church.

Emily Baer is one of the cast members for Amish Acres Round Barn Theatre this season.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, 7 pm

Service and Witness at Arlene's

Wednesday, 9:30 am

Friendship Circle Sewing

STAFF HOURS

Brenda Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday,
9-2

Doug Vacation

Steve Friday, 8-12

BIRTHDAYS

Today, 9, Anita Rose Martin
Monday, 10, Rachel Hooley
Friday, 14, Jacob Meyer-Reed
Friday, 14, Caitlin Fecher
Saturday, 15,
Mary Ann Weber

OFFERING

AUGUST 2 2009

Regular Offering	\$3,146.00
YTD Needed	\$128,400.00
YTD Received	\$133,759.00
Difference	\$5,359.00
Peace Offering	\$1,698.00

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

Oklahoma!, *Plain and Fancy*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *Cats* are the plays being presented. If you are interested in discount tickets for any of the shows, talk to Pat Baer.

In the Community

There are a few spaces available on the November 14 - 26 2009, MCC Israel/Palestine Learning Tour. Tomorrow (Monday, August 10) is the deadline for applications. Details and application forms are available at <http://www.mcc.org/greatlakes/events/learningtour.htm>. If you have interest in or questions about this tour, please contact Les Gustafson-Zook at the MCC Great Lakes office - 574-534-4133 or gg@mcc.org.

Emerge Ministries, an extension of Church Without Walls, is asking for assistance for low-income Jr. High and High school students by providing school supplies. The items Emerge would need is pens, pencils, papers, rulers, calculators, highlighters, folders and binders. Your time and support is greatly appreciated! We will need this supplies by tomorrow. If you have any question please feel free to call the office.

Tuesday, August 11, 9 am, Greencroft Senior Center
The Mennonite Mission Network Auxiliary invites you to hear about the work of Mark and Mary Hurst. The Hursts are serving as resource people and pastors with the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand. They seek to build Anabaptist networks, provide services and resources to members of the association and others interested in Anabaptism, and conduct workshops on conflict resolution.

Tuesday, August 11, 12 noon – 1 pm
Brian and Noelia Fox will be speaking at the Mennonite offices, 1601 West Beardsley Ave, Elkhart. Brian and Noelia are working to support and strengthen the ministries of the growing Mennonite church in Burgos, Spain. They work with youth in the church and in the community, and explore local business opportunities. Bring your own lunch for this luncheon meeting.

“Seven Sacred Pauses: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day” is the theme for the Women Creating Community 2009–10 retreat series at A Quiet Place Prayer Center at Camp Mack, Milford, Ind. A group of women will

Mennonite World Conference Quiz Question

After the United States, which country has the largest Mennonite and Brethren in Christ membership?

Answer to MWC quiz question for August 2:
Africa (~530,000) [MWC 2006 survey]

gather on the first Wednesday of every month from September through May (excluding January), dividing the time between input, silence and solitude, and sharing in small covenant groups. Leader: Karla Minter. Cost: \$280 for eight sessions. Up to 4 CEUs available. Register by Aug. 15. Download a brochure: im.mennonite.net/news/news.php Contact A Quiet Place: 574 658-4831 (Camp Mack) or milfam@npcc.net.

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. A nurse practitioner will be available to answer questions regarding breast cancer. See flier on the north bulletin board.

Sunday, August 23, 11:30 am, 4 pm, Pleasant View Mennonite Church

Help for Destiny: A “dine-in or “take-out” hog roast with live musical entertainment, sponsored by friends and family of Destiny Peshina-Higdon, daughter of Jim & Ruth Peshina. Pork Barbecue meal includes buns, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, chips, desert, and beverage. Donations for Destiny’s Fund help meet cost related to her cancer treatments. A sign-up sheet is available for “take-out” meals on the table in the foyer. See poster on the bulletin board. For more information, contact Gwen Blea, 574-534-5408 or mamagwenda@yahoo.com.

Support Bethany Girls Soccer Game to Help Destiny Join others at the game between Bethany Christian Schools -vs- Goshen High School Varsity Girls Soccer. A portion of the ticket proceeds go to Destiny's Fund, Thursday, August 27, 6:30 pm at Bethany Christian School on South Main. Tickets information call 574-534-

2567 or Gwen Blea 574-534-5408

mamagwenda@yahoo.com

Evening Bible course opens door to seminary study: Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary will offer "Reading the Bible" on Thursday evenings during the fall semester. This graduate-level course challenges students to ask tough questions and explore the Scriptures for answers. The course begins Thursday, September 10, meeting 6:30-9:30 pm on the AMBS campus in Elkhart. Auditors welcome. See more and register online at www.ambs.edu/academics/courses.

Anyone with ties to the Arthur, Illinois, Mennonite community is invited to the Arthur, Illinois, Mennonite Homecoming Reunion on August 28-29, 2009. If you attended any of the Mennonite Churches in the Arthur, Illinois, community from 1955-1975, we would love to see you again. Join us for fun, fellowship, storytelling. For more information, contact Dorothy Miller dfmbyke@aol.com or Phil Helmuth Phil.helmuth@emu.edu, 540-746-2068).

September 11-13 2009, Newcomer Center, Goshen College

Damascus Road Anti-Racism Analysis Training. Expand your understanding of systemic racism and how it impacts the church and society. What does it take to be a truly anti-racist church? Open to individuals and churches/organizations interested in exploring a common definition of racism and moving toward a vision of an anti-racist Church. For more information and to register, visit greatlakes.mcc.org or contact GreatLakesOffice@mcc.org or (574) 534-4133.

Mark your calendars for the 11th Annual MDC Goldenrod Benefit Auction. The date is August 28 and 29 2009. The location is at the **Shipshewana Auction Barn**, south of the four-way stop in Shipshewana on St Rd 5. Friday evening schedule: **Project Promise chicken BBQ meal** at 4:30. **Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook** musical program at 6:45. Homemade Ice Cream, Fry Pies, KettleKorn, bake sale items and cheese sold until 9 pm. Saturday morning schedule: **homemade cinnamon rolls** at 6 am, **haystack breakfast** at 7:30 am, **live auction and silent auction** at 9 am, **BBQ pork sandwiches** at 10:30 am. Bake sale items and miscellaneous

foods sold until close. We have had many locally made items donated. Proceeds benefit persons with disabilities served by MDC Goldenrod. For information or to donate contact MDC Goldenrod at (574) 533-9720 ext.5 or e-mail nedrag@goldenrodonline.org.

"A celebration of peace: Beyond borders," Oct. 23-24. Children in grades 3-7 who want to impact their homes, schools, communities and the world through positive attitudes and actions are invited to take part in a two-day conference at Bluffton (Ohio) University. Through music, storytelling, drama, art, drumming, cooperative games and multicultural interaction, students will recognize that borders are created by society to separate people and will be challenged to consider possibilities for uniting all humanity under one sky. Sponsors: The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, Bluffton University and Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes. To learn more, see www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/conference/ or contact Louise Matthews: 419 358-3207 or matthewsl@bluffton.edu

Long-term MDS Volunteers in Columbus, MS Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers are needed at the warehouse property in Columbus, MS for several weeks at a time from early November through early January. Tasks include preparing vehicles and trailers to be taken to projects; packing trailers and vehicles with kitchen, office and bedding supplies; meeting and hosting volunteers as they come to drive vehicles to projects and other jobs as they arise. Travel expenses would be reimbursed. For information or to volunteer, call Nate Hoover at (717)859-2210.

Beyond Words: Imagining a Visual Spirituality is a retreat gathering for artists and anyone interested in connecting to God in visual ways. The weekend will include visually-focused worship, artist-led workshops, as well as open time and space for rest, reflection, and fellowship. Friday - Sunday, October 23-25 2009, at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt Pleasant PA. Register by September 1 to receive \$10 discount per person. Registration deadline is October 10. For cost options, call 800 839-1021 or email info@laurelville.org.