

NEWS & NOTES

May 11, 2008

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday 9:00 am Friendship Circle Sewing
4:00 – 6:00 pm Pastoral Leadership Team
8:00 pm Mennos Softball game @
New Paris Diamond 1

Thursday 7:00 pm Worship Ministry

Staff Hours

Brenda Tue, Wed & Fri 9-2
Doug Tue & Fri 9-2
Janelle Fri 9-2

Happy Birthday! ☺

Today Jerry Shaum
Tuesday Mel Kauffman
Matthew Rody
Wednesday Jill Kaufman
Thursday Mary Grove

Happy Anniversary! ☺

Tuesday Velorous & Lowell Hoover (63 years)
Friday Edith & Galen Johns (65 years)

THE MONTH OF MAY will be our time to collect grocery items, household, and personal items for MDC Goldenrod. You will find a list of items needed in your mail boxes. We will deliver the items around the end of May. Let's see how much we can get into our box in the foyer!

FRIDAY MAY 24, 6 pm, Rob and Tara Cahill, Mennonite Central Committee workers in Guatemala, will be at the Buschert home for a carry-in meal and talk about their work. They will speak on "'Food or Fuel: Basic Grains and The Q'eqchi' Maya Food Security Project.'" Contact Doug or Lyn if you are interested in attending. We are suggesting bringing dishes made of locally-grown foods.

MAY 4, 2008 Regular Offering	\$4,053.00
Year to Date Needed	\$96,310.00
Year to Date Received	\$104,341.00
Difference	\$8,031.00

SABBATICAL PLANS

by Douglas Kaufman

In only one week I begin a three-month sabbatical. It is hard for me to believe that the time is this close. As I prepare to depart I want to express my appreciation to the congregation for so generously providing this time away for me for study, prayer, and renewal. The Lilly Endowment has also generously provided a way for me and the family to have an unforgettable experience during this time.

I will spend this time exploring our Mennonite heritage, focusing on the story of the Amish division from Mennonites. After a week at home, I will spend a week at Taize Retreat in France. The heart of my sabbatical will be four weeks in Basel, Switzerland, at the Bienenberg Training and Conference Center. At this Mennonite school I will study Mennonite history while also continuing to study German in Basel. I will also visit Swiss Mennonite churches and historical locations.

My family joins me in Europe about halfway through the sabbatical. We will spend a week together in Switzerland, and then half a week in Alsace-Lorraine, France, and half a week biking in Germany along the Rhine River. In these locations we will take in tourist sites like castles and the Alps, but will also have an opportunity to explore more Mennonite locations as well. Finally we spend a week in Paris, the premier city of Europe.

When I return home I will have three weeks of free time and one week of spiritual retreat at the Hermitage in Three Rivers, Michigan. My niece Julianne Kaufman is getting married at the end of July so we will travel to her wedding in Texas. Are you interested in keeping up with our activities during the sabbatical? I plan to begin a blog where I will post photos and messages of what I am exploring. You can visit the blog at <http://amishmennoniteineurope.blogspot.com/>

OTHER EVENTS

BETHANY CHRISTIAN Middle School will present its spring concert at 7 p.m. this Thursday, May 15, in the school chapel. There is no admission charge and all are welcome to attend.

THE GOSHEN COLLEGE Music and Theater departments are performing the musical "Quilters" by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek on May 18-20. Directed by Debra Brubaker and Doug Liechty Caskey, the musical consists of narratives, folk dances and songs inspired by the actual diary reflections of pioneer women of the 19th century as they ventured west across North America. The unusual Sunday through Tuesday run coincides with the last three days of the college's May Term. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Umble Center. Seats can be reserved by calling the Umble Center Box Office at 574-535-7395. Tickets cost \$12 general and \$8 students/seniors. Assisted listening devices are available upon request.

ASSOCIATED MENNONITE Biblical Seminary extends an invitation to the 2008 commencement service, Saturday, May 24, beginning at 2:30 p.m., at College Mennonite Church in Goshen. Kyle Childress, pastor of Austin Heights Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, Texas, will be the speaker. Come celebrate with the 27 graduates and their friends and families.

WHEELS OF COMPASSION – a bike read to benefit the Center for Healing and Hope on June 7, 2008. You may ride 6 or 26 or 40 miles with family and friends. Any distance, you and your family can enjoy a health outdoor activity while supporting an important cause.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE ANNUAL SESSIONS JUNE 19-21 2008

Annual Sessions 2008 will be hosted by the LaGrange area churches June 19-21. Come join this once-a-year gathering of representatives from our community of congregations.

New this year:

- ✚ **Register online!** We are excited to offer secure online registration and payment for adults and children: www.im.mennonite.net/events/conference_assembly/registration.php A hard copy registration form may be printed from the conference web site or is available upon request from the conference office.
- ✚ **Special youth** conference! For youth in grades 9-12, hosted by the LaGrange area youth groups-- Emma, Marion and Shore. Sponsors should register youth as a group via the youth brochure: www.im.mennonite.net/events/youth/youth.php
- ✚ **Junior high** youth activities are not listed on the registration form, but the LaGrange area congregations want to make sure that any 7th/8th graders coming with their family have a place to fit in. Please contact the conference office before May 19 if your 7th/8th grader will be attending Annual Sessions and would like to join activities planned by the host congregations. Specific plans will be made after we have a headcount of interested youth (since planning for one or two would be very different than planning for 10-15).
- ✚ **All-day interactive** seminar Friday with Alan Roxburgh, co-author of *The Missional Leader* and consultant to the IN-MI Transition Team, followed by an evening of "Entering doors to God's surprises—a time for stories and reflections."
- ✚ **Banner Exchange:** Your congregation's unused banners may be another's treasures!

Feel free to contact our office if you have questions. We hope to see you in just a couple of months!