

NEWS & NOTES

May 25, 2008

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00 pm Pastoral Leadership Team
6:00 & 7:00 pm Mennos Softball game
@ New Paris Diamond 2

Staff Hours

Brenda Tue 9-5, Thu 11-5, Fri 1-5
Doug on sabbatical – see blog at
<http://amishmennoniteineurope.blogspot.com/>
Janelle Fri 9:00 – 2:00

Happy Birthday! ☺

Wednesday Crystal Kilmer
Friday Ralph Martin
Fernando Trcka
Deb Hickman
Sarah Hooley

BRENDA AND RICH are at Camp Friedenswald this weekend for Jonny and Hannah's wedding.

IN AN EFFORT to support local vegetable farmers and families in our congregation on limited incomes, the Caregivers have once again purchased a summer's share at the Mill Race Farmer's Market. Due to tax considerations, the Finance Ministry is asking that anyone who would like to use the basket this summer talk with Marian Miller or Brenda Meyer to get their name on an approved list. We look forward to hearing from you!

LAST TUESDAY, conscientious objector Robert Weiss was sentenced to 7 months in prison for refusal to redeploy to Iraq. Robert visited Benton Mennonite before he went to Germany. If you would like to write to Robert Weiss in prison, then contact Janelle or Brenda for instructions.

MAY 18, 2008 Regular Offering	\$2,743.00
Year to Date Needed	\$101,660.00
Year to Date Received	\$110,799.00
Difference	\$9,139.00

RIVER STEWARDS

By Daniel Fecher

“River stewards” just doesn’t capture the right feeling. While in denotation the name fits, in connotation, “river stewards” is too clean. The name leaves out too much. Leaves out too much mud. Leaves out ticks. Leaves out coldness. Leaves out the macroinvertebrates we sweep up in our nets. While “river stewards” doesn’t capture all the rustic elements, it does capture the political, ideological elements; beneath all the mud are gems—the reasons we commit ourselves to this ministry.

As river stewards, we become aware of things like dissolved oxygen, nitrates, turbidity, and the speed of the current in order to know. While some of these fail to elicit any excitement in non-river steward folk, one test generally does: fecal coliform. Whether it’s the word “fecal”, or the euphony, the way the words just slide so easily from the tongue, this is the test that borrows ears. I love the enthusiasm with which I am able to explain, “This tests how much poop is in the river!”. While maybe shamefully uncouth, it is shamefully true. The Law of the Conservation of Matter may remind any that matter cannot be created or destroyed. This applies to manure. When it rains, the manure washes into the rivers; therefore, we have e. coli in the river. As river stewards, we monitor the e. coli levels throughout the year. We use statistics and numbers from our tests to form our apology, our defense, for when we talk about the condition of our river.

We test, but why? Well, our tests make us more believable. Most people don’t like the idea of a river full of poop and mercury. If we can provide overwhelming evidence that this is what the Elkhart River is, then we may inspire change. The river is an origin. While in our culture, we have a tendency to feel disconnected from nature, we still are. Wal-mart has still not discovered how to conjure chicken, penicillin, pop rocks, and plasma screen televisions from nothing. All things come from nature, a gift given by God out of love. Gifts given in love are to be treated with care. The river is to be treated with care.

OTHER EVENTS

MDC GOLDENROD offices have moved. Please note that the new address is 1514 College Ave., Goshen, IN 46526. The phone number and email addresses remain unchanged.

BETHANY CHRISTIAN Schools is seeking a high school English teacher. Teaching responsibilities include a freshman/sophomore English course, upper-level classes: English 12: College Prep World Literature, AP English 12; and an elective, Creative Writing. Interest in and aptitude for theatre production would be assets. Applicants should hold, or be qualified to obtain, Indiana licensure in secondary English. To apply, submit a resume and letter of application to Allan Dueck, Principal, 2904 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526-5499. Phone: 574-534-2567; email: akdueck@bethanycs.net.

DO YOU HAVE a car or trailer you don't need? MDC Goldenrod, a local ministry to people with disabilities, is looking for a 4-door car in good condition and a single axle trailer. Both will be used by the ministry and not sold. If you could donate either one, please call David at 533-9720, ext. 2.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE Great Lakes office in Goshen is looking for volunteers. Occasionally, help is needed to answer phones when staff members are in meetings. If you would be interested in helping out a few hours at a time, please contact the Great Lakes office at (574) 534-4133 or jmartin@mcc.org.

WHEELS OF COMPASSION – a bike ride 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 healthy outdoor activity while supporting an important cause.

GOSHEN GENERAL Hospital's Hospice program seeks volunteers. Hospice volunteers go where ever a hospice patient calls home – residence, nursing home, assisted living facility, or hospital – to provide comfort, support and companionship to the patient and their families. Hospice volunteers journey with those facing life's ultimate challenge. To join our team of hospice volunteers, or to learn more about hospice and the dying process, please call Nadine Zook Miller at (574) 535-2700 . Training is scheduled for June 14 & 21 from 8 am – 5 pm and June 17 & 19 from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. All sessions held in the High Park building on GGH campus.