

# NEWS & NOTES

November 30

## HERE AT BENTON

### This Week

Wednesday, 7 pm, Nurture Ministry

Thursday, 7 pm, Service and Witness

Saturday, 7 am, Men's Prayer Breakfast at Old Mill Inn

### Staff Hours

Brenda Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-3; Friday, 9-12

Doug Tuesday, 9-11; Wednesday, 9:30-11:30; Friday, 9-2

Steve Friday, 8-12

### Happy Birthday! ☺

Sharon Erb December 4

Isaiah Kaufman December 4

Arlene Hershberger December 5

### Thank you

Dear Benton,

Thank you so much for the wonderful package! I really enjoyed talking with you all on Sunday. At church last Sunday we were sharing what we are thankful for. I shared that I am so thankful for all of you. You are such a blessing in my life. Again, thank you for the package! My housemates and I will really enjoy the treats that you sent.

Peace,

Anna Hade

**We are putting together** a new phone directory and hotline. In your mailboxes is an information sheet for you to complete. If you would like to have your cell phone included in the hotline or would like to receive an email instead of a phone call for the hotline, please indicate this on the form. Please complete the form and put in Grant Martin's church mailbox by December 21. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Martin.

### Offering

November 23, 2008 Regular Offering	\$3,351.00
Year to Date Needed	\$32,100.00
Year to Date Received	\$35,903.00
Difference	\$3,803.00

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Advent is upon us!

Join Goshen College on a journey through the season as students, faculty, and staff share their insights, perspectives, and prayers through online Advent devotions. The weekday devotions are based on the upcoming Sunday's lectionary scripture passages and reflecting on the theme: "Let your face shine!" To access the devotions, to sign up to receive them as e-mails or to add them to your RSS reader, visit: [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions).

*Mondays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 7:30 to 8:45 pm*

### Group Centering Prayer experience at College

**Mennonite Church** Leaders will be Dan Schrock, pastor, Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church; Carmen Horst, Assembly Mennonite; Judith Davis, St John's Catholic Church; Marie Stoltzfus, College Mennonite Church. Prayer time will start at 7:30 pm, lasting about a half hour, followed by a teaching from Father Thomas Keating, teacher and author about centering prayer, via a DVD.

Making space for God is a constant challenge in our lives. It becomes even more so in the busy days of the Christmas season. Centering Prayer is one way to allow ourselves the opportunity to "be with God" in silence. The focus is the deepening of our relationship with the Living Christ.

We anticipate this to be an ecumenical group experience. If Centering Prayer is new to you, don't hesitate to come. There is guidance for our times together, so come and participate. If you cannot come to all the sessions, come for those to which you are able. You do not need to sign up. Invite other friends who may also be interested. We will meet in the Gathering Rooms 143 and 142 on the south side of the church building. There will be signs at the doors to guide you.

*Thursday, December 4*

### Ten Thousand Villages in Goshen (206 S Main St) will donate 20% of sales to Bethany Christian Schools.

Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase, and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany. Store hours this day are 9 am - 7 pm.

*December 4, 7 pm*

**Interested persons, pastors, and congregational missions/outreach personnel are all invited to the Bridge of Hope Christmas Classical** in the ballroom of the old Goshen theater (Downtown @ 808) at. Come enjoy classical style Christmas music and hear about the developing ministry of Bridge of Hope in Elkhart county. Bridge of Hope is a ministry ending and preventing homelessness, one church and one family at a time. Feel free to bring a spouse or a friend for an enjoyable celebration. For more information, call Steve Slagel at 536-1461.

*Saturday, Dec. 6, 4-6:30 pm*

**Bethany Christian Schools will host a chili supper** in conjunction with home girls and boys basketball games. All supper donations will go towards the purchase of laptop computers and the iMac mobile lab. Additionally, alumni and former faculty will receive free admission to the games and are eligible for prizes. The girls games begin at 1 p.m. and the boys at 6 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1 pm*

**The next Goshen College Afternoon Sabbatical** will be a holiday treat in the form of carols, legends, dances, feasts and tales in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. Renaissance music with the Maple City Brass Ensemble and the Maple City Consort recorder group will accompany Professor Emerita of French and Humanities Judith Davis as she takes us back to early France and England for the most important celebration of the year. The event is free and open to the public.

*Sunday, December 14, 3 pm*

**Sing Along Messiah**, performed by Vesper Chorale, Vesper Chorale Orchestra, and YOU! at Kern Road Mennonite Church. Tickets available at Kern Road Mennonite Church, Shirk's Piano and Organ Co, [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com), and at the door.

Handel's Messiah: Lecture and Workshop with rehearsal, Saturday, December 13, 1-4 pm at Kern Road Mennonite Church; \$10 workshop fee, \$8 copy of music score. Call 291-0924 to make workshop reservation by December 10.

*December 6, 6 pm*

### **A preach-off to celebrate global connections**

Two years ago, AMIGOS—young adults of Mennonite World Conference—organized a preach-off in Goshen to raise funds for the Global Youth Summit in Paraguay 2009. People enjoyed the humorous sermons on obscure passages, so we're bringing it back—with a testimonial twist! The event will be held at the Gathering Room of College Mennonite, Goshen, Ind. The fun of the preach-off will be combined with testimonies that celebrate the rich connections that people in northern Indiana have with the global church.

The funds raised will go to help emerging young adult leaders from the global south (Africa, Asia, Latin America) attend the Global Youth Summit in Paraguay 2009, so that our conversations on the pressing issues of our time and how our faith speaks to those issues may be truly global. We're only \$50,000 away from our goal of raising \$125,000 to go toward plane ticket and visa costs. We invite you to support the next generation of Anabaptist leaders from around the globe!

Childcare will be provided. For more information and to download a promotional flier, see online:

<http://im.mennonite.net/events/events.php>

Or, contact Jason Shenk, Mennonite Church USA representative to AMIGOS: 574 294-4967 or [shenkja@gmail.com](mailto:shenkja@gmail.com)

*June 30-July 5 2009*

**Mennonite Church USA biennial convention** in Columbus Ohio. The theme, "Breath and be filled" and based John 20:21-22, is meant to remind us that before we can recognize where God is at work in the world, we must first breathe in and be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We encourage you to register online beginning December 1 at 8 am EST. Paper registration opens January 2 2009. To receive priority on hotel rooms, it is advantageous to register online.

If you have any questions or problems as you register, call 523-3049 or send an email to [ConventionInfo@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:ConventionInfo@MennoniteUSA.org).