

# NEWS & NOTES

December 7 2008

## HERE AT BENTON

### This Week

**Wednesday**, 9:30 am, Friendship Circle Sewing

**Thursday**, 7 pm, Pastoral Leadership Team meeting

### Staff Hours

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

**Doug** Tuesday 9-11, Wednesday – Friday 9-2

**Steve** Friday 8-12

### Happy Birthday! ☺

**Nikolas Risser** December 8

**Velorous Hoover** December 9

**Kathy Smoker** December 13

### Announcements

No fellowship meal until January 11.

Christmas program is December 21. There will be no Sunday School.

Jerrold Shaum has a new email address:

[jdshaum@verizon.net](mailto:jdshaum@verizon.net).

One of the activities at this week's Friendship Circle meeting will be packaging cookies for Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry. All are welcome.

**We are putting together** a new phone directory and hotline. If you haven't yet turned in your form, please do so and put it in Grant Martin's church mailbox by December 21. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Martin. 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.

### Offering

November 30 2008 Regular Offering	\$1219.00
Year to Date Needed	\$34775.00
Year to Date Received	\$37122.00
Difference	\$2347.00

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Emerge Ministries** is a ministry of Church Without Walls, a sister congregation in the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. One of their pastors, Cora Brown, is the director of EmERGE Ministries and preached at Benton last year. EmERGE assists low-income families who are on the verge of becoming homeless or those who are homeless and seeking basic shelter for their children and themselves. This winter they hope to open a new transitional housing space. They have been awarded a Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit in the amount of \$25,000. This means that if you make a contribution of \$100 or more, you can claim 50% as a credit towards your Indiana state income taxes. In order to participate in the program you need to fill out two forms to send with your contribution. These forms are on the foyer table. See Doug or Brenda for more information.

*Monday, December 8, 7:30 - 8:45 pm*

The second ecumenical **Group Centering Prayer time for Advent** will take place tomorrow evening, in the Koinonia Room at College Mennonite Church. This silent prayer time lasts about 30 minutes followed by viewing a DVD teaching by Father Thomas Keating, teacher and author about Centering Prayer. Previous experience is not a prerequisite and there is no signing up. Just come to participate. Koinonia room is on the south side of the church, very close to parking. There will be signs on the doors to guide you.

*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.

*Thursday, December 11, 9 am – 7 pm*

Please help support LaCasa on **Community Shopping Day at Ten Thousand Villages**. 20% of all sales will be donated to LaCasa, Inc.

*Thursday, December 11, 7:30 pm*

Come hear choral and instrumental groups as Bethany Christian High School holds its annual **Christmas concert** in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Sing along on several traditional carols, and join them for their concluding song, "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

*Friday, December 12, 7 pm*

**Goshen Farmers Market Film Series** WHAT WOULD JESUS BUY? The Movie that Santa Doesn't Want You to See.

What Would Jesus Buy? follows Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir as they go on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse: the end of mankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt! At Old Goshen Theater, 216 South Main Street. Free but donations are appreciated. For more information about the movie: <http://wwjbmovie.com/about.html>

*Saturday, December 13, 9 am – 12 noon*

The Family Worship Center will be holding a clothing drive to help families in the community. They will be accepting gently-used clothing and shoes (all sizes), belts, new packaged underwear and socks (all sizes), winter coats, gloves, hats, and baby items (blankets, clothing, and accessories).

Please fold the items. A sturdy box or trash bags work best. Pockets should be emptied and belts securely fastened to their appropriate items. Items that come in pairs, please keep together (ex: shoelaces tied together for shoes, gloves stuffed one inside the other, etc.)

Drop off location is the Family Worship Center at the Lighthouse, 306 S 27th St, Goshen. If you are unable to drop off at the time above, please call to schedule other arrangements: 534-8372.

*January 24 to March 14 2009*

Paw Ball: Bethany Christian Schools will hold a developmental basketball experience for youth in grades 4-6. Each Saturday participants will have a 90-minute session that includes a time of instruction followed by a game. Registration is \$10 per child (free if a parent serves as a volunteer coach) and is limited to the first 40 participants. For more information and registration forms see

[www.bethanycs.net/pawball](http://www.bethanycs.net/pawball) or contact Bryan Kehr at 534-2567 or [bjkehr@bethanycs.net](mailto:bjkehr@bethanycs.net) during school hours. Registrations must be received by Jan. 17.

*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.

*June 30-July 5 2009*

**Mennonite Church USA biennial convention** in Columbus Ohio. The theme, "Breathe and be filled", based on 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).

**Concerned about your savings** and investment situation during these extreme financial times? MMA offers financial expertise and services in tune with your faith values. Call your MMA advisor or (800) 348-7468 or visit [www.mma-online.org](http://www.mma-online.org).

**Redefine Christmas** is a movement to make holiday giving more charitable. Instead of less-meaningful gifts, we can give others donations to their favorite charities in their names, and we can ask that our friends and loved ones do the same for us.

We have established a website with simple, secure resources to help people give and request charitable gifts. The url is [www.redefinechristmas.org](http://www.redefinechristmas.org). The sole purpose of the website and the overall message is to inspire and facilitate charitable giving. Our Foundation does not accept donations.

-- *The Dalio Family Foundation*