

NEWS & NOTES

December 21 2008

HERE AT BENTON

This Week

Thursday, Christmas

Staff Hours

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

Doug Vacation

Steve Friday, 8-12

Happy Birthday! ☺

Taylor Heyman December 26

Upcoming Events

✠ January 24-25, Saturday-Sunday, **Amish and Mennonites: Common Origins, Divergent Paths.**

Brochures with registration were put in mailboxes.

Extras on the foyer table or on the

www.bentonchurch.org web site.

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 **today**. 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, corrected numbers

December 7 2008 Regular Offering	\$4,773.00
Year to Date Needed	\$37,450.00
Year to Date Received	\$41,895.00
Difference	\$4,445.00

Offering

December 14 2008 Regular Offering	\$1,537.00
Year to Date Needed	\$40,125.00
Year to Date Received	\$43,432.00
Difference	\$3,307.00

Thanksgiving Offering	\$1,618.00
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Mennonite Education Agency **"Prayers for Faith and Learning"** and Mennonite Mission Network **"Prayer Vine"** are available to those who are interested. If you want to receive either or both of these regularly, please email office@bentonchurch.org or drop a note in the "Church Office" box and indicate whether you prefer to receive it via email and/or in your mailbox.

A thank you letter from Russell Schmidt, Local Program Coordinator, Mennonite Voluntary Service – San Francisco, is posted on the bulletin board.

IN THE COMMUNITY

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is asking the next president to sign an executive order prohibiting torture, based on six core principles embodied in the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner, Treatment, Torture and Cruelty. The Peace and Justice Ministry Team of Assembly Mennonite Church has invited the participants at Benton to add our voices to this effort. A copy of the declaration and sheets for signatures are on the foyer table for you to read and sign if you desire. **Today** is the last day to sign.

The MCC meat canner will be processing turkey in Goshen from January 20-30, 2009 at The Depot. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the canner, as are financial donations for the process. Over \$122,000 needs to be raised to pay for the turkey and the canning expenses. Donations can be sent the MCC Great Lakes office.

If you wanted to attend the **New Wine/New Wineskins** MCC visioning sessions but were unable due to scheduling difficulties, you can still provide feedback online at <http://mcc.org/newwineskins/getinvolved>.

There are a number of **MCC calendars for 2009** available at the MCC office at The Depot in Goshen. The pictures are wonderful again this year.

