



For we are strangers no more... *Ephesians 2:19-20*

# NEWS & NOTES

September 13 2009

## THIS WEEK

*Tuesday, 7 pm*

Campaign Training,  
Fellowship Hall

*Wednesday, 3 pm*

Caregivers at Dee's

*Wednesday, 7 pm*

Nurture Ministry

*Thursday, 7 pm*

Worship Ministry

## STAFF HOURS

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

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

**Steve** Friday, 8-12

## BIRTHDAYS

Monday, 14, Jim Broni

Tuesday, 15, Lyn Buschert

## OFFERING

### SEPTEMBER 6 2009

Regular Offering	\$2,902.00
YTD Needed	\$2,775.00
YTD Received	\$2,902.00
Difference	\$127.00

*Send announcements and  
bulletin information to  
bulletin@bentonchurch.org.  
Deadline for submitting  
information is Thursday  
evening.*

## River Stewards

*By Doug Kaufman*

The River Stewards tested the water quality of the Elkhart River on the day before Noah Kaufman, my firstborn son, was baptized there. While the baptism itself was a great blessing to me, there is good news and bad news for water quality. On the one hand, the over water quality was good, receiving a score of 71 out of a possible 100. Some of the highest quality aspects were high oxygen levels, good pH, and an excellent variety of creatures found in the river bed. Some of the lowest quality aspects were higher than normal nitrates and phosphates, E. coli bacteria, and even dirt. This was one of the few times that we could not see 60 cm into the water. A lot of this is explained by another number, which is that we registered a discharge of 705 cubic feet per second, which means that every second 705 cubic feet of water is going past that spot. That's a lot of water and it came from the rains earlier in the week, rain which brings dirt, manure (E. coli), detergents (phosphates) and fertilizers (nitrates) from the land into the water. This was the third highest discharge we have registered in our 5 years of taking measurements. Did Noah get sick the following week? Yes, he briefly did. So did his two brothers, so I don't know whether to blame the river or school. In any case this is a reminder to cut back or simply avoid the use of fertilizers on lawns and to wash cars in a car

wash since the detergents are taken out of the water before returning to the river. It was a beautiful day at the river in any case, and we are blessed to have such a resource in our community.

## Here at Benton

*Wednesday, September 16, 12 noon*

Women's Luncheon at Esther Kauffman's home, 3107 Mallard Lane (Waterford Crossing). A hot dish and table service will be provided. Bring a salad or a dessert. Please phone Esther at 537-9564 if you plan to attend.

**Galen Johns** will be giving his memorized monologue from the book of Job at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church this Tuesday, September 15 at 12 pm. All are welcome.

**I want all reports for 2008-09 BY OCTOBER 1** for editing and producing the booklet of Annual Plans & Reports. This includes all the subgroups which are listed in last year's booklet and any others who want to submit reports. NOTICE: The person who submits the first report will be eligible to win a prize. Persons who are tardy in such submission may be subjected to hounding. PLEASE supply me with your report in any readable format, either in my church mailbox or to my email address: [hahover@hotmail.com](mailto:hahover@hotmail.com). Thank you for your cooperation.

—Helene Hoover

Brenda is at Damascus Road Anti-Racism training at Goshen College this weekend.

*Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26 2009, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds*

**The 42nd Annual Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale** open house is Friday evening from 5 – 9 pm. Sale day, Saturday, runs from 6 am to mid-afternoon. Come and make this weekend a family event. For more information about the sale or to download printable forms, [www.mennonitesale.org](http://www.mennonitesale.org). To pre-register for an auction bid number, return a pre-registration postcard, or email your request (please include name, address, phone number, and email address) to [mennonitesale@yahoo.com](mailto:mennonitesale@yahoo.com) by September 18.

**Sign up sheets are in the foyer** for food, working in restaurant, and pies, as well as pans and bags and labels for baked goods. Please label all food items that are sold.

**Pennies of Thanks** for the relief sale will be collected next Sunday, September 20.

**The relief sale is in need of donated items:** toys, furniture, antiques, household items, etc as well as volunteers to help serve in various areas. Drop off items the week of the sale. Call 574 536-4387 for more information.

## *In the Community*

*Today, Next Sunday, and Thursday, September 24, 4:53:0 pm, North Goshen Mennonite Church*

**Singing men!** Relief Sale Chorus rehearsals. Any questions : Call Darrel Hostetler, 574-537-4850 or Matt Tschetter, 574-295-4349.

*Tuesday, September 15, 1 pm, Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College*

Goshen College Afternoon Sabbatical. Dr Rebecca Hernandez, director of GC's Center for Intercultural Teaching and Learning, will speak on "Educational Access for All: My Journey to Goshen College." Dr Hernandez has been working on Latino issues throughout her career. The event is free and open to the public.

*Wednesday, September 16, 12:30 pm, Yellow Creek Mennonite Church*

**GEMS meeting.** Please come and share what you have been doing over the summer and enjoy some delicious dessert! Please RSVP so I know how much dessert to have for everyone! [receptionist@yellowcreekmc.org](mailto:receptionist@yellowcreekmc.org); 574 862-2595.

Interested in **Community Sign Language classes** offered by the Deaf Ministries Advisory Committee (DMAC)? A weekly class will be held at College Mennonite on the campus of Goshen (Ind.) College from 6:30 – 7:30 pm on Tuesdays, beginning September 15 and ending November 24. Childcare is provided. Cost: \$60 if preregistered or \$70 at the door, plus the cost of text if needed. Contact Nicole Miller: 330 701-6154 or [dmac.asl@gmail.com](mailto:dmac.asl@gmail.com)

### **“Mennonite education: Why and how?”**

Anyone interested in Mennonite education and in shaping its future is invited to participate in the second Mennonite Education Symposium, to be held October 16, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart Indiana. Hosts: Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) and Mennonite Schools Council (MSC). The event is free and open to the public. To learn more, see

[www.MennoniteEducation.org/symposium](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/symposium). Pre-register online by Oct. 1, call MEA at 574 642-3164, or e-mail [info@mennoniteeducation.org](mailto:info@mennoniteeducation.org).

*Friday-Sunday, September 18–20, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center*

**Annual Autumn Hope Conference: “At home with God’s wild side: Finding our place in nature”** How does our faith shape our relationship with the natural world? David Miller, chair of Goshen College’s biology department, and Luke Gascho, Merry Lea’s executive director, will lead the event. Merry Lea is in Wolf Lake, Ind. See [www.goshen.edu/merrylea](http://www.goshen.edu/merrylea) or call 260 799-5869.

### **Looking for Volunteers and Donations.**

Donations may be dropped off at the MDC Goldenrod office by 4 pm, September 21. Please contact Kesley Hoover at 574 533-9720, ext. 7, email: [kesleyh@goldenrodonline.org](mailto:kesleyh@goldenrodonline.org) or Christy Kuhns at 574 533-9720, ext. 4, email: [christyk@goldenrodonline.org](mailto:christyk@goldenrodonline.org)

**Prayer for Peace** The International Day of Prayer for Peace arose in 2004 from a meeting between World Council of Churches secretary, Rev Dr Samuel Kobia and the United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan. It is celebrated on September 21 or the closest Sunday. On September 21, Goshen City Church of the Brethren plus many area individuals and congregations will gather in our Fellowship Hall

for worship. The time around tables includes group worship, hearing how three different individuals are affected by the current economy, conversation and prayer. Reserve 7 pm on Monday, September 21 to Pray for Peace in the midst of our local economy.

*Monday, September 21, 7 pm, Middlebury*

The Middlebury peace churches are sponsoring a special, community wide activity on the International Day of Prayer for Peace at the park in the center of town. An optional peace walk starts at 6:30 pm at First Mennonite Church. While we keep the international perspective, the main focus this year will be on reconciliation/community efforts that are happening locally.

*Wednesday, September 23, 7 pm, Goshen Middle School*

Want to enjoy a magical night with your family or group to support children learning peace? **The "Art of Imagination,"** voted as the #1 family attraction in Las Vegas, will help to raise funds for Peacemakers to teach children in our schools how to deal with conflict and violence. Want to help families who can't afford a night out? Buy and give them tickets. Help others have family fun and support Peacemakers at the same time. For tickets, contact Steve Thomas at [stevethomas61@msn.com](mailto:stevethomas61@msn.com) or 534-7118.

*Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Michigan*

**Scrapbooking retreat** Come enjoy a weekend of scrapbooking with your friends, with the option of going to the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale on Saturday morning! See [www.amigocentre.org](http://www.amigocentre.org), call 269 651-2811 or e-mail [info@amigocentre.org](mailto:info@amigocentre.org).

*Saturday, October 3, 8 am – 4 pm, MDC Goldenrod, 1514 College Av, Goshen*

**Large Garage Sale and Car wash:** To be sold: Computer, Fry Pies, Soda, Water, Holmes County Ohio Trail Bologna and much more. Car wash is by donation. All proceeds go to supporting MDC Goldenrod and their mission to better the lives of the Individuals with disabilities that they serve.

*Friday-Sunday, October 9-11, Amigo Centre, Sturgis Michigan*

**"Singing God's Song in Iran": The IN-MI Mennonite Women's Retreat** Speaker: Evie Shellenberger, who has served in Iran with Mennonite Central Committee. Music leaders: Lisa Guedea Carreño and Joanne Gallardo. Download a brochure and poster at [www.amigocentre.org/Programs/Adult](http://www.amigocentre.org/Programs/Adult). **Register by Sept. 22.** Contact Elnora Weaver: 574 875-5664 or [etweaver@maplenet.net](mailto:etweaver@maplenet.net)

**The Center for Peace and Nonviolence** (CPNV) of St. Joseph County, Indiana, is hosting a screening of the film ***Pray the Devil Back to Hell***. This widely acclaimed movie, which tells the story of Muslim and Christian women in Liberia who came together to end the civil war in their country nonviolently, is being shown nationwide in September to celebrate the United Nations Peace Day. CPNV screenings include Sunday, September 20, 7 pm, Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Rd, South Bend (contact person: Danile Martens, 574 257-1433); and Friday, September 25, 7 pm at Little Flower Catholic Church in the parish hall, 54191 N. Ironwood Rd, South Bend (contact person: Veidre Thomas, 574 277-2293). The movie will also be shown in DeBartolo Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana, Saturday, September 12, 6:30 and 9:30 pm. See online:

[www.praythediabacktohell.com/v3/](http://www.praythediabacktohell.com/v3/)

**Beyond Words: Imagining a Visual Spirituality** Friday – Sunday, October 23-25 2009, at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt Pleasant PA. Saturday workshops provide opportunities to interact with art through hands-on experiences and conversation. Registration deadline is October 10. Call 800 839-1021 or email [info@laurelville.org](mailto:info@laurelville.org).