



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

NEWS & NOTES

October 4 2009

THIS WEEK

Monday, 4 pm

Pastoral Ministry Team

STAFF HOURS

Brenda Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, 9-2

Doug Wednesday 10-2;
Friday, 9-2

Steve Thursday, 7-9 pm;
Friday, 9-11

BIRTHDAYS

Monday, 5, Daniel Buschert
Wednesday, 7, Janelle Martin
Saturday, 10, Sam Meyer-Reed

OFFERING

SEPTEMBER 27 2009

Regular Offering	\$1,608.00
YTD Needed	\$11,100.00
YTD Received	\$10,202.00
Difference	-\$898.00

*Send announcements and
bulletin information to
bulletin@bentonchurch.org.
Deadline for submitting
information is 7 pm, Thursday.*

Next Sunday in worship we kick off the Expanding Our Welcome campaign. This Sunday is also the first of a series of small group presentations until October 21. We are asking each member to attend a one of these presentations to learn about the campaign. The sign up sheets on the bulletin board give specific times and locations. Please sign up today so that host homes can adequately plan.

The presentations have three essential purposes. First, basic principles of Christian stewardship will be discussed. Secondly, we will answer your questions regarding the Expanding Our Welcome stewardship campaign goals and the proposed building project. Thirdly, we will clearly outline the remaining steps in our Expanding Our Welcome campaign so everyone knows where we are headed.

These presentations are not to solicit funds! The reason? We believe that people who live a life based on Christian stewardship will provide what is needed without a high pressured approach. We want each of us to make a considered, prayerful decision about what God is calling each of us to do.

Here at Benton

Because of the extra meetings we are asking members to attend for the campaign, church council has

decided to cancel the November 15 congregational meeting. The congregational meal scheduled for that day will be postponed to the following week, November 22, as part of Celebration Sunday, when we have the final tally of campaign pledges.

Martha Williams is requesting photographs from recent church-related activities (baptisms, retreat, etc). Please put them in her mailbox by October 18, so they can be included in the church scrapbook.

*Sunday, October 11, 3 – 6 pm,
Benton Mennonite Church*

Fiftieth wedding anniversary
open house for Larry and Sharon Erb.

Thank you for your participation in Penny Power this year. Benton brought in \$268.50 –enough for half of the materials needed to build a sand dam for a community! Overall Penny Power brought in just over \$19,000 at the Michiana Relief Sale.

*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. There is a car of Benton women going on Saturday. If you are interested in going along, contact Brenda.

In the Community

Friday-Sunday, October 9-11, Waterford Mennonite Church

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, with the theme "Pillars along the Way." See flier on bulletin board for schedule and speakers.

During October and November, rooms at Merry Lea's Rieth Village are available for spiritual retreats for pastors and others attentive to the spiritual life. Each cottage includes rooms with sturdy bunk beds and desks and a common room with sofas and a kitchenette. Outdoors, eight miles of hiking trails provide access to woodlands, wetlands and prairies. Come on a Monday and take in a naturalist-led hike at no extra charge. eMail jenniferhs@goshen.edu for more information.

Saturday, October 10, 9 am to noon, Amigo Centre
Fall Woodcutting Day Bring your chainsaws or just yourself to help get Amigo ready for the heating season that is fast approaching! A light lunch will be provided.

Friday – Sunday, October 16 – 18, Amigo Centre
Celebrate Amigo Support and celebrate the ministry that happens throughout the year at Amigo. Silent and live auctions along with time to explore Amigo in autumn make up the weekend.

Virgil Wiebe, a Mennonite lawyer and activist in international law who specializes in issues related to cluster bombs and land mines, will be a guest of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, October 13-15. Dr Wiebe will make several presentations, including an evening lecture on Thursday, October 15, "Bombs away: Will the campaign to ban cluster munitions make the world a better place?" The public is invited to the presentation in the seminary's chapel at 3003 Benham Avenue in Elkhart; there is no cost to attend.

Friday, October 16, 6 and 8 pm, Gingerich Recreation Center, Goshen College

Hesston College basketball teams in Goshen. You are invited to attend exhibition women's and men's basketball games versus Goshen College. Hesston representatives will be courtside to visit with guests, coaches Dan Harrison and Dustin Galyon will talk about their teams, and players

will sign autographs. Come out and support the Larks! Galyon will also present a Faith and Sports Seminar at East Goshen Mennonite Church at 9:30 am on Sunday the 18th for area youth groups and interested youth and their parents.

"Beyond Words: Imagining a Visual Spirituality": October 23-25 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mount Pleasant Pennsylvania. You're invited to a retreat gathering for artists and anyone interested in connecting to God in visual ways. The event will include visually focused worship; artist-led workshops; firing of the wood fire kiln; and open time and space for rest, reflection and fellowship. See www.laurelville.org/beyond_words.html or call 800 839-1021 for a registration form.

Saturday, October 24, 6 pm, Silverwood Mennonite Church, Goshen

MCC Alumni International Potluck. The speaker will be Steve Steiner, who will be reporting on a recent learning tour to Southern Sudan and the significant work MCC is supporting there. Bring your favorite international dish and enjoy the fellowship, stories and updates from MCC. Please RSVP to MCC Great Lakes at 534-4133 or gg@mcc.org.

Friday, Saturday; October 30, 7:30-9 pm; October 31, 11 am-noon; Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Role of Churches in Post-Apartheid Africa

Victor S Molobi, PhD, will present lectures which form a central part of a conference sponsored by the Mission Studies Center of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and the Association of Anabaptist-Mennonite Missiologist. Dr Molobi is a senior researcher at Research Institute of Theology and Religion, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, Republic of South Africa. These Lectures are open to the public at no charge.