

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. II Cor. 9:10

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

May 11, 2011

Please forward this newsletter to (or print it for) these congregational leaders:

Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Treasurer, Delegates to Central Plains Annual Meeting, Church Council, Christian Education committee.

For Your Prayers

Please pray:

- For God's guidance in the planning for Annual Meeting, and for our speaker, Juanita Nuñez.
- That visas will be approved for our brothers and sisters from Ecuador and Columbia for the Ecuador Partnership meetings in June.
- For the mission and ministries of our conference and the funding to support them.
- For churches experiencing conflict or pastoral transitions and the conference leaders supporting them.

Finances

We took a step backward in April as we closed out the conference fiscal year in the red. Income totaled \$26,139.73. Expenses totaled \$38,735.54. This provided a net loss for the month of \$12,595.81, and added to our overall net loss for the fiscal year of \$19,195.99. Total giving came in at \$418,023.13 or 85% of the spending blueprint (\$492,284). Expenses came in at \$437,219.12 or 89% of the Blue Print (\$492,284). We are hopeful for a great start to the new conference fiscal year and look forward to seeing many of you in Moline next month at Annual Meeting.

Staff News

Tim and Carol Detweiler attended the wedding of their nephew in Dallas, Texas on May 7. Last week Dave attended the annual Joint Executive Committee meeting of the Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. This week, Shana is attending the annual Youth Ministry Council at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Later this week, Dave will attend a meeting in the same location to plan the theme for Mennonite Church USA Convention in 2013.

Dave & Shana's second granddaughter is due May 13, and they will take vacation May 16-22. Tim will be at Bethel Mennonite in Mountain Lake, Minnesota May 15. May 18 marks the end of his six-week recovery from surgery. He plans to drive to Rochester, Minnesota, to celebrate Rochester Mennonite Church's 9th anniversary May 22. May 27-29, Dave speaks at North Central Conference's annual meeting. On May 29, Tim will be at Manson Mennonite to install their new pastor, Aaron Carlson.

Register Now for Annual Meeting

It is helpful to the hosts, planners and caterer to have firm numbers early. For the month of May, the registration fee is \$100 and will increase to \$125 on June 1. Get registration materials from your church office or find them on the Annual Meeting 2011 page at www.centralplainsmc.org.

Do you know someone preparing for ministry?

On Friday night of Annual Meeting we are planning to have a celebration of "Our Conference in Mission." As part of that celebration, we want to recognize anyone from our conference who is in seminary or another pastoral leadership educational program. Please send names of persons from your congregations who fit this criteria to davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org so they can be recognized during Annual Meeting.

Leadership Seminar at Mercy Church

On Saturday, August 13, Mercy Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, will be hosting a leadership seminar with Dave Kraft who is the leadership development pastor at Mars Hill Church of Seattle, Washington. He is the author of the book *Leaders Who Last*. For details email contact@mercy-church.org.

From the WDC Library

Do you "Love Dirt?" Wonder why the Good Book is a Green Book? Do you wish your congregation could act more responsibly toward environmental stewardship? Want to engage in a DVD study series on the "Blessed Earth?" **Going Green: Resources on Creation Care** is the focus of the May 2011 issue of **Check It Out** from the Western District Conference Resource Library. Take a look at this listing to find excellent, biblically based resources on how to care for God's Creation. Visit www.mennowdc.org/2011-05-CIO.pdf, then call or email to reserve your fave. To see nearly everything we have on Creation Care, Going Green, etc., search "Environment" or "Nature" at www.mennowdc.org/Library.html. Now get out there and hug a tree!

--Marlene Bogard, director / 316-283-6300 / crlib@mennowdc.org

From Thirdway Media

Media Links has gone paperless! Responding to church requests and to save paper and mailing costs, the three-times-a-year bulletin insert sharing news and stories from the outreach media work of Third Way Media is now available online at www.ThirdWayMedia.org/MediaLinks. Also available as a downloadable PDF for those without computers or Internet access.

Shaping Families correction

Last month we mentioned that Bethel Mennonite Church, Mountain Lake, Minnesota, broadcasts Third Way Media's *Shaping Families* program on their local radio station. Actually, this is a joint effort with First Mennonite Church of Mountain Lake. To learn more about the *Shaping Families* broadcast, podcast and newsletter, go to www.shapingfamilies.com.

Lombard Workshop coming to Dubuque

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering our **Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders** on **May 23-27, 2011** in Dubuque, Iowa, at Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ. For more information, go to <http://www.lmpeacecenter.org/MSTI.html>. The Outreach & Service Committee has grants available for this kind of education. See the information on their web page at www.centralplainsmc.org. Click on Ministries, Outreach & Service, Grants.

AMBS Webinar & Workshop reminders

Six Images of the Preacher Webinar will be offered Wednesday, May 11 from 2:00–3:30 p.m. **EDT**, by Ryan Ahlgrim. Irma Dueck will present a workshop on campus at AMBS entitled, **Making Marriage the Church's Business: How congregational practices can support**

marriage covenants on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. For registration information on either of these events, see www.ambbs.edu/programs-institutes/clc.

Upcoming Events

Central Plains Annual Meeting Thursday-Sunday, June 16-19, 2011 Moline, Illinois.

Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) training, Wed-Sun, June 22-26, 2011, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mennonite Church USA Convention and Delegate Assembly, Monday – Friday, July 4-8, 2011, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Pastoral Leadership Committee meets Friday, August 19

Consultation on Children's Ministry, Saturday, October 15 at Hidden Acres Christian Center, Dayton, Iowa

The Sower is published the second Wednesday of each month for Central Plains pastors, delegates, conference leaders and other interested persons. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters. Find back issues at www.centralplainsmc.org. Click on Publications.



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Central Plains Mennonite Conference leads congregations as they proclaim and become a sign of God's reconciling work in the world.