

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. —II Corinthians 9:6-8*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

October 12, 2011

**Growing in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world through fellowship, discipleship and leadership.**

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

Pastors, Elders/Deacons, Church Chair/Moderator, Treasurer, Christian Education/Nurture Chair, Mission Committee Chair, Delegates to Central Plains Annual Meeting

## For Your Prayers (weekly bulletin announcements)

At Annual Meeting, many delegates said that they would like to see weekly bulletin announcements from Central Plains. In each issue of *The Sower*, we will provide a short prayer request for every week for your bulletin. You may choose to use the heading "Prayer requests from our conference" or something similar. **We ask you to please print these in your bulletin every week to keep your congregation connected to Central Plains**, and we thank you!

### For Sunday, October 16

Doyle Roth and Don Kempf are each planning a learning trip to Ecuador for next spring. One will be a service and learning group, the other a fellowship and learning group. Please pray for Doyle and Don as these plans develop, as well as for our Ecuador partners as they plan to host the groups.

### For Sunday, October 23

This week, Dave Boshart and Blaine Friesen will represent Central Plains at Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council, a group of conference leaders which functions as a board of elders to the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA. Pray that God's will be done as this group meets to discern and give counsel.

### For Sunday, October 30

Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg, South Dakota, will host a retreat for young adults in December. Pray for the Swan Lake staff, speaker Adam Sieff and those who will participate.

### For Sunday, November 6

Mark-Peter Lundquist will be licensed towards ordination today at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mark-Peter is the vice president of outreach for Urban Ventures in Minneapolis, a faith-based non-profit organization providing children, youth and adults a safe place to identify and overcome obstacles, discover faith and be empowered to make positive life choices.

## Finances

September marked the third straight month in which income lagged behind expenses. However, income was higher than in July and August (almost combined) totaling \$30,164.28. Expenses were

\$40,090.90. This resulted in a monthly deficit of \$10,785.62, and increases our fiscal year deficit to \$51,322.18. —*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

October 11 the conference ministers hosted a new pastor orientation for six new pastors in Iowa.  
24-26 Dave and Blaine Friesen will be in Halifax, PA, for Constituency Leaders Council of Mennonite Church USA  
27-29 Dave attends the Association of Anabaptist Missiologists at AMBS  
28-30 Shana attends the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series at Hesston College  
30 Tim preaches at Bethel in Mountain Lake, MN, and Dave preaches at Wellman (IA) Mennonite  
31 Tim and the Pastoral Leadership Committee conduct credentialing interviews for new pastors  
November 4-5 Dave presents at an elders retreat for Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church, Kalona, IA

## Children's ministry workshop canceled

**Loaves & Fishes: A Consultation on Children's Ministry** scheduled for Saturday, October 15 was canceled due to few registrations. If you are interested in ministry to children, you are encouraged to contact Conference Minister for Christian Formation Shana Peachey Boshart for resources and ideas. For starters, find a list of curriculum and resources for mid-week kids clubs on the Christian Formation page of [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

## Remembering Wallace Barron

Wallace Barron, one-time elder at Northside church in Omaha and husband of Pat Barron, passed away in early August. Chaplain Bill Hartwell remembers Wallace as a faithful friend, saying that when he was discouraged in his work as a prison chaplain, it was Wallace who kept him going. Rev. Hartwell was pastor at Northside before going into prison ministry, but Wallace remained his friend and encourager throughout. Hartwell wrote a reflection on Christian friendship and a tribute to Wallace, which can be found at [www.centralplainsmc.org/Publications/Wallace Barron](http://www.centralplainsmc.org/Publications/Wallace_Barron).

## Would you like to go to Ecuador?

Ecuador Partners are tentatively planning for two teams to visit Ecuador this winter. If you are interested in participating in a Fellowship and Service Team, which would likely involve construction on a church building or school and visiting the churches in Ecuador, contact Doyle Roth at [doyle Roth@hotmail.com](mailto:doyle Roth@hotmail.com) or [402-641-0266](tel:402-641-0266). If you are interested in participating in a Fellowship and Learning Team, which would involve participating in the Peace Workshops, assisting at the Refugee Center, and learning about the ministries of the Ecuadorian churches, contact Don Kempf at [donaldkempf@windstream.net](mailto:donaldkempf@windstream.net) or [402-759-1285](tel:402-759-1285). For more details about these trips, see our web page at [www.centralplainscmc.org/Ministries/Outreach Service/Ecuador](http://www.centralplainscmc.org/Ministries/Outreach_Service/Ecuador).

## Congregational Budgeting Packet

Mennonite Church USA has created a [budgeting packet](#) to help congregational finance and stewardship committees develop annual spending plans for their congregations. The packet includes information about Mennonite Church USA organizations and how much to give, reasons for supporting area conference and denomination, check writing options and other resources on stewardship and charitable giving. Find the packet attached as a PDF or click on the link above.

## Young Adult Retreat at Swan Lake

Swan Lake Christian Camp invites young adults, post high school to age 26, for our first ever Young Adult Retreat December 18-20. Adam Sieff will be our speaker. His specialty is using hip-hop to tell

God's story and our relationship with God. Registration deadline is December 5. Email Renee Neufeld at [programdirector@myslcc.com](mailto:programdirector@myslcc.com) for more information.

## From the WDC Library

### Advent studies from the Thoughtful Christian

Remember Central Plains teachers, leaders, pastors, we have a free subscription to this on-line Resource Center: [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com). Any downloadable study can be yours because of your contract with the Western District Resource Library. Simply browse the site and then email Marlene Bogard with your request at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org). Here are a couple you might be interested in:

1. Adult Advent Study: *From Longing to Receiving* by Patricia Tull leads participants through the Old Testament and the Gospel lectionary texts for four weeks, tracing important Advent themes. Each week's handout is filled with important information about the texts. The Leader's Guides includes activities and discussion ideas for a 45-minute session.

2. Youth Advent Study: *Walking and Waiting with Biblical Figures* by Kathy Wolf Reed. For youth, the Advent season can be easily overtaken by consumerism and gifts. A wonderful gift the church can offer youth is the chance to explore and reclaim the season of Advent as a time of preparation and hope for the coming of Jesus Christ. This year's four-session study focuses on biblical characters who experience spiritual growth in their own times of waiting. --Marlene Bogard, director / 316-283-6300 / [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

## Webinars from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)

**Advent Planning: Awesome Deeds We Do Not Expect**, presented by Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden on Tuesday, October 18 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. CDT. [Get details and register by October 14](#)

**Engaging the Bible in the Congregation**, presented by Robert J. Suderman on Tuesday, November 8 from 12:45-2:00 p.m. CST. [Get details and register by November 4](#).

**Identity crisis in the pulpit: What is the preacher's purpose and authority?** presented by Ryan Ahlgrim on Wednesday, November 16 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CST. [Get details and register by November 12](#).

**Reforming Anabaptism: Recent North American Experiments in Discipleship**, presented by Joanna Shenk on Thursday, December 1 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CST. [Get details and register by November 27](#).

AMBS also offers one-day workshops for pastors. To learn more, go to [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu) and click on "Pastors and Church Leaders."

## Upcoming Events

**Conference Board and Committees** meet Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota

**Young Adult Retreat**, Sunday through Tuesday, December 18-20 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota

**Youth Escape 2011**, Friday through Sunday, August 3-5, 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](http://www.centralplainsmc.org). Click on Publications.

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The mission of Central Plains Mennonite Conference is to create settings for our congregations and partners to grow in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world by developing leadership, encouraging fellowship and promoting lifelong discipleship.