

*May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown,  
our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace.  
Psalm 144:12*

# Plants Full Grown

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference youth leaders  
December 2009

Dear Youth Leaders,

This newsletter is coming to you later than I intended. Ever since November 18, I've had a big distraction: a baby granddaughter! For a mother of three sons, this was pretty exciting! This has been a year of milestones for our family: the youngest son graduated from high school and went to college, my husband Dave completed his doctorate, we celebrated 25 years of marriage, and--in a fitting finale--became grandparents. Whew! So much change can be disorienting!

Yet our anchor is Jesus, and our ties to his body the Church support us in so many ways. While time brings changes to our lives, God is faithful and his purpose remains the same. In the words of Zechariah, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:79).

May this peace be with you this Advent season,

*Shana*

## Thinking About a Service Trip?

The Relate newsletter is a great resource from Mennonite Mission Network. I've attached the latest edition because it addresses a topic many of you are thinking about now: your group's summer service trip. You can also find [Relate](#) on MMN's website. Also, remember there's a list of [service opportunities](#) on the youth ministry page of our web site to help you decide where to serve.

## Service: Try it on!

Speaking of service, now is the perfect time to engage young people in conversations about whether God may be calling them to short-term or long-term service, whether they are currently in school or in transition. This [service program comparison chart](#), on the Mennonite Mission Network web site, shows the various program options, who is eligible to apply and how long each one lasts. For more information, e-mail Jeremy Kempf, Jill Schmidt or Kay Schroeder at:

[Service@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:Service@MennoniteMission.net), or call toll-free 1-866-866-2872.

## Encourage someone to !Explore

Which of the young people in your congregation is asking questions about faith and theology? Who is looking for how they can use their gifts in the church? Encourage them to apply for !Explore, the program of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary that encourages high school youth to listen for

God's call to ministry. Fifteen youth will join the 16-day group experience based on the campus in Elkhart. They will also work with their pastors in a 100-hour internship during the summer of 2010. Complete details are available on the [AMBS Web site](#). I can also mail you a brochure. The deadline for application is February 19, 2010.

## When you have questions...

When you need a resource, ideas or advice, please call or email me! I'd love to hear from you! [shana@netins.net](mailto:shana@netins.net) or 319-646-2842.

## Upcoming Events

**Swan Lake Senior High Retreat** Friday through Sunday, February 19-21

**Youth Escape 2010** Friday through Sunday, July 31-August 2

*Plants Full Grown* is published the fourth Friday of each month for Central Plains youth leaders.

Find archived issues at [www.centralplainsmc.org/Youth\\_Ministry](http://www.centralplainsmc.org/Youth_Ministry).

Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org).



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

Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
P.O. Box 101  
Freeman, SD 57029  
605-925-4463  
[www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org)