

*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  
November 2009

Dear Youth Leaders,

Greetings to you on a windy, rainy autumn day! The wind outdoors reminds me of the Holy Spirit and how we were challenged in Columbus to let the Spirit flow through us. Greg Boyd asserted that Christians today have as much access to the power of the Spirit as did the early church, but that we have in many ways become “numb” to its leading.

Where do you see the Spirit blowing in the lives of your youth? In what ways might they be numb to the Spirit? What are the habits of your group or class that allow the Spirit to blow where it pleases? What are the habits of your group that encourage numbness?

In our youth groups and Sunday school classes, we can practice habits that set youth in the Spirit’s windstream, where the Spirit may move and shape them. Reading the Bible together, asking questions of it, applying it to our daily lives, memorizing its verses and praying its prayers are all habits that make us more alive to the Spirit of God.

What new habits might you introduce that help youth be more alive to the leading of the Spirit?

Blessings to you as you carry out this important work.

*Shana*

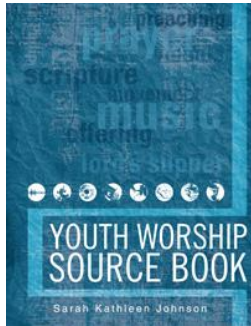
## Change Happens

Speaking of new habits, I will be taking on some additional duties in my role with the conference. In addition to providing resources for youth ministry, I am now also responsible for Communications & Resources. This means that I will provide resources not just for youth ministry, but for spiritual formation of all age groups. I will also coordinate communications for Central Plains which includes oversight of the conference newsletter, *Scattered Seeds*, as well as the web site, [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

## “Like Plants Full Grown”

I will continue writing this e-newsletter for youth leaders but on a more consistent monthly basis. It also seems like a good time for a new title and a redesign! The title is taken from Psalm 144:12, “May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace.” This expresses well our hope that our youth will grow in faith and become mature. We scatter the seeds of the Word in their lives and rejoice when we see signs that our youth are indeed “like plants full grown.” The new title also fits the theme of seeds and plants from our conference newsletter, *Scattered Seeds*.

## New Resource



Most of our conference congregations have occasional youth-led worship services. At Pulaski Mennonite, the youth plan worship every fifth Sunday!

**The Youth Worship Source Book** brings education together with hands-on participation. Each of the 10 units introduces one aspect of worship—openings and closings, public prayer, visual art, and others—and offers curriculum modules that not only teach youth about it, but also put it into practice. Each unit includes helpful ideas for times when youth may be in charge of a service or involved in an element of worship.

This book allows you to pick which elements are most relevant to the needs of your group and use just those parts of the book when you need them. Unit topics: Introduction to Worship, Opening and Closing Worship, Music in Worship, Prayer. Visuals, Scripture, Preaching, The Body and the Senses, Offering, The Lord's Supper.

To order: <http://store.mpn.net/>.

## On the Web

Remember, there is a list of suggestions for summer service projects at [www.centralplainsmc.org/youth\\_ministry](http://www.centralplainsmc.org/youth_ministry). Also on the same page: suggestions for Sunday School curriculum.

## Upcoming Events

Crooked Creek High School Un-Winterfest: Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14-15

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

Youth Escape 2010, Central Plains Youth Gathering: Friday through Sunday, July 31-August 2



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

The mission in Mennonite youth ministry is to invite youth to follow Jesus Christ, mentor them as his disciples, and equip them for ministry and mission.

**Plants Full Grown** is published the fourth Friday of each month for Central Plains youth leaders. Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart, Conference Youth Minister.