

*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 2012

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Dear Youth Sponsors of Central Plains,

More than most years, this Christmas brings us disparate experiences. We shop for Christmas gifts while politicians negotiate the fiscal cliff. We listen to a Christmas choir and remember a family that is grieving. We weep for teachers and children lost in a senseless shooting even as we prepare Christmas treats for the teachers of our own children.

I am so thankful that we serve a God who can encompass all of life, the joyful and the sad, the sane and the senseless, the encouraging and the disheartening. God knows it all, understands it all, is present in all of it. And there's more: in the birth of Jesus, this God has already made a way for healing and hope.

Two thousand years ago, Zechariah proclaimed, "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace!"

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours this week and in the year to come,

Shana

Shana Peachey Boshart

Conference Minister for Christian Formation

Returning from Sabbatical

Well, I'm back from a *great* three-month sabbatical. I am very happy with the training program in spiritual direction that I've started at the [Christos Center](#). I found out that the center's director, Patricia Hendricks, wrote a book on offering spiritual guidance to teens and young adults! It's a quick read and a great resource for youth sponsors. It is called [*Hungry Souls, Holy Companions: Mentoring a New Generation of Christians*](#) and I encourage you to check it out!

Sabbatical gave me opportunities to spend more time with family, do projects at home, and spend time praying and journaling. I am so grateful for the generous gift of time and rest. I feel rested and ready to return!

Mennonite Youth Convention 2013 in Phoenix

Online registration opens on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 10 a.m. EST. Register each person individually and pay your deposits (\$199 per youth and sponsor) that day. **Registration for housing opens two weeks later on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 10 a.m. EST.**

Find Convention info here:

The Convention web page: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org>

[The Convention Facebook page](#). Click “Like” for updates to appear in your Facebook newsfeed. Encourage your youth to do this too.

The first convention newsletter

at http://www.mennocon.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Convention2012_Newsletter.pdf

[Registration information](#), including deadlines and event info.

[Registration form](#). Each sponsor and youth needs to fill one out.

To receive email updates about convention, email CarolE@mennoniteusa.org and ask to be placed on the mailing list.

On the way to Phoenix...

Bethel College invites youth groups, families or anyone making a road trip to Mennonite Church USA Convention '13 in Phoenix this summer to stop overnight on the campus in North Newton, Kan., coming, going or both. The nights of June 30 and July 6 are available. Accommodations are in air-conditioned residence halls with two people to a room, linens provided, at a charge of \$10 per person per night. Bethel College Admissions will provide everyone with breakfast, and there are multiple restaurant options nearby if you need other meals.

Reservations should be made *by May 1, 2013*, with Shirley Dietzel at [316-284-5202](tel:316-284-5202) (if calling after hours, leave a message for Shirley telling her when you'll be arriving and how many people need accommodations). No deposit required; payment may be made on arrival at Bethel. For driving directions, put the address “300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117” into your favorite mapping program; or call [1-800-522-1887](tel:1-800-522-1887) during regular business hours.

Remember...

...There are lots of resources for you at our web site, <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/youth-ministry.html>.

...I've made a list of youth Bible study options for you—[Check it out!](#)

...You can check out books, curriculum, videos and sheet music from the [Western District Conference \(WDC\) Resource Library](#). Check out their new [online catalog](#), too.



Plants Full Grown is published every other month for Central Plains youth leaders. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters. Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

Contact Shana any time at 319-936-5905 or shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 352, Kalona, IA 52247

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