

Is Youth Escape on your calendar for August 3-5? It's a great way to kick off the new school year with your group.

*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

April 2012

Contents:

Youth Escape

New devotional for teens

Bible study idea

Remember these resources

Hello Central Plains Youth Sponsors!

Happy Spring! We have been blessed with beautiful, warm, early Spring, and I am sure you are enjoying it as much as I am! In the past month Dave and I have been privileged to see some of you in Freeman, South Dakota, and Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

We are getting ready for Annual Meeting at Henderson, Nebraska, June 28-July 1. **This year, Annual Meeting will include a sponsor workshop each day! Yes, that means we hope to see you in Henderson June 29 and 30!** Register for Annual Meeting and join us!

Andrea Wall, the very gifted associate pastor at Bethesda Mennonite in Henderson, will facilitate this workshop along with me and other experienced youth sponsors. We will plan input for you, but we'll also make time to address the topics you want to talk about and give you a chance to hear from each other. Ask your church secretary for a registration form and plan to see us there! Sign up for both sessions—they will be different and the second will build on the first.

Blessings to you!

Shana

Shana Peachey Boshart

Conference Minister for Christian Formation

Central Plains Mennonite Conference

shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org 319-936-5905

Youth Escape 2012

Jeremy Kempf is coming!

We are extremely lucky to have [Jeremy Kempf](#) leading our worship music at Youth Escape! Jeremy has been the music leader at the last two Mennonite Church USA Youth Conventions, and he is very gifted at leading music we can sing along with in a spirit of true worship. He is comfortable with different styles of music and leads different types of songs. On top of that, he's an excellent musician and composer! Our worship at Youth Escape will be a highlight.

Jeremy also knows our speakers, [Merv and Mar](#), having worked with them at conventions. The three of them will work together to integrate music, message and congregational participation. It's going to be great!

Be sure to check the web page

The [Youth Escape 2012 web page](#) has a LOT of information for you! Print more flyers, registration forms or information sheets. Find the tentative schedule for the weekend, speaker bios, Frequently Asked Questions and info about the camp we're going to. If you haven't looked at it yet, you are missing out!

ALSO, encourage your youth to find the [Youth Escape 2012 Facebook page](#) and click the Like button. We'll keep updating that page.

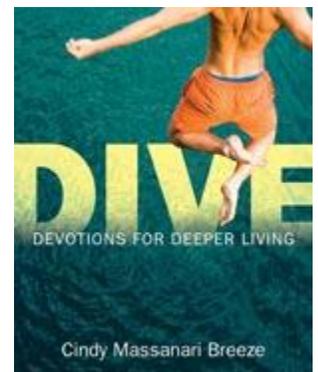
New devotional book for teens

Dive: Devotions for Deeper Living

High school youth had a direct hand in shaping the development of a devotional book for their age group. *Dive: Devotions for Deeper Living* is a new release by Herald Press. The author, Cindy Massanari Breeze, dedicated the book "to the youth of First Mennonite Church in Urbana, Ill." because the book was actually their idea.

Rooted in Scripture and prayer, the devotional looks at a variety of issues important to youth who want to grow in their relationship with God. Woven through more than 100 meditations is the guarantee of God's unconditional love and acceptance, the assurance that each young person is a worthwhile creation, and the challenge to courageously grow in faith.

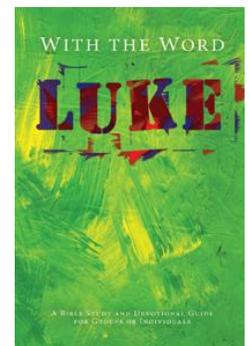
Dive covers difficult topics like trauma and failure. But it also offers plenty of humor, real-life stories, and celebration. Each topical section in the book concludes with specific suggestions for "living it out." **This would be a great graduation gift for seniors.**



For study and conversation

Bible study idea

With the Word: A Bible Study and Devotional Guide for Groups or Individuals is a new series for adults, but I think they are youth-friendly. They are brief Bible study sessions with devotionals on the same text and theme. Studies on Psalms and Luke are now available, with two new studies coming this summer.



Close to Home topics

There are also two new Close to Home pamphlets: *Dealing with Teenage Pregnancy* and *Dealing with Self-harm*. The Close to Home pamphlets bring together Christian faith, therapy and congregational support for those struggling with issues such as pornography, depression, eating disorders, or drug or alcohol addiction. Through the Close to Home series you can open doors toward conversation, awareness, and healing. A pamphlet costs just 75 cents and the study guides are free! Go to <http://www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome> to download the free study guides.

Remember...

...There are lots of resources for you at my web site, www.centralplainsmc.org/Youth_Ministry.

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

...You can use 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.