



Shana Boshart <shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org>

[Test] The Sower for January 2016

7 messages

Central Plains Mennonite Conference <scatteredseeds@centralplainsmc.org>

Wed, Jan 20, 2016 at 11:14 AM

Reply-To: us11-aa62357122-4080e08720@inbound.mailchimp.com

To: "<< Test First Name >>" <shanaboshart@gmail.com>



**a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and
pastors**

*Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Central Plains Delegates, Church Moderator, Treasurer, Christian
Education Chair, Missions Committee, Mennonite Women, Church Librarian, Youth Sponsors.*

January 20, 2016

For Your Prayers: weekly bulletin announcements

Here are weekly prayer requests for each week between now and the next issue of *The Sower*. Please share them with your congregation by whichever method works best, whether it be in your bulletin, in the pastoral prayer or some other way. *Thank you!*

For Sunday, January 24

Pray for the Central Plains Pastoral Leadership Committee meeting next weekend. They will be conducting credentialing interviews for several new pastors.

For Sunday, January 31

Tim Detweiler began chemotherapy treatments on January 20. Pray for courage, strength and for God's healing as he begins his journey of fighting cancer.

For Sunday, February 7

Pray for David Boshart and the rest of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board as they meet this weekend in Chicago.

For Sunday, February 14

Pray for Youth Escape 2016, the July 15-17 weekend retreat for Central Plains youth. Pray that youth will attend and be encouraged to live “inside out,” finding their identity in Jesus Christ.

El Sembrador, the Spanish version of The Sower, [is available here](#).

Upcoming Events

[God's Bodies: Theology and Sexuality in an Age of Certainty](#) will be held February 6 from 9 am to 2:15 pm in Des Moines.

Annual Leaders Retreat will take place April 22-24, 2016, in Schuyler, Nebraska.

Central Plains Annual Meeting 2016 will take place June 16-19, 2016, in Des Moines, Iowa.

[Youth Escape 2016](#) will take place July 15-17, 2016 in central Iowa.

Finance Update

Thank you for your contributions! In December, Central Plains budget continued its positive outcome for the second straight month! Income for the month came in at \$72,288.82, the second highest mark in Central Plains history. Meanwhile, expenses for the month held steady at \$33,907.44. As a result, we were able to lower our overall fiscal year deficit down to \$10,804.05. We do have some more work to do in the coming year, but are very grateful for your contributions and ask for prayer to continue this momentum!
—*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

January 20 Tim begins chemotherapy

24 Shana preaches at East Union Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa.

25-27 Dave and Shana go to Pastor's Week at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

31 Dave preaches at Zion Mennonite Church, Donnellson, Iowa.

29-31 Shana will attend Mennonite Church USA Youth Ministry Council in Orlando, Florida.

February 5-7 Shana will attend Mennonite Church USA Resource Advocates meeting in Washington, D.C.

6 Dave will attend the God's Bodies seminar hosted by Christ Community Church in Des Moines.

8 Tim has a board meeting at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Lombard, Illinois.

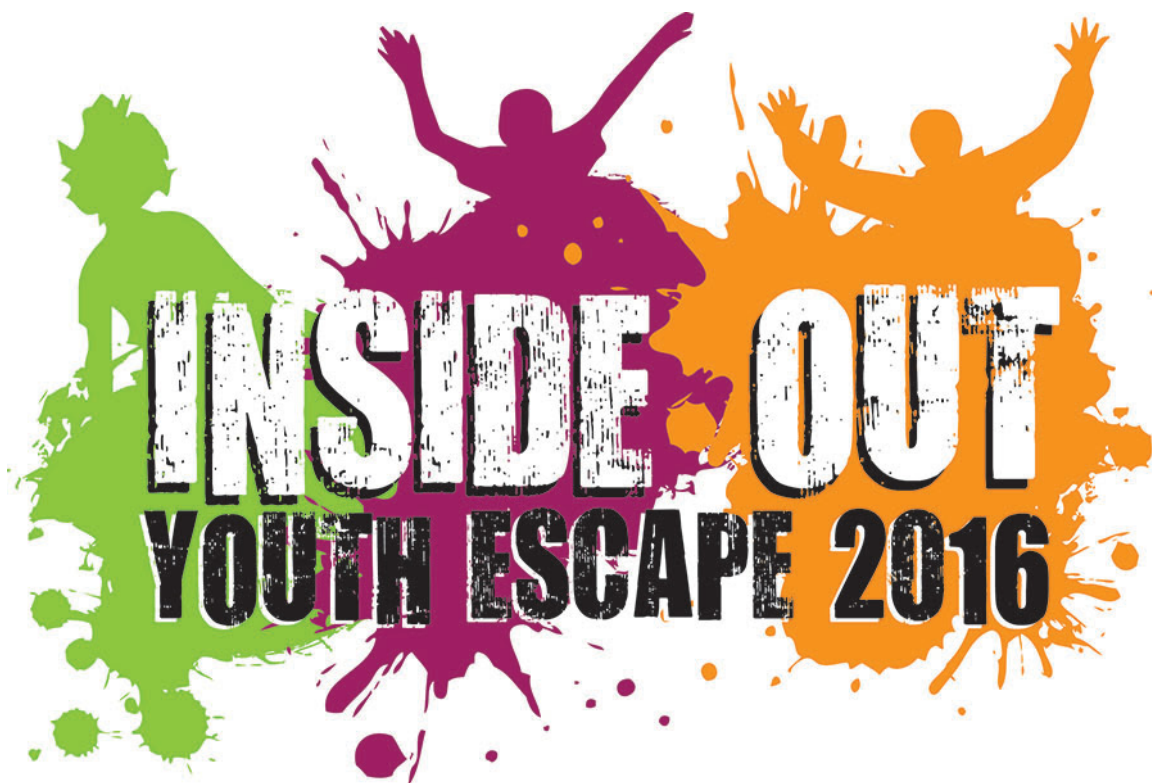
10-13 Dave will attend Mennonite Church USA Executive Board meeting in Chicago.

New at www.centralplainsmc.org

In support of the covenant practice of hospitality, we've added a page of resources for congregations related to welcoming refugees. See www.centralplainsmc.org/support-for-

[refugees.html](#) under the Resources tab.

On the [Covenant Resources page](#), find PowerPoint presentations to accompany each session of the Covenant Study. Thanks to Joel Beachy, pastor at East Union Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa, for sharing these. Once downloaded, you can adapt these to your congregation.



Youth Escape 2016: Inside Out!

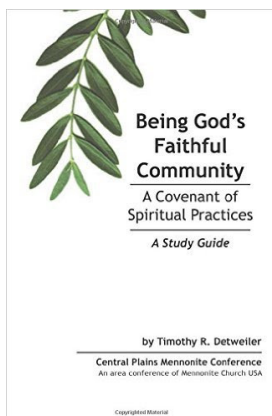
Youth and sponsors, we are excited about the plan for Youth Escape 2016! Our theme will be Inside Out, with Michele Hershberger speaking on who we really are in Jesus. The world tries to tell us who we are—or who we should be—but Jesus is different. Jesus doesn't keep score. He calls you God's beloved child. And he makes it possible for you to become more of who you already are in God's eyes.

Come to Youth Escape July 15-17, 2016, to discover how you can live "Inside Out." More detailed information will be sent to churches in the next few weeks. Questions? Contact Shana at shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org or 319-936-5905.

For your Covenant Study

Many churches began the covenant study this month. Remember, there are teaching videos and several new worship resources on the [Covenant Resources page](#) of our website.

[Being God's Faithful Community](#), the study of the covenant



of spiritual practices, is available for just \$3.59 per booklet at Amazon.com. Each congregation is encouraged to do this four-session study sometime before our 2016 Annual Meeting. Be sure to use the version updated October 22.

The Spanish translation of the covenant study guide, [*Ser una comunidad fiel a Dios. Un pacto de practicas espirituales*](#), can also be found available on Amazon.com or as a download on the [Covenant Resources](#) page of our web site.

Christ Community to host seminar on sexuality

Christ Community Church in Des Moines invites sisters and brothers from Central Plains to join them for a seminar on **Saturday, February 6**, called **God's Bodies: Theology and Sexuality in an Age of Certainty**. The seminar runs from 9 am to 2:15 pm. Here is an abbreviated description:

“Sex is important. But our disagreements concerning sexual practices and policies raise urgent questions about how our human sexuality can be understood in Christian perspective. Unspoken, often unexamined assumptions lead to bitter, seemingly intractable conflict over how we are to act and think sexually. There is no magical solution to the disputes afflicting and splitting so many churches. But we ought to get clear, and be candid, about how theology and sexuality are related at a level far deeper than quoting (or rejecting) individual verses.”

Find a flyer with the full description, speaker bio and logistical details on the [Central Plains home page](#).

Nebraska Women's Retreat

Cindy Beecher will be the speaker at the Mennonite Women's Retreat in Aurora, Nebraska, on March 5 and 6, 2016. She will be focusing on “choosing life each and every day.” We will learn strategies that empower us to intentionally choose lives of purpose, meaning, and significance. Applying these four strategies to our daily lives will not only impact our lives and the lives of our families, they will also impact the world around us. Cindy is formerly from Beatrice. Come and enjoy a time of Bible study and fellowship. All ladies are welcome to attend. Register by contacting Diane Summer, 418 N 9th, Beatrice NE 68310 **by February 10**.

Devotionals for children—at home or at church

[Living Ink](#), the 2016 Lent At-Home devotionals from Mennonite Church Canada, is

now available as a [free download](#). This fully illustrated devotional will appeal to families with children ages 3 - 12 and includes scripture, prayer, activities, songs, and much more. Created by Elsie Rempel, this booklet is perfect for at-home, but also could be used for Sunday morning worship (children's time) or for a special Lent emphasis for children on Wednesday nights.

Support the Max Villatoro Family

Gloria went to visit Max in Honduras in November, had a wonderful time and was grateful for the opportunity. She delivered school supplies, backpacks and shoes to the school in Max's community. In early January, Max moved to northern Mexico, where he hopes to minister to the needy. Friends of Pastor Max recently sent [a letter to President Obama](#) asking him to bring Max back home.

Let us be persistent in praying for Max's return to his family and congregation. Other things you can do:

- Visit www.friendsofpastormax.org and sign up for updates and action alerts.
- For historical information and updates see www.centralplainsmc.org/max-villatoro.
- Donate to the Villatoro Family Fund at www.centralplainsmc.org/donate.
- Follow [Friends of Pastor Max](#) on Facebook.

WDC Library

On Dec. 1, 2015, Jennie Wintermote started as the Director of the WDC Resource Library. She writes, "January is a time for New Year's resolutions, making changes, and fresh new beginnings. Do you long to experience God in new ways this year? Might you long for deeper, faith-filled relationships, or a different way to interact with this broken world? Or do you long for strength and encouragement to get through the day? Using the Resource Library is one way to explore these longings. Let us be a part of your journey of faith.

"Use our [online catalog](#), email crib@mennowdc.org, or call 316-283-6300 to order materials. I am in the library Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-11:30 am. (However, the library is open all five weekdays.) We look forward to serving you."

Restorative justice opportunities for your church

Does your church community promote a culture where apology and forgiveness can freely be expressed? For practical teaching in all areas of relational health and good communication among church members, Restorative Justice Specialist Ted Lewis (Duluth) is available to do presentations and workshops at your church.

For a list of presentation topics, go to: <http://www.restorativetrainer.com/church-conflict/>

To learn about a restorative process for a church arson case, read Ted's article at:

<http://www.plough.com/en/topics/justice/social-justice/criminal-justice/restorative-justice>.

To sign up for email announcements for Ted's 'Bible and Conflict' blog postings, go to:

<http://www.restorativetrainer.com>. –*Ted Lewis*

Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute

Restorative Justice 101: Training for Practice in Everyday Life (RJ 101) Saturday March 19, 2016, Seward Neighborhood, Minneapolis. RJ 101 teaches the principles, philosophies, and practices of Restorative Justice via lecture and experiential education methodologies for the empowering of our communities. Everyone is welcome. Optional 6.5 hours of Continuing Education (CEs) have been approved for Nurses, Teachers, and Mental Healthcare Providers and 5.5 hours CLEs for Attorneys. Early Tuition is \$140. Standard Tuition is \$155. Group discounts and scholarship assistance are available. Space is limited to 16; Register now at: www.rj101march2016.eventbrite.com.

STAR: Trauma Awareness Training

Single day, "STAR Lite," Saturday **January 30, 2016** in Minneapolis Special early tuition \$55 Standard tuition \$155. Details at: www.starliteJan2016.eventbrite.com

Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience - the STAR Training

Monday-Friday **August 8-12, 2016** in Minneapolis Details at: www.staraug2016.eventbrite.com

Both trainings have been approved for continuing education for all licensed mental health providers, nurses, and teachers. STAR-Lite has also been approved for continuing legal education (CLEs) for attorneys.

An online webinar, STAR Basic Class, will be offered at the end of January 2016 through Eastern Mennonite University. It's five weeks and only \$79. Here's the link: <https://carolynvoder.leadpages.co/online-star-basics-class-2016/> –*Donna Minter, director of the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute.*

Sign up for TMail A free, weekly e-zine from The Mennonite

Are you curious about what's happening across Mennonite Church USA? Do you wonder what Anabaptists are thinking and writing about? Then sign up for TMail, the weekly e-zine from The Mennonite, Inc. Each Monday, you'll receive a round-up of the week's five top Anabaptist news stories and blogs from across the country and around the world. Each week TMail reaches over 3400 subscribers. TMail is a free resource provided by The Mennonite. Sign up online today: <https://themenonite.org/t-mail/>.

If you want more in-depth coverage, you can also subscribe to receive *The*

Mennonite magazine, a monthly periodical featuring profiles of people across Mennonite Church USA, as well as theological perspectives, opinion pieces and news.

The Sower is published the third 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 <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/the-sower.html>.

Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org

Spanish translation by Steven Rhodes: 319-930-7303

Office: P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463; office@centralplainsmc.org

Conference Ministers: P.O. Box 352, Kalona, IA 52247

David Boshart: davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: timdetweiler@centralplaninsmc.org; 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5905

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator: Ramiro Hernandez rmherns@yahoo.com 319-621-3725

Moderator Margie Mejia Caraballo: margiemmc60@ymail.com 309-235-3011

Assistant Moderator Sid Burkey: sid@burkeyfarms.com 402-761-2093

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.



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Next month, The Sower will be dated **February 17**. Send submissions to scatteredseeds@centralplainsmc.org by **February 2**.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

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