

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. —I Corinthians 15: 20-22*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

April 10, 2013

Growing in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world through fellowship, discipleship and leadership.

**Please forward this newsletter to (or print it for) these congregational leaders:**

Pastors, Elders or Deacons, Central Plains Delegates, Church Moderator, Treasurer, Christian Education Chair, Youth Sponsors, Church Librarian, Missions Committee

## 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, April 14

Pray for the pastors, chaplains and spouses gathered for their annual retreat today through Tuesday in Schuyler, Nebraska. Thank God for the dedication and energy of our conference pastors.

### For Sunday, April 21

Pray that God would grant our conference staff the wisdom and energy to faithfully carry out the work of Central Plains according to God's will.

### For Sunday, April 28

Pray for the Central Plains Church Planters Gathering next weekend in Clear Lake, Iowa. Praise God for the lives transformed through our developing churches.

### For Sunday, May 5

Pray for Monica Clem, office manager for Central Plains, as she oversees registration, prepares delegate packets, and arranges many other details in preparation for Annual Meeting.

## Finance Update

Conference income continued its slowdown in March with income \$12,714.76 lower than expenses. March income totaled \$24,669.23 and expenses totaled \$37,383.99. With these totals, we now have an overall net deficit of \$13,015.57 for the fiscal year which ends April 30. We are very thankful for your continued support and ask for your contributions so we can end the fiscal year in the black. —*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

April 7 Tim will preach at Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

April 8 Tim will be at a Lombard Mennonite Peace Center board meeting in Lombard, Illinois

April 12 & 13 Tim, Dave and Shana will be at Conference Board meeting in Mountain Lake, Minnesota

April 14 Tim attends Pastoral Leadership Committee meeting in Schuyler, Nebraska

April 14-16 Tim, Dave and Shana will be at Annual Leaders Retreat in Schuyler, Nebraska

April 21 Dave will preach at East Union Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa, and lead a visioning process  
April 26-29 Dave and Shana will attend their son's graduation at Eastern Mennonite University  
May 3 & 4 Dave will attend Church Planters Gathering in Clear Lake, Iowa  
May 5 Dave will be at Zion Mennonite, Donnellson, Iowa, to guide a visioning process

## Corrected deadline for *Scattered Seeds* submissions

The April issue of *Scattered Seeds* incorrectly gave May 29 as the deadline for the June issue. The correct deadline is **Monday, April 29**.

## Annual Meeting: It's time to register!

Registration packets for Annual Meeting have been mailed to congregations. We rely on church offices to pass these materials along to those interested in registering. Postmark your registration form by April 30 for the lowest rate; rates rise as Annual Meeting gets closer.

Remember, you can check out the book, *A History of the Cheyenne People*, or the 22-minute *Forgive and Remember* DVD by contacting Shana Peachey Boshart ([shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org) or 319-936-5905). Check the Annual Meeting page at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) for updates, info for youth delegates and registration materials.

## New on our web site

Recently updated pages on our web site include:

Resources → Immigration. A long list of recommended study resources for both youth and adults.

Congregational Leaders → Pastors, Elders and Church Council pages are all updated.

CPMC at Work → Publications. ALL our newsletters are now available in Spanish!

Resources → Discernment. Links to papers and books we recommend. More will be added.

Resources → 12 Scriptures. See the Top 12 lists of our congregations, along with creative ideas.

Youth Ministry pages are all updated.

## Mennos connecting in Omaha

Omaha has a small group of people with Anabaptist connections or interests meeting periodically.

If you or someone you know is in Omaha, feel free to join us at any time. Various events are planned throughout the year to provide an avenue for fellowshiping, serving, and connecting. Our calendar of events is online: <http://tinyurl.com/omahamennos>. For more information contact Karla at [7250karla@gmail.com](mailto:7250karla@gmail.com).

## Call to prayer for Quito Mennonite Church

The Ecuador Partnership is calling on the churches of Central Plains to a season of prayer. The Quito Mennonite Church is now renting space for worship and ministries, and they would like to invest in a facility they would own. Please pray for the ministries of the congregation, which include refugee assistance and peace education, among others. To see five specific prayer requests, see the Ecuador Partnership page at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

## From the WDC Library

The Western District Conference Resource Library in Newton, Kansas, provides resources to Central Plains congregations and members in a variety of formats: books, curriculum, DVD and video, periodicals and sheet music. Central Plains pays WDC to allow our congregations access to their HUGE library of wonderful resources. Visit their online catalog to see whether that book you've been wanting to read is available! It works just like checking books out of your local public library, only they will mail you the resources and you will mail them back. To get your library card, call 316-283-6300 or email [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

## AMBS Webinar

**Discerning the Powers.** May 1 from 2–3:30 p.m. EST. Presenter: Jamie Pitts, Ph.D.

We will discuss the theology of the principalities and powers in light of its biblical roots and contemporary theological treatment in the work of Berkhof, Yoder, Wink and others. Going beyond these recent thinkers, we will examine "powers theology" as a practical theology for the church's mission. We will also look at possibilities for a reconciliation between socio-political and spiritual understandings of the powers. Register at least four days in advance for an early rate of \$45; the rate after that is \$55. Registration will close at noon the day before the webinar. Register online at [www.ambs.edu/webinars](http://www.ambs.edu/webinars).

## Upcoming Events

**Conference Board** meets Saturday, April 13, in Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

**Pastoral Leadership Committee** meets April 14 in Schuyler, Nebraska.

**Annual Leaders Retreat** (a.k.a. Pastors and Spouses Gathering) will be held April 14-16, at Schuyler, Nebraska.

**Central Plains Church Planters Gathering** will be Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4.

**Central Plains Annual Meeting** will be Thursday through Sunday, June 20-23, at Ashland, Montana.

**Mennonite Church USA Assembly and Youth Convention** will take place July 1-6, in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Youth Escape 2014** will take place the weekend of August 1-3, 2014, in central Iowa.

**The Sower** is published the second 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 [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org). Click on Publications.



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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.