

And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom. —Matthew 13: 36b–38a

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

June 12, 2013 The Sower will not be published in July

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, Worship 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, June 16

Pray for Alyssa Rodriguez as she moves to an apartment in Jardines del Inca, the indigenous neighborhood in Quito where the teenage pregnancy prevention program is being established.

For Sunday, June 23

This morning is the final worship service at Central Plains Annual Meeting in Ashland, Montana. Pray for speaker Terry LeBlanc and those gathered, that our conference may experience the presence, power and guidance of the Holy Spirit today and in the year to come.

For Sunday, June 30

Pray for the reconciling, renewing presence of God's Spirit at the Mennonite Church USA Assembly and Youth Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, in the coming week. Pray especially that many youth will commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

For Sunday, July 7

Pray for David Brunner and Rochester Mennonite Church as David retires after 15 years as pastor there. Pray that God will continue to guide and grow the Rochester congregation as Galen Penner begins as pastor on August 1.

There will be no July edition of The Sower. Here are the bulletin announcements for July.

For Sunday, July 14

Pray for parents and children of our conference, that they may take opportunities this summer for the things that build faith: faith conversations, family service projects, family devotions, and rituals and traditions. For practical tips, see www.centralplainsmc.org.

For Sunday, July 21

Pray that Central Plains Mennonite Conference would attain its mission “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.”

For Sunday, July 28

Pray that members of Central Plains Mennonite Conference would seek to grow continually in Christ-likeness in order to embody a holistic witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

For Sunday, August 4

Pray that Central Plains conference would call and equip pastors and congregational leaders with missional vision and leadership skills for the church.

For Sunday, August 11

Pray that the congregations of Central Plains would continue to develop loving relationships with one another, as well as with Christians across the church and around the world, to discern a common way of life as a contrast society.

Finance Update

We started the new fiscal year with a very slow month. Income for May came in at \$21,168.02, just 4.5% of the spending blueprint amount (\$467,215.32). Expenses were \$36,958.24 or 7.9% of the spending blueprint. As a result, we end the first month of the fiscal year with a net loss of \$15,790.22. Thank you for your support. Looking forward to Ashland! —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

June 13-15 Shana attends EMU Board of Trustees in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

June 19-24 Tim, Dave, Shana, Monica and many of you will be in Ashland, Montana, for Annual Meeting!

June 30-July 6 Tim, Dave, Shana and many of you will be in Phoenix, Arizona, for MC USA Assembly & Youth Convention.

July 14 Dave preaches at Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Nebraska.

July 16-18 Shana attends Lifelong Faith Formation Training in Omaha, Nebraska.

July 21 Tim officiates at Taric Leichty’s licensing service at Bellwood Mennonite Church, Milford, Nebraska.

July 28 Dave is at Shalom Mennonite Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

August 12 & 13 Tim attends Lombard Mennonite Peace Center board retreat in Lombard, Illinois.

Annual Meeting update

As of this writing, we have 213 registrants for Annual Meeting, and most of the housing options have been booked. We are thrilled with these numbers and look forward to a wonderful time of fellowship, worship and business! The Annual Meeting page at www.centralplainsmc.org gives many details about our time together.

VBLP Student Edition at Phoenix convention

Remember to register 1-3 youth from your congregation for the Phoenix 2013 learning track modeled on the Values Based Leadership Program (VBLP). Students **who are nominated by their pastor or sponsor** will be taught principles of excellent leadership through an Anabaptist faith lens. Confer with your youth sponsors, let the youth know you’d like to nominate them, then send the following information to BethH@MennoniteUSA.org: the name of your congregation, the names of the youth, and their email addresses. If you have questions about this activity, Shana will be happy to answer them via phone or email. For more information read this article. We ask that you **make your nominations by June 15.**

Engaging the Mystery: Introducing Advent 2013

Pastors and worship committees, plan now to attend together the Advent planning workshop hosted by the team of writers from Central Plains who wrote the Advent planning materials for the Fall 2013 Leader magazine. *Engaging the Mystery: Introducing Advent 2013* will held Saturday,

September 7, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa. The writers are Michelle Hofer, Todd Jones, S. Roy Kaufman, Sherilyn Ortman, and Lois Janzen Preheim, all of Freeman, South Dakota. They will demonstrate the worship rituals, dramas, music, children's stories and visuals in this one-day workshop sponsored by the Christian Formation Committee. Mark your calendars now; brochures will be available at Annual Meeting.

Mennonite Women Fall Retreat

All Central Plains women are invited to attend the women's retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp at Viborg, South Dakota, on September 21 & 22, 2013. The theme is "Power Made Perfect: How's a Woman to Live?" The speakers are Elisabeth Harder Schrock and Charlotte Loewen, both of Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Elisabeth and her husband recently completed a four-year MCC term working with Old Colony Mennonites and indigenous communities in Bolivia. Charlotte is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker who has her own mental health private practice.

The cost is \$75 for the full weekend. Please preregister by September 14 to Esther Jane Buller at [507-427-3064](tel:507-427-3064) or hebuller@gmail.com.

Mayo patients invited to connect with local church

Did you know? If you are coming to Rochester or Mayo Clinic, you can find pastoral presence and caring people during your stay. [Rochester Mennonite Church](#) is actively involved in Mayo Clinic, offering pastoral support or general information about the hospitals and clinics, the city, lodging, transportation, etc. They welcome you to worship with them. The church is located at 400 5th Ave. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. Contact Pastor David Brunner, at [507-529-7910](tel:507-529-7910) or davidbrunner@usfamily.net.

Are you ready to get going with Year of the Bible?

Now is a good time to explore an Anabaptist-curated, comprehensive site for diving into God's Word! Cruise over to www.yearofthebiblenetwork.org, developed by Marlene Bogard, director of the WDC Resource Library. Be prepared to discover web links, best practices, resource lists and more. Then, check out the materials recommended on the web site from the [WDC Resource Library](#) (*most* of them are available there). Call or email soon to request a bundle of great stuff to preview, or use, for yourself or your congregation. Email crlib@mennowdc.org or call us at [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300).

STAR Training to be offered in St. Paul

Would you like to strengthen your capacity to address trauma, break cycles of violence, and build resilience? If so, STAR Training is for you! The STAR Training, Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience, will be offered in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in the fall. Registration is now open for two 4.5 day trainings:

Mon-Fri, September 16-20, 2013 www.starmpls3.eventbrite.com

Fri-Sun October 11-13 & Sat-Sun Oct 26-27, 2013 www.starmpls4.eventbrite.com

STAR integrates concepts from neuropsychology, restorative justice, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and broadly defined spirituality that can lead to healing, resilience resourcing, and the potential for personal, family, and collective reconciliation.

Early tuition is \$698. Scholarship assistance is available to ensure economic diversity. Professional CEUs are also available for social workers, psychologists, LMFT, LPCC, LPC, LADC, nurses and educators. For more information, please contact Donna Minter at [612-377-4660](tel:612-377-4660) or STAR.Mpls@gmail.com.

STAR is a program of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Stay where you are and go to seminary with “MDiv Connect”

A new Master of Divinity program will begin at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in August, giving students options for study from a distance as well as on campus. “MDiv Connect” includes online courses and hybrid courses, which involve both online and on-campus learning.

More details are available at <http://www.ambs.edu>, and from the AMBS admissions office, admissions@ambs.edu.

Upcoming Events

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.

Advent Planning Workshop will take place September 7 at Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa.

Year of the Bible Launch will be August 1 and 2 at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

Ecuador Partnership Task Group meets August 23 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Outreach & Service Committee meets August 24 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Women’s Retreat will take place September 21 & 22 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota.

Christian Formation Committee meets September 24 & 25 in Central Iowa.

Conference Board and Committees meet together November 15 and 16 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota.

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. Click on Publications.



Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org

Spanish translation by Steven Rhodes 319-930-7303

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email office@centralplainsmc.org.

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@centralplainsmc.org; 319-458-0224

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

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

Moderator Blaine Friesen: moderator@centralplainsmc.org 402- 723-4726

Asst. Moderator Nathan Luitjens: assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org 319- 256-6061

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.