

*He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield. —Psalm 107:35-37*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

August 14, 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, 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, August 18

Pray for the Central Plains Outreach & Service Committee and the Ecuador Partners as they meet next weekend in Omaha.

### For Sunday, August 25

Pray for those planning and attending *Engaging the Mystery*, the Central Plains Advent planning workshop taking place at Manson, Iowa, on September 7.

### For Sunday, September 1

Pray for the Central Plains conference board as it meets this Friday, especially that God may bless and guide our new moderator, Nathan Luitjens, and assistant moderator, Margie Mejia-Caraballo.

### For Sunday, September 8

Pray for Adam Nussbaum, who was licensed towards ordination on August 18. He is pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church, a church plant in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Pray that God will bless Adam and Shalom with a fruitful ministry.

## Finance Update

Mostly due to Annual Meeting registrations and offerings, we had a strong July which helps us recover from the previous slower months. Income for the month of July was at \$56,700.28. Expenses came in at \$45,011.37. This net income of \$11,688.91 helped lower our fiscal year deficit to \$17,314.54. Thank you for your continued support. —*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

August 16 & 17 Tim meets with Pastoral Leadership Committee in the Twin Cities.

August 18 Dave preaches at Bellwood Mennonite in Milford, Nebraska.

August 18 Tim is at Shalom Mennonite in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to license pastor Adam Nussbaum.

August 23 Dave meets with Ecuador Partners Task Group in Omaha, Nebraska.

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

August 25 Tim preaches at Salem Mennonite, Shickley, Nebraska.

August 25 Dave preaches at East Union Mennonite, Kalona, Iowa.

August 26-31 Shana attends a class at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.  
September 6 Tim, Dave and Shana attend Conference Board in Manson, Iowa.  
September 7 Dave and Shana attend Engaging the Mystery: Introducing Advent 2013 in Manson, Iowa.  
September 8 Dave preaches at Manson Mennonite.

## How can we help you? Please let us know!

Do you sometimes wonder how exactly conference staff could be helpful to your congregation? Now, the answers to that question are at your fingertips! [David Boshart](#), [Tim Detweiler](#), [Shana Peachey Boshart](#) and [Ramiro Hernandez](#) each have web pages that explain what they do and how they can help your congregation. Click their names above or go to [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) and hover on “Staff” under “Our Organization.” See what we can do for you and give us a call!

## Here's What's New

Check out this new feature of our web site! When we have something to announce, when we update a page, when we find something worth sharing with you...we'll put it on the [Here's What's New](#) page. You'll find a link to this page on the [Home](#) page at the top of the right-side column OR from the drop down menu under Home. It's a blog format, so just add this page to your blog reader or RSS feed and you're set!

## Engaging the Mystery: Introducing Advent 2013

Just three weeks remain to register your group for the Advent Planning workshop! The registration deadline is August 28.

Advent worship planners, you have a special opportunity to learn about the Advent 2013 *Leader* materials from those who wrote them! There will be breakouts that demonstrate the visuals, the dramas, sermons and music/children's stories. Join us at Manson Mennonite Church on Saturday, September 7, from 10-3:30 for *Engaging the Mystery: Introducing Advent 2013*. The cost is \$25 per person. Click [here for details](#) or [here for a registration brochure](#).

Questions? Call Shana Peachey Boshart at 319-936-5905.

## 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](mailto:hebuller@gmail.com).

## AMBS Webinar

### Planting Peace Churches - The Heart of God's Shalom Strategy

From 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm CDT on Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Presenters: Mauricio Chenlo, Jaime Lazaro, André Gingerich Stoner

Catch a vision for planting peace churches. Consider different church planting models. Hear stories of successes and challenges. Learn about initiatives within Mennonite Church USA and beyond.

Register at least 5 days in advance for an early registration rate of \$45.

For more information, visit the [Church Leadership Center webpage about Webinars](#) or call (574) 295-3726 ext. 269.

## AMBS Short Course

## Engaging John Howard Yoder's Theology Today

Online, non-credit, six weeks. Taught by Gayle Gerber Koontz, September 11-October 22, 2013.

This short course invites participants to discuss and evaluate some of Yoder's writings on 1) the nature and mission of the church; and 2) nonviolence. Some attention will be given to the intersection of Yoder's life and thought. **Get details and register by August 21.**

## MEDA Convention

**“Cultivating Solutions: Harvesting Hope”** Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) serves the working poor around the world, bringing dignity and joy by helping them grow sustainable, locally owned small businesses that are not dependent on charity for survival. Join MEDA for four days of inspiration, information and networking in Wichita during November 7-10, 2013. Plenary sessions feature topics on global food issues, the importance of networking and collaboration and overcoming barriers to hope.

Go to [www.medaconvention.org](http://www.medaconvention.org) for full descriptions of the plenary sessions, seminars, tours and on-line registration, or call 1-800-665-7026 for more information.

## STAR Training to be offered in St. Paul

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](http://www.starmpls3.eventbrite.com)

**Fri-Sun October 11-13 & Sat-Sun Oct 26-27, 2013** [www.starmpls4.eventbrite.com](http://www.starmpls4.eventbrite.com)

For more information, please contact Donna Minter at 612-377-4660 or [STAR.Mpls@gmail.com](mailto:STAR.Mpls@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

**Pastoral Leadership Committee** meets August 16 & 17 in the Twin Cities.

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

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

**Instituto Biblical Anabautista (IBA)** national retreat will be held August 30 to September 2 in Alabama.

**Conference Board** meets September 6 at Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa.

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

**Church Planting Strategy Team** meets September 12 in Rochester, Minnesota.

**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.

**Central Plains Annual Meeting** will take place June 19-22 at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

**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.

Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org)

Spanish translation by Steven Rhodes 319-930-7303

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [office@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:office@centralplainsmc.org).



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

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463; [office@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:office@centralplainsmc.org)

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

David Boshart: [davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org); 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: [timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org); 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org); 319-936-5905

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator: Ramiro Hernandez [rmherns@yahoo.com](mailto:rmherns@yahoo.com) 319-621-3725

Moderator Nathan Luitjens: [moderator@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:moderator@centralplainsmc.org) 319- 256-6061

Asst. Moderator Margie Caraballo: [assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org) 309-235-3011

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.