

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

January 14, 2014

**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, Youth Sponsors

**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 19**

Tim Detweiler, David Boshart and Shana Peachey Boshart will be participating in pastor's week events at one or both Mennonite seminaries this month. Pray that they would have good conversations with prospective pastors, professional enrichment and travel safety.

**For Sunday, January 26**

Pray for the pastoral transition at the Quito Mennonite Church. The front running candidate to be the new pastor will be visiting Quito this month.

**For Sunday, February 2**

Pray for the Conflict Management Support Team as they prepare and present a workshop in Kalona, Iowa on Saturday, and for a Spirit-led learning experience for the participants.

**For Sunday, February 9**

Pray for the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board meeting in Harrisonburg, Virginia, February 12-15.

## New publication date for 'The Sower

Since several Central Plains congregations prepare their bulletin on Wednesday, in 2014 *The Sower* will come out on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the second Wednesday. —*Shana*

## Finance Update

We had an incredibly strong month in December to put us in good position for the new year. Income soared to one of the highest levels in four years at \$66,822.12. With monthly expenses of \$36,257.15, the \$30,564.97 difference gives the conference a surplus of \$7,589.55 for the fiscal year. We are very thankful for your continued support of Central Plains and continue to see God's work in many different ways. Thank you. —*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

January 14 Dave, Shana and Monica will be in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, for an Annual Meeting Task Group planning meeting.  
18 Tim and the Conflict Management Support team will lead a workshop at West Union Mennonite Church, Parnell, Iowa.  
19 Shana preaches at Christ Community Church in Des Moines; Tim is at Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the installation of pastor Christopher Montgomery.  
20-23 Tim and Shana will be at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for School for Leadership Training.  
27-30 Dave and Tim will be at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, for Pastor's Week.  
February 2 Dave preaches at Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa.  
4 Dave will attend a Church Planting Strategy Team meeting at Cedar Falls Mennonite Church.  
8 Tim and the Conflict Management Support Team give a workshop at Kalona Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa.  
9 Dave preaches at Des Moines Mennonite Church.  
10-12 Tim attends Clergy Clinic at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Lombard, Illinois.

## New at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org)

Start the year right with daily scripture and prayer. Find a new list of devotional resources on the Faith at Home page. Go to Resources; Formation; Faith at Home.

## Register soon for the Conflict Transformation workshop

You are invited to attend the **Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches** workshop planned for February 8, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kalona Mennonite Church in Kalona, Iowa. The Conflict Management Support Team will lead the workshop, addressing these topics:

- The Nature and Role of Conflict
- Conflict in the New Testament: Finding Renewal in Conflict
- Self-Assessment Exercise: Understanding and improving your own style of response to conflict
- Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills: How to be effective when people are angry
- Congregational Conflict: Understanding conflict in groups and how to manage it

This workshop is for pastors, elders/deacons, congregational chairpersons, and all interested persons who want to learn more about using conflict transformation skills for managing conflict in the congregation. Cost for the workshop is \$45 per person. This covers the cost of lunch and the workbook.

**Register online by January 24** at the [Conflict Skills Workshop](#) page under Events at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org). This workshop will be offered in other regions of our conference too.

## Holy Land Tour with Dave and Shana

As the tour hosts for a TourMagination tour to Israel/Palestine this spring, we invite you to join us as we visit Old and New Testament sites including Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and Jerusalem. Our tour *guide* will be Nelson Kraybill, whose exuberance about the Bible and the Holy Land is contagious! A pastor and Bible teacher, Nelson has led a number of tours to Israel/Palestine. For a tour description and information, [visit this Tourmagination web page](#). **Register by Friday, January 17, for the guaranteed airfare**, but registration for the tour remains open after that date.  
*—David & Shana Boshart*

## WDC Library

Pastors, get ready to visit with Marlene! In the next two months, Marlene Bogard, director of the Western District Conference Resource Library, will be calling to you visit with you about what the library can offer you and your congregation. Take a moment now to visit the on-line catalog at [mennowdc.org](http://mennowdc.org) and then make a list of questions to ask Marlene when she calls. Can't wait? Call

her: [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300). Remember, the library is here to serve YOU. —*Marlene Bogard, WDC Library Director* / [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

## Transitional ministry training

Transitional ministry has a unique place in the mission of the church. While “interim pastors” have provided preaching and pastoral care for many years, “transitional ministry” involves training to lead congregations through a process of preparation for entering a new chapter of leadership.

March 10-14, 2014, Amigo Centre near Sturgis, Michigan, will host a Transitional Ministry Training retreat for individuals interested in pursuing this type of ministry.

Visit <http://tmt.amigocentre.org/> for additional information, or contact Amigo Centre at 269.651.2811.

## Iowa Mennonite School seeks principal

Iowa Mennonite School is seeking a dynamic, qualified educational leader for the position of Principal/Chief Administrator in rural Kalona, Iowa for the 2014-2015 school year. See the full ad here: <http://www.iowamennonite.org/about/job-opening/>.

## AMBS Webinar

Lent Planning ♦ Tuesday, February 11, 7:30-8:45 p.m. EST ♦ Presenter: Rachel Miller Jacobs  
Early registration deadline February 6.

Participants are introduced to the Lent theme, "Encountering God: What Have We Witnessed?" and the lectionary scriptures for the season. They explore how to use and adapt worship resources published in Leader magazine, including suggestions for visuals, music, scripture presentations, sermons, and children's worship. Rachel Miller Jacobs is Assistant Professor of Congregational Formation at AMBS. Register at [www.ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Webinars.cfm](http://www.ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Webinars.cfm).

## Upcoming Events

**Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches** will be offered February 8, 2014, at Kalona Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa.  
**Church Planters Gathering** will take place March 11-12.

**Annual Leaders Retreat** for pastors and spouses will take place April 25-27 at Schuyler, Nebraska

**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 Tuesday 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.