

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! Luke 12:24

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

June 10, 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, June 15

Pray for those participating in Central Plains Annual Meeting 2014 at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, that hearts and minds may be attuned to God's will for our conference.

For Sunday, June 22

Pray that those attending Youth Escape 2014 will become dedicated agents of the Kingdom. Pray for the planners as well as speaker Glen Guyton and worship leader Jeremy Kempf as they prepare.

For Sunday, June 29

Give thanks for the Instituto Biblico Anabautista (Anabaptist Biblical Institute) students in Iowa City and Moline who are celebrating their graduation today. These lay leaders have spent many hours studying the Bible and church leadership in preparation for lay and credentialed ministry roles.

For Sunday, July 6

Pray that the children of our conference would sense the presence of God in their lives and grow in the knowledge of God's love. Pray also for those who write curriculum and teach Sunday School.

Finance Update

We had a rough start for the new fiscal year. Income for the month of May came in at \$19,093.40, the lowest May total since 2010. Expenses for the month came in at \$35,762.91. As a result, we start the new Central Plains fiscal year with a deficit of \$16,669.51. We are grateful for your financial support and look forward to seeing everyone at Annual Meeting. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

June 14 David and Shana in St. Paul.

19-22 David, Shana, Tim, Monica and (hopefully!) you will be at Annual Meeting in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

25-28 David attends Mennonite Church USA Executive Board meetings in Chicago.

29 David attends Shalom Mennonite Church partnership meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

July 4-11 Tim is on vacation.

6 Shana preaches at Des Moines Mennonite Church.

Have you registered for Annual Meeting?

Registration materials are in your church office or they can be printed from our web site, www.centralplainsmc.org. It is not possible to register online; materials must be mailed.

Delegate sessions will include an introduction to our new study on communal biblical discernment. Jewel Gingerich Longenecker will speak on the theme of being shaped by God's word.

Come and see your brothers and sisters! You will enjoy fellowship, you will be equipped for discipleship and you will be engaged in leadership!

Call Shana for your *Shine* introduction

Shana Peachey Boshart and others will be available to introduce you and your Sunday School teachers to the new *Shine* curriculum. Call her to arrange a meeting: 319-936-5905.

Shine encourages children to become aware of God's presence in their lives and to have a relationship with God through prayer. See more at: <http://shinecurriculum.com/about/what-is-shine/>.

In Nebraska, plan to attend an introduction to Shine at Bellwood Mennonite Church in Milford on Saturday morning, June 28, OR at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson on Thursday evening, July 10. Dates and locations for other states will be announced soon.



WDC Resource Library

Ahoy there summer readers! **IF** you have some time to do summer reading, here are my top five picks, in no particular order. Sue Monk Kidd's *The Invention of Wings* (fiction that will change and amaze you); Malcolm Gladwell's *David and Goliath* (underdogs, misfits and the art of battling giants); Jimmy Carter's *A Call to Action: women, religion, violence and power*; Linda Mercadante's *Belief Without Borders* (inside the minds of the spiritual but not religious); and Shirley Hershey Showalter's *Blush* (a Mennonite girl meets a glittering world). Call or email to reserve and I will personally pack up and send them to you! —Marlene Bogard, Library Director, 316-283-6300 or crlib@mennowdc.org.

Shalom Readers for Summer

Shalom Readers makes a great summer reading program! It can also dovetail nicely with your Bible School or Kids Clubs. Find all you need on the [Shalom Readers](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) page at www.centralplainsmc.org!

Women's Fall Retreat

Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21: **Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, S.D.** The weekend begins at 9:30 am on Saturday and ends with the noon meal on Sunday. The theme is "Growing in God – What's Working for You?" with featured speaker Shana Peachey Boshart. The sessions will explore how we can nurture children, young women/mothers and empty nest/older women in our churches. There will be special interest sessions and singing as well as time to renew friendships and make new friends. Watch for further details. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend!

A church home for Mayo Clinic patients

If you or a family member are coming to Mayo Clinic, Rochester Mennonite Church would like to support and care for you there. The congregation offers you pastoral support or general

information about the hospitals and clinics, the city, lodging, transportation, etc. You are also welcome to worship with them. The church meets in the chapel of Christ United Methodist Church, located at 5th Avenue and 4th Street SW. The chapel is in the northeast corner of the building, and can most easily be accessed off of 4th Street SW. Contact Galen Penner, at [507-281-3405](tel:507-281-3405) or galenpenner4@gmail.com.

STAR Training to be offered in St. Paul

Strengthen your capacity to address trauma, break cycles of violence, and build resilience for the benefit of your congregation and the greater community. 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 8-12, 2014 www.starmnpeace2.eventbrite.com

Fri-Sun October 3-5 & Sat-Sun Oct 18-19, 2014 www.starmnpeace3.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 or STAR.Mpls@gmail.com. STAR is a program of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Upcoming Events

Central Plains Annual Meeting will take place June 19-22, 2014, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

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

Conference Board meets August 22-23, 2014, in Freeman, South Dakota.

Women's Retreat will be September 20 and 21 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota.

Conference Board and Committees meet November 14-15 at Crooked Creek Christian Camp.

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. 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.