

If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. —I John 1:7

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

July 8, 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, July 13

Tim Detweiler is speaking this week at Cheyenne Mennonite Family Camp near Lame Deer, Montana. Pray for Tim and for all those attending the camp.

For Sunday, July 20

Next weekend, Templo Alabanza celebrates its 50th anniversary. Praise God for 50 years of Anabaptist ministry and witness in the Quad Cities.

For Sunday, July 27

Pray that those participating in Youth Escape 2014 would encounter God in a transforming way.

For Sunday, August 3

Pray for the Iglesia Menonita Hispana Assembly meeting in Aurora, Oregon, next weekend and especially for those participants from Central Plains.

For Sunday, August 10

Pray for all the Sunday School teachers in our conference getting ready for a new year, especially those getting acquainted with the new curriculum, Shine. Many teachers will receive an introduction to Shine this month.

Next month, The Sower will be dated August 12.

Finance Update

Central Plains budget has struggled through the first two months of a new fiscal year. Income for the month of June came in at \$34,007.75. Expenses for the month came in at \$43,032.74, creating a deficit of \$9,024.99 for June. This also increases the overall deficit to \$25,694.50 in the new fiscal year. Thank you for your financial support for Central Plains. We continue to see God's work in many different ways in our conference. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

July 8-11 Shana attends 21st Century Faith Formation Training in Dayton, Ohio.

10-14 Tim is in Lame Deer and Busby, Montana, for Cheyenne Mennonite Family Camp. Tim will ordain Scott Shreffler and license Suzette Shreffler for specific ministry on Sunday the 13th.

19-31 Tim is on vacation.

19 David co-leads a study with the Hmong Mennonite Church in St. Paul.

22-24 David is on vacation.

26 David and Shana attend Templo Alabanza 50th Anniversary celebration in Moline, Illinois.

27 David preaches at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church, Wayland, Iowa.

28-31 David is on vacation.

August 1-3 David and Shana attend Youth Escape 2014 in central Iowa.

11-12 Tim attends Lombard Mennonite Peace Center board retreat.

Highlights from Annual Meeting

- Challenging and inspiring messages from Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, Associate Dean at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Listen to her sermons on the [Annual Meeting web page](#).
- Receiving Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo of Muscatine, Iowa, as a member of Central Plains. See photos on our home page.
- Hearing the testimony of Max Villatoro and then hearing several spontaneous testimonies of how God is at work in our congregations and communities.
- An introduction to our new study, *Seeking God's Will Together*. Each church was given a copy, and it can also be found on our [Discernment Study page](#).
- Saying "thank you" and "farewell" to Cesar Moya and Patricia Uruena for 14 years of faithful service in the Ecuador Partnership.
- An evening of laughter and fun at the Saturday variety show.
- Sunday worship with communion at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church in rural Wayland.

In addition, the Pastoral Leadership Committed interviewed and approved for credentialing three pastors: David Schooley to be licensed toward ordination (Eicher Emmanuel/Wayland, IA), Christopher Montgomery to be licensed to lead to transfer of ordination from the Church of the Brethren (Sermon on the Mount, Sioux Falls, SD) and Alejandro Huesca to be licensed toward ordination (Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Muscatine, IA).

Find photos from Annual Meeting, a video of highlights, and recordings of Jewel Gingerich Longenecker's sermons on our [Annual Meeting 2014 page](#).

Register for Youth Escape

The final registration deadline for Youth Escape is **July 18**. Find registration information, FAQ, and schedule on [the Youth Escape web page](#). The theme is Agents of the Kingdom with speaker Glen Guyton and worship leader Jeremy Kempf.

More *Shine* introductions for you and your teachers

Introductions to the *Shine* Sunday School curriculum are being planned for the various regions of Central Plains.

Nebraska had a presentations on June 28.

Freeman, South Dakota, will likely be August 6 or 7.

Nadine Busenitz will have information for the Montana churches.

Dates and times for Iowa and Minnesota are still to be determined. I am planning several regional gatherings in these states in August. Stay



tuned or contact me for information. —*Shana Peachey Boshart*

WDC Resource Library

Heads Up! Here are some of our newer titles that are deemed excellent for small group or Sunday School study.

- *Digital Disciple: real Christianity in a virtual world* by Adam Thomas
- *Permission Granted: and other thoughts on living graciously among saints and sinners* by Margot Starbuck
- *Jesus Bombs and Ice Cream* / DVD and study
- *Free: spending your time and money on what matters most* by Mark Scandrette
- *The Worship Architect: a blueprint for designing culturally relevant and Biblically faithful services* by Constance Cherry

We are here to serve you! Call or email the WDC Resource Library: 316-283-6300 / crlib@mennowdc.org. —*Marlene Bogard, Library Director*

Mennonite Women Fall Retreat

All Central Plains women are invited to the 2014 Fall Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, South Dakota. on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21. The theme is "Growing in God – What's Working for You?" with Shana Peachey Boshart as the featured speaker. The sessions will explore how women nurture faith in our churches at three stages of life: children, young women/mothers and empty nest/older women. There will be special interest sessions and singing as well as time to renew friendships and make new friends. The weekend begins at 9:30 am on Saturday and ends with the noon meal on Sunday. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Christian Formation Sunday is September 14

Find a call to worship, prayer of confession and litany of dedication under the What's New section at <http://www.mennoniteeducation.org> or [click here](#).

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 8-12, 2014 www.starmnpeace2.eventbrite.com

Fri-Sun October 3-5 & Sat-Sun Oct 18-19, 2014 www.starmnpeace3.eventbrite.com

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

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.