

*Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? —Matthew 6:26*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

August 12, 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, August 17**

Pray for the Central Plains Conference Board and committee chairs as they meet next weekend in Freeman, South Dakota.

### **For Sunday, August 24**

Pray for Central Plains's newest member, Iglesia El Balsamo in Muscatine, Iowa, as Tim, Dave, and Shana join them in worship today to recognize their membership in Central Plains Mennonite Conference, Pastor Alejandro Huesca is licensed, and they celebrate their 7th anniversary as a congregation.

### **For Sunday, August 31**

As a new year begins, pray that our Central Plains Sunday School teachers and other youth leaders can communicate God's love to our children as they tell Bible stories and shape their faith.

### **For Sunday, September 7**

Pray for Carol Detweiler as she concludes her chemotherapy infusions on Monday, September 8. Scans will likely follow one month later. Pray for good results from these scans.

Next month, The Sower will be dated September 9.

## Finance Update

Our budget reversed trend in July by ending with a good surplus. Income for the month was at \$55,501.35. Expenses for the month came in at \$46,881.25, creating a surplus of \$8,620.10 for the month. This helps lower our overall deficit for the fiscal year to \$17,074.40. We are hoping to continue this trend with a strong August and help lower our deficit by even more. We are thankful for your continued support. We see God at work in many different ways in Central Plains.

—*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

August 10 Tim will be at Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to preach and to license toward ordination pastor Christopher Montgomery.

22 & 23 David, Tim, Shana & Monica attend Conference Board meetings in Freeman, South Dakota.

24 David, Tim and Shana attend Igreja Cristiana El Balsamo in Muscatine, Iowa.

25-29 Shana attends a class on campus at AMBS and David will work from Elkhart.

September 3-7 Monica participates in the MCC Bike/Hike event in the Black Hills.

6-7 David speaks at Pulaski (Iowa) Mennonite Church.

7 Shana preaches at Wellman (Iowa) Mennonite Church.

## Mennonite Women Fall Retreat

Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21. Conference pastor Shana Peachey Boshart is speaking on the topic "Growing in God - What's Working for You?" Presentation sessions will focus on children, young women/mothers and empty nest/beyond. There will be time on Saturday afternoon to enjoy activity sessions and a variety of music/singing throughout the weekend.

Pre-registration is requested and due by September 15 by contacting Edie Tschetter at [letschetter@gwtc.net](mailto:letschetter@gwtc.net); home: [605-925-7009](tel:605-925-7009) or cell: [605-660-2714](tel:605-660-2714); 28020 US Highway 81, Freeman, SD 57029. Please check out the poster sent to your local church for details on cost, lodging, etc.

## 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](#).

## Shine training videos are online

Find a number of videos presenting various parts of the Shine curriculum on at <https://shinecurriculum.com/for-teachers/shine-training>. The videos introduce a teachers guide, show how to tell a story from the Shine On story book, explain Shine's approach and similar topics. Superintendents share this link with your teachers.



## WDC Resource Library

Plan now for Fall Faith Formation! The WDC Resource Library has what you need and at no cost! Call or email to check out a stack of options appropriate for your adult small group or Sunday School. Find a brand new list of Adult Electives at: <http://mennowdc.org/library/check-it-out/>. Copy and distribute to your teachers, facilitators and leaders.

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

## 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](http://www.starmnpeace2.eventbrite.com)

**Fri-Sun October 3-5 & Sat-Sun Oct 18-19, 2014** [www.starmnpeace3.eventbrite.com](http://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](mailto:STAR.Mpls@gmail.com). STAR is a program of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Upcoming events at AMBS

### Join the AMBS-Kansas Center Fall Class: Anabaptist History and Theology

Anabaptist History and Theology will be offered this fall by AMBS-Kansas Center beginning September 5. It will meet over four weekends – a convenient option for those who work and for those who live at a distance. This course is taught by Professor Lois Barrett, who has a life-long interest in Anabaptist history, mission, and the nature of the church. The course will meet at 2500 Place in North Newton, Kansas and it is available for both credit and audit. For more information, please see <http://www.ambs.edu/academics/Fall-courses1.cfm> or contact the registrar at [registrar@ambs.edu](mailto:registrar@ambs.edu).

### Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship

AMBS will be hosting a conference on Land and Christian Discipleship September 18-20, 2014. This conference is one way to engage in a theology that cares for God's creation, for the land, and all that live on it. For more information, please see [www.ambs.edu/news-events/Rooted-and-Grounded.cfm](http://www.ambs.edu/news-events/Rooted-and-Grounded.cfm).

### Anabaptist Short Course

“Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology” is a six-week online course, taught by Jamie Pitts, assistant professor of Anabaptist studies. The course is taught at a seminary level but for no credit. It is highly interactive, drawing on the wisdom among students. The course runs from Oct 22 to Dec 3. Learn more: <http://www.ambs.edu/anabaptistshortcourses>.

## Upcoming Events

**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.

**Central Plains Annual Meeting** will take place June 18-21, 2015, in the Twin Cities.

**Mennonite Church USA Convention and Delegate Assembly** will be held June 30 to July 5, 2015, in Kansas City.

**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 Mejia 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.