

Has anyone planted a vineyard but not yet enjoyed its fruit? He should go back to his house, or he might die in the battle and another be first to enjoy its fruit. —Deuteronomy 20:6

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

September 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, September 14

Pray for those participating in the women's retreat at Swan Lake camp next weekend, that each would find a path to a deeper relationship with God, God's people and God's mission.

For Sunday, September 21

Praise God for providing a pastor for the Hmong Mennonite Church of St. Paul. Pastor Pornchai Thosaengsiri (Seng) will be installed today. Pray that Pastor Seng and the church may grow in fruitful ministry, guided by the Holy Spirit.

For Sunday, September 28

Today Dave Schooley will be licensed toward ordination at Eicher Emmanuel Mennonite Church in rural Wayland, Iowa. Pray that Dave and the congregation will together be guided by the Holy Spirit to witness to the gospel in their community.

For Sunday, October 5

Our Central Plains moderators, Nathan Luitjens and Margie Mejia Caraballo, and executive conference minister David Boshart will attend Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council in Chicago this week. Pray for the Spirit's leading at this meeting of conference leaders from across Mennonite Church USA.

For Sunday, October 12

Pray for the pastors of our conference, that God would provide everything they need to lead the church with vision, integrity, passion and faithfulness.

For Sunday, October 19

Pray for those preparing for the Ecuador Partnership meetings to be held in November. Representatives from Central Plains, the Mennonite Churches of Ecuador, the Columbian Mennonite Church, and Mennonites in Venezuela will gather for fellowship and planning.

Next month, The Sower will be dated **October 22**. Starting in October, The Sower will be published the third Wednesday of the month instead of the second Tuesday.

Finance Update

Central Plains budget continued to struggle through the summer months by ending August with a large deficit. Income for the month was at \$18, 443.26. Expenses for the month came in at \$46, 256.40, creating a deficit of \$27, 813. 14 for the month. This result increases the overall deficit for the fiscal year to \$44,887.54. We are hoping for a positive September to reverse this deficit! We are thankful for the continued support of conference and continue to see God's work in many different ways. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

September 13-14 Dave and Shana lead a congregational retreat for Des Moines Mennonite Church.

14 Tim preaches at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church, Wayland, Iowa.

17 Dave meets with the Church Planting Strategy Team in Des Moines.

19-21 Dave is in the Twin Cities.

19-21 Shana is at Swan Lake Christian Camp to speak at the fall women's retreat.

24-27 Dave attends Mennonite Church USA Executive Board in Kansas City.

28 Dave preaches at Bethel Mennonite, Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

28 Tim is at Eicher Emmanuel to credential David Schooley.

29-October 1 Shana is in New Jersey for a youth ministry meeting.

2-5 Dave and Shana are on vacation.

6-8 Dave, along with Nathan Luitjens and Margie Mejia Caraballo, attends Constituency Leaders Council in Chicago.

10-13 Dave attends Mennonite Mission Network board meetings in Iowa.

18-19 Shana speaks at Hutterthal Mennonite Church's Mission Fest.

19 Dave meets with the Shalom Mennonite Church (Eau Claire, Wisconsin) partnership.

Discernment study is revised and available on Amazon.com

The discernment study, *Seeking God's Will Together*, has been revised and is available as a PDF on the Discernment Study page of our web site OR on Amazon.com. Substantive changes have been made throughout, so please use this new version rather than the booklet you were given at Annual Meeting. The videos on the DVD have not changed.

David Boshart has developed a series of three sermons and a Sunday School presentation to introduce the study. He is open to invitations to give all or parts of this material. Shana has also developed an introductory sermon.

Mennonite Women Fall Retreat

Register now for the Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp, it's coming soon! Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21, Shana Peachey Boshart will speak on the topic "Growing in God - What's Working for You?" Her 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-register by September 15 by contacting Edie Tschetter at letschetter@gwtc.net; home: 605-925-7009 or cell: 605-660-2714. Please check out the poster sent to your church for details.

Shalom Readers

Does your congregation have a representative for Shalom Readers for the coming year? Each congregation received materials for this ministry in the packet at Annual Meeting. We would love to have a representative from each congregation. Please contact the regional coordinator, preferably by September 30, with the name, e-mail and phone number of this representative.

Churches in Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana or Colorado, contact Joan Friesen, Box 682, Henderson, NE 68371, 402-723-5868 or jfriesen@mainstaycomm.net.

Churches in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois or Wisconsin, contact Ellen Miller, 2131 Grand Blvd., Waterloo, IA 50701, 319-235-9130 or ellenkmiller@gmail.com.

Shine webinars

A webinar is being offered to Central Plains Sunday School teachers to introduce the new Shine curriculum. The same webinar will be offered twice; choose the date that works for you: Monday, September 15 at 7:30 pm or Thursday, September 25 at 7:30 pm. To register, go to www.centralplainsmc.org/shine. Please register at least four days prior to the webinar. For more information, contact Shana Peachey Boshart at [319-936-5905](tel:319-936-5905) or shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

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. —*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 still open for this 4.5 day training:

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 at AMBS

Advent worship planning

Explore resources for Advent worship, including scripture presentations, sermon ideas, children's worship ideas, hymns and visuals. Day-long workshop: Saturday, Oct. 11, at AMBS, led by Rachel Miller Jacobs, Allan Rudy-Froese and Rosanna McFadden. (www.ambs.edu/workshops) Webinar: Thursday, Oct. 16, 6:30-7:45 pm CDT, led by Rachel Miller Jacobs (www.ambs.edu/webinars)

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. See 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>.

AMBS-Kansas Center

AMBS-Kansas Center (North Newton, Kansas) will be offering Anabaptist History and Theology this fall semester. Taught by Professor Lois Barrett, and the class meets four weekends: Sept. 5-6, Oct. 10-11, Nov. 7-8, Dec. 5-6 (Fridays 6:30-9:30pm and Saturdays 8:30am – 4:30pm). See www.ambs.edu/academics/fall-courses.cfm or contact the registrar at registrar@ambs.edu

Upcoming Events

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

Outreach & Service Committee meets September 23 by conference call.

Christian Formation Committee meets October 9 by web conference.

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

Annual Leader’s Retreat will take place April 19-21, 2015, at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE

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. 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.