

*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. — James 3:18*

# The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

February 18, 2015

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, Mennonite Women.

## 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, February 22

Next weekend, the conference board meets in Omaha. Pray for them as they discern together with the Holy Spirit how to lead our conference.

### For Sunday, March 1

Today Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo dedicates their new building in Muscatine, Iowa. Pray for the church and for Pastor Alejandro Huesca as he recovers from a recent stroke.

### For Sunday, March 8

Next Saturday, the Pastoral Leadership Committee meets in Des Moines. Pray for them as they conduct credentialing interviews.

### For Sunday, March 15

For the next two weekends, Freeman Academy and the whole Freeman community will host Schmeckfest, a festival weekend of exhibits, food, and a musical. Pray for the community and for the school as they work together to host many visitors.

Next month, *The Sower* will be dated **March 18**.

## Finance Update

Central Plains budget experiences another positive month in January following a very strong December to just clip us in the black for the fiscal year. Income for the month was at \$49,691.20. Expenses for the month came in at \$36,559.89, generating a surplus of \$13,131.31 for the month. This result erases the overall deficit and puts the budget narrowly back in the black at \$239.43. We are extremely thankful for your support! —*Stewardship Task Group*

## Staff News

February 19 David and Shana meet with the Nebraska pastor cluster.  
22 Tim will be at Manson Mennonite Church to ordain Aaron Carlson.

23-26 Shana will attend Values-Based Leadership Program in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, as a cohort leader.  
25 David and Tim meet with the Central Iowa pastor cluster.  
26 David and Tim meet with the Twin Cities pastor cluster.  
27-28 David, Monica Clem and Ted Widmer attend conference board meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.  
27- March 1 Shana will attend the annual gathering of MC USA Resource Advocates in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
28 Tim meets with the Hispanic pastor cluster.  
March 1 Tim and David attend the building dedication for Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo in Muscatine, Iowa.  
3-9 David and Shana are on vacation.  
14 Tim attends Pastoral Leadership Committee meeting in Des Moines.  
15 David preaches at Templo Alabanza, Moline, Illinois.

## Webinar for Adult Bible Study teachers

Shana Peachey Boshart will host a training webinar for leaders of adult Bible studies and teachers of adult Sunday School on **Monday, March 30, at 7:30pm CDT**. Those who register by March 10 will have an opportunity to give input on what the webinar should cover. See more information and register at <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/teacher-webinar.html>. Please pass this information on to adult Sunday School teachers and Bible study leaders.

## Nebraska Women's Retreat

The Nebraska Women's Retreat will be held on March 7-8, at The Leadership Center in Aurora, NE. The speaker for the weekend will be Stacey Waltner, Freeman, South Dakota. Her theme will be "Body, Soul and Sanity." Registration forms were distributed to Nebraska churches. If you are interested in participating in this event or have any questions you can contact Elizabeth Troyer-Miller at [melizabethm24@gmail.com](mailto:melizabethm24@gmail.com).

## Sister Care to be offered in eastern Iowa

A Sister Care seminar will be offered April 17-18, 2015, at Kalona Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa. Sister Care seminars provide women with tools for ongoing personal healing, for recognizing and celebrating God's grace in their lives, and to responding more confidently and effectively to the needs of others. Topics include "Claiming my identity as God's Beloved," "Caring for Self and Others," "Compassionate Listening," and "Transforming Loss and Grief."

Presenters Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen have worked extensively in healing ministries in the church and in the mental health field. Sister Care seminars are a ministry of Mennonite Women USA. Registration information has been sent to eastern Iowa congregations. Contact Lauralee Kauffman at [NKauff224@yahoo.com](mailto:NKauff224@yahoo.com) or 319.321.5618 with questions.

## Need help creating or implementing a child protection policy?

At the last Mennonite Church USA convention, we passed a resolution to give attention to child protection in congregations. We have the expert help available right within our conference in the form of the Dove's Nest, an organization that specializes in helping congregations protect and nurture children. Contact Jon or Kathy at [Jon@DovesNest.net](mailto:Jon@DovesNest.net) or [Kathy@DovesNest.net](mailto:Kathy@DovesNest.net). Find many good resources at [www.DovesNest.net](http://www.DovesNest.net) or call 402.577.0866.

## Request for photos

Help us keep our home page interesting! We'd love to have high quality photos of recent events at your church. We'd also love to use outdoor/landscape shots of places around our region. Send them, with a brief explanation, to Shana at [shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org).

## STAR Training for Central Plains

To maximize the potential for CPMC's members to participate in the [Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience – the STAR Training](#), the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute ([www.mnpeace.org](http://www.mnpeace.org)) based in Minneapolis, has deliberately scheduled their June STAR Training on the 4 & 1/2 days immediately preceding the Central Plains Annual Meeting in the Twin Cities.

This STAR Training will be held Saturday-Wednesday June 13-17, 2015. Group discounts are available and Twin Cities Mennonites/Anabaptists are offering free/low-cost lodging for Central Plains STAR trainees who attend this STAR Training. Sunday worship is at 5pm after the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of STAR at the [Mennonite Worker](#) and [Third Way](#) congregations. [Register here](#).

## Lent At Home devotionals begin today!

**Upside Down, Inside Out**, the 2015 Lent At-Home booklet, is now available as a [free download](#). This fully illustrated devotional will appeal to families with children ages 3 - 12 and includes scripture, prayer, activities, songs, and much more. Created by Elsie Rempel, this booklet is perfect for use at home, but also could be used for Sunday morning worship (children's time) or for a special Lent emphasis for children on Wednesday nights.

A daily devotional for adults and families with older children is the Anabaptist Prayer Book, *Take our Moments and Our Days, Volume 2*. In it, you will find morning and evening prayers for the Lenten season and Holy Week. Buy the prayer book at [MennoMedia's online store](#) or [contact Shana](#) to borrow it from the Central Plains Formation Resource Library.

## WDC Library News

### Farewell and Hello!

A change in leadership for the WDC Resource Library is underway. Marlene Bogard, director for almost 25 years, is moving on to become the Executive Director of Mennonite Women. Jeanette Roberts will step in and serve as the Interim Librarian. Jeanette comes with many years of experience as a school librarian and has a great love for people and resources. She will be in the library on Thursdays beginning March 5 and available through email all through the week at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org). Remember - we are here to serve you, dear friends in Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Search our catalog at [mennowdc.org](http://mennowdc.org) or give us a call at 316-283-6300.

## You can help Congolese college students attend MWC assembly

To honor our historic connections to the Mennonite Church in Congo, the Outreach and Service Committee has been working for the last two years to identify and sponsor several Congolese college students to attend the Global Youth Summit and the Mennonite World Conference Assembly next summer in Harrisburg, PA. They are Alpha Mavungu Kivuvu, Rince Longo Kabondo and Deborah Kankolongo Tshidimu, students at Hesson College. It will cost about \$1000 to send each one to MWC.

This would make an excellent offering project for families or children/adult Sunday School classes. If you are interested in helping with this sponsorship, please send your contributions to Central Plains Mennonite Conference, designated for the Congolese Student Sponsorship. —*David Boshart, Conference Minister for Outreach & Service*

## Mennonite Church USA Convention info

**Delegate selection.** [Here is a link](#) to an information sheet that outlines the process for selecting delegates for the Kansas City 2015 convention. Please encourage your delegates to register early so they can participate in a survey of delegates sponsored by the Executive Board. Find more [information on the delegate role here](#).

**Convention registration is open!** Register online at [www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention). **There's an app for that.** Mennonite Church USA now has a mobile app with all the latest convention updates. On your mobile device, search for the "Mennonite Church USA" app.

## Learning opportunities from AMBS

### Webinars

*Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?* will be presented by Loren Johns on **Wednesday, February 18**, 6:00-7:30 p.m. CST.

*Living in the Belly of the Whale: What Jonah Teaches Us About Preaching* will be presented by Allan Rudy-Froese on **Tuesday, March 10**, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CDT.

*Funeral Planning: An Anabaptist Approach* will be presented by Janice Yordy Sutter, Pastor of Worship and Preaching, Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend, Indiana, on **Wednesday, April 22**, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CDT.

[Find descriptions of each webinar and registration information here.](#)

### Anabaptist Short Course

*Engaging John Howard Yoder's Theology Today* will be taught by Gayle Gerber Koontz from April 8 through May 20. Early registration deadline is March 25.

Anabaptist short courses are six-week online courses taught at a seminary level but for no credit. Learn more and register at <http://www.ambs.edu/anabaptistshortcourses>.

## Upcoming Events

**Nebraska Women's Retreat** will be held March 7 and 8 at the Leadership Center in Aurora, Nebraska.

**Sister Care Seminar** will be held April 17 and 18, 2015 in southeast Iowa.

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

**Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience - The STAR Training** will take place June 13-17, 2015 in Minneapolis.

**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.

**Mennonite World Conference Assembly Gathered** will take place July 21-26 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Youth Escape 2016** will take place July 15-17, 2016 in central Iowa.

**The Sower** is published the third Wednesday 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.