

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who bears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. — Matthew 13:23

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

July 15, 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, July 19

This week, Anabaptists from all over the world will gather in Harrisburg, Pa., for Mennonite World Conference. Pray that this gathering will glorify God and enrich the global Anabaptist church.

For Sunday, July 26

Today is the birthday of David Boshart, executive conference minister for Central Plains. David was recently elected moderator-elect of Mennonite Church USA (a volunteer role). Please pray that David will be blessed, faithful and effective in his leadership roles.

For Sunday, August 2

Please continue to pray for Max and Gloria Villatoro, their family and their congregation, Torre Fuerte. Max is still staying with his sister's family in rural Honduras, and Gloria continues to lead the church in Iowa City, work full-time and care for the children. To keep up with news about Max, see the Friends of Pastor Max Facebook page or the Max Villatoro page on www.centralplainsmc.org.

For Sunday, August 9

Today Gordon Scoville will be installed as transitional pastor at First Mennonite Church, Iowa City. Please pray for Gordon and the congregation as do important work together in the coming months.

For Sunday, August 16

Pray for the students, teachers and staff at Freeman Academy and Iowa Mennonite School as they prepare to return to school for the 2015-2016 school year.

Next month, *The Sower* will be dated **August 19**. Send submissions to Shana by **August 4**.

Finance Update

Central Plains budget went back into the red the month of June. Income for the month was at \$29,659.75. Expenses for the month were at \$49,181.94. As a result, this pushed our previous small

surplus back into the negative with a net deficit of \$18,442.13. This isn't uncommon as we look back in previous years, but we hope for better months ahead. We are very grateful for your contributions and support. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

July 15 David will be on sabbatical from now through October 15.

July 15-29 Shana will be on vacation and attending Mennonite World Conference in Pennsylvania.

July 27-August 10 Tim will be on vacation.

August 10-11 Tim will be at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center board meeting in Lombard, Illinois.

15-17 Shana will be in Freeman, South Dakota to preach at Salem and Salem-Zion congregations.

David Boshart begins sabbatical July 15

At Annual Meeting this year, David Boshart is completing five years in his role as Executive Conference Minister. The Conference Board has granted him a three-month sabbatical beginning July 15 and ending October 15. During these three months, he will focus on getting oriented to the responsibilities of his role as moderator-elect of Mennonite Church USA which includes chairing the Constituency Leaders Council. He also plans to read scripture for pleasure and spend time with family. Dave will be present for the Council of Committees meeting August 28-29. While Dave is on sabbatical, Shana Boshart will be acting executive conference minister.

Max Villatoro Family

Please continue to pray for Max and Gloria Villatoro, their family and their congregation, Torre Fuerte. Max is still staying with his sister's family in rural Honduras while he gets his Honduran documents. Gloria continues to lead the church in Iowa City, work full-time and care for the children. Max would appreciate your notes of encouragement at max73villatoro@gmail.com.

You may also show your support for Max & Gloria by following [Friends of Pastor Max](#) on Facebook or donating to the Villatoro Family Fund at www.centralplainsmc.org/donate.

Missional Discipleship Initiative starts soon

A number of pastors have indicated interest in the Missional Discipleship Initiative with Marvin Lorenzana of Mennonite Mission Network. On Thursday afternoon before Annual Meeting, Marvin explained the MDI to a group of pastors and lay leaders. **Interested pastors/churches must contact Shana Peachey Boshart as soon as possible to indicate your interest in participating in the 2015 cohort. Send your list of facilitators to Shana by Friday, July 30.**

Questions? Contact Marvin Lorenzana at marvinl@mennonitemission.net or 540-209-1450.

Radical Hospitality Bible Study

The [Friends of Pastor Max](#) recommends the new Bible study from Mennonite Church USA, *Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration*. Find the Bible study [on the Mennonite Church USA web site](#), download it and use the videos provided there. Consider offering this as an elective Sunday School option, supplemented with [the materials listed on the Central Plains web site](#).

Youth Escape 2016

Youth and youth sponsors, mark your calendars now for Youth Escape 2016, July 15-17, 2016. Our speaker will be Michele Hershberger of Menno-Night Show fame at Kansas City. Stay tuned for more information!

New in the Central Plains Formation Resource Library

Fully Engaged: Missional Church in an Anabaptist Voice edited by Stanley R. Green and James R. Krabill.

Everything you could want in a primer on missional church: theology, context, practical tools, stories. David Boshart contributed a chapter.

Helping Youth Grief: The Good News of Biblical Lament by Bob Yoder portrays a God who yearns to hear the honest cries of our youth. Spiritual caregivers will discover good news in biblical lament for its role in pastoral care and faith formation of our youth.

To check out these books, contact Shana at 319-936-5905 or shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

WDC Library

Here's a different kind of resource from the WDC Library: [A list of resources and ideas for believers instruction \(catechism\) classes](#). Check out this extensive, well-researched list then borrow the resources by contacting the library at crlib@mennowdc.org / 316-283-6300.

Hopi Mission School donations

Hopi Mission School is undergoing some structural changes, including some new governance and staffing arrangements. Not all the details have been worked out yet, so in the meantime, it is recommended that any financial contributions be sent either to Mennonite Church USA or to the Hopi Mission School Foundation. Boxtops for Education and Campbells product labels are still being collected, but until further notice, they can be sent to the HMS Foundation at the following address: 500 Main Place, Suite 150, Newton, KS 67114.

AMBS Webinars

Greg Boyd on Anabaptism (Conversation #1)

Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:00-2:30 p.m. CDT

Presenter: Greg Boyd, PhD, senior pastor of Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minn.

[Read description for this conversation](#)

Where is the Good News for Rural Folk?

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 1:00-3:30 p.m. CDT

Presenter: S. Roy Kaufman, AMBS Sessional Faculty

[Read description for Where is the Good News for Rural Folk?](#)

Trauma Awareness Training

STAR-Lite Training: Learning Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience in a Single Day. Saturday August 15, 2015 8:30am-4:30pm, Minneapolis

STAR-Lite is a single-day training integrating Neuropsychology, Trauma Healing & Resilience, Restorative Justice, Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, and Spirituality. STAR-Lite is for individuals who wish to learn the basics of becoming trauma-informed and resilience-oriented within a shorter-time frame than the four-and-a-half-day [STAR Training](#). Optional 6.5 hours of Continuing Education (CEs) approved for Nurses, Educators, and Mental Healthcare Professionals and 5.5 hours CLEs for Attorneys. Early tuition is \$99. Group discounts/scholarship assistance available.

Details: www.starliteAug2015.eventbrite.com Sponsored by the [Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute](#).

Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience – the STAR Training Mon-Fri Sept 14-18, 2015, Minneapolis.

The 4.5 day, evidence-based, multi-cultural STAR Training has a 13-year reputation of national and international success teaching practical strategies to transform psychological trauma into nonviolent power. STAR integrates neurobiology, psychology, trauma

healing & resilience, restorative justice, nonviolent conflict transformation, and broadly defined spirituality setting the stage for authentic reconciliation for individuals and communities. STAR was created at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. Laypersons and professionals are welcome at STAR. Optional 27-29 hours of Continuing Education credit are available for Mental Health Professionals, Nurses, and Educators. Early tuition is \$698. Group discounts/ scholarship assistance available. Details at: www.starSept2015.eventbrite.com
Sponsored by the [Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute](http://www.minneapolispeacebuilding.org).

Upcoming Events

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

Conference Board and Council of Committees will meet August 28-29 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, S.D.

Women's Retreat will be held September 19 & 20 at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, S.D.

Conference Board will meet October 30 & 31 in the Twin Cities.

Central Plains Annual Meeting 2016 will take place June 16-19, 2016, in Des Moines, Iowa.

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. Click on Publications.

Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org

Spanish translation by Steven Rhodes: 319-930-7303

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email office@centralplainsmc.org.



Office: P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463; office@centralplainsmc.org

Conference Ministers: P.O. Box 352, Kalona, IA 52247

David Boshart: davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org; 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5905

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator: Ramiro Hernandez rmherns@yahoo.com 319-621-3725

Moderator Margie Mejia Caraballo: margiemmc60@ymail.com 309-235-3011

Assistant Moderator Sid Burkey: sid@burkeyfarms.com 402-761-2093

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.