

Western District Conference Simply Sustainable

Mennonite Publishing Network is working on a new book called Simply Sustainable that you can be a part of! To be published in fall 2010, this book is designed to collect ideas from people around the world about how they are seeking to live more simply and sustainably. Submit your idea using the form at www.simply-sustainable.org.

Night at the Library!

Where: Conference Resource Library.

For: small groups, women's groups, Sunday School classes, children's groups, large families and small churches.

Limit: 25-30 people.

What: your choice of informal activities, customized for your group. Choose from: storytelling, DVD clips, browsing, book-talks, scavenger hunt, creative prayer activities and more.

Marlene Bogard, Resource Library Director will be present as guide. Hot and cold drinks provided for a small fee, food is optional, provided by....you!

Why: The Conference Resource Library is a gem. Even though this is our busiest year in history, we know there are hundreds of folks out there who have yet to explore our 12,000 items. Come, explore, discover!

When: dozens of dates are open in the coming year. Contact Marlene if you are interested. 316-283- 6300, crlib@mennowdc.org

Cost: A donation to the WDC would be very nice.

Conference Minister Search

The WDC Executive Committee has named the search committee for the next Conference Minister of WDC: Tom Harder, chairperson, co-pastor of Lorraine Ave., Wichita; Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, moderator of WDC, Hope, Wichita; Verlin Koehn, WDC Executive Board, Grace, Enid, OK; Sara Dick, associate pastor, Shalom, Newton; Hugo Saucedo, Director of MVS, San Antonio, TX; James Regier, member of Staff Relations Committee, Grace Hill, Whitewater, KS. Pray for them as they begin their ministry of searching and pray for candidates to hear God's call to serve the WDC.

Old Book Continues to Find New Readers

Martyrs Mirror a Top-Seller for Mennonite Publishing Network

Did you know that one of the most popular books from Herald Press, the book division of Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN), is almost 350 years old. The book, *Martyrs Mirror*, is a timeless classic about the persecution and martyrdom of Christians from the time of Christ to the 16th century, with a special emphasis on the suffering of Anabaptists in Europe. Published in 1660 in Holland by Thielemann J. van Braght to strengthen the faith of other believers, the book graphically recounts the torture and death of over 4,000 Christians.

In addition to stories about various martyrs, it contains songs, letters, prayers and etchings by noted Dutch artist Jan Luyken. Altogether, MPN has sold over 72,000 copies of *Martyrs Mirror*, which has become a very important book for Amish and conservative Mennonite communities.

“Next to the Bible, it’s a must-have for Amish and conservative Mennonite families,” says David Luthy of Pathway. “It’s still a very much alive book.” The book is considered so special that couples are given a copy as a wedding present and for those who are ordained. “It’s like giving a sacred gift,” says author and historian John Ruth, who has written extensively about the Amish.

But others have ordered it from Amazon as well. “It is attractive to many people today because it speaks about how being a Christian means being different from the rest of society, and how that commitment can expose us to danger and lead to persecution and death,” adds Ruth. “It is a very inspiring and iconic book.”

New President for AMBS Named

Sara Wenger Shenk, Ed.D., associate dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, has been named president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She will begin the new assignment no later than October 1, 2010, following several months of orientation and preparation.

Wenger Shenk has been a member of the faculty and administration of EMS since 1995. In addition to serving as associate dean, she also is associate professor of Christian practices.

Randall Jacobs, Goshen, Ind., chair of the presidential search committee and new chair of the AMBS board, said, “Dr. Wenger Shenk represents a unique combination of gifts and experiences, including teaching and administration in theological education, cross-cultural ministry, church planting, and writing for both scholarly and popular audiences. Perhaps more importantly, Dr. Wenger Shenk is grounded in Jesus, deeply respectful of the church, and passionate about Anabaptist theological education.”

Adopt a Safe House Family?

The Harvey County Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Task Force ministers to victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. They have created a Safe House for families seeking shelter because of abuse. Through community contributions, necessary resources are provided that give support, hope and healing for abuse survivors. Christmas will soon be here and it is often a difficult time for survivors. The Safe House Community Angel Tree Project helps ease burdens by providing Christmas gifts for the family, needed clothing, food and personal need items. If you or your family would like to be a part of the Angel Tree Project by adopting a Safe House family for Christmas, call 316 283-0350.



Worship Themes

Nov. 1 - "Enlarge Your Tent"

Envisioning our Future
Isaiah 54:1-4, Matthew 9:16-17
-Corey, Envisioning Team preaching

Nov. 8 - "Faithful with little or much"

Stewardship of Money
Luke 16:1-13
-Corey preaching

Nov. 15 - "Spiritual Gifts"

Stewardship of Talents
Covenant Sunday
Matthew 25:14-29, I Corinthians 12:4-11
-Karen preaching

Nov. 22 - "Of One Heart And One Soul"

Acts 4
-Lynn Miller preaching

November 29 - "God is coming!"

Communion, Advent 1
Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalms 25:1-10,
I Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21: 25-36
-Corey preaching

TABOR MENNONITE MEN CHICKEN BARBECUE

Thursday, November 5
5 to 8 p.m.



*Come out for a great meal
and an evening of
fellowship with
friends and
neighbors!!*

Tabor Church News

November, 2009

“The Practice of Being Aware”

“Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight . . . “
-Exodus 3:3

How would you like to be engaged in a practice that requires no equipment, no fees, and no special clothes? You don’t even have to be in shape. Such a practice is called “being aware.” This practice can be as simple as looking twice at people and things you might otherwise ignore. Why should anyone do such a thing? There is no reason unless you are one of those people who feel that one day is really no more special than the next or that your life is like living a TV commercial rather than life itself. Certainly, this practice is not a quick-fix for weariness. But according to the story of Moses (Exodus 3), something as simple as a burning bush could lead you to holy ground.

For whatever reason, Moses decided the bush was important enough to notice. He could have decided that he would come back the next day and see if it was still burning. But without being aware, he would not have discovered what else his life might have been.

God has not blessed me with a literal burning bush but I do remember an art class which caused me to stop and look. We were asked to observe an apple and then draw it. I kept thinking I would like to take a bite out of the apple. But as I observed, I noticed that an apple has little white dots on it – a new discovery! The more I observed, the more I began a higher level of seeing. As Julian of Norwich (a 14th century English visionary) said when holding a hazelnut, “God made it, God loves it, and God preserves it.” The apple was no longer something beautiful to devour but something that led to reverence.



Jesus was good at the practice of being aware. He was able to be fully present without fear, bias, or judgment. Moses would never have seen a burning bush as Divine without opening up his heart and mind long enough to see what, at first, seemed hidden.

The season of Thanksgiving is as good a time as any to practice being aware. In doing so, we learn how God is aware of us, loves us, and is always holding us. What more is there to be thankful for! BE AWARE! God is in our midst and it is a great sight.

-Pastor Karen



Covenant Renewal Sunday November 15

All Tabor members and attenders will be invited to re-covenant themselves to the mission and ministry of Tabor Mennonite Church for the 2010 church year (which begins in December) during the November 15 worship service.

This is an important time of committing ourselves to Tabor and to sharing the gifts that God has given so that Christ's good news of hospitality, healing and hope may flow through us to the world.

Every attender of every age is invited to pray about your gifts, discern with trusted friends and fill out this covenant. The covenant forms will be placed in your church boxes on November 8 and will be received as a special response to the call during the worship time the following Sunday, November 15.

We know that God has graciously given us many gifts and talents to be shared for His good purposes among us. May God bless you as you ponder how you will share those gifts with our faith family next year. We need all of you to be the church that God is calling us to be!



Thanksgiving Worship Service!



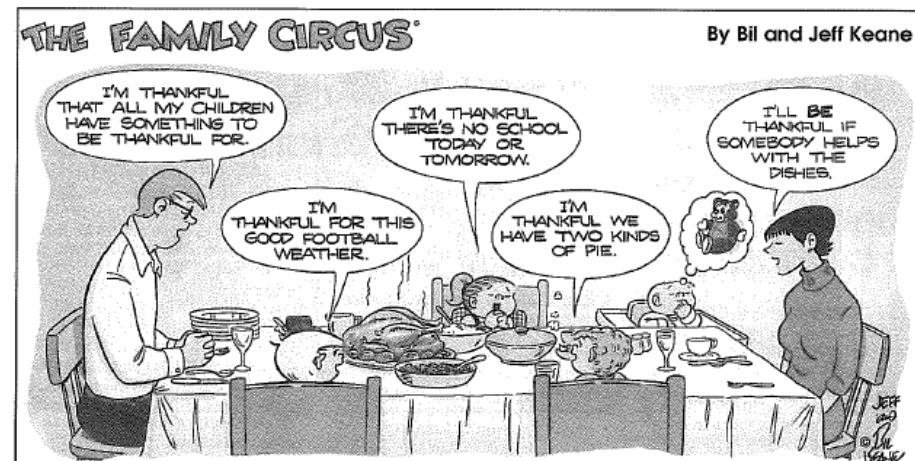
Make plans to attend our Family Thanksgiving Worship service at Tabor Mennonite on **Wednesday evening, November 25** in the fellowship hall. Come for a warm fellowship meal at 6:00pm and stay for a worship service at 7:00pm. What better way to begin a spirit of Thanksgiving, than by coming together to give thanks for all that God has done! Bring family and friends that are coming, so they can also receive Tabor's hospitality. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Annual Meeting Celebration!

On November 15th, at 12:45pm, in the fellowship hall, you will hear about the amazing things that God has been doing in our midst. You will hear about inspired narratives that were written by many ministries at Tabor as they dreamt about what God is calling them to do. You will see a manageable projected budget that will be offered for affirmation. You will see gifted people be affirmed to share their gifts in ministry at Tabor. You will be a part of the loving and honest discussion about padding for our pews at Tabor. You will hear your sisters and brothers around the round tables. You will eat a great fundraiser meal sponsored by our Mennonite College Task Force. You will not worry about restless children because childcare will be provided. Of course, if you don't come, you'll miss it all. **All Tabor members and attenders are urged to take ownership of your church and be at this celebration!**

Mennonite Women USA Executive Director and Timbrel Editor come to Tabor

All women are invited to come meet Rhoda Keener, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, and Patty Burdette, editor of Timbrel magazine, who will be in our area the third week of November. The staff will share with us about the ministry and needs of Mennonite Women USA on Tuesday evening, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.



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Stewardship Author & Storyteller, Lynn Miller

Friday evening, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

"Do you remember when?"

An evening of storytelling, snacks, and sharing about stewardship practices in the fellowship hall. For all ages high school and up.

Saturday morning, November 21, 9:00 a.m.

"Who took my 'funeral' cheese?"

Persons of or near retirement age are invited to gather for coffee, sweet rolls and "funeral" cheese in the fellowship hall. Lynn will be sharing with them and inviting questions as well.

Saturday evening, November 21, 6:00 p.m.

"Fighting Consumerism/Finding Contentment"

Young adults (ages 23-30) are invited to an evening of fine dining, followed by a presentation by Lynn.

Sunday morning, November 22, 9:30 a.m.

"Start Your Engines"

Worship service including a message from Lynn.

Sunday morning, November 22, 10:45 a.m.

"Getting Off on the Right Foot"

High school youth will hear Lynn during the Sunday school hour.

Sunday, November 22, Noon

Potluck and Visiting.

All are invited to the potluck and informal visiting with Lynn Miller.

Sunday evening, November 22, 7:00 p.m.

"Escaping the Consumerism Trap by Finding Contentment with Enough"

This session will be open to persons from other communities and congregations as well as Tabor people. It will include a brief time of worship and presentation by Lynn Miller.



Stewardship Update	2009 Budget	Goal through October	Giving through October
	\$288,742	\$260,978	\$223,840

\$64,902 or \$12,980 needed per Sunday to reach our giving goal this fiscal year.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA Corinthian Plan featured in Christian Century

The Corinthian Plan, the Mennonite Church USA health care plan, is featured in the Sept. 22 issue of the Christian Century. The bi-weekly magazine carries staff writer Amy Frykholm's four-page article titled "Health-care Option: A Mennonite Plan for Mutual Aid." The article offers personal stories from Mennonite pastors, a look at the Corinthian Plan as well as its background and reasons for its need.

Frykholm interviewed Keith Harder, the denomination's health care access project director and a handful of Mennonite pastors, including Juanita Nuñez, moderator of the Iglesia Menonita Hispania. She interviewed Timothy Host, who crafted the resolution the Delegate Assembly passed in July supporting legislation that would extend health care coverage to all Americans.

"The tenor of the Mennonites' conversation and the honesty with which they have faced the dilemma is a model for the nation," Frykholm writes.

Ironic reasons to be thankful

I am thankful—

- ◆ For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
- ◆ For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.
- ◆ For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
- ◆ For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- ◆ For the teenager who is not doing dishes but is watching TV, because that means he is at home and not on the streets.
- ◆ For my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
- ◆ For the lady behind me in church who sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
- ◆ For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.

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