

Events & Announcements | July 7, 2010

connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- “Heavenly Voices” at Goshen College Umble Center July 16, 17
- Ohio Conference Seminar for small congregations Oct. 2 (registration form attached)
- For congregations: organize Penny Power projects for Michiana MCC Relief Sale Sept. 24-25
- MCC summer fun pack for children
- MCC PeaceParts Toolkit for children and adults

“Heavenly Voices” at Goshen College Umble Center July 16, 17. After premiering and traveling to Pennsylvania and Chicago, the original play “Heavenly Voices” will return home to Goshen to be performed July 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Goshen College’s Umble Center. The play was produced by a group of Goshen women and shares the stories of Mennonite women of color across Mennonite Church USA from Alabama to Montana, and from Philadelphia to Los Angeles.

These women’s stories were collected during the Mennonite Women of Color Oral History Project conducted from 2000 to 2006 by Pat McFarlane, associate professor of communication at Goshen College, and Linda Christophel, a school social worker in Michigan. The play resulted from research and work from McFarlane’s doctoral dissertation, “Performing the ‘Other’ in Religious Community: An Interpretive Qualitative Inquiry among American Mennonite Women.”

McFarlane has interwoven these extraordinary stories of ordinary women, shedding light on God’s faithfulness and work in their lives. Stories include how the women came to faith, the impact of that faith on their lives and families, and how they have overcome hardship and hope to be remembered.

Angela Noah, a 2010 graduate of Goshen College with a degree in theatre, will direct the play. Deb Brubaker, Goshen College professor of music, will direct the music. The cast is made up of women from the larger Goshen Mennonite community and several Goshen College students, all of whom are members of a Mennonite church.

All performances are free of charge. Audience members are invited to participate in defraying expenses via a free-will donation. –*Pat McFarlane, associate professor of communication, Goshen College*

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, in partnership with the Beck Foundation and MMA, present **Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant: A Conversation about Viability and Vitality for Small Congregations** on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, at the Comfort Inn, Mansfield, Ohio.

Designed for congregations with an average worship attendance of less than 60, this seminar is to encourage and empower small congregations for viability (the ability to sustain life) and vitality (the ability to thrive).

Pre-registration is required; for participants outside of Ohio Conference the cost is \$25 for the first person or \$50 total for multiple representatives. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. We encourage multiple representatives from each congregation to attend.

Space is limited. Please register by Sept. 8, 2010 (see attached registration form). Priority will be given to Ohio Conference congregations with attendance under 60. Others may register and will be notified after Sept. 8 with attendance confirmation. Questions? Contact Sherah-Leigh Gerber, resource team coordinator, at shergerber@gmail.com or 330-234-4444.

The Michiana Mennonite Central Committee relief sale Sept. 24-25 is fast approaching. **For congregations organizing Penny Power projects, now is a good time to begin organizing.** Finding individuals to match the funds the children raise can effectively motivate the children and increase giving to water projects. Visit www.pennypower.org for more stories and fun promotional ideas. --*Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes*

Hola. Bonjour. Marhaba. **The MCC summer fun pack (hello.mcc.org/summerfun.html) invites children to say hello to the world this summer.** The pack offers downloadable stories and challenges on the topics of water, food and peace. The activities are geared to children, ages 8 to 12, and designed to be used at home, Sunday school or club settings. Children who finish five activities for each theme will receive a completion certificate and are eligible to win summer fun prizes. For more information, e-mail hello@mcc.org. --*MCC*

Mennonite Central Committee's PeaceParts Toolkit introduces concepts of justice and peacebuilding through interactive lessons for children and adults. The toolkit focuses on themes of healing relationships, resisting violence, pursuing justice, living with just enough and caring for creation. Lessons are grounded in the Scriptures and include stories designed to guide people through an understanding of peace and toward a commitment to pursuing it. PeaceParts contains separate six-session curriculums for adults/youth and children, as well as a DVD, storybook, activity calendar, fun page, stickers, story cards, game cards, brochure and postcards. Call 888-563-4676 or visit <http://secure.mcc.org/mccstore/> to order. Regional MCC offices have several toolkits available for borrowing. Visit <http://mcc.org/peace/toolkit> to find the office nearest you. --MCC

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

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