

## Events & Announcements | Sept. 29, 2010

*Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference*

- Michiana MEDA fall event Oct. 14
- Fall leadership seminar of Ecumenical Stewardship Center Nov. 29 - Dec. 2
- Envision Access online audio conference Dec. 1
- Music and worship leaders' retreat at Laurelville Jan. 7-9
- Following the Steps of Moses (Egypt & Jordan) April 16-27, 2012
- MCC U.S. Washington Office announces \$500 essay contest
- Conference on Mary at AMBS March 24-26, 2011: Call for papers and art
- Allen digital organ for sale
- Christmas toy drive at College Mennonite
- Resources available from MCC

**Michiana MEDA fall event Oct. 14.** "Mennonites and Micro Financing in the Ukraine," by Myrl Nofziger and Marlin Hershey who traveled to the Ukraine with MEDA, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m., at Nelson's Banquet Hall (607 Nelson's Parkway, Wakarusa, Ind.).

**RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 7,** by phoning 87-RSVP-MEDA, or e-mailing [reservations@michianameda.org](mailto:reservations@michianameda.org) or filling out the [RSVP form](#) online. (If you don't receive a confirmation e-mail or phone call, please let us know.) Meal and program costs are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$5 for students. Please note any special dietary needs with your reservation. The meal is payable at the event. *—Renee Hochstetler, Michiana MEDA*

**The 2010 fall leadership seminar of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, "Preaching and Teaching Christian Stewardship," will be held Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2010,** at the Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center, St. Pete Beach, Fla. Mennonite Church USA is a member denomination of the ESC. This event is designed for steward leaders involved in teaching others how to present stewardship concepts and ideas. The plenary speakers are teachers and will give valuable insight for presenting stewardship in your ministry setting. ESC invites you to visit the website [www.escleadershipseminar.com](http://www.escleadershipseminar.com) for more information about the event or to register online. *—Mennonite Church USA executive leadership*

**Envision Access: 20 ideas for accessible worship online audio conference Dec. 1.** (12 p.m. EST). Participate in this twenty-minute online audio conference and gather twenty great ideas from twenty passionate individuals—pastors, thinkers, professionals and parents—whose experiences will help you rethink how you welcome people with disabilities into worship. Learn more at [www.laurelville.org/envision access](http://www.laurelville.org/envision-access). Laurelville is partnering with ADNet to sponsor this conference designed to equip and inspire churches to think more creatively and collaboratively about embracing people with disabilities. *—Brian Paff, director of communications, Laurelville*

**Music and worship leaders' retreat at Laurelville Jan. 7-9, 2011.** Join a community of worship leaders for a weekend rich with resources, fellowship, and inspiration at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa., Jan. 7-9, 2011. This year, explore the significant role of rituals—Eucharist, footwashing, baptism, and other meaningful practices—in worship. For more information, visit [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org) or call 1-800-839-1021. *—Brian Paff, director of communications, Laurelville*

**Following the Steps of Moses (Egypt & Jordan) April 16-27, 2012.** Explore the land of the Exodus, beginning with Cairo, Egypt, and on through the Land of Goshen, Succoth, Marah, Wilderness of Zin, and the Mt Sinai region. The other half of the trip will include the historic cities of Petra and Amman, ending on Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land. In both countries we will also connect with MCC workers to learn more about their respective programs. For more information, visit [TourMagination.com](http://www.tourmagination.com) at <http://www.tourmagination.com/content/view/247/102/> or contact Pastor Tyler Hartford of Pleasant View Mennonite at [THartford@maplenet.net](mailto:THartford@maplenet.net)

**MCC U.S. Washington Office announces \$500 essay contest.** The Washington Office of Mennonite Central Committee U.S. is inviting submissions for its 12<sup>th</sup> annual high school essay contest. This year's grand prize is \$500. Three regional winners will be awarded \$100 each.

"The high school essay contest is a wonderful way for students to explore the relationship between faith and public policy," said Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, director of the Washington Office. "We hope that the contest will promote church-wide awareness of public policy issues by highlighting perspectives of Anabaptist youth."

Students can choose to write about Palestine and Israel, immigration or military spending. All essays must be submitted by Dec. 17. The contest is open to youth of high school age who are Mennonite, Brethren in Christ or Anabaptist and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools. Immediate family members of MCC staff or board members are not eligible for the contest. More information, including instructions about where to send completed essays, is available at

[washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays](http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays). --Mary Stata, MCC U.S. Washington Office

### **My Soul Rejoices in God my Savior: Mary in Anabaptist Dress" conference at AMBS**

**March 24-26: call for papers and art.** "My Soul Rejoices in God my Savior: Mary in Anabaptist dress" is a conference planned for March 24-26, 2011, at AMBS. The purpose of this conference is to initiate and encourage wide-ranging discussion about Mary from Anabaptist perspectives. We welcome paper proposals for presentations no longer than 20 minutes on biblical, theological, pastoral, practical (spiritual direction, counseling) aspects of Mary and her place in our thoughts and lives. Proposals about related topics, such as the role of feminine imagery in worship and theology, are also welcome.

We also welcome proposals for artful responses to Mary. We hope to display some artwork, although we will not be able to ensure the security of pieces. Proposals are welcome from lay people, pastors, church leaders and academics. By February 2, 2011, please send paper or artful response proposals to [bnjingerich@ambs.edu](mailto:bnjingerich@ambs.edu).

**Allen digital organ for sale.** Central Church in Fort Wayne is interested in finding a good home for an Allen Digital Organ, model number ADC 4000 DKCR. It was manufactured in the mid-80s and comes with two sets of two speakers (total of 4). If you are interested in purchasing this organ or for more information contact Don Delagrang at Central Church at 260-493-1022.

**Christmas toy drive at College Mennonite.** Again this year a group of retired teachers will be collecting toys to be distributed at Christmas time to needy families in Goshen. Elementary school counselors in Goshen schools will identify families who will be invited to College Mennonite Church on Saturday, Dec. 11, to "shop" for their children. Our toy drive last year brought in several thousand toys, games, and books. We were able to provide toys for over 350 children who might not have had a very merry Christmas if not for the generosity of many families who shared from their "excess" so that others might have "some."

**Please look through all the "gently loved" toys, puzzles, games, sports equipment, dolls, Legos, books, movies, video games, etc., that you have for children ages infants through grade 5.** Involve your kids and let them experience the joy that comes from giving. Be sure items donated are in good condition and are not missing important parts.

**Items will be collected the weekends of Oct. 2-3, Nov. 6-7, and Dec. 4-5 on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – noon and Sundays from 9 a.m. – noon at College Mennonite Church** (1900 S. Main St., Goshen, Ind., south entrance by the parking lot), across from Goshen General Hospital.

Help us reach out to these families in Goshen again this Christmas season. Please pass this e-mail on to others who may be willing to participate. Contact Carol Grieser (574-534-1328) or Ruth Ann Peachey (574-533-3418) with any questions.

### **Resources available from MCC**

**New DVD explores restorative justice.** *Restorative Justice: Rooted in Respect*, a 26-minute DVD, explores how restorative justice builds communities and restores relationships. It also speaks to how relationships are impacted by crime, as well as through conflict and harm. The DVD is available with English, French and Spanish subtitles. \$10, plus shipping.

[secure.mcc.org/mccstore/](http://secure.mcc.org/mccstore/)

**Christmas Giving Catalog.** Check out the new Christmas-giving catalog online and start planning which Christmas gifts to give in the name of a friend or family member. A paper version of the catalog will accompany *A Common Place*, MCC's magazine that will be sent to subscribers by early October.  
<https://donate.mcc.org/christmas-giving>

---

*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](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net).

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the Events & Announcements mailing list, contact the conference office: [imoffice@im.mennonite.net](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net)