

Events & Announcements | Dec. 1, 2010

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- Seats still available for *A Festival of Carols* at Goshen College Music Center Dec. 5
- Ten Thousand Villages in Goshen will donate 20 percent of sales on Dec. 9 to BCS
- Ted Yoder in concert at Clinton Frame Mennonite Dec. 12
- Asperger-autism support group features resources of Notre Dame at Eighth Street Dec. 6
- MCC learning tour to Guatemala Jan. 26-Feb. 9, 2011
- Mennonite Publishing Network's 12 books of Christmas
- Wrestling with angels: Blessings and bruises in congregational life at Laurelville March 19-20
- Upcoming workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)

Good seats still remain for *A Festival of Carols*, Sunday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. at the Goshen College Music Center. We invite you to this final 2010 presentation based on a traditional English service of lessons and carols, with five choirs, full orchestra and audience participation in singing of carols. Reserved seating tickets (\$14) will be available at the music center box office beginning at 3 p.m. Call 574-535-7361 with any questions. –*Debra Kauffman, associate director, Goshen College Music Center*

Ten Thousand Villages in Goshen (206 S Main St) will donate 20 percent of sales on Thursday, Dec. 9, to Bethany Christian Schools. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany. Store hours this day are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. –*Denise Risser, administrative assistant, Bethany Christian Schools*

Ted Yoder in concert at Clinton Frame Mennonite Dec. 12. You are invited to hear Ted Yoder, 2010 national hammer dulcimer champion, in concert at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, Sunday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Ted's current repertoire includes Christmas music, modern contemporary music, a sprinkling of classical selections, hymns and his own original compositions. A free will offering will be received. –*Anita Yoder, pastor of worship & music, Clinton Frame Mennonite*

Asperger-autism support group to meet at Eighth Street Dec. 6. The research, services and resources of the University of Notre Dame on autism spectrum disorders will be the focus of the next meeting of the asperger-autism parent group of Goshen, Monday, Dec. 6, 7-8:30 p.m., at Eighth Street Mennonite Church, 602 South Eighth Street, Goshen. Dr. Joshua Diehl will be the presenter. The meeting is free and open to the public. The group's lending library of books and videos is available at 6:45 p.m. Contact Christine Guth at 574-534-2718 or christine@adnetonline.org or Kaylene Ediger at 574-825-1460 or akediger@comcast.net.

Mennonite Central Committee learning tour to Guatemala Jan. 26-Feb. 9, 2011. MCC Great Lakes is currently organizing an MCC learning tour to Guatemala from Jan. 26 – Feb. 9, 2011, to learn about the issues of immigration and how churches and MCC are responding in Guatemala. Application forms and information are available at our website: www.greatlakes.mcc.org/guatemalalearningtour. Applications are due Dec. 10, 2010, at the Great Lakes office. For information, contact Marlin Yoder, MCC Great Lakes regional associate, at 740-502-2442 or myoder@mcc.org. –*Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook, regional associates, MCC Great Lakes*

Mennonite Publishing Network's 12 books of Christmas. We've collected titles for every age, just right for Christmas giving! Go to our website at www.mpn.net/offer/12BooksofChristmas and save 20-50 percent while supplies last. To receive your discount, order online and enter code "Dec2010" at checkout. This offer is good through Dec. 31, 2010, but for delivery by Christmas please order no later than Dec. 8. Merry Christmas from all of us at MPN!

Wrestling with angels: Blessings and bruises in congregational life retreat at Laurelville March 18-20, 2011. This called-to-care retreat sponsored by Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa., and Anabaptist Disabilities Network is a weekend intended for pastors, elders and care team members. The interactive program will explore the blessings and bruises that leaders and congregations experience while caring for people who use substantial congregational resources and challenge boundaries. It will include discussions about caring for people who struggle with mental illness and their families. Activities are designed for discussion, sharing and the development of strategies and resources to deal with those challenges in order to decrease burnout and enhance this difficult work. For

more information visit www.laurelville.org, phone 800-839-1021 or contact Lora Carter Nafziger at lora.carternafziger@gmail.com.

Two upcoming workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.):

A place of welcome: meeting and connecting newcomers in the congregation with Gary McIntosh is 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, at Friedens United Church of Christ, 8300 S. Meridian, Indianapolis. McIntosh invites leaders to take a look at their congregations through the eyes of a first-time guest. How do visitors see your congregation? How were they welcomed and greeted? What might hold them back from a second visit? This very practical workshop offers sound advice on assessing and improving the ways in which your congregation attracts people, welcomes them, follows-up, and brings them into the church family. In this workshop, each participant interacts with recent research on why guests stay in a congregation, learns fresh ideas for connecting visitors to the congregation, and develops a plan for welcoming and keeping newcomers beyond their first visit. Gary McIntosh is president of the Church Growth Network and professor of Christian ministry and leadership at Talbot School of Theology at Biola University.

- The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more).
- The fee includes lunch and a copy of McIntosh's book *Beyond the First Visit*.
- For details or online registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org

Essentials of church finance (Part 1) with Vonna Laue, Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in Fort Wayne, Ind. (location information available soon). Vonna Laue, co-author of *Essential Guide to Church Finances* and partner with the accounting firm Capin Crouse, will lead participants through workshops covering topics of congregational accounting practices, planning and budgeting, internal controls and risk management, and financial reporting. Two parts to this informative workshop will be offered. Part 1, which takes place in spring of 2011, includes general topics such as church accounting issues, internal controls and risk management, and planning and budgeting. In the fall of 2011, part 2 includes the topics of financial reporting, communicating with boards and committees, and performance measurements. At both workshops, plenty of time will be allowed for an in-depth question and answer section. Participants are encouraged to be prepared with specific questions. Although congregational leaders are encouraged to attend both parts of the workshop, part 1 is not a pre-requisite for part 2. The workshop content from spring to fall is interrelated, but not required.

- The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more).
- The fee includes lunch and a copy of Laue's book, *Essential Guide to Church Finances*.
- For details or online registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org

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