

Events & Announcements | Feb. 3, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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The Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit in Elkhart (Jubilee House) will host a special event on Feb. 13, 3 – 5:30 p.m., at Fellowship of Hope, 1618 S. 6th Street, Elkhart, Ind.

Join us for a recital, craft bazaar and desserts with proceeds used for transportation to the MVS national retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in May of this year. This is your chance to come out and support your one and only Mennonite Voluntary Service unit of Northern Indiana. Use this opportunity to take your honey on a Valentine's date or to show your love for VSers Nicole Bauman, Caitlin Desjardins, Sam Jerome, Luke Roeschley, Maisha Seebeck, Bekah Shenk and Maddie Williams. Reserve a seat at the recital by e-mailing or calling Luke Roeschley at luker256@hotmail.com or 773-603-2939. If not, you can still get in at the door the day of the event but will not be guaranteed a seat for the recital. We are asking a suggested donation of \$10 for admission. —*Madeline Williams, Jubilee House*

MCC Action Alert: Feb. 4 Young Leaders' Immigration Call. Join young people of faith from across the country on Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. for a Young Leaders' Immigration Call. The call will feature a young activist for the DREAM act who will speak about her experiences. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss coordination and strategies for young people's involvement in immigration reform.

www.young-leaders-immigration-call. —*Susan Mark Landis, denominational minister for peace and justice*

MDC Goldenrod names new director. MDC Goldenrod works with area churches to serve people with developmental disabilities. Goldenrod proudly announces our new executive director, Megan Gumbel. Megan brings administrative experience, knowledge of disabilities services in Indiana and a passion for service. She has lifelong experiences and personal relationships with persons with special needs. Megan will begin her assignment on March 7, 2011. —*Nedra Gnagey, development associate, MDC Goldenrod*

Free computer monitors. Thanks to a recent donation, the conference office recently upgraded to flat screen monitors. We now have three or four 17" computer monitors to offer for free to a good home. Please note that these free monitors are not flat screen models, and will have to be picked up at the conference office. E-mail greg@im.mennonite.net to request one. —*Greg Leatherman Sommers, conference administrator*

Eastern Mennonite University campus visit dates for high school students. Come learn about a university that emphasizes cross-cultural study and creation care, nearly 100% placement rate after graduation and exceptional academics with mentoring professors. Special visit dates are Feb. 25, March 26 and April 15 (April is for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math majors). Please call EMU at 800-368-2665 to set up your visit or register at www.emu.edu/campusvisit. —*Jennifer North Bauman, EMU campus visit coordinator*

STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) workshop. Registration is open for the Level I STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) workshop being offered in Minneapolis June 22-26, 2011. There will also be a Sept. 12-16, 2011, STAR-Minneapolis workshop. STAR is a 5-day academic and experiential education workshop that trains laypersons and professionals to work with those who have been affected by various kinds of trauma. For more information contact Donna Minter, PhD, STAR Associate, at STAR.Mpls@gmail.com or 612-377-4660. For online registration and information see: <http://starmpls.eventbrite.com> and <http://www.emu.edu/cjp/pti/star/>. —*Donna Minter, STAR associate*

Regional news from MCC Great Lakes:

- You're invited to the 2011 **Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes annual gathering on Feb. 25-26** at Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Rd., South Bend, Ind (see attached brochure). Join fellow MCC supporters from across the region as we explore the theme "A table of sharing" in relation to MCC's work around the world. Highlights include a peace and justice hymn sing with Mary Oyer on Friday evening, a variety of MCC workshops and the chance to hear from Arli Klassen, MCC Executive Director, at Saturday's concluding worship. For more information call the MCC Great Lakes Office at 574-534-4133 or register online at www.greatlakes.mcc.org/annualgathering.
- Meat canning has been taking place in our region the past month. With the price of turkey being substantially higher than previous years, it means more money needs to be generated for this important activity. Local canning committees raise funds independent of MCC to pay these costs. We invite you to be generous and **send your donations to cover canning costs** to your local canning committee or to our MCC office at the Depot.
- We are inviting your participation in an **MCC Learning Tour to Guatemala from April 27 - May 10, 2011**. Participants will hear the stories of immigrants and seek to gain a better understanding about root causes of immigration and why there are undocumented immigrants in the United States. The goal is for participants to return to the United States with a commitment to engage in education and advocacy regarding comprehensive immigration reform. Cost is \$1,050 per person with a registration deadline of March 15, 2011. Find more information at our website www.greatlakes.mcc.org/guatemala_learning_tour or contact Marlin Yoder, MCC Great Lakes Regional Associate for NE Ohio, at 740-502-2442 or myoder@mcc.org.
- The new year is a good time to help us **update our congregational representative contact information**. Please email us with the current contact people and their e-mails from your church. Thanks for your help with this. Wishing you all a blessed new year. –Gwen and Les Gustafson-Zook, regional associates, MCC Great Lakes

AMBS spring weekend seminary courses. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary announces three courses beginning in February that will meet four weekends during spring semester:

- Leading Transformational Change (with Lois Y. Barrett), for those working in a missional congregation to foster change;
- Christian Formation in the Congregation (with Marlene Kropf), for those nurturing faith development in the midst of congregational life;
- The Book of the Twelve (with Ben Ollenburger), surveying prophetic material from Hosea to Malachi. For more information, visit www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/spring.

Upcoming workshop sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.):

Social Media for Congregational Leaders with Doug Pagitt is 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central time) Tuesday, May 19, 2011, at Faith Church, 100 E. 81st Ave., Dyer in Lake County; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern time) Wednesday, May 20, 2011, in Indianapolis (location TBA). A social media veteran, pastor and author, Doug Pagitt explores the basics of blogging, Facebook and Twitter and will introduce participants to a powerful free social media broadcast tool. This workshop is part of Pagitt's national Social Phonics Bootcamp program. Participants will learn the benefits of this leading technology, such as communicating events and announcements, getting real-time feedback for worship preparation, and keeping up with the latest theological and religious trends. The presenter shares with congregational leaders how to develop a philosophy and purpose statement for utilizing social media. Participants will gain confidence in their abilities to communicate with their congregations utilizing these tools. The event covers:

- demystifying social networking services like Twitter, Facebook, blogging, and broadcast media
- privacy issues
- barriers and myths related to using social media
- strengths and drawbacks of social media platforms

This highly interactive workshop includes demonstrations of social media applications. Each participant is encouraged to bring a laptop that can connect wirelessly to the internet. Also, bring your questions as there will be opportunity to interact with the presenter. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). The fee includes lunch and two books on the topic. For details and online registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org.

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