

Events & Announcements | March 16, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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El Buen Pastor 40th anniversary celebration. El Buen Pastor Mennonite Church, 523 S. Sixth St., Goshen, will celebrate the congregation's 40th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27. At 4 p.m. on Saturday there will be recollections by several individuals with refreshments and informal sharing and reminiscing afterwards. On Sunday at 3 p.m. a worship service of celebration and praise for God's love and faithfulness will be followed by a fellowship provided by the congregation for all to share. Friends and former attenders are cordially invited to share in the celebration. --*Rachel Guedea, coordinator, Iglesia del Buen Pastor*

Invitation to Centering Prayer during Lent. Lent is another season of the church year that invites us to reconsider how we are making space for God in our lives. Are we aware of God's presence in the everyday events of our lives? The gift of being with others on this journey of faithfulness is a privilege as we spend time together in Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer allows us to "be with God" in silence. The intent is to deepen our relationship with the Living Christ.

This ecumenical Group Centering Prayer experience is meeting each Monday evening of Lent at College Mennonite Church, 1900 S. Main St., Goshen, in Room 300. **The dates are March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 11, and 18** beginning at 7:30 p.m. Prayer time begins promptly, lasts about a half hour and will be followed by a teaching via DVD by Richard Rohr, Franciscan author and retreat leader. His topic is from his recent book, *The Naked Now: learning to see as the mystics see*. Our time together will end around 8:45 p.m.

This is open to all women and men from any denomination or congregation. Finding the room, close to the south entrance, is easy and there is good parking. If Centering Prayer is new to you, do not hesitate to come for it is a guided time together. Come to as many as you are able. Invite other friends who may also be interested. You do not need to sign up. --*Sandra Lapp, College Mennonite Church*

Job opening: nursing professor, Goshen College. The Department of Nursing at Goshen College invites applications for a full-time teaching position beginning August 2011. Duties include teaching pediatric nursing in the classroom and clinical setting and pharmacology in the undergraduate program, and teaching courses in the family nurse practitioner program in the master's of science in nursing program. Doctorate in nursing or related field preferred; master's degree in nursing required. Significant experience in nursing practice and nursing education desired. For further details and to apply, see the position announcement at www.goshen.edu/employment. --*Vickie Miller, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Goshen College*

Announcements from Bethany Christian Schools:

Bethany Christian Schools' auction Friday, March 25: Food booths open at 4:30 p.m. and auctions begin at 6 p.m. The UB Bruin Club will provide activities for children in grades K-6. New this year: drawings for prizes throughout the evening. For more information call Bethany at 574-534-2567 or see www.bethanycs.net/auction.

Bethany adding 4th-5th grade combined class: Bethany Christian Schools is launching a 4th-5th grade combined class beginning in fall 2011 that will be co-taught by Eliza Stoltzfus and Linda Hochstetler. The curriculum will be interdisciplinary, hands-on, and innovative and meet Indiana state standards. Interested families can attend an informational open house on either March 22 or April 11 from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Rachel Roth Sawatzky at 574-534-2567 or admissions@bethanycs.net.

Visit day at Bethany: Students in grades 5-11 interested in exploring Bethany Christian Schools can shadow a Bethany student on Monday, March 28, 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to a 7:45-8:15 a.m. conversation with Principal Allan Dueck, staff, and parents of current students, followed by an optional tour of the school. To participate contact Rachel Roth Sawatzky by Wednesday, March 23, at 574-534-2567 or admissions@bethanycs.net. --*Denise Risser, Bethany Christian Schools*

From Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes:

The Mennonite Central Committee Appalachia program seeks summer staff to assist with the SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) program. Meals coordinators and job site coordinators are needed to facilitate the weekly SWAP service groups as they work on housing repair for low-income persons. Summer staff should be at least 19 years of age, and they receive food, lodging and a stipend for their service. For more information go to swap.mcc.org/swap/internships or call Coletta at 606-633-5065.

Please keep the people of Japan in your prayers. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) continues to closely monitor the situation in Japan following the powerful earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck the island nation on Friday, March 11. MCC is accepting donations to help victims of the disaster. Although MCC does not have staff or programs in Japan, contributions will be forwarded to trusted MCC partners involved in relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Japan. Visit www.mcc.org for more information.

Prayer for Japan (written by Angelika Dawson, MCC British Columbia)

God is our refuge and our strength. An ever present help in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1

God of healing and mercy, we come before you with our hearts filled with grief as we see the devastation in Japan.

We pray that your presence would be felt by those who are grieving, who are injured, who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

We pray for wisdom and safety for those who are responding to people in need.

We pray for wisdom and safety for those who continue to deal with the many challenges left behind by the earthquake and tsunami, particularly those struggling to contain damaged nuclear reactors.

We pray for the church in Japan, that it can be a light in the darkness, a witness to your compassion and care for all who suffer.

God, you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. For this we give you thanks and ask that you hear our prayers for the people of Japan.

Amen. —Jennifer Steiner, communications coordinator, MCC Great Lakes

MCC Palestine-Israel Learning Tour Oct. 23 – Nov 2. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is offering a 10-day Palestine-Israel Learning Tour Oct. 23 – Nov. 2, 2011. Pastors, students and other congregational leaders will learn more about the situation in Palestine-Israel, MCC's work there and the work of the Palestinians and Israelis with whom MCC has partnered. The tour will: explore ancient historical sites and walk in the footsteps of Jesus; gain a better understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and current realities "on the ground"; meet with Palestinian and Israeli organizations working for peace and justice; consider the role of the Church today; and return to the United States with a commitment to engage in education and advocacy regarding Israeli-Palestinian issues. Cost: \$3,000 (includes all in-country costs and airfare between Chicago and Tel Aviv). Applications, along with \$500 refundable deposit, are due by August 1, 2011. For additional information contact Curtis Book, MCC East Coast, at cbook@mcc.org or 215-535-3624.

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