

Events & Announcements | Aug. 3, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- 13th Annual MDC Goldenrod Benefit Auction Aug. 26 & 27
- CPT Re-imagining Partnerships for Peacemaking in Chicago Oct. 13–16
- Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship series at Hesston College Oct. 28–30
- Fall events at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center
- From Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes
- Fall webinars from AMBS Church Leadership Center
- Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)

13th Annual MDC Goldenrod Benefit Auction Aug. 26 & 27 at the Shipshewana Auction Barn (State Road 5 south of Shipshewana, Ind.) The open house starts **Friday** noon; BBQ chicken meal from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. or until sold out; some silent auction items will be sold from 5 – 6 p.m.; small items auction from 6 – 7:30 p.m.; Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook will entertain with music at 7:45 p.m. **Saturday** morning at 7:30 a.m. enjoy apple fritters, donuts, coffee; haystack lunch from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; auction will be held from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. or until all items are sold; there will also be grilled hot dogs for lunch. A bake sale, homemade ice cream and a variety of cheeses will be available for purchase both days. Proceeds will benefit persons with disabilities served by MDC Goldenrod. For information or to donate, contact MDC Goldenrod at 574-533-9720, ext. 5, or e-mail nedrag@goldenrodonline.org; visit the website at www.goldenrodonline.org to see some of the items to be sold.

Peacemaker Congress XI: Re-imagining Partnerships for Peacemaking will be held in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 13-16, hosted by Reba Place Church in Evanston, Ill. Please join Christian Peacemaker Teams for this special 25th anniversary celebration. Hear stories and reflections from CPT partners in Colombia, Iraq and Palestine on partnering for peacemaking and connect with peacemakers in Chicago and beyond who are applying peacemaking models in their local communities. Celebrate and learn from the first 25 years of CPT's story and engage in conversations around its identity, vision and mission for the next 25 years. Tony Brown will perform a special concert called "Songs and Stories of Peace, Hope and Justice." There will also be Bible studies, workshops and plenary speakers. For more information go to www.cpt.org/participate/peacemaker-congress-2011.

Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship series Oct. 28 – 30 at Hesston College: *Getting Beyond Them and Us---to We.* Through the centuries the church has struggled with the call to be both distinctive and open to others, to proclaim and receive. How can we extend a hospitable hand to all people and continue to be distinctively Anabaptist? This series will address these issues and look for practical ways to think and talk theologically about these issues with resource persons Joanna Shenk, Anton Flores-Maisonet and Hal L. Shrader. Go to www.hesston.edu/AVDS or to the AVDS Facebook page www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=124590297632796 for more information or to register. —*Michele Hershberger, chair of Bible and Ministry Division, Hesston College*

Fall events at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Mt. Pleasant, Pa.):

Aging with Spirit (Oct. 7-9)—Enjoy a beautiful fall weekend at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center with other folks aged 55 and over. Formerly sponsored by MARP, this annual event carries a rich tradition of bringing people together to celebrate and worship together. This year, listen to the reflections of Marcus Smucker, professor at EMS-Lancaster, as he explores the theme of *Spirituality and Aging: God with us in the later years*. Register and learn more at www.laurelville.org/agingwithspirit or by calling 800-839-1021.

Grief Retreat (Oct. 14-16)—Come to Laurelville Mennonite Church Center to find healing, support and hope for your journey after losing a spouse. Led by pastor and writer Rachel Nafziger Hartzler, this intimate gathering for widowed individuals and those who walk alongside them will provide both space and resources for you to embrace the life to which God has called you. Pastoral care team members and counselors are also welcome. Register and learn more at www.laurelville.org/grief or by calling 800-839-1021. —*Brian Paff, director of communications, LMCC*

From MCC Great Lakes:

Join MCC and Amigo Centre for a great weekend of bike riding Sept. 16-18 in southern Michigan, and raise money for relief efforts around the world with MCC. For more information, go to

www.amigocentre.org/Retreats/MCC_Bike_Michiana

The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale will be held Sept. 23 & 24 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds, Goshen. Please note the following opportunities around the sale:

- The Relief Sale funding banquet is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Essenhaus Restaurant in Middlebury, Ind. Tables of 8 are available for \$160, with the funds going toward paying the expenses of the relief sale so more can be donated to the work of MCC. If you'd like more info on the event and possibly hosting a table, you can go to the sale's website at www.mennonitesale.org.
- The Relief Sale board continues to seek assistance for various tasks including media coordination, youth/children coordination, and grounds and setup. If you are available to serve in any of these ways call board co-chairs Kent Miller at 269-689-8186 or John Martens at 574-215-6239.
- Now is the time to begin organizing your Penny Power campaign to support MCC water projects. If you'd like to explore more options or need water jugs or posters, give us a call at the GL office.

MCC Great Lake's new Executive Director, Zenebe Abebe, is interested in visiting congregations in the region and would welcome an invitation to your church. He's prepared to bring a sermon, teach Sunday school, or a mission moment. Please contact him at the GL office at 574-534-4133 or e-mail zenebe@mcc.org to schedule a date.

Les is available for a 45-minute presentation using homemade musical instruments (pizza box banjo, canjo, mouthbow, jawharp, spam-fiddle & more) singing songs and telling stories about the work of MCC. It works well for all ages of Sunday school classes, senior groups or other special events. If you'd be interested in having him come to one of your events, please give Les a call at 574-534-4133 or send an e-mail to him at gg@mcc.org.

It's not too early to be planning for next summer's mission trip. Please consider visiting SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People), MCC GL's ministry in Kentucky and West Virginia. Group work projects can be great team building exercises as well as opportunities to put belief in action serving people in need in Appalachia. For information and scheduling visit the website at swap.mcc.org. –Les & Gwen Gustafson-Zook, regional associates, MCC Great Lakes

Fall webinars from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Church Leadership Center:

- *Promise and Peril: Understanding and managing change and conflict in congregations* with David R. Brubaker, Wed., Sept. 7, 2 – 3:30 p.m. EDT
- *Advent Planning: Awesome deeds we do not expect* with Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden, Tues., Oct. 18, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. EDT
- *Engaging the Bible in the congregation* with Robert J. Suderman, Tues., Nov. 8, 1:45 – 3 p.m. EST
- *Identity crisis in the pulpit: What is the preacher's purpose and authority?* with Ryan Ahlgrim, Wed., Nov. 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m. EST
- *Re-forming Anabaptism: Recent North American experimnts in discipleship* with Joanna Shenk, Thurs, Dec. 1, 2 – 3:30 p.m. EST

Go to www.ambs.edu/webinars for more information or to register.

Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations):

Congregational Management: Personnel, Facilities and Finances with John Wimberly will be held Thursday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) at Heartland Community Church, 3900 East 300 North, Lafayette, Ind. In this workshop for clergy and laity, participants will learn about managing congregational systems with a focus on personnel, facilities and finances. Workshop facilitator John Wimberly speaks to the importance of being mindful of the details and skills required to manage the day-to-day and season-to-season business matters of congregational life. John W. Wimberly Jr. has been a pastor in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area since 1976. With a PhD in theology and an MBA, he has a unique combination of theological and business skills developed over 36 years of parish ministry. The cost is \$30 a person (\$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). This fee includes lunch and a copy of Wimberly's book *The Business of the Church*. [Click here for more information and online registration.](#)

Congregational Management Basics with Nancy Armstrong will be held Thursday, Sept. 29, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Eastern Time), at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2417 Getz Road, Fort Wayne, Ind. Nancy Armstrong, finance director for the Center for Congregations and an experienced church business administrator, brings her best tips on choosing congregation management software to keep track of your membership data. Learn the pros and cons of desktop and web-based systems, identify which features

are important in your situation and which extras are really worth it. The cost is \$10 a person. Registration includes lunch, presentation and workshop materials. [Click here for more information and online registration.](#)

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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