

Events & Announcements | Sept. 7, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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- *National "Shaping Families" radio program airing on WGCS-FM*
- *Upcoming workshop from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)*

All are invited to Menno-Hof in Shipshewana (at 510 S. Van Buren St.) **for the 2011 Annual Singspiration on Sunday, Sept. 11.** Pre-service singing begins at 4:45 p.m. and the worship service at 5 p.m. on the lawn at Menno-Hof. Singing will be a cappella and will include hymns of peace and reconciliation, Menno-Hof's theme for 2011-2012. Singing will be led by Wil Beachy. Singing groups from each of the supporting traditions will participate, alternating with congregational hymns. Bethany Christian High School Choir, Living Faith Quartet, an Amish group and an Amish Mennonite group will sing. Following the Singspiration there will be an ice cream social, more singing inside the Visitors' Center at 7:30 p.m. led by Mary Oyer and opportunity to visit the interactive display areas. A free will offering will be collected to support Menno-Hof's mission. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating, or sit on Amish church benches which will be provided. In case of inclement weather, the Singspiration will be held at Shore Mennonite Church, 2 miles southeast of Shipshewana at 7235 W 100 N ("old" US 20). For more information, call 260-768-4117 or visit the Menno-Hof website: www.mennohof.org. —Susan Miller, managing director, Menno-Hof

Michiana MEDA kick-off event Sept. 15. This event will be held Thursday, Sept. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Shore Mennonite (7235 West 100 North, Shipshewana, Ind.) Larry Chupp, Vice President of Shipshewana-based American Reliance Industries/Legacy Sleepers, will share his story of entrepreneurship. After being an owner/operator of a semi-truck for several years, Larry helped found ARI, which designs and builds custom sleeper units for semis. Come hear about past business involvements and work experiences that have led him to where he is today.

RSVP by Monday, Sept. 12 by phoning 877-787-6332, emailing reservations@michianameda.org or filling out the RSVP form online. Meal and program costs are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$5 for students. Please note any special dietary needs with reservation. Cost for the meal is payable at the event. —Renee Hochstetler, Michiana MEDA

MDS story telling tour in Goshen Sept. 16-19. Kevin King, executive director of Mennonite Disaster Service, will visit the Goshen area Sept. 16-19 on a "story telling tour"...a time to hear how God's people are responding to recent, and on-going, storms. His weekend schedule includes the following:

- Friday, Sept. 16: Goshen College chapel, 10 – 10:40 a.m.
Griner Mennonite (12418 CR 20, Middlebury, Ind.) dessert benefit, 7 p.m. open to all interested persons. Contact Vernon Schmucker at 574-523-1812.
- Saturday, Sept. 17: Breakfast at East Goshen Mennonite (17861 CR 4, Goshen) at 8:30 a.m. for Indiana Unit members, pastors and congregational representatives. Make reservations with Ken Mullett at polyphase@maplenet.net or 574-202-8580.
- Sunday, Sept. 18: Kevin will preach at College Mennonite, 9:30 a.m., and lead a Sunday school presentation at 10:45 a.m.
- Monday, Sept. 19: Greencroft, Goshen, at 9 a.m.

ASL worship service at College Mennonite Sept. 18. Join us at College Mennonite, 1900 S. Main St., Goshen, on Sept. 18 (and each third Sunday of the month) for an American Sign Language worship service "The Good News of Jesus" with message by Pastor Phil Harden at 10:30 a.m. A potluck meal will follow. A hot dish and drink will be provided; bring a dish to share. The spoken English worship service at College Mennonite will also be interpreted each Sunday beginning Sept. 18, with worship beginning at 9:30 a.m. Remember: 2nd Sunday of the month ASL worship at New Harvest Church of the Nazarene,

just south of Warsaw High School in Warsaw, Ind., on SR 15. Contact Sheila Yoder with questions: Text/V 574-825-4105 or ydrsheila@aol.com.

Palmer Becker at Silverwood Mennonite Sept. 18. All are welcome to join Silverwood Mennonite on Sept. 18 as they host Palmer Becker. Palmer will speak on the following topics:

- Christian Education hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.) – *Letting Christ Restore the Church*
- Sermon during worship (10:30 a.m.) – *Becoming Ambassadors of Restoration*
- Session following a potluck meal – *Experiencing Community in Face-to-Face Groups*

Palmer received his training from Goshen College, Mennonite Biblical Seminary (now Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary), Regent College and Fuller Theological Seminary. He has spent a lifetime serving the church as a pastor, church planter, missionary, conference executive, author and educator. Becker has led many workshops on small groups, and most recently served as director of the Hesston College Pastoral Ministries Program. He and his wife, Ardys, live in Kitchener, Ontario. –*Michelle Strite, Silverwood Mennonite, 574-533-1922*

Bluffton University's Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center anniversary conference for children Oct. 21 – 22. "Celebration of Peace: A Bridge Between Us" is aimed at students in grades 3-7 who want to impact their communities and the world through positive attitudes and actions. They will consider the significance of common ground between people, and learn to build "bridges" of understanding and acceptance through music, stories, art, cooperative games and multinational interaction. Coming to the conference as guest musician is singer-songwriter Bryan Moyer Suderman, a former youth pastor, teacher and overseas mission worker from Canada.

Co-sponsored by the university and Mennonite Central Committee/Great Lakes, the two-day event will open Friday evening, Oct. 21, and close at 7:30 p.m. the following night with a program in Yoder Recital Hall. The closing program is free and open to the public.

Cost to attend the conference is \$45 for those registered by Sept. 26 (and \$35 for each additional child from the same family); \$55 if registered by Oct. 4; and \$75 after Oct. 4. The number of participants is limited to 75. For more information or to register, visit www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/bridges or contact Louise Matthews, Lion and Lamb director, at 419-358-3207 or lionlamb@bluffton.edu.

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) seeks a half-time administrative assistant with excellent communication, organizational and computer skills. Strong preference will be given for someone who can work remotely and/or from the Goshen, Ind., area and has some flexibility in work schedule. Send letters of interest and resume to info@mennohealth.org. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. MHF is an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals that seeks to nurture the integration of faith and practice, provide opportunities for dialogue on health-related issues, and address specific needs through education, advocacy and service. For more information go to www.mennohealth.org.

Fall workshops from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Church Leadership Center: Workshops

- *Advent Planner: Awesome deeds we do not expect* with presenters Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden, Friday, Oct. 7 [Get details and register by September 23](#)
- *Difficult Issues--Congregational Discernment--Faithful Living* with presenter Robert J. (Jack) Suderman, Thursday, Oct. 13 [Get details and register by September 29](#)
- *Pastors and Business Leaders: Partners in leadership and ministry?* With presenter David B. Miller, Thursday, Nov. 3. Offered in Lancaster, Pa., in conjunction with Mennonite Economic Development Associates convention [Get details and register by October 1](#)

Share your faith as host/hostess at Menno-Hof. Are you looking for a way to serve while sharing your faith? Menno-Hof needs individuals and couples in agreement with Anabaptist values and beliefs to serve as host and/or hostess for a minimum of one month. Current openings are during Dec. 2011 – April 2012 and Nov. 2012 – Jan. 2013. Responsibilities include conducting tours and some light housekeeping. Two furnished apartments are available onsite. For more information contact Susan Miller, managing director, at 260-768-4117 or smiller@mennohof.org.

From Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes:

- The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale is three weeks away. 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 Kent Miller at 269-689-8186 or John Martens at 574-215-6239, board co-chairs.

Now is the time to begin organizing your Penny Power campaign, supporting MCC water projects!

Maybe you can do a challenge with matching from people in the congregation, or do special collections each week until the sale. If you'd like to explore more options or need water jugs or posters, give us a call at the GL office at 574-534-4133.

- Foods Resource Bank is a local partner with MCC, working with groups interested in farming or small business ventures to help fund MCC projects around the world. Joe Christophel currently works with interested groups to promote FRB projects. If any farmers are more interested in using their skills to feed hungry people around the world, give Joe a call at 574-534-4133.
- MCC has surpassed its initial goal of raising \$1 million for the East Africa drought and is expanding its response to the continuing crisis in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, which has affected some 12 million people in the region. MCC thanks you for your giving and asks that you consider further support, including keeping the people of East Africa in your prayers. Learn more about the drought response at mcc.org/eastafricadrought.

National 'Shaping Families' radio program airing on WGCS-FM. Shaping Families, a 15-minute weekly radio program launched last year by the Mennonite churches began airing Sunday, Sept. 4, at 7 a.m. on WGCS-FM 91.1. The nationally produced interview-format program is designed to help families cope with difficult issues such as depression, drugs, autism, divorce, aging, forgiveness and grief. Each weekly program includes an in-depth interview with a person dealing with these issues.

Two Goshen-area congregations currently sponsoring the program are College Mennonite and Waterford Mennonite. Melodie Davis, who grew up in Indiana-Michigan Conference at North Goshen Mennonite, is the program's producer and co-host.

In addition to interviews, short "My Turn" segments feature a pastor's and counselor's viewpoint, media reviews, recipes, a young adult viewpoint and Garrison Keillor-like musings from "Frog Hollow." Shaping Families is produced on behalf of the Mennonite churches through MennoMedia, producing faith-based print and electronic media for Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.

Shaping Families is currently airing on 17 other stations from Pennsylvania to California. A website, www.shapingfamilies.com accompanies the program with a host blog, monthly subscriptions, recipes, giveaways, links to books, DVDs and other resources, and free downloadable podcasts of each program. For more information call 800-999-3534 or e-mail info@ShapingFamilies.com.

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

Leading in Conflict with Dan Moseley will be held Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Emerson Avenue Baptist Church, 308 N. Emerson Avenue, Indianapolis, Ind. This workshop will help pastors and lay leaders discover how to handle the inevitable conflicts and to process the losses that occur from conflict to produce greater possibility for vitality. Participants will learn to grow in their ability to lead by exploring the creative power of conflict as it intersects with the emotional, political and spiritual resources and limitations of leadership. Dan Moseley has authored several books and is professor of practical parish ministry emeritus at Christian Theological Seminary. He received his M. Div. and his D. Min from Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee and served for 30 years as pastor in three different congregations before being called to CTS to teach. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). This fee includes lunch and workshop materials. [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

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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