

Events & Announcements | December 5, 2012

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference



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Strengthening Your Small Congregation

If you are a pastor or lay leader of a small congregation, mark your calendars for April 13, 2013 and plan to spend a day with leaders who know what it’s like to do church in a congregation of 25, 50, or 75, and who believe that small churches are key to what God is doing in the world!

- Benefit from the experience of congregational consultant and former American Baptist pastor Margaret Marcuson on *Leaders that Last: Sustaining Yourself in Small Church Ministry*.
- Choose from breakout sessions on discerning the future of your congregation, worship and music, Sunday school & Christian formation, leadership structures, community outreach, and sustainable finances, all geared to the strengths and challenges of the small congregation.
- Network with small congregations in your geographical area for resource sharing and support.

This event is co-sponsored by the Indiana-Michigan Conference. Indiana-Michigan pastors can apply for a registration scholarship, and two or three registrants from the same congregation will get a registration discount. This event will be held from 8:45am to 4:00pm at Camp Mack (Church of the Brethren camp in Milford IN). For more information, contact Brenda Meyer at brenda@bentonchurch.org.

Just Help: Elkhart County Legal Advocacy Center

Just Help, a nonprofit legal services organization which grew out of a local congregation’s vision, requests your support. Your donations help provide legal representation for victims of domestic violence, those seeking help with guardianship or child support issues, and others who cannot afford a traditional attorney. Our sliding fee scale for clients and your contributions ensure that access to the justice system is

open to all in Elkhart County. Tax deductible donations can be sent to: Just Help, 215 E. Indiana Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46516.

Center for Healing and Hope: opening for Patient Advocate

The Center for Healing and Hope, a faith-based urgent care clinic, has an immediate opening for a Patient Advocate for our Goshen clinic. This position involves advocating for our patients within the healthcare system and networking with medical and social service providers. Additionally, the advocate works to secure and train non-medical volunteers and to manage the non-medical aspect of the clinic. Applicants must be Spanish/English bilingual and have a bachelor's degree: social work or peace and justice degrees preferred. The position requires some evening hours. This is a full time position with benefits. If interested please send inquiries and resumes to Clare Krabill, Director of the Center for Healing and Hope, at ckrabill@chhclinics.org.

Anabaptist Disability Network: opening for half-time director

Anabaptist Disability Network (ADNet), a small non-profit, is hiring a half-time director. ADNet is dedicated to transforming faith communities and individuals with disabilities by full inclusion in the Body of Christ. Roles include focusing on donor development, overseeing office and staff, guiding organizational communications and relating to the board of directors. For more information see website: www.adnetonline.org. Request job description or send résumés to becky.gascho@gmail.com.

Return to the Real Christmas on the Journey to Bethlehem

Stutsmanville Chapel – Harbor Springs, MI – December 6th and 7th 6pm-8:30pm, December 8th and 9th 5pm-8:30pm. Tours leave promptly every 10 minutes. There is no charge for the program. Reservations are required and available by calling 231-526-2335. Tickets will be available at the time of your journey. We encourage individuals and families to make reservations. Reservations from organizations, church, youth or school groups will be taken on Thursday night only. More info at www.stusmanvillechapel.org/news.aspx?item=296.

Leading Healthy Congregations Seminar

The *Leading Healthy Congregations* seminar, sponsored by CenterPoint Counseling at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, is designed to promote mature response to the challenges and opportunities of ministry in a congregational setting. Bowen Family Systems Theory provides the platform for an in-depth exploration of each participant's capacity for clarity, connection and self-regulation as the primary qualities of an effective leader. Teams made up of clergy and lay leaders are invited to participate in twelve seminars over a two-year period that will forge a common understanding of how best to promote health and vitality within the congregations they serve. This program is led by Rev. Dr. David A. Chaddock and Rev. Robert L. Hunter, who have extensive experience working with pastors, priests, rabbis and congregations. For more information, contact CenterPoint Counseling at 317-252-5518 or jmurphy@centerpointcounseling.org.

AMBS Church Leadership Center

Pastors Week 2013—The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Us: The Immeasurable Dimensions of Jubilee

What happens when the Spirit of God moves pastors and business leaders in the same direction? What happens when church leaders and leaders from other professions come together, pray, and take seriously the gifts the Spirit gives—including gifts of financial management and entrepreneurship? Could it be that God's people more fully embody Jesus' mission to preach good

news to the poor, proclaim freedom for prisoners, and proclaim the year of Jubilee? While targeted to pastors and business leaders, this event is open to anyone who is interested. We offer discounts to pastor-businessperson pairs. Dates: January 28, 7 p.m.-January 31, 12:45 p.m. Register by January 7. More info at www.ams.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Pastors-Week.cfm.

Clinic: Feeding the Spiritual Hungers of Contemporary Christians

Many people in our congregations have an underdeveloped capacity for intimacy and fidelity, but simultaneously hunger to experience the reality of God's presence. Group spiritual direction offers possibly the simplest, most effective way to meet this hunger outside of Sunday worship. Participants will be introduced to group spiritual direction and hear from leaders who use it in their congregations. Presenters: Marlene Kropf, Dan Schrock. Date: Monday, January 28. Register by January 7. More info at www.ams.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Leadership-Clinics.cfm.

Clinic: Congregational Finances and the Role of the Pastor

This interactive clinic will highlight money-related issues which impact pastors daily. Some congregations expect the pastor to engage at all levels and others try to separate the pastor as much as possible from the financial work of the church. The three presenters—Terry Shue, Vyron Schmidt, and Beryl Jantzi—have extensive experience in pastoring, conference, denominational and agency-related involvement. Date: Monday, January 28. Register by January 7. More info at www.ams.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Leadership-Clinics.cfm.

“Seasons of Light” Christmas concert

Vesper Chorale and Musical Arts of Indiana is coming to the Goshen Theater on December 22nd at 8pm for a special "Seasons of Light" Christmas concert. The evening will feature music from Latin America including *Navidad Nuestra*, a telling of the Christmas story with folk melodies from the mountains of Peru and Argentina. You may or may not know that Vesper Chorale began at Kern Road Mennonite Church (South Bend, Ind.) in 1992. Kern Road's facility remains the weekly rehearsal home of the Chorale as they celebrate their 20th anniversary of music this year. Founded and directed by a member of Kern Road Mennonite, Wishart Bell, the Chorale has now evolved into Musical Arts of Indiana. Musical Arts includes the Vesper Chamber Orchestra, the Children's Choir of Michiana, and Consortia in addition to the original Chorale. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$8 for students, and are available by calling 574-291-0924 Or 574-255-7889, Or At The Door.

Cotton Patch Gospel performance at First Mennonite

Phil Kaufmann will be performing his one man show, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 3:00 pm at First Mennonite, Berne, IN. Proceeds from the performance are donated to local food banks, MCC for food security programs and WHY Hunger. This is a fun program, and presented in a unique and engaging way. More information is online at www.cpgfoodproject.org.

Urgent need for relief kits

Recent shipments of relief kits to Syrian refugees in Jordan have depleted the supply that Mennonite Central Committee keeps in reserve. Please help us restock to be able to act quickly in a crisis or disaster. To see how many towels, tubes of toothpaste and other items are needed in each kit, and to find a drop-off location, visit mcc.org/kits/relief. Also, your gifts of money are urgently needed to respond to the crisis in the region, along with your prayers for peace.

MCC Peace Essay contest:

MCC is accepting essay entries from Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and from any youth who attend Mennonite high schools, within the United States and Puerto Rico. Grand prize is \$300, and three honorable mention winners will each be awarded \$100. The deadline for submissions is January 25, 2013. For information, rules and topics, go to <http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays>.

2013 Celebrate MCC – Faith in Action

Please save the dates and plan to attend our celebration on Feb. 22 & 23, 2013 at East Goshen Mennonite Church. More details will be coming as they develop.

Goshen College

A Festival of Carols will be presented by Goshen College, ushering in this year's sacred season with music by singers and instrumentalists, and with gathered audience participation in traditional carols. This festive occasion will be held in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. Reserved seating tickets (\$15) are available at the GC Welcome Center (574-535-7566) or online at www.goshen.edu/tickets.

Advent devotions online

As churches and individual Christians around the world prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, Goshen College is again offering an online spiritual resource at www.goshen.edu/devotions to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent and celebrate Christmas. Beginning Nov. 26 (the Monday prior to the first Sunday in Advent) and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the Sunday's upcoming lectionary Scripture passages, available online, by daily e-mail or via an RSS feed. Many writers will reflect on the Advent theme: "Flood of Mercy," taken from Mennonite Church USA worship resources.

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please e-mail communications@im.mennonite.net

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