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Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference
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If possible, please include blurbs from weLink (as applicable) in your church bulletins and/or newsletters. Thank you!

Conference prayers

World AIDS Day is Dec. 1. Please pray for the 33 million people around the world who are infected with HIV and for those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Consider marking World AIDS Day in a worship service. Resources are available through Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) web site (aids.mcc.org/). (This site also has information about MCC initiatives around the issue of AIDS.) As the global community continues to struggle with the reality that every day 7,400 people are newly infected with HIV, may we bring a message of hope, God's love and care for all, and our commitment to eradicating this disease to those within our reach.—*Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes*

Events

"Life flows on: Pastoring families who face chronic mental illness": Jan. 25 at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind. This daylong **Leadership Clinic** is designed for people who provide pastoral care and support to family members of people who face chronic mental illness. It will focus on theological reflection on mental illness, appropriate pastoral responses, effects of mental illness on congregational dynamics, and related resources. Presenter: Gayle Gerber Koontz, Ph.D., AMBS professor of theology and ethics. This event is part of the **"Extreme situations in the congregation"** pastoral care continuing education series sponsored by AMBS and Central District and IN-MI conferences. Call 800 964-2627 or see: www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/workshops/pastoring-mental-illness

"Ministry and money": Jan. 25 at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind. Pastors and lay people can have a tendency to compartmentalize their faith from their finances. This **Leadership Clinic** will provide tools and opportunity for conversation on how to bring these worlds together. Initial attention will focus on the personal stewardship practices of class participants and how this impacts their ability to be a stewardship leader in the congregation. An exploration of biblical principles and congregation-specific financial tools will prepare the way for participants to begin the process of developing a five-year stewardship education plan for their congregations. Call 800 964-2627 or see: www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/workshops/ministry-and-money

"Reclaiming the Bible as the People's Book" with John Bell: Feb. 22 at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind. Participants in this all-day interactive workshop will look at how the Bible moved from being a book open to all to a treatise only a select few can understand. The workshop aims to enable the Bible to become less of a problem and more of a vital, sustaining resource for congregational life. Though especially geared for pastors and teachers, the seminar is open to anyone who desires a more fruitful relationship with Scripture. Presenter: John Bell, ordained minister of the Church of Scotland, member of the **Iona Community**, musician and composer, and a gifted teacher of Scripture. Call 800 964-2627 or see: www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/workshops/reclaiming-the-bible

"Singing through our lives: How to encourage singing in your congregation" with John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland: Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Prairie Street Mennonite, 1316 Prairie St., Elkhart, Ind. Cost: \$20. (Lunch is on your own.) See www.prairiestreetmc.org or e-mail weirichtracey@yahoo.com. Download a poster: im.mennonite.net/news/news.php

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa. Visit www.laurelville.org or call **800 839-1021** to register or learn more information about these events:

- **Music and Worship Leaders' Retreat: Jan. 8–10.** Gather with those who are passionate about leading others in worship. During the weekend you will enjoy quality workshops, resource sharing, fellowship with like-spirited individuals, and opportunities to create worshipful music.
- **"Creation Care: Stewards of the Earth": Feb. 12–14.** This event offers a wealth of resources for leading your church toward environmentally responsible practice. Join others who are passionate about caring for the earth in an interactive, inspiring weekend sponsored by MMA, Church of the Brethren, and Laurelville.

The third Sarasota (Fla.) Mennonite Male Voice Music Festival: Feb. 14 at Bahia Vista (Fla.) Mennonite. All men who enjoy singing to God's glory are invited to participate! The director is Lloyd Kauffman. Practices will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11, 7–9 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 14, 2–4 p.m. The program will be presented at **6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14.** Contact Paul Wenger: 941 870-3737 or pwenger4@comcast.net

IN-MI Conference people in the news

Gift of life: Mennonite Mission Network staffer offers kidney to coworker. For 24 years, Krissie Boss has known she had a potentially life-threatening kidney disease. Two years ago, her organs began to fail. Today, she gives thanks for life; co-worker Betty Roth Weaver gave Krissie one of her kidneys on Nov. 4. "I asked her over and over again if this is something she wanted to do," Krissie said Oct. 27. Both Krissie and Betty have been active at Sunnyside Mennonite in Elkhart for 30 years. Read more online: mennonitemission.net/Resources/News/Story.asp?ID=1468

IN-MI Conference mission/service workers

Names followed by an asterisk (*) are graduates of **Bethany Christian High School**, Goshen, Ind.

This year, the following workers began terms of service with **Mennonite Mission Network (mennonitemission.net)**:

- **Mennonite Voluntary Service: Charles Bontrager*** of Kern Road Mennonite, South Bend, Ind., is serving in Washington DC as a policy advocate with the National Coalition for the Homeless. **Christina Histan** of Sunnyside Mennonite, Elkhart, Ind., is serving in Kansas City, Kan., as a project volunteer with the Migrant Farmworker's Project. **Annamarie Lehman** of North Goshen (Ind.) Mennonite is serving in Hutchinson, Kan., as a secretary/receptionist with Interfaith Housing Services, Inc. **Benjamin Martin*** of Olive Mennonite, Elkhart, is serving in Madison, Wis., as a community builder with Options Madison. **Benjamin Shenk*** of Sunnyside Mennonite, Elkhart, is serving in La Jara, Colo., as a program assistant with Habitat for Humanity. **Kristin Yoder** of Emma Mennonite, Topeka, Ind., is serving in Baltimore, Md., as an advocacy counselor with Project PLASE, Inc.
- **Radical Journey: Naomi Blosser** of Olive Mennonite, Elkhart, Ind., is serving in Paraguay. **Shae Miller** of Howard-Miami Mennonite, Kokomo, Ind., is serving in Australia.
- **Service Adventure: Albuquerque, N.M.: Gabe* and Bethany* Bauman Baker** of Faith Mennonite, Goshen, Ind., are serving as unit leaders **Sam Jacobs** of Kern Road Mennonite, South Bend, Ind., is a participant. / **Anchorage, Ak.: Isaac Blosser** of Olive Mennonite, Elkhart, Ind., and **Nicole Smith** of Prairie Street Mennonite, Elkhart, are participants. / **Johnstown, Pa.: Joseph Miller** of Walnut Hill Mennonite, Goshen, is a participant. / **Albany, Ore.: Jonathan* and Julie Fridley** of Fellowship of Hope, Elkhart, are serving as unit leaders.

Gabe* and Bethany* Bauman Baker also are featured in this article on the **Service Adventure** unit in Philippi, W.Va., which marked 20 years and a legacy of service and leadership development last June. Gabe was a 2003–04 participant in Philippi. The Bauman Bakers knew they were interested in service and found that the Service Adventure program provided an opportunity to work with young adults in community. "We both feel that it's time for us to take time away from our own career paths and focus on giving back," he said. "But we also recognize that we'll be really enriched and learn things about ourselves through service." See: mennonitemission.net/Resources/News/Story.asp?ID=1442

In the wider church

Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Summer Service program is designed for young people of color to develop leadership skills through involvement in service assignments. This six- to 10-week program allows opportunity for college students to work in the ministries of their church and is partially funded with grants from MCC. Contact Mary Ann by Jan. 8, 2010: 574 534-4133 or mweber@mcc.org

Christian Peacemaker Teams needs help with barn-raising work on their new house in Chicago. Peace work happens in many ways; you can help create a space where peace will vibrate through the walls into the larger world. Is there a group from your church who could donate time, or do you know someone who would be interested in helping? We need people with carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills as well as those who can work with direction. We also need people who can clean up and do basic work. We can provide housing for those from out of town. Contact Joyce M. Cassel: 708 445-1998 (hm), 630 606-5670 (cell)

"Simply Me: A year of eating locally, mindfully and simply," is a new blog by **Wendy Hammond** of Grand Rapids, Mich., who aims to make all the recipes from **Simply in Season** (Herald Press, 2005) in a year. "It started out with me wanting to make good use of fresh vegetables I was getting from the community shared agriculture organization I belong to," she said. "When I saw *Simply in Season*, I thought that would be a perfect way to do it." Wendy wanted to do more than just make the recipes, though: "I also wanted to do something to strengthen my feelings about food, health, eating locally and faith." She said that *Simply in Season* is the kind of cookbook anyone can use, noting that she didn't grow up cooking. On her blog, she describes how she makes the items and then offers a review of each recipe, including what "DH"—her Dear Husband—thinks of it. See: wendypchef.wordpress.com/ and www.mpn.net/simplyinseason

weLink serves to connect IN-MI Conference congregations to each other, to Amigo Centre and Bethany Christian Schools, and to the wider church. It is published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. *weLink* issues are archived on the conference web site at: im.mennonite.net/news/welink/welink.php

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the *weLink* mailing list, contact the conference office: imoffice@im.mennonite.net
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