

Koinonia's Extra News

February 2010

Church Activities

Thanks to everyone who turned out for our [work day](#) to clean up a few things around the church building. It's nice to see that the fence is out of the bushes, and we look forward to a replacement. The plumbing work looks good, too. In the afternoon, the music teams worked on repairing the hymnals and song books. This should prolong their life. Now, we all have to remember to treat the books gently.

Flaming hot, medium or mild? Our annual [Chili Cook-off](#), sponsored by the MYF, will take place on Saturday, March 6th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. You might want to start practicing now. For those of you who haven't attended this event at Koinonia in the past, it is barrels of fun, as nearly a dozen members and friends compete to see how much you think their recipe is worth. The vote is by money and the proceeds help our Youth get to Youth Convention. Anyone can enter a pot of chili in the cook-off. All of the instructions are on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

For quite some time, we have enjoyed the lovely [bulletin boards](#) that have been prepared for the building by Nadine A. She has told us that she needs to take a break from doing this work for a while, although she plans to return to it. We're looking for someone to take on the task for a short time, specifically to do the bulletin boards for Lent and Easter. We know there are a lot of talented people out there, so we hope one of you would like to volunteer. Please let Barb T. know if you are willing to take on this responsibility on a temporary basis.

We have word from Joyce Schaffer (formerly Ingold) from Sunnyslope that there will be a [Women's Retreat](#) from March 12-14 at Prescott Pines. It is billed as a time to relax, replenish and refill. The cost will be \$120.00. Registration forms will arrive in the next few weeks, but it's not too early to put it on your calendar.

News from members and mission partners

We got this note from Angela last week: "Hi friends and family of Daniel Lopez, I've created a web site called '[Daniel Lopez Memorial](#)' to share pictures with friends and family. I'd like you to be a member of the site. Come check it out at <http://inmemoryofdanny.shutterfly.com/>." Also,

please forward this e-mail on to anyone who you think might enjoy the site. The more, the merrier ☺ - Angela”.

We will have an opportunity to hear from [Daniel Pincu](#) in the morning worship this Sunday, February 28th. He will deliver a Moment in Mission and we will also be able to hear him play his flute again. Daniel and his wife will be returning soon to Romania to continue their mission work with the elderly, new churches, and youth. This will be our last opportunity to see them for a while.

We received a letter of thanks from the [Chandler Christian Community Center](#) for our December donation. It says, in part, “Your contribution helps us achieve our mission to meet basic needs for people in crisis and empower individuals and families by providing programs that develop skills needed for self-sufficiency and long-term change.” They tell us that, during fiscal year 2008/2009, they provided 90,439 units of food, which converts into 813,951 total meals, in addition to the assistance they give through their Operation Santa and Back to School programs.

Be sure to check the [Missions bulletin board](#) near the front door. We have posted a brief message from Bishop Dominic Opondo, plus a picture of his daughter. Those of you who helped with her school tuition expenses will get a chance to see what she looks like. Needless to say, her father is very proud of her. Also posted there is a list of items that will help the ongoing program at the Hopi Mission School. Perhaps you will find something there that you would like to donate.

Christine W. has also forwarded a letter to us from Canadian Mennonite University, describing the [CMU-AMBS Ministry Quest Weekend](#), in which our own Elizabeth and Jonathan D. participated. We have posted the press release about the event, as well as a photo of the participants, on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Events in Neighboring Churches

Aim Right Ministries has sent us a few flyers about their [15th Annual Benefit Auction](#) tomorrow, Saturday, February 27, in Phoenix. It features hand-made quilts and comforters, antiques, glassware, meat and cheese from Amish Country, quality furniture, collectibles, home décor, and more. A lunch menu and bake sale are also on the agenda. It is held at their site, 1013 N. 13th Street (13th and Roosevelt), Phoenix. For more info, call (602)462-1987. The proceeds benefit local at-risk youth. You can also view select items online at www.aimrightauction.spaces.live.com.

[Common Threads: Anabaptist and African American Songs and Stories of Suffering and Hope](#). Trinity Mennonite Church (4334 W. Vista Ave., Glendale), 6 p.m., Sunday, March 21st. [Common Threads](#) explores the way Anabaptist religious persecution and African-American racial suffering have intersected. Hesston faculty members Tony Brown and John Sharp will give voice to Anabaptist martyrs and African-American slaves by singing their hymns and telling their stories. A free-will offering will be taken. A reception will follow the event.

Other Events and Information

[Hesston College alumni](#) and friends are invited to special events March 20-21, including the Common Threads event listed above, and a Spring Training game, as follows. [L.A. Dodgers vs. San Diego Padres MLB Spring Training Game at Camelback Ranch](#), Glendale, Saturday, March 20th, 5:30 p.m., with 7 p.m. game time. Bring the whole family for baseball, dinner, and group fellowship in the Bullpen Patio. Dinner provided by vendors, with a college update given. Reservations required by calling (866)437-7866. Adults \$10 per person, children 12 years and under \$5.

[“Going Green” Home Equity Loan](#): Thinking of making energy-efficient improvements to your home? Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union has a home equity loan that can save you money if a portion of the loan is used for “green” improvements. Visit www.mennonitefinancial.com to learn more, or talk with Don C., who is our MMA Advocate and can give you more information.

We have received the [MCC Giving Catalog for 2010](#). It lists all of the projects of the Mennonite Central Committee, giving you practical figures on how much money it would take to accomplish specific things in the specific places where the work is being done. We have the catalog in the office for anyone who would like to take a look.

This Sunday is the second Sunday of [Lent](#), the forty days (not counting Sundays) during which many Christians fast or observe other disciplines in preparation for Easter. It is a remembrance of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and of the temptations he experienced during that time.

Check it out! The [9th Annual Local to Global Justice Teach-in at ASU](#) is this weekend, February 27-28. The theme this year is Re-Storying Community. They say that stories have power in restoring communities, especially those that are often marginalized. There are dozens of workshops, plus keynote speakers, on a broad range of topics. If you

have been worried that young people today are not involved in social justice and peacemaking, this should restore your confidence. To learn more, go to www.localtglobal.org/teachin.htm.

This year, the Jewish festival of **Purim** will also be celebrated in February. This Sunday, the 28th, Jews around the world will celebrate the deliverance of the Jewish people from the wicked Haman in the days of Queen Esther of Persia. You may recall that Esther saved the life of the Jewish people. The Book of Esther is read twice in the synagogue that day. The name of Haman is drowned out with rattles and noisemakers whenever it is read. *Hamantashen* (cakes filled with poppy seeds whose name means 'Haman's pockets') are made and consumed for the occasion.

The 28th is also another Chinese celebration, Teng Chieh (Yuen Sui), or the **Lantern Festival**. It marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of days, as well as the end of the Chinese New Year celebration. You will see lanterns of all colors, but none of white, as white is the color of mourning.

And for those of you who are concerned about our winter weather, you might like to know that the Hindus are celebrating one of their most colorful festivals this week. It's called **Holi**, and begins with a bonfire to celebrate the death of Holika, the demon of winter. On the second day, people throw colored water over one another to remind themselves of the mischievous young Krishna.

"Extra News" -- Information that doesn't fit our Sunday bulletin or needs wider publicity than our Sunday morning gathering. Sent every Friday to members and friends of Koinonia . For a paper copy contact Barb T. via office@koinoniamennonitechurch.com. To learn more about Koinonia, visit our web site, www.KoinoniaMennoniteChurch.com.

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SEEKING the will of God, FOLLOWING the teachings of Jesus,
BUILDING his Kingdom