

Koinonia's Extra News

January 2010

Church Activities

Have you ever had Stone Soup? Come to our [Stone Soup Dinner](#) this Saturday, January 30th to experience something really good—and fun, too. It's a fund-raiser ... No, make that FUN-raiser... for our Mission Trip to New Orleans in early June. All you need to do is bring an ingredient to include in the soup. While our soup chefs put the ingredients together and make some delicious soup(s), the rest of us will play games and work on puzzles together. We're calling this a "Community Building Event to help Re-Build a Community". We hope you will invite your friends. They will need to bring something to throw in the pot, too. Who knows what it will include by the time we get through! How much does it cost? The choice is up to you. Maybe tasting the soup will help you decide. Or maybe you will decide based on how much you want to contribute to help our Mission Trip to New Orleans succeed. Just show up at 4:30 p.m. that day with veggies or meat to throw in the pot, and a plan to have some fun. If you'd rather bring bread or something to drink, please see Barb Taft. We will need some of that, too, but the real fun is in making the Stone Soup.

The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Ministries will be [singing again](#) at the Archstone Care Center on Pecos Road this Sunday, January 31st. Barb B. tells us that we will have a sack lunch at the church following the Sunday School time (and maybe sing a few songs to warm up our voices) and will leave from the church at 1:30 p.m. to go down and sing (They're expecting us around 2:00). We will do a short service there, with Bible verse reading and a devotional as well. Barb B. would like to know how many of you are planning to attend and to let you know that we are thinking about scheduling regular visits down there, since so many of the residents enjoyed our Christmas caroling, and they wanted us to come back.

The Elders have called a [special congregational business meeting](#) for February 7, 2010, at the church, immediately following worship service, at approximately 10:45 a.m. The sole agenda shall be to seek approval of the proposed Pastoral Search Committee. The slate of members includes: Jaycee D., George H., Hazel K., Lisa R., and Harold W. Please plan to be here that day.

The [new church directory](#) is scheduled to be out soon. This weekend is your last chance to provide the office with any updated information that

should be included. We really prefer getting it right the first time, so if you have changed your address, phone number, email address, etc. (or if we have printed it incorrectly in the past), now is the time to let us know.

Now that we've all started our new, 2010 calendars, it's time to check which dates are convenient for baking. There are still blanks on the kitchen calendar here for signing up to bring the **Snack Time** refreshments. It's nice to think that they just arrive magically each Sunday, but that isn't the case. They arrive because of the generosity of our members and friends—that's you! Please add your name to the list. Our tummies will be grateful.

If you haven't filled out a **commitment form for our New Orleans work** with Churches Supporting Churches (and our planned Mission trip to New Orleans in early June), they are still available near the sanctuary main entrance. If you are interested in going on the Mission trip and haven't indicated this yet, there is a place on the form to indicate that. Nearly a dozen people have expressed an interest in going down to New Orleans to help our partner congregation, the New Orleans Bible Fellowship Baptist Church, as they continue their efforts of reconstruction, recovery, and revitalization within that city. We hope to be able to lend a hand, as well as to get to know these people we have known only by letter and telephone. We are looking for ways to raise the necessary funds, and you will begin hearing about the ideas we have as times goes on. Your ideas are also welcome. We want to use this as an opportunity to expand our circle to include others who might have an interest in this particular mission, because we know that folks are still concerned about what is going on in New Orleans post-Katrina. Even though many seem only able to see Haiti at the moment, we hope they will not forget the tragedy that happened right here in the States. Read on to learn more.

Looking into February: Barb B. tells us to circle Valentine's Day on our calendars (if you haven't already). There will be a special event for the J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) folks. It will be right after church, and it looks like it will be a lot of fun. So far, the word is that there will be a meal and we will be playing games. The committee making the plans is being a bit "tight-lipped" about what the nature of these games might be. More news to follow.

News from members and mission partners

Lisa R. has forwarded us information from a veterinarian colleague of hers who takes **medical teams annually to the Dominican Republic and**

the border with Haiti. They will be going from March 20-29th this year and will go to a small Haitian border village about 40 miles from the quake's epicenter. This area is receiving a large influx of refugees and the team "expects to be dealing with increased human medical issues and a need to increase food production in this area." They will be working with the leadership of Food for the Hungry and the Central Christian Church. Of course, they will continue their veterinary work, but they will also have a team of physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and nurses to care for various needs. They are asking for prayer, medicines, and financial assistance, as well as seeking any human ophthalmologist, dentist or chiropractor willing to go with them. If you want to help in any of the above ways, there is a copy of his message available in the office, or you can learn more by speaking directly with Lisa.

Events in Neighboring Churches

Other Events and Information

In a recent letter we received from [Mennonite Education Agency](#), they wrote, "In a time when you have so many good priorities as a congregation we want to acknowledge your recent gift as a measure of your generous spirit in support of Mennonite Christian Education." They went on to tell us that our gift will be shared with Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College, Hesston College and Mennonite Education Agency. In this age when our money often leaves and barely says goodbye in passing, it's nice to know where some of it is being used.

"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 your more information.

Tomorrow, January 30th, is **another significant day for our Jewish friends** and neighbors. It is Tu B'Shevat, The New Year of Trees, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat. Tu means 15. People plant trees in memory of a loved one or friend and eat fruit, especially those associated with the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

Also during this upcoming week, our Japanese neighbors and friends might be caught throwing beans. February 3rd is **Setsubun Bean Throwing Festival day**. It is the last day of winter and a time to drive out evil spirits by throwing handfuls of beans into dark corners, with shouts of "Fortune In, Devils Out".

"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