

Koinonia's Extra News

July 2009

Church Activities

Sunday School Summer Break

July is the month for a Sunday School Summer Break. Classes will resume on August 2. Catch the Spirit is the theme for children's Sunday School lessons and activities this summer. Youth and adults are invited to catch the Spirit too through drama and song in the worship services. If you have questions or ideas about Sunday School, contact LuAnne H.

Youth Convention attendees gave a fascinating report last Sunday. Jackie, Julian and Greg spoke about the speakers or events that influenced them and Emma made an appearance via video. LuAnne, Lisa and Rachel added adult perspectives on the youth convention and adult assembly. We thank God for blessing this convention and filling people with the Holy Spirit.

Let's celebrate! The past 12 months add up to a year of adventure at Koinonia. Teams of volunteers developed new styles of music leadership, re-designed our website, created a new video projection and sound amplification system, built a control room, upgraded our landscaping, and continued leading our regular programs. That's a lot for a small church. Rachel Sartori gave program leadership through out the year. We want to celebrate all the good things that have happened, and begin to say our good-byes to Rachel, Eric and Eliana. Please join us on Sunday, July 19 at 11:00 am for stories, thank yous, blessings and finger foods.

Tenga la mente de Cristo We did our best to sing this theme song from Mennonite World Conference last Sunday. It means "have the mind of Christ." Thanks to Harold W.'s vivid description of the Conference we could imagine how it sounded in the assembly in Paraguay. Harold brought greetings and gifts from Bishop Opondo and his family, and then gave many illustrations of what it means for us to have the mind of Christ in a global fellowship of believers.

Welcome to Koinonia, Mel and Barb!

We are welcoming Mel and Barb B. to membership In Koinonia on Sunday. They are transferring their membership from Maple Grove Church in Topeka, Indiana, and are eager to share in our fellowship and ministries. During the worship service they will share their testimonies of faith in Christ and commitment to his Church.

Meet Michelle Stabler-Havener. Five years have passed since James and Michelle came to Koinonia and presented their vision for mission in China. We're happy to welcome Michelle to Koinonia again on Wednesday, August 12. Join us at 6:00 PM for a "salad bar potluck" and Michelle's presentation about their work in China. Please sign up in the kitchen to bring salad ingredients.

Making School Kits. Each year MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) receives requests for over 100,000 school kits. You can help! Stores are beginning their "Back to School" sales. As you and your child shop for school supplies, why not pick up some extras for children who have none. See bulletin insert for more information. If you have questions contact Hazel K. or Barb T.

News from members and mission partners

Baby Dedication. Last Sunday Michael and Rebecca dedicated their son, Alexander, to the Lord. Alexander's grandmother and cousin presented a prayer shawl that they make together. This a gift that is customarily given during baby dedications in their home church, Souderton Mennonite.

Emad and Lonna Beshai discovered via Facebook that their San Diego vacation would overlap Rich and Debbie Sisco's visit to San Diego by one day. The two couples and the Beshai girls, Hanna and Katrina, enjoyed visiting two of the Beshai's favorite places, Cabrillo National monument on Point Loma, and Imperial Beach. Lonna and Emad send sandy hugs to all of Koinonia! Life is going well in Sioux Falls but they miss their church family here very much.

From the Sartoris. It has been a pleasure to get to know every one over the past number of months. It has also been a pleasure to serve with you. Thank you for the way you so warmly and lovingly embraced our family. Although Rachel will no longer be Program Director, we do hope to keep in touch and come to visit when we can. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you sisters and brothers.

With much love, Rachel. Eric & Eliana

Events in Neighboring Churches

Job Opening at Goldensun Goldensun is looking to hire a caring, creative and energetic program assistant to work full time with its participants in the Goldensun Habilitation Center.

The person should be responsible, engaging, can work with little supervision, and have experience planning and leading educational experiences.

Please help us find an exceptional person to serve with our exceptional Goldensun folks.

Contact Joshua Garber at (623) 2346-3516 or joshua@goldensunonline.org for details and visit www.goldensunonline.org for more information about Goldensun.

Other Events and Information

MENNONITE MEDIA BECOMES THIRD WAY MEDIA AS OF JULY 1

If you haven't read the news yet that we're officially changing our name as of July 1, here is the whole story. We have planned a gradual changeover and all mail and e-mail directed to old addresses should reach us with no problems.

Accordingly, the agency's organizational Web site, [mennomedia.org] is in the process of adapting to the new look and name. Check it out at www.ThirdWayMedia.org We anticipate many changes and corrections so let us know if you see problems. Third Way Café remains the public media Web site that has been around for 11 years.

A new tool from MMA helps your money and your faith speak the same language – while you plan for the future. Your Plan for Stewardship helps you live out your faith – particularly in relationship to your finances and to the calling God has given you. Interested? Contact Donovan Zimmerman, our MMA advocate for information.
480 948 7871

In response to calls in the U.S. Congress for healthcare reform, Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership staff took several steps in late July to follow up on the National Healthcare Policy Next Step resolution passed by the Delegate Assembly, July 4. The church-wide resolution supports legislation that will extend access to healthcare to all Americans, particularly the poor and disadvantaged. The resolution

builds on healthcare policy principles adopted by Mennonite Church USA delegates in 2005 and 2007. Additional resources will be available by July 31 on the Mennonite Church USA Web site for congregational study and advocacy work on healthcare access issues.

www.MennoniteUSA.org/nationalhealthcare.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee for the Interim Conference Minister is actively pursuing its charge to identify a person for this important conference leadership role. The Committee is encouraged by the expressions of interest received to date. The Committee asks you to be in prayer that they may experience God's leading in the process. The Committee seeks your input and will be seeking counsel from various ministers in the Conference. The position has been posted in various Mennonite publications. For a position description and the posting, please see the PSMC Web-site. Feel free to contact search committee member, Bryce Miller, with questions, concerns, or counsel.

Bryce Miller
pastor@shalommennonite.org
520-748-7082

The MCC Washington Office has launched a campaign through the spring of 2010 called "Abundant Life: Economic Justice for All." Individuals and congregations can sign up to participate in the prayer and action day online at washington.mcc.org/life.

"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 .