

Koinonia's Extra News

May 2009

Church Activities

The audio visual booth is framed, drywalled, spackled, trimmed, textured, painted, wired, lighted and soon to be outfitted with tile, counter, cabinets and controls. With a lot of dreaming, scheming and steaming from dedicated volunteers our audio visual system will take a flying leap from the 80's into '09. Soon we will need a team of dedicated volunteers to operate the system. If you are interested in this kind of service talk to Steve F. or Rachel S. right away.

Keys to Peace in the Middle East -- Dinner and Narrated Slide Show

Malfoof, dolmeh, baba ghannouj, felafel, hummous, tabbouleh, and ma'amoul! No, those aren't misprints. Some of those names may be familiar to you as foods of the Middle East, while others draw a blank. You'll get a chance to discover what these all are, and more, on Sunday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m., when we enjoy a meal including many of the foods the group I led tasted on our recent trip to the Middle East, which was sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. And, if some of you (men or women) would like to help cook (and learn how to prepare some of these delicious dishes), please let me know. I would like to gather people at my home for a cooking session on Saturday, June 6, at which time we can get several of the dishes prepared.

Following the dinner (a mezze, or meal of appetizers -- but actually very filling -- I will be showing my slides from the trip. My presentation is called "Keys to Peace in the Middle East," and it will provide you with an update on the current situation in Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank and Israel, all places my group visited in February-March. You will get to meet a few of the Living Stones of the region and hear what they told us. You'll get to see some of the sights of the Holy Land as well (both religious and historical). I hope you will come to enjoy the food and hear the presentation. We are suggesting a donation of \$7 per person to cover the costs of the food. (A comparable meal in a restaurant would cost over \$12.)
--Barb T.

News from members and mission partners

Pastor Rich traveled as far north as Oak Creek Canyon and as far south as Tucson during study leave, and enjoyed many opportunities to read, talk, listen and observe along the way. He returned on Thursday to a bee's nest at the church, literally, not figuratively. Many thanks to leaders who took extra responsibility during his absence.

Rachel Sartori announced to the elders on Tuesday that she will not be able to serve as Program Director beyond July 26. Although Rachel had hoped to work part time for Koinonia and possibly part time in another job, she sees that this is not going to work out. Rachel will work full time as a teacher when the new school year begins. We are all sad to see her service at Koinonia come to an end, and we are sad that we will not have regular fellowship with Eric, Eliana and Rachel. We are grateful that these past months together have been so inspirational and fruitful. We pray for direction and strength from God as the Sartori family and the Koinonia family make decisions for the future.

Best wishes to Angela and Chad. Angela L. and Chad H. were married on Friday, April 24. We wish them a long and happy life together. Blessings to Aidan and Ezekiel too!

Celebrate with the graduate. Phoebe C. graduated this week from Mesquite High School. She will attend Hesston College in the fall and train to be a nurse. Phoebe and her family invite you to an open house graduation party on Saturday, May 23, 5:30 - 9pm. It's a come and go party and there will be food.

Celebrate with the graduate. Alysia L. graduated this week from Dobson High School. Alysia and her family invite you to a graduation party Friday, May 22, on the church lawn, beginning at 7:00pm.

Tisa Wenger recently finished writing and publishing a book. You are invited to Changing Hands bookstore for a talk and book-signing by the author on Thursday May 28, 7pm, to celebrate the recent release of We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom. For more information on the event and the book, see

http://www.changinghands.com/NASApp/store/IndexJsp;jsessionid=baCltms_C_tX7WsBbAfs?s=storeevents&eventId=417751.

Holy Humor

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. 'Reverend,' said the young man, 'I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.' The minister chuckled, 'I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.'

Events with Neighboring Churches

Spring Hymn Sing.

Bring your voices to Trinity Mennonite Church on May 31st at 6 p.m. for a hymn sing and more. Please see the attached document for more information.

Arizona Christian Kids' Camp. June 4 - 7. The camp is sponsored by Mennonite and Brethren congregations in the metro Phoenix area for kids who have finished 3rd grade thru the 8th grade. Campers will leave Trinity parking lot at 7:30am Thursday and return there around 5pm on Sunday. For people who are supporters of children's church camp, but don't have children camping, we can always use extra gifts to help keep the rising cost of camp under control. Extra gifts can be made to Mennonite Camping Association of AZ, please give to Kristen F. or Karl K. Thank you for your support!

Other Events and Information

Conference Leadership Changes

As of April 30, Jeff Wright completed everything necessary to hand over conference minister responsibilities to a transitional consultant. As of May 1, Rev. J. Stanley Friesen, Ph.D., of Fresno, is serving as Transitional Consultant for Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, which means he is functioning as our Conference Minister until an Interim Conference Minister is hired. In this half-time role, Dr. Friesen will focus on supporting pastors and elders, assisting with credentialing, and performing the most critical conference functions. The board is forming a search team to identify and call an interim conference minister, who will serve in that role for up to 18 months beginning around fall. Thank you for your expressions of concern, heartfelt emotions and trust as we earnestly seek to serve the congregations of PSMC. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we prayerfully seek to discern the next steps for the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference.

Benefit showing of “The Soloist.”

Sunday, May 17, at 3 p.m., at Harkins Theaters, Tempe Marketplace
The movie is about the homeless violin prodigy Nathaniel Anthony Ayers, who was discovered journalist Steve Lopez in Los Angeles. As Lopez endeavors to help the homeless man find his way back, a unique friendship is formed, one that transforms both of their lives. It is rated PG-13 and stars Jamie Foxx & Robert Downey, Jr. Tickets are \$20, and will benefit the Urban Outreach ministry at Tempe First United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Tracy Cruickshank at tracyurbanoutreach@cox.net or 602-790-4430.

Watch the 60 Minutes special on the movie at:

http://www.tv.com/video/ZDnFfbuH3dulgtqI1I_fTxOmnYsY2IC1/101/2529/mr.-lopez-meets-mr.-ayers?o=cbs&tag=;video;
