

Conference Calendar

JAN 2014

- 7 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Bellefontaine
- 17-19 Junior High Retreat, Camp Luz
- 24-25 Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Luz

FEB

- 7-8 Youth Leadership Project Retreat, Camp Luz
- 21-22 Healthy Congregations Workshop, Quality Inn, Mansfield

MAR

- 7-8 Annual Conference Assembly, Bluffton University, Bluffton
- 21-23 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz

APR

- 3-4 Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary Open House and Auction, Founder's Hall, Archbold
- 5 Spring Day of Inspiration, Ohio Mennonite Women, Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland

MAY

- 16-18 Latino Families Encounter, Camp Luz

JUN

- 20-21 Black Swamp Benefit Bazaar, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon
- 27-29 Ohio Youth Event, Bluffton University

AUG

- 8-10 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz

SEPT

- 13 Leadership and Anxiety in the Church Seminar, Central Mennonite, Archbold
- 19-21 Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat, Camp Luz

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
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Congregations share signs of Holy Spirit at work in their midst

What are the signs of life and of the Holy Spirit moving in your congregation?

During October and November, delegates from Ohio Conference congregations met in cluster meetings in nine different locations around the state. In addition to discussing Conference business, delegates were asked to share how they see God at work in their congregations. A few of their responses follow:

Cornerstone Mennonite (Plain City) — An outreach team has been meeting, praying for

friends that they may find a home in God's Kingdom. A potluck every Tuesday evening has given life to small groups.

Bethel Mennonite (West Liberty) — With help from an Ohio Conference grant, a group at Bethel has built the Potter's Place Pizza Oven, a wood-fired pizza oven. The pizza oven initiative is a chance to build relationships with neighbors, inviting them to pizza parties.

Central Mennonite (Archbold) — A new small group with an interest in simple living has started.



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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Spirit at work Continued from page 1

Grace Community (Bryan) — A successful women's ministry is developing in the congregation, with about 50 women attending.



Chestnut Ridge Mennonite, Crown Hill Mennonite, Martins Mennonite and Orrville Mennonite — Youth from the four congregations are meeting in a joint youth group.

Oak Grove Mennonite (West Liberty) — The congregation is giving teddy bears to Mary Rutan Hospital for children who come there. A tag with a word of encouragement is included with each bear as it is given to a child. Also, a healthy living class has begun at Oak Grove on Sunday nights and is doing well.



Healthy Living

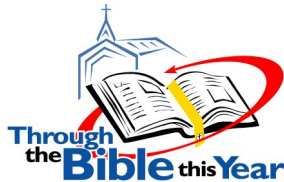
Toledo Mennonite — The church had an all-day congregational retreat day in October. They were encouraged by the size of participation and the number of people who stayed for discussion about what it means to be the church.

Salem Mennonite (Elida) — Earlier in the year, Ohio Conference encouraged congregations to share their service opportunities with people from other congregations who might want to participate. Salem shared going to a Kentucky service project with people from Pike Mennonite, Lima Mennonite and their sister congregation (a Church of the Brethren congregation).



Service Project

First Mennonite (Berne, Ind.) — The congregation is reading through the Bible this year, and sermons are based on those readings.



Salem Mennonite (Wooster) — A mission trip to Guatemala last year (partially funded by an Ohio Conference grant) has led to exciting developments. During that trip, representatives of Salem Mennonite and Open Arms Hispanic Ministries traveled to the Nebaj-Quiche area of Guatemala

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to see how they could support the evangelism efforts of pastors there.

Now there are 23 people in that region who are interested in further theological training, and SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary, has agreed to partner in providing theological training in this area of Guatemala. The estimated cost to provide these courses is less than \$400 per course, with that fig-

ure being the total cost of providing the course, not the cost per person.

LifeBridge North (Strasburg) — There is a growing sense of unity in the churches in Strasburg. They are participating in a weekly prayer walk in town.



Ohio Youth Event speakers announced

Featured speakers for the second Ohio Youth Event will include Doug Zehr, pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville; Anita Hooley Yoder, student at Bethany Theological Seminary; Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, pastoral team member at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold; and Preston Yoder, pastor of Cornerstone Mennonite Fellowship in Plain City.

The Ohio Youth Event will take place June 27-29, 2014, at Bluffton University. The theme of this event will be "Wastefully Extravagant: The Parable of the Lost Son."

This event is designed for high school youth and their sponsors. Early registration price will be \$80 per person. More registration details will be available in January.

Camp Luz to host Mother-Daughter Retreat

Mother-daughter duo Miriam Zehr and Sherah-Leigh Gerber will be the speakers for the Mother-Daughter Retreat at Camp Luz Jan. 24-25. They will speak about the topic "Being While Doing," focusing on

the story of Mary and Martha as found in Luke 10:38-42. See the Camp Luz website at www.campuz.com for registration information and more details.