

Conference Calendar

JAN 2015

- 9-10 Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Luz
16-18 Junior High Retreat, Camp Luz

MAR

- 13-14 Annual Conference Assembly, Martins Creek Mennonite, Millersburg
20-22 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz
26-27 Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary Open House and Auction, Founder's Hall, Archbold

APR

- 11 Day of Inspiration, Ohio Mennonite Women, West Clinton Mennonite, Wauseon

JUN

- 30-July 5 KC 2015, Mennonite Church USA Convention, Kansas City, Mo.

JUL

- 21-26 Pennsylvania 2015, Mennonite World Conference Gathering, Harrisburg, Pa.

AUG

- 7-9 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz, Kidron

SEPT

- 18-20 Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

NOV

- 13-15 Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge

Ohio Conference bulletin inserts are published six times per year by Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.
For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
Ann Leaman, editor: ohioevangel@earthlink.net



Congregational delegates share about local ministries, activities

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

During October and November, delegates from Ohio Conference congregations met in cluster meetings in seven 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:

Salem (Wooster) — The congregation's Hispanic ministry continues to draw in new people, and several have made commitments to Christ.

North Lima — The congregation is continuing with its community breakfasts. The proceeds from these meals are used to support six different mis-

sion efforts. They are also ministering to people staying in a local motel.

Pleasant View (North Lawrence) — They recently showed the movie *God's Not Dead*. They are focusing on ways to reach out to the community and are trying to reach out to the east, in the Massillon area.

Leetonia — The congregation gave an appreciation meal for local policemen, fire fighters and community leaders.

Martins Creek (Millersburg) — They recently started working with LOVE INC, a coopera-

tive way for churches to work together at meeting the needs of the community.

Continued on page 2



Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Ministries

Continued from page 1

Summit (Barberton) — The food pantry which operates at Summit Mennonite continues to serve the needs of people in Barberton. More than 2,000 people a month go through the church doors.



Millersburg — The congregation has a growing Hispanic ministry. They are reviving the Discipleship Bible Studies, and they are planning a Year of the Bible in 2015.

Tedrow (Wauseon) — The Tedrow congregation continues to serve the community with their paper pantry, which offers paper goods and cleaning items for people in need.

Oak Grove (West Liberty) — Two men from the congregation (a musician and a visual artist) have collaborated to create a music CD titled *The Mustard Seed Sessions*. A grant from the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team helped to pay production costs, so all proceeds from the CD's sale can benefit Adriel.

West Clinton (Wauseon) — They held a sports emphasis week-

end featuring speaker Jerry Lucas, a former OSU and professional basketball player.

Bethel (West Liberty) — The congregation spent the summer talking about stories of God's people in the New Testament. As follow-up, they have carried the storytelling into the present day with "cardboard testimonies." On one side of the cardboard, a person tells of a challenge faced, and on the other side, they share how God has worked in that situation.

Cornerstone (Plain City) — The congregation has a Bible study and a meal every Wednesday.

Lockport (Stryker) — In addition to the regular offering, each week Lockport has a dollar offering. Each individual is invited to give \$1 each Sunday. The funds from the dollar offering are used to meet needs of people in the community.



Oak Grove (Smithville) — Oak Grove, along with other congregations from Ohio Conference, has been building a partnership in Kenya

Continued on page 3

Ministries

Continued from page 2

called "Shoulder to Shoulder." They have been helping to build a Bible school and assisting with various service projects. John and Velma Zook spent three months there this summer, along with a number of weekly work teams.

Sonnenberg (Kidron) — The congregation enjoyed a recent focus on "teaching us to pray."

Beaverdam (Corry, Pa.) — A Sunday school class has been studying the scripture text for the sermon prior to the worship service.

Cluster reports are online

Congregational reporting was just one portion of the fall cluster meetings. Delegates also spent time responding to a list of affirmations from Leadership Team which were developed following the Aug. 9 special delegate session.

Delegates also heard a report about the fall meeting of the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) and Jewel Gingerich Longenecker's presentation to CLC. (See the article below

for more information.) In addition, they heard a Conference budget update, and were introduced to new Coordinator of Volunteers Alysa Short.

Reports from each of the fall cluster meetings can be found on the Ohio Conference website. To download any of these reports, go to www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/#/delegatesaca.

Presentation focuses on Bible study

At fall cluster meetings, delegates considered the importance of shared weekly Bible study in forming Christian community. They heard about two presentations on this topic made by Jewel Gingerich Longenecker of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) at the fall meeting of the Constituency Leaders Council. Jewel has condensed these presentations into a single document, which

is now available on the AMBS website. Her presentation is listed in the "Resources for Study and Conversation" section. To download a copy, go to the website (<http://www.ambs.edu/publishing/sexuality-conversation.cfm>) and click on "How Can We Get on the Same Page? Rethinking our Relationships with Each Other and the Bible."