

SOJOURNS

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The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

October 18, 2009

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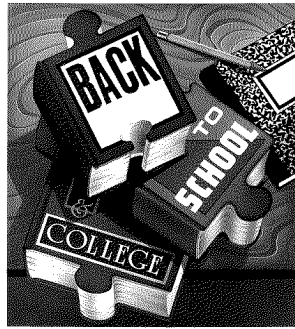
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## LIFE AT SONNENBERG

### FALL FESTIVAL, 2009

Some winter coats and blankets were summoned and a blazing campfire warmed those who braved a cold and windy evening for our Fall Festival at Jane and Lloyd Miller's on Sunday, October 4, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Inter-generational fellowship and relationship-building happened around the campfire and elsewhere; children enjoyed painting pumpkins and playing at the sandbox and tree deck. Mike Lehman prepared a wagon for a hayride (which Ethan Ross said should have been called a "straw-ride"), and Con Neuenschwander drove the red tractor (wrong color for this farm!)

Mark Miller coordinated a Corn Hole Tournament with sixteen players, using the three new sets he recently made. First Prize was awarded to Gordie Amstutz and Carl Reinhardt, and Lisa & Steve Zuercher were Runners-up. Prizes were "gift bags of candy and stuff."

Julie Beun designed an impressive "Guess Jars" table with a fitting fall theme. Winners were from a variety of ages (persons who guessed closest to the amount in each of the seven jars received that jar of goodies as their prize): Gabriel Raber - Nerd Jelly Beans, Chloe Raber - Pumpkin Seeds, Janice Kratzer - Assorted Candy Bars, Bessie Nussbaum - Hershey Kisses and Reese's Cups, Winfred Ressler - Toasted Corn, Amy Geiser - Candy Corn, Steve Zuercher - Peanuts in the Shell. Bessie "recycled" her prize jar at her family gathering the next Sunday, where she gave the winner one dollar and the jar was finally opened and shared.

Veryl Kratzer emceed the evening, and our new pastor Mel shared a story and led in prayer before the five o'clock meal. Hot dogs and buns, condiments, marshmallows and fresh apple cider were provided and people brought finger foods to share. As usual, there was plenty of food! After the winners were announced, Miriam Kratzer led the

group in fun singing around the campfire, and some people stayed around and visited until almost dark.

Thanks to a great Team effort and many helping hands, the event was once again a success. Ninety-four persons attended this year, including nine guests. Sixteen people came to the "second-chance" evening, October 11, another cold night with a welcoming campfire.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this event, and a special thank-you to those who helped in any way.

-Jane Miller for Adult Ministry

## NEWS & NOTES

### CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: 330-0857-7311

- **All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry** will be October 23, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under eat free. Need tickets? Contact Mitch Weeman, call the school, or purchase tickets at the door.
- **Fall Play, Little Women**, will be presented the weekend of November 6-8, Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon. Tickets are available from any junior.

**CAMP LUZ Sustainable Food and Farming Conference** will be held November 20-22, 2009. This weekend event will provide a place for farmers, home gardeners, and food enthusiasts to gather together to explore how our food choices impact creation as well as our communities. Speaker: Dan Davidson, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, will be the keynote speaker. Join us for worship, fellowship, and seminars on topics such as organic gardening, cooking, getting started with organic growing and eating, and much more! For more information on prices and a registration form visit [www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com).

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** of Wayne County "Friends For Life Banquet" is being held on Tue. Oct 27 at 6:30 at The Amish Door Restaurant in Wilmot. There will be an offering that goes to the support of the PCC. There is additional information including special guests posted in the foyer. Reservations are required. Call the PCC at 330-264-5880 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 9AM and 4PM. Please contact Marlin Zook with any questions.

**ORRVILLE COMMUNITY CHORUS** will begin rehearsals for Handel's Messiah in November. New and returning singers, ages high school through adult are welcome. For additional information contact Karen Shank at 330-837-4017 or visit their website: [www.orrvillecommunitychorus.org](http://www.orrvillecommunitychorus.org). Rehearsals and performance times are as follows:

- November 1 & 8, 2-3:30 p.m. at Kidron Mennonite
- November 15, 22 & 29, 2-3:30 p.m. at Central Christian School
- Saturday, December 5, 9-11:30 a.m. Dress Rehearsal at Central Christian School
- Sunday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. Performance at Central Christian School

### HESSTON COLLEGE:

• **THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP** for Hesston College alumni, prospective students, parents of current students, or anyone who knows anyone in Hesston. The bus leaves Central Christian at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 25, and returns Sunday, November 29. Cost is \$70 for prospective students (juniors or seniors); \$135/adult. Payment must be made in full to reserve a seat on the bus. Contact David Horst at Hesston College: 800-995-2757; email: [davidh@hesston.edu](mailto:davidh@hesston.edu) regarding reservations. Send payment by November 1 to David Horst, Hesston College Admissions, PO Box 3000, Hesston, KS 67062.

**SEXUAL INTEGRITY IN A WORLD OF BROKENNESS:** SpringHaven Counseling Center and the Pier, a community center, are sponsoring the workshop "Sexual Integrity in a World of Brokenness." This workshop is for men and women who desire to learn more about sexual wholeness. The resource person is Jason Martinkus, a national speaker for Every Man's Battle, a sexual purity ministry based on Steve Arterburn's best-selling book. This event will be held November 13-14 at the Pier, 10470 Winesburg Road, Mount Eaton. For more details or to register confidentially contact SpringHaven at 330/359-6100. Space is limited, and preregistration is encouraged. See the posters/brochures in the foyer for additional information.

**BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY CAMERATA SINGERS** will be in concert at the Kidron Mennonite Church on Sunday, October 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Camerata Singers is a select 29-member choir conducted by Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music and director of choral activities. Allison Ringold, adjunct piano instructor, is the group's accompanist. The Bluffton Brass Society will also perform, as well as play with the choir on some pieces. The 8-member ensemble is coached by Dr. Jeffrey D. Boehm, professor of music. This year's theme is "Awake: Sing and Make Music." The choral selections come from a variety of textual and musical sources, including major works, hymn tunes, spirituals, and pieces from various historical periods.

**CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS** will hold meetings in Ohio: Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville will host "A Community-Centered Vision of Peacemaking," a Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) gathering, Sunday, November 8, from 4-6:00 p.m. Sandra Milena Rincón, support coordinator for CPT's Colombia project, will be the featured speaker at the gathering. Sandra Rincón will speak about peacemaking in Colombia and the internationalization of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Sandra is dynamic and thoughtful. Everyone is welcome

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, November 1, 2009. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, October 29, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!

**\*\*OVER FOR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES\*\***

**Sonnenberg Mennonite Church**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting MINUTES**

**Sunday, September 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

75 adults were in attendance

1. **Opening:** Gabe Hostetler welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with prayer. Freeman Lehman led the congregation in two songs: *All Praise to Thee, My God*, WB 658; and *Now on Land and Sea Descending*, WB 655.
2. **Devotions:** Dave Ross shared his reflections about Sunday experiences in southern Ohio where they lived for a few years. He shared about a Sunday morning visitor, visiting a new church, and a neighbor's invitation. He drew parallels to us at Sonnenberg and challenged us to befriend visitors, invite our neighbors and friends, and accept others as they are.
3. **2008-2009 Annual Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the September 28, 2008, Annual Congregational Meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes: Conrad Neuenschwander; second: Lorene Amstutz. Approved.
4. **2008-2009 Annual Reports:**
  - Gabe Hostetler led us in reviewing the 2008-2009 annual reports.
    - Correction on page 19 change "Bluffton" to "Kidron" for the place of Ohio Conference ACA.
  - Shirley Hochstetler reviewed the 2008-2009 Financial Report.
    - Shirley commented on the relationship of faith and fiscal responsibility on page 8 of her report.
    - We met our budget this past year because we did not spend the amount that was budgeted. Ministry leaders were cautious in their spending, knowing that our giving was also less than budgeted.
    - Endowment Funds lost this past year, but the last quarter did show a gain of 8%.
    - Shirley also noted that our assets listed are strictly cash assets, not land and buildings.
    - It was noted that the year on the "year ended Aug. 31" should be changed to 2009 instead of 2007 in the accountant's report, last column.

Motion to accept the annual reports: John Martin; second: Cliff Lehman. Approved.
5. **2009-2010 Budget:** Shirley Hochstetler presented the 2009-2010 budget. This is the first time that Shirley remembers presenting a budget that is lower than the previous year.
  - Outreach & Service Ministry increased their budget this year, \$500 designated for Ohio Conference. The increase also includes the Corinthian Plan mutual caring portion that is designated to help pay the health insurance of pastors of small congregations, unable to pay for the coverage. (CLT decided to put that portion of the Corinthian Plan costs into our mission's budget.) If the Corinthian Plan has enough churches enrolling, the plan will take effect in January. Until then, Mel & Dottie Hathaway are enrolled in a temporary insurance plan.
  - CLT: Pastoral Salary is in line with Mennonite Church USA, no increase in the base salary this year; Leadership Training is less because of no major conferences this year; Youth/Young Adult Ministry is less to accommodate one BLAST participant instead of two.
  - Goal for 2008-2009 was \$206,842.00. Goal for 2009-2010 is \$173,119.00. This averages \$3,330.00 per Sunday to meet our budget.

Written ballot: Approved at 100%; 75 votes, 75-yes; 0-no.
6. **2010-2011 Central Christian School Partnership Plan:** Shirley Hochstetler presented the 2010-2011 CCS Partnership Plan. Every year we need to vote to approve this above-budget plan for the next fiscal year. The partnership plan provides equal opportunity for all children of our church to attend Central if they choose to. The partnership plan covers 100% of tuition for all children in kindergarten through grade 12.

Motion to accept the CCS Partnership Plan ballot for 2010-2011 school year: Conrad Neuenschwander, second: Gordon Amstutz. Written Ballot: Approved by 97.3%. 75 votes: Yes-73; No-2.

Encouragement was given for everyone to participate in the CCS Scrip program which earns money that goes toward our Partnership Plan. Several fundraisers are being considered to help the CCS fund this year.
7. **Reflections, Questions, Ideas**
  - Marlin Zook commented about the capital planning being tabled again. He requested a formal recommendation from CLT that will allow the congregation to have an official vote on it. He also requested that we publish a list of our students on the Central Partnership Plan.
  - Michael Ross gave an update on the status of the old church across the road. The Historical Society plans are on hold right now, but they hope to move it to the historical village next summer.
  - It was noted that if designating money to the CCS fund, make sure to mark checks or envelopes with that information.
  - Gordon Amstutz encouraged participation in MDS, as we have some money designated to help with funding.
  - Corrine Helmuth thanked ministry leaders for their work. She included a special thank you to Shirley Hochstetler and Bonnie Geiser for their volunteer work.
  - Virgene Steffen thanked Bob Eshleman for his great work as historian and the details included in the yearly report.
  - Gordon Amstutz reported 30 people at the last group meeting for diabetics, approximately 50% were community people. He welcomes feedback on whether or not to continue the meetings. Ideas are welcome.
  - Gabe Hostetler thanked the Food Committee for the evening meal. He also thanked so many in the church who share their gifts with our church family. He thanked the ministry leaders and all who participate and help the different ministries.
8. **Closing:** Freeman Lehman led us in the hymn: *Sun of My Soul*, WB 654. Mel Hathaway thanked the congregation for conducting the meeting like a family, doing things together well. Mel led us in a closing prayer.