

SOJOURNS

Vol. XX, Issue 18

The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

September 5, 2010

LIFE AT SONNENBERG

2010-2011 SERVANT LEADERS



As each has
received a gift,
employ it for
one another,
as good stewards
of God's varied
grace.

1 Peter 4:10

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leader, Gabe Hostetler (2011)
Recording Secretary, Joyce Taylor (2012)
Treasurer, Shirley Hochstetler (2013)
Pastor, Mel Hathaway
Pastoral Team:
Alice Metcalf (2011)
Matt Hamsher (2012)
Rita Miller (2013)
Marlin Zook (2013)
Adult Ministry, Jane Miller (2011)
Children's Ministry, Jan Eshleman (2013)
Facilities Ministry, Mike Ross (2012)
Gifts Discernment Ministry, Jim Johnston (2012)
Outreach/Service Ministry, Ken Neuenschwander (2012)
Worship Ministry, Anna Knutson (2011)
Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Shawna Gerber (2012)

Congregational Leadership Team Appointments:

Church Office Secretary: Ellen Nussbaum
Assistant Treasurer: Bonnie Geiser (2013)
Statutory Agent: Church Treasurer
Conference Delegates:
Freeman & Eileen Lehman (2011)
Kristina Hamsher (2012)
Ed & Joyce Taylor (2013)
Church Historian: Bob Eshleman (2011)
Mennonite Mutual Aid Advocate: Mim Lehman (2013)
Webmaster: Ed Taylor (2011)

PASTORAL TEAM

Mel Hathaway, Pastor
Matt Hamsher, Leader (2012)
Alice Metcalf, Care Group Coordinator (2011)
Rita Miller, Secretary (2013)
Marlin Zook, Mutual Caring Fund (2013)
Safe Sanctuary
Administrators of Policy: Pastoral Team
Training: c/o Children's Ministry
Record Keeping/Consent Forms: Church Secretary
Background Checks: Pastor

ADULT MINISTRY

Leader: Jane Miller (2011)
Members: Ora Shetler (2011)
Julie Beun (2012)
Veryl Kratzer (2013)

Adult Ministry Appointments:

Adult SS Teachers
Food Committee:
Lorene Amstutz, Shirley Sommerfeld (2011)
Connie Neuenschwander, Pat Gault (2012)
Health Ministry Coordinator: Janice Kratzer (2011)
Home Fellowship Group Coordinator:
Veryl Kratzer (2011)
Guestbook Greeters Coord: Bonnie Geiser (2011)
Adult Librarian: Bob Eshleman (2013)
Adult Assistant Librarian: Chip Coleman (2011)
Visitation Team Coordinator: Ada Amstutz (2013)
Visitation Team: Ada Amstutz, Pat Gault, Cliff Lehman,
Til & Bonnie Neuenschwander, Gordon & Lorene
Amstutz, Palmer & Joan Steiner
Substitute: Juanita Ross
SS Secretary: Pat Gault (2011)
SS Assistant Secretary: Delo Gerber (2012)
Men's Fellowship
Coordinators: Gordon Amstutz, Bill Helmuth,
Marlin Zook, Ken Neuenschwander
Sonnenberg Mennonite Women
President: Agnes Steiner (2012)
Vice-President: Eileen Lehman (2012)
Treasurer: Lorene Amstutz (2012)
Secretary: Ada Amstutz (2011)
Sewing Coordinator: Corrine Helmuth (2011)
Sewing Asst Coord: Anna Neuenschwander (2012)
Quilt Committee:
Rose Zook (2011)
Ellen Nussbaum, Contact Person (2012)
Marilyn Shetler (2013)
Hospitality Coordinator:
Marjean Lehman (2011)
Cookbook Coordinator: Bessie Nussbaum
Food Trailer:
Donna Johnston, Mim Lehman (2011)
Bonnie Geiser, Teresa Fiscus (2012)

2010-2011 Appointments, continued

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Leader: Jan Eshleman (2013)
Members: Lisa Amstutz (2011)
Dawn Ross (2012)
Jeanette Miller (2013)

Children's Ministry Appointments:

Bible Memory Coordinator: Rose Zook
Children's Church: Laura Petite
Children's Church Helper: Rowena Zuercher
Nursery Care Coordinators:
Ellen Nussbaum (scheduling) (2011)
Malora Hershberger (2012)
Primary-Junior Librarian: Virgene Steffen (2011)
Primary-Junior Asst Librarian: Marjean Lehman (2012)
Primary SS Teachers
Primary SS Opening: Martha Coleman
Vacation Bible School:
Lisa Miller
Children's Ministry Members
Venture Club Advisors:
Steve & Lisa Zuercher
Conrad Neuenschwander

FACILITIES MINISTRY

Leader: Mike Ross (2012)
Members: Mike Lehman (2011)
Carl Reinhardt (2012)
Lloyd Miller (2013)

Facilities Ministry Appointments:

Cemetery Sexton: Mike Lehman
Outdoor Landscaping: Brian Geiser
Lawn Mowing: _____ (summer, 2010-11)
Snow Plowing: Mike Lehman (winter, 2010-11)
Foyer Presentation: c/o Donna Johnston (2011)
Building Scheduling: Ellen Nussbaum, Secretary
Custodians: Jody & Liz Gerber

GIFTS DISCERNMENT MINISTRY

Leader: Jim Johnston (2012)
Members: Barb Ressler (2011)
Rose Zook (2012)
Ed Taylor (2013)

OUTREACH & SERVICE MINISTRY

Leader: Ken Neuenschwander (2012)
(filling his member term)
Members: Steve Zuercher (2011)
Trent Metcalf (filling leader term, 2013)
Chip Coleman (2013)

Outreach & Service Ministry Appointments:

Released Time for Christian Education:
Lisa Zuercher (2011)
Nursing Home Coordinator: _____
Letters to Missionaries: c/o O & S Ministry
MCC Representative: Corrine Helmuth (2011)
Meat Canning Representative: Keith Sommerfeld
MDS Contact: Dan Gault (2011), Paul Conrad (2012)
Sami Squad Contacts:
Liz Gerber (2011), Gordon Amstutz (2012)
Open Arms Ministry Representative:
Matt Hamsher (2011)

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Leader: Anna Knutson (2011)
Members: Miriam Kratzer (2011)
Michael Amstutz (2012)
Dottie Hathaway (2013)
Mel Hathaway, Pastor

Worship Ministry Appointments:

Head Usher: Steve Gerber (2011)
Head Assistant Usher: Mike Lehman (2012)
Ushers: (2010-11)
Delo Gerber, Mim Lehman, Donna Johnston,
Mark Johnston, Galen Miller, Rita Miller, Dave Ross
Substitutes: Jim Johnston, Juanita Ross
Valets: (2010-11) Ray Fiscus, Dan Gault,
Jim Johnston, Mike Lehman
Sound & Lights:
Conrad Neuenschwander; Winfred Ressler;
Ron Taylor; Steve Zuercher
Digital Arts:
Ned Mast, Todd Zuercher, Darren Geiser
Altar Arrangements Coordinator: Janice Kratzer
Altar Arrangements: Lorene Amstutz, Julia Dunster,
Teresa Fiscus, Cheryl Gerber, Donna Johnston,
Alice Metcalf, Jeanette Miller

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Leader: Shawna Gerber (2012)
Members: Janice Kratzer (2011)
Gordon Amstutz (2011)
Mim Lehman (2013)

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Appointments:

College Student Aid Fund Coordinators:
Ellen Nussbaum, Church Office Secretary
Shirley Hochstetler, Church Treasurer
Mentoring Coordinators:
Ora Shetler (2011)
Corrine Helmuth (2012)
Young Adult Advocate: Shawna Gerber
Quiz Coaches: _____

MYF

Youth Sponsors: Matt Eshleman (2011),
Lead Sponsor/Ad Hoc Y/YA Ministry member
Michael & Lisa Amstutz (2011)
Ike & Malora Hershberger (2012)
MYF Leadership: All MYFers

*Thanks to everyone for their willingness to use
their gifts to serve the church!*

NEWS FROM JOEL/RUTHY MILLER

Hey everyone...it's been quite a long time since we last wrote...These last few months since January have been full, full, y más lleno! It's now been a little over a week since DMT 2010 officially ended with all of the students and staff, each one, heading for their homes. They all have plans to sleep for a week, I think, and then it's getting back involved in their home churches and community. We ask that you would pray for them all as they have the next and hardest step that DMTers face: life after DMT. Here during training it's easy to read your Bible and to get involved in ministry, because everyone else is doing it and the opportunities present themselves everyday. But at home that's where everyone else has

their own schedule and life and for the past 7 months the DMT students have been gone; everyone else has been living life as normal...but for those involved in DMT, "normal" is unknown. Sleeping in hammocks, bathing in a lake, eating eggs and beans, learning about the Lord, growing in their faith, learning a new language, living in small quarters...all of this has been normal for them since January, (just check out pictures on Facebook or the Dayspring website). So, pray for everyone who was involved with DMT 2010 that they might find God's will for their lives now as they're home again.

Now that Ruthy, Cowboy and I are once again home in La Haciendita, we are getting back into the swing of things. Cleaning all of the cobwebs out of the house, unpacking our suitcases and enjoying just the presence of the 3 of us, is a nice deal. We hit the ground running once we got here, by doing some projects around the school, getting back involved with Ruthy's parent's church and lots of other activities. Pastor Meme and Oralia have been opening the church since this past May every Saturday to offer the local kids a hot meal, craft time, songs and fun. We've been excited to help out with that ministry. They've had up to 80+ kids some Saturdays, mostly from non-Christian homes, so pray that we can make a difference early on in their lives. Some of the mothers have come to help out as well, even some helping out with some of the costs for materials and food, and they aren't Christians either! God bless them.

Ruthy and I also are getting together a worship team with her two sisters. Karina and Keren are both excited to learn the drums and the bass so that we can rock out here in the church services. We're trying to get some of the other youth interested as well. Everyone's been asking us what we're going to name the group (welcome to Mexico...) and I've been thinking about reviving my old Dr. Arroyo worship team name: "Tracalada Ungida," which means: "Anointed Racket," which describes our pickin' and a grinin' right now...haha.

For those who'd heard about Cowboy's fight with K-9 Distemper during these last few months, thank the Good Lord (and thank the good vet!) he's recovered completely from that virus and is back to his old self, other than the twitch that he's got (which may be permanente). He's a good pup and it'd be weird without him around for sure.

So what's in our near future now? Well we are praying that all goes well and the Lord permits us to get Ruthy a tourist visa this next month so that we can drive north and see family. We hope to be up north mid-September and head back here, mid-October. Pray that everything goes well and that the Lord lays everything out as He desires. After our trip north, we plan to do visiting down here, to look for more DMT students and get ready for DMT 2011!

We want to thank all of you for your continuous support and prayers. I know that sometimes it's hard not knowing exactly what we do day-to-day down here but trust that God has us on His mind and in His will. We hope that a very grateful THANK YOU, and a prayer to God for you will suffice for our absence. Thanks again!

-Joel & Ruthy Miller

Dayspring Outreach Ministries, Mexico

CHARLES/TERRI GEISER UPDATE

Dear Friends at Sonnenberg,

On Sunday August 29, we were welcomed as members at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church In Elkhart, Indiana. Through the Spirit of God guiding a discernment process, I have been called to pastor this church and began serving on Tuesday, August 24. Doing so means that we are moving our membership from Sonnenberg. We are very grateful for the faith home that Sonnenberg has been for us over many years and for the support that we received from the congregation in different ways. We are also grateful for the nurture given to Benjamin and Jonathan as they grew up in your presence surrounded by your love and care. May God bless you as you continue to be the outpost of God's kingdom at Sonnenberg!

In the peace of Christ, Charlie and Terri

LIFE AT SONNENBERG

RELIEF SALE REPORT

Thank you to everyone for your help in many areas of the Relief Sale this year. The total of the entire sale was over \$309,000.

The quilt tent auction totals came to \$83,365. There were 215 large and small quilts, wall hangings and comforters sold in the auction tent. The large quilts averaged \$629 with the top quilt selling for \$1,900.00. The highest bid for the wall hanging and small quilts was \$900, and they averaged \$149.00. Each item was special and represented many, many stitches and hours of designing, piecing and quilting. Thank you to Sonnenberg Mennonite Women for your part in this.

The highest selling quilt as noted above was the one in memory of Lena Lehman, which was donated by Hearthside Quilt Shoppe and Sonnenberg Mennonite Women. This quilt called "Floral Bouquet" was sold for \$1,900.00. In addition an embroidered quilt, which was the last quilt prepared under Lena's leadership of the SMW Quilt Committee, "Shades of Autumn," sold for \$650.00. A special wall hanging made and donated by Ellen Nussbaum, also in memory of Lena, called "A Touch of Holland," sold for \$525. This wall hanging was made with fabric sent to her by Drew while he was in the Netherlands last winter/spring.

The total Penny Power donations for the Relief Sale totaled \$73,592.86. Sonnenberg's total of this amount was over \$1,500.00, which was double of the amount donated by Sonnenberg last year. Thank you to everyone for your help in our Penny Power emphasis this year.

It was another successful Relief Sale, and the help of so many volunteers is what helps to make it happen. Thank you to everyone who supported the Relief Sale this year!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Marilyn Laszlo, Wycliffe missionary in Papua New Guinea and recent speaker at Girl's Jamboree (Camp Luz), has donated two books and four DVD's to our church library. She has many stories to tell from decades of experience in Bible translation work. Please step in the library to see these and many other interesting videos.

—Bob Eshleman, librarian

RELIEF CANNING

Relief Canning dates for this year are October 14, 15, 16 & 18, 2010 (no canning on Sunday), in addition to needing help on Wednesday evening, October 13 to help cut turkey, in order to get a 5:30 a.m. start on Thursday, October 14.

We are planning on doing only 25,000 pounds of turkey due to a shortage of funds. Monetary donations are needed from now until the end of September. The turkey must be paid in full before the shipment can be confirmed.

Donations should be sent to:

Relief Canning, Inc. Kidron
Ralph E. Basinger, Treasurer
15102 Arnold Road, Dalton, OH 44618

Please also join us at the breakfast fundraiser (by donation only) for Relief Canning on Saturday, October 9, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the Kidron Community Center at Evergreen Park in Kidron. Menu will include egg casseroles, fruit cup, muffins, cinnamon rolls, orange juice, coffee and water. Sign-up in the foyer if you plan to attend the breakfast. Call Tammy Rex (330/698-8202) if you would like to donate food items for the breakfast.

NEWS & NOTES

INTERCULTURAL FIESTA: Open Arms Hispanic Ministry invites you to participate in the Fourth Intercultural Fiesta Sunday, September 19, 3:50 to 5:30 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Come and fellowship with your Hispanic brothers and sisters. Enjoy an afternoon of music, a snack of salsa and chips and a message from Saulo Padilla, director of the office on immigration for MCC US. Show your support for the Open Arms Hispanic Ministry of Wayne and Holmes counties.

The program will also include music by members of Lee Heights Community Church and Rondalla as well as a brief video about Open Arms. If you have further questions about the Intercultural Fiesta, call Haroldo Nunes (330) 775-2553, Raul Tadeo (330) 828-0040 or Mike Mast at (330) 828-0491.

SEXUAL INTEGRITY WORKSHOP will be held November 5-6, 2010, at The Pier in Mt. Eaton. This workshop is organized by the Network for Sexual Integrity. Everyone is welcome—men, women, married, singles, pastors, mentors, etc. Cost is \$30/adult; \$15/student. Group rates and financial aid is also available. A copy of the brochure is available on the rack in the foyer.

DAY APART, October 2, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Hermitage at Beaver Run, Warsaw, Ohio. Theme: "Resting In God: Bringing Centering Prayer into Busy Lives." You'll learn about prayer as relationship, the simple method of Centering Prayer, how to deal with thoughts during prayer and how the fruits of the prayer are manifested in your life. You'll also experience several periods of Centering Prayer. "Not to worry, we are all beginners." Brochures with registration are available in the foyer, or contact Jane Miller for more information. (Register by September 15; register early, space is limited.) Jane is planning to go and would like to take a carload with her.

ORRVILLA COMMUNITY EVENT, will be held Thursday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. at Maple Terrace. "George Burns: 100 Years, 100 Stories" is brought to the stage by Duane M. Abel, who began this production while a drama student at The University of Akron, and has performed at the Lincoln Center and Walt Disney World. You are invited to this lighthearted evening - no admission fee. Refreshments will follow. For more information, call OrrVilla at 330-683-4455.

MOUNT EATON/PAINT TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY is sponsoring a trip to Pittsburgh, PA on Thursday, September 30, 2010. The group will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Mountain Top Restaurant in Mt. Eaton, and will return around 8:00 p.m. Activities include visiting the National Aviary, a Just Ducky Tour, a stop at the Carnegie Science Center and a ride on the Duquesne Incline. The cost of \$88.00 includes bus transportation, boxed lunch and admission fees to all four activities and dinner at Golden Corral. Contact Phyllis Lehman at 330/359-5554 if you are interested in joining the trip to Pittsburgh.

WAR & PEACE IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION: Dr. John David Geib, Dean of The Logos Institute, will teach and facilitate an interactive course on "War and Peace in Christian Tradition" on eight consecutive Sundays, September 19 through November 7, 6-8:00 p.m., at Orrville Mennonite Church, 1305 West Market Street, Orrville, Ohio 44667.

The course will explore the various historical positions Christians have held on the topics of war and peace. The course will enable all who take it to understand what Christians have believed about war and peace for 2,000 years, come to an informed personal conclusion on war and peace, engage in informed discussions with others and develop future behaviors compatible with various paths of peacemaking.

The cost of the course is \$50.00 with a 20% discount per person if a couple or family registers together. Scholarship monies are available for those who need financial assistance. No student will be turned away for lack of finances. The Logos Institute is a 501-C not-for-profit educational institute that offers serious continuing education to learners and students of all levels and ages.

Registration information is available by contacting course organizer Katie at rkajm.immel@gmail.com, Pastor Bill Seymour at omc@zoominternet.net, Dr. Geib at ezraenterprises@neo.rr.com or by calling Orrville Mennonite Church at 330-682-5801.

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday, September 19, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Thursday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!