

Perspective



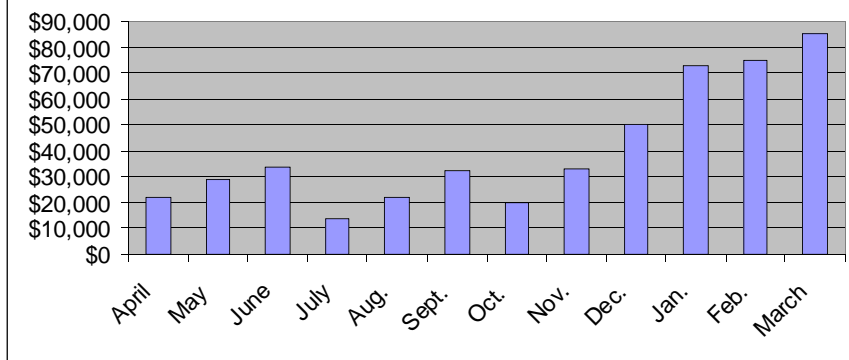
Editor: Ann H. Leaman • 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 • Phone/Fax: (330) 453-3793 • E-mail: ohioevangel@earthlink.net

Conference ends fiscal year with surplus

Ohio Conference ended the 2008-09 fiscal year with a surplus, reports Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Total receipts for the year were \$545,219, and expenses were \$459,835, resulting in a surplus of \$85,384 for the fiscal year, which ended March 31.

Helmuth noted that congregational giving was \$37,700 above the amount budgeted for 2008-09. In addition, congregational giving was \$29,142 more than in 2007-08.

OC 2008-09 Operating Balance



Please share DVD with your congregation

At the 2009 Annual Conference Assembly, each Ohio Conference congregation was invited to take a copy of a new DVD about Ohio Conference. The DVD, which was produced by Denver Steiner, includes an 18-minute overview of the Ohio Conference titled *Doing Together What We Cannot Do Apart*, as well as a six-minute preview of the 2009 Annual Conference Assembly. If your congregation did not get a copy at ACA, please contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office at (330) 857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net. The Conference Leadership Team encourages the leaders of all congregations to share this DVD with members of their congregations.

Anabaptist Vision series at Hesston College to focus on biblical literature

Mark your calendar now with the dates for Hesston College's annual Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series. "Learning the Bible in Life-giving Ways: History, Hooks, and Heilsgeschichte"

Perspective: 1) The interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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will be the theme of the 2009 event, which will be held Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at Hesston. Join Marion Bontrager, Michele Hershberger, and special guest Ted Swartz (of Ted and Company TheaterWorks) as they teach, laugh, and lead participants through Biblical Literature as taught at Hesston College. Discover how the Bible's stories are connected to each other, and how God has worked in history to "solve the sin problem." For a short video preview of the event, see www.hesston.edu/AVDS.

AMBS offers matching grants

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) offers a matching grant to students whose congregations provide financial assistance for their study. If someone from your congregation is at AMBS or is planning to attend, please check into this matching grant program.

A congregation that assists a seminary student must submit the Church Commitment Form by May 1, indicating the level of support. AMBS matches church funds dollar for dollar up to \$750 per semester and \$1,500 per year. Assistance beyond this amount is matched at a rate of four to one, not to exceed tuition.

A Church Commitment Form is available on the AMBS Web site: [http://forms.ambs.edu/Admissions%20and%20Financial%20AidFolder/Church Commitment Form.pdf](http://forms.ambs.edu/Admissions%20and%20Financial%20AidFolder/Church%20Commitment%20Form.pdf).

MPN Vacation Bible School 2009 curriculum selected as a 'Top Pick'

NEWTON, Kan. and WATERLOO, Ont. — Mennonite Publishing Network's 2009 Vacation Bible School curriculum has been selected as a "Top Pick" by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching of Virginia Theological Seminary (CMT). *Catch the Spirit! Join God's Work in the World* was cited for its "upbeat and nonjudgmental tone, and strong message of evangelism." The Center's evaluation highlights the curriculum's focus on worship and the original music by Mennonite composer Bryan Moyer Suderman as particular strengths. *Catch the Spirit!* uses stories from the book of Acts to help children age 4 through grade 8 learn how the Holy Spirit works in their lives, in the church and with God's people throughout the world.

Other strengths of *Catch the Spirit!* listed by the CMT are: the availability of an all-inclusive kit containing everything needed for a VBS program; separate guides for preschool, primary (grades 1-2), middle (grades 3-5), and junior youth (grades 6-8); provision of ideas for adapting the materials; suggestions for simple, easy-to-find materials; easy-to-learn music that supports the theme and represents a variety of cultures and languages; suggestions for working with children with special needs, including ADHD/ADD; and a mission/outreach component.

Catch the Spirit! Join God's Work in the World is available by calling (800) 245-7894 or online at www.mpn.net/vbs.

Local perspective

"Aging — Challenge or Opportunity?" will be the theme of a seminar for pastors, visitation teams, family members, caregivers and other interested persons sponsored by Walnut Hills Retirement Community.

The seminar will be held Tuesday, May 5, at Walnut Creek Mennonite Church from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The \$10 registration fee (which includes lunch) is payable at the door.

Clare Schumm, former pastor and pastoral care director, will lead two sessions:

Session One — Growing Older: Passages to Freedom

This session focuses on challenges and opportunities of aging.

Session Two — Seeing Through a Glass Darkly: Dementia and Spirituality

This session focuses on what happens to faith and spirituality when intellect and cognitive function deteriorate.

For more information, e-mail jhamsher@walnuthillsliving.com or call Jocelyn Hamsher at (330) 893-3200 ext. 353.

Perspective deadlines

April 30 for May 4 issue

May 14 for May 18 issue

www.ohio.mennonite.net