

Perspective



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Registration forms for ACA now on Web site

Registration materials for Ohio Conference's 2009 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) have been sent to each congregation, reports Judy King, conference administrative secretary. "The Missional Church: Mennos on the Town" is the theme of ACA, which will be held March 13-14 at Central Christian School in Kidron. Registration materials are also available on the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. Registration fees for ACA are \$25 per person if received by Feb. 27 and \$35 per person after that date.

Please note this ACA update

Here's an update to the ACA workshop information which has already been sent to all congregations: Rachel Swartzendruber Miller from Mennonite Church USA Convention Planning will be the resource person for the youth ministry workshop (Workshop #2 on the Workshop Information Sheet). She will be presenting "Helping the experience last: The role of a sponsor when preparing and following up mountaintop experiences." Please make sure that ACA delegates from your congregation are aware of this additional information.

Circle of Praying Friends open to all

Do you feel called to pray for Ohio Conference? If so, please consider joining the Circle of Praying Friends of Ohio Conference, a group of prayer intercessors who have committed to spending time in prayer for specific needs in Ohio Conference.

In 2008 the Circle of Praying Friends included 45 people from 25 different congregations. This year Mattie Marie Mast, prayer coordinator, will be gathering prayer concerns and sending them in a *Prayer Prompter* newsletter six times. If you would like to join the Circle of Praying Friends, contact Mattie Marie Mast at mmmast@zoominternet.net or 505 Smith Ave., Dalton OH 44618.

Early registration deadline is extended for Lasting Flame Marriage Seminar

The early registration deadline for the Lasting Flame Marriage Seminar with Steve and Annie Chapman has been extended until March 1. The seminar, which is sponsored by Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church, will be held April 24-26 at Central Christian School in Kidron. For additional information, contact Marvin Zuercher,

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.

Meeting perspective

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team will hold its Jan. 17 meeting at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant, 720 State Route 97 West, Belleville, Ohio.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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pastor of Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church, at (330) 682-3175. Copies of a brochure and poster with information about the seminar are available on the "Publications" page of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Camp Luz plans Mother-Daughter Retreat

Camp Luz will hold a Mother-Daughter Retreat Jan. 30-31. Speaker Deb Horst will focus on the theme "Daughters of the King." Cost of the retreat is \$25 per person for those 11 years old and up; \$12.50 for girls ages 4-10; and free for girls under 3. To register, visit www.campluz.com, send an e-mail to campluz@zoominternet.net or call (330) 683-1246.

New sermon series is available by request

A new six-week sermon series based on the book *Bouquets: Intentional Relationships in Making Disciples* (Herald Press) is now available to use as a worship and study resource in congregations. Included are time-tested object lessons, mini-drama ideas, brief sermon outlines and other creative components to help with worship planning. This six-week resource can be requested free of charge by contacting Bruce Hamsher via e-mail at hamsherfive@yahoo.com.

Mennonite Church USA makes available resources for thinking about national identity

At San Jose 2007, Mennonite Church USA delegates passed a resolution on national identity and encouraged the church to think about the promise and peril of living faithfully as Christians in the United States. The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board was asked to lead this process.

As a start, you may have seen "Call to Prayer: Following Jesus in a world that is not" in recent issues of *The Mennonite* and *Mennonite Weekly Review*.

Resources to help your congregation respond to this call will soon be available in the Feb. 3 issue of *The Mennonite* and online at www.MennoniteUSA.org/identity. Included are Sunday worship resources created by Marlene Kropf and Susan Mark Landis centering on the theme "Following Jesus in a world that is not." You may want to consider reserving a Sunday in February for this worship service focus before Lent begins or perhaps later in the spring after Easter. Additional study resources also will be available on the Web page.

Included with this issue of *Perspective* is a handout to help your congregation begin thinking about our identity as God's people in this country. You may want to distribute this handout now or later when your congregation focuses on this theme. Laminated copies of "A Christian Pledge of Allegiance" are available on the Menno-Source online resource network for 25 cents each at www.os.MennoniteUSA.org.

OMW calendar perspective

Ohio Mennonite Women have planned several events for 2009:

April 18 — Spring Day of Inspiration at Lockport Mennonite Church with speaker Nancy Roynon

Aug. 7-9 — Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz

Sept. 18-20 — Annual Women's Retreat at Camp Luz with speaker Marilyn Rossiter

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 22 for Jan. 26 issue

Feb. 5 for Feb. 9 issue

www.ohio.mennonite.net