

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

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Cancer claims the life of Ohio Conference pastor

Philip Clemens, former pastor of Beaverdam Mennonite Church and more recently pastor of Pike Mennonite Church near Elida, passed away at his residence shortly after noon on Sunday, March 1, following a 16-month battle with cancer. A memorial service was held at Pike Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 4. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Gathering to focus on ending poverty

“Mobilization to End Poverty” will take place April 26-29 in Washington, D.C. More than 1,500 Christians will gather in a movement committed to the biblical imperative of reducing domestic and global poverty. The gathering, sponsored by Sojourners and World Vision, will include worship, training sessions and advocacy.

Featured speakers will include Jim Wallis, Rep. John Lewis, Sharon Watkins, Brian McClaren and many others. President Obama has been invited to address the gathering. More information is available at www.sojo.net/mobilization.

Because Mennonite Church USA is an outreach partner, Mennonites can receive the discounted registration rate of \$199/\$150 for students (with lodging available for students participating in the World Vision Summit on the Hill beginning on April 25). To receive information about registering at the special rate, contact KathrynR@MennoniteUSA.org. Participants are invited to stay in Washington, D.C., another day and join in the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq. (For more information, see www.christianpeacewitness.org.)

Transitional ministry training planned

A training event for transitional (intentional interim) pastors and potential transitional pastors is planned for April 27-29 at Amigo Centre near Sturgis, Mich. The 48-hour event provides a theoretical framework for transitional ministry, and identifies helpful skills and characteristics. The training includes a two-hour interview prior to the training which helps participants assess how suited they are for transition work, and follow-up mentoring. A second phase of training is being scheduled for the end of October 2009.

Trainers include Gary Martin, Dan Miller and Cliff Brubaker, who between them have served in more than 20 transitional assignments

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.

Seminary perspective

Stuart Murray Williams, chair of the Anabaptist Network in the United Kingdom, will be a featured speaker at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., on March 30, March 31 and April 2. He will be speaking on several topics related to the theme “Anabaptist Mission in post-Christendom.” All lectures are free and open to the public. A flier with more information about these lectures is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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in the Indiana-Michigan, Central District, Ohio and Illinois conferences. The training is a joint venture of the trainers and Amigo Centre, and is done in consultation with the conference offices of the four Great Lakes area conferences. For more information, visit www.amigocentre.org. You may also contact Jason Lichti at jlichti@amigocentre.org or Cliff Brubaker at cbrubaker@frontiernet.net.

Smithville to celebrate 50th anniversary

Smithville Mennonite Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 17. Services will begin with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., followed by the worship service at 10:25 a.m. Following the morning service there will be a dinner, followed by a service of celebration. If you have ever been affiliated with Smithville Mennonite, we would love to have you join us in this celebration. For more information contact the church office at (330) 669-3601 or lmsmucker@smithvillemennonite.org.

Camp Luz to host two Lenten Days of Prayer

Two daylong prayer retreats led by Deb Horst, will be held at Camp Luz on Saturday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 8. Using scripture, reflection, music, silence and prayer walks (indoor and outdoor options), the retreat invites the participant to journey with Jesus during his last earthly week, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. The retreat deliberately ends leaving the participants grieving Jesus' death and reflecting upon his suffering and sacrifice, kneeling at the foot of the cross and wondering at the healing blood shed there. This experience will prepare the worshipper to anticipate the coming resurrection Sunday.

Both retreats will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Donations for lunch will be accepted. (Suggestion donation is \$5 per person.) RSVP to campluz@zoominternet.net or (330) 683-1246 before March 31 to let the camp staff know which day you will attend.

Hartville Mennonite to feature Phil Chalmers

Phil Chalmers is coming to Hartville Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 25, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This free event is especially for high school and junior high age youth, although all are welcome to attend.

Phil's destructive decision presentation focuses on recreational sex, purity, chemical abuse, teen violence and suicide.

Phil Chalmers has been writing books, studying youth culture and speaking nationwide since 1985. Phil has a passion to guide teens toward a more positive, healthy and safe lifestyle. He is the author of several books and documentaries, including *Can You Handle the Truth*, *True Lies*, *Music to Die For* and *I Don't Listen to the Lyrics Handbook*.

For more information, contact Joe Troyer at Hartville Mennonite Church at (330) 877-2050 or joe@hartvillemennonite.org.

ACA perspective

All Ohio Conference delegates should have received information about two congregations which are applying to join Ohio Conference at Annual Conference Assembly this year. If you are a delegate and did not receive this information, please contact Ann Leaman at (330) 453-3793 or ohioevangel@earthlink.net.

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Three amendments to the Ohio Conference Constitution will be proposed at Annual Conference Assembly March 13-14 at Central Christian School in Kidron. The amendments deal with membership in the Conference, the Conference financial coordinator and provisions for suspending the Constitution. To see a copy of the proposed amendments, check the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Day Apart perspective

On Saturday, April 4, a contemplative day apart will be held at the Hermitage at Beaver Run, Warsaw. The theme of the day is "Connecting Faith and Money" with Harriet Taylor from Ministry of Money (Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.) as presenter. For more information/brochure contact Beulah Steiner at bsteiner25@gmail.com or (330) 262-2321.

Perspective deadlines

March 19 for March 23 issue
April 2 for April 6 issue

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