

# Perspective



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## **Arts Weekend to focus on 'The Power of Stories'**

Energize your creative side this winter at the 2008 Mennonite Arts Weekend Feb. 1-3 in Cincinnati. Enjoy a weekend celebration of Mennonite arts and artists with presentations and demonstrations by a variety of artists, an art exhibition, music and dramatic performances, singing and worship.

The theme for the weekend, "The Power of Stories," will consider the transformative power of stories. The sharing of stories is part of what makes us human. Stories explain who we have been, who we are presently, and who we are becoming. Stories can give order to the fragmented nature of our existence, make sense of our experiences, and give shape to our lives and beliefs. Even ordinary people's stories can transform the world.

Joining us at the Weekend to share their art and stories are Marvin Bartel (ceramic artist), John Blosser (painter), Sybil Graber Gerig (artist/illustrator), Jeff Gundy (poet/writer), Cyndi Gusler (collage artist/sculptor), Leo Hartshorn (percussionist), Christopher Matsos (actor), Shari Miller Wagner (poet) and the Indianapolis Writers Group, Kim Thiessen (singer), Mark Suderman with the Bluffton University Camerata Singers, and Marlene Kropf (worship planner).

A flier with samples of some of the artists' work is included with this issue of *Perspective*. To learn more about Mennonite Arts Weekend and the 2008 artist-presenters, or to get registration information, visit this new Web site: [www.mennoniteartsweekend.org](http://www.mennoniteartsweekend.org).

## **Central hymn sing to celebrate building**

On Nov. 15, 1936, Central Mennonite Church dedicated its new building in a well-attended celebration. Now the Central congregation and friends will again celebrate this place of worship and fellowship, more than 70 years after it was provided. In celebration, a hymn sing will take place Sunday evening, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. Mary Oyer, Mennonite music scholar and chorister, will lead the singing. The Zion Mennonite Church choir will also perform. All are most welcome to attend.

In early 2008, Central will close the doors on the 1936 sanctuary and move into a new sanctuary which is currently under construction.

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***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.***

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## ***Prayer perspective***

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Allan Patterson, pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Elyria, will be having spineology surgery on Wednesday, Nov. 21, at Elyria Memorial Hospital. He injured one of his vertebrae Oct. 15 as the result of a fall. Please keep him in your prayers.

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

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- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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## **Sonnenberg Station concert planned Nov. 25**

Sonnenberg Station is a 14-voice a cappella men's singing group with singers from Berlin, Gospel Haven, Kidron, Oak Grove, Salem, and Sonnenberg Mennonite churches, as well as the Cornerstone and Wooster Grace Brethren churches. They will sing songs of faith and life in a one-hour service at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church on Sunday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. Special guests again this year will be the Dalton Senior Boys Ensemble. An offering will be received for the Bridge of Hope Girl's School in Liberia.

## **NE Ohio MEDA to meet Dec. 1**

The Northeast Ohio chapter of MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) will meet Dec. 1 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Walnut Creek. Mike Gerber of Gerber Poultry will speak on the topic "A Sense of Direction." A flier with more information about the Northeast Ohio MEDA Chapter is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

## **MC USA sends congregations Advent materials**

Conference Administrative Secretary Judy King has forwarded Advent materials from Mennonite Church USA to all Ohio Conference congregations. "Prayers and Petitions: A Call for Advent Prayer and Action" was sent by e-mail to all congregations Nov. 15. If your church office has not received this information, please contact Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) or (330) 857-5421.

## **MC USA seeks Web content manager**

Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership seeks a full-time Web content manager to join its communications team in its Newton or Elkhart office. The Web content manager will play a key role in developing and enhancing Mennonite Church USA's Web presence, as well as ensure that content on the denomination's Web site is consistent with Mennonite Church USA's missional priorities and overall communications strategy. This position provides a unique opportunity to impact and impart Mennonite Church USA's mission, goals and resources through technology and multimedia.

The ideal candidate will possess strong interpersonal communication skills and work well within a team. She or he should be detail-oriented and possess a good understanding of communication theory and strategies. At least two years experience in Web-oriented work is desired, along with demonstrated writing and editing skills. Fluency in Spanish is highly desired. For a detailed job description or to submit a resume, cover letter and work samples, contact Executive Leadership Human Resources at [HR@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:HR@MennoniteUSA.org) or call (866) 866-2872 and ask for Executive Leadership Human Resources. Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women and Racial/Ethnic people to apply.

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## **Advent perspective**

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Advent resources are now available on the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Web site. The site has reflections for each Sunday in Advent focusing on lectionary readings from the Revised Common Lectionary and on a particular CPT project site. Pastors and worship leaders may find the pieces useful in incorporating themes of active peacemaking into their liturgies for the season. The reflections draw on the experiences of CPTers in Colombia; Chiapas, Mexico; Palestine; and the Democratic Republic of Congo. To view these resources, go to [www.cpt.org/publications/worship/advent2007.htm](http://www.cpt.org/publications/worship/advent2007.htm).

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Once again Goshen College is offering online devotional resources during Advent. Beginning Nov. 26 and culminating Dec. 28, students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the Sunday's upcoming lectionary Scripture passages. The reflections are available online at [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions) or by daily e-mail. Organizers said the devotions are contemporary reflections on the Scriptures, offering assurances of faith during a time of uncertainty and fear across the nation and the world. Many writers will reflect on the Advent theme: "The world is about to turn!"

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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Nov. 29 for Dec. 3 issue

Dec. 13 for Dec. 17 issue

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[www.ohio.mennonite.net](http://www.ohio.mennonite.net)