

Perspective



OHIO CONFERENCE
OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

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Ohio Conference's finances worsen in October

Ohio Conference's financial deficit increased during October. Receipts for the month were only \$27,317, the lowest they have been during 2005-2006. Expenses for the month were \$54,380, creating a deficit for the month of (\$27,063). That shortfall, combined with the previous deficit, brought the year-to-date deficit to (\$53,030). The 2005-2006 fiscal year ends March 31.

Although October receipts were extremely low, giving in November seems to be increasing. Stan Helmuth, financial coordinator, reports that receipts for the first nine days of November were \$23,797.

Please keep the Esh family in your prayers

Sharon Esh of Valley View Mennonite Church died on Sunday, Nov. 13. She is survived by her husband, Robb, pastor at Valley View, and a son and five daughters, as well as numerous foster children. Over 25 years, Robb and Sharon were foster parents for 18 children, many of them living with the Esh family for several years. At Valley View she was very involved with the youth and music ministries of the church. Robb expresses his gratitude to so many of you who remembered them through their journey of illness and who are now reaching out in comfort. Memorials may be made to Valley View Mennonite Church, Box 216, Spartansburg PA 16434, or Corry Regional Hospice, 612 W. Smith St., Corry PA 16407.

Central Christian seeks lead administrator

Central Christian School, located in Kidron, Ohio, is seeking a new lead administrator. Central Christian is committed to achieving each of its five distinctive goals: teaching biblical values, practicing Christian discipleship, creating a Christ-centered community, promoting academic excellence and encouraging a faith commitment to Christ and the Church. Candidates should possess the following qualities:

- Faithfully committed to the Anabaptist/Mennonite understanding of Christianity.
- Called and gifted to be a visionary and progressive spiritual leader of a community of faculty, staff and students.
- Believes in the mission of Central Christian School and works with the supportive constituency of the churches, business com-

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.

Assembly perspective

Bishop Leslie Francisco, lead pastor of Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va., will be the keynote speaker at Ohio Conference's Annual Conference Assembly (ACA). Francisco is scheduled to speak during the Thursday evening and Friday morning worship services at ACA, which will be held March 9-11 at Berlin Mennonite Church.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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munity, families of students and local communities to achieve that mission.

- A master's degree in an education-related field.

Central Christian School employs 42 full-time faculty and supporting staff persons with recent enrollment of 314 in grades Pre-K through 12. Each faculty and staff member contributes ideas and perspectives that assist the Board of Trustees in developing the school's educational and spiritual strengths.

Central Christian School invites qualified applicants who are excited about serving in this broad range of opportunities as a leader. Responsibility should begin by July 2006.

Additional information can be found at Central's Web site: <http://www.centralchristian.k12.oh.us/>. Nominations and/or letters of application with resume may be submitted by e-mail to leadership-search@central-christian-school.com or by mail to Shirley Hochstetler, Box 136, Kidron OH 44636. CCS is an Equal Opportunity employer.

Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale to begin practice

Male singers: start warming up! The annual Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale will soon be preparing for its winter concert. If you have not previously sung with the nearly 100 sons, fathers and grandfathers in the chorale, we would love to have you add your voice! We will rehearse at Kidron Mennonite Church for five practices: four Wednesdays (Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 1) and one Sunday (Jan. 29). Practices will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The concert is Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. Hope to see you on Jan. 11, and bring a friend! If you have any questions, call (330) 857-3461.

Farming conference to be held at Laurelville

Mount Pleasant, PA — "Farming with Values that Last 2006: Models for the Journey" will be held Feb. 24-26 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (LMCC) in western Pennsylvania.

Continuing to explore the Biblical roots of authentic and sustainable agriculture, the weekend features worship, singing, workshops practical and inspirational, local food and lots of relationship building for farmers and their supporters.

Speaking Friday evening on his personal story and Saturday morning on farming as creation care will be David Kline, a dairy farmer, frequent speaker at sustainable farming events and author of two books: *Great Possessions: An Amish Farmer's Journal* and *Scratching the Woodchuck: Nature on an Amish Farm*. Kline, and Elsie, his wife, and their family milk 35 Jerseys on a 120-acre organic farm in Holmes County, Ohio.

The event opens with supper Friday evening and closes with lunch Sunday. LMCC is a 250-acre camp and retreat center at the foot of the Laurel Mountains, located about 50 miles east of Pittsburgh. For a brochure with more information, see <http://www.laurelville.org/pdfs/06%20SF%20web.pdf>.

Advent perspective

As churches prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, Goshen College again offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent. Beginning Nov. 21 and culminating on Dec. 23, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary scripture passages and the theme "God's Unstoppable Purpose," available online or by daily e-mail. To access the devotions or sign-up to receive them in your inbox, go to www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Messiah perspective

Bluffton University's oldest tradition — the performance of Handel's *Messiah* — continues, with this year's concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, in Founder's Hall. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be taken at the door.

Conducting the choir and orchestra for the fifth year is Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music and director of choral activities at Bluffton.

The Bluffton concert this year will include most of Part I (Advent/Christmas), four movements from Part II (Passion/Easter) and most of Part III (affirmation of faith).

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 1	for Dec. 5 issue
Dec. 15	for Dec. 19 issue

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