



**Central  
District  
Conference**

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# *focus*

**JUNE 2011**

**KNOWING  
CHRIST'S LOVE  
- ANSWERING  
GOD'S CALL**

## **Salem celebrates 125 years as a congregation**

Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron, celebrated its 125th anniversary on June 18-19. The event's theme "God at Work" included:

- Historical display - main display was located in the Kidron Community Historical Center
- Visits from former pastors
- Talent show
- Historical scavenger hunt
- Photo of the congregation taken



- Perry Bush, CDC historian and member of the Bluffton University faculty, spoke during the Sunday school hour.
- Larry Wilson was the guest preacher during the morning worship service. His sermon title was "Finding Our Place in God's Story." A catered lunch concluded the celebration.

## **Sister Care Seminar Aug. 26-27 in Illinois**

Mennonite Church of Normal will host a Sister Care Seminar Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26-27. The event is provided by Mennonite Women USA and hosted by Central District Conference and Illinois Conference Mennonite Women.

The seminar theme is "Equipping Women for Caring Ministry." Presenters are Carolyn Heggen, psychotherapist specializing in trauma recover, and Rhoda Keener, co-executive director of Mennonite Women USA. The registration fee to attend is \$40 due by Aug. 1 (\$45 after Aug. 1).

Friday's seminar is from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday's seminar is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All activities take place at Mennonite Church of Normal, 805 S. Cottage Ave., Normal. For more information contact Shannon Unzicker at unzickers@gmail.com, or Marge Weaver at lm-weaver@mchsi.com.

## **CDC congregational summer themes:**

- **Hively Avenue:** Parables and Saying of Jesus. The theme connects with the Gather 'Round curriculum.
- **Silverwood:** The Apostles' Creed.
- **Paoli:** Healthy Sexuality and the People of God. The series provides an introduction to basic themes related to sexuality.
- **Assembly:** The Shepherd Will Supply Our Need. The 23rd Psalm guides the congregation's worship from June 19 to Aug. 28.

## **Special summer worship, fun and work of the church**

- **Boynton:** A July 4 breakfast of pancakes and sausage raises funds from donations to support the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale.
- **Faith:** The musical "Godspell" was performed by members on June 4 and 5 at the Goshen Theatre. A freewill offering supported the work of the Goshen Farmers' Market's "Share the Bounty" program.
- **Carlock:** The congregation hosted a joint worship service on June 12 with North Danvers, Carlock Christian and Danvers Presbyterian congregations.
- **North Danvers:** The congregation hosted its fifth annual summer American Red Cross blood drive on June 24.
- **Florence Church of the Brethren-Mennonite and Silverwood:** The congregations, with Kern Road Mennonite, South Bend, representing Michiana Friends of Congo, will host a Congo Cloth Market exhibit July 4-9 at the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Pittsburgh. Items made will benefit two sewing workshops in Congo.
- **Grace:** Members of the congregation will attend a Toledo Mudhens, minor league baseball game on June 26.
- **Chicago Community:** An annual canoe/camping weekend was June 18-19 at Lake Emma near Onekama, Mich. Members of the congregation will travel to the Indiana Dunes State Park on July 24 for a worship service with potluck picnic to follow.
- **Eighth Street:** Spiritual discovery groups will form in September. Each group provides an opportunity to see God's activity in each member's life. Each group consists of four persons plus a trained spiritual director.

## **CDC summer pastoral activities**

- **James Rissler**, Atlanta Fellowship, attended a second preaching symposium led by Rev. Jonathan Larson at Berea Mennonite. The symposium focused on the differences between orality and literacy and on how an awareness of these differences can inform preaching.
- **Robert Martz**, Topeka, is on a sabbatical.
- **Joel Miller**, Cincinnati, is on a June to August sabbatical.
- Assembly bid farewell to **Mary Lehman Yoder**, pastor, on June 12. **Heidi Siemens-Rhodes** was ordained on May 29 at Assembly
- **Louise Wideman**, associate pastor, First, Bluffton, returned from a sabbatical in June.