



**Central
District
Conference**

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

focus

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

APRIL 2010

CDC in worship and celebration

North Danvers, Danvers, Ill.

The church history book "A Goodly Heritage II: Our Journey Continues," has been published and is available from the church office for \$25. During April Kris Decker led a Sunday morning focus group discussion of the novel "The Shack."

Emmaus Road, Berne, Ind.

Anita Rediger was installed as pastor of the congregation on April 25. Lois Kauffmann, CDC conference minister, preached the sermon for the service.

Milwaukee Mennonite, Milwaukee, Wisc.

The church was host to the Wisconsin and Chicago-area Mennonite churches (Milwaukee, Madison, Maple Avenue (Waukesha), Evanston and Chicago Community) in March. The event included fellowship, prayer, singing and eating together and discussion on CDC polity.

Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Atlanta, Ga.

The congregation worshipped on April 25 with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. During a brunch following the 8 a.m. service members discussed their worship experience.

Shalom, Harrisonburg, Va.

A group from the congregation has formed who will commit to pray for "prayers of the people" shared during the Sunday worship and prayer requests that come to the congregation during the week. The requests are e-mailed to members of the group each Monday.

Columbus Mennonite, Columbus, Ohio

The Sowing Circle is enlisting new members. The Circle maintains the church gardens and meets once a month as a small group. A new small group, Cutting Edge, formed this month. It meets Thursday evenings for 90 minutes. The group's first focus is study of the book "Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers," by Shane Claiborne and Jonathan-Wilson Hartgrove.

Southside Fellowship, Goshen, Ind.

Starting in May, the adult education hour's focus is "Resident but alien: How the early church grew." Alan Kreider leads the series. The first week's topic explores how the early Christians built relationships, handled money and buried the dead.

Chicago Community, Chicago, Ill.

The congregation celebrated "CCMC Service Day" on April 22. Included were Earth Day activities at the Erie Neighborhood House after school program. A May 2 fundraiser assists high school youth's Habitat for Humanity summer trip to Morehead, Ky.

First, Sugarcreek, Ohio

The church council sponsored two lunch discussion groups this winter. Each was based on DVDs produced by Third Way Media, which were donated to the church library. The issues discussed involved suicide and mental health.

Eighth Street, Goshen, Ind.

Senior youth held a supper for “Body and Soul” during a mid-week meeting in April.

First, Bluffton, Ohio

On exhibit in the church May 2 is “Iraqi Refugee Photo Exhibit.” That afternoon is a ping pong for peace event. The photo exhibit by Andrew Courtney provides insight into the Iraqi refugee situation in Syria and Jordan. The ping pong tournament accepts donations for the Iraqi Student Project to support an Iraqi student at Bluffton University.

Silverwood, Goshen, Ind.

Ron Guengerich leads a special Christian education class May 2. Its focus is the “Resolution on following Christ and growing together as communities even in conflict.” The resolution was adopted by the delegate assembly of MC USA in July 2009.

Boynton Mennonite, Hopedale, Ill.

A chicken dinner Mennonite Youth Fellowship fundraiser in May assists the youth toward a summer youth project.

Salem, Kidron, Ohio

Members are saving “Our Family” brand labels to assist its Senior Youth Fellowship to raise funds for future mission trips. Justin Weaver, director of Camp Friedenswald, preached in April.

Faith, Goshen, Ind.

Mentors and youth will hold their first-ever group activities in May. They will visit the Merry Lea Center. Dan Shenk is the mentor program coordinator.

Mennonite Church of Normal, Normal, Ill.

The church web site has recently expanded. It now includes the weekly bulletin and sermons, pastoral blogs, a church directory and a place to submit prayer requests.

Paoli Fellowship, Paoli, Ind.

The congregation’s summer penny power project raises money to support food security projects around the world. These projects include Foods Resource Bank and Mennonite Central Committee.

Oak Grove, Smithville, Ohio

On April 18 Kathy and Virgil Troyer, Latin America and the Caribbean regional disaster management coordinators from Orrville, presented a program “Building on Hope: MCC’s response to the earthquake in Haiti.”

Cincinnati Fellowship, Cincinnati, Ohio

During the Season of Easter each Sunday a bird, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, will be added the table in the sanctuary. Each bird comes from Ten Thousand Villages and represents one of the ways that resurrection hope is active around the world through the work of various artisan groups.