



**Central  
District  
Conference**

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# *focus*

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

**APRIL 2011**

## ent observed in many ways across CDC

### **Madison**

After one of their teachers visited Ethiopia in the fall, the third to fifth grade Christian education class spent time learning about that country. Students also talked about the lives of children there. The class raised \$415 for Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) program "Remember the Poorest Community," which works to help street children.

### **First, Sugarcreek**

The May 7 mother/daughter dinner will carry the theme "A Day At The Peaceful Woods." Persons attending are encouraged to dress comfortably and casually.

### **Eighth Street**

Child and Parent Services (CAPS) are providing parenting classes at the church with sessions in English and Spanish. Members of the congregation prepare and serve suppers for the eight Monday evening classes from April 11 to June 6.

### **Atlanta**

The congregation's reading group will be discussing Walter Ong's book titled "Orality and Literacy." The next book on the reading group's list is Graham Moore's "The Sherlockian."

### **Florence**

For its Lenten focus, different colors were emphasized in Sunday worship. These included black for mortality, blue for temptation, brown for questions, red for thirst, yellow for sight, purple for suffering, green for hope and white for new life.

### **Milwaukee**

Ryan Shiffer, member of a Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) located in Hebron in the West Bank, was guest speaker at the church this winter.

### **Cincinnati**

As a Maundy Thursday observance, members of the congregation shared in a Tenebrae service, gradually entering in the darkness of Jesus' final hours through the reading of scripture and the extinguishing of candles. There was also an optional opportunity for foot washing.

## Shalom, Harrisonburg

The congregation's Tenebrae service began with a simple meal in silence, with communion and foot washing. During the meal, participants listened to music and words of Wendell Berry to remember humankind's complicity with the destruction of the earth. Following the meal, members read the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion, ending in darkness and silence.

## Grace

Doug Luginbill of Bluffton and a former member of the congregation, preached during Holy Week services. His theme was "Prayers of Holy Week: Praising, Petitioning, Pondering."

## Emmaus Road

Justin Weaver, executive director of Camp Friedenswald, will preach during the May 1 worship service.

## Boynton

Through Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) the congregation will send a group of volunteers to New Orleans from May 1-7. Work includes building, painting and general clean up.

## Lima

A beginners' quilting class started on April 20 at the church.

## Faith

Members of the MYF held a garage sale, using donations from church members. The sale helped the youth group raise funds to attend the summer MC USA convention in Pittsburgh.

## Salem

Dr. Lee Solomon, vice president of Institutional Advancement and associate professor of practical theology at Ashland Theological Seminary, was guest speaker during the April 10 worship service. His sermon title was "Wait Control," based upon John 11.

## Silverwood

An ordination service for Aimee Weishaupt is planned May 8. Central District Conference's Ministerial Committee conducted her ordination interview and unanimously affirmed her to be ordained.

## Oak Grove

The singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," was part of the Easter morning worship service. Members of the congregation were invited to bring their musical scores of the work to the service.

## Hively Avenue

Several Elkhart area Mennonite Church congregations gathered at Hively Avenue for a peace parade with Elkhart Advocates for Peace and Justice. The parade was Palm Sunday. The parade's purpose was to call for an end to violence and oppression and an end to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Paoli

Lois Kaufmann, Central District Conference conference minister, preached during the April 10 worship service. She also met with the Transitional Listening Team and the Leadership Discernment Group following the Sunday school hour.