



Central  
District  
Conference

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# *focus*

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

AUGUST 2011

## **Poetry Sunday, baptism reflections, yard sales, mission trips – all part of CDC's summer**

### **Lima**

A first-ever church camp out took place Aug. 5-7 at Ottawa Metro Park, Lima. Activities included sand volleyball, Frisbee golf and swimming. The congregation's Women's Group holds its silent auction this month. The auction goal of \$500 has proceeds going toward mission projects including assisting the church day care with staff support, children's gifts, compassion gifts and similar items.

### **Madison**

Earl Zimmerman ended his interim pastor position on July 31. Ron Adams begins his pastorate with the congregation this month with an Aug. 28 installation service. This summer's worship theme "Body Politic," included discussions exploring John Howard Yoder's writings.

### **Boynton**

Members of the youth fellowship held a shaving cream Wiffle ball party on Aug. 10.

### **Salem**

Youth led the July 24 worship service where they shared about their trip to Chicago. The congregation celebrated the past year with Pastors Bob and Enid Schloneger with a light supper, games and fellowship at the Kidron Community Park on Aug. 21.

### **Shalom, Harrisonburg**

God and Money was the Aug. 14 Poetry Sunday worship theme. Members shared poems and song lyrics during the service. Members were encouraged to find poetry involving poverty, stewardship and similar subjects.

### **Topeka**

July's Mennonite Women's service project was school kits. The congregation's music and fine arts committee invites members to think about music they would like to see added to the blue folders used during worship.

## **Emmaus Road**

An Aug. 7 worship discussion reflected on the congregation's identity as a fellowship and its thoughts on the practice of baptism as Anabaptist believers. Previously baptized members share about their experiences. In preparation to the discuss, members read the article on baptism in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

## **Silverwood**

Using reconciliation as his theme, Ryan Gingrich preached during the Aug. 14 worship service. He attended Mennonite Church USA's summer convention and participated in the Explore program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He has worked as an intern at Silverwood.

## **First, Sugarcreek**

The congregation gathers material this month for Mennonite Central Committee school kits. Twelve kits were completed in July and over 27 more will be completed this summer. The congregation holds an end-of-summer church hog roast on Aug. 28 at Stauffer's Echo Valley Farms.

## **Grace**

Meg Suter and Laura Fish shared about their experiences in Tanzania (Meg) and the Dominican Republic (Laura) in an Aug. 14 evening program. A major sanctuary renovation project is underway this summer. First graders will receive Bibles during the Aug. 28 worship service.

## **First, Bluffton**

Jason Frey, a seminary student at Princeton Theological Seminary, is a summer pastoral intern. During the summer of 2009 he was selected for the Ministry Inquiry Program, a joint program of Bluffton University, Central District Conference and Mennonite Church USA. In that program he served at Silverwood. He is a Bluffton University graduate.

## **Faith and Assembly**

Ending the summer with a splash, Faith and Assembly congregations held a back-to-school pool party Aug. 13 at Shanklin Pool, Goshen.

## **Paoli**

Paoli's youth held a yard sale with proceeds going to Penny Power project of Mennonite Central Committee. Mary Lehman Yoder was guest preacher at the church on July 24.

## **Russell Welty's participation in CDC extended over half a century**

Russell Welty, 87, life-long Central District Conference member, died July 2. He was preceded in death by Ellen, his wife of nearly 67 years. Welty pastored churches in Fortuna, Mo., Comins, Mich., and Durham, N.C. He was director of Camp Friedenswald for two years. In retirement he had served as a nursing home chaplain in Georgia. Russell and Ellen were founding members of Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship and were active in CDC over the first 50 years of its existence.