

THE

# FELLOWSHIP INFORMER

Stephens City Mennonite Church  
February 2008

## Worship Schedule

The single most important thing the church can do is worship.

Worshipful people find joy in the simple things and are inspired enough to embrace the impossible things.

Any expression of favor toward God is an act of worship.

Dear God,  
For all the times You have rescued me,  
For all the times You had faith in me,  
For all the times You forgave me,  
For all the times You sustained me,  
I am so thankful.

- February**    **3** - Worship and our response as God's People  
                  **10** - Lent begins - Into the wilderness  
                  **17** - Into new birth  
                  **24** - Into the open
- March**        **2** - Into the sight  
                  **9** - Into new life  
                  **16** - Into the depths - Palm Sunday  
                  **21** - Agape Meal (Communion & Footwashing)  
                  **23** - EASTER - Sunrise Service - Baptism  
                  **30** - Ekklesia

On April 13 we plan to have **Marriage Covenant Sunday**. This year we will be celebrating the following marriage covenants:

Christopher & Maria Clymer Kurtz - 5 years  
Jim and Joan Kulp - 25 years  
Irvin & Ann Heishman - 50 years

## HARP (Heart Attack Risk Program) from the Parish Nurse

HARP will be coming to the Stephens City Mennonite Church on Sunday, March 2 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. There is a \$15 charge per person. Some of the tests include cholesterol and blood sugar and with these a 12 hour fast is required. The individual will be given the results within minutes.

After testing, a light breakfast will be served to participants.

Since February is Heart Health Awareness Month, this program may be something to consider being involved with.

A sign-up sheet will be coming in the near future for you to indicate your participation.

## Service Opportunity

Volunteers needed for MDS Trip to Florida  
February 24 - March 1 to Lake Okeechobee working with a migrant organization that provides house rehabilitation to homes damaged by last year's hurricanes. Contact Joe Yoder at 269-8841 if you can go along - men and women welcome!

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5: Glenn Horst  
7: Gladys Kulp  
7: Matthew See  
9: Elizabeth Carr  
12: Brian Carr  
14: Austin Miller  
19: Sheri Reed  
19: *Sonny and Groveen Neff*  
22: Sam Weaver  
24: Velma Horst  
28: Craig Reed

## Pastoral Sabbatical

The Congregational Life Commission has recommended that a three month sabbatical leave be granted to Pastor Jim Musser during the months of April, May and June, 2008. Pastor Aldine has not ask for a sabbatical at this time and will continue in her role as co-pastor.

A sabbatical is a time away from pastoral responsibilities for Bible study, prayer, rest and renewal. Both Virginia Mennonite Conference and The Mennonite Church USA recommend that churches provide a sabbatical for their pastor every 5 - 7 years.

Pastors Jim's goal during his sabbatical include Bible reading along with the Believers Church Bible Commentary Series and more than a dozen books. He hopes to take one course at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, do some volunteer work and spend time with his hobbies. The highlight of his sabbatical will be a missions trip with Aldine to the Holy Lands, May 2-19 sponsored by the Partner in Mission Program of Virginia Mennonite Missions and Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

As a congregation, we have a tradition of supporting those in our church who choose to participate in a missions trip. A sabbatical fund has been established for this purpose. You are invited to contribute to the fund. Donations may be given to our church treasurer, Denny Myers, designated for "Pastoral Sabbatical Fund".

## **Nazareth Village Festival**

You are invited to the Nazareth Village Festival, a Middle East dinner program at Park View Mennonite Church fellowship hall, Friday, February 8, at 6 p.m. Experience a step into the First Century. Enjoy Middle Eastern cuisine. Celebrate this unique ministry in Jesus' hometown. Shirley Roth, Executive Director for Nazareth Village, will be present for this event. Advance reservations required. Please RSVP to Laura at (540) 434-9727 by February 1. There is no charge for the meal. Opportunity will be given to support Shirley in her vital ministry at Nazareth Village in partnership with Virginia Mennonite Missions and Mennonite Mission Network. \* Note this event has been rescheduled from a previous announced date of February 9 to Friday, February 8.

---

## **Adult Winter Bible School**

You are invited to the Adult Winter Bible School with pastor and Bible teacher Duane Yoder, February 10 - March 9 at 6:30 pm in the Eastern Mennonite School auditorium. This will be a topical presentation on "The Biblical Basis for Anabaptist Beliefs" including a weekly biography of a famous Mennonite leader.

The FELLOWSHIP INFORMER is a monthly publication of Stephens City Mennonite Church. Submissions can be made to Doug ZehrVogt via church mailbox or at [dougzv@verizon.net](mailto:dougzv@verizon.net) by the last Sunday of each month.

To view past issues, please visit [www.stephenscitymennonite.com](http://www.stephenscitymennonite.com)

## VEFC needs your support!

Here are three ways to help:

1. A Book Sale to benefit Volunteer Emergency Families for Children will be held at Calvary Church of the Brethren just south of Winchester on rte. 522. You may donate books for the sale to Pat Spory. The sale will be held on Friday, March 7th from 9--8 and on Saturday March 8th from 9--2. Please come to support VEFC and get some great book bargains!

2. To learn of other ways to support VEFC, you may go to our campaign website at [giveyourhearttoachild.org](http://giveyourhearttoachild.org) or to our primary website at [www.vefc.org](http://www.vefc.org).

3. VEFC is also seeking additional annual \$250,000 in funding from the state to make up for the loss of a federal grant. (We already receive \$100,000.) If the agency does not get additional funding soon, its service of providing emergency shelter to children in crisis will no longer continue. To find your local legislators to voice support for VEFC's budget amendment, please go to <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>. A sample of what you might say:

Dear Senator/Delegate \_\_\_\_\_,

As one of your constituents I am requesting that you support the Budget Amendment for Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC). Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel will be serving as the Chief Patron of this budget amendment.

VEFC recruits and trains volunteers who provide emergency shelter to children in crisis throughout our community. Your support would mean that children will continue to be able to find safety within a caring family. Your support of this amendment would ensure VEFC's crucial services remain a viable option for children in need, which saves the Commonwealth hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Again, please show your support for all the VEFC volunteers in your area, as well as the children they serve, by voting yes to the Budget Amendment for VEFC.

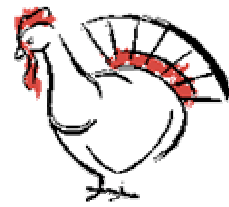
Your name

your phone number

Thanks for any help that you can give so that we can continue to serve children in need.  
Pat Spory

32nd annual  
canning project

# MCC



# Turkey Canning

.....helping Mennonite Central Committee feed the hungry.

**February 27 — March 3, 2006**  
**Mennonite Relief Center**  
**Hinton, VA**

## HELP THE TURKEY CANNING FOR RELIEF PROJECT

The Mennonite Relief Center board is seeking your continued support in making the annual canning project a success .

## FUNDS NEEDED

Funds are needed to purchase turkey for processing and for the ongoing operation of the Relief Center.

## DONATE A COW PLAN

If you would like to donate a cow you can do so by sending it to the livestock sales of your choice, and have them send the check to: **Mennonite Relief Center, PO Box 519, Dayton, VA 22821.**

## HOURS OF OPERATION

5:00 A.M — 11:00 P.M.

**Thanks for your participation in this effort to feed the less fortunate in the world.**

## Mail Contributions to:

Mennonite Relief Center  
PO Box 519  
Dayton, VA 22821

**For more information call**  
Leon Rhodes: 540-867-9751  
Gerald Knicely: 540-879-2077

## **Suggested Schedule**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Feb. 27</b> | Showalter-Wenger Mennonites   |
| <b>Feb. 28</b> | Virginia Conference and Horning Mennonites                          |
| <b>March 1</b> | Wenger Mennonites   |
| <b>March 2</b> | Southeastern Conference, Calvary and Timberville Mennonite Churches |
| <b>March 3</b> | Community Day   |

***Anyone is welcome to help on any day!***