

THE

FELLOWSHIP INFORMER

Stephens City Mennonite Church
January 2009

Worship Schedule

January 4 – Epiphany

The welcoming face of God. All people will reflect God's face as they come to the light and become radiant. This brings our Advent- Epiphany series to an end. Become bearers of God's love for all people. Reflect God's face in all your ways.

January 11 – Ekklesia Sunday

This is a time for you to share how God is at work in your life. You are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you. I Cor. 3:16

January 18 – Communion

What is communion all about? The bread and grape juice remind us about how Jesus died for us. When he broke the bread at the last meal that symbolized how his body would be broken when he died on the cross. And he poured the wine that symbolized how his blood would be poured out as he died. Every person who ever lived, who believed in Jesus and had Communion, is part of this great big network we call the Body of Christ.

Come prepared to partake:

"Here is the bread that is broken for you....."

"Here is the cup that I offer to you."

"This is the task I am giving to you. Be full of love – Love each other as I have loved you."

Almighty God, fill our hearts with love for You and our neighbors,

Fill our minds with gratitude for new life,

Fill our bodies with the joy of Jesus' resurrection,

So that we may praise You with singing and share with others the good news of Your love. Amen

January 24 & 25 – Missions Festival

Come and learn about MCC's work in Bolivia, South America. We will have a meal and program Saturday at 5:30pm, and we will continue our focus Sunday morning during the worship service.

During the month of February we will take a closer look at how we walk our faith pilgrimage. What spiritual practices are providing the growth we need? Does our daily rhythm of life include being still with God? How can we live our lives centered and focused – depending on God to provide? What can we discover about ourselves as we walk this journey? How are we caring for our souls?

This will lead into the Lent theme, *Our Lives Are In Your Hands*, beginning **March 1**. Changes are occurring around the globe. As followers of Jesus we know that the final word in hope lies not with world leaders but with the faithful who put their trust in God.

Mission Weekend

This year's Mission Weekend will focus on the country of Bolivia. Darcy's sister, Dovanna Zehr, will be sharing with us about the 2 years she recently spent there with MCC. Dovanna will share about her experiences working at Talita Cumí Childrens Home and about MCC's work throughout the country of Bolivia. Bolivian recipes to make for the meal will be in your church mailbox soon. If you want advance information on MCC Bolivia or Talita Cumí Childrens Home you can visit the websites below.

<http://mcc.org/bolivia> <http://www.talitacumi.org>

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1: Todd Neff
- 4: Elverta Horst
- 4: *Lloyd and Elverta Horst*
- 4: *Christopher and Maria Clymer Kurtz, 2003*
- 6: Ed Hoy
- 11: Shelby Hertzler
- 12: Beth Spory
- 15: Debbie Fleming
- 17: Carrie Herstam
- 19: Gloria Kleman
- 26: Elwood Buracker
- 31: Aldine Musser

Happy New Year!

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Walk The Streets With Me. Look Out Through My Eyes, Speak Through My Lips, Move In My Arms, Walk With My Legs And Feet. Make Ever Thinner The Garment Of My Mind And Body That Hides Your Life And Power Until I Become A Thin Place Where You Are Visible And Where Your Love And Peace May No Longer Be Concealed. Amen.

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 by the last Sunday of each month.

To view past issues, please visit www.stephenscitymennonite.com