

THE

FELLOWSHIP INFORMER

Stephens City Mennonite Church
June 2009

Worship Schedule

- June 7 -** Wisdom and foolishness
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:10
Seth Myers graduation celebration
This worship service will be held in the pavilion. The youth group will have a fund-raising luncheon following the service.
- June 14 -** Ekklesia Sunday
- June 21 -** Sam Weaver, former overseer will preach, Father's Day, Vacation Bible School begins in the evening
- June 28 -** Begin series of looking at letters written to the Early Church
Personal Faithfulness - passing faith on through generations
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Child dedication service for Gracie Miller
- July 5 -** Ron Snodgrass will preach
- July 12 -** Glenn Horst will preach
- July 15 -** Wednesday meal and mission report from Richard and Margaret Keeler
- July 19 -** Communion
I Peter 2:9-17
God's own people
- July 26 -** Letter to the Early Church
Commissioning prayers for the City of Hope Team



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 21 to 25
Contact Malinda Kleman to Help!

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE HOMELESS

MOBILIZING FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GOOD is a group working to coordinate with local churches to provide housing for the homeless in our local area during the coldest months of the winter. Basically, the idea is to have local congregations provide overnight lodging and meals to the homeless. There are a number of different ways that churches can be involved from hosting people who are homeless in their church building to supplying volunteers, food and supplies to other churches who are hosting. There are already several localities around the state that are doing this. The plan is to learn from them. Included in this issue of the Informer is the latest information about the current status of this initiative. This should help give you an idea of what this project might look like and involve. The Service and Witness Commission feels that this could be a great opportunity for us to reach out into our community and serve others. We also feel that it is important that we discuss this as a congregation to see where we feel that we are able to help. In order to have this conversation, we will have a fellowship meal on Sunday, June 28 after the worship service followed by a discussion of this topic. Please plan on joining us!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3: Linda See
- 4: Ken Blauch
- 5: Renee Lazer
- 9: Billy Hoffman
- 10: *Jim and Aldine Musser, 1979*
- 11: *John and Phoebe Hershey, 1960*
- 16: Sonny Neff
- 17: David Gonzol
- 19: Ed and Kay Hoy
- 22: *Tim and Anna Grant, 2002*
- 23: Andrew Grant
- 24: *Mike and Pat Spory, 1978*
- 25: Craig Kleman
- 28: Howard Fleming
- 29: Seth Myers
- 30: Kathy Herstam

HELPING THE HOMELESS

(MORE INFO)

Below is a letter with the latest information about the initiative to help provide shelter to the homeless in our area.

Greetings,

We have good news! At our May meeting, we were joined by several pastors from the Downtown Clergy, and about twenty others. It was exciting to realize that so many felt the need to help the homeless. Please share the following information with the organization you represent.

The homeless population is increasing and there are not enough facilities to house them. During the '09-'10 winter months, we need churches to volunteer to shelter 15 people for one week from 6:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. It is possible your church might be asked to help for another week later in the season.

- ❖ When at a host church, the guests would receive supper, breakfast, and perhaps a bag lunch. After the evening meal, there is time for fellowship or guests can retire to their cot. There is a definite lights-out time.
- ❖ Each shelter would need a team of adults to stay overnight in the vicinity of the sleeping quarters.
- ❖ Each shelter would need to have a team to prepare the meals, serve, and clean up.
- ❖ Each shelter would need a clean up crew each morning.
- ❖ Churches/other organizations that could not host could help to staff the above mentioned teams.
- ❖ Churches/other organizations that could not host could volunteer to help with busing to shelter sites, financially, with prayer, etc.

The bottom line is - how can your church or organization help the Winchester / Frederick County area to provide for homeless for whom there is no other available shelter? We need to know the way you plan to participate by **September 15, 2009** at the latest, but the sooner we know the better. RSVP to teacheradvocate@aol.com. Additionally, if you need a speaker, contact Pat at 540-869-1384 and/or email her.

We value your input and urge you to come to the next meeting on June 9 @ 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall so use the back entrance near the playground and head downstairs.

Sincerely yours,

Sherry Richards, Office of Housing and Neighborhood Dev.
Pat Konschak, Mission Chair @ Stephens City UMC

Another Opportunity to Serve

Habitat for Humanity of
Winchester/Frederick County Interfaith Build
2009

- * There are presently 22 Faith Groups who are committed to this project.
- * Location for the build is 5259 Crooked Lane, Stephens City
- * The starting date is July 9.
- * Build days will be Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays each week.
- * June 28th @ 4:00 p.m. there is a celebrative, inter-cultural, inter-religious event to "bless the home site". Everyone is welcome to attend.

What is needed from the Faith groups now is:

- * An estimated number of volunteers who would be involved
- * Any dates during the rest of the year on which our group could not volunteer
- * Suggestions for Crew Leaders (a total of 20 or more people are needed from various faith groups)

Vicki Hoffman has agreed to be SCMCs Volunteer Champion. Please contact her or a member of the Service and Witness Commission with any questions you may have.

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

News from the Fund Raising Committee

The Fund Raising Committee met this week and reviewed possible options to raise money for the Church building fund. One of the first activities we are considering is an eBay Auction. For this activity to be successful, we would need help with the following activities.

- 1) People to contribute items to sale for fundraising.
- 2) A volunteer(s) to post items and the overall management of the Ebay account.
- 3) A volunteer(s) to gather and mail the items sold.
- 4) A volunteer(s) to take pictures of the items and send to the person managing the account.

If you are interested in assisting with this fundraising activity, please contact one of the following people no later than June 21st.

Carol Lazer
Denny Myers
Vicki Hoffman

Have you ever wondered what kinds of projects your loose change that goes into the Penny Power jug in the church foyer helps to fund? Read below to find out!



A Mission of Health: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mennonite Central Committee

Over the past 30 years, roads, hospitals and other infrastructure in the DRC has been uprooted repeatedly because of ongoing political and economic instability. Years of war and turbulence have had a catastrophic effect on health care in Congo, but the Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren churches continue to care for the sick, despite aging facilities and few financial resources.

One example is the hospital in Mukedi. Widespread poverty in the area makes it impossible to charge patients enough money to make repairs to the hospital or pay staff a living wage. Nurses receive about \$1 per day.

"If we keep on working, it's because we care for people," says Anne-Marie Ngangula, a nurse at the hospital. "If we didn't have this love for people in our hearts, we wouldn't bother."

A new MCC initiative to partner with these churches in western DRC will help provide medicine, supplies and equipment to hospitals (supporting health for today) and prepare them to serve as training hospitals for graduates of local medical schools (supporting health for tomorrow).

"Because we're a charitable place and we're an arm of the church, we're going to show how medical care should be given," says Dr. Gaspard Mahuma, a regional Mennonite health coordinator who supervises the work of the Mukedi hospital.

Your Penny Power contribution helps MCC continue this mission of health in the DRC. \$50 helps provide medicine and medical supplies for 10 people.

To see a photo gallery of Mukedi hospital, visit www.mcc.org/gallery/09_03

Anne-Marie Ngangula runs the pharmacy at the hospital in Mukedi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

