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From Our Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year! Bonne Année! My hope is that in this new year, congregations of PNMC will grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, and that we will sow the seeds of God's good news in new communities in our region. As it is written in the Letter to the Romans (15:13), "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Conference Communication Council meeting **Feb. 8, 2014**, 9am to 4pm, Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR. Congregations are invited to send one pastor and one delegate. The agenda includes follow up on learnings about immigration in Phoenix, affinity groups, and a time of discernment around the question, "How can we strengthen relationships and find value in our diversity in the midst of theological and ethical differences?" Register by email to office@pnmc.org. (No cost associated with meeting, lunch donations will be accepted.)

Pastors' and Leaders' Retreat, **March 2-3, 2014** at [Menucha Retreat Center](#), Corbett, OR. Congregational leaders and pastors, along with spouses, are invited to this time of rest and reflection prior to the season of Lent. Check-in begins at 3pm on Sunday and the retreat will conclude following supper on Monday. \$80 per person for overnight, \$40 for commuters. Contact [Barb Buxman](#) to reserve your place.

From the PNMC Office

A performance evaluation of our Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts, has been conducted as required. Strong affirmation for Katherine's gifts and abilities was expressed by conference constituents who were solicited for feedback. *The PNMC Board is deeply grateful for Katherine's dedication and service to our member congregations.*

We extend deepest condolences to the family of Denny Gradin. Denny provided exceptional translating services for PNMC the past four years and became a legend at conventions. He not only translated, but became involved in the goings on of the conference. *He wanted to make sure everyone could participate.* There were times he would run down the aisle of a meeting with a headset to be sure someone could understand. He was passionate about his work, the church, and serving the Lord. Denny was respected by all. He passed away on Tuesday, December 31. He is survived by his wife Diane. A memorial service is planned for **Saturday, January 11, 1pm**, at the [Abundant Life Church](#) in Happy Valley.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Albany Mennonite Church

All are invited to participate in a benefit lunch to support the important work of **Sister Care International** led by Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen on **Saturday, January 25, 2014** at Albany Mennonite Church, beginning at 12pm. Participants will enjoy mealtime music by Festival Band and Carolyn will share how God is working in women's lives around the world through Sister Care. Please RSVP to [Nancy Friesen](#) (541-928-1865) by **Wednesday, January 15**. Checks may be written to *Mennonite Women USA, subject line, SCI*.


Eugene Mennonite Church

Women are invited to begin 2014 with time for reflection and prayer. [Pastor Rose Marie Zook Barber](#) will lead a **Women's Silent Retreat** at the Shalom Prayer Center in Mt. Angel, OR, **January 10 - 12, 2014** (flyer attached). \$150 and includes meals and lodging.

International Bethel City Church

Pastor Simon and Lucy Muange extend wishes to PNMC for a happy 2014 and God's blessings among your families. The Muanges would also like to express their gratitude for providing comfort when they lost their son, Michael, last year.

Portland Mennonite Church

 Don Blosser, A Bible scholar and retired Professor for Goshen College, will spend the **February 21-23** weekend in the Northwest talking about the Bible. The purpose is to hear basic ideas about the origin, history and context of the Bible but also begin to see the overarching themes from the text and ask ourselves what it means to live with these themes. In Don Blosser's words, "We want to read the Bible with integrity. We recognize its culture and history, but our goal is to be faithful to its radical vision that keeps tugging us into our shared future." [Registration & schedule details here](#). Space limited to 70; donations accepted. Questions? Call 503-234-0559.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

How Dare We Call Ourselves Anabaptist? Monday, January 27, 2014, Presenter: Maurice Martin

Since most of us are not in danger of dying for our faith, nor have we been re-baptized, how dare we call ourselves Anabaptist? In response to this question posed by Mennonite scholar Walter Klaassen, this clinic will trace the journey of Anabaptism from H.S. Bender to Stuart Murray, noticing the movement from emphasis on being Christian by choice to the emergence of terms such as "radical Reformation," "peace theology" and "community" to discovering and reclaiming the influence of medieval mysticism and monasticism, to Murray's assertion that cultural garb has gotten in the way of appropriating Anabaptist thought. We will also consider how we can invite our congregations to join us on this Anabaptist journey in our post-Christian, post-modern contexts.

For more information on this and other leadership clinics, visit www.ambs.edu.

Bethel College

The Fall 2013 issue of the *Church Relations Update* for Bethel College is now available [at this link](#). This issue begins with an essay "In Praise of Student Chaplains," and concludes with a press release about the 24-hour prayer event held on the Bethel campus.

MennoMedia

MennoMedia, which produces Sunday school materials, recently received a \$25,000 donation and a pledge of an additional \$75,000 to help fund new curriculum development. The gift came from Ed and Carol Nofziger of Archbold, OH, who have been Sunday school teachers and whose children and grandchildren have grown up using denominational materials. The Nofzigers feel it is important that children "learn God's truths, as well as the Anabaptist faith," they said in response to being asked what motivated them to make this donation and pledge. "We trust MennoMedia to produce the materials Sunday school teachers need in their important faith formation ministry." The new curriculum, *Shine: Living in God's Light*, planned in cooperation with Brethren Press, will be released in late 2014. *Shine On: A Story Bible* accompanies the Sunday school curriculum and will be available in English and Spanish. (There are plans to translate it into other languages as well, pending funding.) Although written for a Mennonite audience, the materials also target those outside Anabaptist circles who value the **biblical themes of peace, justice, and community**.

Mennonite Church USA

Anna Groff of Tucson, AZ, has been appointed interim editor for *The Mennonite* and its related web and social media channels. Groff, who has served as associate editor of *The Mennonite* since 2006, will begin her new role Feb. 1, working from Tucson. She succeeds Everett J. Thomas of Goshen, IN, who has served since 2000 and will conclude his tenure January 31, 2014. Groff will function as the organization's CEO, overseeing administration, giving leadership to staff and editorial content, maintaining close working relationships with denominational leaders and continuing to guide the transition of the magazine into the digital age.

Meanwhile, Marty Lehman, staff person for the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, announced her resignation December 4 and will complete her assignment as late as December 2014. She has been serving as associate executive director for churchwide operations since July 2004. In reflecting on her role, she said, "I have been given opportunities I never imagined possible. I've had the opportunity to see and experience Mennonite Church USA from the West coast to the East coast from the North to the South. It has been a blessing beyond words. I am so grateful to God for this rich experience." *Her successor has not yet been appointed.*

Mennonite Disaster Service

MDS is seeking a part-time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant (30-35 hrs). Duties include, but are not limited to, front desk receptionist and administrative support for the MDS Bi-national office in Lititz, PA. Knowledge of Microsoft Office required and knowledge of basic accounting principles a plus. Applicants must be active in an Anabaptist church and committed to the Anabaptist faith and peace position. For the full job description check the [MDS website](#). Resumes may be sent to job@mds.mennonite.net.

West Coast MCC

The 11th Biannual [MCC West Coast Bike Ride](#) will be held **August 3 - 8, 2014** in the Idaho Panhandle.

Space is limited. Registration begins January 20th.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 20 (submissions due by 1/13)

Feb 3 (submissions due by 1/27)

Feb 17 (submissions due by 2/10)

Mar 3 (submissions due by 2/24)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>