Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference June 16, 2014

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From our Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts

On **June 20-21**, delegates from each congregation will be meeting in Kalispell, MT for the **PNMC Annual Meeting**. Andre Gingrich Stoner, MC USA Director of Holistic Witness will be speaking on "God's Shalom Project" and encouraging us in imagining new expressions of church in the Pacific Northwest. A number of workshops will equip us with new skills and ideas for living into the future of the church. Those who are unable to attend are invited to pray with us, that what we hear, learn, and discuss might strengthen the ministries of our congregations and renew the connections between us.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Zion Mennonite Church

ZMC will host the <u>Pittsburgh School of Choral Arts</u> at **7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 17.** The concert, Voices of Eternity, will include Psalms, spirituals, the prayer of Saint Francis, the Diary of Anne Frank, and more. For details, *contact <u>ZMC</u> at 503-651-2274*.

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

The folks in Anchorage will celebrate the congregation's 25th Anniversary **June 28-29**. A service project is planned Saturday morning followed by an evening of reminiscing. A potluck will follow the morning worship service on Sunday. If you have photos or stories to share, contact pastor John David Thacker <u>pastor@popmc.org</u> or call 907-346-2909.

Eugene Mennonite Church

Join the **50th Anniversary celebration** at Eugene Mennonite on **Sunday, July 13.** Worship begins at 10:00 with Gayle Sheller preaching. Lunch will follow and a time of sharing and celebration is planned from 1-3:00 p.m. *Please <u>RSVP</u> by July 6 to reserve lunch.*

Northwest México Liaison Committee

After years of waiting, El Regufio Mennonite Church finally has their building! Curt Dorsing, from Warden Mennonite, had the opportunity to worship with the congregation a few years ago. Curt reports that at that time about twenty folks huddled under a palm leaf lean-to in the cold, reading their Bibles by the light of two weak bulbs or if lucky, a flashlight. He reflects that it was hard to get neighbors excited about attending. *However, things have changed!* The congregation is thrilled to have a new building, complete with lights, fans, tiled floor, windows and doors. The structure is wheelchair accessible and two restrooms with running water are located outside. *God is good!* "It is so easy for us in the Northwest to take our church buildings for granted." said Dorsing. "We have heat, air conditioning, projectors and sound systems. We have classrooms and indoor toilets. It is easy to forget that 12 hours south of Phoenix, some of our sister conference churches don't have the same luxuries. That leaves us with a great oppor-



tunity and question, '*Can we help? Will we help?*'" asked Dorsing. For the physically able, one needs to get dirty. For those who cannot go, donations are what make construction possible. To learn more, attend the "What God is Doing in México" workshop in Kalispell. *Committee members include:* Samuel Moran, Rick Troyer, Miguel Castillo, Simon Rendon, Katherine Jameson Pitts, and Curt Dorsing.

Western Mennonite School

WMS announces new hires for the next school year. Zig Derochowki, who has served at Western for the last twelve years will be the next principal. Chad Rush ('89) has been hired as Dean of Students. Chad's father, Lin, served as the WMS Board Chair from 1996 through 2003. Emily Grimes, Goshen College graduate, has been hired as Music Director. Sean Chamber ('10) will teach middle school math. Melissa Crowsten will work with accounts payable. Kory Derochowski ('08) has been hired as custodian and Rick Troyer ('73) working part-time facilities. For information on summer activities and news, visit <u>www.WesternMennoniteSchool.com</u>.

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MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Goshen College



James Brenneman, a 1977 GC graduate and Goshen's 16th college president, was recently reappointed for a third four-year term. Brenneman has created a provost/executive vice president position on his leadership team to help run day-to-day operations of the college while Brenneman will focus on external relations. "I am most grateful and delighted that Dr. Lee Snyder has accepted my invitation to this role on an interim basis for the 2014-15 academic year. She brings incredible experience and wisdom from higher education and church leadership roles, which will be invaluable for the work ahead," announced Brenneman. Snyder was the eighth, and first female, president of Bluffton (OH) University, where she served from 1996 until retiring July 31, 2006. Previously, Snyder worked at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, VA, as the vice president and academic dean for 12 years. She joined the EMU faculty in 1974 and taught part time in while serving as an assistant in the dean's office from 1974 to 1982. Snyder returned to EMU to serve as interim provost for the 2008-09 school year.

A native of Harrisburg, OR, Snyder attended EMU for one year and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon. Later she received a master's degree in English literature and linguistics from James Madison University and a doctorate in American and Victorian literature from the University of Oregon. Snyder and her husband, Delbert W. Snyder, taught in Nigeria from 1965 to 1968. She has also held assignments in Asia and Latin America. Her many board and association assignments include: chair of the China Educational Exchange Board, chair and moderator of Executive Board of MC USA and a member of Mennonite Health Services Alliance Board of Directors. Snyder and her husband, who have two adult daughters, divide their time between Salem, OR, and Harrisonburg, VA. They are members of Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, and associate members of Salem Mennonite Church in Oregon.

Mennonite Central Committee

Don't miss West Coast MCC fund-raising opportunities this summer featuring the talented trio of Les, Gwen and Sadie Gustafson-Zook. The trio will perform in the North Willamette Valley **July 19 (6pm)** and again **July 20 (4pm)** in the South Willamette Valley. This year's fund-raising events focus on **MCC Clean Water Projects**. Register <u>online</u> or for details call Barb Buxman (North Valley) at 503-522-5324 or Denise Diller (South Valley) at 541-704-0451.

Mennonite Men

Each year Mennonite Men gives grants to congregations who are purchasing, building or renovating their first meetinghouse. In May, Iglesia Menonita Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) in Brownsville, TX, received \$20,000 from JoinHands, the service component of Mennonite Men. Rey de Gloria's building is located in a busy section of Brownsville on a half-acre piece of land close to the airport. "Our ministry is geared toward working with the poor—mostly undocumented persons," says pastor Guadalupe (Lupe) Aguilar. "We have a free summer daycare program, and we try to host as many kids belonging to undocumented families as possible, because they can't afford daycare." The congregation was started in the fall of 1999. The first service in mid-November was in the garage of a member's home. Services continued there until January 2001, when they began using a home for meetings with the hope of moving to a more spacious location. The congregation purchased their current property in 2009 with assistance from the Schowalter Foundation. Dave Gerber, past moderator of South Central Conference (SCC), the congregation's area conference, says, "Their mission has been to people newly arrived from México, many without documents. They have been very active in reaching out to them and providing material and emotional assistance until they are able to get on their feet financially."

Mennonite World Conference

To read the latest MWC Courier news, click here.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

July 7 (submissions due by 6/30) Aug 4 (submissions due by 7/28) Aug 18 (submissions due by 8/11) Sept 1 (submissions due by 8/25) If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to <u>brenda@pnmc.org</u>. 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: <u>http://pnmc.org</u>e-Bulletin Archives: <u>http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin</u>