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From the PNMC Office

Churches, remember that our Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts, would like to meet with your congregation's leaders. Please contact Barb Buxman right away so that details can be worked out to schedule these gatherings.

Pastors, if you plan to attend the annual [Pastor's Retreat, November 3-5, 2015](#), at the [Menucha Retreat Center](#) in Corbett, OR, please register right away. Follow this [link](#) to the PNMC website to submit your registration online. Resource people for the retreat include Larry Hauder, Rhoda Blough, Marlene and Stan Kropf. All persons with active PNMC credentials, and spouses, are invited.

The 2016 Conference Communications Council meeting has been scheduled: **January 9, 2016**, 9am to 4pm, at Salem Mennonite Church, located at 1045 Candlewood Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97303.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Local MCC Relief Sales

Folks in the Pacific Northwest have two great opportunities to join in community to support Mennonite Central Committee! [The Mennonite Country Auction](#) is **October 3, 2015**, in Ritzville, WA. (Check out the [Country Auction's page](#) on Facebook for the latest details!) The following week, **October 10**, is the [Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief](#) in Albany, OR. Many, many helping hands are needed to make these events happen. If you are available, please consider working in a food booth; serving kids or helping clean-up. There are many ways to support the cause. If you would like to pitch in, contact [Barb Buxman](#) and let her know.

Western Mennonite School

Mark your calendar for the Fall Choir Concert, directed by Ms. Emily Grimes, at Western Mennonite School. Both middle and high school choirs will perform **Wednesday, October 14**, beginning at 7:00pm.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

[The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society](#) invites you to join in an intergenerational, interactive workshop, "Your Story Matters," as we share stories and discover ways to record/preserve them. And, if possible, we'd love to have you come with a member of your family from a generation other than your own; a granddaughter, a son, a grandmother . . . *you get the idea!* In addition to learning things about your family member, this will be an opportunity to learn more about the incredible resource that is the Kropf Heritage Center. We'll meet from 2:30—4:30pm on **Sunday, October 18, 2015**. Please RSVP to pnmennonite@canby.com by October 10, 2015. Refreshments will be served. The Kropf Heritage Center is located at 6030 Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, OR. For questions, call 503-266-6447.



Drift Creek Camp

If you are a quilter, scrapbooker or crafter, don't miss an opportunity to carve out time to work on your project **October 15-18** at the [Fall Quilt and Scrapbook Retreat at DCC](#). *There is still time to register!*

The following weekend, **October 23-24**, folks in the great Northwest, have the opportunity to learn more about edible wild mushrooms as DCC partners with the [Straub Environmental Center](#) of Salem to host the annual [Wild Mushroom Workshop](#). Participants will learn how to properly identify which mushroom species are safe to consume. The forest is thick with all kinds of varieties and there is always more to learn. Experts say it's best to focus in on just one or two each year and master identifying just a few at a time.

Then mark your calendar for the [Annual Members' Meeting and Family Camp](#) at Drift Creek, **November 13-15, 2015**. For details about this and other events, visit www.driftcreek.org.

The next [Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat](#) at DCC will take place **April 8-10, 2016**. *We hope you will join us!*

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Where is the Good News for Rural Folk? **Wednesday, September 30, 2015; 2:00-3:30pm, EDT**

Webinar Presenter: S. Roy Kaufman, AMBS Sessional Faculty

The context for churches and communities in rural America is dire. They continue to decline in numbers, services, and spirit. Rural people continue to be disenfranchised by corporate interests, government policies, and technological innovations. Traditional agrarian cultures are being dismantled by mainstream culture. *Where is the Good News for rural folk?* How does the Gospel of Jesus Christ "take hold" in rural America? [Learn more and register.](#)

Mennonite Central Committee

As Syrians are leaving in search of better living situations in Europe and elsewhere, MCC is appealing for funds to meet basic human needs of those who want to stay near their homes. The war in Syria has forced citizens to live on almost nothing, whether they managed to stay at home or move to safer towns or neighboring countries. Having lost family members, houses, jobs and their savings, they piece together a living with sporadic, low-income work and the resources provided by international aid organizations. Now funding shortages are causing agencies to reduce their support. The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) stopped distribution of food vouchers for 360,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon this month. Without those resources many Syrians face eviction and hunger that forces them to consider emigrating, though many Syrians would prefer to remain in their homeland.

Since the war began in March 2011, MCC has been providing more than \$31 million of humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, the majority of it from the Canadian government and through MCC's equity at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Bruce Guenther, MCC's director of disaster response, said more individual donations are needed to carry on MCC's 27 ongoing projects that provide food, water, rent assistance, cash assistance, education support and trauma care to Syrians and the host communities, which also are stressed by the competition for jobs and housing. "In addition to ongoing needs, we are preparing for winter to assist displaced people from Syria and Iraq," Guenther said. "Donations for fuel, blankets, food assistance and household items are needed."

For some, resettling elsewhere is the only option. MCC Canada's refugee coordinators provide support for churches and other groups that want to sponsor refugees to come to Canada. MCC U.S. is not directly involved with refugee resettlement but does provide grassroots Immigration Law Training for people who work with resettlement agencies. MCC's advocacy offices in Canada and the U.S. encourage citizens to contact their legislators, urging them to provide more humanitarian assistance and to allow more Syrians into their countries. Both countries have agreed to admit 10,000 Syrians each. Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach, director of the MCC U.S. Washington Office, believes the government must address the cause of the problem. "The U.S. and others in the international community must address the root causes of the crisis by ending armed support to various actors in the war and instead put all their energy into finding a negotiated solution that is acceptable to the Syrian people," she said. Until then, MCC continues to work with their partners to address the suffering. *To learn more, click [here](#). To donate, visit [mcc.org](#).*

Mennonite Women USA

Mennonite Women USA (MW USA) resources and materials are now available at the touch of a button, thanks to an [online shop](#) created in response to the needs and desires of MW USA supporters. Visitors to the site can purchase Women's Bible study guides, Sister Care materials, MW USA merchandise and back issues of *Timbrel*.

In Other News



Annika Buxman, daughter-in-law of Bob and Barb Buxman, of Pasadena Mennonite Church, has been working with women artisan co-ops in Bangladesh to provide handmade paper and marbling. This has developed into her [Sustain & Heal](#) line of fair trade papers. The co-ops she is working with are the result of MCC seed efforts in the 1970's and 80's, and are now largely independent enterprises. In October, Annika is organizing an **Artist Training Workshop** for those artisans in Bangladesh. The goal is to provide skill enhancement for the Bangladeshi marble artisans that will allow them to expand their product offerings, and produce promotional materials to market these products better. *To learn more about how to make this training a reality, click [here](#).*

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Oct 5 (submissions due by 9/28)
Oct 19 (submissions due by 10/12)
Nov 2 (submissions due by 10/26)
Nov 16 (submissions due by 11/9)

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>