

Community and Conference Announcements

COMMUNITY:

Christmas Giving Project: There are still tags left on the Giving Tree at the Citizens State Bank in Goessel. Help make Christmas a little brighter for a child in our community. Please wrap your gift(s) and return to the bank by Monday, December 17. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with families in our community!

Consider the Store at Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum as one of your Places to Shop this season. Most items are discounted 10-50% through Dec. 22. You'll find books on Mennonite history, Kansas history, agricultural history, cookbooks, children's books, plush finger puppets, Quail Creek Copper decorative metal items, locally made reproduction vintage aprons, and more. The store is also a source for Glen Ediger's new book, *Leave No Threshing Stone Unturned*. Special store hours through December 22: Noon-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.

Peace Connections has some wonderful new inventory in stock for gift-giving this season, including puzzles, candles, soaps, handmade gifts, inexpensive greeting cards and stocking stuffers. All proceeds go to support Peace Connections initiatives like Circles of Hope & Kids Summer Food. During Dec., the store at 612 N. Main Street will be open Monday-Wednesday, 10 am - 5 pm, Thursday 10 am - 7:30 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm, closed Friday and Sunday.

Goessel Blood Mobile: There are many ways to give at the blood mobile on Monday, Dec. 17. You can donate blood and share the gift of life, you can volunteer to work as receptionist, donor escort, and in the canteen, or you can make a dozen Christmas cookies as an extra appreciation for the donors and workers. The Red Cross staff always appreciate our Christmas drive!! Sign up on the sheets in the lobby for the way you can give.

Krista Detor, with Arbutus Cunningham & Friends: Join us for an afternoon on the prairie at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains on Sunday, December 9 at 4:30 p.m. to enjoy a new show from Krista Detor, blending masterfully written and performed songs with the poetry and acting of a talented troupe. Krista's holiday-themed Winter Songs collection will be featured. Appetizers and desserts will be available for purchase (\$3 each) at intermission. Please call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) or email arboretum@hesston.edu to reserve tickets (\$20 adults/\$10 children).

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum – Isaias McCaffery, Independence Community College, will present "Rural Kansas Women at Work (1850-1900)," Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE:

WDC Ski Retreat--One size that fits all! Looking for something different to give this Christmas? How about giving the gift of physical activity, family bonding, and meeting good folks from the area? The Western District Ski Retreat for Adults and Families will be January 25-29, 2013 at Copper Mountain Ski Resort in Colorado. This trip leaves from North Newton, and the cost includes chartered sleeper bus, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. (Adults \$534, 17-13 yrs. olds \$518, and children 12 and under \$385). A limited number of spaces are also available for those who would rather drive on their own. For registration forms and/or additional information call the WDC office at [\(316\) 283-6300](tel:316-283-6300).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

The latest issue of ***On the Way***, Mennonite Church USA's online newsletter, is available at www.mennoniteusa.org/on-the-way. *On the Way* is a free, short, bilingual online resource—published about every six weeks—for everyone in Mennonite Church USA. Each issue focuses on one of the seven churchwide priorities. You can subscribe to receive *On the Way* directly at <http://eepurl.com/i8oX9>. The issue focuses on **Undoing Racism and Advancing Intercultural Transformation**, highlighting some processes that Mennonite Church USA is making available for congregations who desire to grow in intercultural competence (Communities of Hope) and for those who are responding to a call to deepen their support for immigrants in their setting (Bienvenido). We hope you'll enjoy the content and consider sharing your responses and ideas via our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

COLLEGES:

Bethel College

Nights of Wonder, a double CD of selected music from Christmas Fests at Bethel College, 1979-1998, is now available at Kauffman Museum and the Bethel bookstore. Marles Preheim, one of the conductors for the Christmas Fests, collected this musical reminiscence. All proceeds go to Bethel College through the Bethel College Women's Association. Call 316-284-5205(bookstore) or 283-1612 (museum) for more information.

Bethel College of Kansas 1887-2012 is for sale in the Bethel bookstore. Written by Keith Sprunger, history professor emeritus, the 300-page book includes facts, anecdotes and photos, based on five years of research and interviews, that help readers remember what is important about Bethel's past and what role their relatives, friends and congregations played in creating the college. Call 316-284-5205 for more information.

THIRD WAY MEDIA: radio program, *Shaping Families*

December 8 – Surviving Stroke What do you do if your mom or dad has a stroke—at the early age of 72? Marcella and her mother share both sides of their experience and witness to their faith as they moved forward.

December 15 – An Unwanted Gift Elsie Rempel, faith formation consultant for Mennonite Church Canada was invited to lead seminars in Zambia but suffered a major car accident while there.

Listen on KBCU 88.1 FM North Newton, KS Fri 4:00pm or visit www.ShapingFamilies.com the weekend the program airs to download a podcast or the transcript.