

## Community and Conference Announcements

**SEEDS**

*A weekly communication for WDC churches announcing what's new and good in WDC.*

A few years ago, a couple in our congregation who spent several months working in Guatemala told us about Nuevo Amanecer, which means "new dawn" in Spanish. It is a women's collective of 16 families in Panabaj, Guatemala, who are sole supporters of their children. Several years ago, a terrible mudslide killed many men in the village and the women taught themselves how to do beadwork as a way to survive. Nuevo Amanecer is too small to sell regularly through Ten Thousand Villages and other retailers, so the Peace Mennonite Church Peace and Justice Committee works to help them find a market in our community. Currently we sell most of the beadwork during two annual events: a Sidewalk Sale in July and a Fair Trade Market over the week after Thanksgiving, but we are on the lookout for more opportunities. Most of our profits go into new orders but we also donate some to a women's organization working against violence in Guatemala. Guatemala ranks in the top five in the world for violent deaths and women are especially at risk. Partnering with the women of Nuevo Amanecer is one way that we follow in the way of Jesus, working with God for greater peace and justice in our world.

*--submitted by Joanna Harader, Pastor Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence*

**The Goessel School District** would like to invite you to an open house to share the exciting plans that have been developed on Monday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm at the HS auditorium. Come see the proposed floor plan for the new west annex that would house Science, Family and Consumer Science (formerly Home Ec.) and Agricultural Education. Plans will also be shared regarding the proposed storm shelter at the Grade School.

**Camp Mennoscah**

Howdy, all you folks out there! We need you to do some shoulder tapping and persuasive speaking. Camp Mennoscah is looking for stunning and energetic summer staff and counselors for the 2013 summer. Counselors must be at least 17 (preferably 18) and are weekly volunteer positions. Summer staff receive a stipend and those with 1 year of college or equivalent experience are given preference. Those interested should contact Camp Mennoscah at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org). Summer staff applications can be found at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) under Resources.

Spring Break at Camp Mennoscah! We know that most adults don't get a Spring Break, but if you've got a few days off and a passion for camping, we've got something for you. The Mennonite Camping Association Regional gathering will be at Camp Mennoscah, March 18-20, 2013. Camping folks from the West & Midwest (including Canada!) will gather for a time of learning, fellowship, and fun. More information can be found at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) under Retreats.

We want to give you a free tee shirt! But for you to get your Camp Mennoscah tee shirt, you'll have to spend a week having fun as one of our nurses or kitchen helpers for our summer youth camps. Kitchen staff is still needed for the weeks of June 16-20, June 23-29, July 7-11, July 21-27, and July 28-Aug. 2. Nurses are needed for the weeks of June 16-20, July 7-11, and July 21-27. Contact us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or 620-297-3290. We think it's one of the best volunteer jobs ever!

*Information for all of the above— email: [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) phone: 620-297-3290*

**The Western District Music and Worship Task Force** invite all women to join in SINGING HEAVEN'S SONG, a festival of choral music for women's voices, on March 3 at First Mennonite Church, Newton. Information posted on church bulletin board.

**Needs increasing for Syrians:** Mennonite Central Committee welcomes donations to continue its humanitarian assistance and grassroots peacebuilding in Syria and nearby Jordan and Lebanon. Please make your donation at [donate.mcc.org](http://donate.mcc.org) or send it to MCC U.S., PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500, designating "Middle East Crisis." Your prayers and donations make a difference -- thank you.

**The MCC Comforter Blitz** will be March 11 and 12 this year at the Journey at Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder, KS. Monday's hours will be from noon to 9 PM and Tuesday's hours are from 9 AM to 5 PM. Comforters will be tied for Mennonite Central Committee to send overseas to people in need. Come and have a good time while helping others. Bring a sack lunch if you are staying through a meal. Sloppy Joes will be available for a donation at noon on Tuesday. Call Carol Peters [\(316\) 283-4232](tel:3162834232) or Pat Gilliland at [\(785\) 286-0905](tel:7852860905) for more information, to reserve babysitting, or to report number of untied tops you are bringing.

**Jesus commanded us to love our enemies** and Moses said, "Thou shalt eat pie" (or so we imagine). First Mennonite Church & McPherson Church of the Brethren are hosting Ted & Company in bringing their lively fundraiser, "Peace, Pies and Prophets" that includes the show, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy" to the McPherson Opera House, 219 S Main St, McPherson KS, on March 16 at 7 pm. General admission is free (with a very limited number of reserved seats at \$25 each). Homemade pies (furnished by First Mennonite and Church of the Brethren) will be auctioned off during the show and an offering will be received. **This is a fundraiser for Christian Peacemaker Teams**, a nonprofit that offers an alternative to violence around the world. Ted Swartz will also perform his one-man drama "Laughter is Sacred Space" on March 17 at 10:40 at the First Mennonite worship service. Donations towards his ministry will be gratefully received. The autobiographical drama is appropriate for Lenten worship. This "honest, funny, and vulnerable" reflection deals with issues "of the paradox of working with a comedic partner who's struggling with bipolar disorder," as well as "the challenge of writing and performing God's stories while experiencing the absence of God after Lee's death." Yet, it offers hope and humor as only Ted delivers. For more information, call [620-241-4040](tel:6202414040) or email Kathy Neufeld Dunn at: [pastorfm@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfm@gmail.com).

**Learn more about the suffering of Anabaptist martyrs and African-American slaves** and their commonalities at "Common Threads: Anabaptist and African-American Songs and Stories of Suffering and Hope" at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24 at Bethel Mennonite Church in Inman. The event is free and open to the public though a free-will offering will be received to cover program costs. The program, which features Hesston College faculty members Tony Brown, John Sharp and Ken Rodgers, is in honor of Black History Month. For more details, visit [hesston.edu](http://hesston.edu) or call the Alumni and Church Relations office at [866-437-7866](tel:8664377866).

**The 2013 Winter Lecture Series at the Dyck Arboretum** will continue Tuesday, February 26, featuring Tim McDonnell, Community Forestry Program Coordinator for South Central and Southeast Kansas. He will present on the topic "Trees You Should Plant in Kansas". Come for soup supper at 6:00 p.m. or just the lecture at 6:30 p.m. (\$2 for lecture, \$7 for supper and lecture). Call [620-327-8127](tel:6203278127) by noon on Monday before the Tuesday lecture for supper reservations.

**Development Associate** - Mennonite Mission Network has an immediate opening for a full time Development Associate whose primary responsibility is to strengthen relationships with constituents and solicit financial support. Work will be based in one of the Mennonite Church USA offices in Elkhart, IN or Newton, KS with regular travel to other U.S. locations. Candidates should bring a passion for God's mission to the world, and the ability to build relationships, listen perceptively, and elicit participation. Must be well organized and willing to take initiative. Experience in fundraising is an asset. Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply. The position description can be read on line [www.mennonitemission.net/About/Pages/StaffOpps.aspx](http://www.mennonitemission.net/About/Pages/StaffOpps.aspx). Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume to Linda Krueger, Human Resources Coordinator, Mennonite Mission Network, Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515, or email [staffrecruitment@Mennonitemission.net](mailto:staffrecruitment@Mennonitemission.net)

**Everence to hold health care reform seminar:** The central Kansas office of Everence Financial will present an informative seminar at First Mennonite Church in Newton at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. "Navigating the New: Health Care Reform and You" will help people understand how health care reform will affect individuals and businesses, how people will get health care coverage in the future and how reform has affected Everence health plans. The presentation will be delivered by David Gautsche, Senior Vice President of Products and Services for Everence. First Mennonite Church is at 429 E. First St. in Newton. This seminar will be in conjunction with the annual meeting of the central Kansas Everence Chapter. Those interested in attending the seminar should reserve a spot before March 14 by contacting the Everence office in Hesston: [\(620\) 327-4043](tel:6203274043), toll free [\(877\) 467-7294](tel:8774677294) or [darlene.buller@everence.com](mailto:darlene.buller@everence.com).