

ON THE JOURNEY

In late July I was able to travel to Utah with my daughter, Megan, and two of her friends. I had never been in the Southwest before, so I was in absolute awe of the many lovely things God has created for us...

-magnificent Bryce Canyon with cliffs, pinnacles, and soft colors

-hot, searing, shimmering salt flats

-cool, dark sand caves

-curvy switchback roads taking us up majestic mountains with streams, white poplar forests, and cascading waterfalls

-even laughing children by the pool! I couldn't stop thanking and praising Him for what He has made!

Soon after, I read in a magazine article that scientists have now recorded fish songs underwater off the coast of Australia. Just like birds, different kinds of fish sing different tunes, especially at dawn and dusk. These fish are doing exactly what Psalm 145:21 says, "Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever."

So not only has God created and gifted us with a complex and beautiful world, He has asked us and all His creatures to sing His praises for that world. (Psalm 47:6 "Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises to our king, sing praises.") I challenge you to find as many things as you can to praise Him for on this day and every day!

Submitted by Sonya Miller

CALENDAR		
Thurs 8/9	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
Sat 8/11	12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
Sun 8/12	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 8/13		Health Department
	6:00 pm	Worship Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 8/14	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 8/15	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
Sun 8/19	9:00 am	Nadine Zook Miller Preaching (back to school Sunday)
	12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 8/20	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 8/21	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 8/22	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission

August Birthdays

Ed Outman – 8
 Lindsey Kurtz – 9
 Randy Bontrager – 13
 Brad Miller – 14
 Rhea Miller – 14
 Sue Bontreger – 15
 Lloyd Hochstedler – 15
 Sheila Hostetler – 17
 Tom Miller – 17
 Ward Bingaman – 21
 Audrey Graber – 24
 Tillie Schrock – 24
 Nora Mullet – 25
 Kent Birky - 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: We generally think of Grace as an attribute of God that emerges in the New Testament with the coming of Jesus into the world. We often associate the Old Testament with Law, and the New Testament with Grace, and we especially associate Grace with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. Frequently in the New Testament we find the word "Grace" closely linked to the Gospel of Jesus. But we find Grace in the Old Testament as well, even if it is not as explicit as in the New Testament. From the first chapters of Genesis to the last verse in the Bible, we find Grace, and we

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Closed Friday

- All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.

discover that God is a God of incomprehensible, indescribable, immeasurable Grace!

Background scriptures: Genesis 3:14-18, 21

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman

Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for August 5:

Money Given to Budget \$3,327.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$275,360.20

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$287,177.16

The Administration Commission is looking for a few volunteers who would be interested in trimming the shrubs and spraying the weeds around the church property. If you are interested, please contact a member of AC (Shirley Riegsecker, Kerry Frye, Ron Yoder, Ernie Wingard or Robin Tahara Miller).

The Administration Commission has proposed to the Church Board that we sell the two Lawrence Street houses we own. They support this recommendation. The original reason for having them (for additional parking) is no longer valid for us. We have had changes in renters and maintenance repairs throughout the summer. The process would include hiring a realtor, getting an appraisal and the sale. We already have two interested buyers for them. We want to vote on this at the Fall Business meeting on September 19. There will be opportunity for discussion prior to the vote. If you have questions now, please direct them to the Administration Commission. Also, AC is still hoping to get a new permanent sign at the CR 16 property. The suggestion for an electronic sign there would be to announce FMC church events, as well as inviting them to our church, special food pantry and preschool happenings. This street is the second busiest street in town after Main Street. There has been discussion that the sale of our Lawrence Street rentals could help fund this sign, plus the cost of a new roof at FM. We would like to have a new sign as soon as we can at this property, so we are hopeful to have a vote at our September 19 fall business meeting. AC is trying to get a final bid for a rafted roof at FMC. Our current flat,

rubber roof leaks. We will present our recommendation to the Church Board and hopefully have it done before winter.

COMMUNITY LIFE

CLC is looking for a person or persons who would like to coordinate Wednesday Evening Meals starting in September. If interested, please contact a CLC Commission Member: Denise Johnson, Janelle Walther, Verna Weirich, Gerald Kauffman, Jean Shriner, Patty (Ron) Yoder.

There are still slots available to volunteer to mow the lawn at Pleasant Oaks. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry needs two more caring people to help give encouragement to others.

Reminder to sign up if you are able to take a meal to Edna Hochstetler. Sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board.

DISCIPLING

It's that time again...school is starting! Pleasant Oaks Preschool is gearing-up for their 47th year! We will have our Get Acquainted Day on Sunday afternoon, August 26, where our preschool families will come to see the classroom, meet the teachers and hear from the Board. Then our students will begin class on September 4. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our new school year.

Take an AMBS course this fall! Online courses include Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace and Revolution; Christian Theology 1; and Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Scripture. Campus courses include Biblical Spirituality; Preaching; Human Sexuality and Christian Ethics; Spiritual Practices: Money; and more! Courses start Sept. 4; sign up by Aug. 28. amb.edu/onecourse

Individual tickets for Goshen College's Performing Arts Series concerts are now on sale. Performances in this series include Gillian Welch, Diana Krall, The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, The Summit: The Manhattan Transfer meets Take 6, Conspirare: Considering

Matthew Shepard, I'm With Her, The 5 Browns, Imago Theatre's FROGZ!, Seraphic Fire with American Brass Quintet, The Step Crew, and Arturo Sandoval. Tickets can be purchased at the GC Box Office at the Music Center or over the phone at 574-535-7566, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women: FMW's project for July is providing MCC school kits. Contents (New items only) include: 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets), 8 new unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional), 12 colored pencils (in packaging), 1 large eraser, 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens, 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes). Martha Weirich will have devotions for tomorrow's meeting.

Spare Change Offering will be used for Change for Relief for the relief sale during the month of August.

You are invited to a "Haystacks for Hershberger's" benefit dinner on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 4 to 7 pm at Holdeman Mennonite Church, 65723 CR 1, Wakarusa, IN. Donations will be accepted and carry-outs will be available. In the fall of 2013, Randy Hershberger died suddenly, leaving his wife Marcia and two young adult children. More recently, their youngest daughter, Abby has been diagnosed with a disabling illness. Their old home in Wakarusa is not accessible for Abby nor suitable for their family any longer. The dream of Holdeman Mennonite church is helping them build a new duplex in Goshen! The haystack dinner is open to the public, so feel free to invite friends and neighbors!

The Mennonite Relief Sale Choir will begin practice on Sunday, Aug. 12, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at College Mennonite Church. There will be 6 practices, mostly on Sunday afternoons, concluding with a performance at Sauder Hall on Sunday, Sept. 23. All are welcome to join in and performance will support the Mennonite Relief Sale. Participants do not have to be at every practice. If you are interested in more details, please contact Ruth Beasley.

Save the date! This Friday, Aug. 10, 4-9 pm fundraiser "Miracle for McDonalds" in Misc. Auction building at Shippshewana Flea Market. Haystack dinner, bake sale, silent auction until 8:00, live auction 8-9:00. Mitch and Kelli's unborn daughter, Elliana Marie, and her momma are receiving experimental treatment at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. At this time she has no kidneys nor bladder. Please keep this family in your prayers. Contact Cheryl Miller if you wish to donate anything or make a contribution.

Trivia

Children tend to grow faster in the spring.



