

What do you think? Does the Western District Conference website make sense to you? Please take two minutes and do the on-line survey so we can make it better. Go to www.mennowdc.org.

MCC Central States Annual Meeting & Worship Service

Everyone is welcome to join us at Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, Kansas, for our annual meeting and worship service on Saturday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. The program will celebrate what we call the "New Wine" - MCC's new statement of identity, approaches, priorities, values and convictions

Camp Mennoscah spring retreats are almost here! Join us for the **Scrapbooking Retreat, March 12-14**, and the annual **Retirees' Relaxation Retreat, April 26-28**. Informational brochures have been sent to past attendees and are available on the Western District Conference website at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section. For more information or questions, contact Camp Mennoscah at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290.

Camp Mennoscah will be at Hesston College on February 8-9 and at Bethel College on February 10 to "recruit" all the amazing and wonderful people that counsel and are summer staffers. Stop by, talk to us, and let us know what's going on—we'd love to see you. Questions or can't make it? Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290.

Save your Best Choice labels! Camp Mennoscah is collecting Best Choice brand UPC labels. Although there are not many stores that carry Best Choice products, for every 1000 we collect, we'll get \$30. It sounds like peanuts, but think of the Mennonite Central Committee's Penny Power—every penny counts! Labels can be sent to Camp Mennoscah, PO Box 65, Murdock KS 67111 or taken to the Western District Conference offices. For more information about this program, see: <http://www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html>

A free will offering Soup Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 7, from 11:00 am- 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran School, 930 Prairie Lane, in Beatrice. Proceeds will help fund the trip for the St. Paul LYF to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.



First Mennonite Church

The Morning Breeze!
Sunday,
January 31, 2010

<p><u>Last Sunday!</u> Attendance: 106 Offering: \$2605 to MMN</p>
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This Morning

**Joint Annual Study Series service
at Beatrice Mennonite Church!**

Upcoming Events!

Sunday, 1/31 – Noon Lunch Bunch

7pm – Annual Study Series at FMC

Monday, 2/1 7pm – Annual Study Series at BMC

Tuesday, 1/26 – 1:30pm WMS

7pm – Annual Study Series at FMC

Save the Dates! Feb 11 - 5:30 p.m. - Education Council meeting. Current as well as incoming members should plan to attend.

2/14 SYF Soup Luncheon

Birthdays!

Sunday! Nolan Fast

Tuesday! Doug Casey

Thursday! Jim Ensz, Barb Esau, Francis Von Riesen

Saturday! Emm Hiebert,

Extra Nuts are available. There are 2# of sliced almonds for \$ 4.20 each and 3# of whole almonds for \$4.10 each. Please contact Letha.

If you would like to host Ken Rodgers for a meal while he is here with us for the Annual Study Series, please contact Lou & Ellen Esau.

As Beatrice Community Hospital continues to work out ways to contact local pastors when a parishioner is admitted to the hospital it is vitally important that a family member always calls the pastor in these situations. Pastors would prefer hearing the same news from 2 or 3 sources than not at all.



Prayer and Praise

✠ **MMN:** Toba Christians struggle to remain true to God's call in the face of increasing material prosperity. Pray for these sisters and brothers and for Gretchen and Keith Kingsley and Richard and Ruth Anne Friesen as they walk alongside indigenous churches in the Argentine Chaco.

✠ **WDC:** This Sunday is the final day of WDC's fiscal year. Thank God for the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure which have been offered in the name of our common mission

to "witness, dwell and connect to God's mission in the world".

This and That

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is undertaking a multimillion-dollar, multiyear response to the earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12. You can help through prayer for the people of Haiti and by donating to MCC's Haiti Earthquake appeal. In addition, MCC is asking for donations of 20,000 relief kits, 25,000 heavy comforters and 10,000 sheets for shipment now through Feb. 28. Monetary gifts, designated Haiti Earthquake, may be sent to MCC Central States PO Box 235 North Newton, KS 67117 or online at mcc.org.

Find instructions for donating relief kits, comforters and sheets at mcc.org/kits or call our office at 316-283-2720 for more information.

To join in this effort, the Church Board has voted to donate \$10,000 to the MCC efforts in Haiti. This money will be taken from the Undesignated Funds held in the Foundation. A special collection is being taken in the Narthex for the next couple of weeks. Please feel free to contribute and add to total amount that will be sent from the church. Make your checks payable to FMC and place in the black and orange box.

Relief Kits! John & Lori Thimm's Shepherd Group are collecting items for Relief kits to be sent to Haiti. Items will be collected in the Narthex until 2/14.

Contents (NEW items only)

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapping)
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (380-710ml / 13-24oz; place bottle in a re-sealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars of laundry soap (Some stores carry Fels Naptha, Sunlight or Zote brands; contact your local MCC warehouse with questions)
- 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (minimum 130ml / 6oz; leave in box)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors)
- 2 wide-tooth combs(6 to 8in / 15 to 20cm)
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi)

Daffodil Sunday for March 14, 2010. Daffodils are the signature flower of the American Cancer Society. They are universally recognized as a symbol of spring and of hope. Last Spring Gage County raised over \$1500 that directly benefits the American Cancer Society's programs of cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services in Nebraska.

We will begin to take orders today in the church library.

Individual bouquets (8-10 flowers/bouquet): \$ 10

Boyd's Bear and Individual bouquet: \$ 25

Cheer Bouquet (vase and individual bouquet \$ 15

All orders are due no later than February 12, 2010.

Thank you for your participation, Barb Thimm and Rosie Claassen

Ken Sensenig, Assistant Director of MCC East Coast, will be speaking at First Mennonite Church at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10. He has spent time in Sudan and is promoting MCC's Coming Home Sudan initiative. An excellent storyteller, he will also provide an update of MCC's work in Haiti. All are welcome; bring friends. The SYF will be attending this meeting; SYF evening meal with Ken at 6:00 at FMC.

UPDATE: The Search Committee for Western District Conference Minister has received applications of a number of strong candidates and is reviewing them. You can read further updates on the WDC website at www:mennowdc.org. Please continue to keep the candidates, the search committee and the process in your prayers.

Change of Address: Deborah Younger and Dezi Younger Chaffee
4630 F Street, Lincoln, NE

"Do you know youth who are passionate about the church and who desire a place in it-- youth who are asking deep questions and long to share their vision, energy and hopes? *!Explore: *A Theological Program for High School Youth provides young people in the 11th and 12th grades in high school an experience designed to encourage the development of their gifts in leadership, expose them to the world of theological ideas, and foster in them a call to vocation in the church.

Youth who are in grade 11 and grade 12 may apply (in collaboration with their pastors) for the summer program following that year in school. The program involves an internship at their home church (100 hours, normally in the summer) and a 16-day intense program for the youth at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminar in Elkhart, IN.

<<http://www.ams.edu/explore>>