

Beyond the Congregation – April 5, 2015

EVENTS – LOCAL & BEYOND

- ♪ **The Collingsworth Family Good Friday Concert** Friday, April 3 at 7:00. Bingemans Marshall Hall. \$25 advance, \$30 door. Available at local Christian Bookstores, Blooms & Tunes-Elmira. Bc.anderson45@gmail.com or 519-894-4764
- **Health Education Session** *Skin Deep*: How to love your skin, Dr. Chanel Cressman, Naturopath, Urban Wellness Studio Thursday April 9 10:45-11:45 No Charge. All welcome. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church.
 - **Shalom Counselling Services Groundbreaking Ceremony** Thursday, April 9 at 5:00 at Shalom, 9 Avondale Avenue South Waterloo. For information call 519-886-9690 or admin@shalomcounselling.org
 - **Mentor & Mentee Retreat**, April 10-12 at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. This retreat is designed to cultivate and grow the special relationship between mentors and mentees. "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than a year of conversation" (Plato), so that's exactly that we plan to do! Participants will spend a weekend of play, focused on building strong relationships. For more information visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call the camp 519-422-3200
 - **Peace & Justice Community Breakfast** followed by a dramatic presentation, A Healing Journey: A dramatic look at life after incarceration. Saturday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. - Four to six women from Arise, a Mennonite Central Committee Restorative Justice Initiative (www.mcco.ca/arise) will perform a series of vignettes that portray some of the real life challenges they have faced. Event takes place at Steinmann Mennonite Church. Advance registration required by Tuesday, April 7. Call 519.634.8311 or email office@smchurch.ca. Admission is by donation.
 - **Lenten Guided Prayer Post Easter Retreat** – To explore deeper the themes and experiences that arose during Lenten Guided Prayer. Sat. April 11, 9-12 noon at W-K United Mennonite. \$20; bring journal. Led by Margaret Nally
 - **9th Annual Taste of Woolwich** Monday April 13, 5:00-8:00 pm, at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 19 Flaming Dr., Elmira. No Charge. Donations appreciated. Everyone welcome! Make it a family event!
Get to know your local food producer. Buy and sample quality artisan foods.
5:30 pm: Small Scale Urban Vegetable Gardening
6:15 pm: Woolwich Healthy Communities Choral Society
6:45 pm: Caring for our Farm Animals
7:20 pm: Kids in the Kitchen - Demo
7:40 pm: Local Food is Just a Hike or Bike Away. Hear the results of the community consultation on signage
 - **Pastoral Visitor Dinner & Learning** Tuesday, April 14, 6:00-8:30 pm at Crossroads Restaurant, Elmira. Ingrid & Jim Loepp Thiessen will be guest speakers and talk about the importance of self care and how to integrate this care into your life and work as a pastoral visitor. RSVP Lynda Kohler at Woolwich Community Health Centre 519-664-3534 x249 or lkohler@wchc.on.ca
 - **Day of Quiet Prayer** – Day includes an opportunity to walk the labyrinth. April 16, 9 – 3:00 at Hidden Acres Camp. \$25; bring journal. Led by Patricia Wagler. mennospiritdir@gmail.com or 519-301-9137
 - **Theatre of the Beat presents Gadfly: Sam Steiner Dodges the Draft** at Nineteen on the Park theatre in Stouffville, ON. April 17 and 18 @ 8pm. Come see the true story of a Mennonite Rebel, his underground newspaper, and the war that drove him to Canada - once again with live music from the rocking Gadfly Band. Tickets are \$22/\$28 available at www.nineteenonthepark.ca
 - **WMCEC Enrichment Day** (for women of all ages) is being held on Saturday, April 18, 8:30 to 3:30 pm at the Listowel Mennonite Church. Our Theme is Helping Vulnerable Women. We will be learning about the plight of women throughout the world as well as close to home. There are those caught up in the choices they have made and struggle to find their way back: those having unplanned pregnancies in their youth; the tragedy of girls and women sold into slavery and trying to recover by working at a respectable job. Come and learn about these survivors and what is happening in their world to help them rise above their circumstances. Hear how God has touched their lives and how they are moving forward. All registrations go to Carol Martin, 110 Ethel Road, Waterloo, ON. N2J 4G8 Phone: 519-883-1251 or ecarolmartin@live.com Please include a non-refundable cheque for \$30 which includes lunch, coffee and snacks
 - **New Hamburg Relief Sale Promotion Dinner** Monday, April 20 at Bingeman's. Tickets available from BMC church office or Vern Roth. Guest speaker: Issa Sadi Embombolo, Founder of MCC's Peace Clubs in Zambia. Tickets \$10. Tax receipts issued for contributions above the ticket price.
 - **Together We Can... Knot Comforters** - April 20-23 Elmira Produce Auction, 7400 Reidwoods Drive, Elmira. To volunteer please contact Keith & Diane Snyder at 519-669-4084. To donate a completed comforter top, please contact Wendy Cotter at 519-745-8458 ext 248
 - **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp's Spring Seniors' Retreat Days** will be held on April 27 and April 28 (the same program will be offered both days). Mark Diller Harder will be leading us in, "SINGING OUR FAITH: Heart Songs and Hymnals". Join us for a day of worship, learning and fellowship. For more information or a brochure contact the camp at 519-625-8602, info@hiddenacres.ca, or visit our website at www.hiddenacres.ca. Space is limited, register by April 20.
 - **Rockway Information Night** April 28 at 7:00. Prospective students and their families are invited. See poster.
 - **40th Annual Kitchener-Waterloo and Area Interfaith Community Breakfast** (formerly the Community Prayer Breakfast). Wednesday, April 29 at Waterloo Inn and Conference Hotel. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. with program from 7:30 to 8:30. Guest speaker Debbie Lou Ludolph, leader of Inshallah, the WLS Community Choir. Her topic is "Singing Our Way toward Building Community." Tickets \$20 or 4/\$75 from Erb & Good Family Funeral Home. For further information contact: interfaithcommunitybreakfast@gmail.com

- **Shalom Counselling Services Fundraising Breakfast** Saturday, May 2, 8:30 a.m. Speaker: Orlando Da Silva, President of the Ontario Bar Association "A Successful Depression". Waterloo North Mennonite Church \$20 (subsidized tickets available for students/underemployed). Contact: Shalom Counselling Services (519) 886-9690 or admin@shalomcounselling.org by April 23 to order your ticket.
- **Brussels Mennonite Fellowship 35th Anniversary Celebrations** on May 2 & 3,. Saturday night 7 p.m., come and enjoy a music night with the "New Freedom Quartet" from Elmira. Sunday morning our Worship Service begins at 10 a.m. and will include times of celebration; slide presentation; special music from "The Hiller Family" and a Fellowship Meal following the service for everyone. We hope to see you there!
- **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp - 20th Annual Road Hockey Tournament**, Saturday, May 9. Ages 18 & up. Cost is \$150/team. Register by May 2. Visit www.hiddenacres.ca or email Jeff at roadhockey@gmail.com for additional information or a brochure. Join us for a day of road hockey action. All proceeds help send kids to camp!
- **Community Housing Survey for Elmira** - MennoHomes has just launched a survey to help assess the needs related to affordable housing in Elmira. We've partnered with other local agencies to create and distribute it and we are inviting Christian churches in and around Elmira to also participate. An online version of the survey can be found on our website: www.mennohomes.com.
- **Come visit Montreal and stay in our Summer Guestrooms! Rates start as low as \$45 per night.** A mission of the Mennonite church in Montreal since 1974, the Maison de l'amitié continues to welcome and support new arrivals to Canada and Quebec through our English and French language classes and our community-focussed student residence. You can support the ministries of the Maison de l'amitié this summer by having fun! Visit our website to find out more: www.residencema.ca
- **Canadian Mennonite University's Canadian School of Peacebuilding** invites you to come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding – on June 15 – 19; 22 – 26. More information is available at www.csop.cmu.ca or csop@cmu.ca

SUMMER CAMPS

- ☺ **Summer 2015 camp brochures** are in the literature racks for Fraser Lake Mennonite Camp, Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre, Silver Lake Mennonite Camp & more.
- **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp** – Registration is now open for Summer 2015 with programming available for campers ages 6-16 including Mini Camp, Teen Camp, Family Camp and many others. Space is limited so be sure to register early. Campership Funds (subsidies) are available. For more information, please visit www.slmc.ca or contact Dave Erb at dave@slmc.ca or 519-422-1401.
- **Summer Job Opportunities at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp** - If you would like to spend your summer out in nature, positively impacting the lives of hundreds of young people, building great relationships with the other staff members and sharing and developing your faith, then check out Hidden Acres. For more information or to fill out an application, go to our website at www.hiddenacres.ca or contact Chris Pot at 519-625-8602 or chrispot@hiddenacres.ca
- **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp has asked our church to supply 5 volunteers** for the week of Camp 5 from August 9-15, during their summer camp program. Primarily they are looking for people to help prepare meals in the kitchen and help with various maintenance tasks. See details on hall bulletin board.
- **Ontario Mennonite Music Camp (OMMC)** registration is now open for summer 2015! OMMC is a wonderful opportunity for youth age 12 to 16 to form friendships, enhance their musical abilities, grow in their faith, and develop leadership skills. This overnight camp will be held at Conrad Grebel University College Aug 16 - 28, 2015. Register online at www.grebel.ca/ommc (before May 31st for the early bird rate.)
- **Camp Shalom Cambridge** is looking for counselors, kitchen and maintenance staff. If you love Jesus and like working with kids or individuals with special needs, then this might be for you. All positions are paid and you must be 17 before Dec. 31st, 2015 to apply. Visit www.countrysidecamp.com to apply.

MCC – MCCO – MCEC – MDS – MEDA – MC CANADA – MSCU – MDS NEWS & EVENTS

• **Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Annual Church Gathering** is April 24 & 25 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, with the theme “Sharing Our Faith.”

<https://www.mcec.ca/annual-church-gathering-2015-0> Please consider being a church delegate. If interested, contact the church office. Registration closes March 31.

• **Mennonite Disaster Service has a service opportunity** for the whole family. Families of children and adults of all ages are encouraged to serve together building cabins for a week at Camp Elim near Swift Current, Saskatchewan between August 3 & 28. For more info and to register call 866-261-1274 or at mcs.mennonite.net/projects/campelimfamilyproject.

• **Mennonite Disaster Service** continues to bring people home in High River, Alberta. Although High River flooded in June 2013 there are still people who have not been able to move home. Come volunteer for a week or two this spring and summer. Call 1-800-241-8111 for more info or to book a week for you and your friends.

• **Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support (MCRS) has focused on the growing need for support** for the reunification of local refugee claimant families. Many families are split up due to war and conflict - one family member escapes, taking a dangerous path that will bring them to Canada. If their refugee claim is accepted they can begin the process of bringing their loved ones to safety. They are often separated for prolonged periods, due to policies that delay reunification. Sometimes they are forced to wait years to be reunited with their spouses and children, who may be in situations of danger or persecution. And children are the hardest hit.

MCRS is a strong advocate for speedy family reunification. Our call is for an express entry for the family reunification process where children can be reunited with their parents in 6 months or less; a definition of family members that is broad and inclusive; a reinstatement of the previous age of dependents which was 22; elimination of the ‘excluded family member’ rule; and urgently request that our Government makes family reunification a top priority. MCRS supports families through all stages of their refugee claim, including that of family reunification. We provide them with support they can count on.

Learn more about how you can help - and do contact me if you have any queries, via email at

resourcedevelopment@mcrs.ca or by telephone at 519-571-1912 ext. 4. Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

♪ **My Coins Count** (formerly Penny Power) jar is in the foyer to collect coins for MCC. This will be taken to the New Hamburg Relief Sale at the end of May. Bring your coins and ask a child to drop them in!!

Mennonite World Conference

• **Please pray:** In the next 2 months, hundreds of people in Zimbabwe, Indian, Colombia, Indonesia and many other countries will apply and interview for their US visas so they can participate in PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference. Pray that the visa process will go smoothly for them, so that PA 2015 can be a truly global Anabaptist gathering!

Go to www.mwc-cmm.org/content/join-mwc-email-list to sign up and receive regular updates and prayer requests.

• **Call for Worship and Contemporary Art** -- Art of many kinds will be on display at PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference that will be held July 21-26 in Harrisburg, PA. Artists are invited to submit contemporary art for a juried exhibit. Churches are invited to display worship art (banners, tapestries, or other

• **“It’s the closest to heaven I’ve ever been,”** is an often-heard comment from many who have attended past Mennonite World Conference global Assemblies. If you have not yet registered to attend this event on your own continent – a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity for many – please consider doing so today, July 21-26 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For full information and registration details, go to www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015 This is the first Assembly in North America in 25 years. Given the current pattern of holding Assemblies every six years in either the global South or North, it could be close to 30 years before this event is once again held in North America

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

• **MCEC Financial Manager (.5 FTE)** - to oversee the financial operations of the Church. The position begins in June 2015. Supervise the bookkeeping function, support the Leadership Team in development of operational and capital budgets, management of investments, preparation and presentation of Financial Statements, liaison with auditor... Resumes are due by April 15, 2015 to Brent Charette, Church Engagement Minister. Details: <https://www.mcec.ca/jobs/financial-manager>
Ministry Position

Animator/Curator Contract Position Available

• **MCEC’s interactive web space**, theexchange is a place to connect with others and to find and to share resources. A 10 hour/week contract position is being established to promote and assist in its use. Individuals who have expertise with social media technology, are comfortable communicating with congregational leaders and pastors, and who have an awareness of the MCEC ministry context are invited to inquire.

Contact Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister - jsteckley@mcec.ca (226) 476-2500 ext. 707