

September 6, 2009

## Elder Council Update

The Elder Council has continued to meet at least twice a month over the summer, doing our best to work around summer vacations. Much of our routine work involves communicating and helping the commissions make decisions through the contacts with the elder council members. Each elder council member brings thoughts and ideas from the commissions and we spend time learning the details and helping to decide the best course of action.

Wendell, as the stewardship elder works closely with the finance and facilities commission. Through that commission we have clarified the partnership plan and are meeting with the families involved to bring more understanding to the partnership plan and to pray with the families as they begin the new school year. We are very thankful for the tremendous financial support from the congregation of the partnership plan over the summer allowing the deficit to be cut in half from May to September. We helped with the House of Hope garage reconstruction, began planning for the new 2010 budget, and are planning to meet with the personnel group to discuss jobs, wages, and benefits for our staff. The financial state of the church is a constant concern and Wendell keeps us updated through his commission.

Rollie, the discipleship elder, is busy meeting with the education departments of the church. Rollie has temporarily assumed the chairmanship of the Christian Education commission and is working with the leaders of the children's church, children's Sunday school, and adult Sunday school as they make plans for the new year. Discipleship is an important area of our church and Rollie and his commission are challenged to meet the needs as well as look at new opportunities for discipleship. Rollie also organized and is leading the Wednesday evening prayer time while Bill leads the Sunday morning prayer time.

Steve continues to work with the youth leadership of the church. Last fall we had a review of the youth pastor position and the youth leadership is currently in the process of reviewing the youth programs of our church. The youth programs keep many leaders busy and we continue to assess the needs and changing dynamics of the youth programs. We met with Gary Steiner to learn more about the youth programs and how we can be more helpful bringing together the church and the youth programs.

Nancy is actively seeking leadership for the fellowship and family life commission after the loss of Dorothy Zimmerly. It is clear our church family enjoys fellowship and Nancy and her commission are looking for leadership and ideas for fellowship opportunities.

Marilyn and the missions and service commission meet regularly looking for missions and service opportunities and helping to handle the fifth Sunday mission offering. The commission keeps the church aware of various needs and keeps the literature and bulletin boards updated.

Bill and the worship committee continue to meet regularly. Bill brings pastoral concerns to each meeting and keeps us aware of prayer needs and other concerns. Bill leads our mini-retreats where we spend time in prayer and dialogue as we look at the future of our church. The mini-retreats allow us to get away from the routine agenda and focus our thoughts on one topic for an extended period of time. (continued on next page)



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### Elder Council Update, continued from page 1

We are preparing for a congregational business meeting on November 18. There will be a new budget to vote on and we also hope to have more sharing from elder council. We are planning for a pastoral review of Bill in the near future. Andy Stoner, from the Ohio Conference, is giving us direction on the best type of review that will meet our needs. We appreciate hearing from you and especially appreciate your prayers and support. We encourage your participation in either of the scheduled prayer times at the church. It is a comfort to know the congregation is praying for the elder council and the church.

Mel Wenger, Facilitator Elder

### Ohio Mennonite Women—Women's Retreat

OMW's 40th Annual Retreat will be held September 18, 19, 20, 2009 at Camp Luz. This year's theme is "Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace" and the featured speaker/musician is Marilyn Rossiter from Kidron Mennonite Church. There are numerous workshops available that include Care of Home, Care of Soul, Care of Body, Care of Finances, and Music. Comforters will also be set up to knit for the homeless or shelter ministries. For more details, brochures/registration forms are available by the mailboxes.

### Open Arms Intercultural Fiesta

Open Arms will hold its third annual Intercultural Fiesta Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Participants will be meeting around tables in the gymnasium of Central Christian. Many people have said they don't know their Hispanic neighbors. An interpreter will be provided for each table to help neighbors to get acquainted while they enjoy a light snack. Music will be provided by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church and a Hispanic group. All are welcome. Open Arms Hispanic Ministries has been welcoming Hispanics to Wayne County and surrounding areas since 2001. Open Arms has depended on the donations of area churches, individuals, and several grants from Ohio Conference. More recently it has been expanding its ministries further through the efforts of Haroldo and Esmirna Nunes. Haroldo is the Hispanic pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster. For more information about the Intercultural Fiesta, you may call Raul Tadeo, the coordinator, at (330) 828-0040, or email him at [rvtadeo@zoominternet.net](mailto:rvtadeo@zoominternet.net)

### Youth Ministry Training Event—*Understanding Today's Youth* at Central Christian School

September 9th is the pre-registration deadline for "Understanding Today's Youth," the youth ministry training event sponsored by Ohio Conference. The one-day seminar, which will feature speaker Walt Mueller (founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding), will take place September 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Central Christian School in Kidron. Registration cost is \$35 per person if received by September 9th. Special group rates are also available. After September 9th, the registration price rises to \$50 per person. This event is for youth sponsors as well as youth pastors. Teachers and parents will also find this helpful. You can find the brochure on the OC Web site by clicking on Publications.



CROP  
WALK

CROP Walk is coming up soon! Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 4th. Sign-ups will begin today in the fellowship hall and will continue for several Sundays in September. See Fae Miller to sign up!

