



Congregational Meeting Today

6:30 pm – Church Sanctuary

Four proposals regarding structure will be brought for congregational action. The proposals do not replace a full consideration of a new structure for CMCL, but are rather to provide an interim fix for a few problems.

Upcoming Feature Events

March 19: Soup 'n Cinema – Soup lunch served by anti-racism group at 12:30 pm followed by feature film, *Hotel Rwanda*. Upcoming features: April 9, *To be decided*; May 21, *Lone Star*

March 26: Terry Gross, National Public Radio Fresh Air host will hold a public lecture at Millersville University, SMC, Multi-purpose area Sunday, March 26, 2 pm. Call 872-3811 for tickets (\$10 adult, \$5 K – 12 and Seniors).

March 29: A congregational conversation, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

What is it?

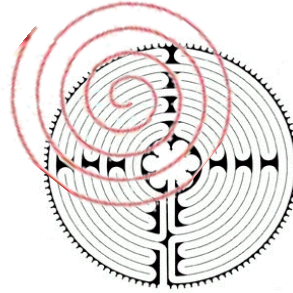
It's "church night" and no other activities are scheduled. It's a round table guided conversation minus the round tables. We'll use the Mark 2 story of the paralyzed man: Who's breaking through the roof these days? What do you care about enough that you would break through a roof? God is doing a new thing. How do we join in?

How to prepare?

Use the evening examen of consciousness questions (in Lenten guide.) This guides one to become more aware of the griefs and delights you care about and where you see the Spirit moving. Come as you are.

April 1: Music for Peace at CMCL – Doors open at 6 pm for coffee house with soup, desserts and coffee (\$5 suggested donation) followed by benefit concert at 7:30. Youth delegation to Witness for Peace trip will open. Featured act of evening is singer/songwriter Robert Bobby and the Peaceniks (\$10 suggested donation). Robert Bobby is a singer/songwriter with influences from Bob Dylan to the Rolling Stones to the Beatles. All proceeds from this event will benefit CMCL youth participating in the Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua this July

April 8: Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, 333 Delp Road, invites you to join them at James Street Mennonite Church, April 8, for celebration and auction as they look forward to expanding their worship facility. 6 pm, Hors de'vours and entertainment; 7 pm, auction.



Lent 2006

We're now at the second week of the 40 days of Lent. Have you discovered any "practices" to take on during Lent? The CMCL Lenten guide is available to give you a framework. Call the church for a copy.

- Set aside a time for silence at the beginning and end of your day.
- Join Nancy Brubaker tomorrow, March 13, for Introduction to Centering Prayer, 7 – 8:30 pm at the church.
- Reflect with others on scripture Thursday evenings from 7 – 8 pm at the church.
- Stop by at Herrbrook any Sunday at 3 pm for a guided labyrinth walk, or come on your own any time day, evening or moonlit night. Guided walks by:
 - Joe Miller – March 12
 - Ellen Hollinger – March 19
 - Jim Bowman – March 26
 - Darlis Myer – April 2
 - Rod and Mary Lou Houser – April 9
- Encourage your small group to try the Quaker Bible study on the back page of Lenten Guide.
- Try using the examen of consciousness at the end of your day. (back page of Lenten Guide)
- Mark your calendar for a congregational conversation on Wednesday, March 29.

Building Committee prepares proposal

MoveAhead.Org, the building committee preparing a proposal for completion of the Christian Ed ground level, met February 18 to review a proposal by contractor Earl King Incorporated. Following this meeting Don Hess returned to the contractor with questions of clarification.

The committee met again this past Wednesday evening, March 8 and has prepared a report to take to Program Commission, March 20, in anticipation of presenting a proposal for congregational approval in April.

What does she do all day?

Occasionally someone says, "I have no idea what pastors do between Sundays." I'll give you a glimpse. Each day is varied and full.

Monday mornings I'm reading the scriptures for the next Sunday. Often someone is waiting for more direction or details for the worship service, so Mondays aren't a good day for resting after a busy Sunday. As I reread the scripture, I list all the possible angles that come to me. The sorting out will happen soon. It takes all week to "cook" a sermon.

I go through old and new commentaries and learn from different perspectives and cultures. I begin to get a glimmer of a direction, but it's time to check the mail. I answer a question about the search committee, a Making Connections speaker, exchange ideas about an upcoming adult class and respond to someone interested in becoming a member. A committee chairperson brings an issue and we discuss where and how to take it further.

Then the phone rings and a local agency asks whether we're ready to work with another refugee family. Larry calls from Florida and says, "It's nice and warm here!" and tells me when he's coming home. The doorbell rings; someone needs food. I begin to prepare for teaching an upcoming class. Rod or Donna and I

*What a privilege to be invited
into people's lives even when
it's something difficult.*

problem solve something that's come in by phone or e-mail. Life in the church office keeps up a busy pace. Of course, add to that some good banter and laughter with Rod and Donna.

Monthly I meet with local ministers to hear what other churches are doing and thinking. This week we talked about the connections between our churches and local schools. I'll meet soon with the pastors from St. John's Episcopal Church and Covenant United Methodist Church who are involved with students and teachers at Fulton Elementary School nearby.

I return to the office and someone from CMCL calls and asks to talk. It's someone who is in a transition, a time of discernment, an employment change or loss or an illness or family sorrow. During the week people come into the office or I stop by someone's home or work setting. You're always welcome to stop in or call. If you're wondering why I don't call you, just pick up the phone and call me.

There are meetings and preparation for them. I write out ideas for upcoming worship themes, contact someone to preach later in the season or work with someone who is worship leading for the first time. I write some responses to a Christian Ed idea for upcoming classes. I check in with Rod and Donna about their workload and what the priorities are for their day or week.

During the week I take some blocks of time to work away from the office. That's the way I get my reading

done and the in-depth part of preparing a sermon or get perspective on the broader vision. On those days Rod and Donna know how to find me when I'm needed.

Usually people hear about the conflicts and headaches for pastors and less often hear of the privilege it is to be involved in this work. It requires a combination of taking things seriously and not taking yourself TOO seriously. I remind myself that this is God's church, not "my church." A red flag for me goes up when I'm waking up with worry rather than joy. That's a time to step back and reconsider how I'm approaching my work.

Pam Dintaman

Search Committee posts advertisements

On February 15th, a search committee charged with hiring a Director of Children and Youth Ministry and an Associate Pastor met to discuss initial steps. The committee decided on a multi-faceted placement approach for advertising. Advertisements will appear in like-minded church bulletins, Mennonite institutions in the US and in Canada, church publications, and Internet sites such as Idealist, Mennonite Neighbors and other bulletin boards.

The committee agreed to post recently compiled demographic information about our church on the CMCL website along with the job descriptions. Potential applicants can learn more about our church and the positions before applying. Applicants may contact the church office or Ruth Mellinger Martin for more information. Applications for both positions are due by April 30, 2006. The search committee consists of Ruth Mellinger Martin, chair, Lynn Sommer, Mary Alice Ressler, Kevin Hurst, Ron Umble and Pam Dintaman.

The search committee is making the ads available to all of you, encouraging you to send them on to people or groups you think may have interest. Check with the office if you'd like a copy.

See more info at the CMCL website:

<http://cmcl.pa.us.mennonite.net/>

Budget Update – February 28, 2006		
9/1/05 – 8/31/06	9/1/05 – 2/28/06	
Budget	Budget	Giving
\$351,000	\$173,000	\$174,632