

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 1, 2019

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

### Last Sunday, July 28

Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton shared special music and reflected on trusting God through trials.

### This Sunday, Aug 4

Jeanne Smucker will bring the message. Ezra and Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem from Babylon/Persia to rebuild the temple and the city walls and gates. What structures in our lives need to be rebuilt and what walls are best left down?

### Next Sunday, Aug 11

Kevin King of Mennonite Disaster Service will be a guest preacher. "Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness." From the MDS website.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Linda Kandel

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship  
11:00am Sunday School

Wed, Aug 14 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am  
Sat, Aug 24 – Bagels and Bards Writing Group, 4pm  
Wed, Aug 28 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am  
Sun, Sept 8 – Carry-In and Bridal Shower for Tim and Emily

### Bagels and Bards

Bagels and Bards is a writers' group whose members are Dan Hess, Wilma Bailey, Jeanne Smucker, Jay Brubaker, Shari Miller Wagner (2016-17 Indiana Poet laureate) and Martha

Yoder Maust. To celebrate the release of Shari's new book *The Firm Wife's Almanac*, we will be holding a reading at Shalom on Saturday, August 24 at 4:00 pm. Join us! (For more about the book, see <https://www.cascadiapublishinghouse.com/fwa/FWAnr.pdf>)

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships  
Chair: Martha Yoder

### Children's Sunday School on August 4

The children will have a combined class this Sunday. One of our activities will be filling school kits. Adults who are not participating in the structure meeting are welcome to help. The High School Youth class will meet as usual.

### Children's Classroom Needs

With a quintet of two-year olds starting Sunday School next month, we will be furnishing a new classroom for the 3-to-6-year-olds, in the previous adult classroom #1. Do you have any children's chairs, tables, toys, or books to contribute to making it a friendlier place? Talk to Martha Yoder Maust or Carol Bixler.

### Adult Education

Aug 4: Cheryl and Sam – structure evaluation  
Aug 11: Kevin King on Mennonite Disaster Service  
Aug 18: Wilma, Rose, and Bob on their trip to Ecuador  
Aug 25: Wilma, Jeanne, and Brad on their trip to South Africa

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

### Discipling Member Recommendation

The SGDT recommends Carol Bither to serve Shalom as a member of the Discipling Commission beginning on Sept 1. She will replace Jay Brubaker who will have completed

his initial two-year term. Martha Yoder Maust (chair), OlaJowon Turentine (member), and Brian Bither (returning after his sabbatical as pastoral team representative) will continue.

Please send feedback of affirmation or concern regarding Carol's gifts to Joyce Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com); 317-594-0468, mailbox at Shalom, or in person) by August 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)**

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

### Solar Panel Project – Congregational Vote Process

The Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) would like to take a vote on the Solar Panel Proposal from the Outreach Commission this coming Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be voting on the following statement: *"I am in favor of going ahead with the Solar Panel Proposal as presented on Sunday, July 21 with a contract involving Jefferson Electric, Inc. for \$79,942.50 - This amount will be paid by transferring \$40,000 from Shalom's Checking account (operating budget surplus) with the remaining balance to be paid by individual contributions."*

The ballot will require your name but each vote will be kept confidential. Ballots will be distributed with the bulletin and collected at the back of the sanctuary by Carl Rhine (the vote counter). Those not present on Sunday will be given an opportunity to send their vote to Carl by Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> to the email address: [crhine@iu.edu](mailto:crhine@iu.edu)

Anonymous comments can be made on the voting ballot and will be provided to the Outreach Commission (comments will be separated from the vote portion of the ballot).

All people who attend Shalom are invited to vote! - Carl Rhine, VAT member

## **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom  
Chair: Brad Yoder

### Ecuador Sewing Project Funds

Peter Wigginton and Delicia Bravo shared during Sunday school about their work in Ecuador--work as varied as organizing a youth retreat, leading a workshop on reconciliation, leading after-school activities, and making cloth

diapers for refugee babies. Here are a couple of follow-up items:

1. To give on-line to the diaper project you can go to this page: <https://mmngiving.formstack.com/forms/GlobalMinistries>, first select that the donation is not for a specific worker, then choose All International Ministries, and then click "yes" to the question: "Would you like to make this donation in honor or in memory of someone?", there will be a box where you can add a comment; type in **LA 279 Ecuador Sewing Project**.

With this kind of special project MMN retains 5% to cover administrative expenses.

2. To read Peter's article "The Colombian Peace Accords and the Church" go to [http://www.anabaptistwitness.org/journal\\_entry/the-colombian-peace-accords-and-the-church/](http://www.anabaptistwitness.org/journal_entry/the-colombian-peace-accords-and-the-church/)

### Retreat for Women and Girls

The speaker for this event will be our own Sabrina Falls. She will be providing instruction on the theme of wisdom as found in the book of Proverbs. Do set the dates aside and plan to attend. Cost is \$120 or \$140 for two nights (depending upon how many share a room), all meals and the registration fee included. There is no charge for women ages 18-25. Girls from grade 3 through age 17 pay only \$30. More information including a schedule for the weekend has been placed on the bulletin board. Mandy Yoder who works at Amigo Centre can also answer questions. Her telephone number is 269-651-2811.

### Sharing Space

Thank you for the 30+ bags of clothing for Family Promise. Each bag will be worth a \$5 voucher at Goodwill for the participants in the Family Promise program.

In August, we have two projects for Mennonite Central Committee.

For "My Coins Count" we have a large container at the rear of the sanctuary. The school kits have metal pencil sharpeners, *which are being ordered separately*, in addition to the following:

- 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

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems  
Chair: Laura Harms

#### Shalom Website additions and uploads

A [Sermon Archives](#) page has been added to the Shalom website.

[Minutes](#) from the first Commission Chair meeting have been uploaded to the VAT Archives page on the Shalom website.

### **Reflections On Pilgrimage**

#### Our heritage

How do you define what makes up your heritage? On our recent Anabaptist heritage tour, I gained a new insight into that question.

The story involved the coming together of several stories that span centuries.

In Rottenburg, Germany, we visited the site where Micheal Sattler was burned at the stake while his wife Margaret was drowned for their Anabaptist faith. We learned how Michael had continued to pray for his tormentors even with part of his tongue cut out. And he refused the gun powder that people were offered to hasten their death when burned at the stake.

In Schartzenau, Germany, we stood by the river where Alexander Mack baptized the first members of the Church of the Brethren. Having grown up in the Church of the Brethren, I had often heard of this place and it was moving to actually stand at the riverside and picture my ancestors entering the river for baptism.

In Brammental, we attended a Mennonite Church service. The pastor Wolfgang Kraus has been active in the German Mennonite Peace Committee. He shared the story that ties all of this together.

Five years ago, Boko Haram stormed a school founded by the Church of the Brethren in the 1940s, awakened students and abducted 275 school girls. The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria is known as Ekklesiyar Yon'uwa in Nigeria (EYN) which is Hausa for Church of

Children of the Same Mother in Nigeria. As international attention focused on the call to "Bring back our girls," the EYN continued its Christian and Muslim peace initiative.

The German Mennonite Peace Committee knew of this work and, in 2016, they awarded the Michael Sattler Peace Prize to the Christian and Muslim Peace Initiative. Ephraim Kadala, the EYN peace coordinator, and Hussaini Shauibu, a mediator and college teacher, traveled to Germany to receive the award. After receiving the award, Ephraim asked if he might visit Schwarzenau. He stood beside the Elb River, as I had done the day before. Then, he pulled off his shoes and rolled up his pants and jumped into the river. Smiling, he looked up and said, "Now I have come home."

How do we define what makes up our heritage?

--by Jeanne Smucker

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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

#### Pastoral Team:

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*Frank Kandel, (309) 532-2859, [kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com);*

*Sabrina Falls, (317) 902-9495, [sabrinafalls@outlook.com](mailto:sabrinafalls@outlook.com)*

Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Rod Maust, Brian Bither

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)