

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 23, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday Feb. 18:

Sabrina preached on the theme of confession from Psalm 32 and James 5, reminding us that it can be difficult to confess our sins (and our faith) to ourselves, to God, and to others, but that we can find the courage when we remember that the God to whom we confess is one of mercy and love.

This Sunday Feb. 25:

Brian will conclude our study of confession by looking at the "Day of Atonement" ritual described in Leviticus and studying the ancient ritual that shaped the New Testament understanding of Jesus' death as a sacrifice for sins. Read Leviticus 16 and 1 John 1:9-2:2 to prepare for the message, "Confession: A Path to Atonement."

On Sunday, March 4, Wilma Bailey will bring the message.

Lent Resource from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):

Looking for Lent activities for the whole family? Try our Lent activity calendar! Lent is a time of remembering Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness that prepared him for ministry. Starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, join others across the United States in activities that encourage and prepare us to work for peace in our communities and world. You can find the calendar here:
www.mennonitemission.net/lent.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Passing Jim Barnes:

Jim Barnes, who was a member of Shalom in the 1990's, died on Saturday after a series of

illnesses. His viewing will be Friday 5:00-8:00 PM at Saints Constantine and Elena Orthodox Church, 3237 W. 16th St. The funeral will be Saturday morning at 11:00 at the same church. All are welcome to then drive to Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, [9700 Allisonville Rd](http://www.oaklawn.org). Family is planning to rent a room in a restaurant for anyone who would like to have a meal together.

Research Project via Mil Penner:

A research project involving Mil Penner is getting considerable response. A study, reported in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* shows that third-graders who spend a class session in a natural outdoor setting are more engaged and less distracted in their regular classroom afterward than when they remain indoors.

The effect was large and occurred week after week, regardless of teacher expectations.

The research was conducted by University of Illinois natural resources and environmental sciences professor Ming Kuo, Matt Browning, a U. of I. professor of recreation, sport and tourism; and Milbert Penner, of the Cold Spring Environmental Studies Magnet School in Indianapolis.

Learn more about the research here:

<https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/601387>

Hochstetlers Moving:

Justin, Abri, and Calvin are moving just a few miles northeast of our current place. If you can help with moving boxes, furniture, words of encouragement, etc., on Saturday, March 3, we would greatly appreciate it! Fun starts about 8:30 a.m. at 6106 Primrose Ave. Let us know if you can make it so we have enough donuts/snacks. Thank you in advance!

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
11 am Sunday School

Feb. 24: 8:30am Indiana-Michigan Conference
Southern Region Delegate Session

Feb. 28: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Mar. 1: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Mar. 4: Fellowship Meal

Mar. 16: 7pm Eastside Creation Care
Network's film night at Shalom

Mar. 18: 5pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Apr. 1: 8:30am Easter breakfast

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Thank You and Spots Still Open:

Thanks to all who filled in many slots on the Sunday school signup sheet. We are still in need of teachers for the elementary and middle classes for the month of March. You can see the schedule and sign up at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15B4wMX7dnau_xuWvmidku2otuJwpMuJStPXmWvu7X0g/edit?usp=sharing
- Martha Yoder Maust

Catholic Economics Class Update:

The Catholic Economics Sunday School class will be discussing the material in chapter 9 which examines questions related to owning and using property. If we have time, we will begin chapter 10, which focuses on contractual relationships. - Wilma Bailey

Favorite Bible Verse

Please consider sending your favorite Bible verse to Abri to include in the newsletter by Thursday at noon. Thank you!

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

World Day of Prayer:

World Day of Prayer is sponsored by Church Women United, generally on the first Friday in March. This year there are celebrations

throughout Indianapolis on March 2 and 3. Shalom is part of the northeast district that will be meeting at St. Alban's Episcopal Church at 2 pm on Friday. There is a listing of other times and locations in the church foyer. Direct questions to Carol Bixler.

Creation Care Workshop:

Saturday, March 3, 8:30 – 11:30, a workshop, "Green Team Basics: Creation Care 101", is being hosted at St. Mathews Episcopal Church, 8320 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. It's facilitated by Amy Barnes, H-IPL Program Manager.

You will learn: how to start and maintain an effective congregational green team; how to choose activities and initiatives for your green team that will yield meaningful change within your congregation. The workshop is free and open to the public. Please RSVP at www.hoosieripl.org/green_team_basics_creation_care

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Bulletin Boards:

Administration Commission is reviewing our use of the bulletin board spaces. If you'd like to offer input, please contact Abri at abri.houser@gmail.com by March 15. Thanks!

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

VAT Survey:

Please remember to fill out the pastor's review survey that was sent to your email address last week. Print copies are available on the table under the mailboxes. The survey will be used for Pastor Brian's three-year review and also as part of his ordination materials for Indiana-Michigan Conference. The survey is due on March 4. You may return it anytime prior to that date to Jeanne Smucker or Wilma Bailey.

Survey Results:

You may recall a few weeks ago the congregation took part in a survey entitled,

“Twenty Pastoral Tasks”. This survey is designed to identify both the perceived needs and expectations of the congregation and the priorities and vision of the pastoral candidate. The aim of this indicator is to aid in the matching of the congregation’s expectations and the pastor’s priorities. The results are listed in order of high to lowest priority.

- Preaching
- Christian Spirituality
- Teaching
- Crisis Care
- Congregational Care

- Healthy Communication
- Evangelism
- Call out gifts
- Missional Leadership
- Christian Formation
- Peace and Justice
- Ministry in Community
- Leadership/Administration
- Dedications, etc.
- Counseling

- Broader Menno Relations
- Worship/Music planning
- Mentoring Youth/YA
- Work with Small Grps
- Stewardship/Finances

Milepost #341: **The Pastors’ Role at Shalom**

What do the pastors at Shalom do? How do we – or more importantly, how should we – spend our time? In many churches, those are easy questions to answer, but it is a little harder in our congregation because we believe in “the priesthood of all believers,” which means that we are all called to be ministers of Jesus Christ. So, in contrast to liturgical churches in which pastors (or “priests”) are the only people qualified to administer communion and receive confession, we believe that all Christians are qualified to do these things. In contrast to many nondenominational churches, in which pastors are “in charge” of their church and make the ultimate decisions about its vision

and values, we believe that this authority should be shared equally among congregants. Even the most familiar “pastoral tasks” such as preaching and visiting the sick are not performed by the pastors alone at Shalom but are widely shared among the congregation, because we believe that anyone who has the gifts and calling to do this work should do it – whether they are pastors or not. So in a church like ours that believes in the priesthood of all believers, where does that leave pastors?

Let’s think about it this way: in our church, the authority and responsibility of the church is widely distributed among the congregation, but there have to be some people who help hold it all together. That is largely what the pastoral role is about at Shalom. Pastors are called to lead or equip the congregation in pursuing our vision. The congregation as a whole determines the vision, the various commissions do the planning and management to “make it happen,” and individual church members do the actual volunteering “work” of ministry. The pastoral team keeps everyone connected to each other and aligned with the vision.

This is how it is working right now. Our pastoral team, which currently consists of Brian Bither, Sabrina Falls, and Frank Kandel – meets regularly to reflect on and pray about the well-being of our church. Each of us serves on one or more commissions. Brian is currently serving on the Vision & Accountability Team, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, Community Life Commission, and Discipling Commission. Sabrina is serving on the Worship Commission. Frank is serving on the Outreach Commission and Administration Commission. By connecting with each other, we keep the pulse of the church’s health as a whole by paying attention to how it is moving in accordance with the vision, and we also offer guidance commission to ensure that their work is congruent with the work of the other commissions. Moreover, as we track the health of the congregation, we pay attention not only to commissions but to individuals, and devote special attention to those who are going through trying times and require special support. We seek to connect individuals with

the church body as a whole and to make sure that the various commissions are working in ways that meet the needs of individuals. Thus, pastoral care is still a significant part of our work, even when others share in it, because it is the pastors' job to ensure that people are being supported by the church as a whole.

Furthermore, this interconnectedness gives us a unique ability to represent the church to outside people and institutions and to be able to speak to the needs of the church as a whole. That, in turn, informs the way that we preach and write and share our thoughts. Thus, preaching is still an important part of the pastoral ministry, even when others who are not pastors can share in it, because it gives us the opportunity to call the attention of the whole to the needs of various parts.

So, in summary, what do pastors do in a church like ours? Pastors have been given the sacred trust of keeping watch over the health of the congregation as a whole and its individual members in accordance with a vision that is bigger than them. We may not be as visible or prominent as pastors are in other churches, but perhaps we are more integrated with the life of the congregation. If this is the kind of work that stirs your heart, perhaps you may be called to the pastoral ministry.

— Brian Bither

Do you have some thoughts to share about this month's spiritual discipline? The Pastoral Team invites you to share your thoughts as one of the weekly milepost entries. Please email Sabrina, Frank, or Brian to explore this further.

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

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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Abri Hochstetler: abri.houser@gmail.com