

Branching Out

Volume 28 Number 5 April 11, 2011

Shepherd's Gate hosts Spring Program tonight

Using the theme, "The Zoo is coming now," the Shepherd's Gate children will sing tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. They will show their Spanish skills as well as crafts they have made. Everyone is welcome!

OC Assembly report

Larry and Jean Emery, two of Beech's representatives, share highlights from the 42nd Ohio Conference Annual Assembly held at Central Christian H.S. in Kidron, Ohio on March 11-12:

There were 335 representatives from 78 congregations in Ohio and Indiana who gathered for worship, fellowship and business sessions.

The theme of the weekend assembly, ABIDE, LOVE and GROW, was taken from John: 15, the story of the vine dresser and the branches. The worship time, including OMW singing, a drama, varsity singers from CCHS and prayer time, was centered on the same theme.

There were several workshops that were all well attended and covered a wide range of topics. There were also various displays from over 30 church agencies and organizations and a ministry fair, new this year, which was designed to share what is working for other congregations within

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MWS-Missions projects

At Wednesday's monthly Beech MWS all-day meeting, April's mission project, **supplies for Hammer & Nails**, was announced.

Please check the list on the new Missions and Service bulletin board next to the secretary's office. **Most needed items are trim brushes, 3" paint brushes, painters' tape, paint tray liners and plastic buckets. Monetary donations and gift cards from Home Depot, Sherwin Williams or Crystal Park Hardware are also welcome. Please place items in the Narthex. Thank you!**

Plans are being made by the Mission Commission for a Beech crew to assist Hammer & Nails at one of their Canton area home renovations later this month. Please sign up on the Mission bulletin board.

Attend special Holy Week programs

Since Ash Wednesday when we were led to be "Content with Less", we have been "Called and Shaped by Jesus" each Sunday with our music, MYF-led drama/ children's time and the sermon on a specific way in which God is testing us.

All this builds up to our Holy Week services which begin on Palm Sunday, April 17 with a procession of our children waving palm branches.

After church, the MYF will serve lunch. Then there will be a special Easter story and an Easter egg hunt which Karen Miller and Congregational Life Commission have organized for our children.

Our Good Friday service will be in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on April 21.

On Easter Sunday there will be two services: a Sunrise Service at 8:30 a.m. in the narthex and the traditional Easter service at 10:30 in the sanctuary. In between the two services, a breakfast will be served in our Fellowship Hall.

A special Lenten choir led by Larry Herris is singing during today's service as well as participating in the Palm Sunday and traditional service on Easter Sunday.

Corner

Just as Barnabas encouraged others in the New Testament church, let us encourage others here at Beech Church. If you would like to thank someone for a job well done, place your item for "Barnabas' Corner" in Deanna Slater or Rachel Witmer's mailbox.

Another "God Moment"

January 15th we started out on our long drive to Eldorado, Arkansas. Roads were clear, the sun was shining, all was going well as we cruised along I-71...until as we neared Cincinnati, we heard a thump, thump, thump. We pulled over onto the space just before an exit ramp and saw that the right rear tire was totally flat. Both of us got out and unloaded the trunk to get to the jack and the spare tire.

About then, a sheriff's car with lights flashing pulled in behind us. He came up and said, "What do you two think you are doing? Get into the car; I am going to change that tire!" And that's exactly what he did! What a blessing! Then Arden asked him if he knew where we could get a new tire. Amazingly, the instructions were to exit on the ramp right where we were parked, turn left for about a half block and there was Discount Tire Store. How convenient is that? Fortunately this was Saturday and they were open and able to accommodate us. In an hour or so we were on our way, grateful for what seemed to be a "God Moment" in our lives! abs

Arden and AnnaBelle Schmucker recently returned from their yearly SOOP service time at a senior care center (Arden) and a library (AnnaBelle) in ARK.

Branching Out is the newsletter of Beech Mennonite Church. Its purpose is to keep the members and regular attendees informed of coming events and of the church organizations' activities.

The publication date is the first Sunday of every month. The submission deadline is the last Sunday of the preceding month.

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Shepherd's Gate report

Shepherd's Gate staff and children invite you to join us for our Spring Program **tonight** at 6:30 p.m. Our theme, "The Zoo is Coming Now," features animal songs. Our classes are diligently practicing songs and preparing crafts for display. They will also share some songs in Spanish, and demonstrate some of the vocabulary Pastor Dan has been teaching them. A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow the program. See you there!

We also offer a special invitation to anyone in the church family who would like to help us celebrate the Week of the Young Child, April 10-16. You could read a Bible story or a favorite children's book, present a cooking project or share with our children in your own creative way. Tina Miller is organizing a group of St. Louis E.S. students to interact with our children after school one day. Please call Shepherd's Gate at 330-875-3399 or email us at Shelperdsgateccc@yahoo.com.

Remember to keep our spring children's consignment sale, May 21, in mind as you reorganize and clean out your closets. Contact Jen Hartzler - jenhartzler2@gmail.com for more information or to obtain a registration form.

Enrollment openings are available at Shepherds Gate. We offer a 25% discount to Beech church members' children, a sibling discount for full time enrollees and a referral bonus to enrolled families bringing us new children. Please share with family and friends that we provide quality, faith-based childcare in our community.

Our center had its bi-annual inspection on March 23. The inspection showed all areas of the center were compliant with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licensing regulations. Our inspector remarked that she enjoys coming to SGCCC because it is an easy inspection. Hat's off to our staff for making this a wonderful place to nurture children!

Thank you to all who helped with the boys' restroom renovation. Also, thank you to all who donated supplies as a result of the March missions project. We greatly appreciate the continual support of the Beech church family.

Happy Easter!

Lori Dickerhoof, Director
Shepherd's Gate Childcare Center

Congratulations!

Cory Burdett was graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Ohio State University in Columbus during the Spring Commencement on March 20, 2011. He started work April 4 with the Timken Company where he previously had served as an intern. His proud parents, Dale and Jean, attended his graduation.

Did you know...

...that Andrew Leaman has been selected to be a member of Louisville High School's Senior National Honor Society? A junior, Andrew participates in the marching band as well as other church and school activities.

...that Austen Black, a third grader at Pleasant Grove E. S. and Rilen Yoder, a kindergarten student at Louisville E.S., were both pictured in the March Paw Prints newsletter? Austen participated in an Accelerated Reading (AR) special assembly program at PG. Rilen was one of several LES students in the spotlight for the number of books they have read in the AR program.

...that Mia and Josh Schloneger, second and third graders, respectively, at St. Louis E.S., displayed their birdfeeders in a recent *Herald*? They made the birdfeeders in their Storytellers Club at SLES.

...that the Hartville Thrift Shoppe has now passed the \$2 million mark in their contributions to MCC?

...that 11 of our Young Mothers enjoyed a Ladies' Night Out last Saturday? They attended a special program with comedian Anita Renfroe at First Christian Church in Canton.

Our deepest sympathy

is extended to the family and friends of Eileen Schmucker, who left her frail body on March, 28, 2011 in Aultman Hospital, Canton. Eileen grew up in Beech Church and had a life-long membership. She was preceded in death by her parents, Noah and Eleanor (Conrad) Schmucker, two brothers, Myron and Merlin, and a sister, Twila. Her survivors are the many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews and a number of loyal friends and caretakers including Marlene Hostetler. Her service was conducted by Pastor Dan Deem of First Assembly of God, Louisville, which Eileen attended in recent years, and Pastor Dan King on March 30 at Beech with her burial in Beech Cemetery.

New service available: If you have a mobility challenge, please take advantage of our VALET PARKING SERVICE. Drive up to the front door and someone will gladly park your car!



Dates to remember

Today: 6:30 p.m. - Shepherd's Gate Spring program
 Tues. - Apr. 12 - 6:15 p.m. - Bible Study at Beech
 6:30 p.m. - Elders meeting at AnnaBelle's
 Wed. - Apr. 13 - 5:45 p.m. meal followed by
 6:30 classes. Last session until Fall.
 Thurs. April 14 - 9 a.m. - Lavera's Bible Study
 7 p.m. - Church Council meeting
 Apr. 17 - PALM SUNDAY - 10:30 service followed by
 Noon - MYF lunch in F. H. followed by
 Children's Easter story and Easter Egg Hunt!
 Apr. 22 - GOOD FRIDAY 7 P.M. SERVICE - Beech
 Apr. 24 - EASTER SUNDAY services at Beech
 8:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service - Narthex
 9:15 - Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
 10:30 - Traditional service - Sanctuary
 Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day
 Sat., May 21 - 8 am- 2 pm - Lil' Sprouts Consignmt
 Sale - Beech. Application deadline: April 21
 June 12-16 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - VBS at Beach
 Registration on line begins May 1.

MYF NEWS

MYF members and sponsors thank everyone who provided our progressive dinner. We had salad and fruit at Nancy Schneider's, our main dish of lasagna and bread sticks at Melanie Black's (with help from Grace Hartman and Diana Gruber), and ice cream sundaes at Dan and Jeanette's.

The youth will be assisting with a few more dramas for Lent and are busy making plans for convention. We are close to our fundraising goals for convention, thanks to the generosity of the congregation! There are a few fundraising activities to come, including a Mission Meal on Palm Sunday and a pizza sale in May. The youth are also helping to prepare and hide the eggs for the children's Easter egg hunt after the meal on Palm Sunday.

We just finished a study on Revelations in Sunday School, which the youth found interesting, and have started a book called *Crash: Prayers for the Collision of Heaven and Earth*, which focuses on the life of David and being more aware of and open to those "God moments" when they occur.

The MYF is looking for service opportunities, both in the church family and in the greater community. If anyone from the congregation has ideas, we would love to hear from them! Megan and Jen

Beech/Lil' Sprouts Consignment Sale

Sellers are still needed for Shephard's Gate second one-stop infant through teen sale on Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Gently used clothing, toys, books, furniture are welcome. Earn 70%; 30% to Shephard's Gate. Contact Jen Hartzler: jenhartzler2@gmail.com for details.

Ohio Conference Annual Assembly Report (from Page 1)

the Conference and to give some new and fresh ideas. An art display also focused on the "Abide, Love, Grow" theme.

Congregations that had special projects gave reports. First Mennonite Church in Berne, IN, shared about the Farmers' Market they had started by inviting local farmers to bring their produce to sell. This was a way to get to know people and to invite them to church. The Tedro Mennonite Church shared about starting a paper pantry in their church to help the area needy with a lot of their paper products.

Maple Grove Mennonite Church of Hartville was welcomed as a member of the Ohio Conference. They will hold a dual membership temporarily.

There was a lot of table discussion about a variety of conference issues. Some of the more important were about increasing the leadership team's staffing to ease their workload and approving the new budget for the coming year. There was also discussion about approving the slate of new conference volunteers.

Two awards were given out to congregations in OC for their work with the Hispanic community in providing a variety of special services and religious support where needed. The closest one, in Wayne County, is LifeBridge congregation.

Andy Stoner, Regional Pastor, was recognized for his service to Ohio Conference over the years. He will retire this coming summer and volunteer in Washington, D.C. at the International Guest House for a year.

The Conference Assembly closed with a communion and commissioning service.

Larry and Jean Emery

The good attendance at Assembly indicates affirmation for the life and work of Ohio Conference. It was good to see a mix of middle aged and young adults, both men and women taking leadership. Upon registration, each delegate and other participants were assigned to a table group for discussion of the various topics being presented. It felt good to interact with persons of various ages from churches across the conference.

The worship services were inspirational and the many workshops provided information and opportunities for missional services. It was encouraging to hear of congregations teaming with their communities to meet needs. One church provided their parking lot and personnel to begin a farmer's market, giving them opportunities to interact in various ways. Another worked with others to develop a "paper room" in their garage to provide various products - soap, personal products, diapers, bathroom supplies, etc. for low income persons on food stamps. We have creative missional outreach in our conference.

We were challenged to increase our giving to the Conference **Mel and Lois Leidig**

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Hearts and Hands Serving is collecting the following items all year to pack in our bags for the homeless those individuals in need:

- Fabric placemats
- Coffee mugs
- Small Travel (hotel) size shampoo, lotions, etc.
- Inexpensive jewelry - used or new
- Small toys - balls, card games, etc.
- Beanie Baby stuffed animals

Please place your donations in the copy room.

Thank you,

Patty Yoder

