

VISION 2012

Benefit Concert - "Y'all Come"!

There will be a **benefit concert** for Vision 2012 on Sunday, **August 12**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS. The concert features "**The Possum Boys**" in their final performance before some of the group scatters for graduate school and voluntary service. Composed of brothers Derek, Brett, and Grant Klingenberg, Nathan Stucky, and Bethany Amstutz, the Possum Boys have become known for their original lyrics, sense of humor, and warm harmonies. From bluegrass to Gospel, from lyrical to farcical, their music is fun for the whole family. This concert will be no different--plus there will plenty of times to sing along too.

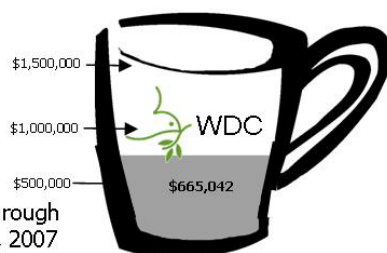
All proceeds from the concert will go to Western District Conference's Vision 2012--because, they said, "We believe in WDC--camp, conference ministers, and the resource library. We want to support that ministry."

So, come one, come all, and enjoy good music, good fellowship, and a good cause. See you there!

2007 Annual Budget
Congregational Goal: **\$472,300**



Vision 2012
3 year Goal: **\$1,500,000**



Totals through
June 15, 2007

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WDC News

July/August 2007

VBS Troupe visiting WDC churches

A Traveling Troupe is bringing God's good news during Vacation Bible School to five locations across the WDC: **Hillsboro, KS:** First Mennonite and Trinity Mennonite; **Turpin, OK:** Turpin Mennonite and Calvary Mennonite, Liberal, KS; **Clinton, OK:** Koinonia Mennonite Church; **Hydro, OK:** Junior Camp; and **Dallas, TX:** Iglesia Mennonita Comunidad de Esperanza and Mennonite Church House of Healing. These rural or urban churches were selected because of their expressed desire for additional leadership to run a Vacation Bible School and their plan to reach out into their communities and to cooperate with other churches in their geographic area. Norma Johnson is coordinating the Troupe made up of four young women from Mennonite colleges and universities. They are: Rebecca Claassen, (Bethel College); Teresa Hershberger (Bluffton University); Megan Klaassen (Bethel College); and Regina Weaver (Hesston College). This Troupe is providing leadership in music, worship, drama and other activities. They are using the Faith and Life Resources curriculum: *Be Bold, God is With You*. The Troupe is possible because of a generous grant from the Schowalter Foundation.



Bottom row, l-r: Norma Johnson (KS), Regina Weaver (PA), Teresa Hershberger (OH), (top row, l-r): Megan Klaassen (KS), Rebecca Claassen (WA)
(Photo by Marlene Bogard)



Sarah Klaassen, WDC Summer Intern

We welcome Sarah Klaassen as a summer intern in the WDC offices for nine weeks. Sarah will be a second year Master of Divinity student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN next fall. She is a member of Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS and graduated from Southwest Missouri State University with a major in Religious Studies in 2006.

"I was looking for a way to explore a different side of ministry as I consider my future goals. I am passionate about my religion studies, about church as community,

(Photo by Phyllis Regier)

and about places where I can ask faith questions. I am exploring conference ministry and next summer I plan to do a supervised experience in a local congregation.

I value so much the emphasis in my family and my congregation about the importance of a "doing faith". There is a connection between faith and works and I believe Mennonites bring that unique perspective together so well. The importance of service is really stressed--and I've found that not everyone sees service as a vital part of their faith. I'm still wondering, however, how I will fit "into the church". And, by extension, how do young adults "do church"? How do we live our faith and do we live "the mold" that is out there? I am excited to explore these questions this summer."

(Partial funding for this internship comes from the Bethel College Mennonite Church Mission and Service Endowment Fund.)

!Explore

This Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, IN) theological program provides young people in the 11th and 12th grades in high school an experience designed to encourage the development of their gifts in leadership, expose them to the world of theological ideas, and foster in them a call to vocation in the church. WDC participants for summer 2007 are:

- Jennifer Warkentine (Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS)
- Isaac Yoder-Schrock (West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS)
- Benjamin Baumgartner (Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS)
- Sarah Pohl (First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS)

For more information about !Explore, see: <http://www.ambbs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/explore>



Camp Mennoscah Summer 2007 "Jesus: The Upside Down Mission"

Camping is designed to:

- ...make God personal
- ...make living real
- ...make nature instructive
- ...make leisure meaningful
- ...make service challenging



(Photos by Joyce Panbratz)



Dorothy Nickel Friesen accepts second term

Dorothy Nickel Friesen, upon recommendation of the Western District Conference Executive Committee and the approval of the WDC Executive Board, has accepted the invitation to serve a second, five-year term as WDC Conference Minister beginning January, 2008. The review process of the first term included questionnaires, a self assessment, and consultation with the wider church. Keith Harder, Mennonite Church USA, served as consultant to WDC.

In her next term, Dorothy is looking forward to calling out new leaders in the changing church, implementing the priorities of WDC, including exercising spiritual gifts and planting new churches, and finding the "lost coins"--encouraging financial and prayer stewardship. The WDC Executive Board celebrated her acceptance of another term with a chocolate ice cream cake at their June 1 meeting--signaling their "sweet delight" and sharing Dorothy's love of chocolate!



WDC Executive Committee: L-R: Brenda Glanzer-Lilliston (Moderator-Elect), Dorothy Nickel Friesen (Conference Minister), Jay Goering (Moderator), Marlene Faul (Secretary). (Photo by Nancy Funk)