

## **FMC News -- MAY 2009**

**Sharing gifts in worship.** Worship Team is always looking to add to its list of people willing to be involved in worship in a variety of ways – worship leading, storytelling, scripture reading, singing, playing an instrument. Please let any member of Worship Team (Jenny, Kenny, or Rachel) know what gifts you are willing to share.

*Please submit any items for the June Calendar to Rachel by May 24.*

### **From Mennonite Church USA**

#### **Prophets among us**

We Mennonites are receiving calls to repentance these days by some who are outside our circles of relationship. Repentance might seem like strong language to the people who are issuing these calls, but that's the way it sounds to me.

I'll mention two such prophets, but there are more with a similar message. Greg Boyd is pastor of a mega-church in Minneapolis. Shane Claiborne is an advocate of a return to early church practices of community and service to the poor and is a popular speaker in colleges and elsewhere.

Both have become attracted to Anabaptism/Mennonitism. Their common message is that our Mennonite understanding of the Kingdom of God has great appeal and relevance to many today. So why aren't we doing more with it?

Boyd suggests that we may have tied this up in our history, in old cultural expressions that don't communicate to younger people in the early 21st Century. Claiborne suggests that a return to the original forms of radical discipleship to Jesus is the way.

What is God doing by sending these prophets to speak at our meetings of boards and on our college campuses? Is a revitalized witness in need of discovery or recovery or both?

These days we are often concerned about preserving the church that has nurtured us. But perhaps our Anabaptist/Mennonite witness will not be carried into the future by the vehicles of historical/cultural forms we have known. That thought might perplex us, even upset many of us. But that is the way prophets usually speak through the ages. Are we listening? How can your congregation respond?

*Jim Schrag is Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA*

~~~~~  
Camp Friedenswald's theme for this summer is "Live Life" and is based on John 15:1-13. Youth camp and family camp registration forms are available in the brochure rack and at [www.friedenswald.org](http://www.friedenswald.org).

Do you love interacting with people? Do you enjoy spending time at Camp? Is hospitality what it's all about for you? Camp Friedenswald is looking for volunteers interested in being Guest Group Hosts on weekends and some summer weekdays. This position involves greeting guests and being available throughout their stay for special needs. Training, lodging and meals are provided. This is a great opportunity for singles, couples and families. If interested, give Portia a call at 269-476-9744 for more information.