

*The mission of First Mennonite Church is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

## Women's Retreat 2008

*by Angie Newcomer*

Women's retreat was a wonderful, WET, and very meaningful weekend for all of us. Our weekend was full of laughter, good discussion, some tears, good food, great singing, and a time to get to know each other a little better even though it rained the entire weekend (10 inches to be exact!). Umbrellas were a must! We had a great relaxing weekend.

Our speaker for the weekend was Cyneatha Millsaps, associate pastor of Community Mennonite Church in Markham IL. For the past 9 years, Cyneatha has worked with families and individuals in transition (a form of family services). She is very active in her community working directly with women and children in the area of violence (dating and family violence), education, and spiritual needs. Cyneatha talked about how she had experienced some very hard times in her own life; growing up with a mother who had schizophrenia, and how she became a teen mother at the age of 17.

The title for the weekend was "The Seasons of Life." Cyneatha spoke to us about special times that we as women experience in our life. She talked about the 3 Mary's of the Bible - Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany, and Mary Magdalene - and compared them with our lives as women today. For instance, at our Saturday morning worship, Cyneatha had us rolling with laughter as she compared the responsibility we have for our children when we become mothers and the responsibility Mary had for Jesus. She talked about the time when Jesus had wandered away and had been missing for 2 days! How must have Mary felt at the time when she was looking for Jesus- her responsibility was to care for this very special child, the Son Of God!!

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## Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 5, 6:30pm

Pie & ice cream 6:00pm



GAME NIGHT: October 4, 6:30pm  
Lunch in Community: October 19, 12:15pm  
Work Day: October 25, 8:30am  
Lunch will be provided.

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And she had lost him!! She was frantic!! The comparison was very similar to what we feel for our own children today.

During our Saturday evening worship service, Cyneatha had us all in tears as she spoke about a young lady she had helped who was being both physically and mentally abused by her husband. To make a long story short, through the church, this young lady was able to escape from her controlling husband's abuse.

Saturday evening we had our popcorn campfire indoors, of course, around the fireplace.

During our Sunday morning worship, Cyneatha spoke about the life of Mary Magdalene. She encouraged us, as women today, to not sell ourselves short, and to live our lives to their fullest-boasting in all those special moments we experience in our lives as women.

After the worship service on Sunday morning, Cyneatha invited all of us to go out and "play" in the rain. We did not, but those that did seemed to be having a great time.

*FMC women who attended the retreat were Jan Croyle, Angie Newcomer, Norma Rohrer and Rachel Siemens.*



## **The Men's Retreat is November 14-16.**

From the Friedenswald web site:

### **Men's Retreat; What Do I Get Out of It?**

Men's Retreat is a space where men from the church can come to relax, have fun, get to know other men of faith and be challenged and supported in our walk with God. It is so important as men to take time and examine how God is working in our own lives as well as in the lives of our loved ones. Make it a priority to come to retreat this year.



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## **Visions of Peace**

Here are some of the visions of peace for First Mennonite Church shared during worship on August 10, 2008.

- ✚ Peace means that everyone comes in harmony with justice and mercy.
- ✚ Helping more visibly in our community, helping to bridge the gap between those who have and those who have not.
  - Marion's closet
  - Summer lunch program
  - Soup kitchen
  - Angel Food ministries
  - Others
- ✚ Church that gets along together and works as one body.
- ✚ Write to congressmen to not support war  
Peace rallies  
Peace marches  
Make love, not war  
Human shields
- ✚ Vision of peace for FMC: Continue to share our views on PEACE as a denomination. Plant "seeds" of PEACE in our community through local projects. Ex. Eyes Wide Open display, helping with local support groups w/in community, volunteering
- ✚ Listening
- ✚ That we may not be afraid to witness for peace.

# MYF October Events

Oct. 12 Bowling  
Time TBA

Oct. 25 Work Day

## FMC & Community Announcements

We would like to send a Christmas "love box" to the Allison-Jones family. To send it sea mail, it needs to be in the mail by October 25th. We will be collecting **small, light-weight** items through October 19th. A few suggestions would be pretty seasonal napkins, note cards, tea, small Christmas gifts, etc. *Anything light and small.* A Christmas Box will be put in the parlor/library for collecting the items.

**MCC RELIEF CANNING** will begin at Kidron, OH on October 20 thru October 23, 2003. Please support the canning with a financial gift (we project our cost to be \$60,000 this year) and with your time to help process the meat.

**MCC Washington Office High School Essay Contest**  
Calling all teenagers interested in how their faith impacts public policy! The topics for our tenth annual essay contest include the global food crisis, U.S. energy policy, and gun laws. Essays must be postmarked by December 15 and prizes will be awarded. Contest guidelines are online at [mcc.org/us/washington](http://mcc.org/us/washington).

**Deadline** for submissions (news items, reviews, poems, articles, events, etc.) for the **November 2008** newsletter is **October 19, 2008**. Please submit to Rachel via email or mailbox.

## October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1 - Janine Rohrer  
7 - Jesse Rohrer  
8 - Eileen Lind  
11 - Grace Newcomer  
13 - Caleb Saunders  
14 - Gary Bush  
- Christian Power  
20 - Cinda Meyer  
- Bob & Rita Hart (1984)  
27 - Scott Miller

## Worship @ FMC

OCTOBER:

Ushers: Paul B. & Ken R.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
5	Jake N. & Dan M.	Sharon G.
12	Jenny & Rachel H.	Nate H.
19	Stan & Iona H.	Rhonda L.
26	Jay & Rhonda L.	

Greeters should be at the front and back door by 10:20 and ushers should be ready to hand out bulletins and seat people by 10:30.

Those in the nursery should introduce themselves to parents of young children and sit near the back to watch for children heading to the nursery.

*Please remember to find someone to fill-in for you if you cannot make it.*

### On the horizon...

Nov 9 Autumnfest  
Nov 30 First Advent

June 30 - July 5, 2009	Columbus 2009
July 14-19, 2009	Paraguay 2009