Take time to be Holy

Repeatedly over the past two years, the Spirit has impressed on my mind the need for our mission center to practice Sabbath as Jesus did — not as I did during my childhood, when we didn’t go shopping or go to the show on Sunday or even sew a button on a shirt. Sabbath was Sunday then and, to many, was a time of deprivation. We didn’t understand the benefits.

Jesus left great throngs of people to find solitude — to find Sabbath in the midst of life — and then He returned, filled and nourished. Jesus didn’t wait for Sunday. He knew the importance of Sabbath in His life and His mission. And, he knew when His soul was dry.

Years ago, now Presiding Bishop, Steve Jones, recommended the book Sabbath, by Wayne Muller, during a sermon when he ministered at one of our reunions at Brush Creek. When I got home, I bought the book and read it. It was wonderful and I knew I should heed the words within it. But, I just “didn’t have time”.

Recently I was asked along with all of the other field ministers in Barbara Carter’s apostolic field to read Sabbath in preparation for an upcoming meeting. Reading the words again has shown me what I missed out on because I didn’t “make time”. It has also helped me understand why my thoughts have been directed toward the need for Sabbath in our mission center.

“The Lord is my Shepherd. . . He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.” It is this restoring of our souls that will allow us to effectively live and share the mission of Jesus Christ.

Please read this excerpt from Sabbath, in which Wayne Muller quotes a young Dutch woman, Ette Hillesum, who was a victim of the Nazi concentration camps. She kept a diary in the midst of turmoil.

“We have to fight them daily, like fleas, those many small worries about the morrow, for they sap our energies. . . The things that have to be done must be done, and for the rest we must not allow ourselves to become infested with thousands of petty fears and worries, so many motions of no confidence in God. Ultimately, we have just one moral duty; to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.”

Find time for Sabbath each day, even tiny moments of Sabbath, and watch what God will do with us.

Joan

Please plan now to attend the Brush Creek Mission Center Fall Conference

Please put this date – OCTOBER 13, 2012 – on your calendar and come share in the conference. Salem Community of Christ
An Invitation to attend the Brush Creek Mission Center Fall Conference
OCTOBER 13, 2012 - Salem Church

Please plan now to attend the Brush Creek Mission Center Fall Conference to be held at the Salem Community of Christ. Marvin Rice and Craig Martens will be with us to bring ministry and help as we need them. Our schedule is as follows:

10:30 – Worship Service
11:30 - Lunch (Bring your own and we will share food and fellowship. Drinks, plates, cups, napkins, and plastic ware will be provided.)
12:45 - Pre-legislative session
1:30 - Business Session

In addition to election of officers and consideration of the budget for 2013 we will be electing delegates for the World and National Conferences next spring. I would also like to inform you of two proposals which are going to be presented for your consideration and vote. The first one comes from the Brush Creek Campground board and is a proposal to add the Mission Center Director of Camping as an ex-officio member of the board. The second is from the Mission Center leadership team and is a proposal to create a position in the mission center which would have the title of Mission Initiatives Development Director.

Details about these two proposals will be presented at the conference during the pre-legislative session. At that time, questions can be asked and time will be provided for open discussion.

Please put this date – OCTOBER 13, 2012 – on your calendar and come share in the conference.

Grief Support Group - Thompsonville Church

Just wanted to touch base with area Community of Christ Churches and let you know that we are once again offering a grief support group in our community. This is a 12 week program beginning September 10, 2012 at 6pm at the Thompsonville Community of Christ. The materials I use are by Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD, appropriately named "The Understand your Grief Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing your heart," and "the Understanding Your Grief Journal." We are excited about this venture, as we have seen success with the prior two grief support groups we have sponsored, and we continue to see a great need for grief support in our community. Please tell your congregation so that anyone who can use this support may come. We at the Thompsonville Community of Christ feel this program could be used throughout the country as a tool for grief support, healing, and peace.

Jane Pinkham, Facilitator My home # 618-923-1094
Thompsonville Community of Christ
Conference delegates needed!!

Conference delegates needed!! If you would like to participate as a delegate or just a visitor in an incredible experience that will cause you to rejoice in the world wide nature of Community of Christ – plan to attend World Conference, April 13 – 18 2013, and/or the USA National Conference, April 19 – 21, 2013, in Independence, Missouri.

Those who attend as visitors will need to register ahead of time. Information will soon be available in the upcoming editions of the Herald.

Those who want to have their names put on the ballot for either conference or for both conferences will need to submit their names and which conference or both so that I receive them no later than September 30, 2012. We will need 35 delegates for the World Conference and 30 delegates for the National Conference plus alternates. There will be two separate ballots and we will vote separately at the October 13, 2012, Mission Center Conference, in Salem. As of Saturday, August 25, the following names (listed alphabetically) have been submitted:

**World Conference**
- Cathi Colarusso
- Russell Eastin
- Wanda Eastin
- Rod Gilbert
- Marion Harmon
- Gail Harmon
- Jackie Hogue
- Bonnie Holler
- Fred Keenan
- Joyce Keenan
- Jeri Lauren Lambert
- Gene McIntosh
- Marlene McIntosh
- Joan Munter
- Chris Ober
- Laura Ovall
- Ernest Rample
- Jean Rample
- Donna Savage
- Jeannie Watson
- Karen Witts

**National Conference**
- Angie Burkett
- Cathi Colarusso
- Debbie Collins
- Duane Collins
- Russell Eastin
- Wanda Eastin
- Rod Gilbert
- Jackie Hogue
- Bonnie Holler
- Fred Keenan
- Joyce Keenan
- Marion Kleinau
- Marvin Kleinau
- Jeri Lauren Lambert
- Gene McIntosh
- Marlene McIntosh
- Renee Meado
- Joan Munter
- Ernest Rample
- Jean Rample
- Chris Ober
- Laura Ovall
- Donna Savage
- Jeannie Watson
- Karen Witts

If you have contacted me and I have omitted your name, I apologize. Please let me know and I will fix it. Remember, I need to have the names no later than September 30. Email me at jmunter@cofchrist.org.

Discussion groups have begun in our mission center. These small groups will be watching several DVD segments and talking about “The Role of Scripture in Discerning God’s Will”. This is a preparation time for the upcoming National Conference which will be held in April, following the World Conference.
Everyone is encouraged to attend a Discussion Group in your area

Discussion groups have begun in our mission center. These small groups will be watching several DVD segments and talking about “The Role of Scripture in Discerning God’s Will”. This is a preparation time for the upcoming National Conference which will be held in April, following the World Conference.

Two issues will be brought before that National Conference: same gender marriage and ordination of people in same gender relationships. USA mission centers submitted 15 resolutions to the 2010 World Conference about these issues. Because discussion of these matters could potentially cause serious harm in some nations where the church has a presence, the necessity of National Conferences became apparent. There will be no recommendation made to a World Conference from the National Conference. There will be, however, recommendations sent to the Council of Twelve Apostles and the First Presidency. Please refer to the July 2012 Herald, beginning on page 16, for answers to questions you may have about the National Conferences. There have been several recent articles in other Heralds which you may find useful as you consider these issues.

We have many who have been involved in the planning for these sessions. People have taken the time to go to training sessions to prepare themselves to be facilitators. In most cases facilitators will be members of Brush Creek mission center. Congregations have willingly agreed to host other congregations so that together they might come together for discernment. Others have been willing to prepare food for these gatherings. Much has been done to make available these times of sharing in safe, loving environments – not times of judging or ridicule, not times of impatience and proving points, not times of trying to get others to believe as we do, but important times of peaceful discussion. This is a time of concern for all of us. Many are fearful about what will follow – if the policies are changed or if they are not changed. This is a very important time for us to stand together in love and peace regardless of how we feel about the issues.

As we come together, we need to trust God. Trust Him to be in charge. Trust Him to help us truly listen to each other, to have compassion for each other even if we do not agree with what they share. Many in our mission center are struggling, questioning, unsure of how they feel. All of us have tender souls and we come to these discussions to find security and comfort in voicing our needs at this time.

Please make every attempt to attend the discussion group provided for your congregation. The Decatur discussion group took place on Saturday, August 25. This group also included Bloomington, Springfield, Pana, Beardsown, Taylorville and Jacksonville congregations. Other groups and dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brush Creek Congregation—Host</td>
<td>Centralia</td>
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<td>Mt. Vernon</td>
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<td>Sawyerville</td>
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<td>Marion Congregation—Host</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
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<td>Massac Creek</td>
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<td>Thompsonville</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
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<td>Effingham Congregation — Host</td>
<td>Martinsville</td>
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<td>Georgetown</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
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<td>Salem Congregation—Host</td>
<td>Flora</td>
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<td>Popular Creek</td>
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<td>Fairfield</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
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<td>Springerton Congregation—Host</td>
<td>Eldorado</td>
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<td>Tunnel Hill</td>
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Thank you for prayerfully preparing for this experience so that all may be blessed by the loving Spirit.
Christmas in Old Nauvoo!
Holiday Themed Weekend Bus Tour
December 7-9, 2012

Join us this December as we celebrate the birth of Christ at three unique historic sites over a three-day weekend.

Highlights include...

- Create unique holiday crafts to decorate your home
- Learn a 19th century dance, like what was practiced by early church members in 1840's Nauvoo
- Christmas shop at Joseph Smith's Red Brick Store
- Participate in a Victorian "Christmas Tea" at Joseph Smith III's Liberty Hall in Lamoni
- View historic Nauvoo on a holiday decorated wagon tour
- Learn the history behind your favorite Christmas traditions
- Share holiday memories in an evening devotion
- Enjoy holiday choir music and sing your favorite Christmas hymns accompanied by Liberty Hall's historic pump organ
- Experience an evening tour of Heritage Plaza and the Stone Church
- Enjoy holiday classics like "White Christmas" and "It's a Wonderful Life" while traveling from one historic site to the next
- Share in worship at the annual Advent Service at the Temple on Sunday, December 9th

Create lasting memories with old and new friends, alike.

All Inclusive Tour Price:
$325 per person - double occupancy if registered by October 15th.
$395 after October 15th
Add $100 for single occupancy guests

Price includes luxury bus transportation, overnight lodging, all meals, tour fees, and Christmas craft materials.

CLICK HERE for additional information about the tour including a downloadable tour reservation form and weekend itinerary.

Have questions about the "Christmas in Old Nauvoo" tour?
Contact: Barbara Walden, Executive Director
Phone: 440-477-9562
E-mail: bwalden@HistoricSitesFoundation.org
Website: www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org
We are 28 congregations in the Central and Southern areas of Illinois, plus Sikeston Missouri, that are part of a world-wide church known as Community of Christ. Our mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

We share a sacred campground known as Brush Creek located near Xenia, Illinois in Wayne county. The Brush Creek Saints organized in 1842. The Brush Creek White Church was built in 1872. Family camp activities called Reunion began in 1894. The campground now hosts a June and July week-long Reunion in addition to several youth camps. The campground is also used for retreats and gatherings throughout the year. The lake, the bridge, the cabins and the peaceful surroundings are holy ground.

Brush Creek Mission Center

See you at the BCMC Fall Conference - Salem
10:30am Worship service
1:30pm Business Meeting

BCMC 2012 Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Patriot Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Discussion Group at Brush Creek</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Brush Creek Mission Center Conference Salem Church</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Halloween</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Discussion Group at Marion</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Ends</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
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<td>Election Day</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Discussion Group Effingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Discussion Group Salem / Springerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 29—Jan 1</td>
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<td>Yuletide</td>
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donnagreensavage@yahoo.com

Please share this e-bulletin with your Congregation.

- [http://www.cofchrist.org/](http://www.cofchrist.org/)
- [http://www.bccampgrounds.org](http://www.bccampgrounds.org)