

Olive Branches

PJSN peace gathering to be a part of Charlotte 2005

by Leo Hartshorn

The Peace and Justice Support Network Reference Committee has decided to incorporate the PJSN national peace gathering into the national assembly of Mennonite Church USA, *Can't Keep Quiet*, at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 4-9. There will be no separate registration for PJSN events (to register for the convention go to: www.Charlotte2005.org). Offerings will be received at the Bible study to support the work of PJSN as we keep peace and justice visible at the assembly. We hope that you will participate and encourage others to be part of the various PJSN sponsored events listed below:



Pre-assembly events:

Leo Hartshorn, minister of peace and justice, Mennonite Mission Network, will lead several sessions of the Drumming for Peace program "Joyful Noise" for all ages, while people arrive on Monday, July 4, 2005. Learn principles of peace-making through drumming, rhythm, story, and have fun!



Bible Study: Jesus' Peace Theology

Come join for three evenings of inspiring worship, singing, peace stories, and Bible study. PJSN will make a Peace Pitcher presentation for 2005 on Friday, July 8. This presentation recognizes an outstanding lifetime leader in peace and justice with a pottery pitcher (designed by Dick Lehman).



Everyone is invited to this inter-

generational gathering! A program for children is being planned. Leaders of the Bible study will be Perry Yoder, professor of Old Testament, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Mary Shertz, professor of New Testament, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Dates and times are Tuesday, July 5, 6:45-8:00 pm—*The Judge Who Judges Justly* (1 Peter 2:21-24); Thursday, July 7, 6:45-8:00 pm—*God's Peace and Justice* (Psalm 82); and Friday, July 8, 6:45-8:00 pm—*Christ-Centered Ethics: Agents of Reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

Peace and Justice Workshops:

Numerous peace and justice workshops have been proposed from PJSN to be offered to the wider assembly, which have not been confirmed as of this publication. The peace and justice workshops will be integrated into the workshop times at the assembly.

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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA is to proclaim and promote God's desire for justice (Micah 6:8), Christ's call to peace-making (Matthew 5:9), and the Spirit's reconciling work (Ephesians 2:11-22)



New Resources!

Second Mile: A Peace Journey for Congregations Pathway C, The Road to Emmaus, is now available from Faith & Life Resources. Pathway C provides lessons on Peace Begins at Home, Communities of Refuge, and Being the Church. All Second Mile pathways are designed for Sunday School and small group settings, and are now available.

For more information and to order, go to: www.gosecondmile.org or call: 1-800-245-7894.

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Public Action

Proclaiming Truth and Healing: A Charlotte Public Witness. Mennonites gathering at the Charlotte 2005 assembly are invited to proclaim the source of their true security and offer healing to the wounds of our neighbors and enemies. Our public witness will reclaim Christ's Lordship of our bodies and money through a prayer pilgrimage from the Charlotte Convention Center to military recruitment and Internal Revenue Services offices. We will witness that God calls us to life and to offer that life to others.

Our government aggressively recruits our youth's bodies and nearly 50% of our federal income taxes for military purposes. Participants will learn to counter recruitment methods for Jesus' way of peace and be invited to redirect a portion of their 2005 tax dollars to life-affirming organizations. Join us as we proclaim our dependence on God and God alone!

Organizations are invited to join in the sponsorship and organizing of this important witness. Current

sponsors and organizers: Mennonite USA Peace and Justice Support Network, Mennonite Mission Network, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Every Church a Peace Church, National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, and Center on Conscience and War (NISBCO). For more information contact Mark Frey, Christian Peacemaker Teams, 773-277-0253, MarkEFrey@cpt.org

PJSN Display Booth: To purchase PJSN resources and for more information on PJSN-sponsored events, visit the PJSN booth, located in the display area. The first 100 persons (one per congregation) visiting the PJSN display booth will receive a newly designed poster (based on a Franciscan benediction) produced by PJSN.

Times and Locations: Locations and times of PJSN sponsored events will be posted at the PJSN display booth at the Charlotte Convention Center.

For more information: Contact Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network, LeoH@MennoniteMission.net, 717-399-8353.

Thermostat

How can we turn toward peace in a time of fear?

"Thermostat" is a DVD for youth on war, peace and Christian conscience. "Thermostat" includes a wide variety of resources: Bible studies, role plays, stories, images, poetry, video clips, rap and drama. A 100-page study guide organizes the three hours of video clips and activities into 33 different study units on the themes of peacemaking, imagination, allegiance, security, terrorism, camouflage, and nonviolence. "Thermostat" encourages intergenerational conversation and learning. The study guide is available on this disc as a portable document file (PDF) and can be played on a computer with a DVD drive. The study guide can also be downloaded from the web at www.mcc.org/thermostat or obtained in paper format from MCC. Order MCC resources on-line at <http://www.mcc.org/catalog>



- DVD | CC | Grade 7 to adult
- Study guide included
- Produced by MCC 2005
- Borrow from all offices
- Purchase study guide with DVD from AB, BC, EC, MB, ON, SK
- For more information and to order, go to: <http://www.mcc.org/catalog>

PJSN financial update

Thanks to your generous contributions in December, we not only raised the funds for the Mennonite Mutual Aid matching grant, but ended the month with a teeny surplus for the first time. Each contribution matters--thanks for yours!

Please continue your strong giving and consider a spring donation so PJSN can be dynamic and visible at Charlotte. (If you've never donated, please consider making a contribution so PJSN can create resources, pay salaries, print newsletters and help you, your congregation and your neighbors live peace.)

Donations were given to honor:

Erwin and Angela Rempel
H.A. & Ethel Fast Memorial
Ruth Sutter



Peace and Justice Support Network

Olive Branches is a publication created by the Peace and Justice Support Network, Mennonite Church USA, to resource individuals and congregations in our collective peace and justice work. Published twice a year, *Olive Branches* is a companion piece to Dove Tales, PJSN's biannual newsletter. **PJSN Reference Committee:** Leo Hartshorn, Susan Mark Landis, Valerie Weidman, Dick Davis, Malinda Berry, Titus Peachey, Mark Frey, Yvonne DiAx Keeler, and Jorge Vielman. **Editor:** Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network. **Designer:** Cynthia Friesen Coyle, volunteer. **Send your ideas to:** 202 South Ann Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-399-8353, LeoH@MennoniteMission.net **Web site:** www.MennoniteUSA.org/peace **Opinions expressed in Olive Branches are those of the author and do not reflect official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.**

