

## Beth-El Mennonite Church (BMC)

Beth-El Mennonite Church (BMC) in Colorado Springs is settling into our new facility as we worship, work, serve and play together as a family of believers. We are enjoying new friends, families, staff and community visibility.

1. Our congregation hired a part-time Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry, Mike Martin to work specifically with high school students and young adults. He brings a great enthusiasm and perspective to this role. He is leading our weekly Wednesday evening Legacy gatherings. He and his wife Hannah and Michelle Musselman attended the Convention in Columbus with ten of our high school youth. It was a meaningful and bonding time for all of them. Also, Mike is facilitating a young adult discussion group on Sunday nights.
2. Our pastor, Merv Birky is taking a much needed and deserved sabbatical this summer. He is enjoying rest, travel and study. Merv and Venita were able to travel to World Conference in July. Our Worship Ministry planned a variety of input from Beth-El congregants. Faith journeys, mission experiences and "sermons" from 3 young adults were shared. We look forward to Merv's first Sunday back on Aug 30.
3. Our Administrative Assistant, Jeanette Martin continues to be a friendly and helpful presence as we are experiencing more outside group interest in the use of our building. She is very organized and helps leadership stay on track with all aspects of our church community.
4. We are hosting two exciting community events this fall. A Restorative Justice Conference is coming to Beth-El, **September 17**, 8:30-4:30. The process of restorative justice brings offenders face to face with their victims and empowers both parties to heal the harm. The keynote speaker will be Howard Zehr, Professor at Eastern Mennonite University, and internationally recognized pioneer of Restorative Justice. Also, we are showing the documentary "Pray the Devil back to Hell" (about Liberian Muslim and Christian women coming together and protesting against the violence and war ravaging their country). on Friday, Sept. 25
5. We are stepping up our involvement with the **Inter-faith Hospitality Network**. In 2010, we will be sharing hosting duties with our partner church, Ascension Lutheran. Also, we are looking into an involvement with **Faith Partners**. This program works with people from the community who are trying to move from a lifestyle of poverty and welfare into a more stable, productive lifestyle.
6. Currently, we are in the process of finishing our two large classrooms and adding 2 restrooms with showers, a kitchenette and two storage closets.

We are thankful to be a part of the Mountain States MC. We continue to grow as a community of faith by: learning the way of Christ; worshipping God in spirit and truth; providing mutual care and fellowship and offering healing and hope to the world.

Administrative Elder, Jodi Derstine Miller

