

Registration is open for
2021-22

- *Priority registration ends May 1
- *2021-2022 Catalogs are available
- *Contact the office to have one mailed to you.
- *Visit our website - smbi.org to fill out an application.



4th Term Tour Itinerary
April 2-11, 2021

Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois,
Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania .

See full itinerary at smbi.org
or check out our
[Facebook](#) page for updates during tour.

Calendar of Events

Fifth Term	April 12 - May 21
Priority Registration Ends	May 1
Missions Involvement	April 23 - 25
Choir Tour	May 21 - 27
WATER.	June 21 - July 30
Family & Youth Week	Aug. 2 - 6
Staff Retreat.	Sept. 16 - 17
First Term	Sept. 18 - Oct. 20
Music Ministry	Oct. 21 - 28
Second Term	Nov. 1 - Dec. 10
Christian Nurture Conference	Nov. 19 - 21
Choir Tour	Dec. 10 - 17

A Quarterly
Newsletter Of
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute
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01

January—March 2021

the Monitor

First Fruits

By Clifford Schrock

“Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.” We just observed this season of the year, and what a special time it is. But its real meaning for us continues beyond a weekend celebration. Understanding that Jesus is the “first fruit” helps us grasp it more fully.

The Feast of First Fruits was part of a larger experience which began with Passover on the 14th day of the first month. Passover celebrated the exodus from Egypt and pointed forward to the crucifixion of Jesus as the Passover lamb. In our lives, we are crucified and die with Christ and experience justification through the blood of the lamb.

Immediately following Passover, the Feast of Unleavened bread began on the 15th day of the month which in biblical time is sundown of the 14th day. This coincides with the burial of Jesus. In this seven-day feast they were to remove all leaven from their homes in a time of cleansing. In our experience, we are buried with Christ and are cleansed in sanctification to move toward being perfect as He is perfect.

During the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, there was a seventh-day Sabbath. On the day after this Sabbath, was the Feast of First Fruits. In this celebration, a sheaf of the first fruits was brought as a praise offering for the early harvest and the greater harvest yet to come. This is the exact day, the first day of the week, when Jesus was resurrected from the dead- to become the first fruit of them that slept. In our spiritual journey with Christ, we likewise are raised up to walk in newness of life. We also look forward in faith to the greater resurrection yet to come when we will be raised up to sit with Christ in heavenly places.

Forty days later was the ascension of Christ which, interestingly, does not seem to have a correspondence in the Old Testament Feasts.

Finally, to complete the spring feasts, the Feast of Pentecost (or Feast of Weeks or Feast of Later First Fruits) was celebrated 10 days after the ascension. That makes it 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits. This feast was to celebrate the end of the early harvest and was also a time of anticipating the final harvest in the fall. As the disciples and others were gathered together for this observance, the Holy Spirit came upon them to complete Christ’s work in the initiation of the church. In our experience, the Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance. He is the completion of the early harvest in our lives, but only a down payment of the greater which is yet to come when we will experience glorification, dwell fully in the presence of God, and see Him face to face.

As we continue into the summer season, may we live in newness of life, transformed by the work of Christ. May the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit empower us to accomplish His will and take the good news of the Gospel to the world.

Ministers’ Week 2021

Amid the challenges of this year, Ministers’ Week was held Feb. 15 -19. 125 church leaders and wives attended the week. Registration was higher than it has ever been and we were unable to accommodate those wishing to attend only part of the week. It seemed like many were thirsty for fellowship and input after the limitations faced in recent months. We are grateful that there was no known spread of COVID through the week together. A few responses...

- Food, schedule, and social interaction were great! It was a great blessing to us.
- Very good, practical, and encouraging!
- Eye opening, useful, challenging
- I loved the time of interaction in the evenings
- Good presentation, well informed, touched the heart
- I was very blessed!

HVAC Project

It does not seem like that long since the major addition to and renovation of the institute in the late 90’s and into 2000. However, the aging equipment suggests otherwise. A couple years ago we replaced three of the rooftop HVAC units. April 6-8, two more will be replaced. As part of the upgrade, the classrooms will also be zoned to provided better climate control. Cost of the project is \$16,000. If you wish to contribute to this project, earmark the check for the “HVAC Project.” This will leave three rooftop units to be replaced at a later time.



Return Service Requested

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Housing Project Update

We are grateful for the progress made on the housing project. The sewage permit is in process, prints have been finalized, land use and driveway permit are in hand, and the building permit application submitted. Ground breaking is set to happen as soon as the permit process is complete and schedules coordinated- hopefully by mid-April. The main part of the house will become home to the institute administrator's family. The living area over the garage will be available for guest use. The basement area will be unfinished at this point, but we plan to finish it at a later time. The contributions and support of so many are deeply appreciated.

Cash Contributions
As of Mar. 24, 2021
\$111,000



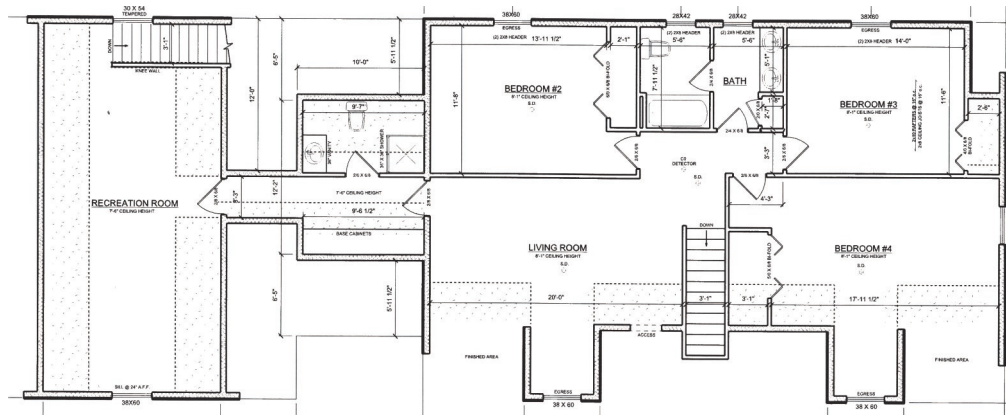
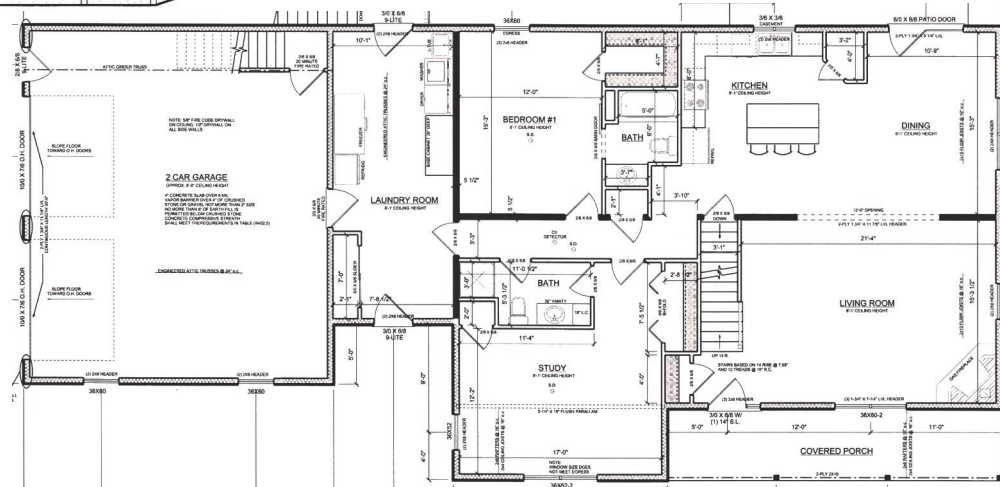
Current Labor/Materials Donations

- Concrete flatwork– labor
- Stonework– materials and labor
- Windows and doors
- Electrical Labor
- Roofing Labor
- Kitchen cabinets
- Laundry and snack bar cabinets
- Vanities
- Flooring– materials and labor

Current Labor/Materials Discounts

- Foundation and basement walls
- Framing materials
- Truss package

More labor and materials contributions are in discussion, but are unconfirmed at time of printing. Estimated cost of the entire project is \$300,000. If you have any questions or are interested in being involved in the project, please contact the institute office.



If you wish to contribute to this project, checks may be sent to the SMBI office noted for the "housing fund." Donors who wish to support this project anonymously may do so through the Anabaptist Foundation. Make your gifts payable to "Anabaptist Foundation" with "SMBI Housing Fund" written on the memo line of your check. Mail these contributions to: Anabaptist Foundation, 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA, 17837.

~Births~

Matthew & Lacy Bontrager
~Emma Lydia

DJ & Rose (Yoder) Gerrie
~Kiana Rayne

LaVon & Twila (Miller) Gerber
~Landon Kent

Elliott & Krista (Forry) Mullet
~Ava Claire

Justin & Kristina (Ranck) Mummau
~Jaxton Ray

Nate & Rose (Fisher) Stoltzfus
~Shaniah Ruth

David & Sharilee (Yoder) Yoder
~Scott Mitchell

~Weddings~

Michael Fisher & Judi Hess 2.6.21

Matthew Stoltzfus & Anna Brubaker 2.20.21

Correction from Oct-Dec. Monitor -
Luke Helmuth & Stephanie Forry 9.5.20

(Contact the office - smbi.org with updates)

There are still openings in 5th term 2021

April 12 - May 21, 2021

Classes offered:

Modern Church History - Byron Wolfer

John - Elijah Yoder

Peace & Simple Life - Clifford Schrock

Principles of Teaching - Elijah Yoder

*Class Voice - Benjamin Good

*Biblical Worship - Benjamin Good

*Parables - Byron Wolfer

*Ruth & Other Bible Women - Doris Wolfer

Choir directed by: Benjamin Good

ATTENTION!!!

The 2021 **WATER** program has been cancelled - the new brochure and locations for 2022 should be available in November 2021.

Minister's Week 2021 Sessions

The Pastor's Marriage & Family—Val Yoder

Daniel & Revelation—Elijah Yoder

Growing as a Leader—Steven Brubaker

Preach the Gospel—Nathan Yoder

Living Purposefully (Ladies) - Cynthia Brubaker

Adoration (Ladies) - Suzette Weber

Anabaptist Identity Crisis—Chester Weaver

Nehemiah—Lessons in Leadership—Conrad Brubaker

To order a flash drive of sessions contact the office -

717.485.4341 or smbi@smbi.org / they are also available

on our website - smbi.org

\$30/ flash drive (most sessions included)

CD Sale!

\$9 each (regular price - \$13)

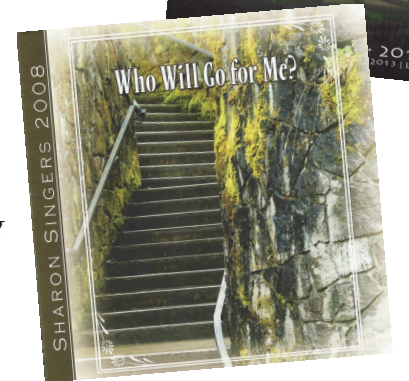
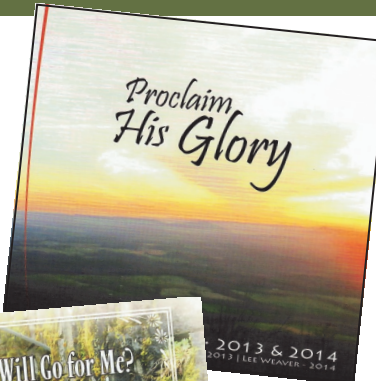
Sale ends May 31st. 2021

2013-2014 - Proclaim His Glory

2008 - Who Will Go

For Me?

Contact the office -
smbi@smbi.org or
order through our
website - smbi.org



Romans Class Flash Drive

Presented by : Wayne Schrock



This audio series, provided in flash drive format, presents the lecture content of a full course taught at SMBI. Each of the 26 sessions is 30-60 minutes in length. Included are class notes to assist the listener in taking personal notes through the series.

Also included on the flash drive are several bonus sessions presented by Wayne. These are chapel messages and stories presented during his years of teaching at SMBI.

Flash drive - \$80 (They are also available on our website - smbi.org)