

Calendar of Events

Staff Retreat	Sept. 17 - 18
First Term	Sept. 19 - Oct. 29
Post-Term Opportunities	Oct. 18 - Oct. 29
Wrap-up	Oct. 29
Second Term	Nov. 2 - Dec. 11
Christian Nurture Conference	Nov. 20-22
Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 26 - 29
Choir Tour	Dec. 11 - 18

Notice:

There are still openings for men & ladies in first, second, and fifth terms. There are also openings for men in 4th term. Apply at SMBI.org, call the office, or email us for more information.

Student Opportunities

1st Term - September 19 - October 29, 2020

Classes Offered:
Gospel & Culture
The Devoted Life
Joshua/Judges
James

Music Theology & Ministry
Developing the Servant
Discovering Our God

- ◆ Discipleship Group Program
- ◆ Choir Ministry Tour (See Inside)
- ◆ JOURNEY (See Inside)

2nd Term - November 2 - December 11, 2020

Classes Offered:
Books of Moses
Hebrews

Christian Family I
Spiritual Life
Personal Evangelism

Servanthood That Enriches
Public Speaking
Psalms

- Early Church History
- Principles of Biblical Interpretation
- ◆ 1 week choir tour following term

Return Service Requested

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Eyes to See, Ears to Hear

By Clifford Schrock

“What is it you have in your hand?” was God’s question for Moses. God used that rod as part of His demonstration to show Himself as LORD to the Egyptians, the Israelites, and the world. God said to Ezekiel, “Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee, for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither.”

In both of these stories and throughout the biblical text, we observe that God wants to reveal Himself. He wants to be known. In our culture, we tend to think this happens in formal educational settings like Sunday School, sermons, Bible studies, and more intensive times of study like Bible School. Those kinds of instructional tools certainly have their place. They are a part of the biblical methodology.

However, much of God’s revelation in scripture came in ways that we are less inclined to receive. Sometimes we need eye correction to see more clearly and hearing aids to hear more keenly. This is critical in physical life, but how much more so in spiritual life.

One non-traditional way that God wants to speak to us is through **the natural world**. “The heavens declare the glory of God...” “Go to the ant... consider her ways.” “Consider the lilies...” Birds are mentioned nearly 300 times. Throughout scripture God instructs us to pay attention to His revelation around us. One of the losses of the speed of modern transportation is the observation of the world as we pass. Life in general is moving far too fast to notice the details. As the old saying goes, God longs for us to “stop and smell the roses.”

Another way God reveals Himself is through **story**. About 80% of the biblical text that God inspired through the Holy Spirit is story. We can learn from our own story or from other’s stories. At family week we offered a youth class and a parent’s class that were both primarily storytelling. It was not a form of instruction that we are used to receiving. It took some adjusting to develop the eyes to see and ears to hear the deep instruction that was woven into the captivating stories.

A related avenue of revelation comes to us through **history**. “Remember” is used in 146 biblical references and

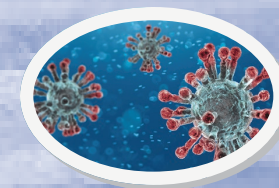
in a significant majority of the Bible books. Numerous times, God instructed them to do visible things to help them remember. For example, when the children of Israel came through the Jordan River they were to set up a pillar of twelve stones. “When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, ‘What mean these stones?’ Then ye shall let your children know...” Unfortunately, we commonly say that, “The only thing we learn from history is that we don’t learn from history.” It seems God would want this to change.

We also observe in scripture that God chose to reveal Himself through **experiences**. For example, the very familiar story of the plagues, had a specific intent. The repeated intention was that, “ye shall know that I am the Lord.” This was not a reality that was going to be taught in a classroom or by direct instruction, but through the experiences God would lead them through. This means of learning is part of the vision behind the Journey program that SMBI offers following first term (see page 3). What are the experiences God is taking us through now that He wants to use as an instructional tool?

The last method of revelation we will explore is **current events**. This is similar, perhaps, to experience, but expands to include other things happening around us. An immediate thing that may come to mind is COVID-19. A lot of energy had been invested in trying to figure out if the media can be trusted, whether wearing masks and social-distancing makes any difference, and what all the mixed messages mean. These are legitimate questions and merit discussion, but maybe we are missing something more important. What is God wanting to reveal about Himself, others, ourselves, the world around us, or something else? How is God using this to speak into our lives in the 21 century?

So, there are many avenues of learning. At, SMBI the major focus is traditional instruction. However, we are also intentional about cultivating alertness for other means of learning. Let us not miss teachable moments for ourselves or those we are leading.

Let us have eyes to see and ears to hear.



Family Week, Aug. 3-7, 2020



COVID Opportunities

Opportunity is not what most often comes to mind with COVID. Often it is exactly the opposite. Cancelled. Closed. Restricted. Limited. Unavailable. These are words that more often come to mind. If that has been your experience or someone you know, perhaps now is the time to consider the opportunity to study, connect, and grow at SMBI in preparation for life and ministry. Visit us at smbi.org or contact the office for more information.

New Staff



Samuel and Jodie (Kooistra) Heatwole come to SMBI from Harrisonburg, VA. They have moved here to anchor the choir program and join the teaching staff. They served here third term 2019 and 2020 before deciding to make this their permanent residence. We are excited to have them join the team and move into the newly purchased house just a short distance behind the main campus.

Samuel grew up in Harrisburg and spent two years in service in Puerto Rico. He became fluent in Spanish which will bring a needed expertise to the choir and classroom. He also worked at Christian Light Publications beginning in the shipping department while he was still in high school. Upon returning from Puerto Rico he joined the homeschool department where he worked for 12 years, serving as supervisor the last five years. He also directed the Shenandoah Valley Chorus for six years.

Jodie was born in New York, grew up in Missouri, and lived in Indiana before moving to Virginia in 2010. She worked in the order department at CLP for 10 years, serving as administrative assistant to the supervisor for three years.

Samuel and Jodie were married in November, 2012. They both enjoy reading and traveling and have taken several international trips since their marriage. They also enjoy landscaping and have already touched up the lawn of the new property. They will be missed in Harrisonburg. Pray for them as they navigate this transition in their journey.



~Births~

Micah & Carissa (Hartzler) Krabill
~Adley Jay

Terry & Mindy (Miller) Krabill
~Leslie Mae

Vincent & Holly (Mast) Nisly
~Kelly Paige

1st Term Opportunities Term ~ September 19 - October 18, 2020 Post-Term ~ October 18-29, 2020

Journey

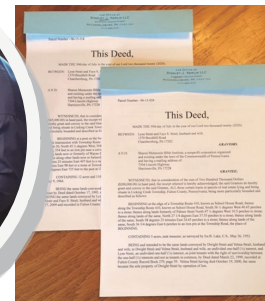
This 12-day opportunity is designed to take you a step forward on your spiritual, emotional, and physical journey in a hands-on learning experience. These intense canoe or hiking trips provide ample opportunity to deepen relationships with God and others and expand team-building skills. Tentative plan for the ladies is canoeing the Suwannee River in GA and FL with sandy beaches and gators a part of the trip. Tentative plan for the men is hiking in the Adirondacks. Time will be devoted to individual and group reflection to maximize the experiential lessons which are encountered. **This program can be an extension of first term or as a course of its own.** If not combined with first term, use the standard application with the regular application fee. Some preparatory assignments will be included. (approx. \$600)

First Term Choir

The first term choir opportunity offers some of the traditional SMBI choir experience with a different emphasis and focus. While the typical choir tour focuses on singing and worship in formal church presentations, the first term tour focuses on ministry and evangelism opportunities. The tour will include some work projects with urban Anabaptist missions. Music presentations and evangelism may include nursing homes, homeless shelters, children's clubs, schools, streets, prison and more. There may be some access limitations with the COVID restrictions, but there will still be plenty of opportunities for ministry.



Housing Project Update

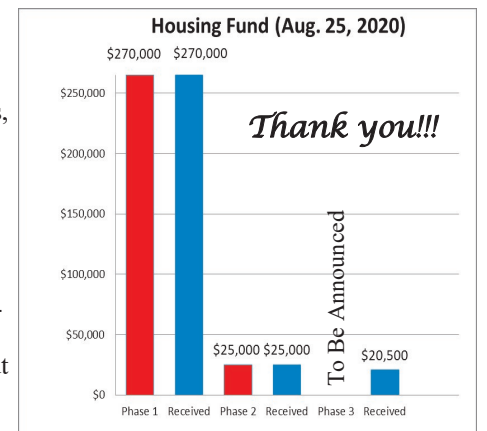


July 2019, we began a faith journey by signing a purchase agreement for 17.7 acres, including a house. July 28, 2020 four donations, totaling \$9000, were received to complete the funding. Closing was July 30. On Aug. 15, Samuel and Jodie Heatwole moved into the house. Praise the Lord!

Since then, Phase 2, project and land development including engineering, prints, permits, and sewer testing has also been fully funded.

Phase 3 is construction of a staff house, but plans are still in development and a projected cost has not been determined.

If you wish to contribute to this project, checks may be sent to the SMBI office and noted for the "housing fund." Donors who wish to donate anonymously may do so through the Anabaptist Foundation. Write "SMBI Housing Fund" in the memo line and mail those contributions to: Anabaptist Foundation,



If you purchase items from Amazon, you can use smile.amazon.com. Choose Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute as your supported charity, and SMBI will receive 0.5% of your purchase as a donation. It is free and adds nothing to your purchase.



Set up a recurring contribution on the support page at SMBI.org. Expand the impact of "small dollar donations." Every dollar counts!



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~Weddings~

Hans Stoltzfus & Chandra Hochstetler - 8/15/20