



## **VMC News**

**Save the date for the Spring 2017 Credentialed Leaders Consultation** addressing racism on Friday, May 5, 2017, most likely 8 or 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Shady Oak at Weavers' Mennonite Church, Rawley Pike (Rt 33) in Harrisonburg. Shady Oak is the building off to the side of the church. More details about the topic and presenters, and registration, will be coming soon.

**Voces8** will perform on Monday, February 13, 7:30 pm at Eastern Mennonite School's Auditorium, 801 Parkwood Drive. Hailing from the United Kingdom, this internationally loved a cappella vocal group gives a choral concert like no other you've heard - including classical pieces, hymns and contemporary variations and jazz. Purchase advance tickets - \$10 students/senior citizens or \$15 adults - through any EMS Touring Choir student or by stopping by the EMS Main Campus front desk. Tickets sold at the door (if still available) are \$20 each - all ages. Doors open at 6:45PM and seating is General Admission. Save the date and make plans to attend, tickets sell out quickly! (see link to VOCES8 poster attached). <http://www.voces8.com/>

Pastor Micah Hurst at Grace Mennonite Fellowship **will present a workshop on "Pornography, rewiring the sexual norms of our children"** on Friday, February 17, 7 p.m. This is a free event for adults. The church is located at 209 Lacey Spring Rd, Harrisonburg, Va.

The **Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus** under the direction of Jared Stutzman will be in concert at the Eastern Mennonite High School auditorium on Sunday, February 26, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The collected offering will benefit New Creation.

**Make sense of your Medicare choices** "Retiring Soon? An introduction to Medicare" will be presented at The Gathering Place behind the Everence office in Harrisonburg the first Thursday of each month (6 - 7 p.m.). Representatives from Everence will speak on Medicare, provide instructions on how to enroll, explain how continuing to work affects your benefits, and answer related questions. For more information call (540) 437-7422. RSVPs are requested but not required. *See the attached flyer.*

**EMS Senior Class presents: William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"** March 2\*, 3, 4 at 7:30PM at Eastern Mennonite School, Main Campus Auditorium, 801 Parkwood Drive. Come see the EMS Class of 2017 perform this Shakespeare comedy classic. Tickets are sold at the door: General Admission \$7 adults and \$5 students and senior citizens. \*March 2nd performance is a Pay What You Will Preview night.

Eastern Mennonite School invites you to: **An Evening at the Gallery** - Saturday, March 11, 6:30-8:00 PM at Eastern Mennonite School Main Campus Dining Hall, 801 Parkwood Drive. Come enjoy delicious desserts and see EMS' commitment to visual arts with K-12 pieces on display. Senior art students will also exhibit the culmination of their high school work for you to enjoy.

Are you interested in learning more about conflict transformation, facilitation and gaining peace-building tools for working and organizing in the community? The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding invites you to attend **SPI Community Day** on February 17, 2017. Cost is \$50 and includes a full day of presentations, workshops and lunch. For more details and registration visit <http://www.emu.edu/cjp/spi/spicommunityday/>.

Join **Highland Retreat** for their annual **Benefit Auction** on Saturday, February 18, at Eastern Mennonite High School. The Auction is designed to subsidize camp tuition for all camper families and provide scholarships for families with greater need. See [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org) for more information. Contact [info@highlandretreat.org](mailto:info@highlandretreat.org) if you have a new item, service, collectible, or baked good you would like to contribute.

**Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Va. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage." Learn more and register at [virginiacommunity.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/](http://virginiacommunity.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/)

**Annual Meat Canning** is scheduled for February 27-March 3, 2017 at the Hinton Mennonite Relief Center, Hinton, Va. **Virginia Mennonite Conference is responsible to help provide help on Tuesday, February 28.** Help is needed from 5 AM until 11 PM each day. Friday, March 3 is scheduled as a community day and help is especially needed in the early morning. Anyone is welcome to come and help on any day! Funds are needed to purchase turkey for processing and for the ongoing operation of the Relief Center. If you would like to contribute to this project you can send a donation to the: Hinton Mennonite Relief Center, PO Box 519, Dayton, VA 22821. If you have any questions about this project you can contact Leon Rhodes at (540) 820-5443 or Gerald Knicely at (540) 478-4203. Thanks for your participation in this effort to feed the less fortunate in the world.

**Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center** is hosting fundraising banquets at Huntington Mennonite Church in Newport News on Saturday, March 18, and at Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg on Saturday, April 1, from 5:30 to 8pm. Enjoy music, an update on the ministry of WCRC, and the chance to win a handmade quilt stitched by "Peace by Piece" sewing group of Williamsburg Mennonite Church using donated fabric. Dinner is by donation and there will be opportunities to give to WCRC. RSVP to [director@wrcr.info](mailto:director@wrcr.info) or by calling 757-566-2256

**Join the exciting, new a cappella competition "The Shenandoah Valley Sing Off!"** on Saturday, April 8, 2017, 7 pm, Harrisonburg High School. This will be a fun, family friendly event attracting a cappella groups from all across the state. 1st place-\$750 cash prize, 2nd place-\$500 cash prize, Audience Favorite-\$250 cash prize. Application deadline: February 19. For more information, visit [singoff.org](http://singoff.org)

**Interested in creating positive social change in your community?** Whether you are a pastor, lay leader, congregational member, or church elder, the **Summer Peacebuilding Institute** can help you gain the skills to help your church help its community. Over 20 courses in leadership, trauma awareness, restorative justice, dignity, and peace education are offered each year in May and June at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA. For more information about courses and costs, visit [www.emu.edu/spi](http://www.emu.edu/spi). Partial scholarships are available to help congregations with tight budgets.

**Register now for Kaleidoscope Summer Camp** at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Camps are available for ages 7 to 18 and run from June 25 through August 3, featuring fun activities, great counselors, Christ-centered worship, amazing food and new friends. Information is at [www.wcrc.info](http://www.wcrc.info) or call us at 866-566-9272.

### **Courses and learning tours:**

**Registration is now open for “Places, People, & Prayers, A Cross-Cultural Encounter with the Holy Land,”** an Israel/Palestine study tour offered May 4-27, 2017, through Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Trip leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, and Kevin A. Clark, EMS Campus Pastor. “Places, People, & Prayers” is open to all interested travelers, with or without seminary credit. NOTE: All MCUSA pastors are eligible to apply to the MCUSA “Come and See” program for a \$500 scholarship to assist with trip costs. If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at [weaverdj@emu.edu](mailto:weaverdj@emu.edu) at your earliest.