

**2011 Calendar  
December**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Each Sunday:</b> Worship:10am Sunday School @ 11:15am, Floor Hockey 7:00-8:30pm				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Council Meeting 9:00am</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>Deacons Meeting 7:30pm</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>MHSS Banquet</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Youth Christmas Party 7:30-10:00pm</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Book Club Mtg 7:00pm</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  Christmas Program practice 11:15 to 2:00pm, with Pizza lunch @noon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>No Youth Puppet Practice</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Dress Rehearsal 10am Christmas Eve Program 7:00pm</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
No Floor Hockey						

**The Osler Mennonite Church  
December 2011 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church  
[olsermc@sasktel.net](mailto:olsermc@sasktel.net)  
<http://omchurch.org>  
 Volume VII, Twelfth Edition

212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. P.O. Box 129  
 Osler, SK S0K 3A0  
 306-239-2133

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



**Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. [www.omchurch.org](http://www.omchurch.org)**

## *Pastor's Note*

We are in a season of radical contrasts. The weather is getting colder, but we like snow this time of the year. The sun is low in the sky and passes by quickly, yet we have illuminated the darkness with colourful lights. The end of the calendar year prompts sombre reflections of what was and was not, and a new year reminds us of potential and hope. The swirl of activities and crowded shopping drains our resources; even so, there are carols, holiday goodies and candlelit moments to breathe deeply. The season also includes fanciful stories with flying reindeer, and the narrative of a poor outcast child born in a barn. To the lowly the angels sing, and the rich magi give to the poor and outmanoeuvred a corrupt ruler. All this contrast and contradiction would make our heads spin, if it were not for one thing.

Christmas and New Year's are a terrible time of the year for those without love. Love is patient, understanding, comforting, enabling, and so forth. Love is from God, and pours out to us in many ways. Most notably, we sense love through friends and family, and God's love abides in and through the church, too. I am very grateful for the love that dwells and is vibrant in our church. Our church has been very gracious and loving to countless people, including each other, this past year. My family and I have experienced this love in many ways, and we deeply appreciate it. Love redeems and sustains. Love is the gift to survive this season, and it is the gift of this season and every day. We are thankful for being in a loving church, and for new opportunities to discover love.

May you all have a peaceful, joyous and loving Christmas and New Year.

Gordon

### ❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

**Holding onto grievances is a decision to suffer.**

-Gerald Jampolsky via Evelyn McLachlan

## **Humour ~ The Isaac Section**

### South Pacific Huts

One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship saw three huts on an uncharted island.

Upon arriving at the shore they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!"

The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see **THREE** huts."

The survivor said, "Oh. Well, I live in one, and go to church in another."

"What about the **THIRD** hut?" asked the captain.

"That's where I **USED** to go to church.

-submitted by Gordon

### **Kids Letters to God**

Dear God,

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter.

There is nothing good in there now.

Ginny

### **Puns Alert!**

- \* The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- \* A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- \* No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- \* A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- \* Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- \* Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana. \* A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
- \* A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

-submitted by Gordon

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Sunday, December 11, 7:30 pm** - RJC Chorale and Women's Choir, with guest performer Tim Campbell (guitar) will perform in the beautiful and historic Knox United Church located at 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon. Everyone welcome.

**\*Sunday, December 11th - RJC Alumni Christmas Business Tour!** Come and enjoy an afternoon touring four local businesses in Saskatoon, hear their stories, enjoying the festive atmosphere and shopping! Meet at Action Office Interiors at 3:00pm, followed by RSVP Event Design, Ten Thousand Villages and Willow Studio. The afternoon will end at Willow with a reception at approximately 6:00pm. The tour will be by donation collected at the reception. A percentage of proceeds from purchases at TTV will be donated to RJC . . . so save your Christmas shopping for this afternoon! For further information call or email Denelda at 242-1757 or [deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com) OR Lydia at 477-1850 or [lydia.peter@sasktel.net](mailto:lydia.peter@sasktel.net).

**\* Sunday, December 18, 2:30 pm** - RJC Concert Choir, Chorale and Women's Choir will present the RJC Christmas Concert Sunday afternoon in the school auditorium. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with music and fellowship. Everyone welcome.

**Canadian Mennonite University** [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

**\*Mar. 9-11, 2012** – CMU invites high school students to attend **PIT 2012**. PIT offers a special kind of peace conference, where participants can also connect, play, and engage in worship and workshops with youth from across Canada. Visit [www.cmu.ca/pit](http://www.cmu.ca/pit) for more details.

\*Journey through time on the **CMU Study Tour: Ancient Stones, Living Stones: the Holy Land in Perspective**. Travel April 30 – May 21, 2012 with leader Gordon Matties, Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies. Visit [www.cmu.ca/studytour](http://www.cmu.ca/studytour) for more details.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Committee chairpersons** – please submit yearend reports and 2012 budgets to Diana Buhler.

**\*Monday, December 12, 7:00pm : OMC Book Club** meeting

**\*Winter Walking in the church** Stay off the ice and come walking in the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to noon. Come walking and bring a friend!

**\*Sunday School Christmas Giving Project:** This year cash and school kit donations will be collected for MCC's Gift of **Education**. A Giving Jar will be in the foyer during Advent for cash gifts for MCC; used to buy books, nutritional snacks and sponsorship for students in Uganda, Honduras and more. Items for school kits are also requested as MCC sends these to Bosnia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Russia, and many more places as there is a great need for these items.

**\*Christmas Hampers will be assembled by the Missions and Service Committee.** Donations for hampers to be brought to the church by **December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Also, if you know of someone who is in need of assistance, please let Anna Peters or any member of the Missions & Service Committee know by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Looking ahead:**

-There will be **Blanket making** at the church on January 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2012.

-Our **Annual General Meeting** will be Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 9:30am to noon.

## MORE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Advent 2011

This year we are following the traditional themes for Advent.  
The first Sunday of Advent theme was Hope.

Advent 2 - December 4 - Peace

Advent 3 – December 11 – Joy

Advent 4 – December 18 - Love

During Advent, the children's time will be presented by the youth featuring their puppet ministry.

**\*Advent Sundays Christmas Carol singing** – Come early if you love singing carols, as singing will begin at 9:50 am each Sunday up to and including December 18.

**\*Sunday, December 18 – Sunday School practices** for the Christmas Eve program: First practice during the Sunday School time (11:15am), followed by Pizza lunch and then a second practice till 2:00pm.

**\*Sunday, December 18 – Christmas choir program** during the worship hour.

**\* The Christmas Eve Children's pageant and Candlelight service** starts at 7:00 pm on the 24th. During the Christmas Eve service, the sanctuary will be the wreath, with the four Advent candles around the perimeter, and the congregation will form the Christ candle with each person having a candle.

**\*Christmas Day special service at 10:00am.** This year it will be an **Afghan Blanket and Hot Chocolate Christmas Day service of carol singing and stories.** Same time, different place: we'll worship in the gathering room, and the dress is "comfortable". You may find a worship committee member in pjs. Cozy blankets are welcome, too. We'll have hot chocolate and snacks as we celebrate Christmas together. There will not be Sunday School on December 25th.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Station Arts Centre in Rosthern presents *Kim Thiessen & Darryl Neustaedter Barg* in 3 Christmas concerts:** Dec. 8,9,10 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20(adults) \$10 (students & children) and are available at SAC (232-5332). A portion of the ticket sales & all of the CD sales will be donated to the work of *Mennonite Central Committee*.

**\*A *Buncha Guys* Christmas Concerts** with special guests – *The Friesen Family Band* on **Sat. Dec. 10 7:30 pm** at Knox United Church, Saskatoon and **Sat. Dec. 17 7:30 pm** at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Doors open at 6:45 pm Tickets are \$5.00 each (Children age 12 and under are free) Tickets are available at McNally Robinson Book Sellers in Saskatoon, Shekinah Retreat Centre, Russ Regier (249-3650), any of the guys or at the door. An offering will be taken to support Shekinah Retreat Centre.

**\* Saturday, December 10, 10:00am** Come to the Youth Farm Bible Camp for Fresh Hot Cinnamon Buns and reports about the ministry happening over the summer and fall. We will also be having a tour of the new Chapel Building!! Opportunity for donations will be given.

**\*Saturday, December 10, 4:00pm - Join with other Christians to celebrate the Nativity!** Christians from many churches in Saskatoon and area will host an outdoor nativity pageant as part of efforts to support the Good Food Junction Co-op grocery store at Station 20 West. ***“Would You Like to Hold the Baby?”*** will be held on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> in Civic Square (23<sup>rd</sup> Street by City Hall). Everyone is welcome to participate. Children and youth interested in taking part are asked to be at Third Avenue United Church (304 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N) at 2 pm on December 10 for a rehearsal (with costumes if you have them!). For a CD of the music to practice ahead of time, contact Janice Sanford Beck at 655-5301. Refreshments will be served following the pageant. If you can contribute cookies or fruit, bring contributions to Third Avenue United Church between 1 and 2 pm on December 10. A free will offering will be taken for the Good Food Junction.

## Potluck Recipe of the Month



We have featured recipes in the newsletter before and would love to share more favourites in future editions. If you have a favourite or know a dish that someone else has made, please share! This month we are happy to print a tasty salad that Margaret Dyck prepared for our November 20<sup>th</sup> potluck. Thank-you, Margaret.

### Oriental Cabbage Salad

1 large bok choy (baby), chopped  
1 bunch green onions, chopped  
1 red pepper, seeded and diced  
¼ cup butter  
1 cup almonds (optional), slivered  
2 packages chicken flavoured oriental soup noodles with seasoning

#### Dressing:

½ cup vegetable oil  
¼ cup red wine vinegar  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1 tsp soy sauce  
2 tbsp sugar

In a large bowl, mix bok choy, onions and pepper.

In a frying pan on low temperature, melt butter and sauté almonds, broken noodles and seasoning salt until golden and set aside.

In a jar with lid shake oil, vinegar, garlic, soy sauce and sugar together. Pour dressing over salad, add noodles and toss at least 30 minutes before serving.

#### **\*Looking ahead at Mennonite Church Saskatchewan's calendar:**

January 6-7, 2012: RJC Alumni Tournament

January 20-21, 2012: RJC coffee house

January 27-29, 2012: Shekinah SMYO Senior Youth Retreat

February 24-25: MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions at Shekinah

**\*CMU: Come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders** – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding at the 4th annual Canadian School of Peacebuilding. Participate in your choice of 5-day courses for personal inspiration, professional development, or academic credit. More information is available at [www.csop.cmu.ca](http://www.csop.cmu.ca) or by e-mailing [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca).

**\*Does your society have more memories than dreams** or more dreams than memories? By dreams I mean the positive, life-affirming variety. The business organization consultant Michele Hammer once remarked, “One thing that tells me a company is in trouble is when they tell me how good they were in the past. Same with countries. You don’t want to forget your identity. I am glad you were great in the fourteenth century, but that was then and this is now. When memories exceed dreams, the end is near. The hallmark of a truly successful organization is the willingness to abandon what made it successful and start fresh.”

In societies that have more memories than dreams, too many people are spending too many days looking backward. They see dignity, affirmation, and self-worth not by mining the present but by chewing on the past. And even that is usually not a real past but an imagined and adorned past. Indeed, such societies focus all their imagination on making that imagined past even more beautiful than it ever was, and then they cling to it like a rosary or a strand of worry beads, rather than imagining a better future and acting on that.

- From *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman, pg. 616-617

I think that people want peace so much that one of these days, government had better get out of their way and let them have it.

Dwight D. Eisenhower





Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Sat
<b>DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR</b>				1	2	3
4 11 – noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Christmas Party</b> 7:30 – 10:00 At the church 
11 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	19	20	21	22	23 No Puppet Ministry practice this month.	24 <b>Christmas Eve Program</b> 
25   No Sunday School today	26	27	28	29	30	31



### Christmas Information for Sunday School Parents

The Sunday School children will again be involved in presenting the Christmas Eve program. The main part of the service is a music and drama performance called, “Peace on Earth.” The Preschool class’ will have a ‘Welcome’ item and all the children will be involved in singing two songs; *A Song of Peace and Away in a Manger*. The students in grades 1 to 5 will be acting in the Nativity Scene and the Junior High class members will serve as the readers.

The first full **practice** will be **during the Sunday School time**, from **11:15am to noon on December 18**. On that day, there will be a noon **pizza lunch** provided, followed by a **second practice from 12:45 until 2:00 pm**. If parents wish, they may stay with their children for the lunch, or leave them with us and pick them up at 2:00 pm following the practice. Let us know if you are staying so we can order enough pizza for all. **There will also be a practice on Christmas Eve from 10-11:30am**

### Sunday School Giving Project

Our Christmas Giving project this year is the gift of Education to those less fortunate and impoverished.

From the city streets of Honduras to the rural pastures of Uganda, families sacrifice comforts to enable their children to improve their lives by education. **Cash donations** collected will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee for their “give Education” program.

For example: \$11 donated buys books and equipment to equip a student with the resources to go to school, \$24 provides daily nutritional snacks for students in Honduras, and \$300 provides a year of sponsorship for creative, community-based education through MCC programs.

**Donations of new items for School kits also welcome, as follows :**



- \* 140 page Spiral or perforated notebooks
- \* Unsharpened pencils
- \* Rulers (flat, flexible plastic; indicating 30cm and 12”)
- \* Large pencil erasers and Packages of 12 colored pencils.