

**OMC Calendar  
February 2014**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Each Sunday:</u> Worship:10am  <u>SundaySchool</u> @ 11:15am starting Sept 8						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Stewardship Sunday	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30pm Congregational Discussion ----- Youth-RJC here 7-9pm	<b>8</b> Annual Business Meeting 9:30am - Noon
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> OMC Book Club 7:00pm	<b>11</b> "Do Art" Gr 5-9 7:00- 8:30pm	<b>12</b> Ladies "Heart to Heart" 7:30pm	<b>13</b> Worship Committee Meeting 7:30pm	<b>14</b> Youth – Movie Night at Boldts Meet 7pm at OMC-return @10pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Deacons meeting 7:30pm	<b>20</b> Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm	<b>21</b> Deacons Games Night for Adults 7:30pm	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Missions & Service meeting 7:30pm	<b>28</b>	

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

**The Osler Mennonite Church  
February 2014 Newsletter**

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

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

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

**Upcoming OMC Events and Opportunities**

**Friday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm: Congregational discussion**

**Saturday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: Annual Business Meeting, 9:30 am to noon**

**\*Friday, February 7 from 7 – 9 pm: RJC is “Taking Over The Youth Group!”** Come for an evening of worship, group games/activities, devotional time and delicious refreshments and goodies from RJC’s kitchen. Don’t forget to bring your friends.

**\*Monday, Feb. 10 – OMC Book Club meets at 7:00pm.**

**\*Tuesday, Feb. 11 – “Do Art” for Gr. 5-9 students.**

**\*Wednesday, Feb. 12 – Ladies “Heart to Heart” meets to study the Sermon on the Mount.**

**\*A Sign up sheet** on the bulletin board lets you know what weeks are available for you to **bring snacks** for Sunday School and Gathering Time, and another Sign-up sheet is for **taking a turn making coffee and washing cups** for the Gathering Place. Everyone is welcome to sign up and take a turn.

**\*Re: Safe Church Policy and Criminal Record Checks:** For all those who work with children and youth in the church and have not yet done so, please turn your criminal record checks in as soon as possible. If you have questions, please speak to Gordon.

## Pastor's Note:

### The Pro and the Priest

A church pastor wears numerous hats, including professional clergy and theologian, orator, administrator, counsellor and priest. The training and experience can greatly benefit these and other church activities, and therefore by constant association, the actions can become part of the pastor's identity and purpose. This "role" designation and expectation can cause confusion when the model of "priesthood of believers" is embraced. Who is supposed to do what becomes perplexing. A couple years ago, MC Sask. pastors discussed their roles and expectations. It was important to all pastors to believe that they were faithfully doing ministry, in the context of the church, just as everyone else was. Aside from their training and skills, the only difference between a pastor and lay person was that the pastor has the luxury to do such ministry full time. The pastors believed that each person in the church contributes and is responsible for the various church ministries. We are all priests; some just have more time to do "priest" than others. Moreover, most of the pastors found the suggestion that pastors are simply employees hired to do what others don't want to do quite disheartening. That concept devalued the pastors' understanding of calling, faithfulness and unity in being followers of Christ together.

One area of misunderstanding that sometimes arises from forgetting the concept of priesthood of believers is visitation. Visitation is a vital ministry in the church, a ministry that invites community participation. Here is a limited analogy: if our child is very sick, we won't hesitate to take him to the doctor because the doctor has skills and knowledge that can help him. However, we don't abandon him to the doctor. Parental nurturing, attention and love are just as important to the healing process. The ill child needs a community, including the pharmacist and neighbours, to help him get better. Likewise, I am often called in a crisis situation, and it is a priority of mine to visit as soon as possible. I can offer my help, tapping my experience, and I can offer other resources, too. Plus, I have a flexible schedule that allows me to quickly respond. Another visitation priority of mine is "lost sheep"--those who have drifted away. I am very concerned about them. Both types of visits, crisis

and lost sheep, are part of the ministry of the church, and not just by the pastor, and so are pastoral care visits. There is another type of church visit and that is the casual visit, when there is no pressing need involved. This category is low on my list, in part because I assume that active members are just like me--able and engaged in ministry, too. There is something to be said about visiting to build community; however, I think that is best done by the community--all visiting each other in the pursuit of community building. Nevertheless, some people would appreciate a visit from the pastor, and I need to know who they or you are. I would gladly come to your place and drink your coffee, but I don't want to intrude or take up your time, if you don't desire a visit from me. So, please let me know if you want a visit from me or from someone else in the church, because we are all priests doing the best we can.

-Gordon

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\*The **2014 church directory** will be compiled soon. If you have any **address changes, or phone number or email changes**, please let the church office know.

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## Committees!

After our annual meeting, committees will need to meet in February to re-organize and to determine their representative on church council. Below is the schedule for committees to meet in February:

Worship - Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm  
Deacons - Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 pm  
Education -Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 pm  
Missions &Service - Thursday, February 27 at 7:30 pm  
Trustees - please arrange a meeting and inform the church office of your structure.

## Humour ~ The Isaac Section

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But John, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. John went to his room and wrote, "Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas." But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote: "Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas." He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. "Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike." He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time, he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.

-submitted by Joe Guenther

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

-submitted by Adeline

Suggestion for Next month: Your humor here!

## Canadian Mennonite University Announcements

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

### \*Looking for peace resources?

Check out the Canadian School of Peacebuilding resource page for audio stories, videos and peace resources at [csop.cmu.ca/index.php/category/resources](http://csop.cmu.ca/index.php/category/resources) And for more information on CSOP course offerings, go to [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca) or email [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca)

### \*Study Tour to the Phillipines / April 27 – May 17, 2015

CMU is offering a study tour option to the Phillipines lead by instructor Wendy Kroeker. Tour will encompass the impact of development on local communities and the implications for peacebuilding, resilience and social justice. See [cmu.ca/studytour](http://cmu.ca/studytour) for more details.

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

**2014 CMU Essay contest for High School Students** interested in the Humanities is accepting submissions. The contest invites students to engage with important questions about literature, visual media and international development. Prize money will be awarded.

Visit [cmu.ca/become.php?s=counsellors](http://cmu.ca/become.php?s=counsellors) for full details. Essays are due **March 31**.

\*Consider taking *De-Colonial Theology: Thought and Practice* with Terry LeBlanc at the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**, June 23 – 27, 2014. See [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca) or [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca) for more information.

\*Know an upcoming high school graduate looking to travel and serve others? Investigate the **CMU Outtatown** program for 2014-15. OT is an opportunity to learn about God, make lifelong friends and travel to one of three international locations: Guatemala, South Africa and Burkina Faso. Space is limited. [outtatown.com](http://outtatown.com)  
Check out the Burkina Faso wrap up video [youtube.com/watch?v=qx2XnLeCgWM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx2XnLeCgWM)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **\*Using microphones at OMC**

Our church services are transmitted not only through headphones for those hard of hearing in our church, but also to devices some people are using outside the church building, so that they, too, can enjoy our worship services. Therefore, it is important that people making announcements or sharing prayer requests always use the mics, either at the front of the church or one of the portable mics available from the ushers and the sound booth. Using one of the available microphones also makes it possible for those sitting in the sanctuary to hear all the announcements and prayer requests, etc.

**\*God has blessed the ministry of MCC for over 94 years.** In Saskatchewan we are celebrating **50 years** of faith in action. Join us in thanksgiving by submitting your personal or family's MCC story. These stories should be no longer than 1000 words and will be posted online at <http://mhss.sk.ca/MCCsk/> & stored in a binder at the MCCS office. Please send your submissions to [leonarddoell@mccs.org](mailto:leonarddoell@mccs.org).

**\*Sask Women in Mission** has openings in several committees: secretary, program committee, president elect and nominating. SWM is open to all women in Mennonite Churches in Saskatchewan. Are you, or is there someone you know, who would have the gifts/talents or interests that would suit these positions? Contact: Denise Epp, Rosthern (306) 232-4801 [l.d.epp@sasktel.net](mailto:l.d.epp@sasktel.net) OR Glenis Koop, Saskatoon [gleniskoop@hotmail.ca](mailto:gleniskoop@hotmail.ca) (306) 665-8011



Mark your calendars for the Mennonite Church Canada's 2014 Annual Delegate Assembly in Winnipeg! Registration for Assembly 2014: Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season opens Feb. 1, 2014. Get more information and register (starting February 1) at <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/events/Winnipeg2014>. All are welcome!

## Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

### **February 2, 2014 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

You're blessed when you care

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12 (7)

### **February 9, 2014 — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

The depths of God

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) (10)

Matthew 5:13-20

### **February 16, 2014 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Walk in his ways

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8 (3)

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

### **February 23, 2014 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Live generously

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48 (42)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\*Saturday, **Feb. 8** at 10:00AM - The **Youth Farm Bible Camp** will be serving fresh Cinnamon Buns and Coffee at the camp, followed by a presentation from camp staff. An opportunity for donations will be given.

\***Feb. 5 & 6: 10,000 Little Steps together Resilience & Community Conference.** MCCS is partnering with Str8Up and other community organizations in *10000 Healing Steps: Resilience and Community*. This 2-day conference in Saskatoon will focus on gang intervention and prevention, community support, and hopeful outcomes. See the bulletin board poster poster or [www.str8-up.ca](http://www.str8-up.ca). Keynote speakers will be Justice Murray Sinclair, chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, Fr Greg Boyle, and Dr. Mark Totten and Father Andre Poilevre of STR8UP. For more information contact Heather Peters at 306.665.2555 or [heatherpeters@mccs.org](mailto:heatherpeters@mccs.org). Tickets @ [www.picatic.com](http://www.picatic.com)

\***Shekinah Retreat Centre “Winter Fun Day” Feb. 17, 10am-6pm:** Skating, broomball, curling, snow sculpting/painting, tubing, sleigh rides, snowshoeing, hiking, skiing. New this year: Meet and adventure with the “Shekinah Snow Dummy” and live entertainment in the timberlodge! Shekinah has hotdogs, dessert and hot chocolate. See the bulletin board poster to see what you can bring or check out [www.shekniahretreatcentre.org](http://www.shekniahretreatcentre.org) or FB.

### ✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

True peace is not for the spineless or self-absorbed. It has nothing to do with passivity or resignation. Peace demands honesty. It entails the burden of duty. Peace requires deeds of love.

Johann Christoph Arnold

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\***Saskatoon Chamber Singers "Elixir" concert** on February 9th at 2pm and 7:30pm at Knox United Church. Tickets are \$20 advance and \$25 at the door and \$5 for students. Michelle McKinnell has tickets to sell so email, call or come talk to her. It's going to be great!

\***Shekinah Retreat Centre “Winter Fun Day” Feb. 17, 10am-6pm:** Skating, broomball, curling, snow sculpting/painting, tubing, sleigh rides, snowshoeing, hiking, skiing. New this year: Meet and adventure with the “Shekinah Snow Dummy” and live entertainment in the timberlodge! Shekinah has hotdogs, dessert and hot chocolate. See the bulletin board poster to see what you can bring or check out [www.shekniahretreatcentre.org](http://www.shekniahretreatcentre.org) or FB.

\***Shekinah Retreat Center** is currently inviting applications for a **Food Service Assistant**. See the poster on the far bulletin board with more details of this part-time position and how to apply.

\***March 7-9 “Why do God’s people...?”** at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Pray, Sing, Read Scripture and Worship together at a Prairie Winds Worship Retreat. See the bulletin board for poster and registration forms or for more information, call MC Sask at 306-249-4844 or [www.prairiewindsretreat.com](http://www.prairiewindsretreat.com). Space is limited - register soon.

\***March 14-15: MCSask’s 2014 Annual Delegate Sessions** are in Regina this year. One delegate per 25 congregational members plus a Youth delegate are invited. Worship focus is *Generosity of Spirit* and Dori Zerbe Cornelsen will be the guest speaker. Registration forms are now on the bulletin board.

\***Church Leaders Forum 2014** – Shifting Stats, Shaking the Church, with guest speakers Bruxy Cavey (Meetinghouse) and Dr. Don Moore (World Vision): Mennonite Church Canada has negotiated a discount rate of \$20/person for this event which begins on March 18 in Saskatoon and spans 10 cities across Canada, ending on May 8 in Victoria. Visit: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2269](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2269) to register for your preferred location.



## OMC Youth Calendar February 2014

**Jan. 31 – Feb 2** – SMYO / MC Sask Senior High Retreat at Shekinah

**February 7** – 7:00-9:00pm - RJC (Rosthern Junior College) will be here at OMC for “*Youth Night Takeover*”  
Come on out! There will be music, food, fun, contests and draws.

**Fri., Feb. 14** – 7:00–10:00pm – Movie Night at Kevin & Melanie Boldt’s. Pickup and drop-off at the church.

### Looking ahead.....

March 8th or 15<sup>th</sup> will be a Youth event. Watch for details to come.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – SMYO Worship Extravaganza at Shekinah

March 28<sup>th</sup> - Coffee House at RJC

### ❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

*Sometimes I would like to ask God why He allows poverty, suffering, and injustice when He could do something about it."*

*"Well, why don't you ask Him?"*

*"Because I'm afraid He would ask me the same question."*

Anonymous

## Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS)

\*MHSS will hold its **Annual Meeting** at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

**Friday speaker:** Bob Goodnough – Church of God and Christ, Mennonite/Holdamann Church  
Music by Holdamann Choir

**Saturday, March 1:** 9:30am – AGM  
11:00am and 1:30pm – Richard Thiessen – Genealogy and GAMEO



### \*Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan Book

**Launch March 9, 2014 – 2:30pm** at Bethany Manor

Klaassen, Martin: “History of the Defenceless Anabaptist Churches from the Times of the Apostles to the Present.” Translated from the German to English by Walter Klaassen. This is a 140 year old book.

\*See the MHSS website for details of Mennonite Central Committee events in Saskatchewan. <http://mhss.sk.ca/>

For example: MCC Saskatchewan 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations will be held throughout the year at various locations. More details to be announced:

\*February 10, 2pm – Warman Thrift Shop will have a ceremony and a special sale in celebration of MCC’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Come for coffee & refreshments, too.

\*April 13 – Songs for the Sale, a Relief Sale Fundraiser, will be held at Forest Grove Community Church.