

**2012 Calendar  
January**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: Worship:10am SundaySchool @ 11:15am, Floor Hockey 7:00-8:300pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Winter Bible Study Session #1 @11:15am Pizza Lunch Study Session #2 follows pizza lunch	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Church Council Meeting 9:30am
<b>15</b> Loose change Sunday Mennonite Trust Will Seminar @ 11:15am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Education Committee meeting 7:30pm	<b>19</b> Worship Committee meeting 7:00pm	<b>20</b> Youth – meet at church 7pm-RJC Friday Nite Live!	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Anna Rehan _ 11:15am Potluck and discussion & "Talk about" Youth Mentorship	<b>23</b> Blanket Making	<b>24</b> Blanket Making	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Missions & Service Committee meeting 7:30pm	<b>27</b> No Youth Puppet Practice	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Winter Bible Study Session #3 @ 11:15am	<b>30</b> Blanket Making	<b>31</b> Blanket Making			<b>30</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  
January 2012 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church  
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<http://omchurch.org>  
Volume VIII, First Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

**Happy New Year!**

The New Year at OMC starts with some great opportunities.

**\*A Discipleship Group will organize in January.** This Discipleship Group will meet when and as often as is best for the participants. The group will seek to enhance their understanding and ability to be faithful followers of Christ, and likewise, grow spiritually, too. The goal of the group is to be open and enabled to respond to new opportunities to serve, as God leads. Please contact Gordon if you would like to be a part of this group. Ideally, the group will be ten people or less.

**\*Our Winter Study is** on the book of Romans based on the Believer's Church Commentary. The study will be done in three sessions, so obviously it will not be a detailed analysis. Even so, we hope it will provide tools and insights for better understanding Paul's only intended theological expose. Session #1 will cover Romans 1-5, during the Sunday School hour on **January 8th**. All are invited for a **pizza lunch** at noon on the 8th, and **the second session covering Romans 6-10 will be right after lunch**. Please read Romans Chapters 11-16 before those chapters are studied on **Jan. 29**, during the Sunday school time.

**\*Mentoring our youth:** a growing number of churches are adopting a mentoring system with their youth, and they are finding it to be very rewarding for all. On **Sunday, January 22, Anna Rehan** will present this concept to all adults during the Sunday School time, and then following our **POTLUCK** lunch, we'll have a discussion time with Anna and our youth leaders.

### *Pastor's Note*

Spiders are active outside; South-western Saskatchewan, this week, had a T-shirt temperature of 17, and snowmobilers are bored. Even by Ontario standards, it is very warm for January. Most of us are glad to have warm fingers and toes, and to not worry about shovelling snow; however there is ominous feel to this balmy winter weather. One record breaking January does not prove that our planet is heating up, but this evident is merely one of a long string of haunting warnings. The evidence is overwhelming: the world's climate is changing; global warming is happening, and reckless human behaviour is directly contributing to this change. Few scientists know for certain when the point of no return is. Most of them agree that we are close to the tipping point, and that there may be hope if we act now to radically change our destructive, sinful ways. Yet, that sort of turnabout demands a complete rebirth—a new way of being and thinking.

Polar ice is melting expeditiously, the oceans are rising and the salinity is changing, weather patterns are changing: the earth's environment is adjusting to years of high carbon input. Even so, life forms will continue, albeit in an altered state. Flora and fauna will adjust; some will die, some will move, some will thrive. To be sure, we humans will likely suffer the most, especially the poor and powerless. Jesus directed most of his attention in two directions: helping the poor, the helpless and the weak and confronting the powerful / the leaders about their destructive, selfish ways that were hurting others. All were called to repent / to change their old patterns and values. Our message of redemption, of salvation must include addressing global warming because the lives of millions of people are at stake. We claim to be people professing a message of healing and hope. Well, that message must include creation care with a call to repent, to change our ways, to love beyond ourselves, to do justice and to walk humbly with God on this planet. As followers of Christ, we present the message of salvation: a message that transforms people and systems; a message the entire world desperately needs now!

Let us all ask God to lead and enable us to be agents for salvation—for the soul, for the body and the mind. God's creation must be part of our daily narrative and our daily rebirth.

Gordon Allaby

### ☸ Pieces of Peace ☸

Peace is at the heart of the gospel. As followers of Jesus in a divided and violent world, we are committed to finding nonviolent alternatives to learning how to make peace between individuals, within and among churches, in society, and between nations.

- *The Naked Anabaptist*, p46 (in our church library)

### Humour ~ The Isaac Section

#### **More of those crazy Church Bulletin Bloopers:**

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

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Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

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Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

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The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

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Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

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The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM . The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

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Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

-submitted by Adeline

## OMC Junior Youth

Katherine Allaby  
Deanna Bysterveld  
Hannah Baker  
Liam Boldt  
Adam Braun  
Tori Doell  
Jasmine Fehr  
Loren Gomez  
Emma Mitchell  
Emily Neufeld  
Katherine Penner  
Delaney Sawatzky  
Tyler Sawatzky  
Zach Spence  
Kennedy Zacharias  
Kale Zacharias

## OMC Senior Youth

Kyla Boldt  
Teresa Friesen  
Jem Gascho  
Amy Hildebrandt  
Lisa Hildebrandt  
Kyle Klassen  
Courtney Klassen  
Jason Neudorf-Boldt

If they want peace, nations should avoid the pin-pricks that precede cannon shots. - Napoleon Bonaparte

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Friday Night Live at RJC** - ALL youth grades 6-12 are invited to an interactive evening of socializing and entertainment on Friday, January 20th, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Admission is FREE. We will meet at the church at 7pm before heading up to Rosthern. Please RSVP to Leslie A by January 16th if you plan on attending.

**\*Loose Change Sunday is January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*OMC's book club** is reading "Secret Daughter". Copies of the book are available from Leslie and we will meet to discuss our thoughts on the book on February 6th at 7:00 pm.

**\*Winter Walking in the church.** Bring a friend and come walking in the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to noon.

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

**\*Looking ahead:**

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

I can promise you that women working together - linked, informed and educated - can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.  
-Isabel Allende

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### \*Spring online courses from AMBS:

Two online courses are offered by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary for spring 2011:

- *Turnaround Strategies for Churches*, taught by Gerald Shenk, sessional instructor. This course examines dynamics of church renewal, with strategies for change that seek to be true to the Gospel and to the congregational context.

- *Biblical Foundations of Peace and Justice*, taught by Mary Schertz, professor of New Testament. Study pertinent biblical passages and historic peace church understandings while reflecting on peace and justice praxis today.

**Tuition discount:** Tuition will be cut in half for first-time online students at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary who are not yet enrolled in any theological education program.

**Register by January 10** to receive an early registration discount. For information: [www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/online](http://www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/online)

**\*Mar. 9-11, 2012** – Canadian Mennonite University invites high school students to attend **PIT 2012**. CMU speakers include Irma Fast Dueck, assistance professor of practical theology, and lecturers Kenton Lobe and Justin Neufeld. Registration increases after January 31, 2012. 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.

**\*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 at [www.csop.cmu.ca](http://www.csop.cmu.ca) or by e-mailing [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca).

## Potluck Recipe of the Month



This month's featured recipe is a **Spinach and Pear Salad** that Louise Buhler has prepared for past potlucks. Enjoy!

### Spinach & Pear Salad

Baby spinach leaves  
Romaine lettuce, torn to bite-size pieces  
1 or 2 pears, sliced  
Whole pecans  
Craisins

#### Dressing:

¼ cup olive oil  
1 tsp. grainy mustard  
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar  
2 Tbsp. maple syrup




Combine dressing ingredients, and toss dressing with greens just before serving. A nice light dressing for a healthy, tasty salad. Use pears or other fruit in season, according to your preferences.

**We look forward to receiving many tasty recipes for future newsletters. Please share your favourites with the church office.**

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### **\*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

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Sat
<b>JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 11 – noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	5	6	7	8	9	10
15 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Friday Night Live! At RJC</b>  <b>Meet at the church at 7pm</b>	21
22 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	23	24	25	26	27 No Puppet Ministry practice because Leslie is out of town	28
29 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	30	31				

## 45 Ways to Show Love to Your Youth

1. **Remember Names.** Few things leave a more lasting impression on kids than your ability to call them by name.
2. **Meet at the youths' level.** Position yourself to communicate at eye level. Also take care that your vocabulary is easily understood by your teens.
3. **Send birthday cards.** Who send young people cards? Immediate family, extended relatives and close friends. Why not add your name to that list?
4. **Respond to absences.** Many young people drop out of they feel unneeded or unimportant. When you follow up with them, it communicates their value to you and the group.
5. **Forgive and forget.** I Corinthians 13:5 says love“keeps no record of wrongs.” If you model authentic forgiveness, it will give youth the courage to do the same.
6. **Recognize accomplishments.** Look for opportunities to applaud your group members. Spread the word to family and friends you want to know about this inside information.
7. **Write encouraging notes.** Youth love to get mail, so send them brief postcards or letters. Express your confidence in them and reaffirm your availability.
8. **Offer support in a crisis.** You are never more needed than when your teenagers face trouble. When youth face unexpected pregnancy, abuse, crime, death, or rejection, your active concern can impact them for a lifetime.
9. **Recognize personality changes.** Abrupt shifts from normal behaviour patterns may be signals that a youth needs help. Don't hesitate to share your concern.

10. **Follow up on prayer requests.** Ask for progress reports on prayer concerns. This reminds your youth that you take their spiritual lives seriously and helps them recognize God's provision.
11. **Confront in love.** Authentic concern sometimes says: "I care for you too much to let that continue." Your willingness to deal with tough issues reveals the trust nature of your commitment.
12. **Listen.** You don't need all the answers, just two good ears. Empower your teenagers to talk through their problems with someone they can trust.
13. **Answer questions.** Young people have difficulty interpreting the mixed messages they receive. If they ask, it's because they trust you. Don't be afraid to respond honestly, even in sensitive areas.
14. **Say "I love you!"** These words can never be said too often. Say them personally, sincerely, and individually.
15. **Affirm spiritual growth.** Everyone can use a spiritual "pat on the back." Commend godly character you observe.
16. **"Unwrap" kids' giftedness.** When you detect latent talents or ability in your youth, give them encouragement and opportunities to explore those gifts.
17. **Expect the best.** Young people will settle to your level of expectation – so aim high.
18. **Accept them as they are.** Teenagers are in transition from childhood to adulthood, and they can act like either at any moment. Be patient – God's not finished with them (or you, for that matter.)
19. **Focus on their interests.** Investigate your group members' hobbies and ask for pointers. They'll be happy to oblige, and you'll gain new insights into them.
20. **Be available.** Inform your group that you are accessible when they need you. (Remember to tell them when you are not available, too.)
21. **Laugh together.** Don't be so serious that you miss humorous moments.
22. **Cultivate kids' opinion.** Invite honest feedback and keep an open mind. God may want your young people to teach you something.
23. **Be real.** Your teenagers hunger for relationships with people have the confidence to be themselves.
24. **Speak first.** Initiating conversation can be difficult for shy or new group members. Make them feel important by speaking to them first.
25. **Give positive reinforcement.** Some young people are lightning rods for criticism. So look for something praiseworthy in every group member.
26. **Share "good news".** When group members make the news, mail them the clippings. Even if their parents already have a supply for the relatives, they appreciate your thoughtfulness.
27. **Seek sanctuary.** Your meetings should not be a battleground for personal disputes. Place a high priority on emotional security and acceptance for everyone.
28. **Be dependable.** How's your track record for consistency? If you're reliable in the small things, you'll be rewarded with greater confidence.

## 45 Ways to Show Love to Your Youth - continued

29. **Be a servant.** Greatness, as Jesus demonstrated is expressed through service. Your group will reflect this truth to the extent they observe it in you.
30. **Smile.** Your smile expresses openness and approachability.
31. **Watch your tone of voice.** Clear communicating includes both the words we choose and how we express them. Take care that your tone reflects concern and support.
32. **Be attentive.** It's frustrating to talk with someone whose actions demonstrate they're not interested. Make sure your body language reflects concern.
33. **Support through prayer.** Select two or three group members to pray for every week. Inform them in advance and ask for special needs or requests.
34. **Maintain eye contact.** The eyes are a window to the soul. So let your kids see your compassion in your eyes.
35. **Watch your words.** Real affection is often exercised through what we decide to say. Your careless remarks could leave lasting scars.
36. **Give kids respect.** This is a "boomerang principle" – give and you will receive in return.
37. **Take them seriously.** Don't brush off your youth's problems or concerns, no matter how trivial they might seem.
38. **Admit your mistakes.** Don't be fooled. We're usually the last to acknowledge what others already know.
39. **Avoid church/school conflicts.** Arbitrary scheduling that forces youth to choose between church and school activities is unfair.
40. **Foster teamwork.** Although your role will always involve overseeing the tasks at hand, don't lose touch with the crew. Serving together in the trenches builds camaraderie.
41. **Invest your time in them.** There's no substitute for just being together. This life-to-life interaction is the essence of discipleship.
42. **Smooth "rough" edges.** Do you have youth who lack social graces or need help with personal hygiene? It's awkward, but that's what friends are for.
43. **Empathize.** Empathy is "feeling your pain in my heart". Isn't this how Jesus expressed his love for us? Remember what it is like to be a kid.
44. **Play together.** If your teenagers would rather watch than participate, help them rediscover the joy of play. Choose activities that stress total group participation.
45. **Resist favouritism.** If pressed, you'd admit feeling "closer" to some youth than others. Budget your time and attention to everyone equally.