

**OMC Calendar
January 2015**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Each Sunday:</u> Worship:10am <u>SundaySchool</u> @ 11:15am				1	2	3
4	5	6 Worship Comm. Meeting 7:30pm	7 Winter Study "Good God – Good Sex" 7:30pm	8 Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 Winter Study "Good God – Good Sex" 7:30pm	15	16	17
18 Loose Change Sunday Claire Ewert- Fisher speaking	19	20	21 Winter Study "Good God – Good Sex" 7:30pm	22 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm M&S Meeting 7:30pm	23	24
25 NPMC Saskatune here	26	27	28	29	30	31

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. www.omchurch.org

**The Osler Mennonite Church
January 2015 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://omchurch.org>
 Volume X1, First Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



Upcoming OMC Events

***OMC Winter Wednesdays Bible Study "Good God, Good Sex"**
 led by Joe Heikman, Wildwood Mennonite Church
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.

1. "Sexuality for Everyone" - Sexuality is about more than sex: it's about our longing for connection and the many ways that we go about fulfilling that need. What is it that we're longing for, and what is the connection between sexuality and spirituality?

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

2. "We are all Eunuchs" - All of our expressions of sexuality, even within marriage, are imperfect and incomplete. What does it mean to pursue healthy sexuality in light of our broken humanity?

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

3. "Sexual Tensions" - Freedom vs. Boundaries. Individual Rights vs Community Values. Our sexual choices, for better or worse, have real-world outcomes. How do we stay faithful to God, each other, and ourselves, in light of the realities of our broken world?

***OMC Visioning Process will continue in January. Watch for opportunities to sign up for** with 30 minute interviews with wonderful listeners from MC Sask at OMC and Saskatoon.

Patty's Ponderings

I'm so thankful for this opportunity to get to know all of you at OMC. I've been impressed with the level of commitment to the church. Financially - the youth fundraiser raised \$5000! (more than Nutana Park Mennonite Church!) Emotionally - people are sticking it out through this interim pastorate and participating in visioning the future church and volunteering for new positions. Culinarily, OMC has the best potlucks of any church I've been a part of (better than Nutana Park), and spiritually - I'm touched by the depth of faith and seeking new understanding in your walk with God.

I've had so many wonderful conversations and hope to hit the visitation trail hard this new year. I'll be on hot holiday to the all-inclusive in-laws in Kansas Jan 12-20 - no beaches, unfortunately. When I return, I'm looking forward to the results of our visioning process and the start of our Osler Forever in Motion Senior Fitness group and other interesting activities at church.

Patty

Patty's Picks

Why Football Matters by Mark Edmundson made me almost care about football.

How We Got to Now by Steven Johnson was interesting on the connections of invention.

Under Construction by Gareth Brandt about male spirituality that I really enjoyed.

Stroke Prevention Naturally by Sask Doc Felix Veloso was interesting and helpful.

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese was exquisite in its heartbreak and hope.

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

The Name Game – submitted by Julie Bergen

German Names –

1. Sugar and rice (say in German)
2. A writer
3. Part of a dollar
4. Sound of a frog
5. A poet
6. Sailors
7. Very cold
8. Not quite as cold
9. Pork
10. A group of words
11. Speedy and quick
12. Part of the human body
13. An alert policeman
14. Honest and just

Answers –

1. Zacharias
2. Penner
3. Nickel
4. Kroeker
5. Reimer
6. Siemens
7. Friesen
8. Kuhl
9. Hamm
10. Froese
11. Fast
12. Toews
13. Redekop
14. Fehr

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***RJC Winter Theatre** - January 10 and 11, 2015, 7:30 pm. The Theatre Arts Class will present "Anne of Green Gables" in the Pit Theatre. L.M. Montgomery's beloved story of Anne with an "e" is brought to life in this charming adaptation for the small stage. Tickets are \$10 (rush seating), and must be reserved by calling the RJC Office at 306 232-4222. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1st. Please call early as the school office is closed from December 20 to January 5.

***RJC Tournament of Memories** - January 9 & 10, 2015 - Basketball and Hockey are waiting for you! Alumni, family and friends should register by January 1st by email (deneldafast@hotmail.com) for basketball and hockey. Basketball with a skills competition and Street hockey. This is something new and will be played in the parking lot in front of the school. Reconnect with old classmates and friends and exercise your mind, body and spirit at the same time! Your alumni bulletin "RJC CONNECT" will be in the mail soon (and is already on the RJC website) with more details. If you have questions contact Denelda at 306-221-2846 or RJC office at 306-232-4222.

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy?

Mahatma Gandhi

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Forever in Motion Senior Fitness Program Update**

Char Walush from Forever in Motion, Saskatoon Health Region gave an interesting presentation on the physical and social benefits of 50+ fitness groups. The next steps for OMC as a host site will be to send some leaders to training workshops in the new year. If anyone has any interest in the program, please let us know and Mission and Service will keep us updated on how to stretch ourselves in the New Year.

***Upcoming Sunday services:**

Sunday, Jan. 18 - Claire Ewert-Fischer, MCC Ukraine
Sunday, Jan. 25 - Saskatune Singers.

*The total giving for this year's Sunday School Giving Project; the "*Gift of Water*" through Mennonite Central Committee was \$1,768.80. Thank you for your generosity.

***Winter Walkers:** OMC gym will be open for walking Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9:00 a.m. beginning Monday, January 5th. *Forever in Motion Senior Fitness Class* will meet Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-10:45 a.m. starting Wednesday, January 21st. Walkers and all ages welcome to join us. Contact Patty with questions.

***Blanket Making for MCC** at the church on January 19, 20, 26, 27. Please come and help us make blankets for people in the world who live in refugee camps, children in orphanages and people living in locations experiencing disasters. A warm blanket is something that can help people who live in difficult situations to hope for a brighter future.

***Mark your calendars for the OMC 2015 Annual General Meeting: Saturday morning, February 7th.**

Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

January 4, 2015—Second

Sunday after Christmas

Proclaim, give praise

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (7), Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**January 11, 2015—Baptism of
the Lord. You are my Son, the
Beloved**

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11 (11)

**January 18, 2015—Second
Sunday after Epiphany**

Speak, Lord

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) (9)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:1 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

**January 25, 2015—Third Sunday
after Epiphany**

My refuge is in God

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12 (7)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



Seeing Jesus by Edna Zacharias

Had I first seen him on the street I would have turned aside thinking, “How disgusting.” When he walked into our Mennonite Disaster Service dining room, I thought, “Oh My! This guy has come here to work!” His arms were covered with tattoos. Because MDS has a dress code, we didn’t see his back. His earlobes were stretched around gold earrings. A very worldly sight for conservative eyes.

Yes, Jason had come to work. He came with joyful enthusiasm and lots of energy. As a new Christian his smile showed his joy for Jesus while his body showed the choices of his past; those he has to live with, like all of us do.

Jason was familiar with construction and worked hard. Even the more conservative folks enjoyed working with the joyful guy. Never before had we experienced someone who spent time morning and evening having devotions with his family back home. By telephone he would lead his children in Bible reading and prayer. If you were in the dining room at the right time, you would hear him say, “OK kids, let’s listen up while mommy reads today’s scripture. He blew away our first impressions.

We are in the Advent season. We are waiting for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. But as we wait are we seeing Jesus anywhere else than the manger? Where is God putting Jesus in our line of vision? Where do we least expect to see Him? Do we see Jesus in the man who hurries to open the door for someone in a wheelchair? Do we see Jesus in the hockey game, who goes to shake the hand of the referee who gave him a penalty? Do we see Jesus in the clerk who smiles and wishes you a Merry Christmas at the end of a long day dealing with customers not always gracious to her?

When Jason came to the kitchen to thank me for the meals and hugged me with his tattooed arms, God showed me Jesus. This Advent season did I really see Jesus? Did I look for Him? He is not only in the manger where the shepherds found Him. May God give us hearts to see Him. May we feel Him in our daily lives.

Book Review: Jake Buhler

Rudy Wiebe. *Come Back*: (Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf Canada, 2014)
268 pages. Hard cover. Fiction.

In this novel, Rudy Wiebe imagines that fiction could be real as he hints at his own personal story.

In *Come Back*, Hal is a pensioned Mennonite professor who is not doing well after the death of his beloved wife, Yolanda. He hangs out at an Edmonton café with Owl, a solid Dene soul-mate who plays back reality when Hal's mind wanders. Over a coffee on a chilly day, Hal sees an orange hooded figure on the street who he believes is Gabe, his son, who committed suicide twenty five years earlier. Hal exits the café and pursues the orange jacketed man across the street only to lose him when he gets caught in traffic. The jolt of *seeing* his son drives him to open a storage box containing Gabe's preserved notebooks. What follows, takes up most of the space in the book: we learn from the notebook entries about his troubled travels in Europe constantly obsessed with a pubescent schoolgirl, named Ailsa who at 14 is ten years younger than he; we see dozens of unfinished sentences that allow us to see his struggle with meaning and hopelessness; we learn of his deep appreciation for the literary arts through his quotes from the master writers, and; we learn of his Mennonite roots through flashbacks. At age 24, Gabe returns to Alberta, where, after a period of despondency, kills himself by pumping carbon monoxide into his pick-up cab. The year is 1985.

There is a link between this novel and Wiebe's first novel, *Peace Shall Destroy Many*, published in 1962. Hal is an eight old set in the boreal forest of Saskatchewan in 1944. That makes Wiebe and his character, Hal, about the same age. And Gabe and Wiebe's son Michael (who also committed suicide) are also the same age. If the conflict in *Peace Shall Destroy Many* was about the local prejudices held by an insular community of Mennonites, *Come Back* reveals a mature Mennonite professor who for 25 years has been in denial and has not resolved his son's suicide. Then in 2010, Hal has a life-altering experience as he reads Gabe's notebooks filled with troubled entries. Hal becomes conflicted with why his son ended his life. If only Gabe

could come back there would be answers; and that is where the book's title comes from.

Wiebe's ability to write simply about profoundly complex subjects is one reason why he has been one of Canada's enduring authors. He is a true teller of stories, whether fiction or not. And in many of his books he explores the theme of loss. What if the Cree woman, Yvonne Johnson, in *Stolen Life*, had not been raped and abused and robbed of her life? What if the oracular Big Bear in *Temptations of Big Bear* had succeeded in freeing his people? What if Helen in *Of this Earth* had not died? And finally what might it be like if Gabe in *Come Back* could return.

There are a number of fine Mennonite writers but too many are angry who time and again beat up their loyal Mennonite readers (and I am one as I think of Miriam Toews). Wiebe is one of the few, perhaps, who towers above most: who provides hope, not anger, and who asks complex *questions* in a simple way. In *Come Back* we are not told what it would be like if Gabe could return; we are left to resolve that ourselves even as we try with the untimely deaths in our several communities.

In his introduction, Wiebe takes comfort in the Scriptures when he quotes in his introduction from Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:12: "For now we look through a mirror into an enigma, but then face to face". Wiebe offers few easy answers but his description surrounding being and non being (read Paul Tillich), is what *Come Back* is about.

Come Back can be purchased from Amazon in hard cover or in Kindle edition for under \$20.00. Available in fine stores as well.





Wage Peace

by Judyth Hill

Wage peace with your breath.
Breathe in firemen and rubble,
breathe out whole buildings
and flocks of redwing blackbirds.

Breathe in terrorists and breathe out sleeping children
and freshly mown fields.
Breathe in confusion and breathe out maple trees.
Breathe in the fallen
and breathe out lifelong friendships intact.

Wage peace with your listening:
hearing sirens, pray loud.
Remember your tools:
flower seeds, clothes pins, clean rivers.

Make soup.
Play music, learn the word for thank you in three languages.
Learn to knit, and make a hat.
Think of chaos as dancing raspberries,
imagine grief as the outbreath of beauty
or the gesture of fish.
Swim for the other side.
Wage peace.

Never has the world seemed so fresh and precious.
Have a cup of tea and rejoice.
Act as if armistice has already arrived.
Don't wait another minute.

Capsule Sermons – submitted by Loretta S.

- Swallowing your pride seldom leads to indigestion.
- One thing you can give and still keep is your word.
- You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.
 - There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.
 - If you don't have a sense of humor, you're like a wagon without springs, jolted by every pebble in the road.
 - No one suffers from dizziness by doing good turns
- Perseverance is not a long race but many short races one after the other.
 - It's wise to keep in mind that no success or failure is necessarily fatal.
- Before you flare up at another's faults, count 10 of your own.
- Sometimes you can make a very effective statement by saying nothing.
 - A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition.
 - Learn to listen; opportunity sometimes knocks very softly.
 - Correction does much, but encouragement does more.
 - Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed.
- Optimists are wrong just as often as pessimists, but they have more fun.