

The Osler Mennonite Church June 2011 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://olsermc.sasktelwebsite.net/>
 Volume VII, Eighth Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

2011 Calendar June 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	3	4
5	6	7	8 OMC Book Club meets @ 7pm	9 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	10 MCC Sale @ Prairie- landPark	11 MCC Sale @ Prairie- land Park
12 ** Last Sunday of Sunday School.	13	14	15 Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm	16 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm	17	18
19 Church Picnic 10:00am	20	21	22	23	24 YOUTH: End of School Party 7:00pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**Note: the last Sunday of Sunday School on June 12th will be a games day!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***June 8, 2011 – OMC Book Club meeting at 7:00pm, to discuss “Shanghai Girls” by Lisa See.**

***Our church picnic is Sunday, June 19.** We will start with the worship service at 10:00 am. The theme this year is "Joy and Humour". Laughter is one response to God's wonderful blessings and surprises, and it is appropriate and good to laugh, even in church. In addition to praising God, we want to invite laughter into our picnic day worship, so please bring your funny stories and good natured jokes to share. Of course, the humour must be church appropriate, and the stories or jokes you tell must be funny.

Please bring outdoor group games, bubble blowing stuff and chalk for the kids; and a kite if the wind is good. Also, we'll have a fire for roasting wieners, so bring wieners, something to share, chairs if you wish, and we'll provide the drinks and ice cream. Oh, and bring a friend; we're going to have fun.

***SUMMER SCHEDULE:**

There will be no newsletter in July and August.

Gordon will be away at Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Waterloo from July 4-8 and on sabbatical from July 10 to August 23.

Summer church office hours are Friday mornings. For quicker responses to an inquiry, please contact Louise Buhler or one of the deacons.

Pastor's Notes

In a world of use and discard, it is delightful to experience the nurturing investment in renewal and restoration. Rest and rejuvenation is an ancient and important mandate in the Bible--established and practiced by God. Jesus also took leave from his ministry to refresh and refocus. I am very grateful that the church is offering me a time of restful sabbatic leave to recharge my inner batteries and to invigorate my spirit. Thank-you.

My Sabbatical will be for six weeks, beginning July 10 and ending on August 23. I have no plans for travel, and therefore, if necessary, I will be here to do crisis visitation and funerals. Part of each day, while I'm on leave, will involve intentional rest (the discipline of stillness and listening), catching up on my reading and spiritual exercises (developed by my spiritual director). I will not attend worship services at our church, but instead I will visit other churches to learn what they are doing. The deacons will take care of pastoral needs as they arise, and Adeline will be in the office on Fridays to do the bulletin and other administrative duties.

Conveniently, summers tend to be a slow time in the life of the church. Louise will also be available, and the worship committee will plan the worship services (with the help of many of our talented members). Even though I will not be working for six weeks, I do hope to see you, so please stop by for a visit, any time. When I resume normal activities, I will share my experiences with the church. And again, thanks for this opportunity.

Gordon

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**\*Church Office summer hours:** Beginning July 8<sup>th</sup> until August 24<sup>th</sup>, Adeline will only be in the church office (most) Friday mornings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*We are ready to launch our new website!** Please change your favourites to include: [www.omchurch.org](http://www.omchurch.org). Effective June 10, 2011, church bulletins and Gordon's sermons and news updates will be posted on our new website. It is our hope that you will find the new site more user friendly, with the addition of forms, documents and photos. Your suggestions and feedback are always welcome.

**\*The Mission and Service committee** would like to enter a float in the **Osler Parade** on July 1, but they need someone to oversee the project. Please contact any committee member or Gordon if you'd like to take this on.

**\*The Peace and Justice Committee** challenged all MC Sask congregations to publicly declare ourselves as **"Live for Peace" churches by putting up a banner** on our church sign or other suitable surface inside or outside our churches. The possibilities for banners are posted at <[liveforpeace.org](http://liveforpeace.org)>. MC Canada is willing to work with banner makers to assist in production of a banner. Contact MC Canada/ MC Sask. Peace and Justice chair, Stephanie Epp: [saepp@yahoo.com](mailto:saepp@yahoo.com).

**\*Vacation Bible School at OMC** will be mornings (9:00 to 11:30am) the week of July 25-29<sup>th</sup>. Helpers will be needed to assist the MC Sask VBS Troupe members, as well as providing snacks for the children, meals for the troupe, etc. Watch for more details to come!

\*A few weeks ago, **the Saskatchewan Valley News** published a story on the Youth Farm Bible Camp chapel project. The quoted \$370,000 project price is an error in the report; it still remains at \$270,000. For more information on the project, please go to [www.yfbc.ca](http://www.yfbc.ca)

**\*In July 2010 a historic step of reconciliation took place between Lutherans and Mennonites.** On July 22, 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany, delegates to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly unanimously approved a statement calling Lutherans to express their regret and sorrow for past wrongdoings toward Anabaptists and ask for forgiveness. Mennonites accepted the apology and admitted their own need of forgiveness for the prideful interpretation of persecution as a confirmation of faithful Christian discipleship, nothing that in this act of reconciliation there is “the promise of release and renewal”. As part of this historic new chapter in the relationship of Lutherans and Mennonites, a study guide: “Healing Memories: **Reconciling in Christ**” has been produced and a copy is in the library for those interested in exploring new ways of being relationship in a time of reconciliation and forgiveness for both churches.

**\* Roll with the Declaration! KAIROS Cross-Canada Action in support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.** On June 20th, the cross-Canada Banner train will arrive in Ottawa and an enormous banner will be created on Parliament Hill. Please go to [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) for information: including an account of the Blanket train experience which arrived in Ottawa 10 years ago, the rationale for the current initiative and why we as church communities are called to be involved, instructions on how to make a banner, and suggested outlines for a 45-minute, half or full day community event (the Blanket Exercise could be included as part of one of the longer banner-making workshops). **The Banner Train Schedule (travels through Saskatchewan on June 16 with stops in Unity, Biggar, Saskatoon at 8:45 am, Watrous and Melville).** Members on the MC Sask. Ministries Commission invite you to contact them if you would like to discuss this initiative (your church office has the contact information)." Also see: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/take-action/the-land-our-life/roll-with-the-declaration/> for more information.

**\*Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2011: “It’s Epic: Remembering God’s Future”** in Waterloo, Ontario, this summer (July 4-8), will include many friends, a special Sarah Harmer concert, awesome worship music and inspiration overflowing. Everything you want to know about this event, including online registration @ [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1500](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1500) or by calling 1-866-888-6785

**\*Second Annual Spruce River Folk Music Festival, Saturday, August 27, 2pm-8pm** at the Spruce River Farm 20km north of Prince Albert on Highway 2. There will be good music, food, a silent auction, and a lot of fun. This event is a fundraiser for the ongoing work of Mennonite Central Committee.

**\*July 31: Peace Mennonite Church Regina** is celebrating 25 years as a house church in Regina. Consider celebrating with them. Details of the celebration will be made available soon.

**\*A mission of the Mennonite church in Montreal** since 1974, the Maison de l’amitié continues to welcome and support new arrivals to Canada and Quebec through English and French language classes and a community-focussed student residence. You can support the ministries of the Maison de l’amitié this summer by having fun! Come visit Montreal and stay in our Summer Guestrooms! Rates start as low as \$40 per night. Visit the website: [www.residencema.ca](http://www.residencema.ca)

*P.S. Cycle while you visit! The city has an extensive network of bike paths that will take you to all the major tourist areas including all our wonderful waterside parks, beaches and pools. Montreal now offers a bike taxi service called Bixi. You can rent a bike, inexpensively, for short trips throughout various parts of the city. If you are planning on staying at Maison de l’amitié there is a station just a minute’s walk away. For more information visit the Bixi website at [www.bixi.com](http://www.bixi.com).*

## Canadian Mennonite University announcements:

[www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

**\*June 6 to 24** – Canadian School of Peacebuilding presents 5-day courses this summer. Learn various approaches to peace building, justice, reconciliation, conflict resolution and development within an international network of peace builders. Courses are available for academic or professional development credit. [www.cmu.ca/csop](http://www.cmu.ca/csop)

\*Get a taste of what's happening at the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding** by attending one of our public lunch Peacebuilder Banquets, featuring great local food and inspiring speakers. Thursday, June 9, with Stan McKay; Thursday, June 16 – with Michelle LeBaron; Thursday, June 23 with George Lakey. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance at <http://www.cmu.ca/csop/specialevents.html> or by calling 498-3300.

**\*Portable CMU** - Bring CMU to your own local setting. The 2011 brochure features **17 short courses** on a wide range of topics our faculty members have prepared to deliver in a variety of contexts away from CMU. <http://www.cmu.ca/portable.html>

**\*June** – Consider taking one of CMU's one-week intensive courses in theological studies, either for graduate credit or simply to deepen your understanding. For a schedule and course syllabi see [http://www.cmu.ca/programs/grad\\_courses\\_offered.html](http://www.cmu.ca/programs/grad_courses_offered.html).

**\*CMU's Outtown** discipleship program welcomes applications for site leaders for 2011/2012. Leaders have the opportunity to mentor young adults while travelling, serving, and learning throughout Canada, plus Guatemala, South Africa, and French Africa. More information available at [www.outtown.com](http://www.outtown.com)

**\*August 21 to 26** – Announcing the **Rosamunde Summer Music Academy**, Canada's newest program for string players of all ages and skill levels! The Academy offers its students a high caliber musical learning experience, handpicked faculty and a holistic teaching philosophy. Visit [www.rosamunde.ca](http://www.rosamunde.ca) for more details and to register.

## ✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devote to war?

### **\*Campers & Helpers – Come to Shekinah !**

**1. Campers!!!** Get ready to "Gather Round" this summer as we will learn about the circle of God's people and the important communities that we are part of. As of right now, there is still room in all weeks for males and females, so get your applications in!

**2. Cooks and kitchen help:** Most weeks are have space available. Here's your chance to volunteer for a week of camp. Consider it time well spent to see youth and young adults from our churches engage, lead and have fun with terrific, energy filled campers, and have some fun yourself!

**3. Bible Leaders:** Have you considered coming to camp and sharing your gifts of teaching and leadership with campers (and staff)? We would love to have you!! Leaders are still needed for July 3-8 (Childrens) and July10-15 (Junior Teens).

**Questions or need more information?? Please contact Kristy at the Shekinah office (306) 945-4929)**

### **\*Voluntary Service Opportunity**

A new Mennonite Voluntary Service unit has been formed in Edmonton, opening in the fall of 2011. We are now recruiting volunteers for the unit, who can be of any age over 18. Couples are also welcome. There are opportunities for service with MCC Thrift Store, L'Arche and Habitat for Humanity. These are 1 or 2 year placements. If you are interested in learning more about living in community and serving others, contact Holyrood Mennonite's MVS Committee at [pastor@holyrood.mennonitechurch.ab.ca](mailto:pastor@holyrood.mennonitechurch.ab.ca)

## **\*WALK4JUSTICE - 2011**

Walk4Justice is embarking on another journey in 2011 from Vancouver, BC to Ottawa, Ontario to raise and increase awareness of the plight of murdered and/or missing women and children and the suffering of their loved ones.

This is the 4 year anniversary and fulfills a commitment to the families from the first walk to walk back to Ottawa in 4 years - the first journey was in 2008. A list of over 2900 names was walked across Canada from Victoria BC in June of 2008, arriving at Ottawa on September 15, 2008.

The walk is calling for a National Missing and Murdered Women's Symposium. Organizers share that we need to listen to the families of these missing and murdered women and that we need to address the obvious racism and discrimination that has made Aboriginal women the most vulnerable in the nation. We need to take actions to provide better safety nets and to stop this ongoing violence against our women and children and all women.

The 2011 walk from Vancouver to Ottawa will take place from June 21 to September 19. Donations and support are accepted.

### Contacts:

Gladys Radek - email: [frillyfrog08@yahoo.ca](mailto:frillyfrog08@yahoo.ca)

Bernie Williams - email: [skundaal@yahoo.ca](mailto:skundaal@yahoo.ca)

Facebook page -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=14313758782&v=info>

Background, Route, Photos, Donations & Support Info -

<http://fnbc.info/walk4justice>

**\*Attention: Students!** *2011 Applications for the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Student Education Fund Scholarship* are available for students planning to attend Rosthern Junior College next year. Please contact Leslie Allaby for more information about this \$500.00 scholarship. Deadline for application is July 31, 2011.

**\*Another Scholarship note:** Application forms for the Mennonite Trust Ltd Scholarship and the Mennonite Church Sask. Student Education Fund Scholarship are now available at [www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca)

**\*Mennonite Church Canada** invites submissions for the full-time positions of Director of Native Ministry (based in Winnipeg) and Director of Partnership Development (based in Western Canada). Please see

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/getinvolved/jobs/> for the

position descriptions and requirements. You may direct your correspondence to Kirsten Schroeder, Director, Human Resources at [kschroeder@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:kschroeder@mennonitechurch.ca), Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4 (ph. 204-888-6781; toll-free 1-866-888-6785).

Application processing for both positions will begin June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Visit the following websites for links to many interesting and worthwhile websites.**

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Browse/1583>

**Some links worth noting:**

[www.wimp.com/amsomebody](http://www.wimp.com/amsomebody) - a short video clip where a 4 year old boldly declares: "I may be poor, small, young, black, brown, while...but I am somebody, I am God's child"

[www.brianmclaren.net/archives/get-involved/](http://www.brianmclaren.net/archives/get-involved/)

Bible Overview: Audio Podcast Series: Fifty-one 20 minute .mp3 podcasts by Brian McLaren an overarching plot-line of the Bible.

[www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Browse/1583](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Browse/1583)

A moving video cartoon of Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the desert.

## **\*Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day Hi-lights**

New Executive Members:

President – Myrna Sawatzky (Mount Royal Mennonite)

Vice – Pres. – Marilyn Neufeld (Pleasant Point Mennonite)

Program Comm. – Melita Hildebrand (Glenbush Mennonite)

\*A big thank-you to Ruby Harder for her leadership as President of SWM for the past three years, and to Marlies Patkau for all her work on the Program Committee.

\*The Fall Retreat "Book Club" novel is "Home" by Marilyn Robinson. This is an optional event at the fall retreat, Oct. 14 & 15.

**\*Mennonite Church Canada leadership** has had to reduce ministries and other budget items by \$500,000 for the coming year. Mennonite Church Canada invites your prayerful consideration of this giving opportunity.

**\*Rosthern Junior College invites applications for the following staff positions:**

- **Residence staff:** Full-time positions for residence staff in boys' and girls' dormitories beginning August 23, 2011. For complete job description, please visit our website ([www.rjc.sk.ca](http://www.rjc.sk.ca)).

- **Campus Host/Admissions Assistant and general help:** Are you looking for summer work? If you were a full-time post-secondary student this past year and are returning to school in the fall, this may be the job for you. Beginning June 15, through August 24 (starting date negotiable). \$13/hour. Please see website ([www.rjc.sk.ca](http://www.rjc.sk.ca)) for more complete job information.

Please direct enquiries and resumes to:

Gail Schellenberg  
Rosthern Junior College  
Box 5020  
Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0

email: [gail@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:gail@rjc.sk.ca)  
fax: 306-232-5250  
phone: 306-232-4222

**\*If you are mailing anything to Rosthern Junior College**, please note that Canada Post will no longer deliver it unless the box number appears in the address. Even if you have used the street address, the box number must appear on the envelope or package, or you may have it returned to you. For all mailings to RJC, please send them to:

**Rosthern Junior College  
Box 5020  
Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0**

## EXPLANATION OF GOD

*(A Grade 3 homework assignment written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, of Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it to 'explain God.')*

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'

*-from one of those mass emails – received by Adeline and forwarded on to you!*

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### ☺ **Humour ~~ The Isaac Section** ☺

The minister's little six-year-old daughter had been so naughty during the week that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't go to the Sunday School Picnic on Saturday. When the day came, her mother felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind.

When she told the little girl she could go to the picnic, the child's reaction was one of gloom and unhappiness.

"What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go to the picnic," her mother said.

"It's too late!" the little girl wailed. "I've already prayed for rain!!"

Submitted by Loretta

## *Children's Letters to God*

Dear God  
I went to this wedding and they kissed right there in church.  
Is that ok?  
Neil

Dear God  
Instead of letting people die and haveing to make new ones,  
Why don't you just keep the ones you got now?  
Jane

Dear God  
I think the stapler is one of your greatest invention.  
Ruth M.

Dear God,  
In Bible times, did they really talk that fancy?  
Jennifer

Dear God,  
I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.  
Elliott

Dear God,  
I'm American. What are you?  
Robert

Dear God,  
I bet it's really hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world.  
There are only 4 people in my family and I can never do it.  
Nan

Dear God,  
If you watch in church on Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes.  
Mickey D.

## **The Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan**

**(MHSS) Bulletin – May, 2011** *(A bulletin of upcoming events, programs and activities, along with other information useful to everyone interested in Mennonite history, culture or religion.)*

### **NEW EVENTS**

#### **Mennonites and Human Rights:**

Grappling with State Power in the Past and Present  
An Academic and Community Education Conference - Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg. This is a call for papers to be presented October 2012. (That gives you a year and five months to work on it if you begin now).

We have just put up a page with what details we have at hand to-date. <http://mhss.sk.ca/events/> Just a quick excerpt here to give you an idea;

"The planning committee invites submissions for research papers from a wide variety of disciplines. Papers should consider how Mennonites have been challenged by the question of human rights and state power, in ways such as:

**VICTIMS** -- Mennonites have and continue to suffer torture, incarceration, exile and other forms of persecution at hands of abusive governments and powerful social groups.

**BENEFICIARIES** -- Mennonites have gained from special privileges and in the process sometimes been complicit in the suffering of other groups; unknowingly or knowingly.

**ADVOCATES** -- Mennonites have defended the weak and voiceless, calling for peace, inclusion and equality, sometimes in opposition to the state, sometimes in cooperation with the state.

Mennonites have not often used 'human rights' terminology. Indeed they have debated whether its language is too individualistic and coercive for an Anabaptist people. This conference asserts that the Mennonite experience can shed light on the issue of human rights, examining it from the perspective of a religious, non-violent and communitarian heritage. Send short proposals and biographical sketches to: [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca) Story tellers, artists, song writers and film producers are welcomed to make proposals, too."

## **MHSS NEW ARCHIVAL RESOURCES**

### **Changes at the Archives**

There is some activity - but a lot of patience is required. Enough said, right? Incidentally, we did not send out the E-Update in April because we did not feel we had enough news. We gave you a break as well as ourselves.

### **NEW WEB PAGES, BOOKS, HISTORIAN ISSUES AND DER BOTES INDEXES**

Our Book List pages have been updated again recently, both the web pages and the PDF sheets that you may print out.

<http://mhss.sk.ca/books/>

You will find the 2009 issues of the Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian online now too, in PDF format. <http://mhss.sk.ca/SMH/>

If you are watching the **Der Bote** obituary indexes you will find that F and G indexes are done, and H is nearly done, so it should show up tonight or next week. You can find these at;

<http://mhss.sk.ca/Deaths/Der-Bote-Obituaries-Death-Notices-Index.shtml>

### **Notes**

We are willing to announce special events in Mennonite communities in this monthly MHSS E-Update. Please keep in mind that it must get to us before the third Wednesday of the month, and apply to an event happening after that.

The MHSS Archives does not do your research for you, but we encourage you to visit the archives and we will help you access the resources you need for you to do your own research.