

**OMC Calendar  
March 2012**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: Worship: 10am Sunday School @ 11:15am, Floor Hockey 7:00-8:30pm				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>LENT 2</b>	<b>5</b> Book Club Meeting 7:00pm	<b>6</b> "Do Art" Gr 4-9 Kids Art Club 7-8:30pm	<b>7</b> Church Council meeting 7:30pm	<b>8</b> Deacons meeting 7:30pm	<b>9</b> March 9-11 Sr. Youth at CMU for P-I-T	<b>10</b> <b>Youth</b> Glow Bowling 6:30pm
<b>11</b> <b>LENT 3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Do Art" Gr 4-9 Kids Art Club 7-8:30pm	<b>14</b> Education Committee meeting 7:30pm	<b>15</b> Worship Committee meeting 7:30pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Family Swim @ ShawCtre</b> 2:30-4pm
<b>18</b> <b>LENT 4</b> Loose Change Sunday	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Do Art" Gr 4-9 Kids Art Club 7-8:30pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Missions & Service Committee meeting 7:30pm	<b>23</b> Youth Games Night 7:30-10pm	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>LENT 5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Note: Change of Family Swim date to MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**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  
March 2012 Newsletter**

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

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306-239-2133

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



**Holy Week**

Sunday, April 1  
Thursday, April 5

Friday, April 6  
Sunday, April 8

Palm Sunday  
Maundy Thursday potluck supper and Communion (7pm)  
Good Friday Service (7:30pm)  
10:00am – Easter Resurrection Service  
Bring a bell to ring!  
11:00am - Potluck Brunch (bring eggs, Easter bread, fruit)  
11:30am - Easter egg hunt for the children

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\***OMC Book Club** meeting to discuss "The Midwife's Confession" will be on Monday, March 5, 7:00 pm.

\***"Do Art"**, an **Art Club for Grades 4 to 9** students for three Tuesday evenings in March – **March 6, 13 & 20 from 7:00-8:30pm.** Instructors are Clint Neufeld and Cheryl Haas. Kids – don't miss it! Bring a friend!

The season of Lent is intended to prepare us for Holy Week, and to spiritualize the natural consequences of this time of the year. It is 40 days because the early church developed the custom of baptizing converts on Easter Sunday, and they gave the new believers a 40 day trial period as a test of their commitment and faith. The 40 day length was chosen because that was how long Jesus spent being tested in the wilderness. We no longer adhere to that baptism custom; however, Christians have learned, over the ages, that this time of year is unique and that we need time to contemplate on Jesus' journey to the cross, to better appreciate the events and meanings of Holy Week. We cannot understand Easter, unless we grasp Jesus' life, ministry and last days.

In addition, the closing weeks of winter have historically been a time of hunger and depravity. People needed hope and a purpose that would assuage their hardships. Considering the difficult time as penance or a testing period motivated the faithful to endure and to better appreciate Jesus' experiences. We may have enough food to eat, yet we still feel the effects of the winter season. We too yearn for longer, warmer and more productive times. Therefore, we also benefit, if we take Lent to heart, by inviting God into our discernment and anticipation. Our thoughts and attitudes are changing as we contemplate Spring, and this is normal. And, this is an opportunity to include God in our discernment process. Lent focuses on Biblical faith journeys, including Jesus'. We are on a journey to a new beginning-- new life / Spring. Will God and our commitment to follow Christ be a part of our new "Spring life", or by mid-summer, will we be wondering what went wrong with our spiritual vitality? Engaging in Lent / turning our thoughts to God will help us experience Holy Week and resurrection life.

Gordon Allaby

## Humour ~ The Isaac Section

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

A panda walks into a restaurant, sits down and orders a sandwich. He eats the sandwich, pulls out a gun and shoots the waiter.

As the panda stands up to go, the manager shouts, "Hey! Where are you going? You just shot my waiter and you didn't pay for your sandwich!"

The panda yells back at the manager, "Hey man, I'm a PANDA! Look it up in the dictionary!"

The manager opens his dictionary and sees the following definition for panda: "A tree dwelling marsupial of Asian origin, characterized by distinct black and white coloring. *Eats shoots and leaves.*"

-submitted by Adeline

Help! Good jokes wanted for April's newsletter!

## OUR MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA MINISTRIES

\* **So many children came that new classrooms were needed** for Pat and Rad Houmphan's Compassion ministry program in Thailand. With your help, funding for the new spaces is enabling the Houmphan's church plant – Living Water Church – reach out to many more children and their families. Thank you!

\*When **Mennonite Church Canada worker Jeff Warkentin**, 32, died suddenly in Calgary, Alberta on Sat. Sept. 24, 2011, you prayed, encouraged, and inspired a young family suffering an immense loss. Jeff and his wife Tany served the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso with passion and conviction for six years. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for Jeff's wife Tany, their 3 young children, Danika (9), Asher (7) and Kenai (3), their extended family, friends and global church community. Your caring responses showed how blessed we all are to be part of a compassionate community of believers.

\***Mennonite Church Canada is using social media** and [www.liveforpeace.org](http://www.liveforpeace.org) to share stories of on-the-ground peace building and to encourage discussions about peace. By the end of November, 2011, over 5,000 unique visitors had made their way to the site, some visiting it several times and viewing an average of over 8800 pages per month. Thank you for supporting the peace building efforts of Mennonite Church Canada. Friend the Live for Peace page on Facebook!

\*Manitoba Partnership Circles, a collaborative project of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Manitoba **partners Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal speakers** such as Terry LeBlanc, executive director of North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (NAIITS). Thanks to your support, the seeds of new relationships are being planted and are growing.

\*In a world beleaguered by violence, there is an increasing hunger for the peace-oriented principals of Anabaptist theology. With your support, Mennonite Church Canada is taking part in a number of **peace initiatives** in the church and beyond, communicating the message that non-violent conflict resolution is possible.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

\***Saturday, March 10, YOUTH Glow Bowling – Meet at the church at 6:30pm.**

\***Saturday, March 17, 2:30 – 4pm OMC Family Swim at the Shaw Centre** sponsored by the Deacons. Meet at the Shaw Centre. Rates: Adults: \$8.30, Youth \$5.00 (but save 50cents if part of group) Family (2 adults & up to 5 kids) \$16.60. Bulk tickets can be purchased in packs of 10 tickets for \$66.40, for more savings.

### \***Lost and Found?**

Please check the clothing--coats, jackets, etc.--that are on the rack next to the church office. The collection is gathering dust, and will soon be taken to the thrift store.

\***Education Scholarship** Our church, Mennonite Trust and MC Saskatchewan offer scholarships for students attending Mennonite affiliated schools (RJC, CMU, AMBS and Conrad Grebel). Applications for Mennonite Trust and MC Sask. are posted on the bulletin board (schools section). Contact the scholarship committee to apply for the church's scholarship.

\***Mark Bigland-Pritchard** is our church's contact person, dealing with **First Nations relations** (especially the TRC), for the MC Saskatchewan's Ministries Commission.

\***Anyone interested in decorating the church** for various themes, church seasons and events, please let Gordon know.

\***Senior Youth and Young Adults who like to join the MC Sask. VBS Troupe** should apply now. Applications are available at the church office or by contacting MC Sask.

\***SMYO is looking for High School Youth** interested in serving on the SYMO Committee. See the poster in the Youth room if you are interested or contact Anna Rehan at MC Sask for more information. 249-4844 or email: [ann@mcsask.ca](mailto:ann@mcsask.ca)

**\*The members of OMC 2012 church council are:**

Executive Committee

Congregational Chairperson	Louise Buhler
Congregational Vice-Chair	Carl Martens-Funk
Treasurer	Jim Dyck
Council Secretary	Diana Buhler
Deacons Representative	Steve Guenther
Worship Representative	Melanie Boldt
Education Committee Chair	George Janzen
Sunday School Superintendent	John Reddekopp
Missions & Service Comm.Chair	Mark Bigland Pritchard
Trustees representative	

**\*2012 OMC prayer chain**

The prayer chain is a list of people who have volunteered to do intercessory prayer, upon request. If you have a concern for which you wish to have focused prayer, please call the first person on the list, or the next if that person is unavailable. The people on the prayer chain will call the person next on the list (or the following, if that person is unavailable).

Loretta Sawatzky  
Shelley Penner  
Leslie & Gordon Allaby  
Jan Guenther  
Sarah Guenther  
Adeline Cox  
Kathy Braun  
Anna Peters  
Sarah Hiebert  
Ruth Buhler  
MaryAnn Braun  
Mark Bigland-Pritchard

**\*March 31:** Come enjoy a wonderful evening of singing! **Sonrisa Women's Choir's** end of the year concert at Knox United Church, at 7:00 pm on March 31st. Theme: "The Real Things We Live By". If you are interested, tickets are \$10 and will be available from Erin or Kathy Boldt."

☸ **Pieces of Peace** ☸

Mark your calendar for the **Truth and Reconciliation Event** in Saskatoon June 20 – 24, 2012 (note change from original dates). More details can be found in the folder posted on the church bulletin board and at: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)

Regularly check out [www.liveforpeace.org](http://www.liveforpeace.org) for great peace articles and information.

Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one.  
- John Lennon

**\*RJC invites Grade 8 – 10 students** to “**Spend-A-Day**” to get a taste of life as an RJC Student. Friday & Saturday, March 2 & 3, 2012, with registration beginning at noon. Departure will be Saturday after brunch. Email [vas@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:vas@rjc.sk.ca) for more information or to register for the day. All meals will be provided on Friday and there will be a brunch served for participants & their families on Saturday morning. Register soon – Space is limited!

**The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** will host its fourth National Event in Saskatoon on June 21 to 24. This is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system. Prior to the National Event in Saskatoon the TRC is holding 12 Community Hearings throughout Saskatchewan. The schedule appears in the information posted on the bulletin board. Attending one or two of these hearings is a good way to prepare ourselves for attending the event in June or watch live webcasts of the hearings online. For the latest information go to: <http://sk.mcc.org/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-canada>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Just Food Exhibit.** In this art exhibit from Canada and around the world, visual artists add their voices to the growing number of people connecting the right to food with a faith-based response to hunger in our world. The exhibit will be in Saskatchewan for the month of April. One half of the exhibit will be hosted at the Rosthern Station Arts Centre, and the other half at MCC on 600-45th Street West, Saskatoon.

**\*Songfest** will be at First Mennonite Church, **March 23 & 24**. See the bulletin board for a poster and registration forms.

### **Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)**

**\*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.

**\*Youth Ministry as School of Love™** is a youth ministry conference planned for **June 1 - 2** at **CMU**. The conference will feature Mark Yaconelli and Michael Hryniuk. Participants can register for this conference separately or participate in it as part of a week long course. Contact [abergen@cmu.ca](mailto:abergen@cmu.ca).

**\*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).

**\*Need book club ideas?** Save 20% when you order 6 or more copies of any **CMU Press** title! Suggested titles include: *This Hidden Thing* by Dora Dueck, *Favoured among Women* by Hendy Leonora Martens, *Desert Spirituality and Cultural Resistance* by Belden C. Lane. Visit [www.cmu.ca/cmupress](http://www.cmu.ca/cmupress) for book club questions.

## Potluck Recipe of the Month



### **Vegetable and Turkey-Bacon Soup**

From Best Health Magazine (submitted by Adeline)  
Sometimes known as: "The Kitchen Sink Soup."

When you make this, here is an opportunity to clean out the fridge and add any lonely veggies from the crisper to the simmering pot.

- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup celery, cut in 1/2-in. pieces
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 pieces turkey bacon, thinly sliced (or you can use 1/4 cup sliced ham)
- 1 sprig thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 cups potatoes, peeled, cubed in 1/2 in. pieces
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken stock

*Bay leaves add extra flavour—and fun. The person who gets the bay leaf in their bowl was the “winner.” (P.S. Just don’t try to eat it; it’s tough and doesn’t soften when cooked.)*

In a heavy soup pot over low heat, add olive oil, carrots, celery, onion, turkey bacon, thyme and bay leaf, and simmer until carrots soften. Add potatoes and chicken stock, and simmer until potatoes soften, about 10 minutes. Discard thyme and bay leaf. Remove 1 cup of soup from pot and whirl in blender, then return to pot. Season to taste.

Serves four. Per serving: 292 calories, 12 g protein, 14 g fat (3 g saturated fat), 31 g carbohydrates, 4 g fibre, 26 mg cholesterol, 646 mg sodium

Feel free to triple recipe if bringing to a church potluck. 😊

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Saturday
<b>OMC YOUTH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2012</b>				1	2	3
4 11 – noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Glow Bowling</b>  Meet at the church at 6:30 pm
11 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	12	13	14	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day
18 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Game Night</b>  7:30 – 10pm	24
25 11 - noon <b>Sunday School</b> 	26	27	28	29	30	31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Thursday, March 29, 7:30pm: Sara Wenger Shenk, AMBS President** will speak at Nutana Park Mennonite Church on “Opportunities and Challenges of Theological Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Dessert & Coffee included. For more information contact Sherri Martin-Carman at (519)669-1005 or [smcarman@ambs.edu](mailto:smcarman@ambs.edu). See the bulletin board poster for more information.

**\*Sunday, April 15 @ 7:00 P.M.** at Forest Grove Community Church (Saskatoon): “*Songs for the Sale*”. Come enjoy an evening of music and entertainment! Fundraiser offering will be received to cover the costs of the MCC Relief Sale in Saskatoon in June.

**\*May 5, 2012 Touring Mission Fest** will depart from Wildwood Mennonite Church and Bethany Manor and visit: Laird Mennonite Church, RJC, Mennonite Heritage Museum at Rosthern, and OMC. Cost is \$50, which includes transportation, lunch and supper. (Snack by donation.) Register by April 14, 2012 with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan @ 249-4844. See the bulletin board for more details and registration forms.

**\*Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2012** will be held in Vancouver BC from July 12-15. “Dusting off the Bible for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” is the theme. **For details & registration, see:** [www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012-02-29](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012-02-29)

**\*Job Opening: Full-time Director of Person-to-Person**, Prince Albert effective September 1, 2012. The job includes oversight of the Person-to-Person visitation program at the Sask.Penitentiary and Riverbend Institution, and much more. Application deadline May 31. For more information, contact Ed Olfert at (306) 922-2779 or [p2ptheo@sasktel.net](mailto:p2ptheo@sasktel.net).

**\*Mennonite Foundation of Canada is seeking a Director of Stewardship services** to lead and direct the work of the MFC Stewardship Consultants. Please see the add posted on the bulletin board or call the MFC office at 1-888-212-8731 for details.