

**2011 Calendar
October 2011**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday- Worship: 10am Sunday School @ 11:15am						1 Ride for Refuge
2	3	4	5	6 Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	7	8
9 Thanksgiving Homecoming Sunday	10	11	12	13 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	14 Youth Corn Maze 7:00- 10pm	15
16 Potluck & Talk About Session	17	18	19 Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm	20 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Missions & Service Committee Meeting 7:30pm	28 Youth Puppet Ministry Practice 7:30-10	29 Men's Breakfast 9:30am
30	31					

The Osler Mennonite Church October 2011 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church

olsermc@sasktel.net

<http://omchurch.org>

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212 2nd Ave. P.O. Box 129

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***OMC's Book Club** is back! The next book is "The 19th Wife" by David Ebershoff, and several copies will be available to borrow on October 2 after church, from Dianne McKinnell. Readers, then mark November 9th on your calendar as the next (tentative) meeting date to discuss this book. For details see the bulletin board or call Diane or Leslie Allaby for more information.

***Sunday, October 9 – Thanksgiving and Homecoming Sunday**

***Sunday, October 16 – Potluck and "Talk About" session**

***Saturday, October 29, 9:30am: Men's breakfast**

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

God does creation. War is destruction. The opposite of destruction is creation / creativity.

So, do art, encourage others to do art, and in so doing, we'll be making more peace in the world.

Pastor's Note

Sunday, October 16 is stewardship Sunday. The theme of the morning worship service will reflect this theme, as will the discussion time following a potluck lunch. We generally regard the emphasis on stewardship as simply a request to dig deep into our wallets, and sometimes it has been that way. However, we will not be asked to dig deep, but we will be invited to dig deeper--deeper than our pocket book. Stewardship is spiritual response, and therefore to enhance our spiritual understanding of stewardship, we must dig deep into our hearts.

Many of us recognize the need and express the desire to grow spiritually. Yet, spirituality is not a commodity or energy that can be tapped into as one would drill for oil. The vibrancy of our spirituality depends on the depth of our relationship with God. Spirituality reflects the health of the relationship, and all relationships involve active interaction--giving and receiving. And, that life giving exchange will only happen, can only happen if there is trust. Examining stewardship demands an analysis of our level of trust / faith. Examples: do we believe that God is leading our ministries in our church? Are we being obedient to God's call? Is God lord of all things, including our personal affairs? Will God guide us, provide for us, and do we really trust God? And a big question: are we in control or is God?

Our relationship with God / our level of spirituality is revealed in our stewardship, and our stewardship, also, affects our relationship / our spirituality. As we contemplate stewardship, we will discover an invitation to grow in our relationship with God. Sunday, October 16 could be a pivotal experience in our lives.

Gordon

Please make the address change in your Church Directory:

Mark Bigland-Pritchard

812 5th Street East, Saskatoon SK S7H 1G6 Phone: 249-4101

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***The Deacons are collecting items for care packages** for our students at RJC and also, those away at University and Bible schools. Shoeboxes with the students' names will be in the foyer in the weeks to come – you are invited to add notes of encouragement, non-perishable treats and small items to these care boxes. In order to ship these boxes, the **Deacons need a list of our students** at RJC or University. If you have not already done so, please let the church office know your student's school, and their mailing address.

***The Mission and Service Committee will again provide much appreciated hot chocolate on October 31** while people are out going door to door. This is also a fun opportunity for two non-town people to experience the fun of the evening. Please contact Gordon if you can volunteer. We offer hot chocolate from 5-7:30 pm.

*Once each year, the **church council analyzes** the life and health of our church. The council plans to spend time during their November meeting to use the "**SWOT**" approach for assessing our church. The "SWOT" analysis tool avoids emotionally laden criticism or praise by examining the "S"--Strengths (what we do well), the Weaknesses (what we do less well), the Opportunities (external issues) and Threats (also an external consideration). The SWOT approach will help us identify key factors that impact our church's ability to achieve our purpose and vision. Please share with Gordon or a council member how you understand our SWOT's so that council will be better equipped for their discussion.

***The next Children's Loose Change Collection** is November 20th. All change collected goes to helping children. We are helping Colombia children, but your gifts also help other children in need. Thanks for generously saving your loose change that our children collect to help other children.

***Upcoming OMC Potluck lunches and themes for the "talk about" that follows each of these potluck lunches:**

Sunday, October 16-- Stewardship discussion: how we regard giving, and different ways to shape our church giving.

Sunday, November 20 -- Church membership discussion: reviewing a proposed by-law change; the MC Saskatchewan document on membership (will be dispersed in advance), and how to do church family in the 21 century.

***Canadian Mennonite University** www.cmu.ca

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 for more details.

*CMU welcomes students to pray and praise together at **Peace-it-Together**, March 9-11, Jesus: The Peace that Matters.

***Home: A Film and Art Contest. Youth and Young Adults** (ages 13-30) are invited to create a short film (4 minute maximum) or a visual art piece to explore the idea of "HOME", using the following themes: Immigrants & refugees, Caring for our earthly home, Aboriginal land rights and issues and Improving our community. **Register by Oct. 21** @ mccsfilmcontest@gmail.com. See: sk.mcc.org

***The Corn Maze and Petting Zoo** at the Youth Farm Bible Camp is still open for the season every Friday-Sunday from 1:00-8:00pm. For more information, go to: www.youthfarmcornmaze.com

"War does not decide who is right, but who is left."

George Bernard Shaw

***Coffee for Peace now available**

Percentage of sales donated to Mennonite Church Canada

Winnipeg, Mb: The first ever Canadian shipment of fair trade coffee from *Coffee for Peace* – the Philippines based peace ministry of Mennonite Church Canada worker JoJi Pantoja – is now being offered on a first-taste basis to Mennonite Church congregations and their members. Coffee for Peace (CFP) sells organically cultivated, Arabica coffee grown by small-scale Filipino farmers for fair-trade prices. Distribution has begun through Level Ground Trading Co. of Victoria, B.C., a fair trade organization "founded by four Canadian families for the purpose of improving the lives of disadvantaged producers through trade."

Both as a coffee and the CFP business model have been recognized as a top tier. Joji Patoja, together with her husband Dann Pantoja, provide an extensive and growing Mennonite Church Canada supported peace ministry in Mindanao, Philippines, where Christians, Muslims, indigenous tribes people and the Philippine's military have been embroiled for years in a land conflict. A three minute 'from field to cup' video can be found at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1615.

Coffee for Peace beans will be roasted and packaged by Level Ground Trading Co. and sold on a first-come, first-serve basis in 5 lb. cases only (\$100/case). Each case contains ten, ½ lb. boxes. There are 200 cases available and Level Ground will donate \$10 from the sale of each case to Mennonite Church Canada. Originally, plans were to distribute the coffee through 10,000 Villages stores, but the initial "micro-lot" harvest was too small to meet volume requirements. Level Ground recommends ordering whole beans to "enjoy the quality and freshness of this coffee at its optimum". To preserve freshness, orders will be batched and run together each time sufficient orders have been received. To order a case of whole beans or a case of ground coffee, go to: www.levelground.com/philippines/ or call 1-888-565-6633.

***“The Pembroke Years 1919 – 1968”** The Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan is co-sponsoring with the Pembroke Book Committee, the launch of their history book on **Saturday, October 1**, starting at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Center at Bethany Manor. This book is 200+ pages and has almost 200 photos in it. If you did not pre-order, you may purchase a copy at the launch for \$15.00.

***Tuesday, October 4 - 5:00-7:00 - The Youth Farm Bible Camp** is having their annual Fall Supper. Roast Beef, Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Salads, Pies and more. Admission by donation.

***October 9 – 1:30pm:** Mennonite Church Sask. invites everyone to attend the **Retirement Celebration for Don Unger** at the Rabbit Lake Hall. Call Lavonne Dyck 342-4316 for directions and additional information.

***October 14 and 15: Women’s Retreat at Shekinah** “Spiritual Growth and Learning” based on The Cup of Our Life by Joyce Rupp. Speaker: Rose Graber. To register call 232-4204 or 232-5050.

***October 22, 2011 9:30am to 3:45pm: 7th Annual Equipping Day** at Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim. The theme will be “Growing as Family” with many Workshops. Some workshops include: “Telling Family Stories” with Jake Buhler, “Aboriginal Siblings talk About Us” with Maria Campbell. “Arts in Mennonite Worship”, “Faithful on matters of Sexuality”, Welcoming Immigrant and Refugee Newcomers to the Family and More!! See the bulletin board poster for registration forms and more details of this wonderful learning opportunity. Also see: www.mcsask.ca

***RJC Perogy Supper Fundraiser** will be held **Monday, October 24** from 5:00-7:00 pm at First Mennonite Church (418 Queen Street, Saskatoon). Admission is by donation, and the RJC Chorale will be performing. Everyone is welcome.

***October 28-30: Shekinah** will host a **Quilting and Scrapbooking Retreat**. Cost is \$145 and the registration deadline: October 15th. Contact Donna Schultz at (306)232-4733 or dls0503@hotmail.com. Some brochures are on the bulletin board or may be downloaded from www.shekinahretreatcentre.org

***Friday & Saturday, November 4-5: MCCS Encounter & AGM** at Eigenheim Mennonite Church. **Delegates** are needed to represent OMC. Please talk to Carl Martens-Funk if you can volunteer to act as a delegate. A Registration Form with more details is posted on the bulletin board or forms are also available at sk.mcc.org

***MDS Service Opportunities:** Are you looking for a new experience or a fresh challenge? Consider volunteering with MDS. Check out the latest service opportunities on the bulletin board, or browse the Net: www.mds.mennonite.net

***November 5: 2011 Touring Mission Fest:** Come discover how MC Sask Church works with God “Across the Street and Around the World”. The tour departs from Wildwood Mennonite Church and Bethany Manor; an opportunity to visit See Life Network House Church in Saskatoon, Laird Mennonite Church, RJC, Mennonite Heritage Museum at Rosthern and Osler Mennonite Church. The cost of \$50.00 includes Coach transportation, lunch and supper. Register by October 15 with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan by phoning (306)249-4844. See the Bulletin board for details and registration forms, or visit: www.mcsask.ca

***MEDA Dinner and Speaker Event - Thursday, November 24.** Everyone is welcome! Tickets are \$20. Contact Bethany Manor at 242-9019 or email smcsi@sasktel.net

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Mohandas Gandhi

Dear **Prayer Partners across Mennonite Church Canada,**

Many of you may have heard the sad news of Jeff Warkentin's sudden passing late Saturday night, Sept. 24, 2011 as a result of a meningitis infection. Jeff was just 32 years old.

Jeff's passing is all the more tragic because of the swift onset of the infection, his youth, and the young family he is leaving behind. Jeff's wife Tany and their three small children (Danika, 9; Asher, 7; Kenai, 3) as well as their immediate and extended families need our prayers.

Jeff and Tany served with Mennonite Church Canada in Burkina Faso for six years until June of this year. During that time, they developed a large church and community network. Together, they helped to shape the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso and to nurture leadership for it. They were still employed by Mennonite Church Canada and completing some itineration assignments at the time of Jeff's passing. Keep the Warkentin's Burkina community in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their friend and colleague.

We invite your prayer for the many congregations the Warkentins have connected with and belonged to across Mennonite Church Canada, including those who had partnerships with them in their Burkina ministry and provided them with financial and prayer support. Pray for the good people at Springridge Mennonite Church in Pincher Creek, Alberta where Tany was shaped and formed, and in North Leamington Mennonite Church in Southern Ontario, where Jeff's passion for the church was given root, and Home Street Mennonite Church where Jeff and Tany together were an integral part of the congregation during the years they resided in Winnipeg. Remember as well the community of Canadian Mennonite University with whom the Warkentins were close.

Jeff just had begun a teaching position in Southern Alberta. Although a month with new colleagues and students is a short time, his loss will surely be felt. Please pray that his school community will experience God's comfort and presence.

Jeff had begun to feel unwell on Friday Sept. 23. After coming home from work, he went straight to bed with a headache. During the night, he had a seizure and was taken by ambulance to the Pincher Creek

hospital. The doctor suspected meningitis and immediately administered the appropriate antibiotic. Jeff was then airlifted to the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, where tests verified meningitis and revealed a complete loss of brain function. It was also discovered that he had a rare underlying immune disorder which may have contributed to the severity of his response to the meningitis bacteria.

In an email message, Tany wrote; "God has been a very real presence and comfort to me during the past day. Thank-you to all of you who have already heard about Jeff and have been supporting us in prayer and offers to help. Your love and support are really special to us. Please continue to keep Danika, Asher, Kenai and myself as well as Jeff and my extended families in your prayers as we mourn and adjust to life without our beloved Jeff."

At the time of this writing, funeral plans are pending. Mennonite Church Canada staff is assisting Tany wherever possible. Some congregations Jeff and Tany have connected and partnered with are planning a memorial or other service in Jeff's honour. Staff have posted a small collection of images from their ministry on a Flickr photo sharing page that can be accessed by this guest link: <http://flickr.com/gp/mennonitechurchcanada/Z7WJW4/>.

A video of Jeff and Tany leading music with the children at Mennonite Church Canada's 2011 Assembly in is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca#p/u/1/whnauOkH9Dk>,

A video about their ministry in Burkina Faso can be found here (begins at 3:56): <http://www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca#p/u/25/jN0kAo08iNI>.

Messages of condolence can be sent directly to Tany at jtworkentin@mennonitechurch.ca.

Praise God for the gift Jeff's life has been to his family, friends and the church. Thank you for praying with us in support of those who grieve in his passing.

***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Shekinah Retreat Centre invites applications for the full-time position of Executive Director, starting January 2, 2012.

The Executive Director manages all aspects of Shekinah Retreat Centre which includes the Summer Camping program and the Year Round Program; builds relationships with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan constituents, communities, volunteers, employees, and related organizations; works with the Board of Directors and employees to establish and achieve set goals for the organization; as well as establishes and executes a long term strategy for Shekinah Retreat Centre.

The successful candidate will possess leadership experience in a camping environment; strong human resource and financial management skills; an appreciation for environmental issues; willingness to 'get their hands dirty'; and the ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a variety of related individuals and organizations. The successful candidate must uphold the vision and mission of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan.

Preference will be given to those applicants who possess excellent communication skills and those with supervision or management experience. Job description and remuneration details are available from the Board of Directors. Please apply by October 31, 2011.

Direct resumes and inquiries to: Paul Funk, Chairperson, Shekinah Retreat Centre Board of Directors, 3316 Dieppe St., Saskatoon, SK S7M 3S7 or to jobsatshekinah@gmail.com.

***Employment opportunity at RJC:** Do you like cooking and working with teenagers? Do you have some time on your hands? RJC is looking for a part-time casual cook in their dining hall. Please call the school for further information (306-232-4222).

☺ Humour ~ The Isaac Section ☺

Forest Gump and St. Peter

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' " "Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"

2) How many seconds are in a year?

3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."






"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

-submitted by Adeline

OMC Youth –October 2011

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11 – noon Sunday School 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 11 - noon Sunday School 	10 Thanks-giving Day	11	12	13	14 7:00 – 10:30 Corn Maze Meet at the church 	15
16 11 - noon Sunday School 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 11 - noon Sunday School 	24	25	26	27	28 7:30 – 10:00 at the church Puppet Ministry Practice 	29
30 11 - noon Sunday School 	31 Hallow- een					