

The Osler Mennonite Church September 2011 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church

olsermc@sasktel.net

<http://omchurch.org>

Volume VII, Nineth Edition

212 2nd Ave. P.O. Box 129

Osler, SK S0K 3A0

306-239-2133

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

2011 Calendar September 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	7 Education & YMT Meeting with Anna Rehan 7:30pm	8 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm	15	16 Junior Youth Retreat	17 Junior Youth Retreat
18 Loose Change Sunday 3:00pm OMC/MCCS Cluster Meeting@ Warman Mennonite Church	19	20	21	22 Missions & Service Committee Meeting 7:30pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Jr.Youth Puppet Practice 7:30- 9:30pm	

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

- George Bernard Shaw

Thank you! to all who cared for the church lawn and flowers this summer. And thanks to Bill Peters for overseeing the lawn care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***SMYO Jr. High Youth Retreat:** This year the Jr. High Retreat will take place at the Youth Farm Bible Camp in Rosthern on **September 16 -18, 2011**. The theme is *Stories To Live By* with *Conrad Stoesz* as the Resource Person. Conrad is an archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, a ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. There will be lots of singing, recreation (climbing wall/ropes course), learning, service, fellowship and an opportunity to go through the Corn Maze. The **cost** for the weekend is **\$85 for Youth** and **\$70 for Adults**. Registration received after the **September 10th deadline** will be **\$90**. Junior Youth: Please speak to Leslie Allaby as soon as possible for more information and to register for this year's retreat!

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

Every time we overcome impatience with our opponents and are willing to listen to the cry of those who persecute us, we will recognize them as brothers and sisters, too. Praying for our enemies is therefore a real event, the event of reconciliation. It is impossible to lift our enemies up in the presence of God and at the same time, continue to hate them. ... Prayer converts the enemy into a friend and is thus the beginning of a new relationship.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen

Pastor's Note

My sabbatic leave was delightful, yet I'm also thoroughly enjoying being back in active ministry. Okay, okay,... I'm trying to do better at being intimate, so I'll say it: I missed all of you. Yes, it is really nice to be involved in our church. We have great people striving to do great things for God.

During my summer's contemplation, I was struck by the fact that what we do is extremely important. Not only is doing/being church essential for the health of our souls and for our relationships with all things, we are also engaged and commissioned to be as Christ in the world. What we do as a church is vital; we needed to bring healing and hope to the world. Too many people merely exist; too many have been conditioned by consumerism, greed, the myth of redemptive violence and destructive theology. One Sunday, as I was driving to attend a church, I was overwhelmed by how many people were out and about—not going to church. So, I stopped at a coffee shop to observe, and also drove around, instead. What happened? Why are so few active in church? And, I now know why our culture is hurting and hurting others.

We need each other more than we realize, and our community, country and world needs to discover God's grace, peace and love. When we teach our children, in Sunday School, worship and by our examples, we are making the future a little brighter. When we reach out to those in need, stand up for the weak and oppose injustices, we are declaring that Christ is alive. When we give of our time and money to God, we are stating that God is Lord and that we are here for God and each other.

We do church not because of habit or obligation. We do church because we love—we love God, each other,... and ourselves, and that love will change everything.

Gordon Allaby

☺ Humour ~ The Isaac Section ☺

The room was full of pregnant women with their partners. The class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly and was telling the men how to give the necessary assurance to their partners at this stage of the pregnancy. She said "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just take several stops and stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."
She looked at the men in the room, "and Gentlemen, remember -- You're in this together -- It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her."
The room suddenly got very quiet as the men absorbed this information. Then a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand.
"Yes," answered the Instructor.
"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"
----This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught (*submitted by G.Allaby*)

Bubba and Johnny Ray were sittin' on the front porch when a large truck hauling rolls and rolls of sod went by. "I'm gonna do dat when I win the lottery," said Bubba. "Do what?" asked Johnny Ray. "Send my grass out to be mowed

(*submitted by Gordon Allaby*)

Please make the following corrections to your Church Directory:

Email address corrections:

Lyle & Linda Stucky's new email address is:

stuckyldlasw19@yourlink.ca

Cornie & Sarah Guenther's revised email address is:

csguenther@sasktel.net

Address change:

Michelle McKinnell & Karl Martens new address is:

908 Main Street, Saskatoon SK S7H 0K5

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Please let Gordon know if you would like to be added to or removed from** the church's Mennonite information mailing list. Those on the list receive news and updates that are sent to the church from various Mennonite organizations. This usually averages one message a week.

***An Invitation from the Town of Osler**

The Town of Osler is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ to acknowledge community involvement by volunteers, staff and organizations, as well as boards and committees of Council. As Osler Mennonite Church plays a key role in contributing to the rich and diverse character of the town and surrounding area, all in our church are invited to attend. Please RSVP by phoning the Town Office at 239-2155 as soon as possible.

Details: Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at Osler Community Hall

Punch: 6:00 pm Supper: 6:30pm
Program: 7:00pm Dress: Casual

***A Message from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Executive:**

MCSask is inviting dialog with all its member churches. As congregations age and demographics shift, we will be evaluating the priorities of MC Sask. Because much of the ministry is centered in the congregations, we plan to start by asking what you are doing within each congregation, and how you see that developing and possibly changing within the next ten years or so. We feel that MC Sask. needs to tailor its ministries so that they will support and strengthen the ministries of the congregations. We need to hear from the people in the churches what the priorities are that we should focus on as we plan for the future. It is for these reasons that we have initiated these consultations. Between September and November, 2011 we would like to meet in clusters with pastors, church councils, deacon boards, youth groups, young adults and all others who are interested.

Osler Mennonite Church congregation is invited to meet at Warman Mennonite Church on Sunday, September 18th at 3:00pm. Thank you for your participation in these discussions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REFRESHER - FALL 2011

Sunday School resumes September 11, 2011 and teachers are needed!

What are children taught in Sunday School at Osler Mennonite Church? A dedicated in-house committee writes our curriculum, which is Bible based. The upcoming year includes lessons about Mennonites and other denominations, Menno Simons, Peace and non-violence, Baptism, Giving, Prayer and many other topics.

OMC uses the Rotation Method. How does that work?

Children's Sunday School works on a 3-week rotation. Teachers prepare one lesson and then teach that *same* lesson material to a different age group each week for three consecutive weeks. So when you volunteer, it is just for three Sundays in a row.

Many different methods are used to teach the story lessons, including drama, crafts, cooking, science experiments, puppets and more. If your talents lie in the kitchen, or with a hammer, playing games, singing, plying a paintbrush or in reading or drama, you can teach and inspire children with the gifts God has given you.

What about supplies for crafts or cooking or art projects, etc.?

All materials are supplied by the Education Committee. If you need something, ask John Reddekopp about obtaining supplies. If you personally purchase needed materials, your receipts are reimbursed.

What do I need to do to get involved or to find out more?

So glad you asked! Because Osler Mennonite Church has a Safe Church Policy, all adults who work with children and youth are asked to obtain a criminal record check. (Warman RCMP will do the check for no charge.) If you have questions, contact the church office or Sunday School Superintendent, John Reddekopp. John is also the person you contact for more information and to volunteer. Or sign up on the bulletin board for a rotation that inspires you. We have beautiful classrooms and you will enjoy the Drama, Art and Story Tent rooms along with the children. Sunday School is *so* important – we want to educate and inspire children to love and serve their fellow man. These children will change the world tomorrow.

We learn best not when we are trained, but rather when we are inspired with grace to safely search and share questions together.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

***Reminder:** “Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ”, a book about reconciliation between Lutherans and Mennonites is available in the church library.

***There will be a Baby Shower for Gina & Jefferson’s daughter Sophie on Sunday, September 11** at 2:30pm at First Mennonite Church. This is a joint shower with our 3 sponsoring churches. Each person attending is asked to bring either sweets or sandwiches. There will be a container for money gifts, but other gifts are also welcome.

***There is still time to register for the 2011-2012 school year at Rosthern Junior College!** Contact Valerie White in Admissions (306 232-4222 or val@rjc.sk.ca) Classes began Monday, August 29. *Consider RJC, where Life Meets Learning!*

***RJC Opening Service** will be held on Sunday, September 11th at 2:30 pm in the gym. Join RJC in giving thanks and asking God's blessings for the new school year.

***Sonrisa invites** all young women interested in singing in the choir to join us for our first gathering of the 2011/2012 season. We will kick off the year with a barbecue at the Driedger-Enns farm at Osler on Sunday, September 11th at 7:00p.m. Following rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. Email Lynne at gord.lynne@sasktel.net or Nicole at Nicole.Tiessen@aodbt.com for more information or to let us know you are coming.

***Ten Thousand Villages:** The previously advertised part-time sales associates positions have been filled. However, volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you can volunteer some time, contact Jared Brandes, store manager at Saskatoon.45th@villages.ca

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

***Artisan Day, Saturday September 24**, from 9:15am to 3:00pm at Bethany Manor. Admission: \$2 at the door. Come see numerous articles on display and chat with the artisans. Displays will include paintings, quilts, pottery, woodwork, carvings, and other crafts, all of excellent quality. Check out the photo report of the 2009 Artisan Day to see the type of items that will be displayed: <http://mhss.sk.ca/events/Artisan-Day-09-photostory.shtml>.

***Plan to attend the Global leadership Summit, Sept. 29-30 @** Ebenezer Baptist Church in Saskatoon. Hear about the latest sociological trends in religion from Reginald Bibby, presentations by best selling author Seth Godin, Mama Maggie Gobran (Nobel Peace Prize nominee), and more. Registration fees for Mennonite Church Canada attendees are reduced by 60%! Find out more at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1600. Deadline for registration is September. 21. See the bulletin board for a poster with more details.

***“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.

***Sat., October 1: Ride for Refuge Canada:** Cycle 10km to 50 km and raise funds for the MCCS Refugee Assistance Fund. MCSask’s goal for 2011 is to raise \$10,000. Join their team “Pedal for Peace” or create your own team. Visit: sk.mcc.org. (See the Poster on the bulletin board)

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

***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

* At Mennonite Church Canada’s Assembly 2011 in Waterloo, Ont. (July 4-8), delegates passed a resolution asking Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee to collaboratively provide resources to our congregations that will help people “discern and seek Christ-like responses to the ongoing lack of peace in Palestine/Israel.” **An Israel and Palestine Tour and Checkpoint Conference Package** (and a similar event offered in 2010) begin to address that which the delegates approved at Assembly 2011.

***The Mennonite Creation Care Newsletter for September 2011** outlines steps taken at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Waterloo this past July. A wagon at assembly offered taps and fountains with cold water as an alternative to providing cases of bottled water. In response to 2007 and 2010 resolutions to work for more sustainable gatherings, conference planners incorporated many measures into the 2011 assembly. Free reusable travel mugs were offered, communications were printed double-sided and available online. Recycling bins were prominent and recycled paper used in towel dispensers in bathrooms. Greening continues to be an ongoing process, and “we can still improve by working harder to promote travelling by bus, train and car pooling and by providing options for making donations to offset fuel.”
(A copy of the entire newsletter is posted on the church bulletin board)
-We are a supporting church of the Creation Care Network.

P.S. Did you know it takes 90% less energy to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones?

See the letter from Gordon Janzen included in this newsletter for details about the Tour

Subject: Israel and Palestine Tour and Christ at the Checkpoint Conference Package Feb. 25 – Mar 9, 2012

Dear Friends,

Mennonite Church Canada invites you to participate in a special tour and conference package to get to know the people, churches, and the land of Israel-Palestine. The tour will be led by Glenn Edward Witmer, former Mennonite Church Witness worker in Israel and tour leader with MennoJerusalem.

During Week 1, participants will enjoy visiting the sacred sites of biblical importance, learning first-hand about the land and its people. During Week 2, participants will receive on-the-ground insights and presentations from church leaders at a conference hosted by Bethlehem Bible College, a Mennonite Church Canada international partner. Week 2’s *Christ at the Checkpoint* conference, in Bethlehem during March 5-9, equips the Christians, pastors, and lay leaders to:

- understand Scripture as it relates to the Palestinian context
- discuss the theological importance of peace and justice in an Evangelical context
- encounter the theological realities “on the ground” in the Holy Land

This will be an excellent opportunity for church leaders to learn more about the current situation in the Holy Land, and to meet people of various backgrounds in this beautiful but conflicted place.

We invite pastors and lay leaders in particular to consider this opportunity – but it is open to all interested persons. I encourage you to forward this invitation to individuals you think may be interested. Further details can be found at the website: www.mennojerusalem.org.



Gordon Janzen
Mission Partnership Facilitator
Mennonite Church Canada