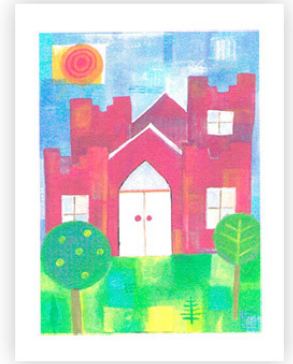


# INSIDE...



Niagara United Mennonite Church

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## Asking for Money

by Willard Metzger, Executive Director, Mennonite Church Canada

In September a number of Mennonite Church Canada staff climbed onto bicycles and became part of the Ride for Refugee movement. It was a cold September morning, chilling our fingers and giving us plenty of reason to ride hard enough to work up a sweat.

I was thrilled by the initiative. Staff were taking a Saturday and raising money for the work of Mennonite Church Canada. This is no small matter. Many staff already volunteer evenings and weekends in support of their regular ministry work, in their congregations, and for other worthy causes.

When the initiative was first raised there was some hesitation. Some felt uncomfortable asking friends and family for what felt like financial support for their jobs. It is a common dilemma in the work of the church.

For much of the church how we engage our relative wealth is a touchy subject. Many pastors try to get someone else to preach about that topic because of the perceived conflict of interest. For pastors it can feel like they are preaching for their own salary.

Yet asking people to give financially is as critical as asking them to worship or pray. It is an important spiritual discipline, especially in such a market driven world that idolizes individual want and desire. Consumerism is given religious value. It offers fulfillment. The more you purchase, the better you will feel about yourself.

Followers of Jesus Christ are more aware of such incorrect assertions. They know that ultimate fulfillment is discovered when persons leave the entrapment of individualism and align their lives for the glory of God and the blessing of others. That is why generosity is an important spiritual discipline. It holds back the subtle influence of consumerism.

It reinforces the intent to remain unattached to the lure of materialism. When followers of Christ give, it is an act of solidarity to the way of Jesus. To extend an invitation to others for such activity is a delight, not something for which to feel embarrassed.

So, it was a delight to be part of the staff group raising money for the work of Mennonite Church Canada. We began to realize that as paid workers of the church, we were not asking money for ourselves. We were asking for financial support for a movement that we love and are working hard to support. A pastor preaching about stewardship is not seeking personal financial gain. Rather it is an invitation to develop patterns and habits that reflect the commitments and yearning of the heart – to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind; and to love our neighbours as ourselves. This is a good thing to support.

So, when you receive an invitation to give, receive it as an invitation to express worship – even if the one extending the invitation is paid by the very work they support.





April at a glance ...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Women in Service Quilt  <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Pioneer Clubs  <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>8:00 pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Wholeness Through Christ Retreat  <b>7:30 pm</b> Sr. Youth	<b>5</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Wholeness Through Christ Retreat
<b>6</b> <b>No German Service</b>  <b>11:00 am</b> Guest speakers	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> Young Women's Bible Study <b>7:30 pm</b> Male Choir Practice	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Women in Service Quilt	<b>9</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Junior Youth Event <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> German Choir <b>8:00 pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>11</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Sr. Youth	<b>12</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Male Choir Workshop
<b>13</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Ramona Neufeld <b>11:00 am</b> Pastor Rudy Dirks	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> Young Women's Bible Study <b>7:30 pm</b> Male Choir Practice	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Women in Service Meet  <b>7:00 pm</b> Spiritual Council Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Model Seder <b>8:00 pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>18</b> <b>10:45 am</b> <b>Good Friday &amp; Communion Service</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>10:45 am</b> <b>Easter Service</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> Young Women's Bible Study <b>7:30 pm</b> Male Choir Practice	<b>22</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Education Committee Meeting	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> German Choir <b>8:00 pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>25</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Sr. Youth	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Udo Woelke <b>11:00 am</b> John Tiessen	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> Young Women's Bible Study <b>7:30 pm</b> Male Choir Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting			



## MC Canada Prayer Requests & Ministry Notes...

Sunday Dates	<b>Prayer Requests:</b> Please pray for and with the Church	<b>Ministry Notes:</b> This is how your financial support of Mennonite Church Canada is ministering...from across the street to around the world!	<b>News/Announcements:</b> Stay in tune with the wider church
<b>April 6</b>	Pray with Nathan and Taryn Dirks, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Botswana, that the youth in their local congregation will live and serve faithfully.	Thank you for helping to build Peace Church Philippines, led by Darnell and Christina Barkman. They are working with the Integrated Mennonite Churches (IMC) of the Philippines to help bring lasting peace to an area experiencing ongoing conflict over land rights.	Registration for Mennonite Church Canada's Assembly 2014, Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season, is underway. Register at: <a href="http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/events/Winnipeg2014">home.mennonitechurch.ca/events/Winnipeg2014</a> .
<b>April 13</b>	Remember those living in the midst of conflict and violence around the world, and pray for Mennonite Church Canada partners who strive for peace.	With your support, Dan Nighswander and Yvonne Snider-Nighswander taught future pastors at Union Biblical Seminary (UBS) in Pune, India, during January and February. Thank you for helping to strengthen the church in India.	Mennonite Church Canada is assisting CONEMPAR, a group of Mennonite congregations in Latino Paraguay, to plant a church in a new, impoverished, rural region of Paraguay. You can help! <a href="http://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/paraguay">donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/paraguay</a>
<b>April 20</b>	On this Easter Sunday, pray for Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers who are serving communities around the world. May their words and deeds exhibit the forgiving, life-giving love of Christ.	Your gifts to Mennonite Church Canada multi-cultural ministries has enabled us to translate critical faith-forming resources for Mennonite congregations across Canada who worship in 18 different languages.	
<b>April 27</b>	Please continue to pray for the members and the work of the Being a Faithful Church Task Force and the Future Direction Task Force as they seek answers to questions about being a faithful community now and into the future in preparation for plenary sessions at Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2014, Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season.	Mennonite Church Canada is developing entrepreneurship coaches in Burkina Faso so that growing business skills and valuable trades can help families and their churches be self-sustaining. Thank you for contributing to this effort!	Share your church's story and ministry! Mennonites from around the world are coming to Pennsylvania for Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Assembly, July 16-21, 2015. Special "Assembly Scattered" events will precede and follow, demonstrating how God is working in churches around North America. MWC is looking for Assembly Scattered host locations in North America. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.mwc-cmm.org/article/assembly-scattered-2015">www.mwc-cmm.org/article/assembly-scattered-2015</a> by June 1.



## Sharing Corner ...

### *JOURNEY TO THE CROSS*

*It must have been a lonely path  
that Jesus took for all of us...  
on His journey to the cross.*

*He knew the anguish  
that He felt was part of His life...  
He gave it up for us.*

*Pain and sorrow all around,  
He knew that day...  
He'd paid our price.*

***The blackness came  
and He was still...***

*Then heaven's gates opened wide  
our salvation was complete...  
Resurrection won that day.*

*Now looking down on His creation  
our Saviour waits...  
for all to know His saving grace.*

*Thank You Lord  
for what You give to all who believe...  
in eternal life with You.*

Susan Fast -  
written April 2012

## April Birthdays ...

1 – Eleonore Suckau (88)  
10 – Margarethe Neufeld (84)  
15 – John Willms (83)

4 – Gerhard Friesen ((85)  
14 – Kathe Riemland (82)  
22 – Anneliese Pankratz (81)



## Other news...

Fair Trade Coffee Learning Experience! Are you a coffee lover? An environmental or social justice activist? A believer in equality for everyone? On **Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** coffee. Come out and learn how this delicious beverage is making a difference in the lives of others and how we can make a positive impact through the choices we make and actions we take! 1:00-2:30pm at Niagara United Mennonite Church. All are welcome.

We invite you to a weekend retreat here at Niagara United Mennonite Church on **April 4-5**. Wholeness Through Christ (WTC) is a scripturally-based, Spirit-led ministry to the whole person. As Jesus came to bring forgiveness, healing, freedom, and release to those who are wounded and weary, WTC seeks to gently minister to believers who earnestly desire to be free from all that would hinder their spiritual life and ministry. The sessions will begin on Friday evening and end on Saturday afternoon. Talk to Rita Epp, Kaethe Tiessen, Sylvia Tissen or Sharon Dirks if you have any questions. Applications are online on the WTC website or hard copies at the Welcome Centre.

Christian Peacemaker Teams Colombia wants to offer scholarships to Colombians for their national delegation from April 12-19. They hope to cover the costs for 10 participants at a cost of \$600 per person. To sponsor a Colombian delegate, send a cheque to: CPT, 25 Cecil Street, Unit 310, Toronto, ON M5T 1N1m or online at: [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org), then select "Designated Donation" and indicate as a message "Colombian National Delegation".

RSB International Study Tour: Europe / April 27 - May 11, 2014. Join the Redekop School of Business at CMU for an exciting 2-week study tour looking at business, politics and culture in Europe. Visit [cmu.ca/business.php?s=studytour](http://cmu.ca/business.php?s=studytour) for more details.

Ancient Stones, Living Stones: The Holy Land in Perspective. Join CMU Professor Gordon Matties on his eighth study tour to the Holy Land (April 28-May 19, 2014). Register now; space is limited. For details, see [cmu.ca/studytour](http://cmu.ca/studytour)

Visit the following website <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/> to learn more about Mennonite Church Canada. Also visit our area conference's website, <http://mcec.ca/> to learn more about Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada.

*If you would like to submit any photos or articles for the newsletter, please contact the office at 905-468-3313 or e-mail at [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca). **Deadline for the May newsletter is April 28, 2014.***