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OCTOBER 2014, VOLUME 1 EDITION 2

# *Life With Us*

At Niagara United Mennonite Church

*This Issue's Theme . . .*

## *Thanksgiving*

**Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day** (Canadian French: Jour de l'Action de grâce), occurring on the second Monday in October, is an annual Canadian holiday which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year.

On Thursday, January 31, 1957, the Parliament of Canada proclaimed: A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October.

giver? Do you sometimes feel inadequate to receive that gift? Or do you anticipate something and even go looking for where it may be hidden just to get a peek. There are so many ways to receive gifts and so many differing emotions that go with receiving.

How about giving a gift. Do you anticipate the person's delight as you give them your gift? Perhaps you buy an item that you yourself would like to have and know it is worth the giving. Are you like me; I love picking out a gift for people on special occasions - especially at Christmas. Maybe you are you like my husband who would much rather buy a gift at the most unexpected moment and give it just to say 'I love you'. I think about this as I think about our gifts from God. He gives us gifts just to say, "I love you". We each have numerous gifts from our Heavenly Father. What do we do with our gift/s. Do we appreciate the gift, acknowledge it, and thank God? In Romans 12 it

## **SOMEONE GIVES YOU A GIFT...**

What do you do when you receive a gift? Do you give it back and say, "oh, no thank you. I just couldn't take that!!". Or do you take it and put it down without acknowledging the gift or the

talks about the church being 'one body' and, as the body has many members to it, all the members do not have the same functions. In verse 6 it says, "having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us USE them; and it goes on to mention those various gifts. How God must frown at the way we receive our spiritual gifts from him.

I believe there are different reasons we don't use our gifts. Some feel (as I do) that everyone else has the ability to use their gifts better than I do (do I short change myself...or God?); or, they are afraid of failing; afraid of exposing the fact that they cannot do it as well as the next person. Some like the tabled gift, they just don't care to use their gift - theirs is hidden under a bushel where it will go unnoticed, unused, forgotten, and, eventually, disappear. How sad.

Do you get excited when you realize the potential of the gift you have been given. You want to use it and you let the person know over and over how much you appreciated it and how you are constantly putting it to different use.

There are so many different places to use your gifts in the church. I belong to the Nominations Committee. Personally, I prefer a name like, "Gift finding" or, "Gift Placement" Committee. It says more what I believe it should stand for which is helping people find a task in the church whereby they can serve the Lord - the King of Kings! Working in His court is an exciting place to be and the blessings are so great.

>>> Article continued on next page...

# SOMEONE GIVES YOU A GIFT...

continued from the front page

You find that your gift is like a wound up toy...God is the One Who winds you up and helps you do your job. Colossians 3: verse 23 says, "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ".

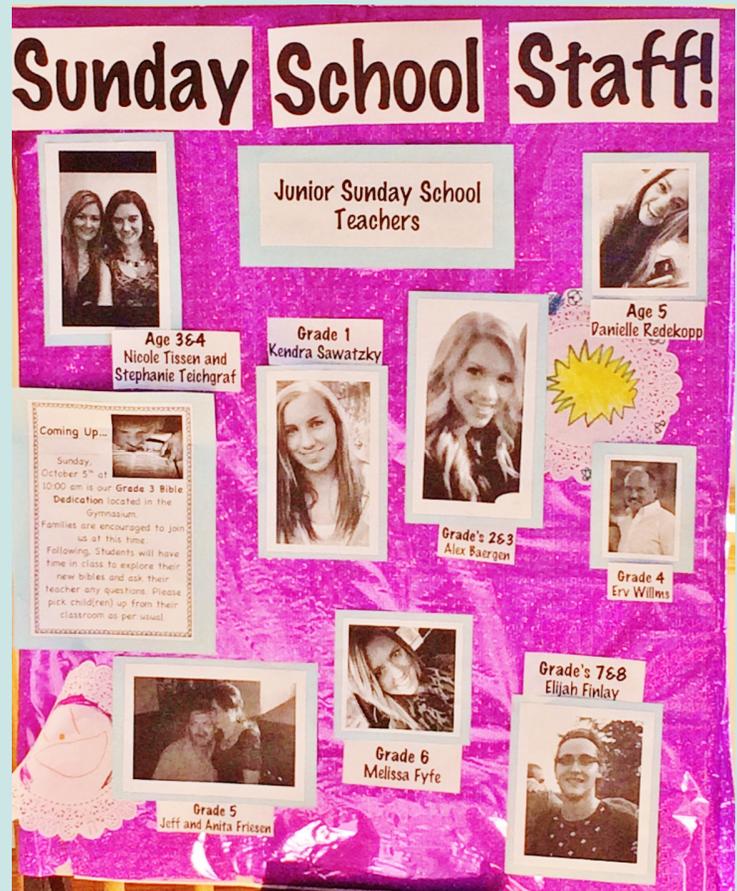
I would love to sit down with any of you to find the 'right fit' for you to use your gifts in our church. There are MANY placements that are now available and are coming available in January. Search your heart and ask God how He would like you to serve in His church. You may be very busy -taking on one task helps someone else who is busy to take on only one task, or one less task.

Are you friendly and outgoing and just want a 'once or twice a month' commitment; try ushering. Are you more of an introvert and don't want to be in the limelight but you love sharing what you learn; try teaching. Do you love scheduling and organizing; doing maintenance jobs; love little kids. I could go on and on. For God's Body to function properly all the parts need to function and help each other; the eyes, the nose, the ears, the hands, the feet...as our bodies are made so very beautifully so is the Body of Christ. I have seen handicapped people rise up to greatness because they gave their best. Even if you feel 'handicapped', God can use you and will help you to 'rise up ' to the task - do you believe in Him? Then believe in His power that works through you. Believe in His Word that proclaims, "Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen". (Ephesians 3:20,21.

Linda Pankratz  
linda@talkwireless.ca  
905-935-7152

Call me - let's sit down and talk.

# Junior Sunday School Ministry



# Ladies' Breakfast Ministry



On (most) first Thursdays of the month, a group of women of various ages and stages meet together for Breakfast at Lawrenceville. There is no formal agenda; it's simply a time of fellowship, laughter (tears), sharing (caring) and friendship. This has been occurring for several years, and the attendance is determined by whoever is available on that day. Everyone is welcome and there is an email reminder. To have your name put on the reminder list, please contact the Church office.

On Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup>, Anne Marie Enns hosted this Breakfast at her home, and it was a great and tasty start to the "new" year. It was, in

my opinion, a breakfast of Cruise Line standards - toast, jam, muffins, fruit, pancakes, eggs, bacon, more fruit, cheese, breads, and oh, did I mention the fruit?

There were 25 women present, seated around a number of decorated tables, in Anne Marie's beautifully landscaped backyard, and the weather could not have been more co-operative!



**Thank you Anne Marie** and your generous helpers, for putting on such a lovely breakfast, on such a perfect day!

As I am writing this, my email dinged:

***Just a reminder that we will be having breakfast at Lawrenceville on Thursday October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite others. Looking forward to seeing everyone Thursday. Enjoy and God bless.***

I couldn't have said it better myself.

-Erika Janzen





For as long as I can remember, there have been flowers decorating the front of the church. Most of the time the flowers are a seasonal bouquet or arrangement. Sometimes they are brought by a family in memory of a loved one who has passed away, accompanied by a note in the bulletin or an announcement from the worship leader. Often after a funeral, the family will leave one of their flower arrangements for display on the following Sunday. This reminds us to pray for those in our midst who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

At one time, the responsibility for providing the flowers was shared by our ladies' missions groups. Each of the "Vereins" would take on the task for a year and share the duties among its members who could sign up to bring the flowers for the various Sundays at the ladies' opening event.

About 20 years ago, Annemarie Enns volunteered to take on the entire job of co-ordinating the flower displays herself and she has done it ever since! She gets notified when families are providing the flowers in memory of a loved one, but on most Sundays she brings the flowers herself. Mostly they come directly from her beautiful garden, but she also knows the gardens of many friends, and will make her rounds to get just the right flowers for the season. The job is a bit more challenging in the winter time, but she prides herself on rarely paying for flowers other than for the special displays at Easter and Christmas. She is thankful for the help of others who fill in for her when she is away.



Working with the flowers has provided Annemarie with great joy over these many years. Now it is time to pass the torch. Is there another avid gardener or enthusiastic flower lover who would like to take over? Or is it time to simply allow this tradition to fade away and another one to take its place?

Hopefully you have seen and enjoyed her floral creations throughout this time. And if you were wondering how they got there, now you know!

## Congregational Survey

Please share with us which one or two things you are most thankful for in your life:



Please submit your response on this paper to the blue box located at the Welcome Centre. Survey results will be printed in next month's newsletter!

Stay tuned— each month we will pose a new survey question and publish the results the following month!

# Book Corner

# Outreach

Submitted by Kathy Rempel

I love a book series. It allows you to become friends with the characters in the books & it makes it easier to decide what books to borrow the next time you come to the library.

We currently have on our shelves a new author to our library named Dani Pettrey. Her series is titled Alaskan Courage. "An amazing story of faith, suspense, the power of forgiveness & second chances. Dani Pettrey has a gift for developing characters to fall in love with ..." Lynette Eason.

Other similar series are ...

O'Malley Series by Dee Henderson

Heroes of Quantico by Irene Hannon

Women of Justice by Lynette Eason

If you are more interested in true life stories, then you would enjoy Miracles for Jen

Author: Linda Barrick with John Perry.

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Barrick was the daughter parents dream about; a varsity athlete and cheerleader; a healthy, happy girl with a loving heart. And if the Barrick family had left church even one minute later that night, everything might have stayed the same. Discover how God turned normal into extraordinary in this life-changing story of hope and love. What happened to this family will strengthen and renew your faith ... and leave you forever changed.

Other similar true stories are ...

The Price of Freedom by Simon Ivascu & Wesley Pop

90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey

The Vow by Karen & Krickitt Carpenter with Dana Wilkerson

Last months Book Corner listed books authored by several of our past and present members. We did however miss mentioning Sue Fast: God's Healing Embrace. Sorry for the oversight.



Jam, jam, wonderful jam – peaches, nectarines, plums & apricots too! All ended up in some wonderful jam! Most of this fruit was collected from local farmers by MCC's busy Rachel Pellett Gillette. Some of this jam is already in the Caribbean being enjoyed by families of farmworkers from Niagara. Other jam is waiting to join the flight home in the next two months. Close to 400 jars of jam were cooked during the last 2 months with fruit donated by local farmers and picked by Caribbean farmworkers, in jars donated by Rudy Doerwald. At least 284 jars of this jam came from the kitchen of Anne Sawatzky, some of the fruit having been gathered off the ground from around local peach trees by husband Corny. What a wonderful donation of time and energy! Some of you have wondered why we would send home a single jar of jam with each of our workers. Certainly it is not enough to feed their families back home, nor is it a great big gift from the North. These jars of jam are just a token of our appreciation to the families of our offshore workers for lending their dads, moms, brothers and uncles to us for harvesting the fruit on our farms. It is a small connector between the Caribbean and our Niagara communities to show them we care! May all involved in this project feel God's blessing!

This month's submission is from  
Debbie Fast

## UPDATE ON MAZIN & ZAINEB & YOUSIF

Praise God for His wonderful healing in Mazin's life. After many months of chemotherapy and radiation Mazin appears to be cancer-free! Several follow-up CTscans and doctor's appointments will hopefully confirm this diagnosis. We are thankful for the many prayers that have gone up on Mazin's behalf, and thank our God for his healing answer to these prayers.

Zaina has also received a wonderful answer to prayer. After working very hard at achieving level 7 out of 8 in her ESL program, Zaina has now been accepted into the PSW (personal support worker) program at Lifetime Learning Centre and is attending daily classes there. This program is 10 months long and includes regular placements in nursing homes like Tabor Manor and Linhaven. After graduating, Zaina is anticipating employment in one of these homes.

Yousif is attending Grade four this year, and is loving school. He is beginning to read English quite well, and also enjoys writing, but his speaking is almost flawlessly Canadian!

The housing situation is in the process of changing for Mazin, Zaina and Yousif. They have been accepted by the Regional Housing Support System and will be moving into a subsidized housing apartment in November. The location of this apartment is in a lovely area near the marina in Port Dalhousie. It is a small apartment, but is well-maintained. This means that our church will no longer be responsible for the cost of housing and utilities, and Mazin and Zaina will be able to feel more self-reliant and independent.



In addition to all the above blessings and answers to prayer, we can now add that Mazin has a full-time job at Elmwood Kitchens. He and Zaina are both overjoyed at this development and thank Jake Tissen for giving Mazin this opportunity.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Submitted by Kathy Rempel

## Spotlight on.... Artwork by Lori Dyck

Compiled by: Sharon Dirks

For several years we have had bare walls in our church board room. This is not good for a room where inspiration and creativity and spiritual discernment are necessary! SO, our very own Lori Dyck has loaned us several paintings to bring brightness and beauty to an otherwise sterile room.

Lori Dyck has loved painting since she was a child. Even in the difficult times in her early years during the family's flight out of Russia and into Germany, she wanted to draw and paint. She was 11 years old when she began, although supplies were very limited during those war years.

At 15, Lori and her family came to Canada. Her brother, thoughtfully gave her a little wooden box with oil paints for her first Christmas here. He understood her passion for art because he had artistic gifts as well. How interest-

ing that even during those difficult years, when even the basic necessities were scarce, this family encouraged artistic expression! Lori still has that precious little wooden box as a memento of that season.

As she got older, Lori bought Gram-bacher paints. They are paints of excellent quality, and she learned that they worked very well. Lori continued to paint even when she had a family. Her children remember her painting a lot when they were younger. She sometimes gave paintings to her family as special gifts.

But during their years as deacons in their church, Lori stopped painting. She was consumed with a new passion— a passion to be caring to people in God's kingdom. It kept her so busy that she didn't paint again for 23 years! It wasn't just the deacon job, but also

keeping up with the girls' piano lessons, and then the season when her husband Jake was so sick, and her brother and Jake both died. After her husband died, Lori says that her son-in-law and daughter took her to Hawaii. Something in Lori's spirit was awakened while on this trip. She was so inspired by the natural beauty that she wanted to paint everything! A lot of beautiful floral paintings came out of that season of sorrow.

If you get to know Lori Dyck, a relatively new member of our church, you will experience her as a passionate follower of Jesus. She has dwelt in the faithful love of God so deeply in her life, that gratitude and love flow out of her. Through painting, she says, God speaks to her. Look at her paintings, and you just may hear God speak to you too!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 @ 7 pm Prayer Meeting	2 @ 9 am Ladies Breakfast @7pm German Choir @8pm Choir Practice	3 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band (on location) @ 7:30 pm Youth- Bonfire Potluck	4
5 @ 10 am German Service- HansJ Wiens @ 10 am Interactive Sermon @10 am Grade 3 Bible Dedication @ 11 am Worship Service- Rudy Dirks @12 Communion Potluck & Fellowship Meal	6 @ 7 pm Women's Bible Study @7pm Male Chorus	7 @ 9 am Women in Service @7:30pm BFC Team Mtg	15 @ 6:30 pm Pioneer Club @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg	9 @ 7 pm German Choir @ 8 pm Choir Practice	10 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth- Servin' NOTL	11
12 @ 10:45 am Worship Service- Stephen Cox	13 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	14@9am Women in Service @ 7 pm Church Council	15 @ 6:30 pm Pioneer Club @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg	16 @7pm German Choir @ 8 pm Choir Practice	17 @ 5:30 pm Youth Trip to Acquire the Fire @6pm Jr Youth Hayride	18
19 @ 10 am German Service- Ramona Neufeld @ 10 am BFC Discussion @ 11 am Worship Service- John Tiessen	20 @ 7pm Women's Bible Study @7pm Male Chorus	21 @ 9 am Women in Service @ 7 pm Spiritual Council Mtg	22 6:30pm Pioneer Club @6:30pm Young Adult Leadership Mtg @7pm Prayer Mtg	23@ 7 pm German Choir @ 8 pm Choir Practice	24 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth- Grumbler	25
26 @ 10 am BFC Discussion @11 am Worship Service- Guest Laura Mullett Koop @ SCUM @ 6:30 pm Anabaptist Heritage Concert	27@7pm Women's Bible Study @7pm Male Chorus	28@9am Women in Service @7pm Education Committee Mtg	29 @6:30pm Pioneer Club @7pm Prayer Meeting	30	31 <b>Hallowe'en</b> @6:30pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth- Big Night	

## A look back to this day in our history...

October 26

Recognized as Heritage Day by Mennonite Church Canada & USA. Today we celebrate our Anabaptist heritage.

October 31, 1517

Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Palace Church in Germany, marking the start of the Protestant Reformation.

# Milestones

Join us as we celebrate one another's special milestones!

The following members, who are 80 years of age and older are celebrating birthdays this month:



Eleonore Funk turns 87 on October 3rd  
Kaethe Fieguth turns 89 on October 6th  
Jakob Goerz turns 80 on October 6th  
Hans Juergen Wiens turns 80 on October 7th  
Maria Neufeld turns 80 on October 12th  
Peter P. Dirks turns 96 on October 15th  
Elly Kopp turns 82 on October 15th  
Annie Falk turns 87 on October 19th  
Katharina Siemens 84 on October 19th  
Elfrieda Braun turns 81 on October 27th



We wish you all much happiness and health on your special days!

**Keira Vis** was born on September 10th  
12:58 pm.  
Congratulation Jason & Elysia Vis on  
your new bundle of joy!  
Proud grandparents are Jake and Sylvia  
Tissen and Leo and Elizabeth Vis.



**\*\*Reminder: If you have moved or changed any of your contact information, please alert the office so that our records remain current.**



**Udo & Anne Woelke** have moved to:

**Unit 28- 1439 Niagara Stone Road,  
P.O. Box 983,  
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0**

Phone number remains the same.

Email address updated to:  
**ua4woelke@gmail.com**

**Scott, Yvonne, Josh & Hannah Vanderlee**  
have moved! Please update your records:

**140 Carlton Street,  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1S0  
(289) 228-2562**



### My 18th Birthday Remembered

Annie Falk

I was asked to write something about my birthdays. I will start with my first birthday. My parents immigrated from Russia with my three older siblings in December of 1925. I was born in Manitoba about two years later, their first Canadian child. Naturally, I don't remember that, but I have had many birthdays since then!

Today I will write about a birthday many years later. In 1963, we moved to Kajiji, a Mennonite Brethern station near the Angola border. It was after Congo Independence and the Alfred Schmidts and we were assigned to start an advanced Bible School to prepare workers for the cities. The school was to be built in the city of Kikwit for the following year but we were to start the first class in vacant buildings at Kajiji. The churches had chosen mostly married men who knew French to attend this school. However, their wives who had much less education were to get training in the native language. We had worked in the Kikpende language area before and some students knew that language, but some students came from other tribes and languages. Peter could teach in French but I had to learn Kituba, a trade language.

Our daughter Leola was in boarding school in the

capital city of Kinshasa. I taught Marvin in the morning, taught women in the afternoon, and studied language by kerosene lamplight in the evening. We were busy and didn't think of my birthday. Marvin didn't know til I mentioned it at supper time. He looked astonished and said, "But Mother, you have no birthday cake!" He remembered that we always had cake for birthdays. I wasn't concerned because it wasn't so simple to bake cakes under the circumstances. Marvin thought a bit, then went into the kitchen. We wondered what he was doing. After a while he returned with a cut papaya in which he had put a lit candle. Then he and Daddy could sing "Happy Birthday!" But that wasn't all— after supper I went next-door to discuss something with the supervisor of the dormitory for nursing students. Earlier in the year I had given some seeds for Marvin to plant a little garden of his own. While I was gone, he had quickly picked some green beans and some other things and made a nice arrangement on the table. That was a birthday present for me that I really treasured! Many years have passed since then. My birthdays seem to come much too quickly now. I can't do the things I used to do. However I am very thankful that God has granted a measure of health to me. I can still take care of myself and enjoy life.

### Eighty years old! How is it possible? Not long ago, we were young!

Hans Juergen Wiens

80 years in 6 minutes – that is approximately how fast our life takes us from 1 to 80.

I had a wonderful life on a farm. I loved the people who lived and worked there, and I loved the animals. But at age 10, all this changed when we had to leave home and became refugees. After 11 weeks of hardship and frustration, life continued in the new part of the besieged country. Public school was ended at age 14, which was also the year of my baptism. After a year on a farm and 2 years in a commercial school, the chance came to immigrate to Canada. That was before the age of 18. In Niagara on the Lake we found the Niagara Vereinigte Mennoniten Gemeinde and many friends. For these reasons it was also easy to find a partner for life. I married Barbara Witt when I was 22 years old. Seven years later, we were parents to Greta, Peter, Victor, Betty, Martin and Linda. Esther arrived nine years after Linda in 1974.

With a large family and lots of work and business, time went by fast. Only three years after our youngest child was born, we already experienced death in our

extended family. My sister Reinhilde died in 1976, and Barbara's sister Brigitte died in 1977, both due to cancer. My father and my mother-in-law died in 1981.

I enjoyed farming and business very much. But in the years from 1980 to 1995 it was not fun. Farm products were too cheap and we struggled financially. During the hard times, we also lost my mother and Barbara's sister Elisabeth to cancer. On a happier side, we could experience the birth of our first grandchild, Sarah. It was the beginning of getting 12 grandchildren.

But time does not stand still for any of us. In short succession, I lost three brothers, two brothers-in-law, one sister-in-law, and even a niece. With my brothers, I had an especially close relationship. We met every Friday for lunch for more than 30 years.

In general, my life contained a lot of hard work, hardships, and worries; but it was also a lot of fun! Volunteer work in church and community also added a lot of satisfaction. I thank God for a wonderful life, which was enriched through many experiences.

## Thanking God

This psalm gives thanks to God.

Match the numbers with the words to fill in the blanks.

3 Your	17 gods	15 I	18 before	8 all	13 Lord
2 will	6 my	4 praise	5 sing	16 O	12 the
7 heart	9 You	10 I	11 praise	7 will	14 with

\_\_\_\_\_

10      1      4      9      16

\_\_\_\_\_

13      14      8      6      7

\_\_\_\_\_

18      12      "      "      15

\_\_\_\_\_

2      5      3      11

## Give Thanks to the Lord

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13



Complete the activities above.

Write your name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Rip this page out and put it in the Kids Box at the Welcome Centre.

If you are the winner, you will get your picture in next month's newsletter!

Good luck!

## How did that go??



Email from Nate and Taryn to our Peach Festival Results:

Wow, way to go you guys, that's amazing! We received some photo updates from my mom throughout the Peach Festival, and it looked like it was a lot of fun. We're glad that it was successful, and we hope that it was a great time as well.

Things are proceeding well in the ministries which you sponsor out in Botswana through these efforts: the prison ministry (buying Bibles and a small library of Christian devotionals and theological books for the inmates, as well as snacks for our weekly Bible teaching/discussion sessions) is thriving, and before Christmas there will be about 30 inmates who will receive certificates for their efforts in a pretty intensive Bible class; the futsal project is coming along (buying things such as the shovels and pickaxe), and we're seeing more and more volunteers coming out to help build the traditional kgotla meeting area and playground, and the futsal court itself. Our young adults group continues to grow, and about 7 will be receiving certificates for a yearlong series which we completed a few weeks ago. We have about 20 who are attending our Friday night Bible studies, as well as various other projects and activities, and 5 of the group were recently ordained which is pretty rare for such young people. The money which you raise allows us to have different events with our youth, to supply them with Bibles and other materials, and will hopefully allow us to take some of the leaders on a retreat if we can make the time for it.

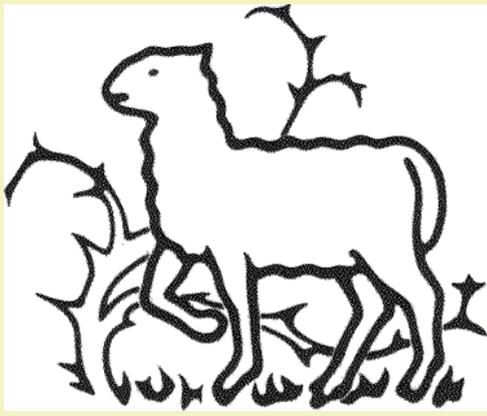
We certainly appreciate your ministry, and being able to work together with you!

-Thanks, Nate and Taryn



We had 25 Jr Youth, plus 2 Senior Youth helpers, and 7 adults to the Junior Youth Kick-off Party.....it was a great turn out! Games, Singing, Camp Fire, Spider Dogs, S'mores and a lot of great smiles!

- by Tricia Regier



**Lamb in Briars**  
*Submitted by Will Friesen*

Each week in worship, we join as a community to sing. We pull Hymnal: A Worship Book, Sing the Journey, and Sing the Story from the hymnal racks and flip quickly to the song listed in the bulletin. Even though we use at least one of these books almost every week, you may never have taken time to look at the covers. In general, there's not too much that's particularly unique about these hymnal covers except for a small image of the lamb in the midst of briars in the lower right corner. This lamb is a traditional Anabaptist symbol, illustrating the suffering Lamb of God, who calls the faithful to obedient service. For centuries it has been used to represent unity among believers. So, next time you reach for one of those songbooks and notice that little picture, remember that you are joining tens of thousands of fellow Mennonites across Canada and the United States singing songs reflecting our Anabaptist faith.

**Congregational Prayer to our Creator**

Lord you give life to life!

From day one, your Spirit brooding over the deep, your wind rushing, your breath filling. As creatures of the earth we rejoice in life using our breath, our being to raise this hymn of praise: Hallelujah to the sun's hot passion embracing the ground's great shoulders. Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant greening the earth; its fruit—beauty and food! Hallelujahs for generations of life tumbling one after another. Life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within. All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks praise to God whose glory grows in all that breathes!

- Carol Penner

**Emergence of Congregational Singing**

For over one thousand years, until well into the 16th century, people had been passive participants in worship. The service was conducted by a priest, and if there were other active participants, they were a choir (men) who sang on behalf of the congregation. People stood in silence and observed the activities on stage. Only Latin was used. There were groups of Christians, however, like the Waldensians, who worshipped communally, in the local vernacular, and without liturgical fanfare. They were decried as heretics and devil worshippers and persecuted by the Catholic Church.

In the 16th century more and more people demanded a voice in worship. Many were no longer content with the role of passive observers. Catholic and Protestant reformers tried desperately to create worship in which ordinary people were actors. Anabaptists were the most radical and consistent in this attempt. In the administration of the Lord's Supper, for instance, it was said they went from "the self-communion of a

priest without a congregation, to the self-communion of the congregation without a priest."

Congregational singing emerged spontaneously as people demanded an active role in worship. Hymns were often borrowed but many new ones were also written.

In the summer of 1535, a small group of Anabaptists, known as Philippites, were arrested and sent to the castle dungeon of Passau, Austria. Here they wrote and composed songs which they sang to each other. 53 of these hymns somehow made it out of the dungeon, and in 1564 a bound collection of these hymns was found with the title, *Etlliche schöne christliche Geseng wie sie in der Gefengkniß zu Passau im Schloß von den Schwitzer Brüder durch Gottes Gnad getiehet und gesungen worden...*

(Some beautiful Christian songs as they were composed and sung in the castle prison at Passau by the Swiss Brethren through the grace of God.)

By 1583 more hymns had been added to this original collection, creating a new hymnal called

Ausbund. The Ausbund is still in use among the Old Order Amish, making it the oldest hymnal in continuous use in the world.

Gradually, as worship services became more regulated, the role of the congregation in its spontaneous acts of worship came to an end. Its role was now confined to singing, which it did with great fervour. Soon an amazing array of hymnbooks appeared with a great variety of songs, from folk songs to psalms and chorales.

This legacy of congregational singing has remained an important pillar in many Christian denominations, especially the General Conference Mennonite churches. In Canada, as well as in the US, Hymnal a Worship Book and the two supplements, *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story* are used extensively.

At a time when Christianity is at a crossroads, it is more important than ever to nurture our right to have accessible, inspirational, and worshipful songs.

- contributed by John Rempel

# Other News...

Mark your calendars for Mission Impossible - a senior youth event on **Sun. Oct. 19th @ 3:00pm** at Conrad Grebel University College. Last year we had about 100 people attend A Day in the Life of Connie G. and the Grebel Ambassadors are working hard to dream up this next event! For more information contact Jessica Scott – [jrwhite@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jrwhite@uwaterloo.ca)

Beginning on **Oct. 21**, the Anabaptist Network in the U.K. will be presenting a series of webinars on The Opportunities and Challenges of Post-Christendom. Stuart Murray and five other thinkers and authors will engage the topic of the future of the church. The first in the series is entitled “The Fading Brilliance of Christendom” (Oct. 21). Details at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2411](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2411).

niagara life centre



Do you want to hear stories of hope, help & healing? Attend Niagara Life Centre's Annual Fundraising Banquet & Silent Auction on **October 24th**.

There is no cost to attend, this is a free-will fundraiser, but seating is limited and must be reserved. Call 905-934-0021 or email [sheryl@niagaralifecentre.ca](mailto:sheryl@niagaralifecentre.ca) to reserve your seat.

Campus Visit Day - **Oct. 24th, 8:45am - 3pm** Is CMU the right University for you? A day on campus will help answer questions about financial aid, student life and residence, athletic opportunities, Outtatown and more during scheduled information sessions. You will also be able to attend a class, eat lunch with current students in our dining hall, tour campus, and meet faculty in our student-run coffee shop. Sign up for a campus visit day now at [cmu.ca/campusvisit](http://cmu.ca/campusvisit).

**Fri. Oct. 24th @ 7:30pm**, Professor Derek Suderman will present the Benjamin Eby Lecture on “Seeking Peace as the End of Lament.” Conrad Grebel University College Chapel. [www.grebel.ca/eby](http://www.grebel.ca/eby)

“Mennonite/s Writing 2014-2015”: On Wed. **Oct. 29th @ 7:30pm**, two-time Governor General's Award winner Rudy Wiebe will read from his newly released novel Come Back in the Conrad Grebel University College Chapel. Everyone is welcome. [www.grebel.ca/mennolit](http://www.grebel.ca/mennolit)

Make a Difference Day is an inspiring one day event designed to empower and educate junior youth on what they can do to make a positive impact in our world. From social issues to food justice, each year features a different theme that will cause never ending rippling changes. **Sun. Nov. 2nd**, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate | 9:30am to 3 pm | Cost: \$15/youth, \$10/sponsor

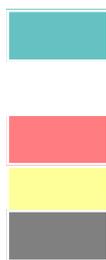
Spirituality & Aging Seminar- **Fri. Nov. 14th - 8:30 am @** Conrad Grebel University, Great Hall, 140 Westmount Rd. North, Waterloo, ON

The speaker for 2014 is Dr. Kenneth Pargament an internationally renowned researcher in the area of spirituality and health, speaking on “Spiritual Transformation in Late Life.” In particular his research has explored religion, spirituality and coping during times of loss and crisis. Dr. Pargament is Professor of Clinical Psychology at Bowling Green University in Ohio and Distinguished Scholar at the Institute for Spirituality and Health of the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Registration for this event is now open. \$50 registration, Seniors and Students \$25.

where I'm used to  
smelling stink  
today the flowers  
overpower  
a path I thought I knew  
is new  
-Bryan Moyer Suderman

If you would like to submit any photos or articles for the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee, or the church office at: 905-468-3313 or by email at [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca).

**Deadline for the November newsletter is October 15th, 2014.**



LIFE WITH US

NEWSLETTER

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