

New *Beginnings* for *RJC*

Pastoral Leadership Update

Completed Assignments

Henry Patkau
- Hope Mennonite
Fellowship, North
Battleford

Herman Wiebe
- Zoar Mennonite
Church, resigned
effective August 31

**Harold Peters
Franzen** - North Star
Mennonite Church,
September 23

Joel Kroeker has
resigned as Youth Pastor
at Zion Mennonite
effective November/
December 2006.

New Assignments

North Star Mennonite
Church, Drake.

**Audrey Mierau
Bechtel** interim
pastor (60% time)
beginning October 1.

Zion, Swift Current
Bill & Helen Kruger,
Fall 2006 (interim)

Rosthern
**Barb & Wilmer
Froese**, beginning in
mid-November

Zoar, Langham
Henry Block will
begin as interim
October 1st

Aberdeen Mennonite
Vern Ratzlaff part
time as of September 1

Introduction to **Gail Schellenberg** *Karen Martens-Zimmerly*

We give thanks to God that Gail Schellenberg has become the principal and CEO of Rosthern Junior College. Gail is now in her twentieth year of teaching and looks forward to working together with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and becoming acquainted with our churches.

Gail never attended RJC as a student, but while growing up in Calgary and attending Foothills Mennonite Church, RJC was known as "our school". It was this sense of connection to the school, combined with a desire to live in a smaller community, to be close to family and to experience new challenges, such as a residential school, that became part of the mix that interested Gail in coming to RJC.

Gail's education and work experience includes a diversity of institutions within and beyond the Mennonite Church. Her undergraduate schooling includes Columbia Bible College, Canadian Mennonite Bible College and a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor

of Arts from the University of Manitoba. She has taught at Menno Simons and Heritage Christian School in Calgary, was a substitute teacher for one year and taught at Rockway Mennonite in Kitchener. Gail did a one year Mennonite Central Committee Alberta assignment as the Human Resources/ Operations Manager with Employment

Development and for several years was a database instructor with Dome Petroleum. Gail has done course work for Administration Certification and for the past five years has been the principal at Westgate in Winnipeg. (RJC and Westgate are both part of CAMS- the Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools)

The Westgate school community was sad to see Gail leave. During her tenure

she became known as a warm, caring principal who inspired others and worked collaboratively. Her strong faith combined with professional excellence led to the strengthening of the faith life of the school as well as academic excellence.

While school life fills much of Gail's time she has other interests as well. Gail enjoys reading, walking, movies, knitting and refinishing furniture.



Editors Note

Dear readers,

I have asked that this edition of News 'n Notes be my last as editor. Thank you for your support and affirmation during these three years. Henry Block, Conference Moderator (683.0524) and/or Jerry Buhler, Conference Minister (249.4844) would be interested in hearing from persons willing to carry on this project.

Jake Nickel

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan



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Church
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116 La Ronge
Road
Saskatoon Sk
S7K 8E5

News 'n Notes



From the Moderators Pen

Joys & Opportunities Facing Mennonite Church Saskatchewan *Henry Block*

Here we go again; summer has come and gone and the fall and winter season is fast approaching. As a pastor thinking of the life and health of the church, I was always relieved when summer was over. Fall opens up many opportunities for the life and growth of the church. This is also true for our conference. I look forward to the coming season with a high level of hope and anticipation.

- Our VBS Troup has completed its first summer of ministry. I look forward to a review and to making plans for next summer.

- Our three Bible Camps have completed another summer of operation. I look forward to evaluation and planning for the coming summer.

- After many years of good leadership given by Erwin Tiessen, Rosthern Junior College is moving forward under the leadership of principal, Gail Schellenberg. I look forward to RJC continuing to make an important contribution to the lives of our young people and to our local churches and conference.

- Person 2 Person Transition Team is at work. I look forward to bringing a proposal to our February Delegate session. This proposal will be for a newly formed board of directors for P2P which will bring increased support that comes from MC Sask, and other Christian denominations. I look forward

to an effective prison visitation and support ministry to those who are, or have been imprisoned.

- Another Transition Team is hard at work looking at the organizational structure of MC Sask. I look forward to bringing a proposal to our delegate session in February that reflects the direction our vision, "Christ Centred and Sent" is taking us.

- A new church in the "inner city" of Saskatoon is in the formation stage. I look forward to this being the first of several new church plants in our area conference.

- I look forward to MC Sask intentionally expanding its horizons and becoming more focused and aware of being "Christ Centred and Sent". I see this leading us to, relating to, and ministry with, peoples of other backgrounds, languages and cultures; there are many opportunities for this in our own province.

- I look forward to our Delegate Sessions, February 23-24, hosted by Grace Mennonite Church - Regina. We will focus on 1 Co.3:11 "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (NIV) I look forward to being encouraged in our Christ centeredness. I move into this new season with expectant anticipation because I identify with the apostle Paul who said in Phil 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (NIV)

Helping *Others* & Gaining a Great *Experience* in Return



"...eight youth, the one adult sponsor from Osler, two youth and two sponsors from Rosthern, five youth and one sponsor from Saskatoon and two youth from Langham. The job of the assembled persons would be to work with M.D.S. in the community, providing help wherever needed."

SMYO does MDS in Cross Lake, MB *Lance Braun*

On July 16, seventeen youth and four adult sponsors from Saskatchewan left for Cross Lake, Manitoba to work with Mennonite Disaster Service in the town. At four thirty in the morning they set out from Osler, SK on a twelve hour van ride to the northern town. The group was made up of eight youth, the one adult sponsor from Osler, two youth and two sponsors from Rosthern, five youth and one sponsor from Saskatoon and two youth from Langham. The job of the assembled persons would be to work with M.D.S. in the community, providing help wherever needed.

M.D.S. was working in Cross Lake not because there had been a disaster there, but because it was chosen out of towns in Canada that needed help in the community. The town was chosen to be the summer project for Canadian youth. Youth from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario came to Cross Lake to provide help to the town this summer. I was one of the Saskatchewan youth, specifically from Osler. The Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization was contacted by M.D.S. to see if they would like to send a group to Cross Lake. S.M.Y.O. agreed and began contacting Mennonite churches to try and collect a group of young people to send. A delegation was assembled and sent in July.

After a twelve hour van ride, which was very fun and entertaining, we

arrived at the Cross Lake Mennonite Church and were greeted by the M.D.S. co-ordinators and cooks working there. We were fed dinner and then went to D.R. Hamilton School where we would be staying for the week. After unpacking and getting settled at the school we returned to the church for the evening service. During the service we experienced something very new. For some of the hymns we sang in Cree. Although the Cree language isn't all that different from English, the way in which the people sing is quite different from what we were used to.

From Monday to Friday we woke up at 7:30 am (Manitoba time) to eat breakfast and go to the work sites. We worked on projects such as priming and scraping houses, cleaning a beach, mapping a cemetery and cleaning up around a local woman's house, which included cutting grass by hand with hedge trimmers. On Monday night some of us went to a wake for the family of a man who had recently died. We were invited by the Mennonite church to participate during the portion of the service that they would provide. We sang and Marco Funk, one of the sponsors from Rosthern, said a few words. On Wednesday it rained all day so we spent it inside the church mostly playing card games. Later that day we were given a tour of the Jenpeg Dam and Power Plant. On Friday evening we all went to a family camp out being held at one of the beaches along Cross Lake. The week long event was being provided by Manitoba Hydro because they had negatively affected the water level of the

lake in the past. The night that we went was also the night of their youth talent show. Some of us participated in the entertainment, myself included.

For all of those involved, the week was a lot of fun and a great experience. We met some very interesting and fun people and learned some new things.

VBS Troupe *For Christian Education Commission* *Anna Rehan*

The first year of the new Vacation Bible School program has been well received in MC Sask churches. For several churches they could not have offered this program without the support of the Troupe and its resources. The Mennonite Publishing VBS curriculum "Jesus Friends" was used. Kids enjoyed the troupe and what it offered – learning ways to be a Jesus friend in school, church and community through singing, drama, crafts and games.

The Vacation Bible School Troupe was comprised of six (6) youth and young adults from our own congregations who traveled to nine (9) MC Sask communities to provide leadership in worship, drama, and music during their VBS week. They also helped with the Children's Program at the MC Canada Assembly in Edmonton. The troupe members were: Carissa Feick – Leader (Hague), Michael Bueckert (Mount

For instance, stinging nettles hurt a lot and that "Pain is a weakness leaving the body", that comes from M.D.S. worker John McTavish from Pennsylvania. We all had the time of our lives and would go back there if ever the chance arose.

Royal), Lenora Epp (Glenbush), Joel Bueckert (Eyebrow), Wendy Luitjens (Rosthern), Ashley Wiebe (Mount Royal). For the most part, the group worked well together though not without its rough places.

Special thanks to host congregations and volunteers; to Zoar Mennonite Church (Langham) for the use of costumes; to RJC for the use of their van; to SMYO for a variety of supplies; to Murray Olfert of T-Shirts Unlimited for printing of T-shirts; to Ed & Beatrice Feick and Elmer and Elvina Krause for help cutting fabric for blankets; and especially to all who made financial donations. All this support as well as prayer support was much appreciated.

We hope this program has been a benefit to churches, leaders, and children. If you would like to continue to support this worthy cause, please send donations to MC Sask and earmark for VBS Troupe.

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News 'n Notes

Editor
Jake Nickel
306.373.3390

Assistant Editor
Amanda Unrau

Design
Lynda Derksen