

Playing the MMA

'Game of Life'

Charlotte 2005

Laura Epp, Rachel

Derksen, Krisha Bueckert

from Zoar, Langham



Pastoral Changes

Carrot River Mennonite Church.

Craig Hollands reports significant improvement but remains on Stress Leave until his term ends in January. Ed Cornelson will be serving as Interim Pastor starting in October.

First Mennonite.

Arnie Fehderau will be on a Sabbatical Leave from August through December.

Laird Mennonite Church.

Wilmer and Barb Froese completed their 14 years in April. Benno Klassen started serving as Interim Supply pastor in June 2005.

North Star Mennonite Church, Drake.

Ken Quiring finished his term in August, and began a new pastorate in Manitoba. Harold Peters Fransen started as Intentional Interim in August 2005

Nutana Park Mennonite Church.

Vern Ratzlaff will complete his 18 years of pastoring at Nutana in December. Ken Bechtel will begin as Intentional Interim Co-Pastor in March 2006.

Rosthern Mennonite Church.

Craig Friesen resigned as pastor effective this fall. The Friesens plan to relocate to Abbotsford to be closer to extended family. Plans for RMC are as yet incomplete.

Warman Mennonite Church.

Henry Block will be retiring September 30. Jay Hinds will begin as Pastor in October.

Zion Swift Current.

Youth Pastor Kelli Downey finished her term in August and is now serving in Manitoba. Joel Kroeker started as Youth Pastor in August.

Zoar Mennonite, Langham.

During Herman Wiebe's Leave (May through August), Menno Epp and Audrey Mierau Bechtel served as Interim Supply pastors.

News 'n Notes



Menonite Church Saskatchewan

From the Conference Minister's Pen

Christ Centred & Sent ...

By Ken Bechtel, Conference Minister

**General council
meeting in**

Eyebrow August 27

front left: Ken Funk,

Dwayne Harder,

Dan Richert,

Ken Bechtel

2nd row: Henry

Block, Irene Bartel,

Gary Peters, Doyle

Wiebe, Marco Funk

Back row: George

Epp, Claire-Ewer

Fisher, Erick Olfert,

Denise Martens,

Sharon Schultz,

Peter Peters

In late June, a Saskatoon church posted "The Jesus Journeys" as the title for their summer series. In July, Ray Aldred of Regina, a Cree pastor with the Alliance Church, spoke to the Charlotte Mennonite Assembly about the importance of keeping the Jesus story front and foremost. Those "Jesus Journeys" are the pathways to which we as a larger church, and as Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, are being called in a new way. As individuals, congregations and conference, we are being called by the Spirit to embody the Christ life in our churches and in our broader sets of relationships.

What will it mean for our congregations to centre our lives and ministries around Christ? What will it mean to keep our eyes turned toward Jesus? What differences will this make as we care for, encourage and challenge one another, as we consider difficult questions? What

kinds of speech, attitudes, disciplines and practices will emerge as we seek to do all this in light of what Jesus taught and modelled? What more will we learn from Jesus as we continue to interact with those neighbours we already enjoy, and with those we find less "comfortable"? Who will be those new neighbours on our Jericho Roads? Toward what new ministries and relationships is God calling us?

Last February, the delegate body endorsed in principle our draft "Vision 2010". Delegates at the February Round Tables, and congregations since then, have offered further suggestions for refining that vision. We are now recognizing that the essence of God's call to us is to be "Christ Centred and Sent ...". The Envisioning Team hopes to distribute a revised version of "Vision 2010" by early October.

May we as a "Christ Centred and Sent" people set out on these further "Jesus journeys" with grace filled, joyful courage.

News n' Notes
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September 2005
Volume 2
Number 3

Mennonite Church
Saskatchewan
116 LaRonge Road
Saskatoon SK
S7K 8E5

The Ultimate Charlotte 2005

The Worship Band

led by Tim Shue

(second from right)



The Ultimate Youth Convention

by Laura Epp, Zoar Mennonite, Langham

July 1st - 10:00 pm... over 90 youth and their sponsors from across Saskatchewan meet in Saskatoon to squish onto two buses. These buses travel the 40-hour journey to Charlotte, North Carolina, stopping only for meals and gas. The Saskatchewan youth sat in their bus seats anxiously awaiting their heavenly beds at the Westin, along with the many other parts of the conference.

Once the youth got to the convention, their days were filled with singing, worship services, servant projects, various seminars, and entertainment. There were usually two worship services in a day: one in the morning, and one

in the evening. Each service featured a different speaker and included singing, riveting announcements, drama, and impromptu performances by Ken Medema. Each youth group would also have small group time after the morning worship service each day to discuss and go over it. After lunch, everyone would head off to their chosen seminars for the day, always making sure to go early as most would fill up almost an hour ahead of time. The evenings had special entertainment planned like the Carowinds Amusement Park, comedy, and music performances.

Back at the hotel after the conference was done for the day, the youth held dance parties wherever they could (including the elevator, the 13th floor, and finally a ballroom) until the 12:39 curfew.

Speak Up! Sessions

By Jacquelyn Janzen, Grace Mennonite, P.A.

I would like to take this opportunity to describe a little bit of the Speak Up! sessions that took place at Charlotte 2005. Each church had the chance to send two youth delegates to participate. I was a part of the listening committee which just means that I got to sit on a platform in front of everyone else. The Speak Up! sessions were modeled around the traditional 'round table discussions'. Each youth was encouraged to sit with a group where they knew no one and to let their opinions fly. The topics we discussed were centered on the Confessions of Faith. Issues such

as a lack of tolerance in the church and a need for more global awareness were mentioned often. During the discussions and sharing it became clear that we are not youth who are about to sit back and let the world pass us by; we want to get out there and make a difference.

On the last day we had the chance to meet with the adult delegates in the MC Canada session. There we discussed the idea and meaning of conferences and what it means to be a member of MC Canada. It was obvious that the youth and adult opinions were quite varying which leads me to believe the Mennonite church is in for a very exciting and interesting future!

Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Churches

by Jake Nickel

Three congregations make up the Hoffnungsfelder group of churches, Mayfair, Rabbit Lake and Glenbush. Don & Naomi Unger are the pastoral couple to these congregations. If you look at the annual year book of MC Sask it becomes apparent that there is something different going on in this group. Mayfair lists only three members. In fact it has become the community church and attendance is rarely less than a dozen, often more. Everyone is welcome and feels an ownership in the congregation whether they be Catholic, United, Anglican, Lutheran or Mennonite. It is their church.

About 15 miles down the road west –northwest is Rabbit Lake. The church, surrounded by trees, is distinctly in the country, the village being a few miles away. Being close to a resort area they have opened their doors to this transient community providing Sunday services at the resort area during the summer months. Having experienced three untimely deaths and some moves they now meet only for special occasions, otherwise attending at Glenbush ten to twelve miles further west northwest.

The Glenbush church itself lies about a mile or so slightly east southeast of the village of Glenbush. This is a newer building built here about ten plus years ago when crops were good and there was hope of new people coming into the congregation, which happened. But drought has taken some toll here also. A small active youth group is found here, with a keen sense of connection to the larger conference through the SMYO.

The congregations seem to mix and meld, joining for some meetings, working together on others but always

very aware of what their neighbours are doing and supporting them in it.

Each congregation is somewhat independent. Each, except Mayfair, has one or two lay pastors chosen from the congregation. These congregations seem to work very well together. They may have their occasional spats, but then settle in to work.

Where is this group of churches? They are off the beaten path. About an hours drive northeast of North Battleford or about 2 1/2 hours northwest of Saskatoon in rolling farm country. They are farmers, for the most part men and women who love the land, some who have raised their families here and others who chose to do so. If economics and drought forced them off the land they would find it extremely difficult to provide the necessities of life. Unexpectedly you also find in this remote rural area artists, dramatists, nurses, teachers and entrepreneurs. A government inspected meat processing plant was one way of moving the cattle that could not now be shipped south due to the mad-cow crisis.

The writer does not know how to operate without a budget yet that is what these churches do and seemingly very successfully. Everyone seems to know the cost of things. The offerings Sunday mornings are designated. If money is needed, say a furnace needs replacing or the Conference Offices call expressing an urgent need for additional funds to meet commitments an announcement is made and money, despite their own rather desperate plight, is there. Obviously the church is very important to them.

The church is aptly named Hoffnungsfelder, "fields of hope" for the whole concept of hope just seems to effuse from them.

"The congregations seem to mix and meld, joining for some meetings, working together on others but always very aware of what their neighbours are doing and supporting them in it."