

NEWS & NOTES

GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

JUNE

2015



June 30-July 5

Mennonite Church USA Convention in Kansas City

July 5-12

Family Promise rotation

July 21-25

Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Harrisburg, PA

August 7-9

Mountain States Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM

September 12-13

Church retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

FROM THE



Summer is my favorite time of year. I'm ready for it to begin! There are so many good things: warmth, light clothing, open windows, time with family, my birthday (!), fresh vegetables, flowers on our little patio, a bit of a slower pace for life in general. I'm looking forward to and anticipating the many blessings.

I don't have to wait until summer, however, to count my blessings in terms of this congregation. You are a very special group of people and I do feel blessed to be your pastor. There are many things I like about us. Here's a short list:

1. *We give of our money.* This is not something I take for granted. In the pastors' groups I am a part of I hear folks talk about financial uncertainty in their churches. There's not enough money to go around. Perhaps the pastor's time should be reduced. How are we going to make ends meet? This has not been a concern in my nearly eight years here at Glennon Heights. When money is needed, it is provided. We're not rich folks but we care about this congregation, our facilities and our commitments to the community, and we share our resources as needed. Thanks be to God.
2. *We give of our time.* Many, many folks are involved in doing something connected to the life of this congregation. Over half of us participate in our Family Promise rotations four times per year. That is amazing, given that much larger congregations have a difficult time finding enough volunteers. Some of us serve on boards or committees or teams, sharing our skills as needed.





ANNIVERSARIES:

4 - George & Jan Hussey
7 - Andy & Emily Yoder-Horst
7 - Doug & Karen Horst
10 - Eunice & Jim Brenneman
11 - Debbie & Mark Miller
11 - Anita & Randy Landis-Eigsti
14 - Carole & Greg Eigsti
16 - Dawn & Kevin Schierling-Harder
17 - Stan Eigsti & Karen Nakandakare
18 - Joann & Mel Jantz
20 - Don & Elvira Schierling
23 - Ellen & Glen Mast
25 - Delmer & Ruth Miller
28 - Gene & Joyce Fox

BIRTHDAYS:

1 - Brad Eigsti
3 - Bob Bertsche
12 - Ellen Graber-McCrae
17 - Travis Hale
23 - Joel Yoder
24 - Edith Yoder
25 - John Rhoda
26 - Randy Landis-Eigsti
29 - Debbie Miller

From the Pastor, continued

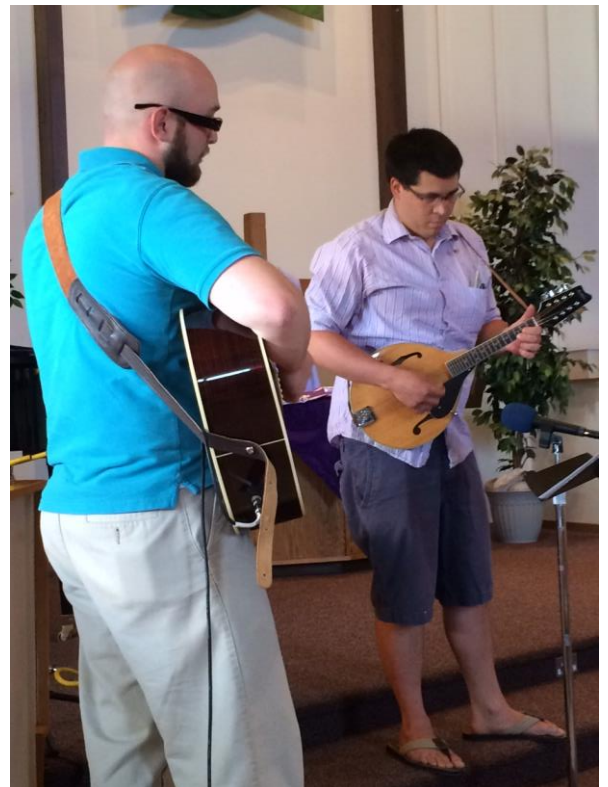
And then there are those who provide their physical labor to keep our facilities in good shape. I've heard other pastors of small churches lament the fact that repairs need to be done to their buildings but no one is willing to step up and do what needs to be done. When I hear this I feel flooded with blessing; I know that whenever there is a need here in our building – from buying a new modem to renovating the kitchen – someone will be there to take of it. This is a wonderful thing!

3. *Many people participate in our worship services.* Our many worship leaders, song leaders and Children's Time persons give thoughtful attention to what they will say or what we will sing. We hear many different voices. Our music is great! We are blessed with excellent musicians. Every week we enjoy the beauty of the banner hanging at the sanctuary. Someone puts creative thought into the altar display. And when I plan a service that requires spontaneous participation, you participate! Our worship services are our gift to God and to each other.
4. *We have a robust adult Sunday School program.* This is definitely not something I take for granted. It is no longer the norm in many churches. But here at Glennon Heights we still have a good group who gather each Sunday during the church year to hear a speaker, explore a topic, and share reflections or ideas with one another. This is a time of encouragement and learning, an opportunity to grow in our faith and practice.

My list could go on and on, of course. It is indeed a blessing and a joy to be part of this group of Jesus followers. Almost as good as perpetual summer.... Your pastor,

Betsy

May Worship



Intercultural learning

Living well with difference

The theme of the Spring/Summer 2015 Goshen College *Bulletin* is intercultural learning. What is it? Gilberto Perez, Jr., the Senior Director of Intercultural Development and Educational Partnerships for Goshen College explains it this way:

Thinking interculturally means “understanding that our everyday interactions should be about justice, equality, freedom, peacemaking and understanding. There is disciplined intentionality in building relationships, becoming transformed. We don’t think of this as ethnic work, but rather as cultures intersecting among difference. ‘Intercultural’ requires us to look at racial and cultural power imbalances among people, which sometimes rubs people the wrong way. It gets at the hard work of saying, if we really want to build this intercultural community, it will mean we have to look at our role in society, and our responsibility and accountability to change the way we do things, and how we relate to people who are different than us. We have to think of our motivations, our attitudes, our behaviors. We must move toward people, not just stand alongside people or celebrate our diversity in numbers alone.”



Perez has compiled a list of **Top 10 intercultural principles to live by**. Paying attention to these is helpful in all our interactions with others.

1. Accept the invitation to understand the other. Invitation is the call to open your mind to new understanding and learning.
2. Take ownership of your intercultural learning. This means focusing on how you have contributed to the current reality. Stop blaming the other for your lack of knowledge and engage difference.
3. Understand that sometimes you avoid engaging difference. To relate with only those whom you know and understand, though, can lead to sameness, not difference.
4. Examine your own assumptions, values and biases when it comes to race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic, socio-political and other socio-demographic groups to help you better understand the worldview of the other.
5. Understand that intercultural learning is like a dance: It works best when approached as a two-way partnership.
6. Intercultural skill building requires practice, new insights, learning from failures and lots of information sharing.
7. Acknowledge that engaging in difference comes in incremental steps.
8. Be aware of the motivations, attitudes and behaviors expressed when you are in difference with others.
9. Live out a genuine commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the other.
10. Be brave in engaging difference and extend grace to yourself and the other.

Dona Park, a Goshen College sophomore from Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, writes: “Isn’t hospitality one of the key factors in intercultural learning? You see, intercultural learning starts with acceptance of the uncomfortable. Being hospitable requires stepping down. Hospitality make come more naturally to some, but it requires practice by all.”

Balancing Acts – Wise as Serpents

By Tom Beutel, March 2015

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves,
Matthew 10:16 (NRSV)

Jesus' words from Matthew 10 are included in his instructions to his disciples as he send them out on their own to proclaim the kingdom of God and to do miracles and cure the sick. So, it may be a bit of a stretch to apply these words to the topic of this article: scams. Nevertheless, I think they may get us pointed in the right direction.

I recently had an email claiming that the sender needed me to "verify" some information so that a sum of money (over \$2000) could be released. Needless to say, I did not give the information. But, it did get me thinking about scams and the vulnerability of many, particularly in the internet age, to such schemes.

The Free Dictionary defines a scam as a fraudulent scheme or swindle, or to deprive of by deceit. Interestingly, it also defines to "scam on" as slang for "to kiss or caress." I mention this in light of Judas' kiss of Jesus which was used to betray him, a fraudulent show of affection intended to deprive Jesus of his freedom! The human inclination to deceive and defraud is nothing new.

According to CNN Money, "More than 8 in 10 consumers have received a 'potentially fraudulent offer,'" and, "of those targeted, about 11% said they lost 'a significant amount of money' by falling for a scam." The site also states that "elderly respondents were 34% more likely to have lost money than people in their 40s." This is because older adults are generally thought to be more trusting and to have more savings.

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) says that financial scams targeting seniors are considered to be "the crime of the 21st century".

The UK takes the issue of scamming so seriously that they have a "Scam Awareness Month" each May with public announcements and other promotions aimed at protecting people from fraud. We, as Christians and as peacemakers, might also take this issue seriously and take steps to help make ourselves and other aware of the problem of scams, and how to be "wise as serpents" to avoid scams.

Here are some steps we can take:

Be aware of common scams. Information is available at several sites:

- **National Council on Aging: To 10 Scams Targeting Seniors** (ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/economic-security-Initiative/savvy-saving-seniors/top-10-scams-targeting.html)
- **The Guardian: 27 common scams to avoid** (theguardian.com/money/2013/may/02/27-common-scams-to-avoid)

Understand risks and ways in which you or your friends or family may be vulnerable to a scam:

- **AARP Quiz: Are You an Easy Target for Scammers?** (aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2014/scam-easy-target-quiz.html)
- **Citizens Advice Bureau: Scams Awareness Month-Take the Quiz** (citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/current_campaigns/recent-campaigns/Scams-Awareness-Month/scams-game/)

Follow guidelines for avoiding being the victim of a scam. Here are a few basic ones:

- **If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.**
- **Never send money** to someone you don't know.
- **Don't reply to email or phone messages** if you do not know who is contacting you. If a message appears to be from someone you know, email them (not as a reply) and ask if they did email you. Banks and other institutions will never email asking for information or for verification of information.
- **Carefully check monthly credit card and bank statements** to be sure that there are not charges that you do not recognize.
- **Keep personal and financial information safe and confidential** (Social Security number, bank and credit card account numbers, etc.)
- **Report suspicious communications** or other possible fraud at sites like stopfraud.gov/report.html.

Finally, consider ways that your local community or your community of faith can raise awareness of this issue. It is one way that we can protect others from harm. Ideas might include: having a scam awareness week, writing a letter to the editor or your local paper, having a youth group make posters and put them up at church and in the community. Whatever you do, don't ignore the problem. Be "wise as serpents."

Send our roots rain

Six-part summer worship series on the Psalms
June-July 2015

For the most profound and enduring prayers of all time, both Christians and Jews look to the psalms. Many centuries after these texts were first sung in worship, they continue to inspire our boldest and most intimate prayers. Their humanity compels our attention. Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann calls the language of the psalms our “mother tongue.” In them we recognize the kind of intimate and forthright language families speak to one another. “The psalms blurt out the truth without restraint!” Brueggemann writes. “When we pray these prayers . . . we too blurt out wonder and hunger that pertain to all of life. We blurt out the truth on behalf of others, those, who have no voice for themselves.”

It is also the artistry of the language that makes the psalms unforgettable. With their vivid word pictures and pleasing rhythms, they capture our imaginations and remain imprinted on our minds and hearts. The psalmist exults:

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness...

*The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, “Glory!” (Psalm 29:7-9)*

This is rich, symbolic language that names what often seems too difficult to put into words.

Our vision of God as well as our response to God is shaped as we make these prayers our own. Describing worship as “world-making,” Brueggemann says that ordinary and repeated actions of worship – praying, singing, hearing the Word, offering ourselves to God – form and shape the character and mission of the community of faith. Just as ancient Israel gained and strengthened its identity by praying the psalms, we too gain a vision of God and God’s intentions for the work as we sing, pray and study the psalms.



For each worship service a psalm will be the centerpiece, illuminating some aspect of the overall theme, “Send our roots rain.” Throughout the Psalms images of water, flowing streams, rivers and fountains represent God’s abundant mercy and care. In contrast, images of thirst, withered grass, deserts, and wasted bodies represent the human condition apart from God.

As we pray the psalms together this summer may we be “like trees planted by streams of water.” (Psalm 1:3)



Ten Thousand Villages, Denver 2014 Annual Report

Our Mission:

To create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long term fair trading relationships.

2014 Total Sales: \$428,263

Store and Offsite Sales:

104 % of \$410,500 budget

Oriental Rug Event Sales: \$99,637

221% of \$45,000 budget

Fundraiser: \$15,309

127% of \$12,250 budget

Donations to Local Non-Profits: \$2,455

Over 21,000 items sold, benefiting 139 artisan groups in 39 countries

Net Profit of \$7,636

Donations and income from both the rug event and the fundraiser were sufficient to sustain normal operations and to continue to maintain an emergency cash position.

Store Overview:

We continue to succeed despite a challenging environment. Construction and road repair projects have limited accessibility to our store in the last year and a half and will continue to do so through mid year 2015. We were thrilled to double our previous sales at the annual rug event ... to almost \$100,000! A new store manager, Hayley Morris, was hired in August and has already begun to provide strong leadership. A successful fundraiser was held in October to make up for our loss in foot traffic due to construction. We continue to explore avenues to increase sales and other revenues, such as holding more off-site sales; expanding outreach to both for-profit and non-profit organizations; fundraising; and increasing donations. We performed a marketing trial to try to increase our sales in many areas, and we'll target these in 2015.

2014 Store Staff:

Hayley Morris (Manager)

Brooke Ophoff (Assistant Manager)

Rebecca Yount (Marketing and Outreach Manager)

Board Overview:

The board created a 2014 strategic plan in April and completed all actions including the development of a marketing plan. Our board membership experienced significant turnover in 2014, and we are now actively recruiting for new members with business skills and a passion for our mission.

Outlook 2015:

The ongoing construction projects at Cherry Creek North will continue to present challenges to store operations, such as parking and access problems which may keep some potential customers away. Our board and staff continue to strategize about ways to thrive during local construction, and to envision how our location can mesh with our need to grow. We are actively seeking donations through multiple avenues, grant writing and expanding our contacts. We see 2015 as a time of both challenge and opportunity while adapting to the Cherry Creek North renovation.

Thank You!

Everything we do as an organization is a reflection of the passion and dedication of our staff, volunteers, supporter, donors and the board of directors. Fair trade is the heart and soul of our work, and it wouldn't be possible without your help.

Ten Thousand Villages would especially like to thank our 2014 Continental Sponsor:

MDC Holdings/Richmond American Homes

2015 Board of Directors:

Susan Wagner (Chair), Bruce McCrae (Vice-Chair), Shelley Casagrande (Treasurer), Phil Oyer (Secretary), Judy Byrnes, Jeff Kauffman, Bob Nanes, Therese Pickard, Kay Taylor, Ruth Weirich, Robyn Zolman

Issued April 2015

June 2015 Calendar

Monday, June 1	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 15	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 16	Daytime Mennonite Women, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, June 20	Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 21	Congregational Business Meeting, noon

GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

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Pastor Betsy Headrick McCrae

ghmc.betsy@comcast.net

303-985-3930; Cell 303-716-2890

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Kate Rempel

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tuesday, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Friday, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Our Mission

To be a faithful community of Jesus Christ

Our Vision

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We envision growth;

building a community of faith which practices
constructive responses to conflict;

and, in a world driven by fear, promoting a
Christian voice of love and nonviolence.

NEWS & NOTES

Compiled by Betsy Headrick McCrae and Kate Rempel

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