

# NEWS & NOTES

GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

# SEPTEMBER

2015



## September 12-13

Church retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

## September 18

“Listening for Grace,” 7:00 p.m.

## September 26

Denver MCC auction, Garden Park gymnasium,  
1720 S. Alcott, 7:00 p.m.

## October 16-17

Rocky Mountain MCC Relief Sale, Rocky Ford

## November 1-8

Family Promise rotation

## December 6

Hanging of the Greens, 6:30 p.m.

FROM THE



Once again we're at the start of a new church year. It's like the turning of a wheel, isn't it? We know what's coming. We've been there before. Yet that's not really true. This year, like every year, will be its own thing. Even as

we continue with our well-loved and important rituals and traditions, there will be something in them that will be different and new and that will challenge us as we strive to be a faithful community of Jesus Christ. What will it be?

I've been thinking about how I would describe what I hope for for our congregation this year. I hope that we are and that we will be – corporately and individually – agents of God's love in the world. That our faith in Jesus and the hope that is within us will shine in our lives and make a real difference in the way we make choices and interact with others. We come together to remember who and whose we are. Our faith is strengthened and we are encouraged so that we are able to go out and live fully and well and faithfully in our everyday world.

I hope that we will continue to be a source of support for each other. We celebrate the good things – like babies, graduations, birthdays – and we are here when crises happen: When folks end up in the hospital. When marriages get shaky. When children don't make good choices. When death comes for a loved one. When job transitions are difficult and life is uncertain. We find ways to share experiences, stories, words of encouragement and support. We bring food and provide transportation. We hold each other in prayer.





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#### ANNIVERSARIES:

20 – Cindy & Joel Yoder

#### BIRTHDAYS:

1 - Mel Jantz  
5 - June Kennell  
6 - Grace Smith  
6 - Dale Cook  
7 - Dawn Schierling-Harder  
12 - Tyler Freeman  
15 - Sara Eigsti  
15 - Leta Bontrager  
18 - Duncan Smith  
18 - Heidi Eigsti  
24 - Gene Fox  
24 - Myrna Johnson  
29 - Luke Eigsti

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### Adult Sunday School schedule

*September 2015*

**Sept. 20:** “Keeping our children safe,” led by Dawn Schierling-Harder  
“Joining the Team,” led by Jeff Bontrager

**Sept. 27:** “Bridge of Hope – an introduction”  
presented by Janel Beidel

#### From the Pastor, continued

I hope that we will be able to continue opening our hearts and minds to new ways and new perspectives even as we pass on the old and precious treasures of our faith. We here at Glennon Heights are an interesting blend of old and new, I think. Our worship services follow a fairly traditional pattern – singing from our hymnal and song books, reading our scripture passages, preaching from the pulpit most Sundays – yet this happens in an atmosphere of informality that is something relatively new. Folks don’t necessarily come all dressed up. We welcome laughter and occasional last-minute adjustments. Some people bring their knitting because they’ve learned that if their hands are busy, they are more able to pay attention.

I hope and trust that we will continue to cherish our children in all their energy and diversity; that we will get to know and care for them as precious individuals whose lives of faith we are helping to form. I hope we will find ways to encourage and support their parents; that we will opt always for acceptance and love, knowing that parenting poses many challenges.

I hope for continued enjoyment of and participation in our traditions and service projects: Church retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Family Promise rotations. Hanging of the Greens. Advent and Christmas. Hats and mittens for Head Start. Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter! Campership meal. Backpacks for men coming out of prison. Potlucks. Church work days. The church garden. Mennonite Women gatherings. The men’s breakfast. I’ve probably missed something, and this list isn’t set in stone, but you get the idea. We do good things together, things that shape our faith and form our identity as Jesus followers.

Most of all, I hope that during the coming year we will be able – more and more – to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit working in and among us. I pray we will be able to respond to God’s Spirit with joy and confidence, trusting that all is and will be well.

Hang on: Here we go!

Your pastor,

*Betsy*



# Blessing of the Backpacks

August 2, 2015





# Can churches lead on racial harmony?

In the August 17 issue of “Mennonite World Review” an article by Carmen K. Sisson asked this question. In times past the church has been a respected voice in the civil rights movement, she says. “But now that the issue is not over-throwing unjust laws but addressing deeper-seated racial perceptions, what can churches do? Can churches focus society as they once did, given that many of those most likely to rally to the cause – young Americans – increasingly do not see churches as the voice of moral authority? How do you recapture the spirit of the 1960s in the grayer shades of the present?”

Sisson has some ideas. “From Arizona to Alabama,” she writes, “there are community projects and joint services. One majority white church in Minneapolis built apartments for 27 former convicts, most of whom were black. But the core principle is simply to get black and white Americans talking, the idea that even the most pernicious racial prejudices fall in the face of true fellowship.”

Here in Denver the Colorado Council of Churches is working on bringing black and white churches together with the goal of encouraging “true fellowship.” They propose some options which they would be glad to help facilitate.

- **Form a book club.**

Congregations may choose to form a book club event where both congregations will read the same book that concerns some aspect of racial justice. The congregations will mutually agree to what book they will read and how to structure discussions on the book. We will provide a suggested reading list and study guides for these books.

- **Fellowship with Food.**

Congregations may do a number of food-related activities to strengthen their bonds:

- Have an informal potluck meal after church where each participant can talk about their dish, how it reflects their ethnic/heritage and what significance it holds for them.
- Form a cooking club where members of each congregation share a meal in someone’s home that is made from a designated cookbook, including cookbooks published by the congregations.
- Create an eating club where the church members gather to at a designated restaurant.

- **Share a faith-filled experience.**

Congregations would designate a time to gather for praise and worship:

- Have a joint worship service on Sunday.
- Have a worship service sometime during the week.
- Hold a joint Bible study sometime during the week and at a time that would promote the most participation.

- **Talk openly and listen intently about race.**

Congregations are encouraged to have a facilitated race dialogue with another congregation, but it can be self-guided. Upon request, we can connect you with facilitators who have expertise in conducting dialogues within the faith community.

- **Create Community Through Music**

Here are just a few of the wonderful ways that congregations can share through music:

- Do a “Choir Swap” where everything else remains the same during the worship service.
- Collaborate to host a joint musical performance that spotlights diverse worship music and styles.
- Join Maestro Daryl Walker for an upcoming musical experience that will happen in December 2015.

So what do you think? Can we here at Glennon Heights be a church that leads the way – or, perhaps, commits to learning what it might mean to lead the way – on racial harmony? It is possible, I think, to take some small but significant steps in that direction. How would you like to be involved? Which of the options speaks to you? Please give this some thought. We will be exploring it further. ~ Pastor Betsy

# Quilts for the MCC Relief Sale, October 16-17, 2015

**To:** Persons Donating Quilts to the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale Quilt Auction  
**From:** The Quilt Committee – Eunice Brenneman, Pat Miller, and Esther Nafziger

First of all, the Quilt Auction will look a bit different this year because of needing to function without the former “Voice of the Quilt Auction” – Carolyn Stutzman. For more years than anyone can remember, Carolyn has been a very important person in the auction. Each year she so efficiently announced each quilt, giving a bit of information about it. Besides that, Carolyn contacted the various donating groups to collect the needed information for each auction.

This past year Carolyn has faced physical problems that have required her to move to a nursing care center in Las Animas. While she still is very interested in the quilt auction, frequently asking if information has been sent out, Carolyn will not be able to continue in the position she has so faithfully filled since the early days of our Relief Sale. She will be greatly missed.

The Quilt Committee looks forward to hearing about the quilts you have to donate. We know from past years that many beautiful quilts will be donated for the auction. The guidelines listed below can be used as you consider your donation and make decisions about your quilts. Please note: Should the Quilt Committee determine that for some reason a quilt does not fit into these guidelines, we will suggest another avenue for selling your quilt at the Relief Sale such as the General Auction or Quilters’ Corner.

## Registering Your Quilt

Coordination is essential between the quilters and the team who posts information on the website, creates the auction booklet and receives and hangs the quilts Friday afternoon of sale weekend. Shuffling the “old” quilt cards and sharing information by phone or email is not efficient and, at times, resulted in incomplete and inaccurate information for the public. With that in mind, the Quilt Committee developed an “easy to use” online Quilt Registration Form. With a click of a button, your quilt is registered and we are ready to post information on the website and create the auction booklet. This is a huge time saver for the Quilt Committee and we encourage you to submit registration forms throughout the year as your quilted items are finished. Please direct questions or concerns to Esther Nafziger at 719-384-6620 or by email at [nafziger@rural-com.com](mailto:nafziger@rural-com.com)

1. Go to the website <http://www.rmmcsale.org> and follow instructions given.
2. Or, contact Esther Nafziger to request forms in the mail. (25357 Country Rd. BB, La Junta, CO 81050 719-384-6620 [nafziger@rural-com.com](mailto:nafziger@rural-com.com) )

We look forward to another wonderful Quilt Auction on October 17. Please be patient with us as we try to simplify all the necessary paperwork to make a successful auction. Guidelines for donating quilts are listed below.

## Guidelines for Donating New Quilts

- Quilt must be handcrafted, not commercially made.
- Hand or machine quilted items are accepted
- Quilt must be new, not even lightly used
- Items such as placemats, simple table runners, afghans, or other non quilt items will be sold in the Crafts Booth, Quilters’ Corner, or General Auction.

### Guidelines for Donating Antique or Vintage Quilts

- Quilt must be in good condition, not showing much use
- Identifying old quilts: “Vintage quilts were made from the 1930s to 1965, while quilts deemed antique date back to 100 years ago or more. A quilt made in the 1920s or earlier is also considered antique.” (From website “Home Guides”)
- Please provide more details in “Comments” on the registration form.

### Guidelines for Donating a Quilt Purchased Previously

- Must be in “new” condition – never used or displayed for any length of time.
- No color fading on the quilt.
- Never laundered.

Please note: It is the responsibility of the quilt maker to respect the rights of the copyright holder of quilt designs. If possible, contact the designer to obtain permission to have the quilt sold at our MCC Relief Sale. In most cases this request can be made by email or phone call.



## **Sunday School: A new year begins**

On September 20 Sunday School for children and adults will begin again after the summer break. Adults will continue meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. following Coffee Hour. Our littlest ones will be in the nursery. Here's what we're planning for children and youth:

Claire Franz, with help from an adult yet to be named, will teach Ian and Huck and any other kindergarteners through 4th graders who may appear. Claire, Ian, and Huck will meet in the Sunday School room at the end of the fellowship hall.

Our children from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade will either meet in the parsonage basement with Nathan Graber-McCrae or will be involved in a service project or some other activity around the church. They will be have a voice in deciding how they would like to spend this time together.

On the first Sunday of each month we will have an intergenerational Sunday School class that will bring us all together – kindergarten through adult. These times will likely involve stories, hands-on activities, gathering in smaller groups.

Travis Hale, our Christian Education Team coordinator, is working on pulling all this together. He is open to ideas and, especially, to offers of help. Please give him your support.



# September 2015 Calendar

Tuesday, September 1	Church Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, September 7	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 9	Elders meeting, 7:00 p.m.
September 12 – 13	Church Retreat at RMMC
Monday, September 14	Outreach Team meeting at Doris', 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 15	Daytime Mennonite Women, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, September 18	"Listening for Grace", 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 19	Men's breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
Monday, September 21	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 24	Worship team meeting at Bontragers', 7:00 p.m.

## GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

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Pastor Betsy Headrick McCrae

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

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

Kate Rempel

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm



### 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

Layout by Kate Rempel