



# CROSS WALK



## LIGHTING Our Way - LYNN DRIEDGER



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## Musical Directions

Music is at the core of our worship at Nutana Park. For many people outside our church, four-part congregational singing and strong choral programs help define Mennonite churches in general and NPMC in particular. In times past, it was taken for granted that, if you could sing reasonably well, you would join the choir. As a result, there was a natural flow of younger voices coming into the choir to take the place of older choristers who had faithfully served over the years.

But time moves on, and seasons change. In today's society, we have so many more things to occupy our time. Fewer people, young and old, choose to make the church choir a priority. The week's schedule fills up, and the weekly timeslot for choir practice is required for other important activities, or just simply for some down time from the hectic week. Yet our church pews have many musicians who still contribute musically to our services.

They prepare themselves to participate in worship by simply fitting the necessary planning and practice times into their schedule.

We have had a few new people join the Adult Choir this year, and also every year there are those who can rarely attend practice but who are able to learn the music well enough so they can join us on Sunday mornings. In spite of this, the "outs" are greater than the "ins", and as a result the Choir has been gradually losing membership.

Given that music is an important component of worship at NPMC, how do we hold true to that fact, and at the same time involve a diminishing number of singers who are able to commit to a year-long choir? Is the time near at hand at which we take a look at doing choir differently? One model has the choir becoming a "seasonal" one, i.e. it operates during one or two blocks of time (Advent and Lent, for example), instead of starting in September and *continued on page 2*

# BOARD Report

- BOB SAWATZKY



## Cross Walk

**Nutana Park  
Mennonite Church**

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### Cross Walk Committee

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*Our goal is to keep you informed and connected with one another. We would appreciate contact from you regarding any news items you may have about the joys and concerns of our church family.*

**Articles for the next  
Cross Walk are due on  
January 16**

The NPMC Board of Deacons met on November 15, 2010. Following are some of the highlights of the meeting.

Allan Klassen opened the meeting with the reading of an anecdote written by Jack Dueck published in a book entitled "Visions". The tone and mood of the meeting was set by the message in the story, which discussed how doubts in our Anabaptist confession of faith will assail us, but good deeds, trust in our fellow man, and faith can reinforce our beliefs and vision of what God intends for us.

Anita and Patrick led us in a related discussion on the topic: "Why is NPMC here, who are we here for, and what is the purpose of the Church?" Reference was made to the NPMC mission statement, which states:

*"The mission of NPMC is to be a biblically-based community for redemptive nurture, worship, invitation to faith, prayer, education, outreach and service, in the context of the global church".*

ending in May. Each of these choral "seasons" could include several months of weekly rehearsals, singing at a number of services, and possibly finishing off with participating in a special event or concert.

The shorter time commitment could encourage more people to get involved in the choir program; no longer would they have to commit to a season that is nine months long. Because the choir would be singing at fewer services, there would be more opportunities for other groups and

Discussion followed, with varied viewpoints and which brought into focus that what we must do as a Board is more than day-to-day business. We must encourage taking a broader view and keeping in perspective our mission as a church community.

In regard to business, our treasurer reports that we are close to budget. This is very positive, in that donations towards our church property improvement project are, at the time of this writing, more than half way towards our goal of \$101,000.

We hope to begin the front lobby renovations sometime early in the New Year, and the paving of the parking lot in the spring.

The deacons' reports were brief and very positive. This is a good indication that things are going well.

Once again I would like to express many thanks to the deacons and the numerous volunteers for their continued dedication and hard work "behind the scenes".

Anita closed the meeting in prayer.

## Musical Directions

*continued from page 1*

individuals to use their musical gifts during Sunday mornings.

The Choir is slowly getting smaller and older; this can be disheartening at times. Yet I am encouraged to see the musical participation in our services of many other people in our congregation. We need to celebrate their musical abilities, and continue to encourage their use in our worship. Maybe, just maybe, that in order to keep things the same, we need to change.

# FILM

I finally got to see **Up in the Air** and enjoyed it for it's reflection on the economic recession. I know folks who didn't like it because it is so dark and depressing. I think everyone I've talked to enjoyed **The Blind Side**, which I hope to see again this holiday season with family. This winter, Patrick and I are working our way through old seasons of **M\*A\*S\*H** and are impressed with how clever and humorous it is. We have only 8 more seasons to go.

# Fiction

**The Secret Daughter** by Shilpi Somaya Gowda was a lovely read about the lives of an Indian mother who gifted her daughter to an orphanage to save her life and the life of the adopted daughter growing up in the US. **The Tiger** by John Vaillant is based on true events in eastern Russia about a man-eating tiger and the community it haunted. I'm currently enjoying **Juliet** by Anne Fortier, also a parallel tale between Juliet of 1340 Siena and her modern-day descendant.

# FAITH, Film & Fiction

- PATTY FRIESEN

# RUTH Mission Society - MARG KRAUSE

Twenty-two Ruth Mission Society members met on Tuesday, November 09 in the afternoon. At the meeting, President, Hilda Patkau announced the members on the executive council for the next year, as well as, the members of the various committees. They are as follows:

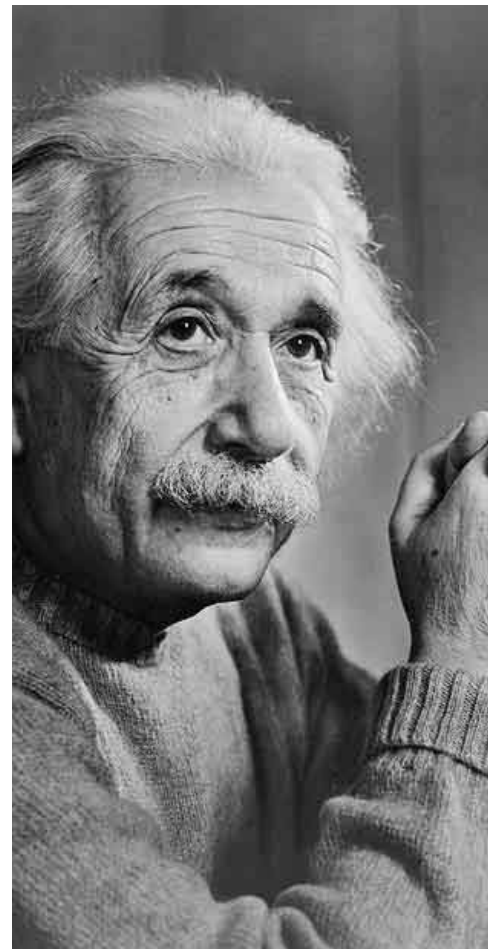
- President: Hilda Patkau
- Vice President: Betty Epp
- Treasurer: Helen Fast
- Secretary: Margaret Krause
- Friendship: Betty Wieler, Dorothy Sorensen, Helen Pries, and Erika Nickel
- Social: Lillian Epp, Kay Epp, and Evelyn Epp
- Program: Donna Epp, Betty Bailey, and Irma Gerbrandt
- Prayer Shawl Project: Ag Peters and Elma Archer

The Guest speaker was Jake Ens. His topic of "Change and Renewal" was very interesting and informative.

Jake summarized his presentation in the following words:

*In this world of constant change, the only constants are the love of God and in our physical world, as Einstein stated, the universal constant speed of light. This presentation focused on change, how it happens, the types of changes that are most common, the rates at which changes occur and the factors that are involved in successful changes. Illustrations to help clarify these points were drawn from Biblical stories, world history, the changes in First Mennonite Church and Nutana Park over the last 45 years and from our regular life experiences, as we grow older. Finally, the discussion looked at the need to plan for those changes in life that we can anticipate while we have the ability to do so.*

We all appreciated the clear and concise way that Jake explained various changes that we all experience in our lives.



# Gallery

is that you?



**Above:** Anita Retzlaff and Agnes Peters explain the purpose of a prayer shawl to the children

**Below Left:** The baptism of Grace Kroeker

**Below Top:** Patrick and Anita inviting us to the Lord's table

**Below Bottom:** Bob Sawatzky, Anita Retzlaff and Patrick Preheim welcome new members- Jack Driedger, Gordon & Lynn Driedger-Enns, Diane Beaulé and Grace Kroeker to our congregation:

*photos by Jake Nickel*



When James and I started thinking about this year and the practical aspects of where to live, we had two goals – cheap and small. Fortunately, cheap and small are not mutually exclusive properties in housing. We wanted the place to be cheap so that we can use our money for other things, such as lodging and food while traveling later in the year. We wanted the place to be small and without a yard so that our kids could experience a different kind of living. Usually, we live in a single detached home with an attached garage and substantial yard. We wanted to have our kids experience family life in an apartment without a yard of our own. So the place we live in is a second floor apartment in a four-plex. We have a spot in a shared garage outbuilding which can store the car and bikes (and little else as it leaks quite profusely in the rain). The apartment is around 600 square feet and has two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen/dining and living spaces. We are finding the space is quite adequate for our needs. It is a relief not to have any significant house/yard work and we are enjoying the extra time it allows us for doing other things. Other than a profound lack of storage and fairly tiny closet space, I could live in a place this size permanently. We were enjoying looking at Tumbleweed Homes, the other day and although I think I'd find under 200 square feet a challenge, the rest of the concept appeals to me. Perhaps

this year can help us to learn to live with less clutter in our lives, less stuff altogether.

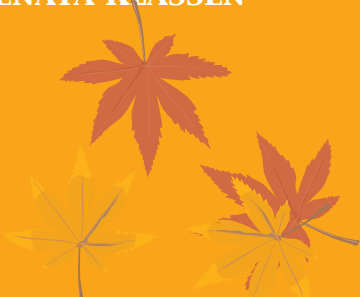
One of the other interesting things about where we are living is how it got furnished. We decided to rent out our home in Saskatoon fully furnished, which meant when we moved there would be less to pack and take with us. The downside is you arrive without some of the things necessary for living – beds, cooking utensils, towels, etc. As we prepared to come, we discussed our living arrangements with James' mom. She was quite excited to have us coming to live in her neck of the woods and was willing to do the leg work on the apartment hunt and furnishing. I made up a list of the items we thought the place would need for us to eat, sleep and otherwise make do. My instructions to her were, "do what you can but don't spend any money." I wasn't sure she would listen to me but I thought I'd make sure she knew not to go wild. She managed to outfit the whole place for \$12, half of which was a new broom. We spent a little more on a few things which weren't working well or that she hadn't managed to find but basically between family and friends, we had a fully furnished apartment for a family of four. I know I shouldn't have been surprised, as I have seen this kind of thing before when our church has sponsored refugee families, but I was a little surprised nonetheless.

WHERE  
Do You Live?  
-SUSAN ENS FUNK



# MC CANADA Report

- RENATA KLASSEN



## Fall Leadership ASSEMBLY

Every November staff and leadership people in MC Canada gather for a series of meetings. These rotate between provinces, in order to provide opportunity for contact with people from the various area churches. This year it was our turn to host. The meetings were held from November 10th to 13th at First Mennonite Church. Persons from all our city congregations assisted, providing meals and billets. On behalf of MC Canada, I want to extend a very warm thank you to all those who provided warm and comfortable beds, delicious food – homemade buns, cookies, soup, wonderful suppers, and friendly conversation. A special thanks to First Mennonite Church for allowing us the use of your facilities and for your care and attention to detail!

The meetings included various groups, beginning on Wednesday with the area church ministers from each of the five area churches. They met with Karen Martens Zimmerly, our national church minister, for a day of conversation and sharing. The next to arrive was the Faith and Life Committee. This is a group of five pastors and theologians who are charged with providing insight into troubling theological issues, and helping us think through difficult subjects. They also help plan the theological input for our national delegate assemblies.

On Thursday these two groups were joined by the five area church moderators and the executive staff from our Winnipeg office. After a day of discussion of topics related to our life together as a national church, we were joined by local pastors for supper and a time of sharing. Pastors in Saskatchewan took this invitation seriously, and came from as far away as Rabbit Lake, Carrot River, and Regina to be there. A total of 55 people spent time talking about what it means to be church at a local, provincial and national level.

Another special event on Friday evening was open to the public. About 70 people attended the inauguration of Willard Metzger as the new general secretary for Mennonite Church Canada. Willard has served as a pastor in Ontario and as director of church relations for World Vision Canada for the past five years. We look forward to the leadership that Willard will bring to this important role.

The final group to gather was the general board of MC Canada. This group includes the moderators, executive staff and representatives from each of the Councils – Witness, Formation, Church Engagement, and the Faith and Life Committee, as well as the Moderator, Vice-moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. This group is responsible for oversight of all MC Canada programs between assemblies. So again, the days were full with discussion on various topics including pastoral leadership training, plans for new ventures in providing printed and other materials for churches through Mennonite Publishing Network, plans for next summer's assembly in Waterloo, and the 2012 assembly, finances, etc. One highlight was hearing about the apology by the worldwide Lutheran church at their assembly this past summer, for their persecution of Anabaptists in the 1600's. Each congregation will receive information about this in the near future. We are invited to consider using the provided study material to look at our past history related to this. We could invite our Lutheran neighbors to do this with us.

Church life happens at different levels – in the congregation, within the area church and at the national level. We are called to engage the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus both across the street and around the world. We wish you God's blessing as together we continue to respond to this challenge!

## We Rejoice With

**Kyle Zurevinsky** who was named a Greystone Scholar and will receive a \$3000 scholarship to the U. of S.

Members and community of **Eigenheim Mennonite Church** as they recently celebrated the dedication of their new church building

**Verna & Jake Nickel** on the birth of greatgranddaughter, Hailey Dawn. She is a granddaughter for Carol & Aime Valous, and a daughter for Jacquie & Brian Hanslit

**Correction:** In last month's Cross Walk the birth announcement should have read:

*We rejoice with **Helen Unrau** on the arrival of greatgranddaughter, Mya Emily. She is a daughter to Neil & Lisa Knorr, sister to Connor, and granddaughter to Deanna & Norm Weimer*

## Our Condolences to

**Allan & Renata Klassen** as they mourn the death of their brother-in-law, Randy Boschman

**the family of Dr. Mohamed Shokier** as they grieve his recent death

# Church Family NEWS

## Art IN THE LOUNGE

CROSS-STICH BY MARILYN GUENTHER

My interest in needlework began at a young age, when Mom would transfer patterns onto pillowcases and tea towels for me to embroider. Later, while in the Netherlands in 1973 as an Intermenno Trainee, I started cross-stitching Bell Pulls, a popular wall hanging in many Dutch homes. These small projects inspired me to stitch more involved pieces.

The first large picture I cross-stitched was the called, The Chase. It used a variety of stitches, some quite a bit more complicated than others. The picture took me three winters to complete.

I find cross-stitching to be a relaxing hobby, and the final product very rewarding.



Two samples of Marilyn's needlework





**Above:** The finished product  
**Top Left and Bottom Left:** Carving Pumpkins  
**Left:** A time to reflect and learn

*photos are compliments of Kathy Olfert*



## VENTURE Club

### - KATHY OLFERT & LORI WEILER-THIESSEN

Venture Club is in full operation this year with 21 children attending. There are 9 children from our church and 12 children from the community and other churches. The year started out with a Get-Together Party on September 28th and then, the following week, the club started into its skill groups of crafts, cooking, woodworking and sewing.

A special thanks to the following volunteers from the church and community who are helping with the teaching of the Venturers:

**Crafts-** Lori Weiler-Thiessen ,

**Cooking-** Carolene Funk,

**Woodworking-** Dave Froese and Graeme Linsley,

**Sewing-** Kathy Olfert, Beth Klingenberg and Maureen Carter.

**Thanks to the following ladies who helped out when they could:**

Marie Olfert, Lydia Schroeder and Elva Epp.

The Pumpking Carving /Halloween Party was a lot of fun. November 28th will be a special Sunday when the Venture Club will sing their theme song and recite their pledge in church as part of the first Sunday of Advent and also hold a bake sale after the service. The Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, November 30th.



**Youth Announcements**

**November 27**  
7-9:30 pm  
we are having a junior youth games night at Nutana (bring your favourite board games!)

**December 4**  
7-9:30 pm  
the senior youth are baking Christmas cookies!!

**December 11**  
9:00 am-3:00 pm  
the youth will offer babysitting services at the church, so that parents can go Christmas shopping, or have a day of rest.

**December 14**  
7-10 pm  
we will have our Secret Santa gift exchange!! Bring money (about \$5) for a Secret Santa gift. We will exchange names at church, then walk to Market Mall to pick gifts, before coming back to church. Note: this is FOR BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR YOUTH DURING THIS TIME.

**December 29**  
7 pm to 8 am  
Youth Overnighter!! Be prepared to have fun, walk to Timmie's, play games, watch movies, and have more fun!!

**March 11-13**  
Piece-It-Together (PIT) conference at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg for the Senior youth. We'll talk about peace, have fun square dancing, tour the campus, and meet with other youth. An awesome time!!

**July 4-8**  
MC Canada Youth Assembly in Waterloo, Ontario. This will be a greatly fun road trip, with a five day conference!!! Look for more details coming up!!

# Y-Walk - REECE RETZLAFF

It's been a great time with the youth over the last couple of months. Some highlights include our recent bowling excursion, playing Mission: Impossible during the Church retreat, and minigolfing with the junior youth.

We are coming into a busy season for everyone, but one filled with much joy. As volleyball winds down, many look forward to the start of basketball season. Lacrosse is on the horizon, and hockey continues.

We have also been involved with CHEP (child hunger education program). The youth have stuffed Christmas cards in envelopes to sell for CHEP. As well, we will be stuffing some old cards for the Good Food Boxes, and will be donating some of our Christmas cookie baking to CHEP. As we plan for January and on, we will look for more opportunities to work with CHEP and partner organizations, so we can further serve God and join with the missio dei, God's work in the world.

It's hard to believe it's already November, with Advent starting soon, and Christmas thereafter, and exams after that. In all the busy-ness, may we enjoy one another, and listen for God's delight in the upcoming season!!

# Upcoming Events & IMPORTANT NOTES

*is that you?*



December 19  
**NPMC  
 Sunday School  
 Christmas Program**  
 7:00 pm



December 4

**A Buncha Guys  
Christmas Concert**

7:30 p.m.  
Knox United Church  
See posters

December 5

**Volkliedchor Concordia  
A Christmas Concert**

2:00 p.m.  
Rock of Ages Church  
Admission: \$7

December 2-5

**RJC Evening of Theatre**

For tickets & more information  
Ph: 306-232-4222

December 3,4

**Saskatoon Children's  
Choir Concert**

7:30 p.m.  
Third Avenue United Church  
Tickets Ph: 384-7727 or  
[www.persephonetheatre.org](http://www.persephonetheatre.org)

December 5

**Greystone Singers, University  
& Community Chorus**

Fall Concert 3:00 p.m.  
Third Avenue United Church  
See posters



December 10

**Station Singers**

**Christmas Concert**

Stations Arts Centre Rosthern , SK

Tickets Ph: 306-232-5332

December 12

**RJC Concert**

7:30 p.m.

Knox United Church

December 11

**A Buncha Guys**

**Christmas Concert**

7:30 p.m.

Shekinah Retreat Centre

See posters

December 17

**RJC Concert**

7:00 p.m.

RJC Auditorium

December 11

**Cecilian Singers Concert**

**Filled With Wonder,**

**Music of Christmas**

7:30 p.m.

Grosvenor Park United Church

Tickets: McNally Robinson or

choir members

February 3-5

**Refreshing Winds 2011**

**Worship & Music Conference**

Canadian Mennonite University

Registration Deadline:

December 17

[www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)



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Save paper by removing your name from the mail box list.

email: [hiddenattic@sasktel.net](mailto:hiddenattic@sasktel.net)

**CROSS  
WALK**

**In Colour!**

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
 Station Singers  
 Because he hath regarded the humility of  
 present  
 Behold from henceforth all generations  
 Mary's Song  
 hath done great things to me:  
 and holy is his name.  
 Director - Duff Warkentin  
 Accompanist - Sharryl Riekman



Station Arts Centre, Rosthern  
 Friday December 10, 7:30

Tickets available at  
 Station Arts Centre  
 (232-5332)

*Wishing*  
 You & Your Family  
 a Safe & Fulfilling  
*Christmas Season!*

