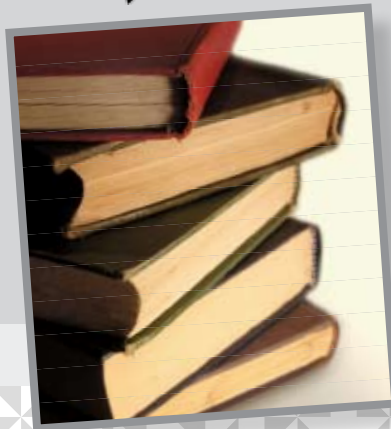




# Cross Walk



## The DESELECTION Process page 6

### In this Issue

Lighting Our Way	1
Board Report	2
Bridge Builders	3
Ruth Mission Society	3
A Year in Germany	4
Gallery	5
Library News	8
Church Family News	9
Upcoming Events	9
Art in the Lounge	9
Y Walk	10
Korean Connection	10

## Lighting Our Way



Patrick Preheim

### Seasonal Transitions

We are now in the season of Epiphany. In the New Testament “epiphany” gets translated as “to make appear, to display, to give light, put in clear view” (The Analytical Greek Lexicon Revised, edited by Harold K. Moulton). The first Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 or the Sunday closest to that date, and the story of the magi is always the scripture passage for that day. The Sundays after January 6 explore various manifestations of God in and through Christ. The baptism of Jesus and the Gospel lessons following Epiphany all display, give light, put in clear view the person of Jesus and his connection to God. The Sundays of Epiphany only give way to the season of Lent, which commences this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17. “Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant. We are to be signs of God’s kingdom in the world” (Handbook of the Christian Year; by Hoyt Hickman, Don Saliors, Laurence Stookey, James White). In many ways the season of Lent and Easter is the natural successor to Epiphany.

The willingness of Jesus to journey toward Jerusalem, aware of the fate awaiting him, displays the courage God wishes for us all—it is another epiphany. The attention

to prayer which undergirds Jesus on the way and during his Passover gives light to the strength that can support us all—it is another epiphany. The non-violent response of Jesus in the last week of his life puts in clear view the manner in which God wishes us to act—it is another epiphany. God’s resurrection of Jesus makes apparent that death will not be victorious—it is another epiphany.

The quote from the Handbook of the Christian Year raises an additional aspect of the flow from Epiphany to the Lent / Easter season. Lent specifically invites participation in making the light of God manifest. We move from hearing the stories to being the story. Many of us are experiential learners, so this transition from hearing to being can be a critical one in our faith development. We learn about Jesus on the way. Faith is not necessarily a prerequisite to get started with acts of discipleships. Faith is often formed in the process of action. Sometimes the yearning for faith, rather than faith itself, is enough to make things clear. Lent is a religious season that encourages us to practice faith even if we are not sure what we believe. And sometimes the practice of faith leads to a deeper faith.

**Well, happy Epiphany and happy Lent. May these seasons be a time of spiritual growth for us all.**

# Board Report

Ernie Epp



## Cross Walk

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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.*

**Due Date for the Next  
Cross Walk  
is February 14**

Your Board of Deacons met on January 18. This meeting was opened by Wendy Harder with an interesting exercise for all by asking everyone to identify their favorite music. She then told us how she was helping our youth focus on the music they were actually listening to. When youth were asked if their music could be played in church the reply was often no, because the lyrics would not be suitable. She then played a song named We Are The Body by a Christian Band that conveys the message that Christians are not to judge others but rather walk the talk of the message of Christ. It was good hear.

### Summarized Items of Board Business:

1. Treasurer **Ross Borne** reported that our Budget for 2009 had been met through very generous giving. We must all be thankful. He also introduced the 2010 Budget in preparation for our annual meeting in March. The increase is small and our salaries meet MCCan. guidelines.
2. Buildings and Grounds deacon **Carl Wiens** noted that quite a few windows need replacing and library shelving will be installed. Bigger projects to consider seriously include renovating our entrance foyer because of overcrowding, and paving part or all of our parking lot. More details will follow.
3. **Arnie Neufeld** reported good responses when calling for teachers for younger grades; but it is often very difficult to get persons willing to teach the youth class. We are all part of this congregation and who else but one or some of us can be called upon to serve in this capacity? May we all remember the importance of helping our youth grow in faith for themselves and for this congregation.
4. Our Conference Deacon **Allan Klassen** noted that MCC director Claire Ewert-Fisher will be meeting leadership persons of NPMC on Jan.19 to foster close working relationships between the Mennonite and Brethern in Christ churches and MCC. He also invited persons to consider being delegates for the MCSk. annual meeting in Prince Albert Feb.26-27.
5. Our pastors **Anita and Patrick** presented information from a large study conducted by MCCan. on what encourages pastors to remain in churches they serve for long terms. Very helpful conclusions could be drawn. Several are: pastors need to feel respected and appreciated; pastors need to relate to mentors and spiritual coaches; clear boundaries need to exist between church and private life; a balance between church and home life must be maintained.
6. The Board is inviting the congregation to call **Vern Ratzlaff** to serve NPMC in a Pastor Emeritus role. This is a non-salaried position in which he may be called upon to assist our pastors and the church in various ways. Details will be provided for our annual meeting because it is the congregation that needs to voice its approval.
7. Our **Youth Pastor Search** Committee has begun its search for a new Youth Pastor for us starting in August. Stan Bartel serves as the chair with Bob Sawatzky(Board rep), Carolene Funk, Tammy Forrester, Jeff Olfert, and Kyle Zurevinsky and Emily Hooe as youth reps., serving as committee members. Their search will be wide and thorough.

# Bridge Builders

Jake Nickel

For over twenty five years Nutana Park Mennonite Church has been sponsoring refugees from around the world to come to Canada for safety of person, for peace and new life in our communities.

December 2, 2009, Karen Archibald, executive Director of Saskatoon's Child Hunger and Education Program (CHEP), shared how the same strategy could be used to build bridges to our west side neighbours in Saskatoon. Many live in substandard facilities and conditions. Archibald spoke passionately of the need for these groups requiring a "hand-up" versus a "hand-out".

Can organizations such as ours help in setting up community garden projects, teaching food growing and preserving techniques; and building bridges of communication and hope?

8. Our **Annual Meeting** has been scheduled for March 28. Your participation is very important. Please schedule in this date and make a big effort to attend. We seek to be a faithful, inviting and generous congregation. It is because of our belief in Jesus--the prince of Peace-- as the way for us to experience God the eternal creator and sustainer of all, that we participate in Nutana Park. It is only through your active participation that we can remain an active healthy fellowship of believers.

9. Dr. Ray and Mrs. Helen Fast have established a new **Student Bursary Fund** for our church.

10. A **Nominating Committee** is being selected. Please consider serving God and this church in a leadership role as a Deacon. Several vacancies will be occurring and a new chair needs to be elected for the next term.

# Ruth Mission Society Report

Anne Friesen

Twenty-three members and one guest attended our January meeting. Our guest speaker was Ruby Harder, president of Saskatchewan Women in Mission, from Denholm, Sk.

Ruby presented the work of the SWM; the programs, projects, and also some of the concerns the executive has, and encouraged responses. One concern is the declining number of members in many of the aids and also the resulting closure of some of these aids. It seems to be difficult to get the younger women to join, partly due to the fact that many are out in the work force, have young families and simply do not have the time or energy to participate. Another problem seems to be getting leadership for the provincial executives. Both British Columbia and Manitoba do not have a provincial organization because they are not able to recruit persons for these positions. In both provinces, however, the women's groups are still meeting as local groups. The question for us is, "What is the future of our provincial organization?"

From surveys that have been taken in our group the response has been that the fellowship and program part of these meetings are important to us. In regards to the question as to the membership in the larger body SWM or in the Canadian context the response has been rather divided. One question that surfaced was, "What happens to financial aid for certain projects if we withdraw from the conferences? For example, we now help to support our mission workers Jeanette and Todd Hanson

who are serving in China. Will there be a short fall in their salary?"

SWM sponsors several projects and organizes two programs. The SWM fall retreat at Shekinah has been well received. It has presented good themes and speakers, informal, relaxing sessions and has attracted some of the younger women. The Enrichment Day in April has also changed its format somewhat and is perhaps not as structured or business oriented as in the past.

Projects include making several publications available to local groups -such as a study guide. The 2009 guide was, "For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Faith and Creation Care", written by Patty Friesen, Saskatoon. The SWM also sends out newsletters periodically to each group. One problem that has arisen is that these letters, etc. do not always get to the local groups. This is partly due to the fact that in some instances presidents only serve one year and so mailing lists are not always up to date. The suggestion was made that perhaps a solution to that problem would be to have a contact person for the group whose term could then be several years and thus provide more continuity.

Another project is the Pennies and Prayer Inheritance Fund, which was started in 1935 but has changed its purpose over the years. Ruby had brochures available which explained this project. She also briefly mentioned the many other projects which we help support.

We appreciated the informative presentation.

# A Year in Germany

Alina Balzer-Peters

## Christmas in Enkenbach

So as of late I've been busy getting ready for Christmas. Doing it on my own makes me realize what an endeavour it is! I mean the baking, the gift buying, the hosting, decorating and planning takes forever! I mean there are so many things I want to do to make my holiday AWESOME. And it will be, trust me. It just takes a lot of time and money that I never really had to care about before. I'm going to start with baking. On the weekend I had the pleasure of making a gingerbread house with the Committee Family kids. First though I made the house pieces the night before so they had time to dry out. Going into this I knew that making gingerbread wasn't an easy task, but I like to challenge myself. So I grabbed a random recipe off the interwebs and got going.

Well first I had to find the ingredients. To add to the list of 'Things you can't buy in Germany' goes Molasses. It's just not here. Which really confused me because gingerbread or Lebkuchen is like a German thing. So I asked my friend AC where I could buy Melasse and she gave me a quizzical look. So then I asked how they make Lebkuchen here and she replied that they use Zückerrotensyrup – sugarbeet syrup. This is very easy to find in the store and it has the same consistency and colour of molasses. Perfect. So I made my dough and it's just not working at all. It's supposed to get smooth and hard, like too hard for my electric mixer. Instead it stays floury and crumbly. Ugh. So I get my hands in there and press it all together and roll out my pieces. It's not up to my standards – I expect perfection on the first try; silly I know. But it will work because I'm working with a 4 and 3

year old. They seriously don't care how it looks or that my dough didn't come through.

Saturday morning I show up with all the stuff. Sugar, candy, Sahnesteif and more ingredients to make gingerbread people. So we get going with the new dough, which is fun. Then while that chills we get to building this house. I make the icing and get the candy ready and the kids are pretty excited. And they're super good because at this point we're going at close to an



hour of baking. So the house is a little uneven and the kids

*The Gingerbread House*

*Alina in Frankfurt*

like eating the icing a bit too much, but it comes together and I end up

having to hold the house together to prevent it from falling apart. The kids are a bit distracted by this point so its better to just let them play while I ready for the next step of our gingerbread day.

Again my dough sucks. Ugh. I don't think the recipe called for enough flour because it just sticks. I put a lump on the table (after laying some flour down) to roll out to cut out pretty shapes. The kids are loving the idea. Until I can't get the dough off of the table. Oh shoot. Well this makes

things a little difficult. So I try to roll the dough out onto parchment paper and then cut out the shapes. That doesn't work either. And you just can't explain these things to kids. So I make gingerbread drops. Tasted delicious, wasn't my plan. So my plan never seems to work. But the kids had a great time, the food tasted good and I loved doing something special for the kids. Parents, I have no idea how you deal with your children all the time. It takes so much patience.

And then Sunday came and with it one of the most beautiful snowfalls ever. OH MY GOODNESS, I was happy. I ran out and took pictures. I walked around with a big smile on. I

spent 2 hours walking in the woods, once on my own and then I joined my host family and the

committee family on another. It was joyous and I really hope the snow lasts through Christmas because that would be perfect.

Over Christmas some trainees are going to spend it with me so I've been making menus and arranging Christmas trees. So Christmas in

Enkenbach, to say the least, was amazing. It was different and fun with new traditions, stories and laughs. I decided to host another trainee get-together over the holidays. Also I knew that some people didn't have anywhere to go for Christmas and I couldn't just let that happen. So like Thanksoween, I had about 6 people staying with me. But this time it was for 5 nights! My goodness, did I have a lot of shopping to do. You see, during the holidays all the stores are



# Gallery



*Sunday School Christmas Concert  
photo by Hedie Borne*



*A special time with the children  
photo by Jake Nickel*



*Arrival of the Wisemen  
photo by Lori Weiler-Thiessen*

# Gallery



*Women's Ensemble bringing music to the worship service  
photo by Jake Nickel*



*Adult Sunday School Class on the topic of Justice  
photo by Jake Nickel*



*Seasonal Transitions*



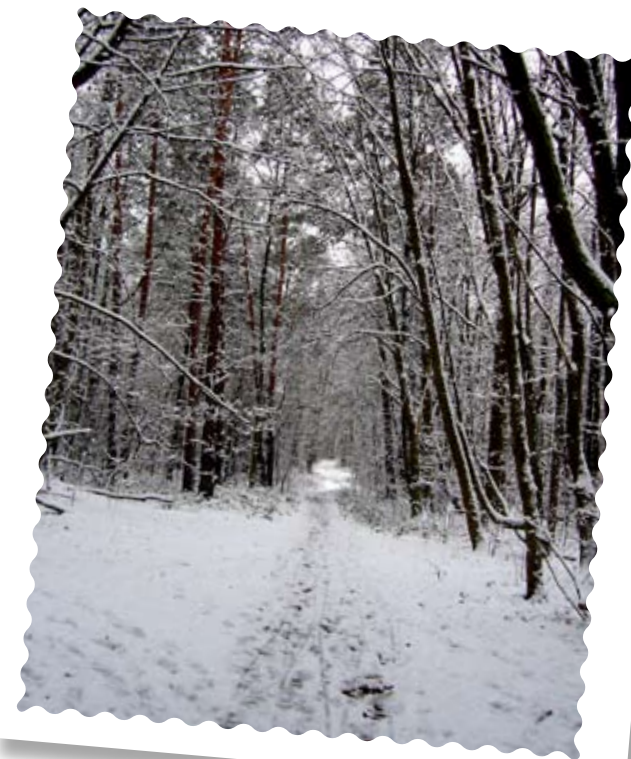
closed by noon on the 24th till the 27th, and unfortunately this year the 27th fell on a Sunday when stores don't open either. So I had to shop for up to 8 people for 4 days. Luckily it all worked out.

4 trainees showed up on the 23rd, one of them with a vehicle. It was a hoot to go shopping with all of them. Believe me 5 young, English speakers get a lot of stares in German grocery stores. So with the car laden with our goodies we began preparing for Christmas. We had a projector to watch movies, we had board games, gluwein, lots of food, a Christmas tree and each other.

The 24th was a pleasant day where we were able to sleep in, go for walks, make delicious food and hang out. At 4pm was the Christmas Eve service that I participated in with the choir. It was so nice to have a Christmas Eve service like at home. Germans don't have as many Christmas songs as we do – or they just choose not to sing as wide a variety. But at least we get Stille Nacht with people who can sing in German. During the service another trainee joined our group to make us 6 for Christmas Eve. For dinner we had an appetizers night, a tradition of one of the trainees. Christmas morning I headed to the morning church service whilst everyone else slept. This was also really nice to do as it's something I've done my whole life. I've always loved going to church on Christmas morning, so it was special to participate in some of my own traditions. By the time I came home everyone was up and we had a delicious Christmas brunch of pancakes, bacon and mimosas. Everyone whose family sent them gifts open theirs and I got a HUGE surprise.

I told my family not to send me gifts this year as it's just more things I have to move at the end of the year. But my mom doesn't listen to me

when I talk like that so I was sorta expecting something anyways. But when a letter came a week early wishing me a Merry Christmas from the family I believed that she actually heeded my words this year. BUT instead she sent my gifts



Winter in Germany

to my Committee family to hold until Christmas day. They in turn got those to my Host family and then while I was at choir practice they got it up to my apartment and hid it in my broom closet. So Christmas morning I got a proper surprise with beautiful gifts from my family.

So then we celebrated Christmas by talking with another trainee over Skype, a good walk, ugly sweaters and a feast. I attempted duck and succeeded and we had the usual fixings that come with Christmas dinner finished with a chocolate

truffle. Then we had a fun little gift exchange and attempted to make eggnog. Not a good idea let me tell you – but I won't actually say anything more.

Oh and I got to talk with my family on Skype for about 2 hours! It was really special to see them all sitting in my living room as always. I almost cried when I saw them but held it together and just remembered how lucky I was to be able to see and talk to them for free! I'm glad they're all in good health and that Christmas went well for them too.

Saturday morning was another one to sleep in, take it easy. We started with scrambled eggs, which was also kinda lunch. Then after the usual activities of a lazy day we went over to the Committee family's house for an English hymn sing! It was so fun to sing out of the blue hymnal with four part harmony! And

we sang some non-Christmas hymns too, even some Easter ones. Then we stuck around for pizza and Apples to Apples. It was a great way to spend Boxing Day/Second Day of Christmas. They don't do the Boxing Day thing here, instead it's just called second holiday-day.

Sunday was much the same except it concluded our Christmas celebrations. It was kinda sad, but at the same time I was a little ready to have my space back...and I'm going to see the trainees again for New Years so I don't have much to miss.



# Library News

Susan Ens-Funk

## The Deselection Process

I have been taking care of the church library for just about two years now and a school library for a year and a half. One job, which falls to the librarian, is that of deselection materials or weeding. In my school library, I have in the past month completed the deselection process in the fiction section of my library. It was something which had been put off for many years and which I had not done at all in my first year in the library. As I began, I realized how much of the collection was just taking up space. Using the well known acronym, MUSTY (Misleading, Ugly, Superseded, Trivial, Your collection needs), many of the books just don't hold up. Most of the books fail at 'ugly', some are racist and many are no longer current. Having gone through the process in my school library, I realized that the Nutana Park Church Library didn't necessarily need more shelving; it needed fewer old and outdated books. Thus I have begun the process of weeding the books in the NPMC Library. I want to be transparent in the rationale, criteria and process for deselection as the library is not my collection, but ours.

**Rationale** – Deselection of books is a required part of library maintenance. When older books and materials become the predominant pieces on the library shelf, the useful, newer materials go unused because they are unseen. Although need for space is a part of the issue, the more pressing need is for better viewing of the current materials. It is also difficult to see the deficiencies in a collection

when older books on a topic are still available but are no longer relevant or appealing. One of my colleagues uses the guide, "for every book which comes into the library, another must leave." I expect in the last 15-20 years of this church's collection the weeding has been more like for every 10 books which come in, one book leaves. As a result we are many books away from a vibrant and appealing collection.

**Criteria** – Books will be weeded from the library when they are MUSTY (see above). Our library is not an archive, therefore old materials, unused materials and unimportant materials will be weeded.

**Process** – I will select books for deletion from the collection. I will allow for pastoral staff to give second opinion and retrieve items from the pile. The books will then be deleted from the records - accession record and card catalogue. Afterwards, the books will be set out on tables in the education wing for distribution to members who would like them for their own homes. The remaining materials will be recycled through COSMO Industries paper recycling. If, when the books are on the distribution tables you see a book which you believe should remain in the collection, please retrieve it and talk to me about your rationale and I will share mine. If the book is determined to still have merit, I will return it to the collection.

A more complete discussion paper on church collection deselection is available at [www.mennowdc.org/Weeding.pdf](http://www.mennowdc.org/Weeding.pdf). Feel free to take a look.

## Upcoming Events & Important Notes

### Congratulations & Best Wishes

**Mary Loewen** recently celebrated her 90th birthday

### Our Condolences to Those Who Are Grieving the Recent Death of Loved Ones

**Kathy & Garry Gable** on the death of Kathy's father, Wilf Lohrenz

**Hilda & Corny Patkau** on the death of Hilda's sister, Frieda Haliburton

**Vern & Helen Ratzlaff** on the death of their sister-in-law, Agnes Ratzlaff

**Renata & Allan Klassen** on the death of their uncle, Peter Dyck

**Vernon Harms** and family on the death of Ramona Harms

### February 7 Catechism at Nutana Park

Anita and Patrick invite all who are interested to learn, discuss, review, and prepare. Meet in the library after the 11:00 am service to set up the schedule.

### February 12, 13 Mennonite Disaster Service Conference

Friday: 7:30 am – 9:00 pm  
Saturday: 8:15 am – 1:00 pm  
Warman Berghaler Mennonite Church

### February 19 – 21 Listening Ears and Open Hearts:

Walking With Friends Through Illness and Grief  
Friday and Saturday: 7:30 pm  
Sunday: 1:30 pm  
Aberdeen Mennonite Church  
Facilitator: Vern Ratzlaff

### February 26, 27 MCSask Annual Delegate Sessions

Messiah Lutheran Church  
Prince Albert, SK  
For more information contact Allan Klassen  
373-2260  
arklassen@sasktel.net

### March 14 Evening of Trios & Quartets MCC "Food for All" Fundraiser

Cornerstone Mennonite Church  
7:00 pm

### March 19, 20 Marriage Enrichment Conference "A Time for Hope"

Sheraton Cavalier  
Registration forms by mailboxes

## Art in the Lounge

Natalie Austin

People, geography and vegetation influence my art.

The freedom I experienced growing up on a farm has given me a great love for our province's beautiful and varied landscape. The undulating prairies, the rolling hills, bowl-shaped skies and extensive lakes continue to inspire me.

Through my teaching career, family, church and volunteer activities I have developed a great interest in people and their activities. I incorporate all these experiences into my art.

My life experiences translated into art give me unlimited horizons. I love to experiment with many different mediums and methods.



Spring Thaw by Natalie Austin

# "Y" WALK Josef Beug The Mentor/Mentee Program

My view of mentors has always been somewhat strange. To me a mentor is a third parent or an older sibling, someone you can talk to about things that you might not want to tell your parents, yet someone you can get advise from.

Not only does the mentor teach the mentee but the mentor also learns something: what it was like to be young again, or to have a child, or a new perspective on things. Learning from one another, the younger mentee and older mentor learn new and old things.

Wendy Harder does a great job in finding pairs of mentor/mentees. Wendy herself is like a mentor to all the youth (and some others). Some youth even mistakenly call her mom!

My point in all of this is: the old do not become young, but the young always grow old! We can't change that fact but a mentor will help the young on the journey which the mentors have already finished.



*Mentor Jamie Rempel with Mentee Josef Beug*



*Ana, Ruby and Will celebrating Ruby's first birthday*

Time has flown by quickly in our Witness Canada partnering with Ana & Will Loewen and their little daughter Ruby. They arrived back in Canada on Dec. 14th after a two year assignment in South Korea and are now visiting partnering churches.

## Korean Connections

Joanne Ewert

Our missions partnership with this young family will formally draw to a close at the end of February when they visit our congregation. They have kept in touch with us via e-mail and their very interesting blog site, giving us an insight of their work in South Korea, growing our understanding of the importance of sharing the faith, the importance of being a vital link in the support of church building and Christian leadership around the world. The Loewens will be seeking to establish themselves in pastoral work in Canada in the coming months.



*Ruby with her spring bonnet*

They will arrive in Saskatoon on February 23, attend the Annual Delegate Sessions in Prince Albert February 26 and 27 and will visit our congregation at both worship services on February 28. We welcome their visit with us, an opportunity to meet them personally.

We wish them continued blessings as they make the transition from the JVC Church family in S. Korea to a new position here at home.