



Cross Walk



Prayer Shawl
Project
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Lighting Our Way



Anita Retzlaff

Put Yourself Out There

For the past six months Alina Balzer Peters has been working in Enkenbach, Germany on an Inter Menno training assignment. She writes that all the trainees spent a weekend together in Karlsruhe recently where they shared reflections of their experiences and of adapting to life in an unfamiliar environment.

These reflections are profound and she has given permission to share her wisdom with you.

- Attitude is everything. When nothing looks fun, you won't have fun. But when you tell yourself even mopping the floor is gonna be a good time it WILL be a good time.
- You gotta put yourself out there and things will fall into place
- Get over yourself. Pride is not an option when communicating in a second language. Looking stupid will happen everyday and you better get used to it. Also, you're not anyone's priority so don't expect them to know about your life all the time.
- Give it to God. I can't say how many times I've been in the middle of a travel mishap ready to freak out because that's what I do when things don't go as planned—and then just said, 'Hey God, you've got me, right?' and then that anxious puking feeling disappears

- I'm really not a morning person. It's not that I'm cranky when I wake, I just don't want to wake up and therefore I get up about 20 minutes before I need to leave the house.

Alina's comments make me think of the many times we are called upon to step out of our comfortable space. The language of faith may sometimes feel foreign to us as we take courage to welcome a stranger into our friendship circle or invite a newcomer to our table.

As we seek to build a stronger network of community support here at Nutana Park we will be called to step out of our familiar (family) patterns. There are many people in this congregation who do not know each other. Sometimes we need to "get over ourselves" as Alina discovered and take the risk of starting new conversations with people whom we do not ordinarily speak to.

Participants of the Bridge Builders group are looking at ways of meeting new people and engaging in new ventures in our core neighbourhoods. "You've got to put yourself out there," according to Alina and "give it to God." With those bits of hard-earned knowledge we are encouraged to prepare ourselves for the things that do not necessarily come easily but promise a life-changing experience. "Attitude is everything!"

Thanks Alina for your deep faith and insight.



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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 April 25.

The year of 2010 began with the Nutana Park congregation active in fulfilling its statement of mission. It is brief yet profoundly meaningful in its theology and room for practical service. I trust that our God of peace and love continues to find us faithful.

Our Board of Deacons met at a regular meeting on March 8. It dealt with an extensive agenda and prepared for the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for March 28. This is a time for all of us to assist in discerning God's will for this community of Christian believers.

A condensed report of the Board's last Agenda follows:

1. Our meeting was opened with a meditation by Bob Sawatzky in which we were reminded not to judge others but rather seek to appreciate all, for we are all equal in the sight of God.
2. Ross Borne, Finance, reported that the audited statement for 2009 was complete and in the annual report with no corrections or changes recommended by the auditor. Keeping an accurate record of our revenue and expenses is complicated and requires a lot of volunteer hours. Our revenue for the new year is again following the pattern of previous years with a slower start and an anticipated balanced ending. This congregation again met last year's budget. The proposed budget for 2010 of \$402,659 includes an increase of approximately 3% over the 2009 budget of \$390,926. However, since our actual revenue was \$399,408, the increase is only 1%.
3. Our Pastoral staff indicates a busy schedule of regular church activities of worship planning and services, counseling and work within the larger church community. Catechism sessions have begun again and the Women's Bible Study group remains very active. Wendy

involved a number of our youth in the Sask. Senior High Retreat in January and is broadening her work in mentoring a new Youth Worker at the Augustana Lutheran Church.

4. Lorene Nickel Music, and Lynn Driedger are planning a music workshop to familiarize the congregation with the new song book Sing the Story, a partner-like hymn book to go with hymn book, Sing the Journey which we already have. Our music program is encouraging all who worship at NPMC who are interested in performing at a recital in mid-April to sign up soon. Sarah Hooge and Sharon Klassen are working with Lorene on this.

5. Arnie Neufeld, Christian Education, reported that the new Sunday School session has started and that teachers for all levels have become available. Thank you to all who serve in this way.

6. Orv Neufeldt, Caring and Visitation, reported that our Community Life focus via its new coordinator Marlene Froese, is getting under way with a new committee of four members. Our Caring and Visitation area of the Board is considering establishing a way of assisting our pastors in their very busy member contact and visitation work. Six members already are being seen this way.

7. Allen Klassen, Conference, reported on the positive spirit of the annual MCSk. conference in February. He also noted that a number of MCSk. member churches are celebrating their 100th anniversary this summer. Be prepared for many invitations. Some of these include: Aberdeen, Waldheim, Tiefengrund.

8. Carl Wiens, Building and Grounds, has had a busy time attending to some roof leaks in our lounge area. The melting snow water isn't draining properly and some repair is necessary. Some of the church windows will need replacing this year and along with roof repair will tax our budget. In addition, our congested front foyer and parking lot will need attention. Draft plans for work in these areas will be presented at the annual meeting.

9. Darryl Epp, Fellowship, reported via email that plans for hosting RJC on Mar.21 including a borscht/pie fund raiser, and a potluck to precede our annual March 28 meeting are in place. We will again have an Easter communion breakfast on April 4.

10. Joanne Ewert, Missions, reported via email on the positive visit of Will and Ann Loewen; and that the schedule for Nutana Park persons to conduct worship services at Sherbrooke and Bethany Manor is complete.

11. Wes Heinrichs, NPMC representative on the Bethany Manor board of directors, and

Ernie Baergen met the Board to discuss matters presented in the recent Bethany Manor report to the supporting congregations. Ernie B. has alerted the Board of Deacons to several matters pertaining to the governance and long term planning of Bethany that need closer attention.

12. Bob Sawatzky, vice chair and Board rep. on the Youth Pastor search committee reported that ads have been placed in Mennonite periodicals and Colleges and that responses are expected soon. Close communication with Youth workers of MCCan. is taking place.

13. A nomination committee of Carry Dueck (chair), Alma Elias, Merv Sorensen, Peter Hooge has been appointed. Please be open to serving in areas this committee feels you can make a great contribution.

14. A drafted resolution for a call to Vern Ratzlaff as Emeritus Pastor was reviewed and accepted as satisfactory for distribution to the congregation.

15. Patrick Preheim closed this rather full meeting with prayer.

On March 9, 2010, twenty members of the Ruth Mission Society met at the church. The guest speaker was Collette Allen, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Crisis Nursery. Collette is a delightful person who obviously loves her job. She calls her job, "her greatest blessing: a dream job." Since Ruth Mission supports the nursery financially, it was good to gain information about the purpose of the Crisis Nursery. It is located at 1020 Victoria Avenue and is a home away from home for children whose families encounter a crisis. It has space for ten children between the ages from infant to twelve years. This service is available free of charge to any family/child in Saskatoon and the surrounding area. Stays can range from a couple of hours to a few days. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Quoting from their brochure: "Our foundation is built on the idea that providing childcare during a crisis will protect a child against potential danger and encourage healthy family growth."

The Crisis Nursery operates with financial assistance from: Ministry of Social Services and from donated time, money and items from various organizations, businesses and individuals. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are issued to the donor at the end of the year.

For more information:
Call 306-242-1458.

Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at:
Crisis Nursery,
1020 Victoria Ave.,
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0Z8

Collette answered many questions from the members after her presentation.

Our hostesses, Irma and Alina served us fresh hot cross buns and coffee.

House for Rent/Lease

August 2010-July/August 2011

Contact Susan or James Funk

Ph: 477-2707

or

Email: jasufunk@gmail.com

My Faith Story

Agnes Peters

It is hard to express in words what my feeling is about my faith. My entire life has been lived with a faith in God's presence and in God's love.

I decided to look up the word 'faith' in the dictionary. It means to believe in a religious doctrine or system of beliefs that especially affects character and conduct. Faithfulness means to be loyal, constant and trustworthy. This I have tried to do.

I know there have been shifts in my interpretation of faith. As a child I believed that God ordained all things, that good deeds would be rewarded

and that prayers would be answered in my favor. This isn't quite the way it is. I believe that God is Love and He works through people to create a better world.

I can't imagine a God creating an earthquake in Haiti to see how many people can be killed, injured or left homeless, but I believe in and have faith in a God who lives in the hearts of people who respond to such a catastrophe with love and compassion.

When I took Nick to the hospital and he was placed in palliative care I came back to the empty house

devastated and alone. Coincidentally or by some miracle, Ron's visa in the U.S. had run out and he had to come back to Canada at precisely the same time. To me it was God's leading so we could carry the load of our loss together. And when Stella Dyck offered to sit with Nick during the night in his remaining few days, I felt God had provided for us again.

I want you to know that I pray for all of you when you're in need and I have faith that God will provide strength or courage or whatever you need.

Prayer Shawl Project

Agnes Peters

Elma Archer, Betty Bailey and I are on the Ruth Mission Society Program Committee for the coming year. Besides organizing the speaker for each month, we were also asked to find a project for the group to participate in. Since we had recently heard about Prayer Shawls we agreed that the knitting of prayer shawls would be for people in our congregation who had the need for the warmth of a shawl and the warmth of a gift from friends. Elma and I both know somebody who expressed appreciation and joy in receiving a shawl.

We know that not everybody knits, but we would like to invite anyone in the congregation who loves knitting to help us. For those who don't knit and would like to participate we are also starting a fund to help pay for the knitting yarn.

We are excited about this project and would like to hear from you.



Agnes Peters shows some of the beautiful shawls that will be given to people who could benefit from a warm "hug"
photo by Jake Nickel

New to the Library

The Book of Negroes

by Lawrence Hill

This is the Canada Reads winner from 2009. Hill has written a riveting account of one woman's life as she is trapped and taken as a slave from western Africa to Georgia, USA and then as she ages and moves first to New York and then to Nova Scotia as a refugee and free woman. If you haven't had a chance to read The Book of Negroes, come and take a look.

A Christian View of Hospitality

by Michele Hershberger

This 1999 book from Herald Press takes a look at hospitality and transformation. A worthwhile read for people formally and informally involved in caring, visitation and fellowship within the church and beyond.

Words for Worship

by Arlene Mark

A resource of prayers, confessions, affirmations and blessings for people involved in leading worship at NPMC and in service within other church's and settings. Look for this book on the shelf at 264.097 M345.

Little Stories for Little Children and More Little Stories for Little Children

by Donna McKee Rhodes.

These collections of stories are written for use during worship. Each story is referenced to a biblical passage and draws out the theme for younger listeners. You will find them at 252.53 R476 in our library's non-fiction section.

Words for Worship 2

by Diane Zaerr Brenneman.

If you are looking for prayers and scripture readings to help lead in worship, this book is for you. You will find it on the shelf at 264.097 B838.

Payback

by Margaret Atwood

- CBC Massey Lectures.

Have you watched the current economic crisis with interest and concern? Margaret Atwood talks about the history and culture of debt in our society with her usual acerbic wit and insight. A timely and interesting book. (306.3 A887)

Take our Moments and our Days - An Anabaptist prayer book.

This collection of morning and evening prayers can help worship planners and people looking for daily devotions. (242.8 I59)

A Simple Christmas

by Alice Chapin.

Alice Chapin takes a look at bringing the attitude of More-with-Less to Christmas. Simple ideas for taking back the joy of Christmas without the excess and stress. Perhaps not a summer read but look for it this Fall at (394.266 C463)



PACKING Good Food BOXES

written by Winona Senner
on behalf of Allan Klassen, Wendy Harder and Patrick Preheim

Boxes of apples, carrots, grapes, radishes and bags of rutabagas, onions and oatmeal were stacked beside long rows of tables while boxes of bananas, kiwi, red peppers and more were being unloaded from trucks.

The young woman in charge of packing Good Food Boxes met us just inside the doors of the Indian-Metis Friendship Centre, current home of packing of the boxes, and within minutes had us preparing the produce for packing.

Good Food Boxes contain fresh fruits, veggies and in some size boxes, a grain. A recent addition to the boxes are snack packs which include carrots, celery, peppers cut up in snack-size portions, a variety

of fruits and a trail mix. Snack packs began at the request of some single seniors but the word spread among university students and deliveries of snack packs are now made to the University.

Packing of the boxes is done by volunteers who, that morning, came in all shapes, sizes, colours, and abilities. Some spoke only in sign language. Some were in wheel chairs and needed help in placing leaflets (recipes and other information) in the boxes. Some looked to be highschool age and some of us were definitely senior citizens. With almost no outward sign of how things “came together”, the produce was readied and in assembly-line style, in less than 3 hours, close to 1000 boxes

were packed and sent out to drop-off points around the city.

Good Food Boxes is a program of CHEP - the Child Hunger and Education Project. It is just one of many programs in Saskatoon which works to help provide basic life necessities. Good Food Boxes are available to anyone. Karen Armstrong, who works with CHEP, encouraged us at a recent Bridge Builder's meeting, to make use of the boxes as the more people who sign up, the more produce they can buy. Local producers are used as much as possible.

The CHEP website, www.chep.org will give you further information on Good Food Boxes as well as on other programs of CHEP.

Japanese Bunka Shishu Embroidery “It’s Like Oil Painting with Thread”

Bunka Embroidery – also known as Bunka Shishu, Japanese Punch Embroidery and Thread Painting, is an art form originated in Japan approximately 100 years ago. It uses a unique combination of punch needle and special silk-like rayon thread (yarn) to create beautiful works of art. When completed, many pictures resemble delicately shaded paintings. In fact, the needle is held and operates in much the same manner as an artist’s brush or pencil. Unlike other forms of needlework there are no knots to tie and mistakes are easily corrected.

With Bunka you are limited to fabric that is 100% rayon, poly gabardine or similar. No natural fibers, no stretch or knitted fabrics. Metallic cloth is especially difficult to work with because the hole left by the

needle remains slightly open and the thread wants to follow the needle to the surface instead of remaining placed in the fabric.

Bunka is a type of embroidery different to anything most people will have done before and for that reason some may find it challenging. However, I’ve discovered that taking lessons from a qualified instructor helps to understand most of the challenges. I enjoyed Bunka once I realized patience, practice and an eye for detail would be required. It is a great hobby and I loved spending many hours creating new pictures.



Doves and Pansies



Muffin and Victor

We REJOICE with

Breath of Life Mennonite Church as they were formally welcomed as a MC Sask congregation at the 2010 Delegate Sessions in Prince Albert

Luke Derksen as he was named the Saskatchewan Youth Representative for the 2011 Youth Assembly

Evelyn Schellenberg and Elsie Neufeldt as they recently celebrated their 80th birthdays



Martha Froese was the happy recipient of a special “House Blessing”. It was attended by Patrick Preheim, Anita Retzlaff, Connie Gutwin, Martha Froese, Walter Wall, El Neufeldt, Helen Siemens, Orv Neufeldt and Lydia Wiens

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

Wes and Elsie Heinrichs on the death on Elsie’s sister, Hilda Sawatzky. Hilda was also an aunt to **Trish St. Onge and Debra Heinrichs**

Elsie and Bruno Neufeldt on the death of their sister-in-law, Ruby Sawatzky

Lorene and Arnie Nickel on the death of their aunt, Dora Bergen

A Year in Germany

Alina Balzer-Peters

I can't believe my year is half over! The trainee midterm conference was a great time to catch up with all the trainees again and it was much needed. I felt a bit left out when everyone was talking about their 'old' placements and looking forward to the 'new' ones, since I'm still here in Enkenbach. And to be honest I'm very glad that I'm sticking around a) so I don't have to drag my junk around Germany and b) because 6 months is the point where you JUST begin to meet people. So I'm lucky because I now have 6 more months to get my act together, make great friendships and just live it up.

So from this weekend come our reflections of the last six months:

- Attitude is everything. When nothing looks fun you won't have fun. But when you tell yourself even mopping the floor is gonna be a good time it WILL be a good time.
- You gotta put yourself out there and things will fall into place
- Get over yourself. Pride is not an option when communicating in a second language. Looking stupid will happen everyday and you better get used to it. Also you're not anyone's priority so don't expect them to know about your life all the time.

• Give it to God. I can't say how many times I've been in the middle of a travel mishap ready to freak out because that's what I do when things don't go as planned – and then just said 'Hey God, you got me, right?' and then that anxious puking feeling disappeared I had the pleasure of going Schlittschuhlaufen (skating). My friend's sister and her husband from Uruguay were here and they thought he should learn to skate. So 15 of us

from the church piled into two vans and made our way to Zweibrücken to a skating rink. Now what I found most humorous was that Germans don't know much about skates. So when I went to rent a pair of skates they handed me a pair of blue plastic boots with hockey blades sharpened like figure skates. I saw that some people in my group had



hockey blades and others had figure skating blades. I kindly asked if they had other skates with a different blade since I've never used hockey skates



You Gotta Love That Chocolate! Schlittschuhlaufen in Germany photos compliments of Alina Balzer-Peters

in my life. The guy behind the counter gave me an odd look and said 'No those are just skates'. Okaayy. I felt SO Canadian on the ice because I walked out with ease, did a few laps and stopped on a dime. Others were

proficient but had nowhere near the experience of most Canadians. And the poor man from Uruguay had a very tough time of it. What I also found funny was the warmth factor. I only wore a bunnyhug and jeans. The Germans were aghast that in the chilly temperature of the rink I would do so. But as they quickly learned after a few laps around the rink, jackets are not necessary in an indoor arena.

One of my ladies had her home broken into. Terrible. She's fine though and making a good time of it. But the town is just reeling. It was Frau Funny who's an 83 year old woman! Can I repeat that, an 83 year old woman! It broke my heart when I heard the news that this happened to her of all people in this town. She was robbed, tied up

and gagged and her neighbours upstairs were also robbed. I can't express how unnerving it is to think that someone just did that to her! And seemingly without probable cause as she isn't a rich woman and is 83 years old! The most striking thing though is that she

could talk about it as it was in the past. She recounted her side and had the air that everything will be okay now. She also doesn't understand why she would be a target – but is moving past it. I was amazed at how she's just going along. She moved back into her house 4 days afterward and began cleaning the mess the robbers left behind.

As some of you know Germany was covered in snow this winter. They ran out of salt for their streets.

Personally I loved it. The temperature stayed at a mild -3C and everywhere had a white blanket on top. I could spend most of the day walking outside with rosy cheeks and a cold nose. They think I'm crazy. Snow does make things a little inconvenient. I had to re-route my running path due to poor shoveling of sidewalks. And my bike doesn't really like the snow. Tuesdays are the days that I have to bike. This year I said I would bike rain or shine. I wanted to prove to myself that biking isn't that bad and totally possible all year round. And it is. Just not with my bike. I actually have two bikes. The first one is a purple mountain bike whose gears don't shift. The other is a green lady's bike. I have to pedal backwards to brake and it only has 6 gears. Most of the year I've been riding the green bike because the purple bike is just a mess and deemed by a man in church to 'be a death sentence if used'. Maybe an over-exaggeration. BUT the light on my green bike broke and in Germany you can be fined for not riding with a light after dark. Back to the purple bike it was and on the snowiest day ever. Biking through piles of snow is not fun. Biking down snow and ice covered hills is not possible. Sometimes I had to walk because it just wasn't possible to bike through the drifts people left behind. I'm glad for the workout but I'm learning a lot about bikes. I've learned the importance of having a bike that is the correct size, how to temporarily fix gears, that headlamps are a great alternative to a bike light. But I'm also very glad that next week the rain will get rid of all the snow to make it easier to bike. If only it would snow everyday and clear on Tuesdays.

Upcoming Events & Important Notes

April 10
Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day
10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Zoar Mennonite Church, Langham
All women invited
Registration 10:00 a.m.
Bring a sack lunch

April 14
MEDA Dessert Night
7:00 p.m.
Riverside Country Club
Faith & Community Recognition for:
Esther Patkau and Henry Hamm
Tickets: ph: 384-6044

April 16
Saskatoon Children's Choir
"Here's to Song"
Third Avenue United Church
7:30 p.m.

April 17
A Buncha Guys Spring Concert
Wildwood Mennonite Church
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$5

April 18
NPMC Youth Fundraiser
Sausage on a Bun & Silent Auction after the 11 a.m. worship service
To donate silent auction items
Contact: Wendy or a member of the youth group

April 24
Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra Canadiana Spring Show
Broadway Theatre
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$12

May 1
MCSask Touring Mission Fest to Grace Mennonite & Peace Mennonite Churches in Regina And Aberdeen Mennonite Church
Cost: \$50
See forms on table under mailboxes

May 6
Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op Dinner & Auction
Saskatoon Farmer's Market
Tickets: ph: 665-3889

June 11-12
MCC Sask Relief Sale & Auction
Interested in volunteering?
Contact Armin & Edith Krahn
Ph: 384-1206
Email: eakrahn@sasktel.net

“Y” WALK

Wendy Harder

Music & Serving God Go Hand in Hand

Where do you go if you don't have a place to go or are hungry?

The youth saw first hand where some people go to meet their basic needs. Sunday evenings at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter provide food and entertainment for people that come off the street. The youth shared their talents in a coffee house style of music and entertainment. It took courage to get up in front of an unfamiliar environment but the youth did a good job. We performed a skit that included the prayer - “Now I lay me down to sleep...” The youth noticed that one man said the prayer along with Jenae as she was repeating it in the skit. Three of the youth helped dish up the food and do the prep work in the kitchen. One youth commented that it was really sad that some people had hardly anything when we have so much.

It was a positive experience and it opened our eyes to how other people live. If there are other musical groups that are interested in sharing their gifts, call Major Nancy Virtue at 242-6833.

Green Jello Night

You may have noticed green jello in the parking lot on one of the Sundays in March. Green Jello Night is an annual event for the Junior Youth around St. Patrick's Day. Each event that the youth do involves green jello in some way. Eating it, making towers out of it, and bobbing for candy in green jello and whip cream are some of the events. If laughter is good medicine, we all got a healthy dose of it on that night.

Bobbing for candy in green jello and whip cream

Ariana Faul, Wendy Harder, Kelsi Siemens, Jenae Funk, Lauren Hooge, Kristian St. Onge, Jeremy Epp, and Josef Beug getting into the green stuff

photos by Jeff Olfert

