



# Cross Walk



*Thank You*  
Wendy  
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## Lighting Our Way



Wendy Harder

### Being Vulnerable

When you open yourself up to someone, there is an area of vulnerability exchanged. It is a commitment to walk alongside, to be present, to be real. In our age of "lack of privacy" due to camera phones and texting, sometimes we are not sure what is safe to share or what will be posted on line. So we become anxious and make up privacy laws. Where does that leave the church? I think we as a church try strive for ways of drawing people together to be real with each other. We create a space to help others feel accepted, to let down their guard. A few examples: sharing our joys and concerns, regular potlucks, and the mentor program.

One of the times when I am the most open is when I am with my kids. They give me joy, make me laugh, and allow me to be myself. I expect the same from them. Being a pastor is a privileged position into a spiritual depth that is not shared very easily by most people. It allows us to go deeper and to ask different questions. These are holy moments. I have had many holy moments these past years at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, many in unexpected places.

One memory that I will take with me was when I was sitting with a high school student who was struggling. She had been to counseling and so I was really wondering what I could say that would make a difference. As I sat and said a silent prayer, I sensed the presence of God telling me to just sit, I didn't need to say anything, just sit. So we sat there in silence, I did not even ask any questions (which my kids tell me that I have a reputation of doing). Then she started to open up, not lots but enough of a crack. She told me that what impressed her the most was that I did not strive to fill the silence with noise or to give her advice or to try and fix her. I never did get to bottom of what was bothering her but I also knew that maybe I was not going to be that person that she shared her whole story with. Maybe I was the one who planted a seed of God's love and then someone else was going to go the rest of the journey.

Thank you for walking this journey with me, for opening yourselves up to me and allowing me to be myself with you. I found this prayer that eloquently speaks it for me.

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# Board Report

Ernie Epp



## Nutana Park Mennonite Church

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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.*

**There will be no publication during the summer months. Articles for the next Cross Walk are due on September 19**

**Have a safe & happy summer!**

The NPMC Board of Deacons met on May 17, the 3rd Monday of the month. This is the day of each month that this group meets in the service of Christian leadership for the Nutana Park Mennonite Church congregation. My impression is that most persons who choose NPMC as their church of worship are able to enjoy and appreciate a good service every Sunday, and yet seldom consider how much effort goes into maintaining a viable congregation and church. Deacons the congregation has chosen, constantly seek to lead in ways that promote the mission of this church. We need to be grateful and thankful for the leadership services they provide.

I make mention of their services because five of them will be finishing their terms this year, with new deacons to be elected at our semi-annual meeting on May 30. We need to express our gratitude for these faithful servants of God and wish them well in their continued walk of faith. Our nominating committee has diligently scanned this congregation for persons to fill the positions now opening, and with confidence I can report that willing persons have agreed to serve in each for the coming terms. The Holy Spirit truly moves among us, and there are always those who respond to its call. May they too feel as blessed in this service, as those feel who are ending theirs.

The May 17 meeting agenda was full and meaningful. It began with Denelda leading in meditation about how life changes for all of us at different stages. With purpose and thoughtfulness we need to consider what is best for ourselves and our families as circumstances change. Some come to have more time available and new priorities need to be established. It's really kind of 'reinventing' who we are and what we are all about. This is a message for our congregation too. We do need to reflect seriously on circumstances that change around us and discern what

is best. We for example, are seeking a new Youth Leader. Will our choice be good? We also require changes to our church building and grounds. Will we make the right choices and support them fully? I trust we will.

Business from the previous meeting included further attention to the Pastor Emeritus matter. The Annual Meeting turned this back to the Board for continued consideration. The decision is to not present a specific Emeritus resolution, for this could generate a fair amount of dissension within the congregation. Instead the Board will present its unanimous and supportive position on the continued involvement of its own and other retired pastors in serving this congregation, at the semi-annual meeting.

Patrick and Patty were on a holiday visit to family in the US, so only Anita, Wendy and Lynn reported. According to them all is going well. Wendy of course, is looking forward to the big change of leaving her work with youth here and going on to new possibilities--still not fully realized. Lynn feels his year as music minister has gone well, and plans to involve more of the many talented musicians in our congregation in future music services. The choir has served well, and will be in recess until next fall. Anita always has a full work schedule, but feels it to be meaningful and rewarding. She asked that NPMC support a Child Hunger and Education Program fundraiser which the Board readily approved.

Our pastoral team recently attended a MCSask. Pastors' Gathering about 'cohabiting couples'. We are living in a newer age and many persons choose to cohabit. And this practise is not limited to the younger set only. It is also quite apparent among much older persons who choose this life style over a permanent marriage decision.

Ross, treasurer, reported a positive balance and remains most impressed by the financial generosity of this congregation. RJC asked for a \$400 increase in church giving from all MCSask. Churches to balance this

year's budget. This was approved. Carl Wiens, building and grounds, will continue working on improving the parking area next to the church, as well as on improving the foyer area. More will be reported at the May 30 meeting. Allan, conference deacon, mentioned that we now have 5 persons willing to attend the Menn. Church Canada annual meeting in Calgary. We need to continue participation in our national Mennonite Church structure. Our mission is much broader than NPMC only. Lorene, music deacon, will be arranging for the purchase of approximately 180 Sing the Story hymn books to complement our current congregational hymn singing books. Daryl, fellowship deacon, said

we have two more potlucks before summer and he wants to do a full inventory of kitchen supplies before his term ends.

Bob, vice chair, let us know that the Youth Pastor search is going well, but that one person the committee felt ready to present to the congregation chose to withdraw his application. He still believes this position will be filled by August when Wendy leaves.

Anita closed this meeting with a prayer of gratitude and continued to petition for spiritual leading in all areas of our church ministry. The need is great and only with the sustaining help of the God we believe in, can we feel confident that we are fulfilling our mission as a community of faith.

## Lighting Our Way - Being Vulnerable

*continued from page 1*

The Journey  
Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave unguided:  
Thank you for those whose lives,  
by word, deed and example,  
have become a signpost for me.

Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave me in solitary joy:  
Thank you for those whose lives have overflowed  
to mingle with mine in the celebration  
of your love.

Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave me uncomforted:  
Thank you for those who, in love and compassion,  
have met me in my brokenness and  
brought healing.

Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave me unsheltered:  
Thank you for those who, with warmth  
and generosity,

have made their lives places of 'home'  
for me.

Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave me  
unchallenged:  
Thank you for those whose words and  
questions  
have stretched me and sent me out to  
search for you.

Lord Christ,  
I know not where this journey will lead,  
but you do not leave me to walk alone:  
Thank you for those who, in the  
sharing of their lives,  
Have become my companions on the  
way.

Lord Christ,  
We know not where this journey will lead,  
but it is enough that you are its  
beginning and its end,  
and that you travel with us.

by Pat Bennet (Bare feet and  
Buttercups by Ruth Burgess)

## Ruth Mission Society

Marg Krause

On Tuesday, May 11, twenty-four members attended the Ruth Mission Society meeting. The guest speaker was Lloyd Ratzlaff, a former pastor at our church. Lloyd teaches writing classes for seniors. He read us stories written by his students, which were published in books. He also read one of his own stories to us, describing the small house he called home.

Lloyd also explained the difference between writing a life story or autobiography to writing a memoir. A life story needs to be researched so that it can be written chronologically, while you can just sit down and write a memoir. In fact he said that we should all be writing our memoirs. We owe it to our children and grandchildren.

Lloyd has a wonderful way with words. I think I can safely say that his presentation was enjoyed by all.

## CHEP

### Child Hunger & Education Program

Anita Retzlaff

CHEP runs many programs in our city including the Good Food Box, nutrition support for infants, children and teens, community gardening, Collective Kitchens, the Station 20 project and other community-building initiatives.

Karen Archibald will speak to us on Sunday morning September 19 followed by a potluck, at which time we can donate to the work of CHEP.

# MDS Responds to Disaster in Ramona, California

Peter & Lydia Schroeder

The "Witch Fire" began near Ramona (a town north-east of San Diego) in an area close to Witch Creek on October 21, 2007. In three days it had burned approximately 195,000 acres and destroyed 640 homes, damaged 250 homes and injured 12 firefighters. Several days later the fire merged with another fire and that is when the largest mandatory evacuation in U. S history took place. Two families burnt to death in their cars, trying to flee the fires.

**Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Response:** The San Diego Foundation asked MDS to set up a temporary campsite in Ramona partnering with the Community Recovery Team to assist homeowners that needed help to rebuild their homes. MDS only provides volunteer labour to home owners that are uninsured, under-insured, the disabled and to the elderly who have been recommended by case workers, working together with partners such as the Red Cross and/or Salvation Army to assist with the funding.

When Peter and I arrived in Ramona, MDS had completed a house for an elderly couple and another two houses were in progress. These are some of the questions that people frequently ask us.

**Why did it take so long for MDS to respond?** Since the fires, the regulations to rebuild and get building permits have become very strict to almost impossible. In many cases it takes 1 to 1 ½ years to get a building permit. Only 30% of the homeowners whose houses were destroyed have rebuilt. The houses that MDS is building in Ramona area were homeowners who owned their land and wanted to stay in this area, but needed assistance. Many of the homes that were destroyed were located in the valleys and the mountainsides where firefighters had difficulty getting to the location.

**Are the houses that were built since the fires equipped for another such disaster?** The exterior of the houses are built with fire retardant materials such as hardiplank



top: Lydia presenting a wall hanging on behalf of MDS to Mr. James at the house dedication

bottom: Mr. Chris and Peter visiting at the MDS Centre



photos compliments of Lydia Schroeder

siding and fireproof shingles. Inside the houses are sprinkler systems and on each yard there are two very large water tanks for fire fighters to use.

**Why do these homeowners want to live where there are always threats of wild fires?** The only

answer Peter and I could come up with is the fact that the area is so beautiful, so peaceful; words cannot describe the magnificence of the terrain. One cannot forget the orchards and all the wild fruit that grows so abundantly in the area. Why would you not want to live there?

One of our clients, Mr. Chris, moved to the mountainside after serving in the Vietnam War. He is a woodcutter and woodcarving artist. (I thought you only read about such people in storybooks!) Mr. Chris explained to us about himself in this way. "I live 'one with the mountain' and immerse myself in the wonders of the tall trees and

mother earth in which they grow. Being a licensed timber operator, I've realized the wonderful art forms that God gave us naturally. I seek them out and enhance them with a little cutting, manipulation and polishing, then share the beauty for others to see." He was extremely grateful to MDS for helping him. Like most of the clients, they live in old campers or motor homes that have been abandoned by others since the fires in 2007. Mr. Chris called Peter before we left. He thanked the Mennonites for caring. He was moved to tears by the generosity of the help he received. He said, "**many churches just talk about the end of life's journey, but I have discovered that Mennonites live the journey to the end.**"

When we left Ramona in the beginning of April, we had completed and dedicated Mr. James' house. Mr. Chris' house is still a work in progress. Again Peter and I had a wonderful experience volunteering with MDS in the Ramona area and Mr. Chris' house is now being completed by an MDS RV group.

# A Year in Germany

Alina Balzer-Peters

## My Viennese Adventure

So in the middle of April my friend and I went to Vienna. I'd been looking forward to this trip for the longest time because Vienna is like one of the music capitals of the world. So many of the greats have lived there. Mozart, Schubert, Strauss, Beethoven...and that doesn't even cover it. And I'd heard it was also really beautiful. So I arrived Thursday afternoon after a short flight from Frankfurt where I didn't take RyanAir (the cheapest planes EVER) and instead took AirBerlin which gave me a FREE sandwich. It was the best flight I've had here so far – probably because I didn't pay only 5 Euros to take it.

Friday we hit the town. We walked a lot. We started at Karlskirche and made our way into the city centre to Stephansdom, which is this monstrous old church. It's really beautiful and marks the centre of Vienna.

Then we made a good loop around the city, passing the Hapsburg Palace, National Gallery and walking through the Burg Garten. We then made our way to the Rathaus (city hall) where we found ourselves in the middle of a Bavarian Fest. We

were surrounded by lederhosen, dirndls, polka music, pretzels, wurst and beer. It was hilarious and we thought we were pretty lucky to find ourselves in that.



Alina is standing by Mozart's apartment in Vienna

photos compliments of Alina Balzer-Peters

Then we decided to visit Mozart Haus. Which was also awesome. There's one apartment in Vienna that they know Mozart lived in when he was working in Vienna. They've made it into a great museum that takes you through his music and some of his life.

I was determined to watch an opera in Vienna because the standing room is super cheap.

Little did I know HOW cheap it was. We paid 4 Euros, stood in line for about an hour and a half to get into one of the best opera houses in the world. I was SO excited. We got to see Verdi's Rigoletto and it was absolutely amazing. I hardly believe that I was lucky enough to see such a spectacular performance. If I lived in Vienna I would go every weekend I'm sure. But I can tell you that standing for 3 hours is exhausting.

Saturday we started at the city flea market looking through all the vendors, food stands, clothing stands. It was fantastic; I love little finds like that. It reminded me so much of being home and going to the Farmer's Market Saturday mornings with my dad – except that Saskatoon's is kinda smaller. Then we made our way to the Hundertwasser Haus, a really cool apartment building created by artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

We wanted to take in at least one museum while there and we decided the Museum of Natural History would be pretty cool. To round off the early part of the day we found a cafe and enjoyed Sacher Torte and coffee, a Viennese specialty.

Sunday we enjoyed the sights of Schönbrunn Palace, the

# A Year in Germany

Alina Balzer-Peters

famous summer home of the Hapsburg family. It's a beautiful palace with a huge garden. We did the whole thing including a tour of the palace inside and we walked through the entire garden.

Monday we got up for our last day in town. With our packs on we headed to the Stadts Park. This is just a really pretty area with tons of memorials to famous composers including the famous Strauss statue. We made sure to walk and see all of them. Then we headed back to the Danube to enjoy gelato on the banks of the river before we departed. Unfortunately I wasn't lucky enough to follow my plans.

Most of you probably heard about a volcano erupting in Iceland and halting all air traffic in Europe. Well during my time in Vienna I hadn't. So you can imagine my surprise when I show up to the check-in desk wanting to go to Frankfurt and them telling me that nothing was flying into Frankfurt. Well that kinda messed up my schedule! I quickly decided against staying for 2-3 days because I didn't know if those

days would extend themselves to 5 or 6. And as much as I love Vienna it's not very nice on your pocket book.



morning I boarded my train at 6:42am and after 11 hours of travel found myself back home in my apartment VERY tired, but happy.

I find myself becoming closer and closer with the people I visit, the people I know in the community and with Germany. But my heart is really longing for home, for my family and friends and for a fresh start at school. I think I look everyday at my calendar at what is coming in the next 4 months and I'm counting it down. I'm looking at what I have planned and realizing how short a year is, how long a year is and how time falls through my fingers.

top: The statue of Beethoven  
bottom: Alina is enjoying the beautiful manicured gardens at the Schonbrunn Palace

photos compliments of Alina Balzer-Peters

After standing in line for about an hour I got through to a representative and booked a train ticket for the next day home. I then spent another night at the hostel relieved that they still had room because there were a lot of people stuck in Vienna. Then Tuesday

# Library News - New to the Library

Susan Ens-Funk

**Some of the new titles to the library are refreshed copies of classic books.**

**In this category are:**

**A Tree is Nice**  
by Janice May Udry

**Fredrick, Swimmy and It's Mine**  
by Leo Lionni

**Bread and Jam for Frances, Bedtime for Frances, Best Friends for Frances and A Bargain for Frances**  
by Russell Hoban

**Williams' Doll**  
by Charlotte Zolotow

**Alexander's Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**  
by Judith Voirst

**Big Sarah's Little Boots**  
by Paulette Bourgeois

**When Bad Things Happen to Good People**  
by Harold S. Kushner.

**In addition some brand new titles to the library include:**

**ish**  
by Peter H. Reynolds  
Ramon loves to draw but he gets concerned when his brother says his pictures don't look right and he loses heart. His little sister comes to the rescue. A must read picture book for perfectionists.

**Yesterday Morning**

by Diana Athill.  
This memoir chronicles the early life of Diana Athill in England. A wicked wit and clear writing style make this a terrific read.

**Somewhere towards the End**  
by Diana Athill.

A reflection on what it is like to get old by a female writer in her late 80's. An intelligent and well-written reflection on life.

**Life After Loss**

by Bob Deits.  
A resource book for people suffering loss and grief. This book is full of practical advice and exercises to assist readers in finding positive ways to put together a life which is different from before but remains meaningful.

**Dictionary of Biblical Imagery**

edited by Leland Ryken, James Wilhoit and Tremper Longham III. The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is a reference work dedicated to exploring the images, symbols, motifs, metaphors and patterns found in the Bible. A dictionary which can aid understanding when contemplating, studying and enjoying reading the Bible.

# "Y" WALK Thank You Wendy!

Hedie Borne

There is a time for everything under heaven—a time for beginning and a time for ending. Each brings it's own set of emotions. A beginning involves the anticipation of something new, exciting and sometimes even a little scary. Bringing something to a close evokes different emotions. We now have a history and emotional ties with a group of people. How do we leave this and move on? We start by taking time to celebrate the memories, the friendships, the experiences, and also the spiritual and emotional growth.

We are thankful for how Wendy was able to relate to the youth. She motivated them to dig deeper and find ways to make their faith a relevant part of everyday life. She let them know that having fun in life was also part of God's plan.

The following photos portray some of the activities that Wendy organized for the youth in her role as Youth Pastor.

**Wendy, thanks for a job well done! We will miss you.**

*Stating at the Top:  
Cutting bagels for lunch at "The Bridge"  
Annual Menno Run  
Sunday morning worship led by the youth*

*photos courtesy of Wendy Harder*



*Stating at the Top:  
The NPMC Worship Team  
Mentorship Program  
Progressive supper  
Green Jello Night  
Senior High Retreat*

*photos courtesy of Wendy Harder*



## Art in the Lounge

### Memories by Wayne Dueck

The present display in the lounge consists of shadow boxes containing memorabilia of Wayne Dueck's grandparents, Johann & Anna (Adrian) Dueck. You will see a variety of items from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century such as clothing, farm tools, camera equipment, books, photos, etc.

This photo was taken on January 14, 1918 at Johann & Anna Dueck's 25th wedding anniversary. The shadow box contains Anna's wedding shawl worn in 1983 and Johann's wool scarf.

## Church Family News

We **REJOICE** with

**Erna Neufeld, Wally Nickel and Jake Nickel** as they celebrated their 80th birthdays

**Lisa Doepker & Andrew Neufeldt** on the arrival of their daughter, Brielle Eileen. Proud grandparents are Margaret & Bob Neufeldt and Ruth Driedger.

**Curtis Wiens** as he was baptized in his home congregation of Herschel. He took his catechism at NPMC and is active in the Young Adult Bible Study.

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

**Helen Ambler** on the death of Vern Ambler, father to her children, Glenn and Colleen

# Upcoming Events & Important Notes

**May 30**  
Semi-Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
Following the noon Potluck

**June 6**  
House of Doc Concert  
4:00 pm  
Shekinah Retreat Centre  
Amphitheatre  
Tickets: \$25  
945-4929  
office@shekinahretreatcentre.org

**June 13**  
Wendy's Farewell  
Sunday morning worship  
Potluck & program

**June 25, 26**  
RJC musical "Oliver"  
7:30 pm  
Tickets: \$15  
232-4222  
office@rjc.sk.ca

**June 29-July 3**  
MCCanada Assembly  
2010  
Ambrose University College  
Calgary, AB

**June 11, 12**  
MCC Sask Relief Sale & Auction

#### Friday:

5:00-7:00 pm: The Market is open  
5:30-7:00 pm: Supper  
5:30-7:00 pm: Silent Auction  
7:30 pm: Concert with  
"Small Town City"  
Bruce Guenther,  
Program Coordinator  
MCC Haiti report  
10:00 pm: Sing, dance and  
celebrate with the  
"Mount Royals"

#### Saturday:

7:30-9:30 am: Breakfast  
8:00 am: Menno Mile  
9:00 am: The Market opens  
9:30-12:00 am: Kids Corner  
9:30-12:30 am: Workshops  
9:45 am: Auction begins  
10:00 am: Food Booths open