



# LIGHTING Our Way - ANITA RETZLAFF

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**Good Hosts of God's Grace**

*"Once we have become poor, we can be a good host. It is indeed the paradox of hospitality that poverty makes a good host. We can only perceive the stranger as an enemy as long as we have something to defend. But when we say, "Please enter—my house is your house, my joy is your joy, my sadness is your sadness, and my life is your life," we have nothing to defend, since we have nothing to lose but all to give."*

Henri Nouwen

We are a congregation that has stumbled into a particular kind of poverty. The faithful generation that built this church, organized its programming for over 40 years and supported the work of the larger church in myriad ways is losing its vigor. This is not a financial poverty but rather an experience of being poor in terms of diminished vitality and mobility. A generation is passing away.

That may sound harsh to some. This is the part of the cycle of life that we don't like to talk about, yet it is not necessarily bad news. Henri Nouwen

makes the point that when we are totally open to sharing all that we have, we become what God truly hopes we can become; hospitable and loving without boundaries. When we begin to live with a diminished need to hold onto stuff or are able to let go of the notion that we are invincible, we are suddenly able to be present for others with new receptivity. Most experiences of loss and vulnerability change us in this way.

Throughout Lent especially, we can share our homes, our joys, our sadness and our very lives less guarded and with defenses lowered. When we do not have to prop up the appearance of immortality there is the openness, even the need, to share from deep reservoirs of hope and joy – despite life's limitations. These are not necessarily easy times and transitions but the sharing from the core of one's poverty/vulnerability opens another world of intimate connections: with each other and with God.

Lent encourages self-reflection and contemplation on the goodness of God. We pray for open hearts as we walk through these Forty Days of preparation and seek to be good hosts of God's grace.

# BOARD Report

- MITCH DAHL



## Cross Walk

**Nutana Park  
Mennonite Church**

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### Cross Walk Committee

Hedie Borne - editor  
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rh.borne@sasktel.net  
Lynda Derksen - design

*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  
April 17th**

On March 21, the NPMC Board gathered for our monthly meeting. Wayne Dueck opened the meeting with a reflection reading from "O Ye Jigs and Juleps" by 12 year old Virginia Cary Hudson. This 1904 collection of her writing of life and activities at the turn of the century was published in the early 60's. The book sold over a million copies in 1963-64. Wayne read from an original copy he bought for 60 cents. These meditations are provided by various board members throughout the year, and offer a valuable time of reflection and fellowship for board members.

Ross Borne presented the 2011 financial statements to the end of February indicating a slight shortfall through the first month of 2011. This is not an unusual pattern in the annual finances of the church. The ongoing contributions of the membership are appreciated. The church property improvement project fundraising response continues to be impressive.

The pastoral team continues to be very busy, both in the church and in the community. Patrick and Anita continue to do a great job balancing in church accessibility and community visitation. Either Patrick or Anita are in the church Monday through Friday.

Membership transfers –Martha Ens, Armin Krahn, and Edith Krahn were welcomed as NPMC members.

Allan Klassen reported that the MC Sask conference in North Battleford was a vibrant and well attended gathering. The theme: Path shared with Aborigines, provided an excellent framework for discussion and reflection. Next year's conference will be at the end of February 2012 at Shekinah.

The church property improvement project is moving forward efficiently and effectively as building plans and permits are being put in place with construction initiating ASAP. The board applauds the fundraising efforts of the membership. We'll keep you posted.

Just a reminder, we are again nearing that time of year when several board members will have completed their service on the board. The nominations committee will be working to fill these open positions. Please offer your consideration if they tap you on the shoulder. Membership involvement on the board is a key component to the health of our church activities and administration.

## FAITH, Film & Fiction - PATTY FRIESEN

**Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay was an enjoyable book group choice, taking us to France.

**Bird Cloud** by Annie Proulx is a memoir of the Canadian born novelist's home renovation project in Wyoming and her relationship to the land.

**Were You Born on the Wrong Continent** by Thomas Goeghagen is an American labour lawyer's perspective on the success of European economies and strong labour laws.

**True Grit** - Jeff Bridges is just as amazing in this film as in Crazy Heart.

**Waiting for Superman** is a documentary on the sad state of the American education system.

**The Wire** is not for family viewing but I liked the inside look of ghetto life and the drug trade.



# RUTH MISSION Society

By Marg Krause

**Left:** Turkey's ancient city of Ephesus where Paul lived and preached.

On March 08, twenty members attended the meeting of the Ruth Mission Society. The guest speaker was Helen Siemens. Helen is the Office Administrator of the Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Helen and her husband John enjoyed a trip to countries in the Mediterranean area. Using a slide show, she took us on a very interesting tour. She started by showing us their tour route with the use of a map of the area.

They spent five days touring Rome on their own. Some highlights were the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. They took a guided tour to the Vatican where they saw many impressive museums filled with the artwork by artists such as Michelangelo, Raphael and others. A highlight was the Sistine Chapel, a masterpiece of art.

From there they joined a twelve-day cruise. Their first stop was Naples where they took a bus to the ancient city of Pompeii - one of the most famous archeological sites in the world. When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D, Pompeii was buried by volcanic ash. It was fascinating how people lived in that time.

They visited five Greek Islands. The first one was Santori where they traveled up steep cobblestone streets on donkeys. The highlight on the

Island of Rhodes was the city of Lindos and the acropolis. They made a stop on the beautiful islands of Mykonos and Corfu, which are situated in the turquoise waters of the Aegean and Adriatic Seas. On Katakolon, they rode the bus to the ancient site of Olympus, where the first Olympic Games took place, starting in 776 B.C. The marble starting and finishing lines were still in existence. They saw the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, which is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In Turkey they went to the ancient city of Ephesus and saw where Paul lived and preached.

In Athens, the highlights were the acropolis - an impressive archaeological site, and ancient Corinth, where they saw the places where Paul visited and preached.

When they neared Croatia, they saw the majestic sun rise over the mountains in the distance. They spent the day touring the cities of Split and Trogier and enjoyed a lovely sunset in the evening.

In Venice they experienced flooding and found it was a bit of a puzzle to find their way back to the hotel. From there they rode the train back to Rome and flew home.

It was a wonderful and memorable trip for them. We enjoyed the armchair travel.

# Art in the LOUNGE



**Above:** Pottery by Caroline Funk

## Finding My Center in Pottery – Carolene Funk

I have enjoyed a variety of crafts as far back as I can remember. My latest interest is in pottery with my first class being handbuilding with clay in the spring of 1995. In the spring of 2006 I signed up for my first class at the Saskatoon Potters Guild, as my real interest was using a pottery wheel. I have been using a wheel ever since, with a class or on my own.

There are many aspects of pottery that I love. One that I did not anticipate was the level of concentration and connectedness to the clay you need to feel. It is a time of leaving all of your other thoughts behind and focusing on the lump of clay in your hands. I often say a prayer as I create a vessel for those who will use it. Potting is a reminder to me of how similar my life is to a body of clay. When my clay is not centered it feels out of control and could fly off the wheel at any moment just like when God is not the center of my life.

I don't have a specific style or color palette that I repeat on my pieces. There are always new things I want to try and create. It is a long process from start to finish but very rewarding. Once the final glaze has been fired it feels like Christmas, you never know exactly what the outcome will be and there are often many great surprises!





# Art in the LOUNGE

## **In the Potter's Hand** – Wendy Harder

I have always appreciated using pottery dishes and even chose a pottery set instead of getting good china dishes. In conversation with Carolene Funk one day, she said that she went to a pottery class with the Saskatoon Potter's Guild. So I decided to give it a try and I loved it. You start out with a lump of clay and with some skill and creativity, something emerges. Sometimes I have an idea in mind of what I want to make, but most times the clay shapes itself. It has taught me patience and concentration, as one needs to apply just the right amount of pressure. It has also taught me that in order to shape a piece one needs to give direction to the clay, but then also pull back at the right time before it becomes deformed. The most exciting time for me is seeing the transformation after it has been glazed. An ordinary piece of pottery can become just exquisite as the glazes blend together and some areas take on more glaze than others. I think we all have a creative side to us and it just takes discovering the right medium to bring it out.

**Above:** Pottery by Wendy Harder

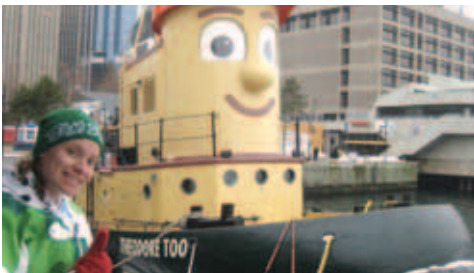


# Canada WINTER GAMES

**Right:** Sask. Long Track Speed Skating Team

**Below:** Hillary taking time to enjoy the Halifax harbour

**Bottom:** Hillary in one of her races



## Long Track Speed Skating

Hillary Fast is currently in grade 12 and attending Rosthern Junior College. She has recently returned from the Canada Winter Games in Halifax. The Winter Games are held once every four years, hosting some of the top young athletes in the country. She represented Team Saskatchewan, along with three other females and four male teammates, in the sport of long track speed skating. The outdoor oval in Halifax was constructed just for the games and became a huge hit for many Haligonians. Some hope to keep it as a permanent facility, while others think their taxes could be put to better use! During some public skating hours there were more than 1000 people enjoying the new venue, which at times required police officers to conduct crowd control. Once the games began however, the only people allowed on the fast, refrigerated ice were the top young long track speed skaters in the country. Hillary has been speed skating for nine years, however the past two winters she has been attending RJC and yet kept

her dream of competing at the Canada Winter Games alive. She qualified as the top Saskatchewan female long tracker, despite her inability to train on ice with the absence of an oval on campus. She was able to qualify with her solid technique, overall fitness, sheer determination and a few training hours on the oval in Saskatoon when she could fit it into her busy schedule. Hillary attended the Opening Ceremony and competed in nine races which included individual distances of 100m (combined time of three races), 500m (combined time of two races), 1000m, 1500m (televised live on TSN), 3000m and the Team Pursuit. Her goal for the Games was to achieve personal best outdoor times in all distances, which she did. Despite the fact that she did not reach the podium, the calibre of the athletes at these games puts you in good company. A handful of these participants will be at the next Olympic Winter Games in Russia. She came home with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime!



# Earthkeeper's CORNER

- DAVID WEILER-THIESSEN

**Left:** Raising the tower  
**Below:** Preparing the foundation for the wind turbine  
**Bottom:** WindTurbine

## Harnessing the Wind

In 2010 we installed a wind turbine on our acreage, to help generate some of the electricity that we use in our house. The turbine we installed has a maximum rated output of 3.5 kW. The turbine was purchased from a local firm in Saskatoon, that is currently manufacturing and selling 1.3 kW and 3.5 kW wind turbines, and inverters which can be used in wind or solar power applications. We received a grant from the Saskatchewan Research Council to offset a portion of the cost of purchasing and installing the wind turbine. We are participating in the Net Meeting program offered through Sask Power. As a part of that program, our wind turbine is connected to the grid via a passive connection within the electrical panel in our house. Any excess power that we generate, is dumped out onto the grid, and through the use of a two-way meter, we accumulate credits which offset any power that we use from the grid.

Our turbine has been operational since the third week of October of 2010. In the short time that it is has been in use, we are seeing some reduction in the amount of power that we use directly from Sask Power. Comparing to previous years, we found that with our house would consume

about 900 kWh of power per month in winter months. This past winter, we are seeing our consumption from the grid dropping to about 700 kWh per month, with the difference being made up by the wind turbine.

A side effect of having an operating wind turbine is that we are more in tuned to when the wind is blowing, how strongly it blows, and from which directions it blows. I used to think that the wind tended to blow from the north or northwest in winter. This past winter I have seen the wind blow from all directions, and no longer think there is a strong preference for it to blow from any given direction. The wind can blow as a pendulum swings. It can blow for a day from one direction, become calm for part of a day and then resume blowing from the opposite direction for a good period of time. When the wind blows it can demonstrate turbulent or laminar airflow. It seems to be more turbulent when it is stormy outside. We see the turbulence in the back and forth motion of the turbine atop its tower. Laminar airflow is better for wind production, as the back and forth motion caused by turbulence causes the turbine to change it's speed a lot, greatly affecting power output.



# WORLD Adventure

-ARNOLD, VICKY,  
JAKE & SARAH NEUFELD



**Above:** Playing with the dolphins  
**Below:** Local wildlife



## Australia

Our drive and camping trip down the western coast took us through Fremantel, Margaret River and Hamelin Bay. The vineyards, forests, fields of kangaroos and coastline were beautiful. The west coast of Australia is quite barren at times and the travel distances are lengthy, however, it is spectacular.



# LIFE IN Germany

- JAMES, SUSAN,  
COLIN & ELLA FUNK



**Above:** Colin & Ella getting a close look at two little penguins  
**Below:** James, one of many, starting the Half Marathon in Frankfurt

We went to the Emmen Zoo. First we went to the penguins' enclosure. The penguins were diving, splashing and waddling. The enclosure had lots of rocks and a path right through it. You could get very close to the penguins.

Ella

I like the penguins at the Emmen Zoo. The rooms where you could learn about the penguins were neat and I liked the hallway beside the tank where you could see the penguins swimming.

Colin



### Spring: A Time of Renewal and Rebirth

Winter sports come to a close; spring sports start. Seed meetings happen, to prepare for planting. Congratulations are to be given to our various youth who have advanced to city-wide, regional and provincial playoffs in hockey and basketball; and for well-played volleyball tournaments and indoor soccer games.

It is an exciting time for our youth from RJC, who are spending time in ALSO (Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities). We will have youth in Guatemala, Mississippi, Calgary, and Saskatoon putting their faith in action during this time. We are also, as the youth, looking at ways we can participate and serve in our community, such as with MCC and CHEP, as well as participating in a food drive later in the year. These activities help plant the seeds for ongoing engagement of faith and community; "Of putting flesh of action on bare-boned intentions."

What does it mean for us to grow in discipleship? It means setting aside time to reflect, think, and pray together; to do Bible studies, and to play together; to cook together, and to eat together; to attend conferences, and to hang out together.

It means nourishing seeds that have been planted at home, in family devotionals and prayer time, and in Sunday school and Venture Club. It means watering and deepening our sense of faith and relationship to God, to each other, and to the rest of the faith community.

We have an amazing group with a wide variety of talents. We are often a very busy group, because we seek to use the talents we have been given.

One item that will keep us as a youth group busy for the next several months is planning for Youth Assembly this summer in Waterloo. This provides us with an opportunity to meet and worship with youth from across Canada. We will also be taking a bus with other youth from across MC Saskatchewan. This helps form a sense of broader community and church life. As a fundraiser for this trip, we will be having our annual Sausage-on-a-bun fundraiser April 3 after the worship service. This will also include a silent auction, which is also a great time to check out the talents of members in the congregation, as they donate items they have crafted and contributed.

This is the season of spring, of new birth. As we move into this time of renewal, we pray for a greater sense of God's Spirit moving among us, helping us to grow where we have been planted.

# YWalk

- REECE RETZLAFF

Tuesdays  
Bible Study  
Jr. High: 7:00-8:30 pm  
Sr. High: 8:30-10:00



# Church Family NEWS

## We Welcome

**Martha Ens** and **Edith & Armin Krahn** as they transfer their membership to Nutana Park Mennonite Church

**Above:** Armin & Edith Krahn and Martha Ens transferring their membership

## Congratulations To

**Lillian & Henry Epp** on the birth of twin granddaughters, Brielle and Jayla., sisters to Kael and daughters to Jason & Odessa Epp

## Our thoughts & prayers go with our young volunteers

**Hillary Fast** and **Geraldine Balzer** in Guatemala and El Salvador working with RJC's Service & Learning Tour

**Landon Falconer** in Saskatoon working with Habitat for Humanity

**Parker Olfert** in Calgary working with MCC

**Kerstin Balzer-Peters, Emily Hooge, Sara Bartel, Macaila Funk, Luke Driedger-Enns, Wally Funk** and **Peter Hooge** working in Mississippi

## Our Condolences to

**Donna & Ernie Epp** on the death of Donna's mother, Mabel Gill of Watrous

**Trudy & Alan Reese** on the death of their niece, Jeanne Rozema

**June & Bill Cairns** on the death of their baby grandson, Oliver James Mundell, son of Rhonda & Chris

# Upcoming Events & IMPORTANT NOTES



*Eigenheim Mennonite Church*  
Box 550  
Rosthern, SK  
Ph: 306 - 232 - 4732  
emc1894@gmail.com

**April 3**  
**Youth Annual Fundraiser**  
 Sausage on a Bun & Silent Auction  
 Noon @ NPMC

**March 27**  
**NPMC Annual General Meeting**  
 Immediately following the noon potluck

**April 15**  
**Saskatoon Children's Choir Concert**  
 Third Avenue United Church  
 7:30 pm Tickets: \$20

**April 2**  
**Sonrisa Concert**  
 Station Arts Centre, Rosthern  
 7:30 pm Tickets: \$10  
 Phone: 232-5332  
 Email: sac.rosthern@sasktel.net

**April 16**  
**A Day for Parents Workshop**  
 John lake School  
 Forms on Family bulletin board

**April 16**  
**A Buncha Guys - Spring Concert**  
 7:30 pm Mayfair United Church

**April 3**  
**CMU-CMBC-MBBC-Concord Alumni & Friends Get-together**  
 Eigenheim Mennonite Church  
 2:30 pm Connect With Friends and Enjoy Great Music.  
 Everyone is Welcome

**April 19**  
**RJC Chorale & CMU Singers Fundraising Banquet & Concert**  
 Osler Mennonite Church  
 6:00 pm banquet  
 7:30 pm concert  
 Tickets:  
 Phone: 232-4222  
 Email: office@rjc.sk.ca

**April 10**  
**University & Community Chorus Spring Concert**  
 Knox United Church  
 3:00 pm Tickets \$15

**April 10**  
**Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra Appreciation Concert**  
 7:00 pm NPMC  
 Includes tribute to Verna Nickel

