

CROSS WALK



REFLECTIONS – PATRICK PREHEIM

Inside

Reflections	1
Board Report	2
Ruth Mission Society	3
Tributes	4-5
Patty's Picks	6
MEDA	7
Gallery	8-10
Church Family News	11
Merry Christmas	12

What Makes a Leader

Ministerial leadership is a topic that has surfaced and resurfaced for me as 2011 has neared its end. Reece Retzlaff's move out of pastoral leadership at Nutana Park Mennonite drew on my resources of time and emotion. I have experienced relief (?grace?) as Sara Unrau and a collection of parents have ably guided the youth program the last several months. Jake Nickel was the first called minister at NPMC as well as one who offered his gifts as a lay worker, and his death gave me cause for reflection on professional and lay ministry. In January NPMC leadership will be hosting congregational consultations to hear from our people their thoughts regarding longer term leadership in both the youth and music programs. Ministerial leadership has been a prominent theme in our church this fall and that theme will continue into 2012. Many books and articles have been written on the topic. I have distilled some of the material on my shelves and offer my reflections on the topic utilizing biblical and theological concepts.

Emmanuel: Presence is, I believe, a key ministerial concept. Christmas is the

season when we celebrate "God with us" (Emmanuel). God cared enough for humanity that Jesus came to dwell among us. The book of Hebrews suggests that it was Jesus' earthly sojourn that made him an empathetic and merciful leader worth heeding (Hebrews 2:17-18). The questions, passions, and burdens which shape effective leadership rarely surface without a leader hearing a community. Yes, some leaders are better listeners than others. Modeling in a family of origin, training, and personal charisma are a few of the factors that impact the ability of a pastor to connect with people. I recognize that even the best listener will not always get it, but I feel strongly that understanding can only begin with presence. Presence happens in a variety of ways (individual visits, e-mails, leading study groups, joining in celebrations, etc...). I think it is helpful to consider how we envision presence from the staff of the youth and music ministries of NPMC.

Teacher: Jesus is called "teacher" and Paul (1st and 2nd Timothy) offers guidelines on the makings of a qualified *continued on page 2...*

BOARD Report

- BOB SAWATZKY



Cross Walk

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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.

**Articles for the next
Cross Walk are due on
February 5th**

Two months have gone by since the last edition of the NPMC newsletter. A lot has transpired during that time. Following is a very capsulized version of your Board of Deacons' deliberations and actions relating to the various aspects of our congregational activities:

On September 26, a special Board meeting was called, to discuss and eventually accept the resignation of our youth pastor, Reece Retzlaff. Sarah Unrau has agreed to assume the responsibilities of leading the youth Bible studies and facilitating the social activities for the remainder of the year and into the New Year.

Our finances are in order, thanks to the generosity of all of our members. It appears that our books will balance at year-end.

The Deacons' reports are all very positive. We are indeed fortunate to have so many individuals who when taking on a task, do so with caring and responsibility. Please take time to thank those who look after our finances, our secretarial work, our building and

yard, our mission work, our music, our caring and visitation activities, our conference activities, and our Christian education programs.

A number of bursaries were awarded to our youth who are continuing their studies, in addition to those reported in an earlier edition. Alina Balzer-Peters was awarded the Ray and Helen Fast Bursary. She is presently studying at the University of Waterloo. Kirsten Balzer-Peters, a high school student, was awarded the Women's Mission Society Bursary, for providing service work in Guatemala.

The Shekinah retreat held at the end of September received very positive comments. Our thanks to the organizers who gave of their time to make this weekend memorable. A committee is in place to make plans for 2012.

The Board of Deacons met three times since the last report. Detailed minutes of each meeting are available for anyone who is interested.

REFLECTIONS - continued from page 1

teacher within the faith community. It is significant that much of what Paul wrote about the teaching role of leadership revolves around ethical integrity. Teaching is one thing leaders do, and sometimes they use words. Clearly we look to ministerial leaders for the facilitation of spiritual growth and that will entail expertise born of learning. A minister and the message lose credibility, however, when the actions of the minister diverge too widely from the teaching. A minister's dual source of instruction (content and personal integrity) will require staff to be pursuing a depth of both heart and mind. Again, it might be helpful to consider the teaching expectations we carry for staff overseeing the youth and music ministries of NPMC.

Advocate: In John 14 Jesus promises the disciples a "parakletos". In respectable translations of the bible this word is variously rendered comforter, counsellor, advocate, helper, protector. For me, the term advocate covers several of these pastoral functions. Ministers

advocate for people when they aid discernment, bless the weary, gently caution the reckless, give shape to mourning, promote learning, encourage the meek, and a whole host of other things. There are so many different ways to think about the advocacy we desire from our leaders in a given field of ministry. It might be helpful for us to clarify the advocacy work we desire in the music and youth programs as we consider staffing questions.

In this column I have teased out dimensions of ministerial leadership. I have not addressed the important role the congregation brings to the success of a minister. We could have the best youth pastor ever seen, but if youth and parent participation is not a priority the ministry will founder. We could have the best minister of music in Canada, but if we are unwilling to make and share our music the music ministry will suffer. These are all things to keep in mind as we discern leadership for our youth and music programs.



RUTH Mission Society Report

- MARGARET KRAUSE

At the October meeting of the Ruth Mission Society, the guest speaker was Marion Toews, a retired nurse. Marion spoke to us about spending two weeks in May, continuing the work already done on two houses in Kenya with Habitat For Humanity. She joined a group of ten women and three men at the project near Bomet, in eastern Kenya. This was her eleventh short term volunteer project, starting in 1998 with five weeks in Shenyang, China with China Education Exchange. The project in NL with MDS was number twelve.

The eleven women were billeted in a large room without water or toilet facilities. The squat toilet was outside, quite a distance away. During the night, they would walk there by twos. The bonus to the nighttime walk was the marvelous array of stars. They found that there was another resident living in their room. It was a tree rat, living in the roof area. They got used to its presence. The three men were in a very cramped little room, but they had a flush toilet.

Their very basic meals were cooked for them in quite primitive conditions by two Kenyan women, one of whom would receive one of the houses. Safe drinking water was purchased. The dish washing was not very sanitary so the volunteers bought dishcloths and tea towels and volunteered to wash the dishes. The men took their turn, an act which

impressed the Kenyans.

Communication was not easy as the language was not English and not even Swahili for which they had a dictionary. Fortunately a few people knew some English. This always makes me feel very humble because all over the world, people are learning our language and yet so many of us speak only English. The houses they built were very simple structures. The walls were made from bricks made on site before we arrived.

Cement floors and tin roofs completed the house. Windows and doors would be added. African people learned that women could lay bricks as well as the men.

Before the team left they attended a long dedication ceremony for the two houses, with long speeches and joyous singing. The pride in ownership was good to see.

They were also able to take part in a few fun things, including playing soccer with school students (the students won, but not by many goals), they visited tea plantations, and toured a rather simple, but very interesting local museum. After the work was finished, they enjoyed a safari on the Masai Mara Plains.

Marion told her story very simply but we all learned some interesting things about Kenya and the great work that volunteers do around the world.

TRIBUTE to Katherina Falk Krause

– WALLY KRAUSE

Reflections on 100 Years

Our family celebrated my mother's 100th birthday this summer. It was truly a celebration of what my mother meant to our family. Mom, Katherina (Falk) Krause was born in Russia, one of 12 children. She came to Canada as a 14 year old and went to work for a local farm family to help her family pay off the 'travel debt'. Her tasks covered the whole range of house keeping, cooking, gardening, milking cows, barn cleaning, and any other farm related work. After four years she found a job with a family in the town of Rosthern.

In 1932 she married dad. They lived with grandparents for the first four years. They then moved to their first farm home in the Eigenheim area.

Farm life was always a part of Mom and Dad's life. They survived the difficult 30's They saw farming change from horse drawn equipment to much larger machine powered equipment, making the transition from mixed farming to straight grain farming. They experienced rural electrification and the many other changes to modernization.

Rural life is what shaped my mother and the legacy she created. As most rural women, my mother had an incredible work ethic. Not only did she maintain a wonderful household, she also contributed to all the outside activities. Her gardens were always large so that there would be enough even in a 'poor' year. Weeds were afraid to grow and mom would often be found weeding even before the sun was fully up. Doing all the farm chores was just part of the regular routine. In the early years she would stook while dad ran the binder. If she wasn't able to keep up they would go out after the children had been put to bed. When dad was away threshing all the farm chores still got done.

After moving to the town of Rosthern and farming from town mom found other ways to fill her days. The garden in town and on the farm were a must. She made countless blankets and quilts, sharing the work with her neighbor. She has knit several 100 pairs of mittens and still attempts knitting to this day. Every child, grandchild, great grand child has at least one afghan and several pairs of mittens. Her parents had said to her in her youth that, 'Young people do not get tired.' That seemed to be true all her life.

True hospitality was a central focus of their home. Their greatest joy was when family members came home to visit. It didn't matter whether these were planned visits or just happened, there was always lots of fine food around. Mom knew what each ones 'favorite' was and somehow it was always available. When others dropped in, the table could be set in short order for a meal or 'faspa'. Her welcoming nature applied to young and old alike. Her infectious giggle is fondly remembered by many. Just recently she commented that it was too bad that she could not give us a meal at the Nursing Home. Her unwavering faith has carried her all her life. It was always a natural part of our family life. When we were leaving home she would admonish us with the comment in low German, 'Behave and study hard'. For me she always added, 'Behave, study hard, and don't forget to pray'. At her 100th birthday celebration she sang along with us as we sang some of her favorite hymns. She has certainly taught us how to live a life of faith.

As a family, we were immensely proud to be able to celebrate with her on her milestone birthday. Forty-eight of the fifty family members were present. It was a memorable day for a remarkable woman.

You as immediate family feel deeply today the loss of a loving mother and grandmother. As extended family, you feel the loss of a special aunt. We feel the loss of a special cousin and caring friend.

The passing of Anna Funk marks the end of a chapter, in a sense. She was the last remaining member of the family of Margaret and David Toews. There were 9 children in the family - one son and eight daughters, including one daughter who died as a child.

Anna sometimes reminisced about growing up in her Toews family. Her father was away a lot. He had a strong sense of being called by God to serve the church, locally and beyond, having been elected as both minister and elder (Aeltester), promoting Christian education through the Rosthern Junior College, serving as Chair person of the Canadian Conference, helping the Mennonites suffering in Communist Russia to come to Canada, and much more. And his family supported him in that. Meanwhile, Mrs. Toews provided a strong, steady, loving presence in the family. The children experienced a lot of love, as well as times of fun and laughter. The Toews girls, Anna especially, were known for their infectious laughter.

But there were hard times too. Some very, very hard times. Anna remembered very vividly the tragic fire on a cold December night in 1926 that completely destroyed the Toews home in Rosthern, and claimed the precious life of 5 -year old Irene. Anna was 8 years old at the time, and the details of that tragic night remained

clearly etched in her memory. After raising their four children in Drake, Anna and Syl moved to Saskatoon. We enjoyed having them in our midst. Anna's mother was a sister to my Dad, so we had many cousins in common. In all there were over 100 first cousins in the Friesen clan. A dozen or more plus spouses were living in Saskatoon at the time when Syl and Anna moved here to Saskatoon.

My wife Anne and I came to appreciate Syl and Anna especially during the time that we both lived at Bethany Manor. They became good friends of ours, and we were glad to be able to provide some support as they needed it.

Sadly, in February of 2009 Syl passed away, and that heart-breaking loss along with Anna's failing health and eyesight made her last days very, very difficult. Yet as her body grew weaker, Anna continued to show an amazing strength of character - refusing to complain, and always turning attention away from herself to inquire about the welfare of others who were ill or hurting. She was a tremendously caring and kind person.

Thankfully, last week Wednesday she was relieved of her suffering as the Lord graciously took her home. For many years she had provided a loving home for her family, and graciously hosted family and friends in her home here. Now she has been warmly welcomed into the home prepared for her by her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This Christmas the Toews family circle will be complete - in heaven. Praise God.

TRIBUTE to Anna Funk

- VERNER FRIESEN

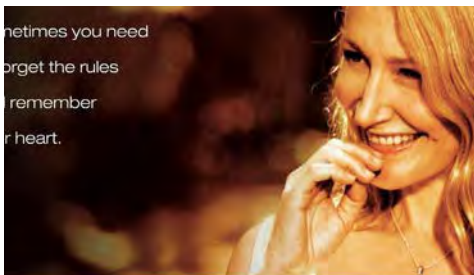
OPPORTUNITY "ACCORDING TO VR-IV"

Vern Ratzlaff's 4th book of sermons is complete - "According to VR-IV". Cost is \$5.00 each.

This book contains 24 sermons of Vern's choice from Aberdeen Church where he pastors. All proceeds go to Shekinah Retreat Centre for their campers' new cabins. Please contact Kathy or Jeff Olfert for a copy.

Patty's PICKS

- PATTY FRIESSEN



TRICIA CLARKSON ALEXANDER SIOU



Doc Martin is a BBC series about an odd doctor and all the wonderful characters in his small town.

Blue Murder is a BBC series about a female detective juggling work and home life.

The Conspirator was an interesting trial movie about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Super Immunity by Joel Fuhrman renewed my interest in eating more healthy and the difference it makes in overall energy and fewer sick days.

In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson is a historical novel with an interesting angle from the perspective of the American ambassador to Berlin at the time of Hitler's rise to power.

An Unquenchable Thirst by Mary Johnson is a fascinating memoir of a nun and her personal and interpersonal struggles in community.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett is the rage of book clubs and movie goers this fall and for good reason. It is a powerful story of the race relationships between Southern women when a culture dictates them to be a certain way. It takes courage and risk-taking to change the status quo.

Pinched by Don Peck is a reflection on the current economic crisis - how we got here and how we can survive it.

Captivity by James Loney is a moving memoir of over a hundred days of kidnapping in Iraq by four Christian Peacemaker Team members, one of whom is killed. Memorization of scripture, daily exercise and deliberate politeness helped them survive and are good disciplines for surviving regular life of freedom as well.

Cairo Time is a beautiful movie based in the sights and sounds of Cairo. Cheap travel for those of us who will never get there.

Lark Rise to Candleford & Cranford are delightful BBC series of life in a small English town.

Wallander is a fun BBC Swedish detective series based on the mystery novels by Henning Mankell.

Haven't seen any good movies yet in December but have read a few good books:

War Brides by Melynda Jarratt is an interesting account of English women who returned by ship to Canada to be with their veteran husbands.

Between Heaven and Mirth by James Martin reminds us that joy is one of the spiritual fruits of our Christian faith.

Nearing Home by Billy Graham is a beautiful account of his humour, life and ministry, written in his 93rd year.



MEDA

- RAY FAST

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) is a global economic development organization with approximately 20 chapters across North America and Europe. Our supporters include business and many other people whose mission is to reflect their faith values and demonstrate practical and creative business solutions to assist poor families around the globe.

MEDA believes that business is a special calling from God, and that the creation of employment and beneficial products is part of God's work in the world. Here are just a few examples of how MEDA worked in 60 countries this year helping more than 20 million families realize healthier, more sustainable lives.

*More than twelve million homes in Tanzania were provided mosquito nets saving an estimated 67,000 lives from Malaria.

*Micro finance loans, often as small as one or two hundred dollars, were provided to nearly 7 million households to start up or expand small businesses.

*1.5 million farmers and small entrepreneurs (many in Ukraine) are earning better incomes through training, financial services, and better access to markets.

*Hundreds of women in Pakistan and Afghanistan have been assisted to start up small businesses with market gardens and textiles.

MEDA is supported by many corporations and government agencies. Last year the 3 million dollars received from private donations was leveraged to 47 million dollars through the generosity of CIDA, Master Card, US AID and the Bill Gates Foundation among many others who support the work of MEDA around the globe.

The Saskatoon and Area Chapter is also actively involved in this work. Our Executive includes myself as President, Paul Tiessen as Past President, Peter Schroeder as Treasurer, Tammy Forrester as Vice President, Teresa Isaac as Secretary, and two members at large, Janelle Unrau and Ken Warkentin.

On November 24th at a fundraising dinner held at Bethany Manor, we raised almost \$24,000 to support projects in Morocco, Egypt, and Ethiopia in 2012.

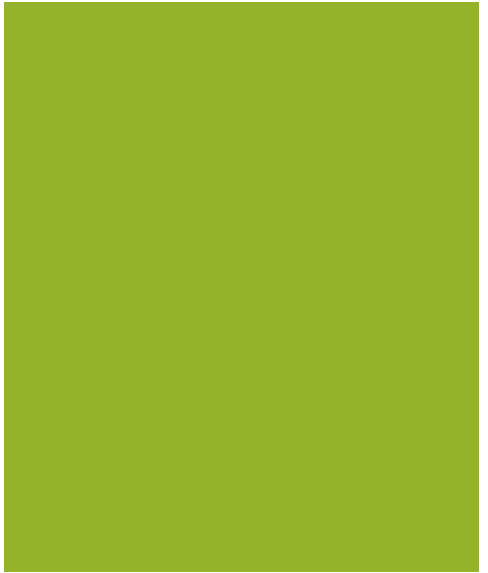
On behalf of our chapter I want to thank the many members of Nutana Park who have supported us over the years. Your support is indeed helping poor people in 60 countries rise above the severest poverty levels.



Gallery



Venture Club Bake Sale



Thanks for
Your Support
Nutana Park!



Gallery

The Christmas tree goes up!



Thanks you
Valerie & Darryl.



We Rejoice With

Carter Dahl, coach **Mitch Dahl**, and their baseball team on the team's bronze medal place in the Western Canadian Finals

James Funk's win of the half marathon in Regina in September

David Swab and Olya Kutsiuruba on their engagement

Helen Unrau on the arrival of a great granddaughter Lauryn

Deanna Stockdale Winder, finalist for Conservatory Canada's First Annual Creative Composers Competition

The families of **Lauren Niessen-Toews**, **Ethan Unrau**, and **Lucas Peachy Breen** as they were dedicated to God

Lee Todd, son of **Brenda Baergen** and **Howard Willems**, who graduated with a B.A. in Political Studies

Eric Epp and his award as the 2011 Lou Slotsve Junior Official of the Year

Erika Niessen-Toews on becoming a Canadian citizen

Brenda Baergen, and **Howard Willems** and their son **Lee Todd**, on his convocation with a masters in Political Science from the U of S in November

Our Condolences To

Joanne and Ted Ewert, **Stan Bartel** and **Debra Heinrichs** and **Sara**, on the death of father and grandfather Erwin O. Bartel

Joan Stevens and **Duff Warkentin** on the death of Joan's uncle Richard McEwen

James Friesen, **Darrel** and **Catherine Friesen**, **Lora Mae Epp**, **Grace Kroeker** and **Janna Krismer** on the death of Tim Friesen

Ken Warkentin and **Peter Hooge** on the death of Ed Heinrichs

Lillian Thompson on the death of her husband Gene

Anne Klassen on the death of her niece Joanne Goertzen

Marian and Lynn Driedger in the death of Mike Huculak

Rosella Bergan on the death of her son Russell Bergen

the family of **Trudy Claassen**

Rhonda and Eldon Krahn, **Graeme**, **Kayla**, **Ashley** and **Alexandra** on the death of Jake Nickel

Norm and Janet Barnes on the death of Norm's father, Ken Barnes

the family of **Kathryne (Dyck) Funk**: **Elfrieda** and **Paul Enns**, **Jeremy Enns**, **Jean Wiens**, **Orville** and **El Neufeldt**, **Bob** and **Margaret Neufeldt** and **Bill** and **Helen Kruger**

On-going Prayer Concerns

Howard Willems – for healing and strength as he begins additional rounds of chemotherapy

Helen Ratzlaff's recovery

Anne Friesen's recovery

Ernie Baergen

CPT's work with the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation

Al Friesen's tests and recovery

Wally Nickel's recovery

Sheila Harding's surgery and follow-up

Lauren Niessen-Toews and her family as she recovers from heart surgery

CHURCH Family News

CROSS WALK

In Colour!

Get the Cross Walk at home before it is put in mailboxes. Send me your email address and I will send you a colour .pdf of the latest Cross Walk as soon as it is finished.

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

email: hiddenattic@sasktel.net

Merry
Christmas &
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

