

CROSS WALK



LIGHTING Our Way - REECE RETZLAFF

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In the World, But Not of the World

And so it ended, "Happily ever after." But did it? Fairy tales are interesting beasts. Many of them, today, end with the phrase "and so they lived, happily ever after." If one goes back to the original tales, however, one finds that things don't quite end in the same way. Many of the original tales were told, not as children's stories, but those for adults. If they were told to children, it was for the purposes of frightening them, or perhaps better, of reminding them of their social location. In most of the old fairy tales, the so-called heroes end up dead. If we want to talk about the moral of the story, it is this: do not strive for a higher social standing; be content with where you are.

In the last generation or two, books and movies, especially those written for children and youth, have taken on the motto: "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." Heroes end up "happily ever after," or at least close to it. This is the opposite message than the fairy tales originally conveyed. While many of us would likely be uncomfortable with the philosophy behind the original tales, we are also reaping unforeseen consequences from "happily ever after."

Somehow, we think that we are owed something. We've put the time in, so we should get the grade. We are deserving of the rewards. This mentality does not take into account the work anyone else does to reach that same goal. Not everyone can be the best. This is not to say that we should strive for mediocrity, but that we should understand being number one is not always realistic. Even with good grades, one may not receive a full-tuition scholarship. One may not always get into the classes, program, school or promotion of one's choice. Like our call to discipleship, we strive for perfection, but it is not necessarily attainable.

I do not write this to say we should not compete and we should not try. In fact, perhaps I am saying the opposite: things in life take effort; they take work. And God is not a fairy godmother with a wand to magically make things better. On the other hand, though, we should also remember that our discipleship, our call to perfection, is one in Christ. We are called to be "In the world, but not of the world." We are called to be disciples. Like any athlete or musician knows, the old adage "practice makes perfect" may feel redundant, but is often true, so long *continued on page 3*

BOARD Report

- BOB SAWATZKY



Cross Walk

**Nutana Park
Mennonite Church**

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Cross Walk Committee

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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 27th**

The NPMC Board of Deacons met on January 17, 2011. Following is a summation of our discussions:

1. **Lorene Nickel** opened the meeting with the reading of a poem by Joyce Rupp entitled "Instruments of God", encouraging us to sing a melody in the building of God's kingdom.

2. **Lori Weiler-Thiessen and Alta Peachey** addressed the Board with a number of questions as how best to proceed with the 2011 Shekinah weekend. A fairly lengthy discussion ensued regarding budget, format and attendance, and suggestions were made. Lori and Alta will follow up and make their recommendation at a subsequent meeting. Thanks to both Lori and Alta for their willingness to take on this project.

3. **Ross Borne**, treasurer, reported that we finished the 2010 year with a small surplus, which will provide us with a positive beginning to the New Year. He also presented the budget for 2011, which was approved by the Board and will be presented to the congregation at the AGM on March 27, 2011.

4. During a number of the deacon's reports we were reminded of the many contributions made by **Verna Nickel**, particularly in the area of our music program. She will be missed by all.

5. **Carl Wiens** reported that the structural drawings for the foyer renovations were complete and we are waiting for the city to provide us with a permit. Fund raising, at the time of this reading, will hopefully be completed. Thanks again for your generosity and support. It is expected that the work will begin on the foyer early in March and the paving will be done in the spring. The building and grounds crew will take on a basement and education wing cleanup sometime soon as well.

6. A thank you note from **Terri-Lynn Paulson**, who was the recipient of one of our bursaries, was circulated. We wish Terri-Lynne well in her theological studies.

7. Our thanks to **Ernie Epp, Evelyn Roden and Ervin Driedger** for taking on the task of our pastoral review. Completed survey forms will be submitted to an MC Sask. Committee for collation. Results will be available at the March AGM.

8. **Anita** closed the meeting in prayer.

The members of the Board of Deacons are a very conscientious and dedicated group of volunteers, and their efforts are appreciated. These include: Trish St. Onge, caring and visitation, Wayne Dueck, Christian education, Allan Klassen, conference, Lois Thiessen, fellowship, Sharron Klassen and Rhonda Krahn, missions, Lorene Nickel, music, Denelda Fast, worship, and Carl Wiens, building and grounds.

PRAYER SHAWL Project - AGNES PETERS

Elma Archer, Betty Bailey and I are the program committee for the Ruth Mission Society this 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 our project. 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.

Eighteen members and one guest attended the Ruth Mission Society meeting on a rather cold January 11th afternoon. Alina Balzer shared a devotional reading, "The Gate of the Year" and also read a portion of scripture from Isaiah 40:28-31. She concluded with a prayer entitled "A New Year's Wish".

Geraldine Balzer, our guest speaker shared, via a power point presentation, highlights of her family's adventure to explore their heritage and experience Russia and the Ukraine.

In their travels, some of the cities they visited were Kiev and Odessa in the Ukraine, and St. Petersburg and Moscow in Russia. The pictures illustrated the magnificent architecture of the buildings in these old cities. The St. Sophia church in Kiev, with its many beautiful golden domes, is a land mark that can be seen towering over the city. Kiev is noted for the many ancient, majestic golden domed cathedrals scattered throughout the city.

Odessa, located on the Black Sea, is a very cosmopolitan city. It is a city of beauty and culture where tree lined streets lead to the stately, old opera houses, concert halls or museums. These impressive buildings, with their intricate designs and carvings, have graced this city for centuries and are still being used today.

On their journey they also explored some of the former Mennonite villages. They visited familiar sites, such as the Maedchenschule, the Schultz factory, and the stately, elaborate residences of some of the wealthy Mennonite families. Again, the

pictures illustrated the beautiful, elaborate architecture of these brick buildings and the skill and wealth needed to construct them. However, it is sad to see how these buildings have deteriorated and fallen into disrepair.

One of the goals of the trip was also to visit the Balzer relatives that had remained in Russia and were now living in the Mennonite Colony of New Samara, namely the village of Krasikova. Here they made contact with their grandfather Peter Balzer's brother, Onkel Willi, and some of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The pictures of this visit depicted the typical Mennonite houses, situated on either side of the wide, tree-lined street which runs through the centre of the village. On these streets geese and other fowl who roam freely have the right-of-way! In the front yard of the house was not a well kept lawn, but rather fruit trees and perhaps some flowers. The back yard was a family garden, which was needed to produce food for the family.

Visiting with the relatives was a rewarding and enriching experience. The bond of kinship, which spanned decades, oceans and continents, was renewed and nurtured. They were overwhelmed by the hospitality that was extended to them. They were family. In the October 2010 Cross Walk in the article, "Family Interrupted," Geraldine reports on this visit with the relatives.

Thank you, Geraldine, for a most informative presentation.

LIGHTING Our Way - continued from page 1

as one seasons those practices with good coaching. In our lives today, we are called to further discipleship. This is not to say we always expect things to end up with a fairy tale ending, nor does it mean we should never strive to make the world a better place. It does mean that we are called to be faithful to Christ, including the sacrifice of time in prayer and study; to be disciplined in one's faith journey. It means taking our work seriously, but not forgetting that our main work is that of joining with the missio dei, with God's work in the world.

I bring this up because as we have noticed our world changing, our literature is changing as well. Many youth fiction stories speak of friendship, and sacrifice of one's time for a greater cause and

purpose; for finding one's place in the world, for the betterment of all, not only oneself or one's group. There is a desire to know one's place in the world; perhaps part of the human condition, but one manifesting itself slightly differently in this generation. The world is changing, and how we relate to the world is changing. Technology changes rapidly, and impacts our young people especially. So for all our senior youth, who are preparing for exams, let us remember that change happens quickly, but God is our ever-present, ever-constant help in times of trouble and trial, and exams. Take your work seriously, but remember that more important than grades is vocation, and our calling as God's children.

RUTH MISSION Society

By Anne Friesen

SILENT NIGHT, LONESOME NIGHT

BY JOANNE EWERT,
DECEMBER 2, 2010

Helpless, fragile, vulnerable,
A gurney his only space;
Words scrambled,
randomly jumbled,
Nothing, nothing in place.

Joy, hope and peace this
Christmas season
The Christ Child comes again.
The manger, a gurney,
Sad hearts long for a happy refrain.

Silent night, lonesome night,
Muffled bells quietly chime.
Silent night, lonesome night,
The manger, a gurney,
silent mysteries of life.

This was written in the ER ward of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon while she was sitting with her father, as he waited to be admitted for further observation.

Church Family NEWS



Above: Brian & Brianna's Wedding
Below: Andrea Koop



We Rejoice With

Garry & Glenis Koop as they celebrated the marriage of their son Brian to Brianna Struss in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Pat & Kurt Sawatzky on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Zoey Jordyn. Grandparents are Kevin Sawatzky and Cathy Jorgenson

Mackenzie Fast and Bens Leis who graduated at the U of S Fall Convocation in October. Ben received a Bachelor of Arts and Mackenzie a master of Physical Therapy

Sarah Unrau, as she was baptized at NPMC on December 19

Ruth Friesen, as she celebrated her 80th birthday on December 11

Gracelyn and Olivia Sawatzky as they won gold medals in the Saskatoon Master-Bantam 5-pin bowling event

Edna & Don Froese on the birth of a granddaughter, Anna Margaret Froese. Her parents are Ken & Jennifer Froese

Lois Siemens, upon her ordination at Superb Mennonite Church on January 9, 2011

Andrea Koop, who graduated with a Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy at the University of Alberta

Our Condolences to

Jake Nickel, Rhonda & Eldon Krahn, Kayla, Ashley, Corey, Alexandra and Graeme on the death of Verna Nickel

George Enns, Joyce Tremmel, Nathan & Kristin Enns-Kavanagh on the death of George's sister, Helen Rademaker

Lena Epp and Carmen Epp on the death of their sister-in-law and aunt, Katie Epp

Darryl & Valerie Epp and family on the deaths of Darryl's uncle and aunt, Johnny & Luella Thiessen

the **family of Gertie Neufeld** as they mourn her death

As writers, we are honored to exhibit our writings in the lounge. With the help of artist friends, we are displaying some of our work. Many of us have taken classes from Lloyd Ratzlaff. Several have attended the CMU School of Writing, or other classes. Some write because they must; others are leaving history for family; stories and poetry that may be passed on to future generations. There are those who use their gift to serve in meditation; another shares his wisdom with strangers. In this group there are published authors and award winners, as well as those who simply take pleasure in crafting articles, stories and poems. We hope you enjoy this show, and find time to savour the words we have written.

Please see the next page for a gallery of pictures.

Nutana
Park
WRITERS



ART IN THE Lounge - NORMA REMPLE

A Year in Review

The following is a brief review of the presenters for Art in the Lounge, 2010.

January-February: Natalie Austin's mixed media

March-April: Helen Fast's Japanese bunka needlework

May-June: Wayne Dueck's "still lifes" celebrating the history of his grandparents

July-August: Big Sky Artists watercolours and acrylics

September-October: Judy Kasdorf's mixed media featuring wildlife art

November-December: Marilyn Guenther's cross-stitched bell pulls and framed works

Each of these displays had its own unique flavour and charm. A big thank you goes out to each of these contributors for sharing their special gifts. Presently, the writers of our congregation and community have posted some of their poetry and prose. For those who might prefer to sit and read, the writers have provided copies of their work which can be found in a basket on a table nearby.

The other artists who will present their work in 2011 are Wendy Harder, Carolene Funk, Becky Riekman, Jared Regier and Hedio Borne.

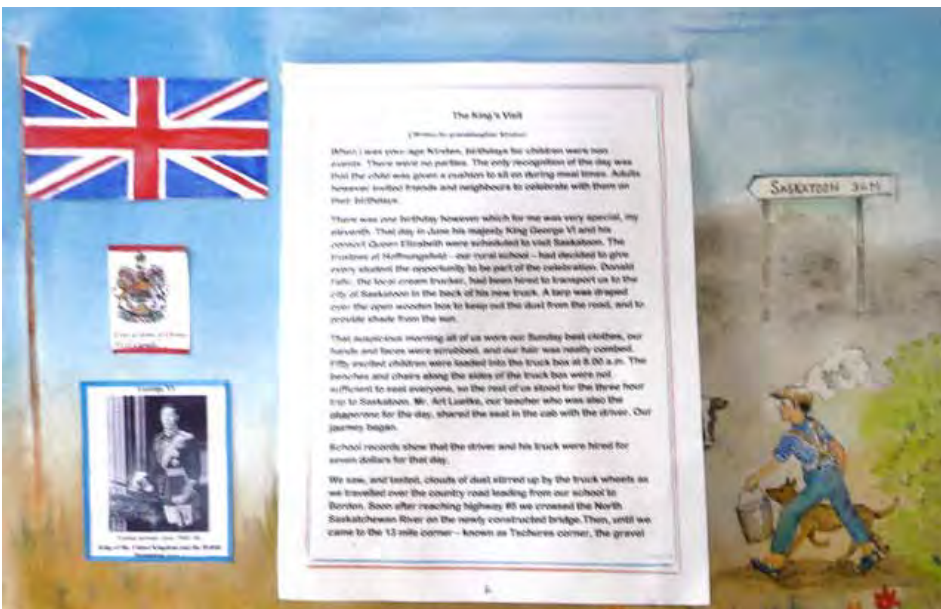
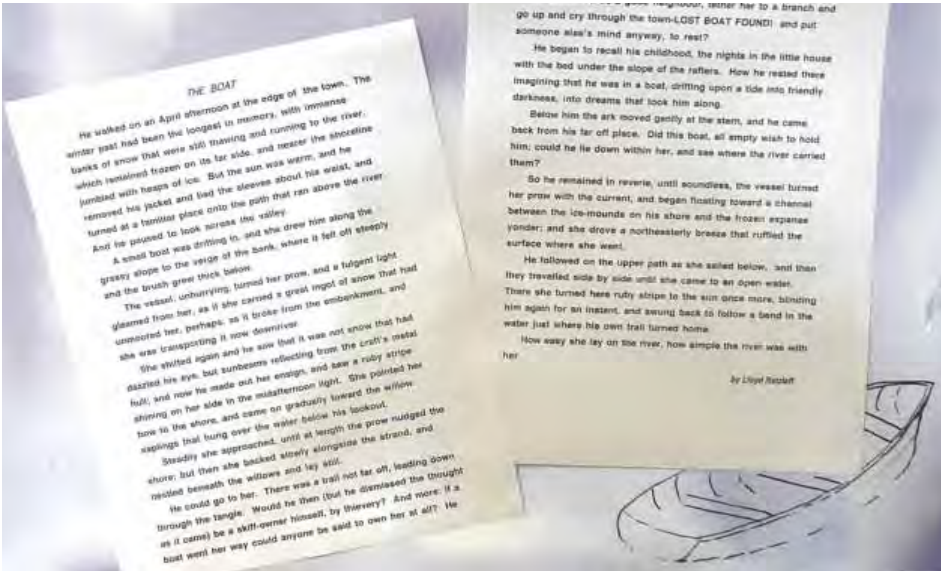
Thank you to Peter Guenther for making the sign on the lounge door. Take a little time to check out the displays in our lounge. Your time will be well spent.

Nutana Park WRITERS

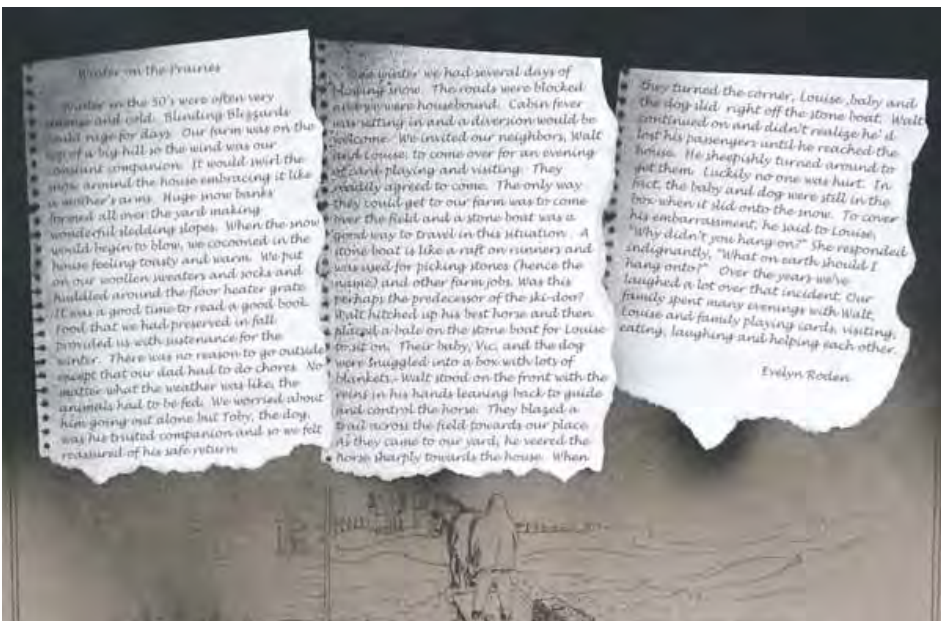
Gallery

Above: "Goodnight Moon, Goodnight Grandpa", by Carry Dueck
Right: "Our Wedding", by Connie Gutwin
Bottom Right: "Images of Spain", by Lorene Nickel





Above: "Butchering Pigs", by Jack Driedger
 Above Left: "The Boat", by Lloyd Ratzlaff
 Left: "The King's Visit", by Jac. Nickel
 Bottom Left: "Winter on the Prairies", by Evelyn Roden
 Below: "Our Last Supper", by Phyllis Unrau



Station Arts CENTRE

Right: Acrylic Painting by Norma Rempel
Below: Bird Carving by George Riekman



During the month of December, Station Arts Centre in Rosthern featured the art works of a brother and sister team from Nutana Park Mennonite Church. George Riekman displayed his bird carvings, which are made from a variety of different types of wood. His sister, Norma Rempel, displayed her acrylic and watercolour paintings.

One of the most effective ways to save energy (and money) is to replace an old furnace with a new, high efficiency model. We did this to our church building a little over a year ago when we replaced our three main furnaces. We now have a year's worth of natural gas consumption with the new furnaces to compare with the previous gas consumption, so I thought I would share it with you.

Unfortunately, you cannot compare directly the natural gas consumption from one year to the next because the weather also varies from one year to the next. To compensate for variations in weather, building scientists use a value called "Heating Degree Days." Heating Degree Days are determined from the difference between the average temperature for a given day and 18°C. For example, if the average temperature for the day is -10°C, there would be 28 HDD for that

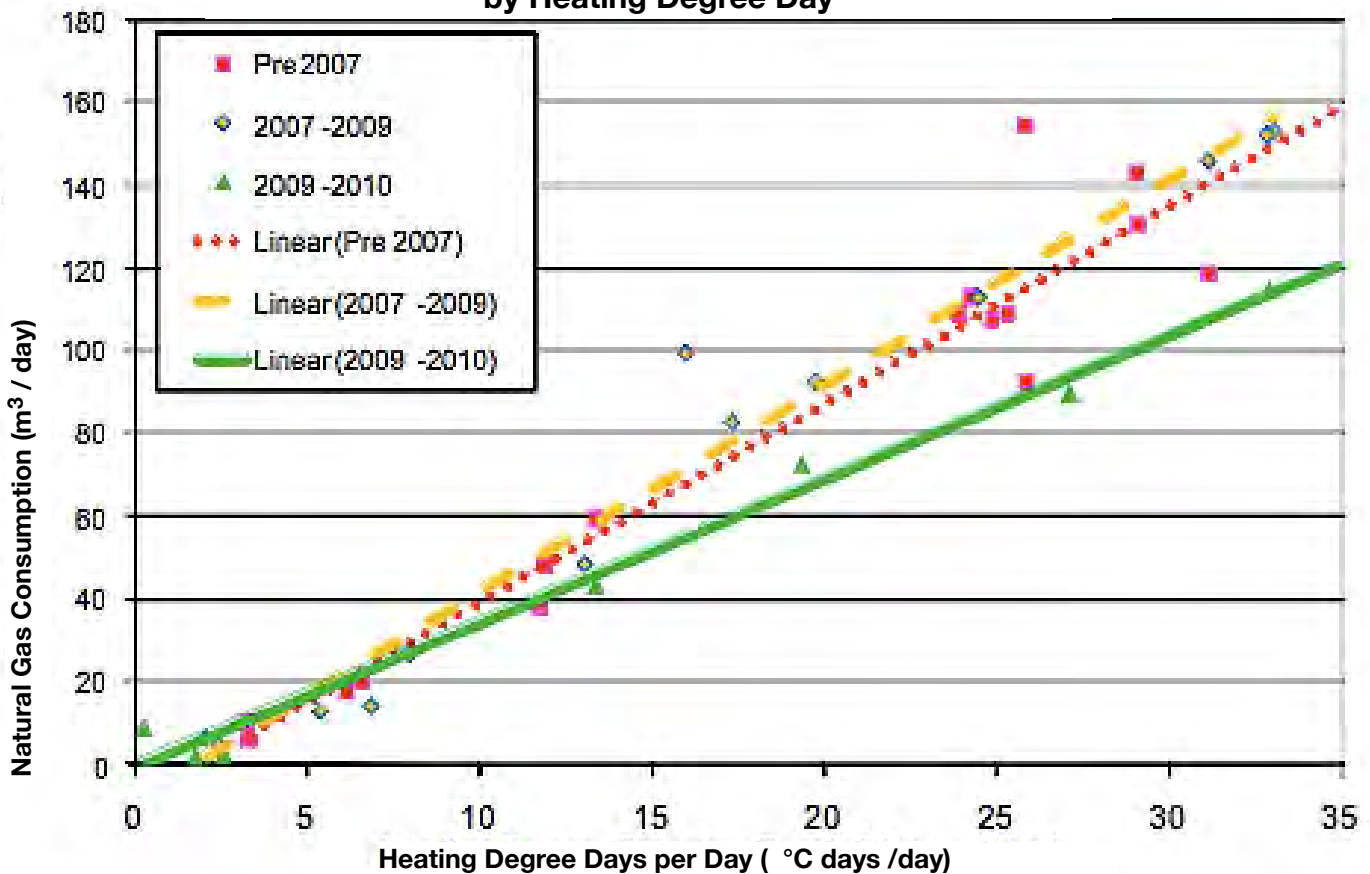
day. These are summed for the entire year, resulting in an average of about 5200 HDD (base 18°C) for Saskatoon (which indicates that we are a cold climate).

The natural gas consumption over a month can be divided by the number of Heating Degree Days for that month to normalize the gas consumption for weather. I have graphed this value for the past five years or so. The two year periods with the old furnaces are shown with the dotted and dashed lines, and are similar. The last year is shown with the solid line, and indicates that our new furnaces are using about 20% less natural gas compared with our old furnaces. The savings in energy translate into savings in money of almost \$2000 per year, depending on the price of natural gas (the more it goes up, the more we will save!)

Earthkeeper's CORNER

- KELLY WINDER

Nutana Park Mennonite Church Natural Gas Consumptions by Heating Degree Day



WORLD Adventure

-ARNOLD, VICKY,
JAKE & SARAH NEUFELD



These photos were taken in
Ko Tao, Thailand



Greetings to everyone at NPMC! We hope that all is well in Saskatoon! It is hard to believe that we have already experienced six months of world adventure and have reached the midway point. We are continually impressed with the beauty of God's creation and cultures around the world. Fortunately we have all experienced good health throughout the trip and hope that we all remain safe and healthy. We could talk for hours about all that we have experienced, but in brief it has been the adventure of a lifetime for our family.

If you are interested, a link to our travel website is indicated below:

<http://sites.google.com/site/neufeldrtw365/>

Greetings From Ko Tao, Thailand

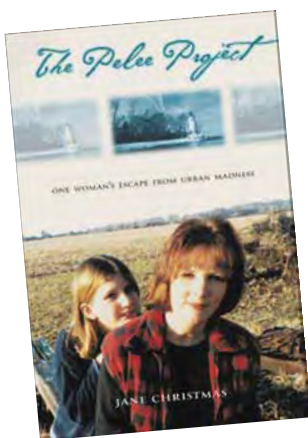
We arrived at Ko Tao as the monsoon rains ended. We almost left because the water appeared so silted up from the rain. Luckily we stuck around and after we explored the island it was difficult to leave. Ko tao has had the best snorkeling we have seen, so far, around the world. The combination of sand, water, scenery, and the ability to snorkel from shore has ranked this spot as number one on our list.

"Some people would say working in a nursing home is a burnout job but it is much more peaceful. It is a privilege to help our oldest through the ends of their lives."

In the Bleak Midwinter
Julia Spencer-Fleming



This quote has made the Julia Spencer-Fleming mystery series my new favourite. If she understands nursing home work, then she also gets other important things about life and human nature. The series features a female Anglican priest named Clare Fergusson and a town chief of police Russell Van Alystan. Besides interesting plots and humorous banter, the budding romance between the main characters keeps one turning the pages.



The Pelee Project by Jane Christmas felt like the Canadian version of Eat, Pray, Love. Again, a successful journalist with failing marriage retreats to Pelee Island for spiritual renewal and search for community.



A Hunter's Confession by Saskatoon's David Carpenter was a compelling read about the beauty of wildlife and our North Saskatchewan River Valley.

Shaun the Sheep has been a fun DVD series for our household. Brothers was a beautifully acted and enlightening DVD about PTSD and Afghan vets. While I think it is important to be understanding about PTSD, this is a tough watch and definitely not a family film. Old TV series like Hawaii Five-O and Magnum PI have been a fun watch.



The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin was a provocative New Year's read. Organized by each month of the year, Rubin set out to create more happiness in her life by singing, cleaning closets and being mindful. Sometimes bordering on the trite and exhibitionist, it was a good read nevertheless.

The Notebook, DVD was a lovely movie of hope and romance set in the South. I haven't read the book by Nicholas Sparks but if it is as lovely as the movie, I will read it too.

FAITH, Film & Fiction

- PATTY FRIESEN

Gallery

is that you?



Above: John standing in the Roman Colosseum

Right: The city of Split in the amazing country of Croatia

Below: The Vatican Gardens

Photos by John & Helen Siemens





A Tour of Ancient Lands



Above: The beautiful Greek island of Santorini

Left: Construction began on the Celsus Library in Ancient Ephesus in 110 AD. It held between 12,000-15,000 scrolls

Below: The Grand Theatre in Ancient Ephesus (now Turkey). This is the theatre where Paul spoke to the Ephesians



CROSS WALK

In Colour!

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email: hiddenattic@sasktel.net



Above Left: Youth baby-sitting service
Above: Over-nighter

YWALK

- REECE RETZLAFF

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

A start of a new year, a start of a new era. Well, perhaps not. With the start of the new year, we turn our focus more and more to the upcoming assemblies. We have PIT (Peace-it-Together) at CMU (Canadian Mennonite University) in Winnipeg, March 11-13, and Mennonite Church Canada Youth Assembly in Waterloo July 4-8. Both of these events promise to be rich in fun, faith, and fellowship. These are great opportunities the youth have to explore aspects of faith more deeply, and to develop ties with other youth across Canada. This helps foster a greater awareness, appreciation for, and support of our larger church bodies.

Of course, while assemblies may be highlights that we fundraise for, they do not take the place of our ongoing times of Tuesday bible studies and regular weekend activities. Some of the popular activities are back: skiing, sledding, and green jell-o night. Interspersed are movie nights, Menno Run, and girls night/guys night.

Of course, the best part of these activities is the people. We had a great time at the overnighter at the end of December. (notice I did NOT call it a "sleepover!") At one point, someone counted 35 people!! We made pizza, crepes, baked oatmeal; watched movies, played games, and hung out. Thanks to all who came for a great time!!! Check out some of the pics: (Including those of the Youth babysitting adventure in December)



Left: Eating
Middle: Playing Crokinole
Bottom: Goodbye to Marie
Below: Making Beeswax Candles

On November 30th we had our Christmas Party. We gathered to hear the Christmas story. Then we said good-bye and thank you to Marie Olfert, who was the sewing instructor for several years. We also took turns making and wrapping beeswax candles for gifts and playing Crokinole. Finally, snacks were enjoyed by all.

**Venture
CLUB**

**LORI WEILER-THIESSEN
& KATHY OLFERT**



Upcoming Events & IMPORTANT NOTES



February 5

Hootenanny

Contact Maxine Dick

Ph: 249-0235

Email:

maxinedick@sasktel.net

February 3-5

Refreshing Winds 2011

Worship & Music Conference

CMU

February 25, 26

Songfest

First Mennonite Church
Saskatoon

Registration Forms on
Bulletin bd. in ed. wing

March 11-13

Peace It Together

CMU

See: pit.cmu.ca

Registration forms under
mailboxes



January 29

Prairie Master Gardeners

Escape Winter

9:30 am-3:30 pm NPMC

To register

phone Winona: 651-1457

January 30

Alzheimer Society

Forget-Me-Not Walk

9:00 am Saskatoon Field House

Forms on bulletin bd. in ed. wing