

# CROSS WALK



## LIGHTING Our Way - PATRICK PREHEIM

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### Signs of **GOD'S KINGDOM** in the World

Lent is late in coming this year. One university age attender of Nutana Park was heard lamenting the fact that Lenten disciplines would not help him in school work this year because the damage will have been done by the time the disciplines take effect. March 9 is Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday doesn't arrive until April 24. According to one dictionary I consult Lent comes from the Middle English *lente* (springtime), from the Old English *lencten*, and akin to Old High German *lenzin* (spring). The first known use was in the 13th century. It would appear that religious leaders in the Middle Ages linguistically linked the renewed warmth, green, and life found in the season of spring with an anticipated renewal of the spiritual life. The 20th century editors of the Handbook of the Christian Year affirm this impulse.

"Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant. We are to be signs of God's kingdom in the world" (Handbook of the Christian Year; by Hoyt Hickman, Don Saliers, Laurence Stookey, James White). How do we embody the renewed life which God in Christ offers us so that we may be "signs of God's kingdom in the world"? I suspect the answer to this question has more to do with Jesus than chocolate.

For too many Lenten seasons I have chosen abandonment of some corporal vice, like eating sweets, to hone my spiritual sensibilities. Upon reflection of these experiences I think this type of discipline has focused too much on me and not enough on the *continued on page 3...*

# BOARD Report

- MITCH DAHL



**Nutana Park  
Mennonite Church**

1701 Ruth Street  
Saskatoon SK  
S7J 0L7  
306.374.2144  
www.npmc.net

## Cross Walk Committee

Hedie Borne - editor  
373-2979 or  
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 March 20th**

On February 14, the NPMC Board gathered for our monthly meeting. Trish St. Onge opened the meeting with a reflection reading of *Dancing Around the "In" Box*, by Earl Martin. 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 January 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.

Membership transfers – Joan Stephens, Martha Ens, Armin Krahn, and Edith Krahn will be welcomed as NPMC members.

The church property improvement project is moving forward efficiently and effectively as building plans and permits are being put in place with construction initiating as early as March. The board applauds the fundraising efforts of the

membership. Thanks again to the AODBT staff members for the outstanding multimedia presentation revealing the exciting foyer project visual impact. Great job!

A brave group of energetic volunteers has taken on the task of church basement and storage area clean-up. Church supplies and equipment will be reviewed and organized accordingly. Thank you Tammy Forrester, Helen Siemens, Anita Retzlaff, and Carl Weins.

The church website is currently undergoing an update and upgrade thanks to the expertise and efforts of Dennis Breen. We'll keep you posted on the new website status as the website renovation progresses. Thanks Dennis!

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

**Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** by Jamie Ford is a delightful war-time love story and insight into the lives of Chinese and Japanese Americans in Seattle.

**Peace Meals** by Anna Badkhen reveals the transforming power of food and hospitality throughout war-torn areas.

**The Dirty Life** by Kristin Kimball is the memoir of an urbanite turned farmer. Who knew farming could be such a page-turner?

**Crazy Heart** with Jeff Bridges is a gripping tale of love, loss and alcoholism.

**Date Night** with Tena Fey and Steve Carroll is somewhat edgy but extremely laughable.

There are many reasons why **The King's Speech** is an Oscar award winner. Only the British can make a speech impediment riveting.

## Poverty & STARVATION

In keeping with our program topic, Betty Epp, vice-chair, for her opening devotional, read an excerpt from her dad's, Abram K. Berg's, diary. It was written while he lived in the Ukraine during the years that the revolution raged across the land. He described the brutality of the armies and how they confiscated the horses, cattle and grain from the settlers creating poverty and starvation in the Russian and Mennonite villages. It reminded us that many of our parents, grandparents, and other relatives had also struggled with starvation during those years.

However, persons today are also facing this struggle of poverty and starvation and not only in far-away places but also right here at home. Betty concluded with a prayer exhorting us to not forget these persons.

Claire Ewert Fischer, Executive Director of MCC, was our guest speaker. Her topic was the Good Food Junction located on 20th Street in Saskatoon. The Good Food

Junction is not a church project as such, but many leaders from a variety of Christian denominations signed a letter of commitment to lend their support to this project. Claire represented MCC at this signing.

Church leaders feel that this venture is clearly addressing a human need and providing a grocery store in a needy area of the city where there isn't one. They decided to make this community co-op a special project during the advent season. Their specific focus was to raise the \$650,000 required to stock and equip the store. Their hope was that the business community would perceive this as a worthwhile project and get involved in it.

Claire expanded on the topic of hunger and poverty from her wealth of experience in having been involved in many similar MCC initiatives. Her presentation gave us much food for thought; how great the need is all around us and how privileged we are.

**RUTH  
MISSION  
Society**  
By Anne Friesen

## LIGHTING Our Way - continued from page 1

world in which I am called to be a sign. From a Christian perspective the key to personal and social renewal is Jesus the Christ, not food or drink. So this year I am toying with the idea of more conscientiously adopting a couple of imperatives Jesus put forward in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. Among other things Jesus is reported as commanding, "Give to the one who begs from you" (5:42) and "pray for those who persecute you" (5:44). I usually get around to praying for those who aggravate me, but not as quickly as I would like. I usually get around to giving, but not as grumble free as I might like. I feel as if my spiritual reflexes could use some additional training. It is these spiritual muscles acting reflexively which will be the sign of God's kingdom in the

world. If forgoing that sweet treat deepens your Christ-like compassion and justice lived out in your community, then blessing on your abstinence. Be clear, however, on why you do what you do.

Lent is late in coming this year, but maybe for Saskatchewan it will be just the right time. In our northern latitude this could be the year that a green springtime parallels a spiritual renewal in us and our communities. This could be the year the melting of those rock solid ice flotillas on our side streets parallels the melt of hard hearts. The rise of the spring crocuses out of the snow this year might actually parallel our celebration of Jesus' rising from the tomb on Easter. This could be the year.

# Church Family NEWS



**Below:** James, Colin and Ella standing in front of their apartment in Germany

## Best Wishes To

**Lars & Nicole Hargesheimer** as they relocated to Winker MB at the end of January

Mary Froese, sister-in-law of **Dave and Arnie Froese** and Bill Sawatzky, brother of **Elsie & Bruno Neufeldt**, as they were married on January 29

## Our Condolences to

**Sarah & Abe Loewen** on the death of their sister-in-law, Mary Loewen

**Rick & June Friesen** on the death of Rick's father, Dick Friesen

**Miriam Jantzen** on the death of her brother-in-law, Wilfred Plett



## Setting Up House IN GERMANY

- JAMES, SUSAN, COLIN AND ELLA FUNK

We have arrived at Ostrhauderfehn. We are living above the Apotheke Ostrhauderfehn. It is owned by our friends Anne and Claus Sieverding. Today is a sunny and cool day. Most people here would say that it is a cold winter day. Given that it is around -24 degrees Celsius in Saskatoon, we wouldn't say that it is cold or winter, but it is chilly in the wind.

For more photos and information see: <http://kairoszeit.wordpress.com>



## AROUND THE WORLD

- ARNOLD, VICKY, JAKE & SARAH NEUFELD

**Above Left:** Hiking through the rice fields in Bali

**Above:** Sea turtle on one of the Gili Islands, Indonesia

**Below:** Petronas Twin towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Gili islands, Indonesia

There are no motor vehicles on these islands. You have to walk, ride a horse, or hire a horse-drawn buggy. We loved snorkeling with the sea turtles and the kids enjoyed the freedom of going for bike rides around the islands.

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

We were amazed at the natural and architectural beauty of Malaysia. The countryside was filled with palms. The Petronas Twin Towers were incredible. We managed to get some of the last tickets to go on the sky-bridge.

For more photos and information see: <http://sites.google.com/site/neufeldrtw365>



# Nutana Park

## Gallery



**Above:** Peter, presenting a quilt to Ms. Tammy and Mr. David. These clients lost all their household contents in the flood in Tennessee in May, 2010

**Right:** View from the MDS Camp Lodge where the volunteers were housed



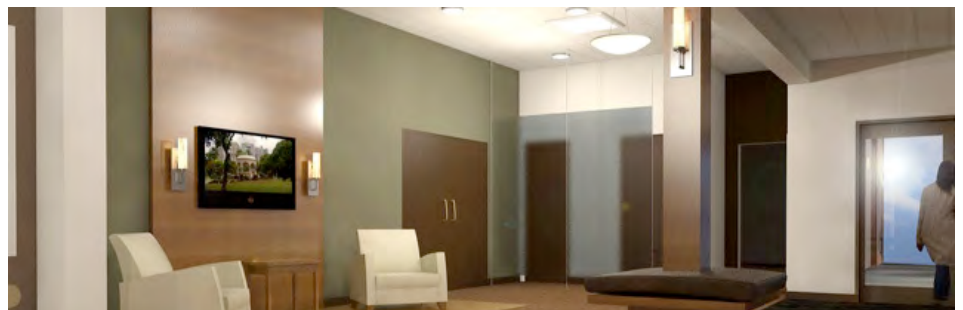
Thanks again to the AODBT staff members for the outstanding multimedia presentation revealing the exciting foyer project visual impact.

### Great Job!

**Top:** West view with double doors leading into the Sanctuary

**Centre:** East view with middle door leading to the Lounge

**Below:** North-east view with double doors leading into the Education Wing





Where's that Pinata?

# Venture CLUB

- KATHY OLFERT

# YWalk

- REECE RETZLAFF

## Rest. Sabbath. February Break.

We all need time off now and then, to recharge our engines. Thankfully, this is also built into the school year. As I write this, the February break comes to a close for many of our students, including the youth. Many went skiing or visited family; some stayed home. It seems to be a popular time to put aside studies, and reconnect with family and friends.

It seems difficult to believe the break is over; it seems to have gone by so fast. At the same time, absence makes the heart grow fonder. And if we are not longing for studies, at least we are longing to see friends again at school.

As we begin March, we look forward to many events. As a group, we are going skiing on the 5th, the same day as the youth from Wildwood and Mount Royal. March 11-13, several of us will be travelling with others from MCSask to go to PiT, Peace-it-Together, a conference on peace in Winnipeg at Canadian Mennonite University. And look for the info on the upcoming joint activity with Wildwood and Mount Royal March 25th (a reworking of "Menno Run")!

To keep in mind for our youth: Those at RJC will be participating in the ALSO (Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities) from March 20-April 3. Some will be in Guatemala, Some in Mississippi, and some in Edmonton, Calgary, or Saskatoon. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they work and serve together!

There are also basketball and hockey playoffs coming up, as well as music festivals. May they go well, with good sportsmanship, enjoyable competition, and growth for all!

With all this going on, we can see why breaks are important! Hopefully the break has rejuvenated us to enjoy our classes and extracurricular activities once again!

## February Activities

For our group activities this year, we are using MCC's children's brochures entitled, "Hello". We learn about different cultures and countries, how they say Hello in their language and what life is like for children in these countries. So far, we have studied Canada, Haiti, Indonesia, Congo and are presently learning about Mexico. Instead of a Valentines' Day Party, we had a pinata in the shape of the sun, because it's quite sunny in Mexico. The children enjoyed breaking the pinata and picking up the heart shaped erasers that flew out, as well as the Valentine's treats.

## March Activities

Everyone is invited to join the Venture Club for our Closing Program on Tuesday night, March 29th 7 pm to 8 pm, where we will be displaying the work of our Craft, Woodworking and Sewing classes. The Sewing class will model their outfits that they have been working on since Christmas. The Cooking class will show us their serving skills as they offer us refreshments. This evening is especially important to attend for all children who will be in Grade 3 next year and wish to join the club.

# Upcoming Events & IMPORTANT NOTES



## March 9 Ash Wednesday Service

NPMC Lounge

7:30 pm

March 18,19  
**Mennonite Church Sask  
Annual Delegate Sessions**  
North Battleford, SK  
Contact Allan Klassen  
Ph: 373-2260  
Email: ar.klassen@shaw.ca

March 26  
**Shekinah Fundraising Banquet**  
Mount Royal Mennonite Church  
5:30 pm: Silent Auction  
6:30 pm: Supper  
Tickets: \$20  
Contact Shekinah Office

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

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

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

March 6  
**Rosthern Junior College  
Guys & Pies Fundraiser**  
Featuring: A Buncha Guys  
& RJC Man Choir  
7 pm

March 12  
**Canadian Mennonite  
Fundraising Banquet**  
Wildwood Mennonite Church  
6 pm  
Tickets \$12.50  
Ph: 241-0757  
Email: les@bitlink.ca

March 12  
**Simply Superb Presents  
Godspell**  
8 pm  
PrairieLand Community Centre  
Kerrobert, SK  
Tickets: \$20 at the door

