



## REFLECTIONS – ANITA RETZLAFF

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### Disciples of Nutana Park Mennonite Church

Jesus didn't convene committees, organize Sunday Schools, write by-laws, policy manuals or confessions of faith. Jesus did not hire pastors, hold national assemblies, build seminaries or concern himself with setting budgets.

Jesus did teach about assisting widows and orphans, welcoming strangers and accepting the socially outcast. He was brazen about the ways in which institutional budgets overlooked the needs of the poor. He accepted the hospitality of scoundrels, prayed in the synagogue and interpreted scripture. He told stories to people who sought wholeness and he taught his disciples about what the Kingdom of God is like.

We, as 21st century disciples are responsible and accountable in hiring pastors, convening committees, holding assemblies, building seminaries and preparing budgets. We are also responsible for welcoming strangers, outcasts and scoundrels and partnering with those who are poor. We are

expected to know what the Kingdom of God is like and to live accordingly.

That is a lot to know and there is much to do.

To be a disciple is to become a learner and an apprentice of Jesus. We are Christians-in-training. We are responsible for a great deal; for carrying forward the ministry of Jesus and ad-ministering ourselves well. Disciples are committed to minister and to ad-minister, to love and lead, to pray and participate.

Disciples learn as they go. That is what it means to be a follower and a learner. Therefore discernment becomes vital for our congregation. The way forward isn't always clear and our motives are best examined in a group. Nutana Park Mennonite Church is filled with Christians-in-training who desire to live in peace. It is our challenge to talk together about how we can fill this little corner of our world with love and hospitality. The Kingdom of God is like....

# BOARD Report

- BOB SAWATZKY



**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 December 3rd**

Well, the summer months have quickly passed us by, once again, and we are into our fall season. The NPMC Board of Deacons met on September 16, 2011, with a very full agenda. Our Board has a number of new faces, as do the committees and facilitators of all of the areas of our church functions, which contribute to making things happen, and to making things run smoothly. We are very blessed to have the contributions and support of so many volunteers.

Patrick opened the meeting with some thoughts about our recent potluck barbecue to which the community had been invited. He spoke of the energy and specialness of the event, and felt that messengers of God are made known when they offer food to the community. He expressed that it is our Christian calling to engage community.

Following our traditional time of sharing, and becoming more familiar with one another we moved on to items of business.

**Brandee Borne presented the financial statements** to August 31, 2011. Although we are not meeting budget at this time, when we compare the numbers with those of previous years, there is not a huge discrepancy. The summer months, with lower attendance, are typically slower months.

**The Board was pleased to grant Patrick a sabbatical** effective April 9 to May 21, 2012, and January 1 to February 15, 2013. Our policy allows three months' paid sabbatical after three years of service. I'm sure he will be happy to share his plans with all of you at some time.

**Reports from the deacons** were brief and very positive. Following are some of the highlights:

1. **Trish St. Onge – Caring and Visitation:** met last week to plan fall events.

2. **Alison Jantz – Conference:** in process of looking into upcoming plans, and meeting with previous conference deacon.

3. **Wayne Dueck – Christian Education:** all programs are up and running.

4. **Lois Tiessen – Fellowship:** reported a busy summer with funeral lunches, and planning fall barbecue, but was impressed with all of the volunteer help.

e) **Denelda Fast – Worship:** Worship leaders in place to January. Improvements to the sound system in the new foyer are necessary. Tammy Forrester will look into the possibilities and costs.

f) **Rhonda Krahn and Sharon Klassen – Mission:** There were three outreach services this past summer – two at Sherbrooke and one at Bethany. They are scheduling for the fall.

g) **Lorene Nickel – Music:** Numbers are down in the adult and children's choirs, but with so much musical talent within our congregation, they are looking at a few more special music Sundays.

h) **Carl Wiens – Building and Grounds:** The front foyer renovations are nearly done. The next project will be the painting of the fellowship hall and the corridors. He could use another addition to his committee to help out, particularly during the winter holiday season. Is anyone interested?

**The Bursary Committee**, consisting of Jake Ens, Evelyn Roden and Bob Sawatzky, proposed this year's awards. The Board approved the recommendations and offered congratulations to all of the recipients.

**Stella Dyck Memorial Bursary** – Janna Krismer and Sarah Warkentin

**Bill and Elma Bergen Bursary** – Alina Balzer-Peters.

**WMS Bursary** – Hillary Fast.

Anita closed the meeting with a prayer.

It was in the mid to late 1940's, (just after the Riel Rebellion, Sara) that the Heinrichs family in Hague would travel by car across the South Saskatchewan River either by ferry or over the ice to Aberdeen to visit Wes' grandparents. On these trips they would occasionally visit the Bill Lanes or Ben Fasts, where Helen and I, as children, first learned to know Wes.

A few years later Wes and I met again in high school at the Rosthern Junior College, but he really did not have much time for me because a pretty young lady by the name of Elsie Sawatzky caught his eye, and became the focus of most of his attention. That was the beginning of what ultimately became the wonderful family history of Wes and Elsie Heinrichs.

During the services held for Wes, tributes from many walks of life attested to his attributes both as a wonderful husband and father and one who always very generously supported his community. Wes gave of his time to many organizations, serving as a board member or chairperson of the Saskatoon City Hospital, the Retail Merchants Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Community Foundation, the Saskatchewan Blue Cross Group, the Blue Cross Life Insurance Company of Canada, the Nutana Park Mennonite Church, the Rosthern Junior College and the Bethany Manor.

He also supported local charities at golf tournaments; provincial and national groups through consultation and lectures to young entrepreneurs and business persons in Winnipeg and in Saskatoon, both at SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan; and international development of impoverished nations through the Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA).

Now, all of this service occurred over and above his career in men's wear retailing with Barney Kutz and Caswells Men's Wear, where he became a manager and ultimately a partner in the business. He was a gifted salesman, tireless worker, always caring for his customers. In both his career and in his contributions

to the community he was dedicated to his fellow human beings and served them with great dedication and dignity. He was principled and ethical in business, which led him two years ago to be honoured as an outstanding businessman by MEDA. However, on one occasion I told him his suits fit just right – perhaps sometimes too perfectly – because if a customer gained two pounds in the following month, he would have to return to purchase another suit!!

When one rides a golf cart with the same person as I have with him for many years, conversations turn to things and events which are not frequently discussed publicly. A month ago at the Holiday Park Golf Course we talked about funerals. I believe he knew then that his demise was imminent, and he said, "You know Ray, funerals are solemn events, but they should also be celebratory and not totally devoid of humour."

On other occasions at the 19th hole, our discussions turned to politics. Now, while in every sense of the word Wes was a gentleman, and spoke positively of almost everyone he knew, his praise for Pierre Trudeau and a few others on the far left of the political spectrum was somewhat less than exuberant. But he was human, and he was honest!

Wes was also an avid reader of history and political history. This interest led him and Elsie to visit many museums and historical sites, not only in Saskatchewan, but throughout Europe and Asia.

I also discovered that Wes was not one for long sermons or speeches. Fortunately, the pastors at his funeral kept their very appropriate discourses to the length which he would have appreciated.

However, above all, Wes cared very deeply for his family. On the golf cart he told me how proud he was of all of them. He spoke frequently of Debra's teaching career, and how she started the first summer lunch program for impoverished children in Saskatoon – of Bob, and his rise in the Executive ranks in RBC, both in Alberta and other parts of the world

## TRIBUTE to Wes Heinricks

– RAY FAST

– and of Jennifer, and her excellent marketing and human relations skills – and how pleased he was with the support of Judy and Stan.

While he tried not to show it, I know that his breast swelled with pride when he spoke of the accomplishments of Sara, Jeffrey and Mark. Your grandfather loved you and was very proud of you. Wes also appreciated the concern and support of his sister Audrey and Gary, his brother Clif and Terri and a very special niece Trish and Marcel.

And Elsie, his love for you was frequently evident in our conversations. He would tell me of a special suit he bought for you – about how concerned he was about your health and well-being – and if he was late during coffee after bowling, he would call you to assure you that he was fine, because he knew that you would be worried about him. These feelings for you were evident in our conversations.

His dining friends will also miss our times together – ham and eggs sunny side up at lunch on Sundays, or lobster dinners on Wednesdays!

And now we must say farewell, Wes. Rest in peace, know that we will never forget you, and we will never abandon Elsie.

# MC CANADA Assembly

- RENATA KLASSEN



**July 4-8, 2011  
Waterloo University in  
Waterloo, Ontario.**

## **Why should we attend MC Canada Assembly?**

It provides us with opportunities to be taught and inspired in our faith by excellent Anabaptist teachers and ministers. At assembly, we have a variety of learning experiences, including seminars and discussion groups, tours, concerts, drama presentations, and interpersonal interactions. We experience worship in a wider church body, led by gifted song and worship leaders. We receive information about the work that we do together as a national church. We debate issues that are facing the larger church. We receive the reports and conduct the business of the national church in which we hold membership. We eat, walk and visit with old and new friends from across the nation.

## **Why should our congregation send delegates to MC Canada Assembly?**

MC Canada is our church. We own it. We need to be informed and involved in what happens at that level. Decisions made by the national church affect us in direct and indirect ways. We need to have a voice in its decisions and directions.

## **Some of the highlights of the assembly held this past summer:**

Bible studies on Revelation 21 and 22 by Loren Johns, professor of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He stated that the book was written to teach the churches at the end of the first century how to live in challenging times. It was not a blue print of all the ages to come! God invites all to come into the kingdom – the gates of the city are open all the time. He suggested that we should not look for a city to come down out of the clouds to take us out of the world, but that



# Mennonite Church

we should look for God at work in the world around us. Keynote speakers Nelson Kraybill and Willard Metzger further elaborated this new, refreshing and challenging look at the book that has had rather different interpretations in our lifetime.

Issues related to sexuality continue to create tension within church bodies, including MC Canada. At the past three assemblies, papers have been presented on “Being a Faithful Church”. These propose a process by which we can deal with difficult questions within the faith community. This year the proposal was specific to beginning a process to assist us in developing better understanding of Biblical mandates on issues related to sexuality. This year, a group called Harmony presented a resolution calling for acceptance and inclusion of persons of homosexual orientation by churches. Ben Borne of Wildwood Mennonite Church spoke on behalf of the group, but referred the motion to the General Board, for action as a part of the “Being Faithful Church” study process. The discussion of the issue was respectful and positive.

Tours and service events were part of the assembly. These included youth and adult interaction. Groups walked around various parts of downtown Waterloo, carrying peace slogans. They stopped at various service agencies that work in the city, praying for the workers and those whom they serve, and delivering homemade cookies. A memorable tour that several NPMC people

took went to visit the oldest Indian residential school in Canada. The stories told at the school were troubling reminders of our past dealings with our First Nations neighbors. We will be hearing more of these stories when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission visits Saskatchewan next summer. How will we respond? We then went on to see the site of a Six Nations confrontation with the Ontario Provincial Police at Caledonia. Here the land that the Six Nations people were promised by treaty has been systematically taken away, so that the current reserve is about 5% of the original tract. The negotiation through the land claims commission seems stalled. It reminded us of the situation at Stony Knoll, just outside of Laird in Saskatchewan.

Over the past number of years, the giving to MC Canada programs has not kept up with inflation and other increasing costs. This year, difficult decisions were made to reduce the programs. Several programs and positions were cut. At this year’s assembly, a recommendation was accepted to change from annual to biannual assemblies, as a cost cutting measure. There will be a shortened assembly/Bible study conference in BC next July. After that, assemblies will be held every second year, with the next one planned for 2014.

The delegates in 2011 from NPMC were Geraldine Balzer, Gordon Peters and Anita Retzlaff. I and Ken Warkentin represented Mennonite Church Saskatchewan.



“God invites  
all to come  
into the  
kingdom –  
the gates of  
the city are  
open all the  
time.”

# Church Family NEWS

**Below:** Kelsi Siemens receives the "Good Shepherd Award"



## We Rejoice With

**Erika and Hartmut/Julio Niessen-Toews** on the birth of daughter Lauren Helena, born in May

**Those who have convocated:** Erin Friesen, David Guenther, Greg Reese, Becky Reikman, Jared Kroeger, Jacoba Fast

**Anita Retzlaff and Ken Warkentin** who were married in June

**Our high school graduates:** Jamie Winder, Kyle Zurevinsky, Tyler Epp, Hillary Fast, Parker Olfert, Jamie UnRuh

We rejoice with **Inez Kinzel, June and Howard Giles, and Herbert and Justina Peters** as they join our fellowship

**Kelsi Siemens** who received the "Good Shepherd Award" at her Grade 8 graduation

**Dennis Breen, Alta Peachy and Rebecca** on the adoption of Lucas Xintan Peachy Breen from China in July

**Maikel and Rowena Unrau** on the birth of Ethan David born in July

**Kenna Forrester** and her amazing experience touring with the Saskatoon Children's Choir in South Africa in July

**Wendy Harder and Dwight Eisler** who were married in August

**Mackenzie Fast and Sarah Unrau** who were married in August

Grandparents **Ted and Joanne Ewert**, on the birth of Jackson Gregory, born to Jay Ewert and Cheryl Bates

**Elisabeth and Henry Reimer** on the marriage of their son James to Laura in August

**Tam and Hung Ha** in the marriage of their son Edward in August

**Andrea and Chris Rodda** on the birth of their daughter Norah Penny born in August, and to grandparents **Bob and Margaret Neufeldt**

**Janelle and Tim Siemens** on the birth of their daughter Lanaya Marguerite, and to grandparents **Lydia and Peter Schroeder**

## Our Condolences To

**Winona Senner** on the death of her brother-in-law Anthony Epp

**Luana Dueck** on the death of her uncle Albert Friesen

**Abe and Sarah Loewen** on the death of a brother Jake Loewen, who was also an uncle to **John and Helen Siemens**

**The family of Wes Heinrichs** – Elsie Heinrichs, Debra Heinrichs, Stan and Sara Bartel, Trish and Marcel St. Onge and family

**Inez Kinzel** on the death of her brother-in-law Harold Kinzel

**The family of Arnie Froses** who died in August

**The family of Hilda Nickel** who died in September

**Elva and Ernie Epp, and Fred and Betty Wieler** on the death on their niece Julie Wieler Harder



Spring  
Bridal  
Shower  
@ NPMC

Ladies in HATS!



**Above Right:** Inez Kinzel, June and Howard Giles, and Herbert and Justina Peters as they join our fellowship

**Below:** June 19, 2011 Ken & Anita's Wedding.



Spring  
Bridal  
Shower  
@ NPMC

Ladies in HATS!





# MDS Volunteer Vignette

- MARION TOEWS

While Bonavista, Newfoundland, June 20 – July 1, 2011, was Marion Toews' first MDS project, the list of projects with other organizations, both before and after her retirement as a nurse, would fill a page by itself. On a trip to Cachipay, Colombia the plan to go out to a leprosarium to work on a retreat centre was stopped by political troubles. She worked instead with churches in Bogota, a different place each day to keep from being kidnapped. She found it inspiring to see work of the Colombian Mennonites with displaced people. Originally from Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Church (Glenbush, Rabbit Lake and Mayfair, Saskatchewan) she now attends Nutana Park Mennonite Church (MC Canada) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. One of her sons runs the family farm. She calls her mission trips her "bucket list". Having served in Africa, Asia, North and South America, she is now interested in seeing Canada.

On her first day Toews touched up paint, worked at cleaning up a house almost ready to pass on to the owners, and shovelled gravel. The next day she was preparing spindles for a bridge. While the rest of Canada sits on decks, Newfoundlanders can stand on a bridge, fore and aft on their houses. Future jobs included insulating, installing vapour barrier, mudding and sanding drywall and painting before she leaves for home.

Years ago a tornado at Mayfair SK struck her farm causing lots of damage – trees down, most of the grain augers blown over, feed bins blown apart. MDS from Glenbush as well as Rabbit Lake, Mayfair and Prince Albert, came and did clean up. Her son Michael was influenced by this too. "It's not just the work they did," he said, "it's that they cared." She sees her work now as paying it forward showing her children, now 42, 44, 46 and 48, that it is possible to do that.

Toews, 72, has checked a few things off her bucket list recently – a tandem sky dive in Hawaii, helicopter ride, a tree top zipline; hot air balloon. She's looking forward to the MDS house dedication in Melrose, Newfoundland and in the future to go to the Yukon, North West Territories or Nunavut – maybe with Habitat for Humanity, an organization she served with before.

When asked if she had any frustration in this work with MDS, like perhaps having a room with no door only a curtain she laughed, shaking her head and proceeded to tell a story of working in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch on a medical mission – she was the pharmacist. There the school they were using as a dormitory had no windows, only bars, and no curtains. She had to encourage some small local boys to climb down to give them some privacy.

**Above Left:** Marian Toews, MDS Volunteer





# YWalk

– REECE RETZLAFF

## Upcoming Youth Events:

Youth leading games for children at church retreat  
Mission Impossible at church retreat

Sr Youth: Bigger & Better –  
October 15, 1-4 pm

Joint Youth: Mentor/Mentee  
Costume Event – October  
29, 7-9 pm

As fall starts up again, so does another school year. This also means the kick-off to another year of youth. We started near the end of August with a three day camping trip to Pike Lake. This was a great experience, where we went swimming, saw a marriage proposal (ask the youth for details), got firewood, and many learned to play Dutch Blitz. We ended this trip with a potluck with parents.

Another highlight of the beginning of the academic year is the junior youth/junior high SMYO (Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization) retreat. This year, we went to the Youth Farm Bible Camp, instead of Shekinah, as has been done in the past. One of the main reasons for this is that 2011 marks the seventieth anniversary of the first SMYO retreat held at the Youth Farm. We went to the Youth Farm to celebrate this momentous milestone.

Our speaker for the retreat was Conrad Stoesz. Conrad is an archivist who works at the Mennonite Heritage Gallery, as well as the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. He spoke to us about heroes of the faith. He told us stories of Abraham, Moses, David, and Bishop David Toews. He told stories of Mennonites in Russia, in Canada, and in Saskatchewan. He heard the story of Elizabeth, who played her guitar during a home invasion, and the gang left, and took nothing with them. He heard the story of Amish forgiveness after the Nickel Mines incident in 2006.

We also discussed this history of the youth farm. Mark Wurtz showed us pictures and gave us descriptions of the history of the youth farm. We learned it had been a government-owned research farm. There had been children's homes, and homes for those with special needs. Some buildings and some programs have come and gone, but the Youth Farm complex still remains. Some of the comments from both Mark and Conrad is that the big concerns at the

first gathering continue one in some forms to today. There is still a concern for how youth are engaged in the church. There is also a concern as to how much the church is engaged in culture. Back then, one of the big issues was that the retreat was in English. Now, I wonder if we are concerned with a) the style of music; b) the use of technology; c) perhaps the lack of diversity of language in worship??? However, the underlying desire for youth to be involved in the life of the church, the need for youth to be participants in the life of the church for the health of all, this is still a priority.

With all the discussion of heroes of the faith, we were also invited to speak of our own heroes. We were invited to draw, or use play-dough, to depict our heroes. This allowed us time to reflect on stories from our traditions and joint histories, as well as allow us to name those people who have impacted our lives more personally.

And finally, in keeping with the understanding of the "3 S's," we also enjoyed some service and social time to accompany our study. Some youth went and visited the Station Arts centre and did some print making and face painting for a festival there. Some went and visited with people in the Home for the Aged and the Mennonite Nursing Home. Others helped clean out pens at the Youth Farm (for the petting zoo), or clean up other areas of the Farm, including the beach volleyball court. After this, we enjoyed Sumo Suits, the Climbing Wall, the low ropes course, archery, remote-controlled cars, and horseback riding. Of course, there was the perpetual game of bump throughout the weekend, and the Saturday evening experience of finding things in the corn maze after dark. After this, we gathered for another great coffee house, where the youth shared their talents with each other.

All in all, I would say a good time was had by all.



# YOUTH ASSEMBLY

- Josef Beug



Every journey begins somehow, this one with a goodbye to loved ones and a thirty-six hour bus trip. This journey would change many things about the people taking it, some would receive a new outlook on faith and community, new friends, a new appreciation for standing up or all of the above. We all began to know each other better as we travelled. The youth pastors helped with this of course, along with making the trip more bearable by letting us borrow board games and putting on movies. The trip took around three days, we stopped for bathroom breaks, meals and hotels for the night. when we finally made it to Waterloo Ontario and it was a huge relief for everybody.

At first a place that seemed alien but soon became a welcoming home that we all warmed up to quickly. The rooms that we stayed in housed two people and were pretty nice. With a desk, a bed and a closet for each person it wasn't all that bad (even though we weren't in our rooms all that often.) one of the first things that happened was a good hundred people played mixer games.

Though I cannot say that meals where that good it was nice to have pop available (that combined with all the fast food on the way there I'm sure everyone gained a couple pounds.) in the spare time which there was little of, one could play pool, basketball, hang out with people or take walks and explore Waterloo. As for things that were planned there where quite a few things such as chapel and evening activities.

The overall theme for youth assembly was Revelation and a new earth. There

where lectures and talks on this subject matter but it seemed to only scrape the surface and made you want to pick up a bible and see for yourself (or maybe that's because I missed chapel due to sleeping.) I joke a bit but in all seriousness there were some boring parts but also some very interesting parts. I'd explain it but my memory falls short and I do not think I could put such things in words myself. All I can say is if you are interested read some of Revelation and put some thought into it.

Now for the fun stuff. One of my favourite things was the "Hello Kelly" concert, I enjoyed the music and was able to speak to the singer from the band. There was also a hypnotist which was very interesting and qualified for a few good laughs (his last name was Mennonite, surprise surprise.) I was one of those people who tried to get to know most everyone I could and was surprised at how many people had things in common with me despite where they were from.

Now you must be thinking to yourself "wow, what jolly good fun those youth had. But did they learn more about G-d and community? Did they take into their hearts meaning and a new look on faith?" I personally think most of the youth did. On the bus ride back I had a very interesting talk with some other youth about G-d, so yes it got us thinking. Which if you know a lot about teenagers is the first step.

I may not have remembered everything but this is my experience at youth assembly 2011. I hope that other people got as much meaning from it as I did.



# Upcoming Events & IMPORTANT NOTES



**October 22**  
**Equipping Day 2011**

“Growing as Family”

Registration forms on table  
by mailboxes or  
[www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca)

**October 14 and 15**  
**Rosthern Junior College**  
**Alumni Weekend**, To register  
or for information email Denelda  
at [deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)

**October 28-30**  
**Quilting and Scrapbooking**  
**Retreat at Shekinah**,  
Contact Donna Schulz at  
232-4733, Registration forms  
on table by mailboxes

**October 14 and 15**  
**Women’s Retreat at Shekinah**  
Theme: “Spiritual Growth and  
Learning”,  
To register call 232-4204 or  
232-5050

