



CROSS WALK

True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant. It clothes the naked, it feeds the hungry, it comforts the sorrowful, it shelters the destitute, it serves those that harm it, it binds up that which is wounded, it has become all things to all people.

~ Menno Simons



REFLECTIONS - ANITA RETZLAFF

Inside

Reflections	1
From the Board	2
Church Family News	3
Garry's Indigenous Journey	4
Patty's Ponderings/Picks	5
Fracking is a Human Issue	6
Ironman Journey	7
The House That Love Built	8
Offering a Brighter Future	10

I am pretty much a “stuck record” these days. For those under 20 I suppose that image doesn’t work too well. Our young people were born into the world of CDs.... and this in itself is part of the issue at hand. I continue to repeat - as of late - that it is imperative we pay attention to the ways in which the world is changing so that we can be faithfully engaged in it.

As a testimony to the adaptability and flexibility that is called for in our congregations I will enumerate four tidbits of wisdom that I gleaned over the summer. (I shared these in a sermon in September.)

From **Pope Francis** to thousands of youth attending World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this summer: “I want to tell you what I expect as a consequence of World Youth Day....I want to see the church get closer to the people. I want to get rid of clericalism (power that favours the clergy), the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves in our parishes, schools or structures. I want a mess...I want trouble in the diocese.” [Prairie Messenger, July 31, 2013, p. 13]

From **Rachel Held Evans**, a 32 year-

old writer in an essay posted on a CNN website. “What millenials (teens and 20s) really want from the church is not a change in style but a change in substance. We want an end to the culture wars. We want a truce between science and faith. We want to be known for what we stand for, not what we are against. We want to ask questions that don’t have predetermined answers. We want churches that emphasize an allegiance to the kingdom of God over an allegiance to a single political party or a single nation. We want our Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered friends to feel truly welcome in our faith communities. We want to be challenged to live lives of holiness, not only when it comes to sex, but also when it comes to living simply, caring for the poor and oppressed, pursuing reconciliation, engaging in creation care and becoming peacemakers. You can’t hand us a latte and then go about business as usual and expect us to stick around. We’re not leaving the church because we don’t find the cool factor there; we’re leaving the church because we don’t find Jesus there. Like every generation before ours and every generation after, deep down, we long for Jesus.”

continued on page 2...

from the Board

TRISH ST. ONGE



Cross Walk

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Mennonite Church**

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*Photographs, articles,
funeral tributes, and recipes
are welcome for submission
to Cross Walk.*

*Please give Lori
suggestions of other items
to be included in Cross
Walk.*

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

FROM the Board - Trish St. Onge

We welcomed the members of the Board back to our first meeting on September 19th and are looking forward to our monthly meetings. It was good to reconnect and to discuss the continued efforts to move forward with the visioning statements outlined earlier in the year. It is an exciting process to see how the different areas of the work of the board are coming together to insure a meaningful experience at Nutana Park and beyond.

By the look of our bulletins, activities are in full swing at NPMC. Youth group, Sunday school, and choir are underway just to name a few. The fall barbeque was a wonderful way to enjoy some great weather, good food and good times with our church family

and neighbourhood friends. A special thank you to Jared Regier, Sarah and the youth who made it possible to enjoy some fresh produce and even take some home! This event was a wonderful example of our different ministries and activities coming together. Youth group, Missions and registration for Venture club all fell on the same evening allowing church members and the community to enjoy some time together.

I invite you to consider attending the Adult Education Sunday school series this fall. It is a wonderful way to learn more about the visionary intentions, to provide your thoughts and opinions and most of all to become engaged in the process of worshipping, learning and working together.

REFLECTIONS *(continued from page 1)*

From **Carol Howard Merritt**, offering alternative models of building Christian community: "Many people would rather gather with friends than spend a lot of energy propping up an institution." [Carol Howard Merritt, "Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a new Generation", p. 133]

From **Rebecca Wilson** and **Jim McNaughton**, young researchers commenting on faithfully communicating our faith in a noisy world: "Do not tell us that your church is welcoming, and do not tell us that it is like a family. The first is a platitude and is too often what we gently term 'aspirational'....[The image of a family] "invites unspoken and unrealistic expectations, emotional wounds, and uneasy guests. When was

the last time you felt entirely comfortable walking into a gathering of someone else's family?" [Jim McNaughton and Rebecca Wilson, "Speaking Faithfully: Communications as Evangelism in a Noisy World", p. 22]

- the Pope is calling for Roman Catholic youth to tear down the outmoded parts of the church
- young people expect us to exhibit a more authentic and inclusive witness to our faith
- Menno Simons laid out a clear response for Christian living

We have a rich heritage of resources on which to build a solid, vibrant, adaptable and responsive Christian community. Will we meet the challenge?

JOYS

The marriage of **Jacoba Fast** and **Russell Martens**

The birth of **Ryder** and **Reid Siemens**, grandsons of **Helen** and **John**

The birth of **Landon**, grandson of **Judy and Pat Ludwig** and great grandson of **John and Evelyn Schellenberg**

The miracle of **Wally and Marg Krause's** son **Brian's** health in his fight against cancer

Stephanie Epp's Christian Peacemaker Team experience in New Brunswick

Our beautiful summer and returning to school and schedules

The beautiful quilts in the sanctuary

Our Harvest Festival celebration

Paul Friesen's recovery from his appendectomy

CHURCH Family News



Ryder (left) and Reid (right) Siemens. Photo by Carolyn Siemens.

SORROWS

The family of **Rosella Bergen**

The extended family of **Henry Harder**

Rachel Flath and other friends and family of **Quinn Stevenson**

The family of **Tena Kruger**

The family of **Al Friesen**

The family of **John Reimer**

PRAYERS

Wally Nickel has moved to Extendicare Preston. He welcomes visitors. Wally and Anita thank you all for the uplifting prayers they have felt. His address is 2225 Preston Avenue, Room 110.

Evelyn Schellenberg is in a care home and appreciates our prayer support.

GARRY'S Indigenous Journey - Garry Koop

I was just a young'en when I met my first Native family. The impact of that meeting is still with me today. I would have been 9 or 10 years old and standing in front of the little grocery store in the town of Dundurn, Sask. You know the little store with the heavy, heavy wooden door that you could hardly open. Inside was the shiny polished hard wood floor, with the big wooden glass top sales counter. On one end was a needle weight scale and on the other end the cash register that went 'cling' whenever the cash drawer opened. Inside the sloped glass front of that counter were glass jar upon glass jar of candy. One could spend hours deciding which candy to get. I always enjoyed going to town with my Dad to get the mail, a few groceries, with anticipation of a treat.

It was a hot summer's day and I was standing beside my dad's car, which was parked across the street from the store, waiting for him to come out with the groceries. Right in front of the store were two broken down horses hitched to a broken down wagon. In front of the wagon was a woman with long braided hair, she was wearing a long sleeved shirt, purple and green with white tassel trim and a full length skirt. She had a babe in arms and to each side of her were two smaller children hanging on to her skirt. In front of them was a boy of 9 or 10 years. He was wearing a red checkered long sleeved shirt and either heavy corduroy or canvas pants. We stood there motionless, just staring at each other, for a long time. Both of us thinking, "What gives" wondering what each of our lives were like. We both continued to watch each other even while our fathers were busy putting the groceries away. Later on, on the way home I asked, "Who were those people and why did they still have horses?" My Dad replied that they were Canadian Indians and that they were very poor.

I suspect that they had candy treats on their way home as well.

At the Truth and Reconciliation Conference that was held in Saskatoon last summer, I volunteered as a van driver. I shuttled people between hotels, airport, bus, and conference centre. Initially, I was disappointed that I would not be able to hear the speakers at the conference but as it turned out I had many people all to myself, in the passenger seat for at least 15 minutes. My day started at 6:00 that morning and went till 12:00 at night, so I got to visit with many people. I transported, Elders, Chiefs, moms, youths, reporters, government workers. I would start the conversations with a simple, "Where are you from?" and then they had no problem telling me their stories. Most ended their conversations with a hope for the future, new understandings, new beginnings, but not forgetting the past.

From that meeting till now a few of us at Nutana Park Mennonite Church have been trying to build a relationship with the Whitecap Dakota First Nation just south of Saskatoon. This relationship will be one of friendship, trust, and learning. We have done a lot of the leg work to get this relationship started. We do not have any goals or objectives outside of a hope that in time the people of Nutana Park and the people of Whitecap First Nation can meet each other with love, understanding, and our hopes for the future. There is always room for additions to this ad-hoc group from Nutana Park which includes pastors, health workers, educators and retirees. Please contact me or one of the pastors if you have interest in joining this endeavor.

In later articles I would like to describe some of the people we have met. People like Elder Melvin Littlecrow and his daughter, Elder Ron Thompson and his wife Nancy, Sheldon Buffalo and his wife. I would like to write about their wisdom, humor, youth, life philosophy, and thoughts about the future.

PATTY'S Ponderings - *Patty Friesen*

The Intouchables DVD is the true story of a rich paralyzed Frenchman and his African caregiver. They couldn't be any more different in life experience and social status, yet each found acceptance and inspiration from the other. A beautiful story of how relationships change us. I thought of Mennonite Nursing Home and how I'm inspired by the

endurance, faith and humour of our residents. I see the elderly in a new light because of my work with them. We need them in our families and society to help guide us and teach us (even the difficult ones.) May God continue to open our hearts to learn from our elders. It is the privilege of our work.

PATTY'S Picks

I've watched more movies this past summer than read books and some fun movies about aging cops and aging bad guys are Stand Up Guys and R.E.D. (Retired and Extremely Dangerous). Hitchcock was fun for Hitchcock fans and I finally saw Smilla's Sense of Snow - a delightful Danish film about a Greenlander heroine and her crime solving abilities.

Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman is an engaging tale of a white middle-class woman who spends time in a federal prison. Also available through Netflix.

The Convict Lover by Marilyn Simonds is also an engaging prison story of a convict and clandestine letter writing with a young woman who lives near the prison.

The Bible Mini-Series DVD is an interesting if somewhat violent focused story telling of the Bible.

The Guilt Trip DVD with the timeless Barbara Streisand is good for a laugh about overbearing mothers and their sons.

Lowland by Jumpa Lahiri is another engaging tale of Indian families and cross-cultural drama.

These Wild Things CD by Ruth Moody of The Wailin' Jennys is a lovely, smooth as silk listening experience with candles on a fall evening.

Handpicked CD by Carl Klugh is also a lovely, smooth listen with candles on a fall evening.

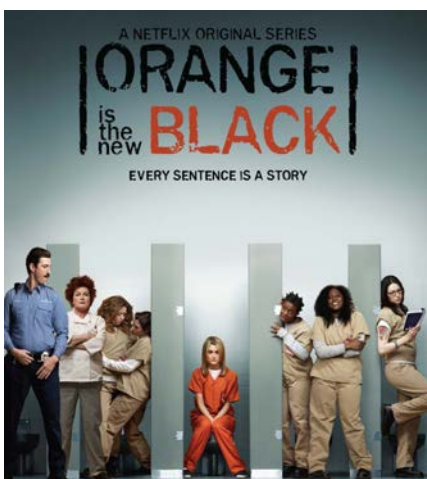
The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King is a very readable, funny and poignant recounting of First Nation's experience in North America.

Della Mae (CD) is a toe tapping five female southern folk band.

Sting Live in Berlin (CD) is a delightful collaboration between a former rocker and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ben-Hur DVD is an oldie but goodie reflection of the impact of Rome on the life of Christ.

Tudors DVD needs a lot of fast forwarding through racy parts but a helpful historical account of English religion.



FRACKING is a Human Issue - *Stephanie Epp*

I had the honour of serving with my Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Aboriginal Justice Team (AJT) teammates in Kent County, New Brunswick for just over two weeks. My CPT teammates have maintained a presence in New Brunswick since the end of June, by invitation from Elsipogtog First Nation. Elsipogtog First Nation and their Acadian and Anglophone neighbours have been working against shale gas exploration in the province. They are concerned fracking will lead to the depletion of groundwater and widespread water contamination, as well as the adverse effects on wildlife, berries and medicine plants. There was no consultation, and consent was not granted by any of these groups for seismic testing or fracking to proceed on their lands.

My first week was spent keeping tabs on where SWN (Southwest Energy Company) was working and what they were doing, where their private security detail was and also the RCMP. We accompanied protectors at the side of the highway as they legally slowed down SWN's work of preparing for seismic testing (seismic testing precedes fracking). The protectors did this by slowly picking up garbage along the ditch in front of the SWN convoy. We documented interactions between SWN security and the protectors and the RCMP. But we knew this was just a precursor to the bigger plan.

On Sunday September 29, a blockade began just outside the village of Rexton. SWN had erected a fenced in compound that contained all their equipment, including five thumper

trucks. All the work that the crews were doing on the highway with painting lines, putting down the GPS discs and laying the geophones was in preparation for those trucks. The thumper trucks both aid in precipitating and reading the seismic waves which help to locate the shale gas deposits. The blockade prevented any equipment from leaving the compound and therefore SWN's work was forced to stop.

Thus began my second week of service, living out of the CPT car at the blockade site. It was an amazing week of relationship and community building. It was heartening to see people crossing the police line within minutes of it forming to join the protectors at the compound driveway. And people continued to daily cross that line to show their support. Many people provided food, firewood, water, tents, blankets and other needed supplies. It was a joining of communities - repeatedly I heard, this (fracking) is not a First Nations issue, it is a human issue. And this showed in the community that formed at the blockade site as Acadians, Anglophones and First Peoples were all represented. These groups have been tirelessly working to have their voices heard by the provincial government for over two years. They finally have the attention of the government. The common purpose for all is simple yet so important - protection of water because water is life.

Since writing this summary of my experience, RCMP moved in and heartbreaking events took place as the blockade was torn apart. We continue to pray for peace and for the people's concerns to be heard and heeded.



Stephanie on the right. Photo by Stephanie Epp.



Photo by Stephanie Epp.

AN IRONMAN Adventure - James Funk

I have been captivated by the sport of triathlon since I first heard of it as a kid in the early 1980s. Triathlon as a sport has grown in popularity and has several different distances, from “Sprint” races, where the swim is 500m, the bike 5 km and the run 1 km, all the way to the original “Ironman” distance, where the swim is 3.8 km, bike 180 km, and run a marathon (42.2 km). Last summer I registered to do the Ironman Mont Tremblant (ca. 130 km north of Montreal), after my cousin invited us to stay with them in their cabin, just 10 minutes down the road from the race start.

A year later, and many, many kilometers of training later, the day arrived. Questions of how fast to go, what, when and how often to eat and drink, what to wear had all been answered through trial and error in training. We had an early start – 4 am – to eat a hearty breakfast, but still have time to digest it, and get to the beach for the 6:45 am start.

While I am happy in the water, I would not consider myself a fast swimmer, and was happy to finish the swim section in 1:25 (1593rd place overall), but not feeling overly tired, since there was still a long way to go! I really enjoyed the bike course, as the asphalt was smooth, and while the up-hills were hard work (think MacPherson hill in Saskatoon) and slow (15-18 km/h), coming down was a delight (65-70 km/h). I finished a bit slower than hoped for, but given the lack of hill training (I could only ride up the hill to Bonnie & Mitch’s so many times!), I was pleased with my 6:14 time on the bike (moving up to 1126th place). I began the run with tired quadriceps, but despite the hilly first 5 km of run, maintained my planned pace for the first lap of 21.1 km. I slowed down a bit on the second lap, but after a brief stretching break and a few cups of Coca Cola, I was feeling better and running faster again. In the end, I finished the run in 3:29 (457th overall), which although it was my slowest marathon since 2006, I was nevertheless very pleased with.

The weather had been ideal, the race was well organized, the course was beautiful, my equipment and nutrition worked nearly perfectly, and my body responded beautifully to the challenge presented. And yes, it was nice to stop moving after the 11 hours and 23 minutes.

So now that the adventure has come to a close, the question remains; what have I learned? Preparing for a race is not dependent upon one or two “amazing” training sessions, but the consistent repetition of doing all of the little important things. That is really the way you make progress. Now, I can’t say that I hit every one of the planned workouts, but certainly most of them, most of the time. Perhaps the final lesson was the experience of acceptance; joy in the completion of the task without perfection. Not a bad metaphor for the Christian life.



THE HOUSE that Love Built - *Tammy Forrester*

Pinball Clements once said “When you truly care about someone, they become family!” Quite appropriately this could be tagged as the philosophy of the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan for the people we serve. Imagine your child has just been diagnosed with a potentially life-threatening illness. You live in LaRonge, Swift Current, Blaine Lake, and medical care for your child is available in Saskatoon, but you will need to prepare yourself for an extended stay in the city to pursue treatment. This is the scenario that has been faced by over 17,000 Saskatchewan families in the last 28 years who have called on the services of Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan.

When families arrive at the House, they are embraced in a warm, homelike environment with other families who are confronting similar uncertainties. Some have traveled less than an hour, some hundreds of kilometers. Some stay for a day, some for a week and some for several months. There are vast differences in their backgrounds and situations, yet they have an important connection:

They will do whatever it takes to help their child get well.

Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan (RMHS) provides a home-away-from-home for families undergoing a profoundly difficult experience. This has been the philosophy since the beginning of the charity organization in 1974. It all started in Philadelphia with a young girl named Kim Hill. She was the daughter of Philadelphia Eagles football player Fred Hill and his wife. In 1974 at the age of 3 she was diagnosed with Leukemia. Over the next years of treatment, the Hill family spent days, weeks and months camping out in hospitals, on benches, in waiting rooms. During this time they met other families in the same situation.

Fred approached Mr. Jim Murray, Manager of the Philadelphia Eagles to enlist the assistance of the team to raise money for families. Engaging the support of Dr. Audrey Evans, Pediatric Oncologist of the Childrens’ Hospital of Philadelphia who had dreamed of a comfortable temporary residence for families in medical crisis. Jim approached Mr. Don Tucheran of McDonald’s advertising and marketing, and together they launched the St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock Shake, with proceeds from the sale of these shakes to this cause. Dr.

Audrey Evans was able to finance the purchase of an old house near the hospital and allow families that were traveling for medical purposes to stay there.

Now, 38 years later, there are over 350 houses across the world, in hundreds of countries, offering programs for families in need all operating under the same mission. McDonald’s Restaurants around the world have formally become our Mission Partner – supporting the Houses by financing a portion of all the Houses operating costs. This enables the Houses to support the families in their country, state, province and community.

For the families of seriously ill or injured children, Ronald McDonald House is there for them as long as they need it in a family centered healthcare environment. We provide warm beds, showers, kitchens, laundry facilities and play areas – all the comforts of home that allow families to be together to support their children in trying times. There is accommodation for parents and siblings – an amenity not available to families in hospital wards.

The House was initially constructed with 13 sleeping rooms, a kitchen, dining room, family room/children’s playroom, a laundry room and an outdoor playground and courtyard. A modest fee of \$10 per night is requested, however no family is ever refused accommodations for lack of ability to pay.

Today, we are building a home to accommodate 34 families at a time – new amenities to assist these families and developing programs that will help them face these critical moments in their lives with the support they and their families need.

We are the only one of our kind in Saskatchewan, serving families from every corner of the province, and occasionally some from outside our borders.

Our Capital Campaign has moved at a rapid pace. To fund the expansion and renovation project, the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and Staff raised \$12 million. Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada provided 20% of the budgeted capital cost for expansion.

Currently RMHS receives no Federal, Provincial or Municipal government funding for neither daily operations nor the Capital project. The majority of the funds that have been received to operate and now facilitate the expansion have come from individuals, business leaders and companies throughout the province.

We continue to connect to individuals, families and communities across the province to engage their support, as these are the people we serve. We know demand will be high with this addition and the larger House, as the Children's Hospital is on the horizon and changes are made to Health Care across the province, so as we create a larger facility we keep in mind the families we will be able to serve at Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan. We look to the local

community to help fill volunteer needs including office relief work, baking, cooking meals for families, gardening, house maintenance, fundraising, quilting and so much more. We rely on our volunteers as they are an integral part of the fabric of the home for our families.

I am thrilled to be a part of this organization – this wonderful charity. The mission of family centered health care and doing whatever it takes to get your child the support they require fits completely with how I have been raised. It is a cause worthy of support and I am astounded every day how generous people are with their resources – supporting families in need, families and people we may never meet. We truly live in a generous place.



If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kim, Volunteer Coordinator, at (306) 244-5700.

Offering a Brighter Future

A list of the supplies we use in our various overseas kits.
We gladly accept donations of any of these items.

Personal Hygiene

- Adult size toothbrushes (leave in packaging)
- Large bar bath soap
- Plastic bottle shampoo (380-710 ml)
- Fingernail clippers
- Wide tooth combs (15-20 cm / 6-8")
- Sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi)
- Petroleum jelly (368 g)
- Medicated baby powder (eg. Gold Bond, 283 g)
- Box of assorted adhesive bandages (min. 40)
- Box of disposable rubber gloves (100 count, medium or large, latex free)
- Large bar laundry soap

Bedding & Towels: dark or bright colours

- Hand towels
- Bath towels (medium weight)
- Twin flat sheets, once standard pillowcase
- Set of twin bedsheets with pillowcase (one flat sheet, one fitted sheet, one standard pillowcase OR two twin flat sheets, one standard pillowcase)
- Moisture-proof mattress cover (twin size, fitted or flat)

Sewing Supplies

- Metric fabric tape measure
- Spools dual use, white or black thread (275 m)
- Thimble (medium size)
- Dressmaker's scissors
- Package of needles (approx. 25)
- Straight pins (approx. 100)
- Sew on snaps (approx. 20-25)
- Matching shirt-style buttons (black or white, approx. size 1/2 - 1 inch)

School Supplies

- Spiral or perforated notebooks (21.5 cm x 27 cm, 140 pgs)
- Unsharpened pencils
- Ruler - flat, flexible plastic (indicating 30 cm and 12")
- 12 coloured pencils in packaging
- Large pencil eraser

Baby Needs

- Safety pins
- Gowns / sleepers (size 3-12 month; flannel or soft fabric)
- Undershirts / onesies (size 3-12 months)
- Receiving blankets (minimum 92 cm / 36")



**Mennonite
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Committee**

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