



# CROSS WALK



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## REFLECTIONS – ANITA RETZLAFF

### A Summer of Weddings

A recent article in the Canadian Mennonite “Always the guest, never the groom” written by Thomas Epp was subtitled “I went to 10 weddings this summer what did you do?” In light-hearted banter Thomas describes his summer of weddings and the highlights he experienced as 20 friends were married.

In a sense that has been my experience too. Since my own wedding in June of last year I have had the privilege of “doing” 10 weddings too - in varying forms. From the very simplest of marriages where I gave a blessing and signed some documents, to a full weekend trip to Edmonton, I have seen 20 young people make serious, heartfelt commitments.

This has implications for the ministry of this congregation. These weddings have given me an opportunity to connect with young adults at a very deep level. I was reminded once again that our young people have a genuine desire for spiritual connection – to God and to a larger community.

Many of the couples that I married have looser ties to the institutional church than some of us older folk

however they value the traditions of faith and the people who have nurtured them in the past. The ways in which they will live out their relationship to God will look different in the future than that which has gone before.

What this means for Nutana Park Mennonite Church is significant. The time that I have taken in my ministry to spend with these couples in marriage preparation, wedding rehearsals, ceremonies and receptions has been a gift from the congregation. I have used a large chunk of time to engage in this ministry. So I see it as an extension of hospitality from this congregation to these young couples. It is also an expression of our desire to stay connected to them in whatever ways we can.

A few of these 20 individuals do not live in Saskatoon and will never become a part of our worshipping community. Yet we have had a small part in sending them off into a life together enriched by a profound spiritual encounter, guided by purposeful and binding covenant and blessed by the God who renews, restores and redeems our world.



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# Cross Walk

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Mennonite Church**

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## Cross Walk Committee

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*Many thanks to **Lynda Derksen** for her years of layout, design and electronic distribution work on Cross Walk.*

*Please welcome **Dennis Breen**, who has agreed to take over these responsibilities.*

*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 December 2nd.**

## November 16

**Saskatoon MEDA annual fall event**  
6pm at Bethany Manor. RSVP by Nov. 13th @ 242-9019. Cost: \$20.

## November 17

**RJC Annual General Meeting**  
5pm at RCJ Chapel.

**RJC Supper and Fundraising Dinner**  
6pm. Reserve tickets @ 232-4222 or office@rjc.sk.ca

## November 23

**Anna Rahan - Honour and Recognition Evening.**  
7:30 pm at Wildwood Mennonite Church. Details to be announced.

## December 2

**Venture Club Fundraiser**  
Immediately after church.

# Congratulations RJC GRADS, 2012

Emily Hooge  
Macaila Funk  
Luke Driedger-Enns  
Kerstin Balzer-Peters  
Sara Bartel



**The Vow** DVD was one of the best movies I've seen this summer about memory loss and faithfulness.

**Chariots of Fire** DVD missed me when it came out 30 years ago but was brought to mind during the London Olympics. An inspiring story of sticking to one's faith and values.

**The Tillman Story** DVD is a heart-breaking story of the death of a US football soldier and his family's fight for truth.

**Monarch of the Glen** DVD is a delightful series of life on a Scottish estate.

**Endeavor** DVD is a delightful BBC detective series now on PBS along with the new Inspector Lewis series.

**Senna** DVD is a delightful documentary about the famous Brazilian race car driver.

**Knowing the Face of God** by Tim Stafford was a refreshing read on many angles of faith.

**Father's Day** by Buzz Bissinger was a touching read about a father and son on a road trip with disabilities.

**Running with the Kenyans** by A. Finn was a fun read about why the Kenyans win all the foot races.

**22 Britannia Road** by Amanda Hodgkinson was an absorbing read about the affects of war and trying to construct new lives.

**The Baker's Daughter** by Sarah McCoy is a WWII story of family survival and hiding a Jewish boy.

**Poison** by Sarah Poole was an intriguing historical fiction about medieval Rome and the role of poisoners in helping people climb to power.

**The Sherlockian** was another shared mystery in the same vein as The Yard.

**Beautiful Souls** by Eyal Press also reflects on WWII and other wars and why some people acted heroically to save others.

**A Wedding in Haiti** by Julia Alvarez is a journey through Haiti and the Dominican Republic before and after the disastrous earthquake in 2009.

**Wild** by Cheryl Strayed is her memoir of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail alone after the death of her mother. Working through grief and poor life choices, she finds inner strength and companionship along the trail.

**The Way** (DVD) with Emilio Estevez and his father Martin Sheen is also a journey with grief along the El Camino pilgrimage trail in Spain.

**Sarah's Key** (DVD) is a difficult watch regarding French Jews but beautifully acted by Kristin Scott Thomas.

**Inside Hana's Suitcase** is a fascinating documentary about a Japanese woman's discovery of a Jewish girl's history in WWII.

**Margin Call** (DVD) helped me understand the stock market crash of 2008.

**Touching the Void** (DVD) is the incredible survival story of two mountain climbers who made difficult decisions that impacted each others lives.

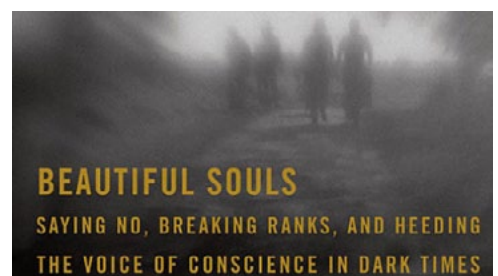
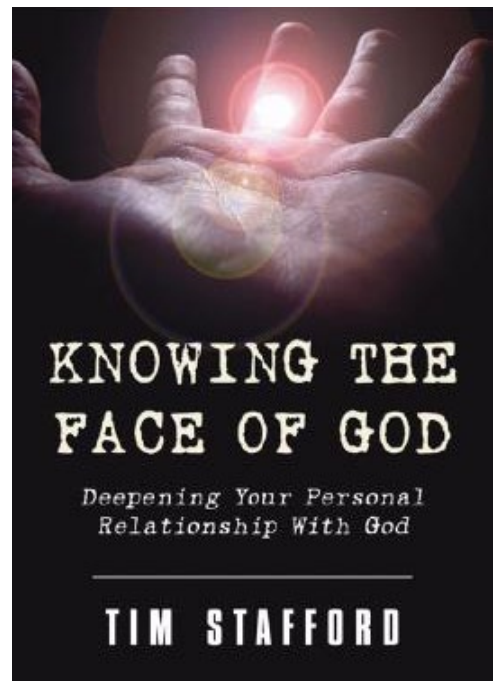
**The Yard** by Alex Grecian is a captivating Scotland Yard mystery that my husband and I raced each other to read through.

**Quiet** by Sarah Cain was a helpful read about the strength and role of introversion in the workplace and society.

**30 Lessons for Living** by Richard Pillemer was a wonderful account of the wisdom of our elders on the lessons of life, faith and marriage. I've used this book for sermon material.

# Patty's PICKS

- PATTY FRIESSEN



## Recipe

### Vegetarian Chili

- KAY EPP



## Ingredients

1 ½ C chopped onion	¼ C vinegar
2 green papers, chopped	1 bay leaf
3 celery sticks, chopped	1 T chili powder
4 garlic cloves, minced	1 T parsley
2 T oil	1 ½ t basil
2 – 28 ounce cans tomatoes	1 ½ t oregano
14 oz can kidney beans	½ t pepper
2 C sliced fresh mushrooms	¼ t tabasco sauce
1 ½ C water	Grated cheddar cheese

## Directions

Saute onion, green pepper, celery, and garlic in oil until tender. Add tomatoes and beans with liquid, along with remaining ingredients, except cheese. Cover and simmer another hour. Remove bay leaf. Serve with grated cheddar cheese. Serves 8-10

## Joys

**Kerstin Balzer-Peters** was welcomed into our congregation through baptism

Brides and Babies celebration in June

**Grade 12 Grads from RJC:** Sara Bartel, Macaila Funk, Emily Hooge, Kerstin Balzer-Peters, Luke Driedger-Enns

**Post Secondary Grads:** Alina Balzer-Peters, Janna Krismer, Marina Leis, Miriam Reese, Brent Tiessen, Sarah Warkentin, Lorraine Harder

Tenure: **Charlene Sorensen**

**Wayne and Carrie Dueck's** award from the Association of Canadian Publishers

The marriage of **Daryl Wyse** and **Cindy Paproski**

**Bernie Retzlaff's** 80th birthday celebration

The marriage of **Evan Neufeldt** and **Alexandra Lapointe**

The marriage of **Nicholas Fast** and **Breanne Martens**

The anniversary of **Herbert** and **Justina Peters**

The marriage of **Lee Todd** and **Courtney Seier**

**Stephanie Epp's** time in Chicago with Christian Peacemaker Teams

**Janet & Norm Barnes** on the engagement of daughter Crystal to Garcia Lacasse

**Anita Nickel** is thankful that everything turned out so well with her surgery. She is thankful for our prayer support, cards and calls.

**Paul and Lois Tiessen** in the birth of grandson Peter Henry

The marriage of **Brent Guenther** and **Marie Litzenberger**

The marriage of **Shannon Dick** and **Dustin Palmer**

**Renata Klassen's** acceptance of The Prairie Garden Award of Excellence

**Tim, Sherry Ben and Jonah Nickel's** adventures in China

**Ruth and Jonathan Friesen** on their anniversary

**Tyler Epp** and his adventure in Japan

The new Sunday School Classrooms!

**Wayne and Carry** would like to thank all those who sent love and food and prayers. They are grateful that Wayne is seeing a strong recovery.

**Dorothy Sorensen** rejoices in her recovery from surgery. She thanks us for our support and prayers.

**John and Helen Siemens'** granddaughter Sage – the heart surgery was successful. Thank you for your prayers.

## Sadnesses

**Peter & Marilyn, Brent, Bruce & David Guenther** in the death of Jacob L. Guenther

**Fred & Betty Wieler** and **Elva & Ernie Epp** on the death of Art Wieler

**Ross & Hedio and Rob & Brandee Borne** on the death of Ken Henderson

**Elsie Neufeldt** in the death of Peter Sawatzky

**Don and Edna Froese** on the death of Bertha Froese

**George Riekman, Norma Rempel** and **Evelyn Schellenberg** on the death of Robert Riekman

# CHURCH Family News

**Norm & Janet Barnes** and family on the death of Carolyn Barnes

**Merna Ediger** on the death of Yvonne Ediger

**Ag Peters, Marlene & Dave Froese, Ron Peters, Bonnie Dahl & family, Tammy Forester & family** on the death of Ed Peters

**Winona and Les Senner** on the death of Kerry

**Gordon & Geraldine** and family on the death of Fred Peters

**Kelly and Fern** and family on the death of Ethel Winder

**Rob Schwartenberger** on the death of father Reginald

## We Pray for

**Bernie Retzlaff** - for fuller recovery from the surgery and for continued medical help for the cancer.

**Alvin Rempel** would like to say thank you to all those who showed concern and support for his surgery, although the recovery seems very slow at times. Therefore he requests your continuous prayers for which he is very grateful.

**Howard Willems** – for healing, for peace during difficult days, and for strength for the family

**Janna Krismer** as she recovers from jaw surgery

# Gallery

## September Cycling Trip



A group of friends take  
a round trip bike trip  
between Emma Lake  
and Waskesiu

*Photos by Paul Tiessen*

