



CROSS WALK



REFLECTIONS - PARTICK PREHEIM

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The visionary intentions which emerged from the Deacon Board retreat held earlier this year make another appearance or two in this edition of the Crosswalk. It has been gratifying to participate with the deacons in considering those qualities which will continue making Nutana Park Mennonite a relevant and inspirational place. Periodically my thoughts turn to implementation. How does leadership guide this process well? I was taken with the wisdom of our youth leader, Sarah Unrau, on this point. A few of her reflections from this month's Y Walk section warrant duplication as part of my editorial. After listing the eight intentions Sarah wrote,

"I began to think of my role in all of this. How would I be able to achieve these goals as a youth leader? As I pondered this I realized that although I am the youth leader, I am a part of the youth group in its entirety and the better question should be, what can the youth group at Nutana Park do to achieve these goals? I had a handful of ideas that I had been collecting since the Strategic Planning Meeting but I thought I would turn over the brainstorming to the youth group. I wanted them to take ownership of their role in this congregation and have fun doing so."

Ownership and investment comes through participation in the process. The task of leadership through this will be to facilitate the discernment necessary for ownership, and support initiatives which take form. The youth had their evening of discussion several months back. With the non-youth segments of the congregation we are taking a very measured approach. This fall the Adult Education sessions will be structured around the eight concepts generated at the Deacon Board retreat. Our annual meetings might become a time for on-going brainstorming and evaluation. Conversation may happen at Care Group gatherings or at additional congregational meetings. At Deacon Board meetings current program may be affirmed and possibly strengthened. Inspirations from lay people might spring forward which get implemented quickly. Potential ideas and initiatives could evolve any number of ways.

While this road map of implementation is not very precise, it does provide a general direction things are heading. It should be an exciting next few years, and life as a part of the church should be none other.

CHURCH Family News



Cross Walk

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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 October 6th.

Joys

Welcoming **June Dyck, Margaret Enns, Don Klaassen** and **Mary Martens** into our fellowship

The Venture Club Program Volunteers

Sara Bartel's opportunity to travel to Kenya

The dedication of those who donated time and money to clean up Shekinah Retreat Centre after the spring flood

The birth of **Timothy Leis**, born May 19th to **Benjamin and Marlie Leis**

Angie Nickel for her MDS experience in NYC

Fern Stockdale Winder for her appointment as commissioner to develop a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Saskatchewan

Joanne and Ted Ewert on the birth of grandson **Liam Aiden**

Best wished to our post-high convocates:

- Kelsey Dick** from CMU
- Ian Epp** from U of S
- Curtis Wiens** from U of S
- Riley Ludwig** from U of S
- Shannon (Dick) Palmer** from U of S
- Allison Schmidt** from U of S
- Matt Wiens** from U of S
- David Guenther** from U of S
- Brenden Kroeger** from U of S
- Valerie Epp** from U of S
- Glenn Patkau** from U of S
- Shannon Palmer** for receiving the Eyrie Brooks Memorial Scholarship for Mechanical Engineering award

Vi Atwell and Harold Epp on their June wedding

The Yard Sale committee members and volunteers for the money raised for MCC Relief Sale expenses

Our youth and the support they received at the Sausage on a Bun and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Sorrows

The family of Elfrieda Enns as they mourn her death

The family of Mary Martens

Betty Epp on the death of her brother

Allan and Renata Klassen on death of brother-in-law Ron Peters

The family of Louise Friesen on the death of Al

Prayers

Wally and Marg Krause, son Brian and daughter-in-law Tonia as they cope with Brian's cancer

Evelyn Schellenberg - she and John ask for strength and healing and our continued, appreciated support

Rosella Bergen as she remains at St. Paul's Hospital

Eric Wiens as he undergoes his sixth chemo treatment and a CT scan with the hope and prayer that things look good

Madison Jocelyn, Luana's grand daughter, as she continues to grieve the loss of her Mum, Heather

Patty's Ponderings

Grief memoirs help us identify our own work with grief and loss. Reading someone else's journey with death thaws our own frozen emotions around losing our loved ones better than many self-help books. Stations of the Heart by Richard Lischer is such a grief memoir about losing his adult

son. Written with honesty and strong faith language, it is the most sad but helpful book I've read in awhile. Helen Humphrey's Nocturne also chronicles the loss of her brother in a heartwarming if not overtly religious way.

Patty's Picks

Benediction by Kent Haruf is his third in a series of family life on the high plains of Colorado. It contains the same humour and edginess and family complexities of his previous novels Plainsong and Eventide.

A River of Stars by Guy Gabriel Kay - Kay fans will enjoy this new one from Canada's famous fantasy writer. A great one for the lake.

Astonished by Beverly Donofrio is an honest journey of rape and trying to find spiritual healing through it. For discerning readers.

Monstrance by Sarah Klassen is this Manitoba poet's latest and a delightful zoom lens on nature and neighbourhood.

Proof of Heaven by Eden Alexander has been an interesting audio CD on my commute this summer. In the

genre of Heaven is for Real and other recent heaven books.

Life of Pi DVD is a visual delight of animals and the spiritual journey of a young Indian boy, written by our own local author Yann Martel.

Argo DVD - Ben Affleck stars in this Iranian hostage thriller and the little known Canadian influence to resolve it.

Changing Lanes DVD with Ben Affleck and Samuel Jackson makes us think about how we escalate or de-escalate conflict with its dramatic results.

The Impossible DVD is the amazing family survival of the Boxing Day Asian tsunami.

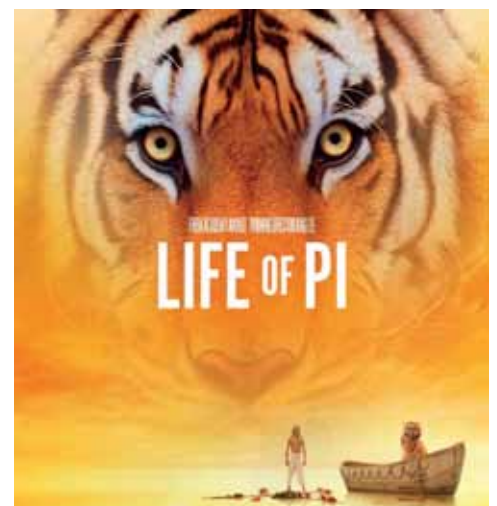
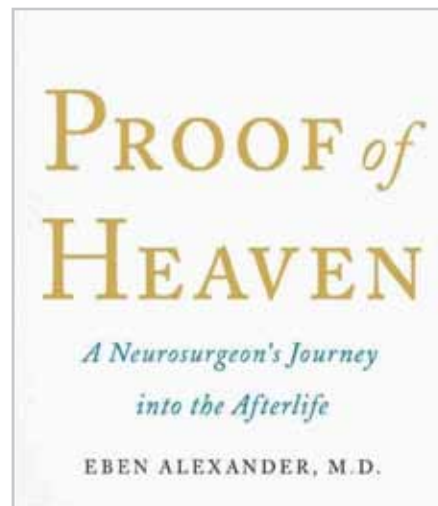
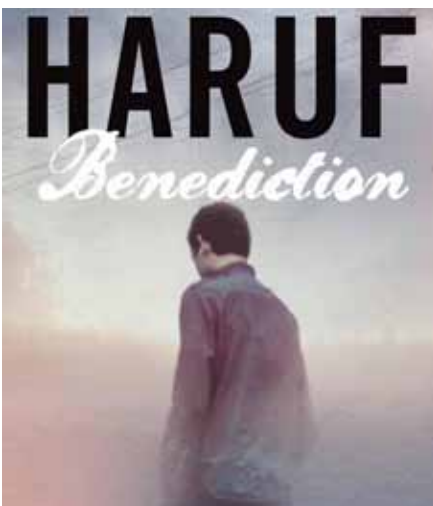
Return to Me DVD is a realistic love story - "heart" warming without being sappy.

Patty's PONDERINGS

- PATTY FRIESSEN

Patty's PICKS

- PATTY FRIESSEN



VISIONARY INTENTIONS 2013-2018

Caring, Respectful and Inviting Culture

Recognizing our interconnectedness, we will respect, support and love one another. New people will feel accepted quickly in the community and feel a true sense of relationship and belonging. As a foundation of what we believe, we will care for each other and others beyond our church.

Passionate Christ-Centered Commitment to Our Anabaptist Values

We will be a church of people who voluntarily decide to join and commit to its beliefs. We will proudly take ownership, publicly and enthusiastically confessing to our Anabaptist values of peace, non-violence and Jesus-centred service and discipleship. And we will stand up for our beliefs, as radical activists, walking the talk and talking the walk in our daily and congregational life.

Vibrant Intergenerational Congregational Life

We will have a strong, engaged congregation where all ages, from youth to seniors, are involved in all aspects of the church, from participant to leader. We will be very deliberate about learning from each other through fun, intergenerational activities that benefit everyone.

Nurturing and Joyful Worship

We will nurture our spirit and connection with God in meaningful ways, whether through individual reflection, gathering together in peaceful silence, or in vibrant communal worship.

Relevant and Meaningful Programs for Congregation and Local Community

We will have an array of programming that supports and nurtures our congregation and as well as the local community we care about. Our Church and facility will be a hub for community outreach.

Community Service and Engagement

We will have a culture of service where we reach out to make a difference in the local community as well as globally. We will be intentional and committed, taking a pervasive, long term approach, building relationships with and learning from those we serve. We will be making a statement about the importance of collective service, where what we do for the most in need we do for Christ, and by doing so, we grow spiritually.

Openness to and Understanding of the Diversifying Community

Through invitation and engagement with many cultures, we will have experiences to learn, understand and break down stereotypes. Recognizing that spirit is bigger than the Mennonite culture, we will appreciate and value diversity and be ready and willing to see the face of our congregation change.

Generous and Willing Sharing of Gifts

We will intentionally offer committed gifts of service and funds, for both the sustainability of our church and recognizing that service is a core value of what it means to be a church. Affirming that everyone has gifts and talents, and recognizing that giving and serving contribute to welln

One of the best parts of participating on the Board of Deacons is the opportunity to spend time imagining possibilities with talented, experienced, curious and passionate people. It is such a privilege to be able to come together in our faith community to discuss issues that mean so much to us and to be with a group of people who have similar goals and dreams for our congregational life.

As promised, the Board of Deacons continues to be active with decision making in the context of the visionary intentions. Each Deacon gives consideration to his or her role in the context of these visionary statements and how we in Board leadership can work to engage each of you in the mission of our church: To serve God by being a biblically-based community for redemptive nurture, worship, invitation to faith, prayer, education, outreach and service in the context of the global church.

This spring, Patrick, Anita and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with each of the deacons to discuss together the future of our church community and perhaps discover new ways in which we might further our work within the Nutana Park family and the broader community. Several themes emerged from those conversations including:

- A desire to work together and not

in silos - that is to understand our respective roles, but also recognize the many areas where our work overlaps with other areas of church work;

- To assume a shared responsibility for our activities;
- To value service and to be intentional about insuring we participate in opportunities that present themselves. Both those that come to our attention and others that we seek out;
- To be nimble and relevant to our congregational needs and those of the community; and
- To be sure that all ages are engaged in the process and remain interested in being fully involved in church and community life.

We are looking forward to deeper conversations with the board as we share the findings that emerged from these discussions. I am also excited that our adult education committee is initiating a learning series in the fall around the visionary intentions. The committee is planning to invite the congregation to join in an adult education series to discuss, internalize and apply the eight visionary intentions to our daily life in the church and broader community. We invite all of you to consider attending this series.



from the Board

TRISH ST. ONGE

Y WALK

–SARAH UNRAU



This past January I had the opportunity to participate with the board in the Strategic Planning Meeting. Since then, the board and staff have been in conversation about how to begin to apply practices, programs and initiatives within the community and the congregation to achieve these goals. Briefly, here are the goals created in January:

- Caring, Respectful and Inviting Culture
- Passionate Christ Centred Commitment to Anabaptist Values
- Vibrant Intergenerational Congregational Life
- Nurturing and Joyful Worship
- Relevant and Meaningful Programs for Congregation & Local Community
- Community Service and Engagement
- Openness and Understanding of Diversifying Community
- Generous and Willing Sharing of Gifts

I began to think of my role in all of this. How would I be able to achieve these goals as a youth leader? As I pondered this I realized that although I am the youth leader, I am a part of the youth group in its entirety and the better question should be, what can the youth group at Nutana Park do to achieve these goals?

I had a handful of ideas that I had been collecting since the Strategic Planning Meeting but I thought I would turn over the brainstorming to the youth group. I wanted them to take ownership of their role in this congregation and have fun doing so.

During a Tuesday Discussion Night we starting making a list. Ideas ranged from sports teams between churches to group meditation nights

to making MCC kits to multicultural community events! But there were three goal categories that stood out for these youth; Nurturing and Joyful Worship, Vibrant Intergenerational Congregational Life and, most prominently, Community Service and Engagement. Coincidentally, Community Service and Engagement was also the category in which we found ourselves highly focused on during our January meeting.

The desire to serve comes naturally to these youth. We were able to engage in a few service opportunities this past spring. During the Easter break we went with a team of 14 people to volunteer at the Food Bank. The boys spent time organizing items such as canned goods and potatoes and the girls got a chance to help at the Clothing Depot around the corner. The girls were struck by the story of one of the volunteers. This volunteer had been a victim of alcoholism and drugs but had been introduced to the Christian faith. She told us of how Christianity had turned her life around for the better and she now found joy in volunteering for those in need. It made me think of how something as simple as folding clothing could turn into a beautiful life lesson.

We had another opportunity to work with the Food Bank during the City Wide Food Drive. The youth were sent out to pick up food donations left on doorsteps. When our car was full, we took our items to a drop site. We couldn't believe the amount of food filling the trailer – and it was just one of many drop sites in the city. Yet again, it was a chance to see how small gestures in life can add up to something so great.

There have been other events such as a helping in a house reno, BBQing at the yard sale and the upcoming MCC Sale that provide and have provided great moments to learn and to serve. But what I think is so exciting is that

Continued on page 7...

the youth WANT to be a part of these opportunities. They WANT to donate the proceeds they earn. They WANT to look for way to serve others.

Looking back to their list, I could fill my entire youth calendar solely in

events that meet the Visionary Goals. It is an exciting prospect to see how easily, with a bit of guidance, we can be a part of making this congregation and community a vibrant place to be connected to.

Sunday School Update

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the Sunday School feedback forms at the end of May. The comments – from all ages – were appreciated. Based on your feedback a couple of things are clear: there was unanimous support for continuing to hold Sunday School sessions concurrent with the worship service and there were also a variety of ideas about how we could make some modifications to our new format.

After meeting with a committee, and with the approval of the board, there are a number of small adjustments that we will try throughout the year. There was pretty consistent feedback that a Sunday School class for older youth was not needed. Our plan for the fall is to continue with Sunday School from preschool through to junior youth and then evaluate how that age range is working at the end of first term. Our numbers of students from one week to the next can be quite variable so we are looking at ways to make that effective and enjoyable for students and teachers. We will likely be fairly flexible with our age groupings. Another option is to arrange classes by activity, rather than by age.

A concern that was noted is that with children absent from a large portion of the service, they miss out on many meaningful parts of worship. We hope to be more intentional about parts of the service that should include the children. This may mean having them present for transfers of membership, baptism, or communion. It may mean having them rejoin their families in the sanctuary toward the end of the service.

We have much to celebrate; we have a healthy population of students and guests who enjoy their Sunday School classes. **Our challenge is that it is not possible to run this program if we rely solely on the parents of those students who attend regularly.** If you are willing to teach, it is fun and the time commitment is only three or four Sundays per term. As the Sunday School coordinator, I'll do everything I can to make your job easy. Here is my contact information: 374-3027 or tkoophunter@sasktel.net. See you in the fall!



SUNDAY SCHOOL Update

- TERESA KOOP-HUNTER

Gallery

Lollipops and
Ladybugs
Bridal and
Baby Shower
May 26

Photos by Merna Ediger



Andrea



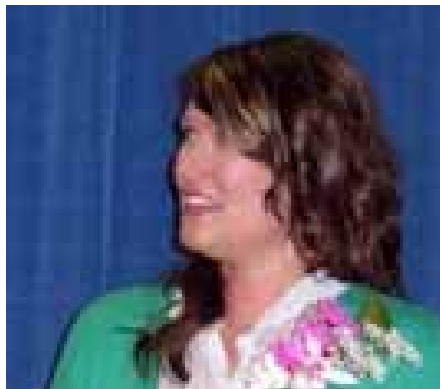
Jacoba



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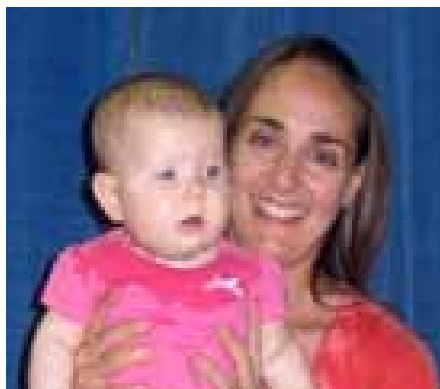
Janet sitting in for Crystal



Lonna



Marlie and baby Simon Timothy



Krista and baby Calissa



Tammy and Sarah