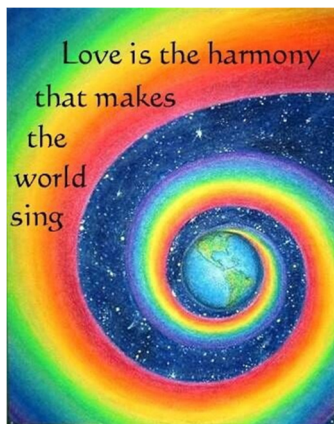


This Issue's Theme: **LOVE**



FEBRUARY 2015, VOLUME 2 EDITION 2

Life With Us

At Niagara United Mennonite Church

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Will you accept the

Love Challenge!?!

Perhaps one of the most quoted of all Scripture on the subject of love is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. You may recognize this passage below, however something is missing! We have created a fun exercise for you this month in light of our theme on love and hope that you will try it out and allow it to get you thinking.

When we invite the Spirit to dwell within us, we choose to die to ourselves and instead depend on His strength to lead us to embody the love of Jesus Christ and show this to all who surround us. In this sense, we are called to “be Jesus” to those around us. Since Jesus was love made flesh, we too should be an example of His great love to all with whom we come into contact.

Below you will notice that where we normally find the word “Love” written in the Bible, there are blank spaces. Here we challenge you to write your name. Where the Bible says “it”, please write “he/she” and “its” with “his/her”. Once this has been completed, position this page somewhere where you can read it throughout the month as a reminder of our challenge to you to “Be Jesus’ Love!”

_____ is patient and kind. _____ is not
jealous or boastful or proud or rude. _____ does not demand
_____ own way. _____ is not irritable, and _____ keeps no
record of being wronged. _____ does not rejoice about injustice but
rejoices whenever the truth wins out. _____ never gives
up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every
circumstance.



German Choir

When I joined the German choir four years ago, I was really torn between teaching Sunday School and choosing the German Choir. But from the get-go, it felt like a homecoming. Being raised in a German speaking household, the hymns and choir pieces seemed more reverent, more holy than I had experienced anywhere else. Although I had a musical background: playing violin in youth orchestra and school and singing in many choral capacities, I had no conducting experience at all. When Martha Bartel asked me to lead the choir, I was very apprehensive and felt a bit out of my element. After a few Sundays, this nervousness began to subside and I have found true enjoyment in this capacity.

I encourage all those who come from similar backgrounds, who learned German as a child and now bring their children to Sunday School, to come to the German service. It is enriching and fulfilling. The songs are based on Biblical texts and speak simply to those listening and to those singing. I appreciate the choir members. They are devoted despite age, despite illness, despite issues that life throws their way. They have set an example for me which is priceless. And I thank God for them and for allowing me to worship and serve in this way.

Submitted by Lolita Hale



Music Committee

In the past couple of months, you may have noticed the average age of the service participants significantly dropping on a few occasions. Beginning in October, the Music and Worship Committees designated one Sunday each month for students to share their gifts on Sunday morning during the offering time.

When the idea was originally presented at a worship committee meeting, we discussed the pros and cons of this kind of endeavour. How much of a time commitment would this be for the music committee? Would we need to find resources for the participants? A fair amount of discussion went into considering how the congregation would perceive this kind of involvement. Ultimately, our goal is to encourage participation in worship at a young age within the supportive and nurturing environment of our church community. With the children participating in our services, we can foster (aside from a healthy bout of butterflies every once in a while) a huge amount of confidence, and love for sharing gifts and volunteering time.

We presented the idea to the children in September, one morning before Sunday School. We left a sign up sheet on the piano, wondering what the

response would be. It was fantastic to see so many kids sign up, all ready and willing to volunteer their time and talents.

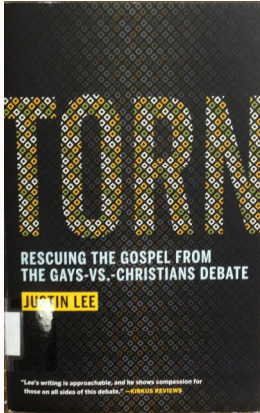
Since October, we've had five Sunday School students share their musical gifts and we have a great line up of volunteers all the way until Spring! As of right now, all of our volunteers have been musicians, but we know there's other talent out there too. If you know a student between grade one and twelve who would like to read a poem, or tell a story we'd love to hear from you. We know there's lots of creativity in our youth too - do you know anyone who has the gift of written language and would like to share something they've written? Maybe you know of someone who has something different to share? We're open to ideas and we'd love to hear your suggestions!

Thank you to everyone who has already shown their support to our young volunteers. We, as a congregation, have the ability to nurture an environment of encouragement for the next generation of worship leaders. And by the looks of it so far, we're in very capable hands.

*Submitted by Rachael Peters,
on behalf of the Music Committee*



Reviews of Books placed in our church library by the BFC committee



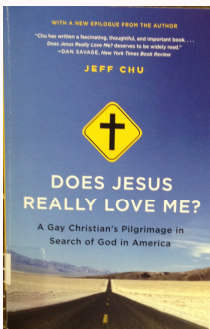
Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs-Christians by Justin Lee

As a teenager and young man, Justin Lee felt deeply torn. Nicknamed "God Boy" by his peers, he knew that he was called to a life in the evangelical Christian ministry. But Lee harbored a secret: He also knew that he was gay. In this groundbreaking book, Lee recalls the events--his coming out to his parents, his experiences with the "ex-gay" movement, and his in-depth study of the Bible--that led him, eventually, to self-acceptance.

But more than just a memoir, TORN provides insightful, practical guidance for all committed Christians who wonder how to relate to gay friends or family members --or who struggle with their own sexuality. Convinced that "in a culture that sees gays and Christians as enemies, gay Christians are in a unique position to bring peace," Lee demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.

Love is an Orientation by Andrew Marin

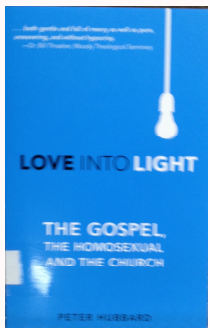
"Andrew Marin speaks with a loving, clear voice about an issue that is dividing families, churches and our nation."



Does Jesus Really Love Me? By Jeff Chu

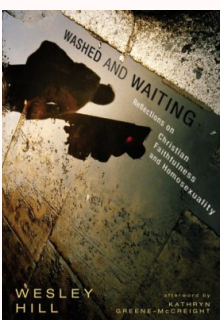
In this timely work—part memoir, part investigative analysis—a prize-winning writer explores the explosive and confusing intersection of faith, politics, and sexuality in Christian America.

When Jeff Chu came out to his parents as a gay man, his devout Christian mother cried. And cried. Every time she looked at him. For months. As a journalist and a believer, Chu knew that he had to get to the heart of a question that had been haunting him for years: Does Jesus really love me?



Love Into the Light: the Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church by Peter Hubbard

Written from the heart of a pastor with a love for people and a sensitivity to our culture, Love Into Light is your next step toward becoming more faithfully and helpfully engaged with people in your families, in your church and in your neighborhood.



Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality by Wesley Hill

This is a book written primarily for gay Christians and those who love them. Part memoir, part pastoral-theological reflection, this book wrestles with three main areas of struggle that many gay Christians face.

Reflections... *How did that go??*

"We are all fearfully and wonderfully made; when we unite all of our personalities together," stated a voice at the NUMC Myers-Briggs Workshop.

On Saturday January 10th, fifty-five participants from our church and the community gathered together to discuss, learn and grow through greater understanding of personality types.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator begins with a series of questions to narrow down your own personality into one of 16 personality types. Each type can be a combination and percentage of extraversion/introversion, sensing/intuition, thinking/feeling & judging/perceiving.

When we understand ourselves better, we have the ability to strengthen our gifts and choose employment & initiatives that are life-giving rather than activities that tire us out; because we are functioning



outside of our preferred state. If we do push ourselves out of our comfort zone to achieve a goal, we can recognize the impact it has on us, and recharge.

Romans 12:3-7 states that we should analyze ourselves truthfully and understand that we have all been given different gifts, but that we are all unique members of the same body. Although our personality is only one facet that makes us special, when we acquire a mature awareness about ourselves and become more knowledgeable of the personalities around us, it helps us to extend God's grace rather than attribute a negative moral value on others due to their behaviour; which may differ from our own. This is especially helpful in marriage, work, families, committees and team settings.



To illustrate the functional differences between the personalities, Pastor Rudy Dirks asked each personality grouping to create a 'brochure of the ideal church.' The results were astonishing! The personality groups all presented different finished projects: from formal/ highly informative church brochures to an example of an educational institution, and a drawing that resembled a beautiful outdoor Christian camp. This practical exercise allowed us to visually see how personalities engage in the world in differing ways and how important all types are when completing a task.

We require all personality types at the table to ensure a well thought-out finished product.

Overall, it was a fun, enlightening, God centered workshop.....with a fantastic lunch!

Please take a look at the website below to take the test and read a description of your unique personality.

<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>

God loves you just the way you are.

Submitted by Anneliese Friesen



Book Corner

February, the month of love. Did you know ... Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.

The Love Languages of God

By Gary Chapman

"To love or to be loved, what could be more important? This craving for love is our deepest emotional need. Each of us feels loved when others speak our primary love language. We are drawn to that person because he or she is meeting our basic need to feel loved. Dr Chapman's goal for readers is that they may be led to explore the possibility of speaking different love languages to God and thus expanding their own understanding of God and others"

First Love

By Ann Mainse

31 days with the lover of your soul. Do you remember your first love? That one who initially captured your heart and made it flutter? Before you answer, there's something you should know. There is Someone who has loved you before anyone has – even before you knew He existed. In fact, your very existence was a tender act of His love. He not only made it flutter, He caused it to beat. Whether you know Him or not, your First Love is the Originator of Life and Love ... Almighty God. Even now He daily speaks to you. If you listen closely you'll hear Him calling. He's calling you to come back"

Hidden

Sisters of the Heart Series

By Shelley Shepard Gray

"To escape a love gone wrong, a young woman runs to the only place she knows she's safe – the Amish Heartland."

The Preacher's Bride

By Jody Hedlund

"No matter the sacrifice, Elizabeth Whitbread would serve a wounded family. No matter the danger, John Costin was determined to speak God's word. Neither expected to fall in love. As enemies threaten to silence Costin – and those close to him – will following their hearts cost John and Elizabeth everything?"

Submitted by Debbie Fast



All Things Hidden, Co-Authored by Tracie Peterson & Kimberley Woodhouse,

This is a fictional story based on an actual historical event in the Matanuska Valley, now known as the Mat-Su Valley, in Alaska. During the Great Depression of the 30's, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the "New Deal" Plan to revitalize the country through massive Public Works projects. This particular project was the "Colonization of the Matanuska Valley" where approximately 200 families were selected from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, some of the hardest hit areas, to re-settle in Alaska during the summer of 1935. This amounted to more than 1,000 settlers plus the workers sent up to help build the homes and barns. This area would eventually become the towns of Wasilla and Palmer just northeast of Anchorage, Alaska on the Glenn Highway. This is a large fertile valley surrounded by beautiful mountains where, even though the summers are short, vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, melons, pumpkins, gourds, beans, carrots, etc. grow to enormous sizes due to the long sunny days. Even today at the end of August at the annual Alaska State Fair in Palmer, they hold a competition for the largest cabbage grown in Alaska (record 138.25 lbs).

With all these settlers and workers, sickness, injury, deaths and births were never ending. Looking after their needs was an enormous task for the one and only doctor, Dr. Earl Albrecht.

This fictional story is about Dr. Harold Hillerman, his wife Edith and their two daughters Gwyn, the oldest, and Sofia who came to the Alaska Frontier from a high society life in Chicago. Dr. Hillerman was to establish a hospital in Anchorage and provide healthcare to the white settlers and Alaskan natives in the Matanuska Valley and surrounding remote villages. His wife and youngest daughter Sofia could not endure the remote, primitive and harsh lifestyle of Alaska, and moved back to Chicago. Gwyn and her father remained in Alaska, believing this was where God wanted him to serve. Gwyn eventually became a nurse in her father's clinic. After her mother left, Gwyn was basically raised by her close native friend Sadzi's mother, Nasnana. When colonization of the Matanuska Valley began, Dr Hillerman was the only doctor available, and it became a daunting task for him, and his daughter, to care for the more than 1,000 settlers and workers. They needed help!

Back in Chicago, Dr. Jeremiah Vaughan is blamed for the death of an affluent patient while attempting a new medical procedure and is stripped of his medical license. As a result, his fiancé breaks their engagement. Trying to forget the heartbreak and bury his past, he accepts an invitation from Dr. Hillerman to come and assist him on the Alaska Frontier. Gwyn and Jeremiah soon realize they are attracted to each other, but will his past jeopardize their relationship?

Having been to Alaska and visited Wasilla and Palmer, I found this book very interesting, especially since it was based on real historical facts. It kept my full attention from the start. There are a number of subplots to support the main plot and in my opinion the subplot of criminal activity could have been omitted and it would still have been a great story. The main characters of this story are fictional, but some of the other people and their names are real, and some of the events and the timeline are also real. My passion is reading books of the early pioneers, especially in the Yukon and Alaska. Even though they're fictional stories, many are based on actual events such as this one. "All Things Hidden" is a must read!

Submitted by Henry Friesen

Spotlight on....

A Trip to the Middle East

Recently I had the privilege of participating in a Mennonite Central Committee Learning Tour to Jordan, Lebanon and northern Iraq. This trip provided an opportunity to visit MCC partner organizations that carry out the peace and justice work we (as Mennonites) support, and also to meet some of the people who are direct recipients of MCC financial and material assistance.

As an international relief and development agency, MCC is actually quite small but it has a strong influence. Through relationships that have been built up over many years, and because MCC works with diverse populations – for example, not just Christians but also Muslims, not just refugees but also host communities – people feel appreciated, and it was humbling to be the representatives of such an organization that in fact would not exist without the faithful hearts and hands of people in congregations like that of Niagara United Mennonite Church.

In all the countries we visited, refugees and internally displaced people seemed to dominate the humanitarian agenda. Our tour did not include any of the large and well-known United Nations camps, but we were introduced to “gatherings” and “refugee centres”.

Gatherings are informal settlements, usually in poor neighbourhoods, sometimes adjacent to existing official camps, where newcomers try to find shelter and then stay. In Beirut, Lebanon we visited an area of multi-storey apartment buildings where newly-arrived refugees from Syria form such a community. A local non-governmental organization runs a Kindergarten here and MCC's Global Family program provides funding to support 70 out of the 110 children registered. There is no safe place for the children to play other than at school, so parents are very grateful for this Kindergarten, which I can tell you is run primarily on love because it was the barest, most basic, small and crowded educational facility I have ever seen. (For all that it lacks in other amenities, it has a couple of computers which the teachers use to teach English from YouTube.) Successful completion of the three-year Kindergarten program makes it possible for the children to enter Grade 1 in a public school.

In Erbil, Iraq, we encountered “refugee centres” in church and school yards. Last August, the advance of ISIS militants into the nearby city of Mosul and villages in the Nineveh Plain caused the displace-

ment of thousands of Christians who then sought refuge in a Christian suburb of this Kurdish town. The word “centre” is preferred, one church worker told us, as a means of sparing the feelings or preserving the dignity of the people accommodated there. It is the least they can do. In a church school compound where multiple families share a school classroom and cook outside, people told us, “We don't need anything, we just want to go home!” A few blocks away, another church yard is filled with tents. Shallow gullies have been dug around them to divert water when it rains. Laundry is strung up along the narrow laneways. Volunteers are in the process of insulating the tents for the upcoming winter. With a tall fence shielding the tent compound from view, passersby might be completely unaware that it exists. The people want to go home. It's not likely to happen soon, if ever. They are shielded by a fence. They are shielded by polite words. Some of them have already run out of money. Well-educated young people, embarrassed, told us quietly that they were unable to find work. There's no shielding them or us from the bitter truth.

MCC has provided staff to conduct trauma recovery courses for residents of these centres in Erbil. Again through the Global Family program, it also supports Kids' House Kindergarten, run by the warm and kindly Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

“MCC”, of course, is us. It's our avenue for promoting peace, whether through education or shipping relief kits or funding food vouchers. In the face of ongoing violence in Syria and the obstinate presence of ISIS in Iraq, we may feel helpless but we are not. Another time I would like to share more about our MCC projects and partners in the Middle East.

Submitted by: Greta Wiens



Beirut neighbourhood where we met refugees and toured an MCC-supported kindergarten. Apartment balconies usually have heavy curtains to protect residents from the summer sun.

Eating in the Dark

On a warm July evening we went to O.Noir, a restaurant where one eats in the dark. It was an interesting and unique idea. We have all dined by candlelight, and experienced a romantic dinner with our spouse, and friends. Dim light brings a warm and sensual experience to a fancy or simple meal. When camping, it could mean eating late, and the food filling our bellies with warmth, and the low light providing an intimate setting around a campfire. So eating in the dark should not be a big deal.

However, have you ever lost one of your 5 senses? Most of us have experienced being sick when you can't smell your food; or when we've been so cold that you can't feel with your fingers anymore. These are all temporary losses of our senses. In this dining experience we felt like we had completely lost our eyesight. We could not see anything. And then we ate at a restaurant. How do you do that?

O Noir is an establishment in Toronto and Montreal which provides a dining experience in absolute darkness. Waiters and waitresses who are blind guide the customers through the meal, assisting them in finding what they need and providing a sense of control in an experience where one feels lost. We went into the restaurant that is located below ground. Upon entering, in a dimly lit area, we were provided a menu from which we ordered our meal. There was a choice of three items for each of the appetizer, main and dessert courses. If we were brave, we could order a "Surprise" which we would not know what we were eating. After ordering, we were greeted by a waiter who first ushered us single file into a small room, to once again, eliminate any light from entering the main dining room. The waiter instructed us to follow him, and told us what to do for every step. He told us where to walk, where our chairs were, when to sit down, and where to find our place setting.

The room was darker than we had ever experienced before. It was so dark, we could not see our hand unless it was touching our noses. As we sat down, our group began to talk to one another. Our voices grew louder as we attempted to communicate with one another without seeing each other. It was as if we could not see the person next to us, we could not tell if they were there or listening. The noise in the room grew as our voices got louder. Several times, we were instructed to quiet down.

The food came, and the waiter told us where our food would be placed, where our silverware was, and our drinks. We grasped our cutlery with desperation, as if we were not sure it was actually in our hand. As we ate, we spoke to the people next to us. We tasted the food carefully, talking about what we ate. If our food was a surprise we guessed what it was.

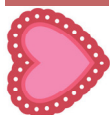
Did the darkness heighten our other senses? Well we definitely felt around with our hands more frequently, checking where our utensils were, and how close others were to us. We spoke louder, and leaned toward the voices we heard. We tasted the food carefully, trying to either make sure the food was what we ordered, or to figure out what it was. Yes, our other senses kicked in.

We definitely experienced a loss of eyesight. We could not see anything. We felt lost and helpless without being able to see other people; to see the ground where we were walking, or to quickly know where our drinking glass was. I had a new respect for people who did not have eyesight or another sense. Our bodies, including our tongue, nose, eyes, ears, fingers work together, even when a sense is disabled.

How do I get across how dark it was? I don't know. The only way you will know is if you go experience it too. Check it out, O Noir, 620 Church St. Toronto, 416-922-6647.

Some couples of our church explored an unusual way of celebrating with their friends. Maybe you would like to try this with your sweetheart on Valentine's day. You could get to know each other in a very new way!

Submitted by: Deb Kopeschny (daughter in law of Hedy and David Kopeschny)



Love is in the air within Niagara United Mennonite Church!

With Valentines Day in sight, the Children of the Primary Singing Class were asked the following questions:

What is Love?

"You love someone and they love me"

- Avery, age 6

"Love is your family."

- Kennedy, age 6

"Being with other people and helping other people."

- Ashley, age 6

"The person loves you."

- Keenan, age 5

Who do You Love?

"A new born baby."

- Ava, age 5

"My Mommy and my
Daddy and my sister &
brother."

- Gabby, age 4

"Mom and Dad and new
born baby."

- Ila, age 4

When people love each other, what do they do?

"They hug."

- Linnea, age 5

"The tell someone that
they love them."

- Addison, age 5

"They love their Mom and their Dad."

- Jacob, age 5

"...?...(puzzled look)..."

- Jaxxon, age 3



CUPID'S WORK

Harold and I were both part of a young adults group in our church. We planned various activities and spent time together getting to know each other. Sometimes one can feel very lost in your own church at this age. My sister attended this group as well and I thought that Harold was actually interested in her. Surprise! Now we've been married 21 years, celebrating the 22nd this May! - *Recounted by Ramona Neufeld*

Katrina and Erik first met in Waterloo when Katrina was finishing up her schooling at Laurier. Erik's sister invited him to a small house concert in 2009 where she and Katrina were both performing. From that point on they spent time together to really get to know each other, ultimately leading to a wonderful backyard wedding in August 2013! Katrina and Erik strive for a healthy happy marriage by balancing all the different aspects of life and centering themselves around God. In one phrase they describe marriage as "Living life's adventure with your best friend!"



**Steve &
Christina Cox**

Dave & Maria Wall

Haven't met your sweetheart yet? Need some inspiration on where they might be hiding? Review the various places that love was sparked for couples in our church family.

Can you guess who met where? Complete the challenge to match the couple with the place/way they met! Good luck!

**John & Jocelyn
Thwaites**

At a wedding

Accounting class

Birthday party

At church

**At an Eden-Lakeport combined cross-country practice,
each of them attending the two different high schools.**

On their friends' date

At a friend's house party

At the garage (he was her mechanic)

At her 16th Surprise Birthday Party

**Young Peoples
(What the NUMC Youth Group was once called)**

Youth group

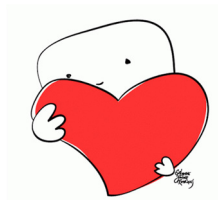
**Youth Retreat for NUMC
(though only one of them attended NUMC)**

Ron & Laury Riediger

To confirm if you answered these correctly, please ask the couples and share with them a story of your own!



**Jake & Sylvia
Tissen**



**Lloyd & Angela
Redekopp**

**Dave & Rachel
Peters**



**Henry & Linda
Friesen**

**John & Lucy
Harder**

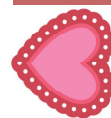


**Rudy &
Dorothea
Enns**



Scott & Yvonne Vanderlee

**Mike & Anneliese
Friesen**



(Being there) Many blessings

I would like to express my experience with the many blessings I have received from our church. Sometimes when I go to church to visit my old time plumbing and heating “friends” to do some maintenance or in modern terms “reboot” the system, I am amazed at how much activity there is in church during the week or in the evenings. There are so many people who are gifted and talented- from those who sew the threads to make a blanket for the homeless, to cleaning the church, the ones who make pot –luck meals for many occasions (funerals included), to those who drive, for those that provide encouraging words, to the elderly, to those listening to someone else’s stories. There are not enough pages to describe each person’s talents and blessings that they have and that others in turn receive.

Imagine if someone in the choir thought that they weren’t really needed and didn’t come, and each person thought the same way, soon there would be no choir. Or the person who makes the stitches in the blankets and thinks “what good are my few stitches in this blanket?” Soon there would be no blankets for the needy and they would be left in the cold.

I myself may not have the gift of speech or writing, but there is no toilet out there that can stand up against me!

I am so encouraged by all the activity in our church, that I receive a blessing every time I go there. Sometimes in the silence I imagine if there was no activity here, I would not be needed here. Where there is no activity, nothing breaks down and it is all quiet. That’s why I am thankful for dripping faucets, broken pipes and other plumbing issues.

It’s so important to “being there” Sunday mornings. People driving past our church can see the cars on the yard and know we are a thriving, active, vibrant church. Our “being there” is a witness in itself. If we just stay at home and watch a great sermon on TV, how do we physically comfort that person who has lost a loved one, or encourage someone who is sad and lonely or listen to someone’s story. We hear so many stories of people who get involved, how not only have they been blessed, but have been a blessing to others.

I think the saying is true that when you put nothing in- you get nothing out. The good Lord has given all of us talents. We each have a purpose. There is no such thing as a more important or less important talent. It’s how we use them that’s important.

A church is just a building, but fill it with people who are so multi-talented that we can’t help but burst at the seams with blessings, which in turn spill into the neighbourhood and the world.

Its like a small pebble thrown into the water, its ripples start small, but end up travelling a long way.

I would like to encourage those who have the so-called “thankless jobs,” your work, you- matter. Participate and you will truly see the needs, but also be blessed by your involvement in church.

Remember- there are no useless tools in the shed in the Lord’s Kingdom.

I give thanks with a grateful heart.

Submitted by Dick Heidebrecht

Hi my name is Madison Berg and I am the daughter of James & Carolyn Berg. I am in grade 8 at Crossroads Public School. I will hopefully be attending Eden High School next year to increase my faith with God. I love helping EVERYONE. I am in lots of clubs and sports teams in and outside of school. I was on the volleyball team in the fall now basketball team. I help lead ME2WE along with many others including Lexi Hale who also attends NUMC. I am in guitar club, I am a lunch monitor to the cute kindergarteners, helping out in the upcoming Wizard of Oz play, help in craft club, am a student secretary, a student librarian,



and part of the Moo Crew. Some people say I am a teachers' pet but that doesn't bother me because I love being out there and love when people go to me for help. I play hockey for Niagara-On-The-Lake Hockey Association. My daily life consists of waking up in the morning, getting ready, packing my lunch and getting to school for 8:40 every morning. During first break (10:30-11:10) I am running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I normally have basketball practice, getting ready for ME2WE meetings later on in the day, student librarian meetings, and sometimes even student secretary. This all has to get done within a 40 minute period. During my second break (12:50-1:35) I have to attend a ME2WE meeting to start or continue our mission for that month (this month we are raising money for the less fortunate). On top

of that I have to lunch monitor the kindergartens, go to the guitar club meeting, and attend a play practice. After school I normally have a basketball game or practice. It does not stop once school is finished. When I get home I help to make dinner, eat, do my homework, and then go to my hockey 2-3 times a week and also usually attend my brothers' hockey games. I enjoy babysitting kids in our neighbourhood when I have time. My daily life is really busy. This past December my teachers at my school submitted me for the Volunteer Under the age of 21 Award for the Town of Niagara on the Lake. I won! So on December 15th my family and I, 9 of us in total, got to attend a town meeting where I met the Mayor Pat Dart who presented me with an award for all the work I put into the community. To me I was a bit confused as to why I was being presented with this award because I am just being me. A person likes to help where I can.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Name: Logan Friesen **Age:** 10

Favourite activity: Crocheting and swimming

Favourite book: Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing

What I want to be when I grow up: An artist

What I like to do: Crochet, draw and sing

Favourite food: pizza

Favourite pet: bird or dog

My favourite experience:

Going to Myrtle Beach

Favourite song: You Are My All In All

Parents' Names: George and Jennifer Friesen



Photos to the upper and lower right show some of the crocheted creations that Logan has made. What skill!

Milestones

Join us as we celebrate one another's special milestones!

The following members, who are 80 years of age and older
are celebrating birthdays
this month:



Helene Peters turns 82 on February 3rd
Hertha Neumann turns 83 on February 5th
Mary Goertz turns 84 on February 8th
Hannelore Enss turns 81 on February 9th
Lena van Bergen turns 82 on February 9th
Hansulrich Fieguth turns 80 on February 11th
Elizabeth Friesen turns 86 on February 21st

We wish you all much happiness and health
on your special days!



****Reminder: If you have moved or changed any of your contact information, please alert the office so that our records remain current. ****

A look back to this day in our history...

February 2, 2003

Bulletin announced: Join us for the second annual "Sweetheart Dinner"! Coming to NUMC on February 22, 2003 at 6:30p.m. Discover "His Needs, Her Needs" presented to us by Pastor Willard and Ann Shertzer. Special music by Big Al and friends. Babysitting will be provided.

February 3, 1985

Desmond Tutu of South Africa becomes Johannesburg's first black Anglican bishop.

February 9, 1943

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is arrested and sent to the Gulag where he will find faith.

February 10, 1957

Our bulletin had the following announcement (in German): "As a result of the discussion at the Membership Meeting on December 16 and 17, 1956, a committee will be formed to explore the need of using the English language in the instruction of Sunday School. The following members are named to this committee: Br. Artur Schmitt, (Sunday School teacher), and Br. A.A. Harder (Chairman of Church Council) and Br. J.W. Andres (Representative of the parents)."

February 17, 1963

This day marked the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration service of our church. The Call to Worship as printed in the bulletin for that morning was "O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among thy peoples!" The Sunday morning service was followed by a 3p.m. Jubilaumsgottesdienst, Gemeinschaftsmahl (a fellowship meal) and then another Jubilaumsgottesdienst starting at 7:30p.m. The evening service featured an invitation by Aeltester Wiens, a double choir led by Vic Neufeld, a meditation entitled "Erfahrungen" by Arno Bartel, and a closing by Pred. (Werner) Fast.

A Birthday Remembered

Seventy years ago, on February 9, 1945, it was towards the end of the Second World War, I turned eleven years old. It was a special birthday for me and I have never forgotten it. I was the youngest in the family, my two older brothers had been drafted into the German Army. My Dad was still working at home, when, in December 1944, all able men that were left, were drafted into the Volkssturm, that was a group of men who were supposed to protect our area. And the leader of this group was my home-room teacher. My mother, we called her Mutti, and I said good-bye to this group of men with lots of hugs and tears. Soon after, in January, Mutti and I received notice to flee our home, the Russian Forces were advancing and close to our hometown. We fled with many other women and children in a horse-drawn wagon through ice and snow and had come to the city of Danzig, by the Baltic Sea. Here we were put into an apartment with three other women and a small child. It was February, and my birthday was approaching. Mutti was so sorry, in this turmoil she had no present for me. But I did not want anything. I missed my Dad. All I wanted, was to see my Dad. But where was he? We had no idea.

On February 9th, the morning of my birthday, my mother went into the city and was walking past the soldier's barracks. She was hoping to find out something about the group of men that my father was with. And, lo and behold, who did she see walking across the yard? My home-room teacher, Mr. Spode. She called out his name and he recognized my mother. He took her into his arms and with tears in his eyes he said, "I could not bring back all the men that went out with me, but your husband is here. Tell me where he can find you, and this afternoon he can visit you for a short while." Of course Mutti was overjoyed and came home, but she did not tell me. In the afternoon, we had made some fudge, suddenly the door-bell rang, and Mutti said to me: "Go and see who is there." I opened the door and could hardly believe my eyes. I fell into my dad's arms and cried tears of joy. My birthday wish had come true. He was really there. He could not stay with us for long, but we had seen him and knew he was alive.

This happened so many years ago, but it had such an impact on me that I remember that day as if it was yesterday. It was a special birthday for me.

Submitted by: Hannelore Enss

A Tribute to Lena Van

Bergen on her 82nd Birthday

Being the youngest in a family of 12 kids, I had the fortune or as Lena might say, misfortune of being raised by my oldest sister, whose 82nd birthday we are celebrating this month. Actually with so many siblings around I really never knew who was raising me. As far as I was concerned we all just "grew up" all by ourselves.

I have been reminded many times by her that she was my prime caregiver, babysitting me and the one who meted out the punishments when needed. Any squabbles that us younger ones got into, always ended up standing in the corner, under Lena's discipline, and our only way of escape was we had to give each other a kiss. Needless to say we stood there for a very long time before Lena's method of reconciliation took effect. One of my most vivid memories was that every Saturday Lena drove to the Home Bakery in Niagara on the Lake to buy yeast and I always tagged along with her on that excursion. That trip always meant a \$.06 ice cream cone, seeing that she was the greatest fan of ice cream, even to this day. Well obviously I took a little longer to eat mine and as we neared home, she always had to finish mine as well before we got home, seeing

we couldn't reveal our treat or there would have been a lot of whining from the others. Only as I got older did I realize that was a ploy so she could have both of our cones.

Just recently Lena was laid up with a broken hand and could do next to nothing for herself, not even drive. Well, I guess it was payback time and I found myself driving her around. On one of those trips I asked if she wanted an ice cream cone, but she turned me down, she knew she wouldn't get mine this time.

Of course I owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all the things she has taught me, some things better than others. Baking was one of her strengths and even to this day I will call her for help when I'm at a loss or need some hints for baking or cooking. Her sewing skills were never passed on to me, so every pant needing hemming, every skirt needing shortening and every zipper needing to be replaced ended up in the Van Bergen household.

Anyway, yes she's been my older sister and sort of surrogate mother and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her publicly for a job well done (at least Her-man thinks so)! Thanks for the memories and Happy 82nd Birthday.

Submitted by Kathy Neufeld

Did you know? Submitted by Lani Gade

Do you have some candles left over from Christmas, or might you even have a whole boxful of old, leftover candles sitting around somewhere in the house that you don't really know what to do with? Can you recall even throwing them out in the past?

Well, here is the perfect solution! It has been in place for years already, but perhaps you might not know about it yet. Let me tell you about Henry Siemens and his project. He has been collecting old wax candles or any bits of old wax and melting it down for new creations. He keeps the colours separate, or if need be, he creates new colours by adding dye or mixing different colours together. And then what, you ask? Well that is where Clara, his wife, comes into the picture. They both help out at the Benefit Shop and Clara collects old cups and glasses or any small containers that have no use otherwise anymore, for recycling. She cleans them or polishes them and then they are ready for Henry to put a wick and pour his wax in. By now he has made hundreds of them. They sell very well at the Benefit Shop. And so he makes red and green candles for Christmas, red and pink for Valentine's day and I have seen purple votives for the wine season, which sell by the dozen. But that's not all. If you think your old candles are a little bit discoloured or even dirty looking, he can use those too. He makes fire starters with them. For that he fills small yogurt cups up with straw and a little wax overtop. They sell very well too. Sometimes people buy a whole box full at once.

I can always tell, especially in the summer time, when Henry is pouring candles in his garage. When I go for my morning walk, I can smell it half a block away. I like to stop by and admire his new creations.

There is a bucket in the mailbox room, where you can drop off your used candles. If they are in small containers, you don't have to remove them.

So, if you didn't know about this recycling project, one that you can even participate in, now you know!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 @ 10 am German Service— Hans H. Dau @ 10 am Interactive Ser- mon @ 11:00 am Wor- ship Service— Rudy Dirks	2 @ 7 pm Women's Bible Study @7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice 	3 @9am Women in Service @ 7 pm Church Council Mtg	4 @ 6:30 pm Pioneer Club @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg	5 @ 8 pm Choir Practice	6 Youth Trip to Acquire the Fire	7 Youth at Acquire the Fire
8 @ 10 am Interactive Ser- mon @ 11:00 am Wor- ship Service— John Tiessen	9 @ 7 pm Women's Bible Study @7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice	10 @9am Women in Service @7pm Worship Commit- tee Mtg @7pm Education Commit- tee Mtg	11 @ 6:30 pm Pioneer Club @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg	12 @ 8 pm Choir Practice	13 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth	14 VALEN- TINE'S DAY  Marriage Prep Class
15 @ 10 am German Service— Ramona Neufeld @ 10 am Interactive Ser- mon@ 11 am Worship Service— Rudy Dirks	16 FAMILY DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	17 @ 9 am Women in Service @ 7 pm Spiritual Council Mtg	18 @6:30pm Pioneer Club @7pm Prayer Mtg	19 @ 8 pm Choir Practice	20 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth	21
22 @ 10 am Interactive Ser- mon @11 am Worship Service— Rudy Dirks @ 3pm Senior's Valentines Tea	23 @ 7 pm Women's Bible Study @7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice	24 @9am Women in Service	25 @6:30pm Pioneer Club @6:30 pm Young Adults Leadership Night @7pm Prayer Meeting	26 @ 8 pm Choir Practice	27 @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth	28 Marriage Prep Class 

Other News...

"Along the Road to Freedom: Mennonite Women of Courage & Faith" Art Exhibit.

This collection of 26 paintings, hosted by St. Catharines United Mennonite Church, tell the dramatic stories in art and words honouring women of faith who have provided families with leadership in extreme situations. **Exhibit Opening: February 1st, 3-5 pm.** Exhibit runs **February 1st - March 8th**; Mon-Fri 9am-1pm and Wed & Fri 7-8:30pm. Additional times or groups by appointment: 905-935-8017.

THE GIFTS OF WINTER SPIRITUALITY, DAYS OF QUIET PRAYER- MENNONITE SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS OF EASTERN CANADA

Each Day of Quiet Prayer begins with the leader orienting the group to God and the theme of the day. Prayer suggestions are offered which may then be used in long periods of quiet reflection. The day concludes with a time of group reflection. During the quiet times, the leader is available for private conversation (spiritual direction). Bring your own lunch. *Are there seasons in our spiritual lives that resemble the seasons in our physical world? What are the gifts of winter spirituality?* **Wed. February 4th | 9:00am - 3:00pm** Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church 15 George St., Waterloo, ON

60 Years At Fraser Lake Camp: Telling Our Stories - Alumni and friends of Fraser Lake are invited to an afternoon of reminiscing and sharing camp stories in honour of our 60th anniversary. These stories will be used to inspire a play written on the history of FLC. This event is at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church (Markham) on **Saturday, February 7th**. Plan to arrive at 1:30 pm and stay until 4 pm. Questions? Contact Kristen Berg at kberg@fraserlakecamp.com



People on the move: The human face of migration Experience this important exhibit through former refugees who will share their stories of migration and resettlement. More info at mcco.ca/events. **Thursday, February 19, 7 pm** Bethany Community Church, 1388 Third Street, St. Catharines

Women's Retreat: February 27-March 1, 2015 at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. Skating on the lake, relaxing in the sauna, enjoying a massage, snowshoeing, cross country skiing or walking through the woods, stargazing on a horse drawn sleigh ride and savouring exceptional food. For more information and to register visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200.

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Registration is now open for Summer 2015 with programming available for campers ages 6-16 including Mini Camp, Teen Camp, Family Camp and many others. Space is limited so be sure to register early. Campership Funds (subsidies) are available. For more information, please visit www.slmc.ca or contact Dave Erb at dave@slmc.ca or 519-422-1401.



If you would like to submit any photos or articles for the newsletter, please contact any of the Newsletter Team of Editors:

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Deadline for the March newsletter is February 13th, 2015.



LIFE WITH US



NEWSLETTER

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