

This Issue's Theme:

# Mother's Day



MAY 2015, VOLUME 2 EDITION 5

# Life With Us

At Niagara United Mennonite Church

## In This Issue...

- Mother's Day Feature – pg 2
- Reflections – pg 3
- Ministries - pgs 4 & 5
- Book Corner – pg 5
- Outreach – pg 6
- Spotlights– pgs 6, 7, 8 & 9
- Child Interview – pg 9
- Children's Response– pg 9
- My Mother's Hands - pg 10
- Congregational Response - pg 11
- Contributions– pgs 12 & 13
- Calendar– pg 14
- This Day in our history - pg 15
- Milestones- pg 15
- Other News– pg 16

## "A Mother's Day Proclamation"

Arise then...women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!  
Say firmly: "Disarm! Disarm!  
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."  
Blood does not wipe out dishonor,  
Nor violence indicate possession.  
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil  
At the summons of war,  
Let women now leave all that may be left of home  
For a great and earnest day of counsel.  
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and  
commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to  
the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace...  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress,  
not of Caesar,  
But of God –

(1870 prose poem, by Julia Ward Howe)

## The Radical History Of Mother's Day

At first glance, Mother's Day appears a quaint and conservative holiday, a sort of greeting card moment, honoring 1950s values, an historical throwback to old-fashioned notions of hearth and home. Let's correct that impression by saying: Happy Radical Mother's Day.

In May 1907, Anna Jarvis, a member of a Methodist congregation in Grafton, West Virginia, passed out 500 white carnations in church to commemorate the life of her mother. One year later, the same Methodist church created a special service to honor mothers. Many progressive and liberal Christian organizations -- like the YMCA and the World Sunday School Association -- picked up the cause and lobbied Congress to make Mother's Day a national holiday. And, in 1914, Democratic President Woodrow Wilson made it official and signed Mother's Day into law. Thus began the modern celebration of Mother's Day in the United States.

In the late 19th century, Julia Ward Howe (better known for the "Battle Hymn of the Republic") expressed this hope in her 1870 prose-poem, "A Mother's Day Proclamation" calling women to pacifism and political resistance.

Years later, Anna Jarvis intended the new holiday to honour all mothers beginning with her own -- Anna Reeves Jarvis, who had died in 1905. Although now largely forgotten, Anna Reeves Jarvis was a social activist and community organizer who shared the political views of other progressive women like Julia Ward Howe.

In 1858, Anna Reeves Jarvis organized poor women in Virginia into "Mothers' Work Day Clubs" to raise the issue of clean water and sanitation in relation to the lives of women and children. She also worked for universal access to medicine for the poor. Reeves Jarvis was also a pacifist who served both sides in the Civil War by working for camp sanitation and medical care for soldiers of the North and the South.

Although I've never seen it on a pastel flowered greeting card, Mother's Day honors a progressive feminist, inclusive, non-violent vision for world community -- born in the imagination of women who devoted themselves to God, not Caesar.

How familiar that sounds to our own Anabaptist/Mennonite beliefs -- working for peace and justice!

Happy Radical Mother's Day!

## Mother's Day Gone Global

The holiday Anna Jarvis launched has spread around much of the world, though it's celebrated with varying enthusiasm, in various ways, and on various days—though more often than not on the second Sunday in May.

- In much of the Arab world, Mother's Day is on March 21, which happens to loosely coincide with the start of spring.
- In Panama the day is celebrated on December 8, when the Catholic Church honours perhaps the most famous of mothers, the Virgin Mary.
- In Thailand mothers are honoured on August 12, the birthday of Queen Sirikit, who has reigned since 1956 and is considered by many to be a mother to all Thais.
- Britain's centuries-old Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday of the Christian period of Lent, began as a spring Sunday designated for people to visit their area's main cathedral, or mother church, rather than their local parish. Mothering Sunday church travel led to family reunions, which in turn led to Britain's version of Mother's Day.

# Reflections... How did that go??

## Wholeness through Christ

This was the third year that we have hosted a Wholeness through Christ weekend at our church and my first time attending. Mind you, I wanted to attend the other two years but I used the excuse of having to work on Saturdays to avoid attending. Each time the invitation went out from the pulpit my heart would race and my eyes would well up and I thought that if this was going to be my response before the event then I would just be a blubbering mess during it so it was just best that I not attend. I needed to get myself under control..... and that's the whole purpose of Wholeness through Christ.

This year I listened to that little voice inside of me. It was telling me that I needed to be there and that there were areas in my life that needed healing and that no matter how hard I tried I would not be able to do it on my own, so I went.

It was not as I had imagined it would be because God speaks to us individually, so each one there had their own experience with Him. The presenters' messages were both thought provoking and convicting.

I heard someone ask the question, "why would we want to do this every year?" I wondered that myself and I would have said one year is enough if it wasn't for the next step.

I attended an intercessory prayer session without knowing what to expect and it confused me. I use the word confused because the battle inside of me for control was huge. However, once I got out of God's way His healing power was more profound than I could ever have imagined.

So if you asked me now if I would attend this again next year I would definitely say yes and I would encourage everyone who hasn't come out but is feeling led, to take courage and listen to that nagging voice in your head. My daughter shared this story with me and I'd like to pass it along.

There was a crowd of people standing in a field with a fence dividing them into two groups. Jesus came and took the little group of people who were on His side of the fence and then the Devil came and took the larger group. After this, there was one man left sitting on the fence. The Devil came back and told the man to come with him but the man said, "I don't belong to you, I'm sitting on the fence."

The Devil replied, "Oh, but you do belong to me. I own the fence."

- Submitted by Evelyn Finlay



Children's Time with Nate & Taryn Dirks, Sunday, April 19, 2015

## Passover Seder

On Thursday, April 2nd we had a most interesting evening with Laura Barron. Laura is a missionary with the Jews for Jesus ministry and is very passionate in her work. This year marked my second time participating in the model Jewish Passover Seder evening; however, I found it just as fascinating as the first time. The experience included not just Scripture and historical background but also showcased has a whole table full of visual items to help walk us through a Jewish Passover. Each aspect of the ceremony held for the ancient Festival of Redemption (Passover) is so rich with meaning, and despite originating as an ancient tradition pre-dating Christ, we learned how so many of the traditional rituals foreshadow the coming of Christ, the Lamb of God, our Redeemer. If our church continues to offer this kind of experience, I look forward to attending once again, and I urge and invite you to come. You will gain a new understanding and appreciation for what Jesus and the disciples were participating in as they shared their Last Supper together.

\*\*See some photos from this event on the back cover!

- Submitted by Lani Gade



Progressive Supper, Friday, April 17, 2015

# NUMC Ministries...



SMILE ! SMILE ! SMILE !

Has it been 5 years already? Yes! A lot has changed since 2010.

Once again, we have plans to present our church family directory. Photos will be taken on May 19 - 21 and May 26-30 and then again from June 1 - 2 and June 8 - 10. Sessions on Tuesdays (May 19 and 26) will take place onsite at Pleasant Manor. A broad range of appointment times are available.

Please help us to make this year's directory as complete as possible by booking your photo sessions promptly. We will be available in the foyer before and after church services for the next few Sundays to make your appointments. Please contact the church office for details if it becomes necessary for you to submit your own picture.

You can also help by volunteering to host the photo sessions at either our church or Pleasant Manor and/or volunteering to make reminder phone calls. Sign-up at the photo desks in the foyer.

You will be able to have your pictures taken, view them, and choose any for potential purchase at one convenient appointment. Family pictures make such great gifts for your parents, your kids, or relatives in other cities or countries.

Thank-you for your enthusiastic response so far! Our church directory is such a practical and enjoyable resource used by many to identify and appreciate our church family members. SMILE !!!



A few tips on how to prepare for your portrait session:

- Colour coordinate the wardrobe of everyone in the picture.
- Wear deep rich colours (not prints).
- Long sleeves are better since it directs attention to the face.
- Hair and grooming are important.
- Dress as though it could be a full-length portrait.

**You'll look GREAT!**

The Women in Service have closed off another season that ran from October 2014 to April 2015. Hedy Kopeschny tells us that 416 blankets were tied, which includes a lot of preparatory work



done at home. Some ladies, especially from the older group, sewed quite a few blankets at home. One lady made quite a few baby quilts, while another sewed receiving blankets. While these blankets are much needed by MCC, the quilting sessions are a good opportunity for communicating and sharing with each other.

Well done, ladies!



**Women in Service**

## CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you for collecting Campbell's Soup labels. Following is a breakdown of the labels that we collected from October 1, 2014, to April 10, 2015.

Campbell's Condensed Soup labels - 1124  
Chunky Soup Labels - 189  
V-8 Juice - 4  
Campbell's Gravy - 2  
Ready to Enjoy\* - 29

\*Also includes Healthy Requests and Creations  
Habitant Soup - 35

UPC bar code - 36 (from Goldfish crackers, Campbell soup boxes, Campbell cooking sauce, Campbell broth boxes, etc.)

The labels were taken to the WMCEC Enrichment Day meeting which took place on Saturday, April 18, at Listowel Mennonite Church, Ontario. They will be forwarded to one of our schools for their educational programs.

**Thank-you for not folding the labels more than once. Remember: both the UPC symbol (bar code) and the picture must be shown on the soup label.**

On the bulletin board near the Campbell's Soup Collection Can (in the area where the mailboxes are), you will see a poster which shows all the Campbell's products that are eligible for LABELS FOR EDUCATION projects. Further information can be found on the internet: google CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION. Note: our schools (UMEI and Rockway Collegiate) do not collect lids or bottle caps.



## Music Notes



**May 3** Youth Band led by Danielle Redekopp and Steve Cox  
Musical Children's Moment with Katrina

**May 10** Mother's Day  
Sunday School choirs with Evelyn Finlay and Donna Froese  
Bianca DiZio will be serving us with special music during the offering.

**May 17** Testimonies/Baptism  
Choir, led by Ruth and Laury Willms  
Children's Moment with our pastor, Rudy Dirks

**May 24** Pentecost/Baptism/Communion  
Choir and special music led by Ruth and Laury Willms

**May 31** Men's Choir, led by John and Kathy Rempel

### Up Coming Events

Choir practices for Baptism and Pentecost will be held on April 30, May 7, and May 14th. We would love to see more singers join our Thursday 8:00 pm practices in the sanctuary. We are especially looking for alto, tenor, and bass voices.

## Book Corner

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers. ~Jewish Proverb

### Women of the Bible

52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups  
By Jean E Syswerda

"As you immerse yourself in their lives, you'll see more and more places where your life intersects with theirs.

Focus on fifty-two female heroes in Scripture, and you'll discover yourself in the process. Women of the Bible is designed especially for those who want to delve more deeply into the lives of women like Ruth, Anna, Esther, Leah, Rachel, Mary, Elizabeth, and other women who encountered the living God.

Each timeless biblical story mirrors the challenges and changes today's women face. Through understanding these women's lives, this easy-to-use study resource will help you discover the God behind their stories and yours"

### Checklist for Life for Mom's

"Every day as a mom you face unique challenges – and opportunities. Checklist for Life for Mom's will help you make the most of your children, your family & yourself."

Godly Confidence ... I know we can

"The Lord will be your confidence.  
Proverbs 3:26

When it comes to mothering, toss the I-think-I-can pop culture into the diaper pail. Know instead that God has chosen you to be your child's mother, that godly mentors can help give you advice you need to be a great mom, and that God will guide you in every situation."

Things to remember ...I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

Things to do ... make a list of my strengths & weaknesses as a mother

I will ... pray for my children individually each day"

- Submitted by Debbie Fast

## S.O.S. for Syria

Our church is participating in MCC's S.O.S. for Syria campaign. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 in the next 3 months or sooner to help refugees in Syria. We are looking for at least 33 people to join the campaign, donating \$3.33 a day for 3 months, amounting to \$10,000.00, which is enough to help 1000 people in Syria by providing them with relief kits that include things like towels, soap, toothbrushes, and bandages. More importantly, it gives hope and a sense that someone cares.

Join together with friends or family members to contribute to MCC's S.O.S. for Syria campaign. Donations can be dropped into Sunday morning's offering plate with envelopes marked S.O.S. for Syria, or made on line through the following address:

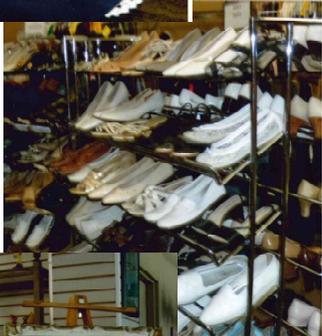
<https://sosforsyria.mcco.ca/c/kathy-rempels-campaign/>



As a very naïve, poor sixteen year-old orphan, I went to Sao Paulo, Brazil, a city of four million already in 1949, after my brother had married and didn't need me to keep house and look after the cows while he delivered the milk to customers in the city. My one friend said, "Come to Sao Paulo, the rich Brazilians like German-speaking nannies". Yes, after a long bus ride I found my friend Selma and a job. At that time there were many other single Mennonite girls doing the same thing, with our families back in Parana or even Santa Catarina. So wonderful MCC rented a large house, centrally located, with a volunteer couple from Canada as House-parents, and on our day off, we had a "home" to go to for spiritual and physical nurture, church services, table tennis, good conversations and just a good atmosphere.

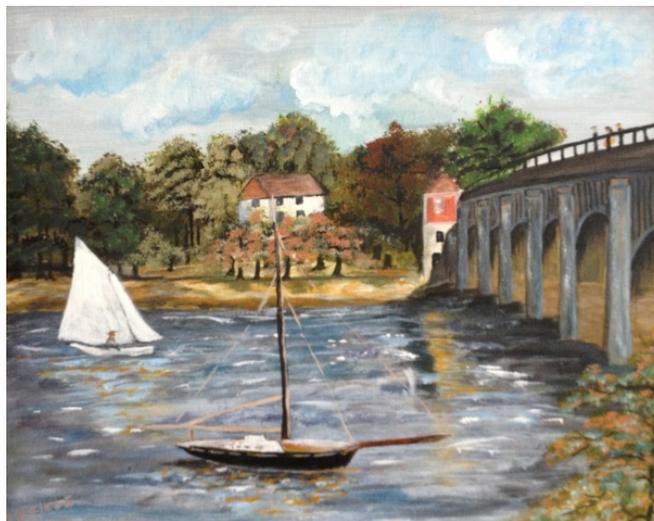


My mother's siblings had immigrated to Manitoba in 1926 – 1927 and had a lot of children, so after 2 years in Sao Paulo, the Houseparents talked me into asking for help to immigrate to Canada. In 1974, when an MCC store opened in St. Catharines, I was very willing to help and start paying back MCC with the hope that some young girl might benefit, and as I like to say: be rescued and saved.



Many things have changed at the Christian Benefit Shop in 40 years. Some changes we like, and some we don't like. But MCC is still doing great things and needs the money. The store on Grantham Ave. has great deals, silent auctions, furniture, many clothes at good prices, and the very popular 50 cent rack on Saturdays. We still like good clean donations, and we still need volunteers. It's a fun place and I hope to see you there.





When I reflect on my childhood at home with my mother, it becomes clear that art was part of our daily experience. Not so much in terms of viewing great paintings or visiting museums, but by being encouraged to take a closer look at the art of ordinary things. To pay attention to an experience and take time to create. We were always creating because mom was always creating. It's one of the greatest gifts she has shared with her children – and continues to share with her grandchildren!

One of my earliest memories is sitting on my mom's lap, at age four, learning how to draw a traditional Swiss landscape scene: snow-capped mountains, scattered pines, and small red-roofed houses, with a small path leading out of the page. This first lesson sparked my own artistic spirit. There was something magical about envisioning her stories in my mind and then learning how to translate those pictures onto a piece of paper!

My mother, Irene Griese, would likely hesitate to call herself an “artist”; she is mostly self-taught and hasn't ever formally shown her artwork. Yet her artistic sensibilities and countless creative endeavours would reflect otherwise. For she has always expressed herself in an artistic way, whether as an expert seamstress, through ceramic arts, cake decorating, gardening, and much more.

In the last few years she has picked up her paintbrushes and allowed herself the time to practice the art of painting. Her landscapes are testaments to her love of nature and invite us to reflect and consider our own connection with the world around us – if only for a moment. What is art, but a way to “find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time” (Thomas Merton).



# Snapshots of My China Trip



Last year our daughter and I visited all the big and famous places of China that you have heard of or even seen yourself, but I want to share with you a few things that impressed or even surprised me...

China has a lot of beautiful parks and green spaces where you can see people exercise, sing and dance. We saw very few fat Chinese people.

The public places looked all very clean. Smoking was forbidden in many areas. In Macao you could get a ticket for smoking in the streets.

The traffic was unbelievable. But we always got to our destinations on time. Buses were not allowed to run before 5:00 am.



*"Don't be sad it is over,  
be happy that it was."*

举一可铸义  
Flower and grass makes beauty  
proper behave feels no guilty

We had lots of fun reading their English signs and there were many of them.

In China, people squat a lot. The tourists line up for the few western toilets while the Chinese line up for the “squatters” even if the western toilets are free. Actually it is the healthier way to go and it gives you stronger legs.



Parents and grandparents are very dedicated to their children. Also, children are very respectful to their parents. Iris, one of our local guides, is living with her parents in the hills by the Yangtze River. As she said, they are old, in their seventies, not that healthy and they need her. Her husband and son live in a city farther away. She only sees them twice a year but communicates by phone often.



There is so much more to tell- about the spectacular show in Yangshuo, created by the same choreographer that did their Olympic show, about the Panda Zoo in Chongqing, the rice terraces in the hills of Guilin, and so much more. You just have to go and experience it yourself.

- Submitted by Lani Gade



## Child Interview

Name: Trent Cox  
 Age: 3  
 Favourite activity: Playing  
 Favourite song:  
 'I will wait' by Mumford & Sons  
 Favourite book:  
 Winnie the Pooh and Tigger too  
 Favourite food: Pasta  
 Favourite pet: Lily (our dog)  
 What I like to do: Play  
 What I want to be when I grow up: Marcus from Mumford & Sons  
 Parents' Names: Steve & Christina Cox

How our children respond to “Why do you love your Mommy?”

*Sam:* She gives me presents, makes special food, and reads to me.

*Evan:* She is a good cook.

*Benj:* She makes a special chocolate cake for me.

*Elias:* She is a good cook.

*Jacob:* She gives me money when I don't pee my pants.

*Yousif:* She lets me play on my x-box.

*Brynna:* She loves me.



## (In appreciation of ) MY MOTHER'S HANDS

Do you remember what it felt like to be tucked into bed at night? Do you remember stumbling or falling and being lifted up by firm, loving hands? Can you remember falling asleep in the car and being carefully carried into the house and shielded from the cold? These are my earliest memories of a precious treasure – my mother's hands.

My mother's hands filled so many roles. Who, as a child, has not marveled at the skill with which those hands completed every task? The tasty, attractive meals. The way Dad's shirts looked so crisp and perfectly ironed. The way the house sparkled on cleaning day. Those wonderful hands could always rescue a school project gone wrong, a broken toy, or knees scraped on a sidewalk. How many miles did my mother's hands drive to the library, or girls' league, or music lessons. More soothing and healing than any medicine was the touch of her cool hands on my feverish forehead.

I truly began to appreciate the skill and diversity of these hands when I started trying some of these things myself. Why was it so difficult to break an egg and have the contents land where I intended? And why were my sewing projects never as neat?

As the years passed, my mother's hands became a treasured part of my adult life. Her hands warmly congratulated me at my graduation. Her hands helped me with my wedding gown. Her creative hands painted a landscape for my husband to welcome him into the family. Her loving hands held my precious baby. Those hands gave me hugs whenever I needed them, at any age.

There is one thing that I never saw my mother do: nothing. My mother's hands never did nothing! Those hands were so full of activity that one could almost suspect that she had more than just two! Who else could hold a baby in one arm, stir a sauce, answer the phone, help another child with shoelaces – all seemingly at once!? Even while waiting for someone to come home to eat, knitting was close at hand.

My mother's hands were not pampered hands, especially in her earlier years. Her imagination, her keen appreciation of nature and her love of music gave refuge, as her hands worked through times of serious circumstances.

One day, I had the privilege of seeing the most important thing my mother did for me: My parents' house was brimming with guests, as was often the case. My mother was nowhere to be seen, and wanting a private word with her, I began looking for her. I tapped lightly on the partly open bedroom door, and stopped when I realized that I shouldn't disturb her. She was kneeling beside the bed. Her hands were folded. She was bowed in prayer. I was reminded then how the very basis of her life, the very motivation for her being, was her living faith. I learned then that praying, especially for her children, is the most vital thing a mother's hands can do.

Dear friends: in May we celebrate Mother's Day. If you are blessed and still have your mother as part of your lives, take her hands in yours and tell her, "thank-you for all the loving things your hands have done!"

(author's note: This article is slightly edited but first appeared in the Spring, 1992 version of the original "Church Family News". My mother was still with us then and was surprised to read it. I asked her to autograph my copy.)

On June 25, it will be 20 years since we let go of her loving hands for the last time.

In loving memory,  
Marlene Heidebrecht, for the family of Ella Bartel

# Mom-ism...

All those things our Moms said so often, that we think of her whenever we hear these sayings.

"Stop piddle-dinking around and get your rear in gear!" (Usually hollered down the basement stairs to my sister and me while getting ready for school.) – from Will Friesen

"I just vacuumed and you're already leaving crumbs on the floor!" – from Anna Kradko

"Be safe, and have fun." – from Katrina Teichroeb

"Do you have everything?" "Did you forget anything?" - from Ingrid Dau

"Drive careful!" - from Hannelore Enss

"Come home in time" - from Hannelore Enss

One of my moms favourite "momisms" when we lived in the Congo and I would go out with my friends in high school was, "You're not going to do anything dangerous are you?" To which I always replied, "No mom, we're always careful." It was only years later that I admitted that we did swim in the river, where there were crocodiles and rapids, but I rationalized that I didn't want to worry my mom so I had to say we were being careful -- besides, we did look around before we jumped in. – from Rudy Dirks

"Der Mensch Denkt und Gott lenkt." (Man plans but God leads) - from Rita Boldt

"Still Schweigen und denken kann niemanden kraenken. ( Thinking quietly can not offend anyone.)" - from Rita Boldt

"So wie man in die Welt herein ruft, so schallt es auch zurueck. ( One reaps what he sows. or As one calls out to the world, so the echo returns)." - from Rita Boldt

"Jung gewohnt, alt getan. (What you are used to when you're young, you do when you are old)." - from Rita Boldt

"Nah, Mädchen? Nach dem Lachen kommt das Weinen." English translation: "After laughter come the tears." – from Evelyn Finlay

"Luegen haben kurze Beine" - "Lies have short legs, (don't get very far]" - from Hannelore Enss

"Ehrlich waehrt am laengsten" - "Honesty lasts the longest" - from Hannelore Enss

"Erst die Arbeit, dann das Spiel" - "First the work and then the play" - from Hannelore Enss

Thanks everyone for sharing!  
Look for our favourite "Dad-isms" in our June *Life With Us!*

## Our 25th Anniversary Story

We first encountered each other at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg, with Kenton coming from the prairies of Saskatchewan while Sheryl came from the peach orchards of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Attending CMBC (now CMU) provided us a very strong foundation for our relationship, with an emphasis on Mennonite faith, family and music.

After getting married in the Spring of 1990, we moved to Saskatoon where Kenton completed his studies at the University of Saskatchewan. This was followed by a move to Regina for career work, where we lived for 13 years and raised our two boys. As the boys were finishing elementary school, we decided to make the move to Niagara so that the boys could attend Eden High School as well as to be closer to Sheryl's family.

With Sheryl's family being in Ontario and many of our CMBC friends being from all around the continent, many of our holidays were spent driving across Canada and the United States. As a family, we thoroughly enjoyed driving together, having been to 9 Provinces and over 35 States.

No matter where we have lived, church has been very important to us. At each church, it was through music that enable us to make connections to the people and community. With the support of church and family, we are looking forward to many more years of traveling this adventure called marriage together.

- Submitted by Kenton & Sheryl Janzen

## Can't Believe I'm 85!

Where, oh where have the years gone? It seems like only yesterday that Aran and I retired, but it was 25 years ago, and during this time we have travelled a lot and have seen the world.

One of the greatest trips was to the "Holy Land" where we travelled to Nazareth, on to Megiddo, then Haifa and Caesarea. While in Capernaum we went for a cruise on the Sea of Galilee. So many places to see; but while in Jerusalem we partook of communion in the Garden of Gethsemane. We also ascended to Masada by cable car. Then crossing the Sahara Desert with a military escort, we saw the pyramids in Egypt, the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, then on to Athens, Greece, to view the Parthenon and then visited Corinth and Ephesus in Turkey. We followed the route that Paul had taken.

On June 25, 1945, Aran's family received the

news from an RCAF Casualties Officer that his brother Cornelius was reported missing after air operations over Burma (now Myanmar). Corney had volunteered to go as a supply dropper with Squadron 435. The last letter from Corney was on June 3, 1945, from India.

Then sometime in 1990, a hunter from northern Burma advised a Christian missionary that he had discovered the crash site and found a watch that was engraved with the name and service number of one of the crew. Through many channels it was finally brought to the attention of the British Embassy, etc., and it was

determined that this was the missing plane that Corney had been on. Five years later the families were notified. In 1996, a Canadian Recovery Team was assigned to retrieve the remains, and the National Film Board produced the video "Missing in Action".

On Jan. 17, 1997 we were informed that the Government of Canada would fly all immediate family members of the 6 crew airmen to Rangoon, Burma for the burial service on March 3, 1997. Seventeen members of Aran's family attended, Aran being from a family of 11 children. For the families this was a "bittersweet" experience and finally closure.

Below Left: The empty tomb; Below Right: Aran in Rangoon



Having moved to our condo at Pleasant Manor 6 months ago has been quite an adjustment for us, but this is another chapter in our lives and we are at peace knowing that this is where we can enjoy whatever time is left for us.

- Submitted by Aran & Elly Kopp

## Happy Birthday Dad



I have a new granddaughter, my dad's first great grand-daughter, and she has the most wonderful smile and I see my dad's smile in her face....Dad, one of my fondest memories is of your smile, your laugh, your joking with us children and your grandchildren, your whistling and yodeling...your positive attitude thru the good times and the bad and that is a role model for all of us.

But what all of us will remember most, is the beautiful handmade grandfather clocks and jewelry boxes...the endless hours you spend patiently crafting these pieces, they are all treasured heirlooms.

I remember when my husband and I decided to try wood carving with Howard Bogusat, and dad decided to come along, not feeling like he really could do this...Dad had learned chip carving...so off we went to our first lesson, and we were all given a piece of wood to carve a simple little bird....we all whittled away but of course by the time the class was over, nothing had been remotely finished...so we went away hoping to work more next week...Well we arrived back, and Dad had a beautiful little bird all finished and perched on a beautiful little stem...we were all amazed...so Dad decided on another project while we worked away at our first little birds. He picked a long neck swan...and yes you guessed...next week it too was done, so graceful and beautiful finish on it too...So Dad saw this carving of these 2 people playing volleyball, arching up together to get the ball, a beautiful fluid carving...that was his 3rd carving project...he did not have it done the next week but the week after, and that was when we decided dad should be teaching the class. Dad ended up joining the carving club and contributed to the large carved piece that hangs in the municipal office (I believe he worked on the section with the train) but that carving knowledge went into all the grandfather clocks...and provided dad with hours of quiet work in his retirement...and for anyone who has one of his projects, a timeless reminder of dad.

We love you and wish you a wonderful birthday, God's Blessing for the coming year.

- Submitted by Irene Wiens

## Happy Birthday Mom

Thank-you Mom, somehow that does not seem enough, when you look at a lifetime of service and devotion that my mom has given to my dad, her children, her grandchildren, her church, her community and so on...I have often wondered where my mom found the energy to accomplish all she did every day, but she always says that helping others is her greatest joy...and so she served by helping teach Sunday school for many years, later organize funerals, participating with her "Frauenverein", helping at the benefit shop, driving seniors to appointments and so much more, in the meantime still completing all the tasks that come with a household where baking, preserving fruits and vegetables, having a garden, are all part of the regular home duties...and then in the evening to relax, mom would sew blankets for the MCC store. I remember how all the scraps were cut up into squares and then arranged in a beautiful pattern and then sewed together...and mom was still finishing blankets up until just a few months ago. We all received wonderful blankets and comforters, and many of these are still in use, treasured by her children and grandchildren.

With her grandchildren in tow, many will remember mom getting her groceries, not with the car but walking into town, carrying her bags back, again saying she loves to walk...and still does now as long as the weather is good.

Mom enjoyed her time with her grandchildren, always thinking one day she would have all 9 over for a sleepover...the grandchildren still talk about the trips to the park, playing soccer with Oma, doing gymnastics in the back yard, Oma participating in all of it..so young in spirit

Family meals around the table with 9 grandchildren, sons and daughters-in-law, and my brother, sister and myself, where a great example of organization...mom of course never sat and ate until everyone else was finished...always making sure everyone had what they needed...dad had made extensions on the table so all could be seated but that meant whoever was next to the fridge...if something was needed you had to get it because there was no way to get at the fridge otherwise...but the laughter and joking and storytelling was wonderful, as was the food...mom was a great cook and baker...we all received a delicious Napoleons torte each for our birthdays...what a tasty memory.

God has Blessed you richly, and we love you, mom, and all wish you a wonderful birthday

-Submitted by  
Irene Wiens

## Happy 63rd Anniversary, Mom and Dad (Henry and Emilie Pauls)

The Good Lord has blessed you richly and been your source of strength and comfort in good times and in bad. May he continue to give you His peace is our prayer for you. We have the best mom and dad, Opa and Oma a family could ever have, and we love you so much!

From your children, your children in law, your grandchildren  
and your great grandchildren.



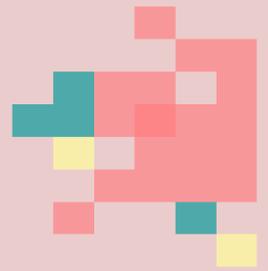
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>3</b> @ 10:00 am Baptism Class @ 11:00 am Worship Service– Stephen Cox @12 Young Adult Pizza Lunch @7:30 pm Workers Welcome Concert</p>	<p><b>4</b> @7:15pm Photo Directory Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b> @ 7 pm Church Council</p>	<p><b>6</b> @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg</p>	<p><b>7</b> @ 8 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>8</b> @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> @ 9:45 am Baptism Class @ 10:45 am Joint Worship Service– Stephen Cox</p> 	<p><b>11</b> @ 7 pm Church Council Executive Mtg</p>	<p><b>12</b> @ 7 pm Worship Committee Mtg</p>	<p><b>13</b> @ 7 pm Prayer Mtg</p>	<p><b>14</b> @ 8 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>15</b> @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> @ 10 am German Service– Hans J. Wiens @ 10 am Interactive Sermon @ 11 am Worship Service– Testimonies &amp; Baptisms– Rudy Dirks</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Victoria Day</b></p> 	<p><b>19</b> @ 7 pm Spiritual Council Mtg  Photo Directory Photo Sessions @ Pleasant Manor</p>	<p><b>20</b> @7pm Prayer Mtg  Photo Directory Photo Sessions @ NUMC</p>	<p><b>21</b> @ 8 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>22</b> @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth  Junior Youth Sleepover</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> <b>Pentecost</b> @ 10 am Interactive Sermon @10:45 am Joint Worship Service– Testimonies, Baptisms &amp; Communion – Rudy Dirks</p> 	<p><b>25</b> @7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice</p>	<p><b>26</b> Photo Directory Photo Sessions @ Pleasant Manor</p>	<p><b>27</b> @6:30 pm Young Adult Leadership Night @7pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b> @ 8 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>29</b> MCC Relief Sale in New Hamburg @ 6:30 pm Youth Band @ 7:30 pm Youth</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b> @ 10 am German Service– Joachim Dau @ 10 am Interactive @11 am Worship Service– Rudy Dirks</p>						

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

Mother's Day in 1979 fell on May 13. 636 people were in attendance that day in our church. The bulletin of that particular Sunday included the order of worship which included the usual Sunday School program with the following highlights:

Introduction: Teresa Bergen  
Songs by Kindergarten: Marliese Boldt  
Poem: "Das Höchste Gut" by Rugia Schimann  
A Reading: "You Are Needed Mom" by Erika Neufeld  
Ending Comments by Nettie Goerz  
Poem: "Father" by Jim Goerz

A Child Dedication Service also took place that day and 10 children were dedicated including: Richard Heidebrecht, Stephen Froese, Jennifer Janzen, Jason Kaye, John Neudorf, Karl Regier and Robert Wiens.



## Milestones

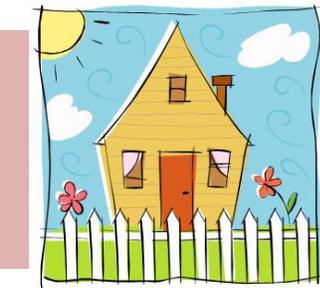
*Join us as we celebrate one another's special milestones!*

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

Henry Pauls turns 88 on May 7th  
Kaethe Esau turns 89 on May 19th  
Aran Kopp turns 85 on May 23rd  
Emilie Pauls turns 89 on May 26th



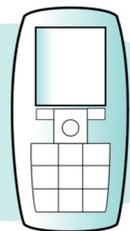
We wish you all much happiness and health on your special days!



Dan & Nicole Tissen have moved!!  
Please update your records to reflect their new address:  
45 Pierpoint Drive  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
L0S 1J0  
Nicole's Cell: 905-933-8038 | Dan's Cell: 905-329-5215

Kristina Nickel's phone number has changed!  
Please record the following number, where she can now be reached:

289-241-8727



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

On May 19th,  
Kenton & Sheryl Janzen  
celebrate 25 years of marriage!  
They were married on  
May 19, 1990.  
Congratulations!



15

# Other News...



**My Coins Count!** Coins add up. Each year, spare change collected by churches, children and families add up to more than \$600,000 for MCC's work around the world. My Coins Count donations collected from our church will be given to MCC through the New Hamburg Relief Sale at the end of May. To donate, find one of the jars around the church and add your change to the collection! Join the fun! (Wondering what happened to *Penny Power*? The U.S. and Canadian effort was renamed *My Coins Count* after Canada took the penny out of circulation.)

**Nepal Earthquake-** MCC is currently working on the details of our response to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that has struck an area between the capital Kathmandu, and the city of Pokhara, Nepal. At this point we know that our initial response will include food and shelter support in remote areas. We have confirmed that all of our staff are safe and our buildings are intact. MCC is now talking to our partners in Nepal to further assess the situation, and we will provide more detail when it's available. We are accepting donations and ask you to keep all of the people of Nepal, and their families around the world, in your prayers.

The Canadian government has indicated it will provide matching funds for donations from individual Canadians to relief efforts in Nepal.

That matching fund is distributed to Canadian and international agencies as decided by the government. MCC is eligible to receive matching funds. However, our access to these funds is subject to a successful application.

**Bus Trip and annual meeting of Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario. Saturday, June 13, 1:00 pm,** at Essex Kent Mennonite Historical Association, 31 Pickwick Dr., Leamington. Presentation on Essex County Mennonites and tour of their museum. Also tours of Essex County Mennonite churches and a local Mennonite greenhouse. Bus leaves Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Road, Kitchener at 8:00 a.m., returning early evening. For further information and to reserve a bus seat (\$40/\$30 for students) contact Sam Steiner: [secretary@mhso.org](mailto:secretary@mhso.org) 519-884-1040

**MCC Ontario's Annual General Meeting** Enjoy a rich evening of worship, storytelling and reporting where you will learn about the recent impacts, joys and challenges of the ministry of MCC. Come early for a tour of the local area. To register or for more info call 519-745-8458 or go to [mcccanada.ca/ontario-agm](http://mcccanada.ca/ontario-agm) **June 18, 6:00 pm,** Sommerfeld Mennonite Church,



Model Passover Seder Pictures Maundy Thursday April 2nd, 2015

See corresponding report on page 3



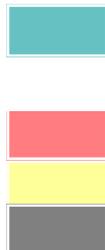
If you would like to submit any photos or articles for the newsletter, please contact any of the Newsletter Team of Editors:

Lani Gade | 905-468-2316 | [wlgade@bell.net](mailto:wlgade@bell.net)

Kathy Rempel | 905-468-3829 | [jrempe16@cogeco.ca](mailto:jrempe16@cogeco.ca)

April Michon in the church office at: 905-468-3313 or by email at [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca).

**Deadline for the June newsletter is May 13th, 2015.**



LIFE WITH US

NEWSLETTER

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