

February 2017

**Hutterthal
Mennonite Church**
Freeman, SD

CONNECTION!

Making a CONNECTION with one another

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1) Rebekah McCune
- 3) Glenda Langeland
- 5) Ian Hofer
- 7) Delmer Hofer
- 8) Mark Glanzer
- 12) Jada Koerner
- 12) Don Hofer
- 13) ElVera Deckert
- 13) LaVonne Tschetter
- 13) Amos Decker
- 16) Doug Glanzer
- 19) Joe Byler
- 20) Sylvia Hofer
- 24) Lane McCune
- 24) Rebecca Hofer
- 25) Steven Rensink
- 25) Jessica Rose Hofer
- 25) Nanette Hofer
- 26) Connie Hofer
- 27) Amanda Mettler

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7) Joyce and Steven Schnabel
- 21) Carrol & Glenda Langeland

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 10:00am Freeman Ministerial
(South Church)
12:00pm Connection! Deadline
6:30pm Midweek Bible Study
- 3 9:15am Pastor-Peer
- 5 9:45am Worship
11:10am Sunday School
- 6 6:30pm Worship Team
8:00pm Rural Revival (Freeman
Public Library)
- 8 12:00pm FNJP (Freeman Public
Library)
6:30pm Midweek Bible Study
- 12 9:45am Worship
11:10am Sunday School
- 13 9:15am Pastor Peer (Sioux Falls)
7:00pm Prayer Shawl
- 13 Valentine's Day
- 15 6:30pm Midweek Bible Study
- 16 7:30pm Church Board
- 19 9:45am Worship
11:10am Sunday School
- 20 President's Day
- 22 12:00pm *Connection!* Deadline
6:30pm Midweek Bible Study
- 23 6:00pm Everence Supper
- 26 9:45am Worship
11: 10am Sunday School
- 28 7:00pm Tuesday with Dave

Connection! Changes...

This edition of the Connection! Newsletter marks a transition to a new editor. On January 28, 2017, I officially assumed the responsibilities formerly held by the Office Administrative Assistant, which includes editorial oversight of the monthly church newsletter, the bulletin, the annual report booklet, the yearbook, and other church-wide publications.

As this edition marks a transition, I want to do two things: 1) Thank my predecessor, Jill Hofer, for her dedicated, professional, and thoughtful work; and 2) Ask for your patience, understanding, and prayer as I find my way in this new endeavor.

My prayer is that I can continue to provide church-wide resources that can inspire, challenge, and comfort you in your walk with Christ. May this work bring Him greater glory!

Pastor Todd, Editor

Connection!: published since April 2000

Connection! Editor: Pastor Todd Jones

Advisory Board: Rebecca Hofer, chp.,

Marcia Schrock and Twyla Hofer

HMC Links

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org>

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[hutterthalmennonitechurch](http://www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch)

Pastoral Links

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/MennPastor)

[MennPastor](http://www.facebook.com/MennPastor)

Twitter – @MennPastor

*And this is eternal life: that people can know You,
the only true God, and that they can know Jesus
Christ, the One You sent..*

John 17: 3, ERV



Twyla's February Tip

1. Chop a quantity of onions.
2. Measure (if you want) into plastic baggies and tie closed.
3. Lay into double, galloon size) Ziploc Bags and freeze for use later.
4. If you can freeze them outdoors (eg. Overnight, under the hood on the grill they won't have such a strong odor when you transfer them to your freezer.
5. Use for soups, stews, meats, etc.
6. This is really handy as you have all the prep mess (and time) out of the way earlier.

*"I want God
and I want nothing more."*

A. W. Jozet

From First Mennonite in Mt. Lake:

The community is invited to an open house party for E. Elaine Kauffman, pastor of First Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake, MN. The event will take place on **Sunday, February 19, 2:00—4:00pm at the Mountain Lake Community Center.** *Faspa* (Sunday afternoon lunch) will be served, and a short program with singing and sharing will take place at 3:00pm.

Kauffman has served as pastor of First Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake for 17 years, beginning in 2000 and ending with her retirement later this month. She plans to retire to her hometown of Kalispell, Montana this spring.

All are heartily welcome to come celebrate her work and life among us!
We invite any/all of you to attend the farewell party!

Thanks,
Elisabeth Harder Schrock

Thank you so much for your continued dedication to donating material resources to MCC! The recent donation of relief kit supplies was such a blessing, as relief kits are the most requested kit right now. These items will go to places such as Haiti, Syria, and Jordan to provide basic hygiene items to vulnerable and struggling families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster. In addition to the tangible supplies, we pray that these families will also receive hope, comfort, and a sense that they are not alone. Thank you for your support in promoting relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ!

Kate Mast
Workroom Supervisor- Material Resource Center
MCC Central States

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
January 1	93	\$4,074.57
January 8	90	\$2,336.00
January 15	103	\$2,686.00
January 22	85	\$3,013.00
January 29	Church Cancelled	

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY
SCHOOL PROJECT
Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.)
MCC Congo Project

Congregational Ministries
February Project
Swan Lake Christian Camp
(Cash Donations)





By Twyla Hofer

⇒ HMC Schmeckfest Chairperson, Joline Thomas, is looking for food and workers for this year's festival in late March.

- ⇒ There is a calendar available for anyone to sign-up who would like to provide a ride for Larry Hofer who is receiving cancer treatments in Sioux Falls.
- ⇒ On Jan. 1, the Deacons conducted the Sunday morning services in the pastor's absence. They chose the theme of "music." They shared the hymn stories, had the children's story, message, and lots of congregational singing. During sharing time we were encouraged to share musical memories.
- ⇒ The Deacons are looking for assistance from anyone wishing to help with worship services during Pastor Todd's sabbatical beginning April 17. A sign-up sheet is available.
- ⇒ Sunday, January 8 was a busy morning! Communion was received, a benevolent fund offering was taken for anyone in need (the Deacons distributing), and the MDS offering was still being accepted in case you missed it earlier. After worship, a brief

congregational meeting was held. Church chairperson, Dennis Schrock, read the recommendation from the church board to proceed with a new furnace replacement for the ailing one rather than fixing it for the equivalent amount of funds. Then Dennis said he only needed a vote to accept the motion because an anonymous donor is paying for the entire \$2700 purchase price. A unanimous yes vote followed. Sincere thanks to the benefactor! The two furnaces in the old wing were also on their last leg so all three were replaced January 16. Ian Hofer reported that his summer project through his college (Northwestern in Orange City, IA) has exceeded the dollar goal. He expressed his thanks to all who helped.

- ⇒ The Et Cetera Shoppe is in need of one volunteer to help price children's clothes. This is about six hours commitment per month.
- ⇒ Midweek leaders, Michelle and Jill Hofer, are planning to send notes of encouragement to anyone that signs up for them during this winter's Midweek Meetings. Midweek lessons began Jan. 8 with a soup supper at 6:30pm followed by Bible Study at 7:30.

(continued)

Thank you to all of those who supported me financially for my spring service trip through North Western College. I will be heading to Texas to assist in prison ministries. Your support is a source of encouragement for me. I covet your prayers as I embark on this journey.

-Ian Hofer





Continued....

- ⇒ Randy (brother to LeRoy) and Leona Pullman “snowbird” in Arizona. While there, Randy developed a high fever and chills. His leg was swollen and red indicating a blood infection, possibly caused by a spider-bite. Surgery was done to relieve the pressure and fight the infection. He is somewhat improved as of Jan. 8. He has been released from the hospital later, but remains weak and has a long recovery.
- ⇒ CPMC Annual Conference will be hosted by the churches in Sioux Falls and Freeman and held on the University of Sioux Falls campus with plenty of housing for guests, meeting rooms, etc. A planning meeting was held at Sermon On the Mount on Sun. eve. Jan. 15 for the June 15-18 event. HMC has a need for four adult delegates and 1 youth delegate.
- ⇒ On January 7 Delmer Hofer suffered a heart episode, was hospitalized at Freeman, then transferred to the Heart Hospital where he received a stent in the left coro-

nary artery. A number of complications arose. On January 28 he had another heart episode. At the present time he is weak but feeling better. He is grateful for the prayers of the congregation.

- ⇒ The Junior High Honors Choir was held in Rapid City at the Performing Arts Center with a concert at 2pm on Saturday, Jan. 22. Two young ladies from HMC were selected by audition to sing in the Women’s Choir: Kaliyah McBeth, grade 7 at Freeman Academy, daughter of Brandy and Sergio Lima, and Madeline Hofer, grade 8 of Freeman Public, daughter of Colin and Michelle Hofer. Congratulations and keep on singing!
- ⇒ Midweek activities were cancelled on Wed., Jan. 25 due to inclement weather. Sunday morning, Jan. 29, church was cancelled due to the ill-health of Pastor Todd as well as many attendees. We pray an improvement for everyone!

Tuesdays with Dave

The first of a series of three “Tuesdays with Dave” Webinars is coming soon! This series will focus on how the life and message of our churches can be infused with grace, joy and peace in a world seeking hope. Join us on Tuesday, February 28, at 7 pm for the first teaching video “Witness in Exile: Longing for a Better Place” or at 7:30 pm for an online interactive conversation based on this video. You are strongly encouraged to view the teaching video ahead of time in any setting where groups in your congregation gather (Sunday School, Bible Study, small group, etc.) or by individuals at home. The teaching videos can be accessed at the Central Plains Mennonite Conference website at: <http://tinyurl.com/TuesdayswithDave>. Information for connecting to the Tuesday night online conversation is available from your church office and on our website.



08/17/2010 00:25



STRAIGHT UP...

“I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing;
and I will cause showers to come down in their season;
there shall be showers of blessing.”

Ezekiel 34: 26

In declaring God’s message, the prophet Ezekiel was certainly speaking of natural rain when he faithfully reported the word he had received. God was preparing to send showers upon the earth. He would water the land that it might prosper — that it might increase, producing fruit leading to an abundant harvest. And yet, there is more here than a weather report.

Yes, God was preparing to send “showers of blessing” upon the earth, but He was also preparing to send “showers of blessing” into the lives of His people. The showers were symbolic of more than rains that water the earth. While they spoke of that beautiful and timely resource, God also wants to bring “showers of blessing” into the lives of His people. He wants to pour Himself out upon them through the fullness of His Spirit that they might be fruitful and produce an abundant harvest of righteousness that brings glory to His name.

The keyword in this isn’t “blessing,” but “showers.” God is a God of abundance and He is not reticent to share, withholding a portion of His goodness and grace. Rather, He pours Himself out upon those who seek Him: a profusion of blessing; an overwhelming, extravagance of His mercy and love.

We all experience seasons of drought, but that is not God’s desire for His people. Rather, He desires that we know Him, that we experience His presence as a refreshing rain that replenishes, restores, cleanses, nourishes, and (ultimately) leads to abundant fruit. He desires that we not just be filled, but overflow, with His Spirit, abounding in Him. So, we are called to be sensitive to the Spirit — tender toward the Spirit. For, it is the Person of the Holy Spirit that empowers us, directs us, grants us understanding, gifts/equips us, and works in and through us that we might bear fruit worthy of Christ’s name.

Will you embrace today the joy (and privilege) of being the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit? Will you turn your eyes toward heaven and open your heart and life to experience the “showers of blessing” God has for you: The beautiful, extravagant, abundance of the Spirit of the living God?

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

HMC Ministries First Quarter Report Nov. 1, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017

Balance on Hand	Nov. 1 2016	\$2,749.39
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Receipts:

Nov. project for Central Plains Mennonite Women	\$55.00	
Dec. project-Cookie walk \$855.25 less \$60. rent for		
Senior Citizen's Center	\$795.25	
Jan. project Towels, sheets, blankets for MCC	\$100.00	
Total Receipts	\$950.25	
Balance plus Receipts		\$3,699.64

Disbursements:

Ray Hofer Memorial	\$10.00
Pastor Todd and Kim's Xmas gift	\$50.00
Jennifer Kleinsasser Xmas gift	\$10.00
Nov. project for Central Plains Mennonite Women	\$55.00
Food for Family X-mas	\$65.13
Dec. project Cookie Walk for person in need	\$795.25
Jan. project Purchased 14 towels with cash received	\$100.00
Fensel's flower shop-Roses for Avery W. & Otto M.	\$20.90
Total Disbursements	\$1,106.28

Balance on Hand	Jan. 31, 2017	\$2,593.36
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Yearbook Updates/Corrections:

Tracy Bauer
7309 W Zinnia Circle
Sioux Falls SD 57106

Kim Hofer
Zip code should be 94044

Heavenly Father, help me to represent Jesus well today. I commit myself to His standard of love, purity, and power. Let these realities be increasingly evident in and through my life, all for the glory of God.

Bill Johnson

HMC Library News:

Hearts of Fire by The Voice of the Martyrs [Jesus Freaks]

These are stories of eight brave women of the under ground Christian church who suffered much for their faith. I will attempt to tell you about two of them.

Adel of Indonesia: Adel was married to Mathu at age 17 and had two children soon thereafter. Nearly all of the families in Adel's village were Christian. But the Muslims started Jihad [Holy Wars]. They burned down the whole village and took many hostage and killed many others. However Adel survived as a hostage and later her daughter was also found as a hostage. Her captors tried to get information as to the whereabouts of other Christians that got away but Adel would not reveal any names. Her captors forced her to marry another man and another child was born by Adel and they named her Sarah. Adel and Sarah were able to escape from her captors and second husband and met up with her first husband and took up family life again including their older daughter. But they constantly had to be on the lookout from her second husband who was constantly looking for them. Later when Adel and Mathu were interviewed for this story they were both studying in a secret bible school.

Purnima was about 10 years of age living with her family of ten. They lived in Bhutan which is a Buddhist country. Purnima had an older married sister named Maya who became very sick and could not be healed even though her father was the local witch doctor. There was no healing for at least 3 yrs. and more. Then one day she was healed and Maya claimed that Jesus healed her. Her parents were happy that their daughter was well again but could not accept that Jesus healed her. Maya and her husband Sival had become Christians and believed that Jesus could and would heal Maya. When they told their parents that they had accepted Christianity they were forced out of their family home even that same day. They took up life outside a neighboring village. No one was to visit them. But Purnima went over there any way and also accepted the faith and was chased from her home. Purnima moved in with her sister's family. About a year later arrests started on Christmas Day 1992. They were interrogated for 10 weeks, slapping and beating in a large detention center. Finally all the Christians had to leave Bhutan. They arrived at a refugee camp outside Nepal. Conditions were appalling. Purnima with some others of their group slipped out of the refugee camp to do some witnessing and were caught by the authorities and imprisoned. After very much torture and mistreatment they were sentenced to six years in prison. But the outside world got to hear of this and other countries put on pressure to get these prisoners released. After 14 months and 6 days the Christians were released. Many other cellmates became Christians. Purnima, Sliva, Maya still live in this refugee camp at the writing of this book.

These stories are so interesting, I could not put the book down until the end of each story.

LeRoy Hofer

Restore Us, O God: 2017 Lenten Devotional

You can nurture your children's faith at home this Lent and Easter with family worship. "Restore us, O God," a free guide for family worship provided by Anabaptist Faith Formation, is available in the church foyer for those who interested. This free resource is for use between March 1 (Ash Wednesday) and April 16 (Easter Sunday). It includes a daily Bible reading, a short litany, songs, hands-on activities, and questions to ponder together as a family. We encourage you to pick up your copy today!

Jackson Service Adventure Unit Tragedy:

Hello Everyone – I wanted to give you all an update on how things are going in Jackson with the Service Adventure unit. It's been a very challenging time as participants have been grieving the loss of Hannah [who died in a car accident]. A couple of the participants have gone home to give themselves some space for grieving. We are unsure whether or not they will return. And two still remain in Jackson. Renee Neufeld has agreed to move from Anchorage to Jackson to complete the year as the unit leader. Renee was the leader in Anchorage for the past three years and will be a great resource to the participants and congregation as they continue to walk through this incredibly difficult time. The services for Hannah will be this Saturday. Caleb [another service worker who was also in the accident] was released from the hospital last Thursday and is recovering in Goshen at his parent's home. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

Some of you have asked if there is anything that the Jackson unit needs or ways that you can be helpful. We have set up an account where people can give financially if they would like. The funds we receive will help get the participants and some of the support committee and host families from Open Door Mennonite Church in Jackson to Goshen for the funeral this weekend. One of the other ways we may use funds (if enough is received) is helping to pay for Renee's transition to Anchorage. And helping to send Hannah and Caleb's personal property back to Goshen.

If you would like to give you can send in a check or give online:

<https://mmngiving.formstack.com/forms/VoluntaryService>

Please make sure that you note that this is "Jackson Service Adventure support" so that the money goes to the correct place.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

Susan Nisly, Service Adventure Director
Mennonite Mission Network

MCUSA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Pray for the participants in the “Hope for the Future” conference, which concludes today in Hampton, Virginia. More than 70 dynamic leaders from across the church, including many people of color, were expected to attend.
- 2) Registration for “Beyond Buried Treasure: Turning Hidden Resources into Assets” is open. This second joint MHS Mennonite Health Assembly and Mennonite Education Agency Education Leaders Gathering takes place March 9-12 in Jacksonville, Florida. For more information or to register, visit <http://mhaelgconference.wordpress.com>.
- 3) This summer’s Mennonite Church USA Convention will feature a new way to involve high school youth representatives in the delegate sessions. Called “Step Up,” the goal is to prepare young people who have an interest in being involved with the broader church for future involvement as denominational delegates and leaders. The program will include two interactive seminar sessions and attendance at and participation in delegate sessions. Conferences and constituency groups will be invited to nominate youth who are rising high school sophomores or older. For questions, contact Brook Musselman at brookm@atlanticcoastconference.net.
- 4) Pause and prepare your hearts as the season of Lent begins this week. Join with others in the church around the world in creating fertile places for the seed of God’s message to take root.



Mennonite Mission Network Prayers



Week of February 5

Marisa Smucker, mentor for Mennonite Mission Network’s Journey International team in Indonesia, will spend 12 days with participants beginning this Wednesday, Feb. 8. Pray for safe travel for Marisa and for a good time of reflection with team members.

Week of February 12

Alfonsina and José Luis Oyanguren, serving through Mennonite Mission Network, praise God for the first year of ministry through a radio station that transmits news, music, and educational and biblical programs to Toba/Qom communities in the Argentine Chaco. Pray that lives will be transformed through this ministry.

Week of February 19

David and Rebekka Stutzman serve in post-Christian Germany through Mennonite Mission Network, South German Mennonite Conference, and Virginia Mennonite Missions. Pray for them as they join people on their life journeys and find relevant ways of being the church.

Week of February 26

Praise God for the teaching ministries of Martine Audéoud and Gary Wittig, serving through Mennonite Mission Network. This year, Gary taught in a school in Liberia that re-opened after the Ebola epidemic. Pray that he will find a teaching ministry in Ivory Coast, so the family can be together again.