

August 2017

Hutterthal
Mennonite Church
Freeman, SD

CONNECTION!

Making a CONNECTION with one another



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ ***SMC*** highlights from
the *July 22, 2017*
MCC Relief Sale!
- ⇒ ***Twyla's "Back-to-***
School Tips
- ⇒ ***And much more!***

Turn to Page 9 for a report on
MCC Relief Sale activities
and more photos!

Reasons for Thanks & Praise!

As I transition back into pastoral ministry at Hutterthal following a time of sabbatical, I want to thank:

- 1) The Congregation for allowing me this time for reflection, rejuvenation, and healing;
- 2) The Deacons for their excellent work in my absence (you have served [and continue to serve] your church well);
- 3) The Church Board for their continuing work and leadership during this time;
- 4) The MANY persons who provided superb experiences of worship each week: those bringing the message, worship leaders, song leaders, children's time participants, worship music participants, and musicians;
- 5) All those who gave of their time and energy to make VBS 2017 a roaring success and great experience for our children;
- 6) Our 2017 CPMC Delegates for their willingness to enter into the work of the conference on behalf of HMC; and
- 7) Edie, for her willingness to engage the work of preparing and printing the worship bulletin each week.

Thank you all (and any I have missed) and make the peace of Christ rest upon you, bringing you joyful encouragement in the faith, both now and forever!

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

“True joy flows from knowing God and worshiping Him for who He is — the breathing out of love and strength that God has breathed into us. That service is a path to joy.”

Darlene Zschech

Twyla's August Tip:

For less hassle on school days:

- 1) Lay out a clean set of clothes the night before, along with a pair of shoes, for each child heading off to school in the morning. (If children wish to choose, lay out two sets of clothes.)
- 2) Set the breakfast table the night before. This makes for a less rushed morning and reduces stress.

Connection!: published since April 2000

Connection! Editor: Pastor Todd Jones

Advisory Board: Chair-Rebecca Hofer, Marcia Schrock and Twyla Hofer

HMC Links

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org>

“Like” Us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

Pastoral Links

Facebook – www.facebook.com/MennPastor

Twitter – @MennPastor

**FORMER PASTORS TO CELEBRATE
50th ANNIVERSARY!!!**

Ivan and Rachel Friesen will celebrate their **50th wedding anniversary** with an open house at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, Ohio, on August 6. They were married on August 27, 1967, at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio. The Friesen's were pastors at Hutterthal, 1999-2007.



ATTENTION WOMEN:

Central Plains Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp (Viborg, SD) on September 16 & 17, 2017. "Meeting Women in the Bible Again for the First Time" will be presented by Ruth Harder, Pastor of Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, KS.

What might the sisters, mothers, daughters, wives, queens, widows, judges, and women disciples of the Bible have to teach us today? What can we learn today from their courage, resistance, duplicity, wit, deception, rivalry, laments, and praise of God?

Bring a friend and enjoy a weekend of inspiration, relaxation, interest sessions and fellowship in a retreat setting. A coffee house is planned for Saturday evening — a time for socializing and sharing music, poetry, stories, photos, hobbies or crafts. Registration due September 2 by email, text or phone to Kim Jones: fishmenno87@gmail.com, 515-835-0338 or 605-925-7186.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
PROJECT
August
MCC School Kits

Congregational Ministries
August Project
MCC School Kits

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
July 2	85	\$2,868.00
July 9	81	\$2,321.00
July 16	78	\$2,829.02
July 23	89	\$2,383.00



* The following couples celebrated over 50 years of marriage while Pastor Todd and the Connection newsletter were on Sabbatical:

June 9: Gordon & Sharon Waltner, 54 years

June 16: Marlyn & Maureen Friesen, 52 years

June 16: Vernon J. & Norma Hofer, 63 years

June 27: Merlin & Sylvia Hofer, 56 years

July 8: Vernon P. & Twyla Hofer, 55 years

July 16: Derrold & Marilyn Hofer, 56 years

* Paul Hofer, Jr. thanked all the people who came to the Brigitta Hofer farm on Thursday, July 20 to clean up storm damage. He related how MDS came to their farm in 1986 to clean storm damage and what a lasting impression that left. Paul and Priscilla provided donuts during coffee time to celebrate their birthdays: Paul turned 70 on July 24th; Priscilla celebrated a birthday on July 29th.

* Edie reported that the church quilt auctioned at the MCC sale held in Freeman on July 22nd brought \$1,000.00 for MCC rather than the winning bid of \$400.00. Joyce (Hamm) Palmeteer, formerly of HMC had the winning bid of \$400.00, and felt it wasn't enough for such a beautiful quilt. So, she increased the amount by \$600.00 to help missions.

* Delmer Hofer has been having breathing issues for weeks. The high humidity most of July has compounded the problem. Adjustments to medications and diet have provided some relief.

* Melvin L. Hofer received treatment for heart related problems. Medications are being adjusted.

* A bridal shower for Rebekka Jordan was held at HMC at 1:30pm on Saturday, July 29th. Rebekka is the fiancée of Jarrod Kramer. The two will wed on August 12, 2017.

* A scholarship fundraiser meal will be held on Sunday, August 6 at HMC. Funds raised at

that time will assist HMC students with tuition costs.

* A baby shower will be held Sunday, August 13th for Chris Hofer, son of Chris and Melissa Hofer.

“The Church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities, but the Body of Christ, in which all members, however different, (and He rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences.”

C. S. Lewis

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
May 7	88	\$3,127.00
May 14	117	\$2,644.00
May 21	90	\$3,500.00
May 28	105	\$3,867.00
June 4	135	\$3,102.30
June 11	96	\$2,921.00
June 18	102	\$2,575.00
June 25	91	\$2,699.22

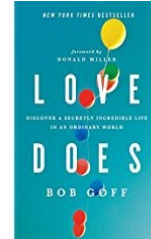
HMC LIBRARY NEWS

Check out these two new titles and a book review:

◇ Love Does by Bob Goff

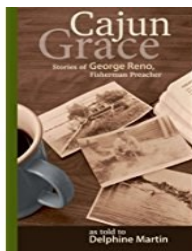
Two things I liked about the book Love Does by Bob Goff:

1. It has short chapters that are just the right length for an encouraging read.
2. The short chapters are true stories from Bob Goff's life. Sometimes real life stories are just so much better than fiction.



If only we would throw ourselves into life wholeheartedly, no reservations, as Bob Goff does, there would be no average or ordinary days in our lives! Read this book for real inspiration.

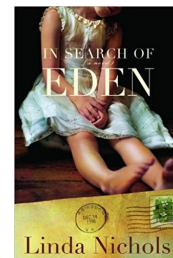
◇ Cajun Grace, Stories of George Reno, Fisherman Preacher by George Reno



Cajun Grace is a memoir (true story) about a man who grew up very different from our lives, raised on a Louisiana bayou, 5 miles from the nearest highway and 11 miles from the nearest town. Yet George Reno also embraced whatever life brought his way, as he listened to God's call. With only 110 pages this is a short read for these hot summer days.

◇ BOOK REVIEW: In Search of Eden by Linda Nichols

The book In Search of Eden (a novel) is about mistakes made, hearts broken, and the secrets that threaten to devastate a family. So why is it in the church library? Because it is also about hope and forgiveness and the ways God can redeem any situation, no matter how terrible it seems at the moment.



While it is a novel, it still holds lessons on hope and prayer and being open to the opportunities to grow and change into something so much more than what has been or what ever seemed possible. While there is a romance at the heart of the book, there is so much more as well. Persistent prayer, innocent joyfulness and trust, and second chances also run throughout the pages of this story.

If you are looking for a summer read to draw you in and leave you feeling hopeful, pick up the copy of In Search of Eden from the library! (submitted by Monica Clem)

**"Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them."
Lemony Snicket, Horseradish**



STRAIGHT UP...

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

John 20: 30-31, NKJV

During my Sabbatical, I spent the vast majority of my time — as much as eight to ten hours a day — handwriting the Gospel of John, eventually filling three journals. It was a discipline that never grew old, and continually challenged me.

Those days and hours reminded me that no book can contain all the wonderful things our Lord has done, not John’s Gospel that so richly blessed me, not even the Bible in all of its pages. For, in Christ who pours out upon us the Spirit of the living God, the story is still being written — the story of what God is doing in and through us (in and through you!). We (you!) are Jesus’ next great epistle! And, in response, I call us to rejoice in the story God is writing through us. Rejoice in the story God is writing through you! Even more, proclaim it! Testify to what God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is doing in and through us — in and through you.

I love that story ... and so does Jesus. That story — the story of what God is doing in and through us in *our* time in *this* place — is a story worth telling. It is a life-giving story that honors and glorifies God. It is a story that draws others to Jesus. So, how can you share that story today? Who is God calling you — who is God calling us — to tell?

As we share our stories, we grow together and, as we grow together, the Kingdom of God is advanced. May it be so ... and may we make it known....

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

LOVE IN ACTION (Brigitta Hofer)

An efficient and hard working group of men from Hutterthal arrived at the Brigitta Hofer farm on Thursday morning, July 20th. Their mission was to clean up the tin and wood that was blown off a pole barn during an early summer storm. In no time at all their task was completed. May these men be blessed for their kindness – a good deed is a reflection of a person’s soul: Norman Hofer, Leroy Pullman, Bruce Hofer, Lyndon Hofer, Phil Thomas, Paul Hofer, Stan Hofer, and Donovan Friesen



“Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God;
and everyone who loves is born
of God and knows God.”

1 John 4: 7, NKJV

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 5) Sarah Waltner
- 5) Ilene Schartner
- 7) Monica Hofer
- 10) Genevieve Kramer
- 10) Jarrod Kramer
- 11) Brandy Friesen
- 13) Aubree Tschetter
- 12) Norman Hofer
- 19) Derrold Hofer
- 21) Chris Hofer
- 21) Finley McCune
- 22) Marj Hofer
- 24) Aprille Hofer
- 25) Alyssa Hofer
- 25) Luke Rensink
- 25) Tanner Hofer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 6) Don & Marj Hofer
- 8) Derrick & Jessica Preheim
- 10) John & Deloris Stahl
- 14) Eric & Michelle Neuharth
- 18) Norman & Darlene Hofer
- 19) Brandon & Jaime Barta
- 26) Donovan & Sherryl Friesen
- 29) Lillie & André Eisenbeis

AUGUST CALENDAR

- July 30
 - 9:45am Worship
 - 11:10am Sunday School
 - 2:30pm Worship (Oakview Terrace)
- 1 8:00pm Deacons Meeting
- 3 12:00pm FNJP (Freeman Pub. Lib.)
- 6 9:45am Worship
 - 11:10am Sunday School
 - 12:00pm Scholarship Meal
- 7 8:00pm Rural Revival (Freeman Public Library)
- 11 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 12 2:00pm Jordan-Kramer Wedding
- 13 9:45am Worship
 - 11:10am Sunday School
 - 2:00pm Baby Shower
 - 7:00pm Movie On Main Street
- 13-17: Turner County Fair
- 20 BACKPACK BLESSING
 - 9:45am Worship
 - 11:10am Sunday School
 - 12:00pm Fellowship Potluck
- 22 9:15am Pastor-Peer (Sioux Falls)
- 23 Freeman Public 1st Day of School
 - 12:00pm Sept. Connection Deadline
- 24 Freeman Academy 1st Day of School
- 27 9:45am Worship
 - 11:10am Sunday School



Darlene and Norman Hofer enjoyed spending 4 days with their family at a resort in the Black Hills. This was in celebration of their upcoming 60 anniversary which is August 18. Those present were Galen, Stephanie and Micah Hofer, Lori, Mark, and Karina Ortman, Vicki, Eric and Madison, Lucas, and Gavin Hofer-Holdeman. Jordan Ortman was the only one not able to be with them.

MAKING A MEMORY: MCC Relief Sale 2017

Norman Hofer filled the band room twice at the relief sale with his presentation on the life story of Horst Gerlach. Gleaning from Gerlach's book Nightmare in Red, Norman told the story in first person, portrayed the horrors of war, work camps, families being torn apart and destroyed but it also brought the message of hope as he shared of his experience of coming to the United States as an MCC trainee. He lived for six months about 100 miles north of here near Doland in a Mennonite home with Josh & Barbara Walter and attended



Ebenezer Mennonite Church. He said the experience “saved his life”. Norman went on to tell about the opportunities that people had at the relief sale to make positive memories, just as Horace had received when he lived in South Dakota. One of those activities was to make school kits which would bring a wonderful memory to a child somewhere, more than likely in a refugee camp. To the left you see Egan & Isaac Mettler - their parents offered them the opportunity to make memories as well - by eating snow cones and watching their coins get counted.

Hutterthal raised \$556.38 for the My Coins Count project which this year was designated for food.



While we don't have pictures of everyone who was working or participating, here you get some glimpses of Hutterthal folks “making memories”.

**THANK YOU
EVERYONE!!**



Community News

& Announcements

The Salem Mennonite Home, is looking for individuals who would like to volunteer to spend some time with our residents. Volunteer activities could be things such as: reading to a resident with poor eyesight, playing a game, doing a craft project, cooking or baking, or even calling Bingo. The possibilities are endless. Please prayerfully consider sharing a bit of your free time with our residents. To get started please call Denise Peterson at the Salem Mennonite Home at 925-4994.

BETHEL COLLEGE NEWS:

- 1) **The 2017 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College's annual online journal, is now live at ml.bethelks.edu.** This special issue is almost completely devoted to a consideration of "500 years of Anabaptism," with an essay by Ben Goossen, "Why 500 Years?: A Critique of Anabaptism's Upcoming Anniversary Celebration," and 13 responses from Anabaptists in the United States and Canada, as well as Colombia and South Korea.
- 2) **Save the date: Sat., Nov. 18, 4th biennial Worship and the Arts Symposium at Bethel College;** "Seasons of the Soul: Enacting the Mystery of Faith," with special guest presenter and resource person Ted Swartz. Symposium registration includes Swartz's performance of "Slightly Left of Normal," Fri., Nov. 17, in Krehbiel Auditorium (admission charge for non-symposium registrants). For a complete schedule and online registration, see bethelks.edu/worshiparts

Prayers for Our Journey Together



WEEK of JULY 30:

Pray for those preparing for the next school year at Iowa Mennonite School, Kalona, Iowa, and Freeman Academy in Freeman, South Dakota.

WEEK of AUGUST 6:

Pray for conference ministers Dave and Shana Boshart, who celebrate their wedding anniversary this Friday, August 11.

WEEK of AUGUST 13:

This week, conference minister Tim Detweiler attends a board meeting for Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Pray for Tim as he travels and the board as they meet.

WEEK of AUGUST 20:

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Ecuador with whom we are partnered.

WEEK of AUGUST 27:

Pray for those preparing Christian formation programs for the 2017-2018 school year: Christian Education/Nurture committees, Sunday School superintendents and teachers for all ages.

"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty." - F.M. Bounds

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK PRAYERS



WEEK of JULY 30: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the 30 Mennonite Voluntary Service participants who are beginning assignments in nine locations – Alamosa, Colorado; Chicago; Elkhart, Indiana; Manhattan, New York; San Antonio; San Francisco; Seattle; Tucson, Arizona; and Washington, D.C.

WEEK of AUGUST 6: Alisha and Josh Garber are beginning an assignment in Spain with Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for them as they adapt to a new language and culture and as they serve alongside the leaders of the Barcelona Mennonite Church, focusing on youth outreach and congregational mission.

WEEK of AUGUST 13: Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen and their sons spent July in North America speaking on behalf of Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for them as they return to South Africa, working with Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency to achieve 2020 vision: 20 trained conflict mediators in 20 communities by 2020.

WEEK OF AUGUST 20: Deb Byler, based in the Indiana office, has served Mennonite Mission Network in worker care for many years. Now, she is returning to Guatemala to minister alongside women leaders in the Kekchi Mennonite Church. Pray for Deb as she renews relationships and encourages women to use their gifts.

WEEK OF AUGUST 27: Current violence is on the rise in the Kasaï regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where most of the Mennonite congregations are established. This leaves some Congolese Mennonites abused, others dead, and many in hiding. Pray for their protection and for the power of the Gospel to bring transformation through their continued witness.



Let Peace Begin With Me

by Carol Roth

As we come before you at this moment in the busy time in our lives, may we pause to reflect on what it means to live in unity with our neighbor.

May we love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

May we treat our neighbor as we want to be treated.

May we take a moment to speak to our neighbor with love and compassion.

May we offer grace and mercy when listening

to them speak.

May we bring peace to our corner of the world and with each offering of peace may be said,

"Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me."

Carol Roth is a board member of Mennonite Women USA, representing Native Mennonite Ministries. She lives in



HMC Ministries 3rd Quarter Report

May 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017

Balance on Hand	May 1, 2017		\$3,228.45
Receipts:			
May project		\$100.00	
June project for Banquet serving in Yankton		\$275.00	
For serving Larry Hofer funeral		\$100.00	
July project for MEDA		\$100.00	
	Total Receipts	\$575.00	
	Balance plus Receipts		\$3,803.45
Disbursements:			
Purchased 4 layettes with money received		\$100.00	
Rose for baby Christopher Hofer		\$10.45	
Stamps		\$9.80	
Memorial for Larry Hofer		\$10.00	
Central Plains Mennonite Conference a.m. break		\$202.06	
Schmeckfest for sausage for The Banquet		\$160.00	
Food and supplies at Bob's for The Banquet		\$132.78	
July project Cash for MEDA		\$100.00	
MCC quilt expenses		\$162.38	
	Total Disbursements	\$887.47	
	Balance on hand	July 31	\$2,915.98
<i>Submitted by Ardella Gross</i>			

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6: 38, NKJV

Movie on Main Street

Featuring the movie

“SULLY”

Sunday, August 13
(Main Street—Freeman, SD)
Activities begin at 7:00pm



- ◆ Concessions Available:
 - Brats, Hot Dogs, & Pop
 - Pulled Pork Sandwiches
 - Ice Cream
 - Popcorn
 - Coffee, Water, and Candy
- ◆ Robotics Team Demonstration
- ◆ Beef Raffle Drawing
- ◆ Hometown Hero Award honoring Tammy Mutchelknaus

“Movie on Main Street” celebrates the Jackson Lee Vetch Memorial Fund which seeks to increase the awareness of Christian camps and help the youth of South Dakota to attend those camps.

MOVIE WILL BEGIN AT APPROXIMATELY 8:45PM

Since its inception in 2013 the Jackson Lee Vetch Memorial Fund has sponsored 357 children and youth, paying out over \$59,500 in camping fees, helping to share the joyous hope of Christ one camper at a time!

****Don't forget to bring chairs!****

**Inclement Weather Location:
Freeman Community Center**

www.jacksonleevetchmemorialfund.org