

**Letting the Light In**

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

As we drove the final mile of US Highway 81 between Old 44 and South County Road, I took an enormous breath, sighed deeply from the core of my being, and looked in the rearview mirror at Vivienne as she said, "We're home." It was the 10th time that we had driven the 600 miles from Freeman to Benson in the last 4-5 months, and we were ready to be home for a while.

As I opened the curtains and shades of our home to let the sunlight radiate throughout the house, I thought about the way that Mom's passing had felt like an unveiling, a watershed moment, a massive transition, in which the 6 of us, the men of her life (5 sons and Dad) had moved from a season of overwhelming darkness, pain, and suffering into a new season of light, hope, and peace. Mom had breathed her last uncomfortable, pain-filled breath, and the dark, ancient forces of cancer were snuffed out.

Cancer is evil incarnate, quite literally evil in the flesh. It seeks in every moment to relentlessly and unendingly steal, kill, and destroy the living. In this particular case, the living host for this particular cancer (melanoma) was my mother, but you are welcome to fill in the blank of who you think of and mourn over when you hear about cancer. Cancer makes a mockery of God's coming among us, God's own incarnation (God in the flesh), which we will again be reminded of in a few short weeks as we experience the yearly season of advent.

And yet, in death, God again shows that the victory is won, for we know too through the resurrection that cancer never has the final say. God has the final say, and God's faithful, enduring love and hope are what sustain me in my grief, loss, and pain even as I am grateful that mom is no longer suffering. The curtains of cancer have been pulled back, the warmth of God's resurrection light pours in, and I am cherishing every memory even as I walk grief's path.

**Shalom Reader Projects**

Submitted by: Charlene Friesen

There were 13, yes 13!, children who read the required 7 Shalom books and finished their projects. We have certainly enjoyed seeing those fantastic projects displayed in the foyer. Way to go! These are comments some of the children have said about their reading:

- What was your favorite Shalom book you read this year?

Landon - The Seagoing Cowboy by Peggy Reiff Miller

Henry - Jake Drake Bully Buster by Andrew Clements

Elias - The War by Anais Vaugelade

- What is something you learned or specifically remember from one of the books you read this year?

Otto - In the book The Kapok Tree, if the tree was cut down many animals would no longer have a home.

Bridget - When Emmy lost the bracelet her best friend gave her she worries how she will remember her. I would remember a friend in my heart. I could write her a letter, text her and make a new friend.

Finley - From the graphic novel The Act, if you try hard, but do not cheat, you can still accomplish things.

**November Congregational Ministries Project:**

Cash for Mennonite Disaster Service

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer, C.M. Treasurer or place in the C.M Mailbox

# Connection!

Making a CONNECTION  
with one another

## Editor & Publisher

Aprille Birkey  
Office Hours:  
Thursday mornings

## Connection Advisory Board

Joline Thomas  
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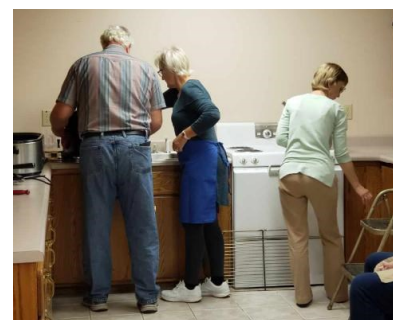
Submitted by: Aprille Birkey

On October 22, the 70th Annual Harvest Mission Festival was held. This year, the speaker was Kerry Hilton, who works as the Director of Global Knowledge Management for Habitat for Humanity International. During her time with us, Kerry shared about her life, her time spent in the Peace Corps, what led

her to South Dakota, and how she came to work with Habitat for Humanity in an interview format with Pastor Randall.

During Sunday School, Norman Hofer spoke to the children and had a small house for them to build themselves. This house was also brought downstairs during the meal for them and others to try and build.

A noon meal was held after Sunday School. This meal was prepared with the help of multiple volunteers and consisted of cottage cheese pockets, ham, green beans, multiple salads and various pies. It was absolutely delicious and was appreciated by all. Thank you to all who helped by decorating, preparing the food, cleaning up after, and arranging the speakers.



## Upcoming Events at HMC

December 3: First Sunday of Advent

December 17: Christmas Program

## Birthdays

- 3) Monica Clem
- 3) Vivienne Koehler
- 19) Steve Mendel
- 21) Nicolle Timmerman
- 23) Camilla Hofer
- 25) Chad Hofer
- 27) Jennifer Friesen
- 29) Steve Friesen



## Anniversary

- 10) Rodney & Amanda Mettler

Date	Attendance	Income
Oct. 1	63	\$1,816.00
Oct. 8	122	\$2,916.00
Oct. 15	58	\$820.00
Oct. 22	81	\$14,416.00
Online Giving		\$350.00



On October 8, Freeman Academy was present and provided beautiful music to aid in our worship service.

**December Connection!**  
**deadline is November 29!**

## HMC Links

- Website - [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)
- "Like" Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch](http://www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch)

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