



The mission of First Mennonite Church is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.

Rachel's Reflections

The Things that Make for Peace is the theme for our summer worship. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God" (Mat 5:9). What does it mean to be a peacemaker? I wrote the following reflection (poem?) for a class at AMBS on Spirituality and Peacemaking.

Peacemaker

such a big term
a heavy term
a term laden with grand images
Martin Luther King Jr
Ghandi
Mother Teresa
CPTers
putting an end to war and violence
a scary term
I can't be a peacemaker
That is not in me
Ah ... but it is!

Peace is shalom...wholeness...well-being
Humanity. Creation. God. All in right relationship
Building relationships
building relationships on
the foundation of the
One who loves us
who created us and
said "that is good."

Peacemaking is more than stopping war
it is the work of shalom
of God's justice and righteousness

With God's help
and the community of faith around us
we all can be **peacemakers**.

We can all answer the
call to love mercy
do justice
and walk humbly with God.

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Church Picnic June 15, 2008

Meet at River Styx Park for worship at 10:45 followed by lunch and fellowship.

The **YOUTH** will be **servicing lunch** as a **FUNDRAISER**.

Please bring a lawn chair and your own tableware (plates, cups, cutlery) as the theme for our service

is

"Restoring relationships and the land."

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In this class I experienced the importance of the connection between prayer and action - between spirituality and peacemaking. We were required to spend 1/2 hour a day practicing a spiritual discipline. I practiced a variety of disciplines - group prayer, corporate worship, Bible study, silence, journaling. As I engaged in these practices and in the class readings, I noticed a change in the way I responded to events. There was one time in particular, when in my reading of scripture (for another class) I was given insight into a new and different way to respond to a conflict in my home congregation. A response that was more conducive to restoring relationships as opposed to continuing to view the matter as an "us versus them" situation.

Ah, but it is easy to maintain a spiritual practice in the setting of a seminary and that much harder on my own. I'm guessing that that is a similar phenomenon for many of us. To help us be disciples together, on the back of each bulletin during this series will be one prayer for peace and one action for peace.

May God walk with us on our journey to becoming peacemakers.



"True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant.
It clothes the naked,
it feeds the hungry,
it comforts the sorrowful,
it shelters the destitute,
it serves those that harm it,
it binds up that which is wounded,
it has become all things to all people."
-Menno Simons

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Jenny Newcomer Haas
- 3 - Ellen Sprunger
- 5 - Bob Hart
 Jacob Newcomer
- 10 - Ryan Croyle
- 11 - Ruth Schneider
- 13 - Darren Newcomer
- 16 - Stan & Iona Hostetter (1946)
- 17 - Carl Shelly
- 18 - Ron & Lois Chamberlin (1960)
- 19 - Denton & Mary Croyle (1948)
- 22 - Fritz & Ellen Sprunger (1963)
- 23 - Elnore Friedt
 - Matthew Croyle
- 25 - Emily Landis
- 28 - Mark & Jenny Haas (1986)
- 30 - Carol Miller
 - Nathaniel Haas

June Worship @ FMC

Ushers: Norma R., Fritz S., Barb N., Carl S.,

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
1	Bob M. & Chris C.	Jan A.
8	Jake N. & Dan M.	Ken R.
15	<i>CHURCH PICNIC</i>	
22	Stan & Iona H.	Ellen S.
29	Jay & Rhonda L.	Jenny NH.

Greeters should be at the front and back door by 10:20 and ushers should be ready to hand out bulletins and seat people by 10:30.

Those in the nursery should introduce themselves to parents of young children and sit near the back to watch for children heading to the nursery.

Please remember to find someone to fill-in for you if you cannot make it.

The Penny Power Jug is Back!!!

Save your change and bring it to church. This "Water for Life" project, sponsored by MCC, provides funds to create clean drinking water and new wells for communities all over the world.

The Penny Power change will be collected at the Relief Sale in Kidron, August 2, 2008.

Change can be a good thing!

There was once a man who always painted walls with a brush. Then he heard of a new technique being tried which was painting walls with a roller. "What a ridiculous idea!" he thought. "I don't see how that could ever work. A brush works just fine for me." So he kept on happily painting with his old brush.

One day he saw another painter at work. That person was not using a brush, but of all things, a roller! As he watched he was amazed at how much area could be covered in a short time. He began to think, "Maybe I should at least try out a roller." So he did. To his surprise it worked very well...but there was an unexpected problem. The roller did *not* work well for the corners and the trim. He pondered what to do.

Then an insight came to him. He still had his brush. What would happen if he trimmed with the brush, and painted with the roller. Lo and behold, it worked! He did not have to choose between his beloved brush and newly discovered roller. To his amazement, they complimented each other. So he kept on painting with new joy. As an accent, he even added stenciling.

Passersby noticed. They asked about the secret of the new creative painting they saw. "Better ask the painter" was the reply. The painter was surprised by their inquiry. He knew he had made some changes in how he did things, but was unaware of the difference it had made in his painting, and the impact it had on observers. Though reluctant to change, he realized it could be a good thing after all – keeping the old, while trying the new. Adopting the new, without losing the old. Indeed, it seemed to be the best of both worlds!

Submitted by Fritz Sprunger.



FMC & Community Announcements

Women's Poolside Bible Study: Come on in: Taking the Hassle out of Hospitality by Lisa Bogart. Learn more about showing Christian hospitality. Includes recipes for your stomach and your soul. This is an eight week study beginning Wed. June 18 at 7:00 at either the Croyle's or Newcomer's house. Please sign up in the hallway. The cost is \$11.69 for the book.

The Salvation Army food bank is running low. They are in need of canned goods. FMC will be holding a canned food drive on Sunday June 29 and July 6 and then again on July 27 and August 3. Watch for more information as the dates get closer.

The broader church

The Central District Conference Annual Meeting will be held this month in Wheaton Illinois. The theme for this year is "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: What does it mean to be an Anabaptist Christian in our American culture?" based on the book of Esther. The meeting will consist of times of worship and fellowship, workshops and business sessions. Actions during the business sessions will include the 2008-2009 Spending Plan and the 2008-2009 Slate. The Board of Directors will also be introducing Milwaukee Mennonite Church and Lois Johns Kaufmann, the new Conference Minister.

On the horizon...

July 8-10	People's Summit for Faithful Living in Winnipeg MB
Aug 1-2	Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction

Deadline for submissions (news items, reviews, poems, articles, events, etc.) for the **Summer 2008** newsletter is **June 22, 2008**. Please submit to Rachel via email or mailbox.