



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.

San Jose meet Columbus

We are in the middle of two assemblies. San Jose 2007 was a year ago and Columbus 2009 will be here sooner than we think!

It is important for us to remember that we are part of a larger church body and to join that larger body when it gathers. My hope is that next year we can send a full delegate slate to both the Central District annual meeting and to Columbus 2009.

I asked those who went to San Jose some questions about their experience there and why we should go to Columbus.

Here are their responses:

1. What is one favorite memory from San Jose?

"The worship and the bands/music. Oh yeah and meeting lots of youth."

"Watching the youth in the worship. They had so much fun! Watching them enjoying the music and worship was awesome!"

"Michelle Herberger without notes, speaking at the memorial service for Lee Eshelman saying we don't know the 'why' of things happening like this. Only God knows."

"The music! Live the call. Also great worship services and speakers!"

"The great music and seeing all the different people."

"It is very hard to identify one favorite memory, as the entire experience was so wonderful. I would definitely say that the music was beyond what I can describe. Not only hearing the music, but being a part of a large faith family and experiencing the music together."

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MCC Relief Sale August 1 - 2, 2008 in Kidron, OH

Once again we will be serving a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning and will need lots of volunteers! Keep the date free and watch the bulletin for more details.

If you have any items you wish to have delivered to the **Relief Sale**, please have your marked items to the church by Sunday, July 13th. Someone from the church will see that the items are delivered to Kidron in time for the sale.

Last chance to give to the Penny Power Jug!!!

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**. Last Sunday to donate is July 27.

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2. What is one event or experience that sticks with you still today?

“Community service (cleaning up a local school).”

“The music and worship services - they were awesome!”

“The communion service where different breads were used from different cultures - signifying Jesus’ sacrifice of his body and blood was for all people.”

“ 1) George Makinto opening session with the African like music (drums) as they came down the aisles chanting “what a friend (we have in Jesus).
2) Another is in the + 100° heat, hundreds gathered to sing hymns in a courtyard (with not much shade cover).”

“I liked making new friends and seeing so many people together in one place. Riding the rails was fun-crowded together with all those people.”

“One of the last worship services was a communion service. Various breads were included to represent the diversity of the church. I felt the presence of Christ in a way I have never experienced before. Even though there were so many people sharing communion together, I still felt as if it was a personal experience.”

3. What did you learn about the church or God at San Jose?

“We all worship God the same way when we come together throughout the United States.”

“Seeing how different their culture was, yet it was also the same as ours. We are all Mennonites!”

“That the church has such a wide range of diversity - from contemporary music, dance and worship - to the more standard styles. That we can worship God in a setting where English is not the only language spoken or sung - where Hispanics and African-Americans show their enthusiasm and spontaneity in worship and song.”

“The great diversity of MC USA and how the West Coast churches - many of them serving the poor and homeless.”

“I learned that our church is diverse- although we don't experience that in Ohio. The diversity was very refreshing to me, and I felt excited about all the great things the Mennonite church is doing as one large body. I feel that it is important for us all to feel a part

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of the larger church rather than only our local conferences. The youth at San Jose were awesome to watch. What a great future they will provide to the church!”

4. Why should we go to Columbus 2009?

“Because all of us youth could interact with other youth throughout the USA and because of the music.”

“So our youth get a chance to interact with many different Mennonites from all over the United States. So they can make new friends and experience different cultures. Watching the youth interact was great!”

- “1) It's close - closest we may ever see.
- 2) You've never been to one before.
- 3) Excellent breakout sessions to attend.
- 4) Learn to know others from all parts of U.S.
- 5) Put faces to names we see in Mennonite Publications.
- 6) We need “mountain top” experiences occasionally.
- 7) The singing and speakers will inspire you.
- 8) God will bless you!

Not in any order, but if at least one interests you - GO!”

“It is uplifting to observe the many faces of MC USA that work for God's plan - and to see so many youth taking part!”

“It will be a blast and you'll have a great time!”

“We are fortunate to have this close to home! Experience it!! I guarantee you will never be the same!”

FMCers at San Jose: Jenny Newcomer Haas, Nathaniel Haas, Emily Landis, Rhonda Landis, Angie Newcomer, Barb Newcomer, Emma Newcomer, Jerry Newcomer



Come to the library and check out the **Pray for Peace, Act for Peace t-shirts** that are on display. There are a variety of sizes in stock so you can decide what size would best fit you. The shirts come in both youth and adult sizes. There is a great variety of colors available for the t-shirts -- 33 colors in youth sizes, and 48 colors to choose from in adult sizes!

Sweat shirts and hoodies are also available. All t-shirts, sweat shirts, and hoodies are 50/50% cotton & polyester. And all shirts will be printed with the *Pray for Peace, Act for Peace* logo. Let's promote peace as we wear our shirts around town.

Order forms are available in the library, as well as a price list and a catalog to check out the colors available. Payment is due at time of order. If you are paying by check, **please make checks out to First Mennonite Church and write "peace shirts" on the memo line.** These shirts will be great for yourself, members of your family, and friends. Orders will be taken until the end of August.



"The Prince of peace is Christ Jesus;
His kingdom is the kingdom of peace,
which is his church.

His messengers are the messengers of peace; His
Word is the word of peace;
His body is the body of peace;
His inheritance and reward are the inheritance
and reward of peace;
In short, with this King, and in his kingdom and
reign, is nothing but peace.

Everything that is seen, heard, and done is peace."
-Menno Simons

July - August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- July 2 - Marirose Power
- 4 - Norma Rohrer
- 9 - Alice Rohrer
- 11 - Evelyn & Paul Brenneman (1954)
- 13 - Cathy Emig
- 15 - Joslyn & Nick Saunders (1992)
- 20 - Butch Mumaw
- 29 - Christy Beery Bush

- August 1 - Lois Chamberlin
- 2 - Gene Althaus
- 3 - Lucie Nofziger
- 5 - Stan Hostetter
- 7 - Lydia Newcomer
- 11 - Jane & Blake Lowe (1946)
- 13 - Evelyn Brenneman
- 17 - Lowell Nofziger
- John Moss
- 21 - Rita Hart
- 23 - Rachel Siemens
- 24 - Gabie Hooshangi
- 25 - Ken Rohrer
- 31 - Lois Chamberlin

New in the Library

The Good Husband of Zebra Drive by Alexander McCall Smith. This is part of the #1 Ladies Detective Agency series, set in Botswana, where our mission partners are serving.

FMC & Community Announcements

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.

Mennonite Women are once again sponsoring **school kits for MCC**. We will have kits available the end of July through the middle of August. Please be watching for further announcements.

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

Youth Retreats, Uniforms and Irons

Through our prayers and giving we support the work of Glyn Jones and Susan Alison-Jones in Gaborone, Botswana. From their May newsletter:

In April I spoke at the annual youth retreat for the Spiritual Healing Church. I was the first person not a member of the church to speak at this retreat. It was held at the headquarters of the church in Matsiloje, a bit under an hour east of Francistown (5 hours north of Gaborone). Unsure of what to expect, I spoke with a good friend who is a member of this church and asked him what would be appropriate to wear. I knew that "casual" would be the key word for youth retreats in North America but wasn't so sure about this setting. He said casual, though if I was going to be in the church I would need a jacket.

The morning I was to speak a young man wearing a full two piece suit and tie arrived to pick me up. Immediately I felt underdressed but was grateful for the jacket. When we entered the church compound I saw others who had on their church uniform. Church uniforms are a way of showing cohesion and membership while at the same time not ostracizing people who cannot afford nice clothes.

We worshipped through music and prayer for some time. After a choir sang it was my turn. The theme was "One way to live." I told the stories of three different people. First, I told the story of Peter and the courageous choice he made when he walked away from a business (fishing and a fishing boat) and followed Jesus. Then, I told the story of Maeyken Wens from the Martyrs Mirror and the choices she made to follow God which led to her martyrdom. Lastly, I told the story of Jacob Motswaosele the founder of the Spiritual Healing Church. He too had heard the call of God, first as a young man to be a Christian and then later, confirmed by a number of other people, to return to Botswana from South Africa where he worked and lived with his family. There he prayed for people and healed them in the name of Christ. Eventually he founded the Spiritual Healing Church. Today this church has grown to be the largest Botswana based African Independent Church.

I challenged the youth that all of us as Christians are called to make choices, to make lifestyle choices and economic choices. I also used a Setswana proverb that says "Men are like Bulls, they take what they want." This is often used to explain male sexual practices, but I think it is bigger than that. I used it to say that it is not true - as Christians we have choices to make, in fact are called to make choices, choices to live faithfully to what Jesus taught including our sexual choices.

After I asked the prophet how well I told the story about Jacob, his father. He said well, but commented that the proverb is not usually spoken to youth that age but rather to people considered to have entered adulthood. I responded that today it seems that we need to talk about things like sexuality earlier than we used to. I left afraid that perhaps I had crossed a socially acceptable boundary. A couple of weeks later I got a call from the prophet asking for some advice, so I breathed a sigh of relief that I had not overstepped the boundaries!

Glyn

Worship @ FMC

JULY:

Ushers: Ellen S., Jay L., Jerry N., Ray H.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
6	Ken and Norma R.	Emma N.
13	Darren and Angie N.	Evelyn B.
20	Jerry and Barb N.	Sharon G.
27	Ron and Lois C.	Nate H.

AUGUST:

Ushers: Adrienne G., Nathaniel H., Jack R., Megan C.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
3	Marge B. & Matthew C.	Rhonda L.
10	Megan & Warren C.	Adrienne G.
17	Sharon & Adrienne G.	Jan A.
24	Lucie and Lowell N.	Ken R.
31	Laura M. and Ruth S.	Norma R.

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.

On the horizon...

Sept 12-14 CDC Women's Retreat
Sept ?? Evensong at Newcomer Farm

June 29 - Jul 4, 2009 Columbus 2009
July 14-19, 2009 Paraguay 2009