



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.

A year in the life...

This week marks one year since I started as pastor here at First Mennonite. I was welcomed with the theme of *New Beginnings*. Over the past year I have observed this to be a very generous and caring congregation. There is a real openness here that allows people to be who they are. As I have shared with some, First Menno is the first place I have sung solo, a tribute to the openness, knowing that if I missed a note or two (or three), it wouldn't be the end of me.

As is common with markings of time like birthdays and anniversaries, it is good for us to stop and look back at the year that was and look ahead to the year to come. And so, as the deacons met this week we did just that.

One of the questions we asked ourselves was "where or how have we seen the congregation grow in this past year?" We celebrated members taking on more responsibility and participation in congregational life, especially in worship and in the breadth of age groups. We noticed that we are sharing more of our own lives, our joys and struggles, with each other during sharing time in worship. It was also noted that it seemed to be a relatively smooth transition from the interim period to the new pastor.

We know that we are not perfect (who is?), and therefore we also looked at areas "where we as a congregation could grow." We would like to see the congregation grow in our interaction with the community - getting to know our community better and allowing the community to get to know us better. It was noted that we could benefit from more open communication. As well as we do get along, we could do this better - to learn how to be more open to and with each other about how we really feel, so that when we are tested with tough issues we will be ready to navigate those waters with grace and mercy.

So in the spirit of creating places and spaces for conversation, we ask you to reflect on these same two questions: where or how have you seen the congregation grow, and where or how could the congregation continue to grow? Please submit your responses to Rachel for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Evensong

Sunday, September 28
at Newcomer's Farm



Finger food potluck @ 5pm
Drinks will be provided

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This past summer we spent considerable time looking at the things that make for peace. On June 1 we were given seeds of peace to plant as one metaphor for how peace grows. We planted the seeds in the sanctuary and watched the marigolds flourish and bloom. Our morning glories on the window sills grew to varying degrees. Some seeds were eaten by bugs and didn't grow at all. Some pots had other seeds in the soil which didn't allow the morning glories to grow. One pot had both a weed and morning glory plant. And a couple of the pots had beautiful plants, but no flowers. At the end of summer I received this picture and commentary from a member:



We noticed this morning we had a "peace flower." Our first one. I had about given up on it ever blooming. Maybe that is the point. Not to!

Visions of Peace

Here are some of the visions of peace for First Mennonite Church shared during worship on August 10, 2008.

- ✚ A church that understands you can't force peace on those who don't want it.
- ✚ Knowing when to confront and the ability to do it with love.
Working toward true education for all. Without education people cannot begin to dream or realize their dreams and peace cannot be found.
- ✚ 1. Support denomination peace efforts.
2. Be an informed voter...back peace cand.
3. Pray for peace.
4. Support local peace orgs. Summit Peace Fellowship.
- ✚ Be open with each other, willing to talk about differences.
- ✚ When people of Wadsworth hear about peace, they think about First Mennonite Church in the same thought.
- ✚ To be open to our neighbors - to hear their needs - to know them.
- ✚ Put a peace symbol of a Dove on the Sign in front of our church!
- ✚ No violence
No war
No prejudice

Prayer of Pilgrim Marpeck

*Gardener God,
you have planted and protected us by your faithful hand.
Send us the sap of your grace from Christ, the true Vine,
and make us blossom and bear the fruit of love, as a sign of your life in us.
Let the sweet fragrance of the shoots you have planted give you praise forever and ever.
Amen.*

Calling all musicians!!

Hallelujah Choir and Thee Band are starting up again.

Hallelujah choir will rehearse at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month and sing the following Sunday.

<u>Rehearsal dates</u>	<u>Singing in worship</u>
Oct. 8	Oct. 12
Nov. 12	Nov. 16

Thee Band will rehearse at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month and play the following Sunday.

<u>Rehearsal dates</u>	<u>Playing in worship</u>
Sept. 24	Sept. 28
Oct. 22	Oct. 26
Nov. 26	Nov. 30

MYF

will gather at the Newcomer farm to kick-off the new year with a hayride and bonfire.

Sunday, September 21 @ 7pm.

Deadline for submissions (news items, reviews, poems, articles, events, etc.) for the **October 2008** newsletter is **September 23, 2008**. Please submit to Rachel via email or mailbox.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 1 - Darren & Angie Newcomer (1990)
7 - Jim & Bobbie Mohr (1957)
12 - Warren & Jan Croyle (1987)
17 - Lowell & Lucie Nofziger (1960)
18 - Jane Lowe
- Jack & Mona Rohrer (1971)
20 - Fritz Sprunger
22 - Sharon Graybill
25 - Vic Lowe

Worship @ FMC

SEPTEMBER:

Ushers: John A., Lucie N., Bob H., Chris C.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
7	Carl S. & Lydia N.	Ellen S.
14	Jack & Mona R.	Jenny NH.
21	Evelyn & Paul B.	Emma N.
28	Bob M.	Evelyn B.

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...

Oct 4	Game Night	
Oct 5	World Communion Sunday	
	6:00 pm Pie & Ice Cream followed by the Semi-Annual Meeting	
Oct 25	Work Day	
June 30 - July 5, 2009		Columbus 2009
July 14-19, 2009		Paraguay 2009