



# CONNECTING

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

May 2017  
Volume 14, Issue 4



## Update from the Barkmans

News from the Barkman Family in Manila, Philippines



**April 2017**

### **South East Asia Anabaptist Retreat**

We travelled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia February 26 to March 5 for some encouragement and rest at the bi-annual South East Asia Anabaptist Retreat. We enjoyed learning, worshiping and praying with 40 other Mennonite missionaries working across South East Asia.

### **Peace Church presents at the Asian Theological Seminary Theological Forum**

While the Barkmans were in Cambodia, Peace Church members presented at this year's ATS Theological Forum: The Church as Agent of Community Transformation. Kathleen Limayo and Regina Mondez-Sumatra presented "The Church As Agent of Transformation: We are Witnesses!" It was the first forum to have non-Christians sharing their perspective about working with a church and it opened participants eyes to broadening partnerships and including those outside the typical Christian circles.



Peace Church members also represented "Theo sa Kanto" at the forum, which is a sister community of Peace Church. Theo Sa Kanto is a street church in an urban poor community in Tondo, Manila where they live. Their presentation was called, "God is a Bystander in the Street Corner: Theo Sa Kanto Journeys in Recognition of God and Becoming His Witnesses in Tondo." This break-out session had standing room only and has been talked about endlessly- a huge success!



### **Peace Church Retreat and Baptisms**

In January, Peace Church enjoyed a wonderful weekend of goal-setting, relaxing in nature and bonding together. A big highlight of the weekend was the baptisms of Kathleen Limayo and Bryan Paler in the beautiful pools of Batlag Falls.

### **Grandparents Visit!**

In February, Darnell's parents came to the Philippines for a two and half week visit. This time we decided to take them to the beautiful island of Palawan and we spent 5 days relaxing at a gorgeous beach.

### **Big News!**

April marks one year until we say goodbye to Manila and move back to Canada. I have been reflecting on what this next year of my life will bring.... most importantly, it will bring one more child into our family! The due date for the arrival of this little one is September 28, exactly 12 years after the blind date that started our family's journey!



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# Humans of Emmanuel

Interviewed  
by Karmen  
Sawatzky



***If you could invite one person to dinner (living or deceased) who would you invite and what would you talk about?***

I would want to invite one of my favourite authors, Rachel Held Evans. I would love to talk to her about her journey of restructuring her faith and of embracing the mystery of spirituality and faith.

***When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?***

When I was a child, I had many lofty goals! I think I wanted to be a veterinarian, a figure skater and a professional actor, simultaneously.

***How would you like to be remembered?***

I would like to be remembered as someone who recognizes injustice, calls it out, and works towards reconciliation, particularly within the church.

## CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

**Intotemak Trilogy** In response to the TRC's Calls to Action for churches



[commonword.ca/go/507](http://commonword.ca/go/507)

[commonword.ca/go/702](http://commonword.ca/go/702)

[commonword.ca/go/1089](http://commonword.ca/go/1089)

Borrow or Purchase (\$14/each)

To learn more about the 12,000 resources available to you for loan, sale and download, subscribe to the CommonWord Curator – [www.commonword.ca/go/81](http://www.commonword.ca/go/81)

"Don't poets know  
it better than others?  
God can't always be everywhere:  
and, so, invented mothers."  
—Sir Edwin Arnold

## Mennonite Central Committee International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) Hosting

### Abbotsford

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Bring the world into your home! MCC is looking for individuals/families who are interested in hosting an international young adult who will be serving with MCC in the Abbotsford area beginning September 2017. Commitment is 6 to 11 months. For more information, visit [mccbc.ca/ivep](http://mccbc.ca/ivep) or contact Sophie Tiessen-Eigbike at 604-850-6639 or [stiessen-eigbike@mccbc.ca](mailto:stiessen-eigbike@mccbc.ca).

### Note from the Editor:

Just a reminder that the Emmanuel Mennonite Newsletter would love to receive submissions from the church community! We are looking for stories, articles, poetry, art, prayers and recipes under 800 words that are encouraging and promote community. Submissions may be edited and will be published depending on space.

In order to publish a newsletter that is truly a work of the community, we are considering a revised publication schedule just five times per year in the months of **June, September, November, February and April**. Thank you for reading and participating!

The maximum suggested length for submissions is 800 words. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity, and due to limited space, less time-sensitive submissions may also be held over to the next issue. To ensure we have a well rounded publication each month, you are invited and encouraged to submit your news, stories and photos to [karmensawatzky@yahoo.com](mailto:karmensawatzky@yahoo.com)

**JUNE NEWSLETTER THEME:**  
*Fathers Day*  
Deadline : June 5th



# Creation Care Chat

With Stan Olson

## Carbon dioxide: Pollutant or plant food?

Life is a delicate balance. Humans need oxygen, but too much can kill us. Plants need nitrogen, but excess nitrogen harms them, and pollutes rivers, lakes and oceans. Ecosystems are complex. Our health and survival depend on intricate interactions that ensure we get the right amounts of clean air, water, food from productive soils and energy from the sun.

Climate change deniers either wilfully ignore or fail to understand this complexity — as shown in their simplistic argument that carbon dioxide is a beneficial gas that helps plants grow and is therefore good for humans. Industry propagandist [Tom Harris](#) writes, "Grade school students know CO2 is not pollution; it is aerial fertilizer." He adds, "Increasing CO2 levels pose no direct hazard to human health."

It's deliberate deception, rather than an outright lie, as most plants do require CO2 to grow. But overwhelming scientific evidence shows that, along with other greenhouse gases, CO2 causes ocean acidification and fuels climate change, putting humans and other life at risk.

Even its benefit to plants is more complicated than deniers let on. As the website [Skeptical Science](#) states, "Such claims fail to take into account that increasing the availability of one substance that plants need requires other supply changes for benefits to result. It also fails to take into account that a warmer earth will see an increase in deserts and other arid lands, reducing the area available for crops."

After observing plants grown in California over 16 years, under altered CO2, nitrogen, temperature and water levels, researchers concluded that only higher nitrogen levels, not higher CO2 levels, increased plant growth, while higher temperatures hindered the plants. A [study in Nature Climate Change](#) concluded that a 1 degree C temperature increase will cause wheat yields to decrease by about five per cent, and a French study found higher temperatures negatively affected corn crops.

Burning fossil fuels, creating emissions through industrial agriculture, and destroying "carbon sinks" like wetlands and forests that store carbon are already affecting the planet in many ways detrimental to the health and survival of humans as well as plants and other life.

No matter what inconsistent, contradictory and easily debunked nonsense is spread by deniers, there's no denying climate change is real, humans are contributing substantially to it, and it will be catastrophic for all life if we do little or nothing to address it immediately.

The evidence is clear and overwhelming: Rapid increases in CO2 emissions are not beneficial. It's past time we started [conserving energy and shifting to cleaner sources](#).

To read the full article, see:

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2016/09/carbon-dioxide-pollutant-or-plant-food/>

Questions or comments? [creationcarechat@gmail.com](mailto:creationcarechat@gmail.com)

*"There's no way to be a perfect mother  
and a million ways to be a good one."  
- Jill Churchill*

## A Note on Emmanuel Worship CD recordings

Until recently, we have been making CDs of our worship services. About a month ago the recorder stopped working. With more and more people listening to Sunday messages online, through the Emmanuel church website, requests for CD copies will likely continue to go down. So, instead of buying a new CD recorder, I've now begun a new system where worship services are recorded through the sound room computer.

This makes it easier to get messages ready to put on our website. I then edit the file and make CDs during the week. Unfortunately, this means people may not get a CD copy until a week after the service. I'm still working at simplifying the process, and I welcome any comments or suggestions related to the worship recordings. Thanks.

Gerald Neufeld,  
Music Coordinator  
[music@emmanuelmennonite.com](mailto:music@emmanuelmennonite.com)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMANUEL

To see all meeting and events, check out our [online calendar](#)

**Monday, May 22 – Community Garden Kidk0off** – 10:00am – 12:00pm. Snacks provided! A good time to plant, dream of future harvests and gather with fellow gardeners. There is still one unclaimed plot available. Contact Heide Koole ([heidi.koole@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.koole@gmail.com)) 604-758-1368

**Monday, May 22 – Family Day at Mennonite Heritage Museum** – 10:00am – 4:00pm, 1818 Clearbrook Rd. Crafts, food, exhibits, stories and more. Check it out at [www.mennonitemuseum.org](http://www.mennonitemuseum.org)

**Tuesday, May 23: 11am** – Women's Fellowship – banquet room  
**6:30pm**- Mini Disciples – fireside room/gym

**Wednesday, May 24:** 5:30pm- Rhythmic gymnastics – gym  
**7pm**- Youth – fireside room  
**7:30pm** – New Member orientation – library

**Thursday, May 25: 7pm**- Vietnamese Christian Church – library/ gym

**Sunday, May 28: 5pm**- Seniors Fellowship – banquet room

**Wednesday, May 31: 10am** – Chai & Chat – fireside room

**Monday, June 5: 7pm**- Deacon meeting – fireside room

**Tuesday, June 6: 11:30am**- Lunch at Garden Park Tower. Everyone is welcome!

**Sunday, June 11:3:30pm**- Nicholas Voth Recital, Annual Run for Water Fundraiser - in the Sanctuary with reception to follow in the banquet room.

**Sunday, June 18: 9:00am** – Pancake breakfast, gym

**Sunday, June 25:** Lunch in the gym with the Barkman family after worship

## AROUND TOWN

MHM | mennonite heritage museum



Family Day!  
VICTORIA DAY, May 22, 2017  
10:00am to 4:00pm  
1818 Clearbrook Road  
Abbotsford, BC

Come on out and enjoy the family fun at the Museum!

- Crafts, Activities
- Story Times
- Woodworking Demo
- Quilt Demo
- Photo Booth
- Exhibits, Food

mennonitemuseum.org  
#mhmfamilyday  
@MennoniteMuseum1

CANADA 150

**Friday, June 2 at 5pm -Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 6pm WALK IN THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION.** The MCBC Service, Peace & Justice Committee would like you to know about this year's **Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation**. It coincides with the second anniversary of the publication of the Report of the TRC and the 94 Calls to Action. The Walk will start at Fort Langley National Historic Site – a historic bastion of colonialism in the region – and end at the site of the closest Indian Residential School – St. Mary's in Mission, BC. The walk is 35Km. in length and will take place over three days – June 2nd-4th, 2017. [Click here for more info, including a more detailed schedule.](#) **Let Henry Krause** ([hakrause@telus.net](mailto:hakrause@telus.net)) **or Ian Funk** ([funkzeit@hotmail.com](mailto:funkzeit@hotmail.com)) **know you are interested!**



A transformative experience awaits four English women as they holiday together at a beautiful villa in Italy.

**May 19 & 20, 24-27, 2017 @ 7:30pm**  
**Matinees: May 20 & 27 @ 2pm**

Matsqui Centennial Auditorium  
32315 South Fraser Way,  
Abbotsford.

**TICKETS—HOUSE OF JAMES**  
2743 Emerson St., Abbotsford  
604-852-3701 / 1-800-665-8828



**Pacific Theatre presents Outside Mullingar.** A pair of introverted misfits, Rosemary and Anthony's families have lived on neighbouring farms as far back as anyone can remember, where they battle over property lines and childhood stories but never what matters most. A quirky, flawed story of love and some kind of happiness told with effortless wit and poetic Irish lyricism. Directed by Angela Konrad. Featuring Ron Reed, Erala Faye Forsyth, Rebecca deBoer, and John Emmet Tracy.

**May 19-June 10 at Pacific Theatre. Tickets \$23.95-\$34.95. Call 604.731.5518 or visit [www.pacifictheatre.org](http://www.pacifictheatre.org) to book.**

*"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie." – Tennifer Jordan*

