



# CONNECTING

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

June 2017  
Volume 14, Issue 5

## Howe Middle School Breakfast Program

For the past number of years our church has run a Thursday morning breakfast program at Colleen and Gordie Howe Middle School just down the road. This year, David Dueckman and students from Mennonite Educational Institute have been serving bacon, eggs, pancakes and orange juice to students every Thursday at 7:30am.

For this mini article, I called Nancy the youth care worker from Howe. I asked her about the impact of the breakfast program that we run. These are her words: "It's extremely valued. It's brought a time of togetherness. A lot of kids don't eat together with family. It has been a time for friendships to build, it's all grades and we have a need as most schools do. It has really had an emotional impact, with kids being together in the morning. They chat and laugh and eat. We get 30-35 kids. It's a delight to watch. They love the food, especially the bacon. We do thank the church. We are grateful. It does take a stress off me as a youth care worker. I obviously worry about the kids coming to school without food. A lot of these kids would not have breakfast or lunch and some don't get dinner."

The impact is both practical, emotional, and for our church, it is spiritual. In providing and serving food, our church is also encouraging community within the school between staff and middle school kids of various ages. For us, this is a way we animate our faithfulness and a tangible way in which we pursue Shalom.

Chris Lenshyn – Associate Pastor

### **The breakfast program needs your help.**

Starting in September the breakfast program will need a volunteer to shop for groceries once a week. It's a simple job; you are given a shopping list and purchase the supplies and bring them to the school, preferably on Wednesdays. Submit your receipt to the church and you will be paid.

We also need some volunteers to help on Thursday mornings during the school year. Your job will be to flip pancakes, prepare other simple breakfast foods and interact with the kids.

For more information or if you are able to volunteer, contact Chris Lenshyn at the church or Kathy Doerksen (Missions Peace & Justice Committee) at [kz.doerksen@gmail.com](mailto:kz.doerksen@gmail.com) or 778 808-1139.

## Inspirational Day: Change and New Beginnings

The annual MCBC Women's Inspirational Day that Emmanuel hosted on May 6 was memorable—and not just because of the arrival of a firetruck with sirens blaring! Yes, halfway through Marijke Olson's opening prayer, the church's fire alarm went off and after sitting there confused for a moment, we all exited the building (thanks to Janette Thiessen's clear-headed instruction; why is it human nature NOT to jump up automatically when we hear an alarm?) until the firefighters arrived to check it out and found nothing amiss, and we returned to the day's activities.

The real memories came from our special speaker, Marlene Kropf, whose topic was "Who Am I Now? Trusting God in Life's Transitions." Using examples from her own life, Marlene talked about change and transition at all stages of life. "There is a before and an after, and we are not the same after," she said. Marlene described the three stages as we move from one lifepoint to another, whether it be marrying, having children, a new job, moving, or death of a loved one. They are ending of one thing, the in-between stage, and the new beginning. Saying goodbye can be costly and painful, she said, and too often we are caught in the "messy middle" that we would like to hurry through. In dealing with this time of uncertainty, she asked us to remember that God is, God is for us (all), and God is actively at work in our lives, within the context of our lives.

Of course one of the joys of such an event is the connection with old friends and making new ones. Mary Derksen describes this encounter:

*"When everybody was walking around looking for some place to sit, I wandered in looking for a table where I didn't know anybody. I sat down beside a young woman – young for me! Her mother was beside her. Margaret was from Ebenezer; Erna, her daughter, was from a Pentecostal church in Chilliwack. After getting acquainted, Erna asked, 'Were you in that mission prayer book?' 'Yes,' I said. 'I remember praying for you when I was a kid,' she responded. An instant connection! What a gift to meet Erna! Just then a friend from another church, Alice, sat down beside me. 'Oh, I want to meet you, too,' Erna said, and continued, 'Your husband baptized me in the Eden church when I was a teenager!'"*

It was a great day all around. We all left inspired, in the words of our speaker, to celebrate new beginnings!

By Amy Dueckman

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# Humans of Emmanuel

Interviewed  
by Karmen Sawatzky



## Share a happy childhood memory.

Christmas morning was probably the happiest, most exciting time for the Neudorf family. We'd go to bed early the night before and get up as early as we dared to see what Santa had brought us. Spread out for each was a bowl with nuts and candy. If you were a girl there might be a beautiful baby doll with eyes that could open and close or another desired toy. This was the only time we would receive toys as gifts. So that was very special.

## What Bible character do you best relate to?

That's a tough one. There are many that I could partially relate to, but no one in particular that comes to mind. Jesus is the one I'd emulate and strive to look up to as the model for life.

## What is your greatest accomplishment?

Against many odds I received an education (can't go into detail about that). When I was 18, I started high school. I took grade 9 by correspondence while working in the kitchen at the Mennonite Nursing Home. Then, I skipped to grade 11 and 12 at Ros-thern Junior College. After that, I took one year of Teachers College and taught for a few years. During that time, I took night classes and summer courses towards a Bachelor of Education. Allowing credit for some classes from U of S I could graduate from Canadian Mennonite Bible College with a Bachelor of Christian Education in two years. Later I attended Goshen College in Indiana and again with credit from precious institutions I was able to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in one year. Without God's presence and guidance I could not have accomplished any of this.

## Looking for a Good Book this Summer?

April Yamasaki

Welcome to Ecclesiastes, a most unusual and exciting book of the Bible. Ecclesiastes has challenged interpreters over many centuries and continues to do so today. The puzzles of the book are numerous. Yet many people, both believers and unbelievers, have recognized its basic theme—that life brings the unexpected, the tragic, and the confusing—and they have found in the author a trustworthy companion for walking through such experiences. The author shows himself to be one who can recognize life's problems, is not afraid to name them for what they are, and has insight to help us make the most of our existence on this earth. His work may be the most personal book of the Bible, revealing the author's frustrations, indignation, and reflections on mystery. – Douglas B. Miller, *Ecclesiastes*, Believers Church Bible Commentary (Herald Press, 2010).

I'm excited for our summer preaching series on *Ecclesiastes*! How does this ancient book connect with our modern and post-modern lives today? What can it teach us about lament in our own times of grief? About work as a gift from God? About enjoying life?

Many of these questions recur throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, so our summer sermons will be a bit more thematic rather than moving through the book verse by verse. But as part of this preaching series and to get to know Ecclesiastes for yourself, here is a reading guide to take you through the entire book this summer.

### Week of:

<b>June 26 - July 2</b>	Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
<b>July 3 - July 9</b>	Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
<b>July 10 - July 16</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:1-22
<b>July 27 - July 23</b>	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
<b>July 24 - July 29</b>	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
<b>July 30 - August 5</b>	Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:12
<b>August 6 - August 12</b>	Ecclesiastes 7:13-8:8
<b>August 13 - August 19</b>	Ecclesiastes 8:9-9:12
<b>August 20 - August 26</b>	Ecclesiastes 9:13-11:6
<b>August 27 - Sept 2</b>	Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14



A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.



# Creation Care Chat

With Stan Olson

Here is more information on curb-side pickup of recycling, and particularly on *plastic shopping bags*:

My column in the April newsletter (available on the church website) summarized the major changes that resulted when the city of Abbotsford recently switched to the provincial recycling program. These changes were published in the Abbotsford News, and brochures were distributed to all homes. This of course applies to curb-side pickup from individual homes. On the other hand, multi-family and institutional & commercial buildings are (or will be) required to make their own arrangements with one of several local contractors for pickup of recycling, and their lists of requirements will vary somewhat.

*The most important changes for curb-side pickup are:*

1. The following are now allowed in blue bags put out for pickup, and can also be taken to a Drop-off Depot:
  - All plastic containers (marked with a triangle and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7)
  - Paper gift wrap & greeting cards
2. The following are NOT allowed in blue bags, but can be taken for recycling to several Drop-off Depots around the city (see <https://recyclebc.ca/recycling-at-home/recycling-depots/> and search for Abbotsford):
  - Stretchy plastics (*shopping bags*, bread bags, etc.) [AND SEE BELOW]
  - Styrofoam (foam packaging, food trays & containers, etc.)
  - Glass bottles & jars, light bulbs, batteries, electronics
3. As before, the following are allowed in blue bags and can also be taken to Drop-off Depots:
  - Paper, envelopes, magazines, newspapers, flyers, phonebooks, foil plates & trays, spray cans, tetra-paks, tin cans, milk cartons & jugs, concentrate juice cans, cardboard, boxboard, etc.

*The big change in all this is soft or stretchy plastic film (including **shopping bags**), which you can no longer put out in your blue bags. **Please don't just toss them in the garbage!** You can take them to a local Drop-off Depot, but there are other options as well:*

- Avoid plastic shopping bags as much as possible (Carry reusable fabric shopping bags, etc.).
- If you do use a plastic shopping bag, reuse it as much as possible before recycling it.
- We should all try to get in the habit of avoiding foods packaged in plastic as much as we can. Eventually we can make a difference. More and more we are seeing that **all plastic** is having a devastating effect on our planet.
- Some local stores will recycle your plastic shopping bags for you --**

**Staples** has a set of bins for recycling most everything recyclable, including *plastic bags*. **London Drugs** in WestOaks mall is in the process of bringing in the same, and there is now a small set of bins outside LD in the mall for paper, and cans & bottles. **Super Store** has a small set of bins for *shopping bags*, water bottles, etc. **Save on Foods** takes *shopping bags* and water bottles. **Walmart** takes *shopping bags* and pop cans. **Safeway** and **Shopper's Drug** on Trethewey Street take only water bottles. **Independent** grocery has bins by their connection to the main SevenOaks mall for recycling paper; glass, cans & plastic bottles; and plastic *shopping bags*. No other major stores in SevenOaks take recycling (**Best Buy**, **Sears**, **Shopper's Drug**, **The Bay**) and the mall itself has no recycling bins. As best I can determine, the following stores take no recycling at all: **Blackwood** (Home Hardware), **Buckerfields**, **Canadian Tire**, **Home Depot**, **Rona**. I have visited all the above and asked them. I haven't checked the rec centres or garden centres.

My (incomplete) research includes only branches on the Clearbrook side of Abbotsford. Any information you can share on other branches in town, or on other stores, is welcome! Anyone know about Cabela's? Costco? Wouldn't it be great if the MCC Centre would provide this kind of service!

[creationcarechat@gmail.com](mailto:creationcarechat@gmail.com)

## Dads

ARE MOST ORDINARY MEN  
TURNED BY LOVE  
INTO HEROES, ADVENTURERS,  
STORY-TELLERS,  
AND SINGERS OF SONG.

-Pam Brown -

## A 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!

You are invited and encouraged to submit your news, stories and photos to [karmensawatzky@yahoo.com](mailto:karmensawatzky@yahoo.com)

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER  
THEME:**

*New Beginnings*

**Deadline : August 18th**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMANUEL

### Happy Father's Day !

**Sunday, June 18: 9am**—Father's Day Breakfast—gym

**Tuesday, June 20: 7pm**— Council meeting—library

**Sunday, June 25:** Lunch with the Barkmans! - in the gym right after worship

**Mon & Wed., 1pm-3pm, July 3– Aug 31:** Youth Unlimited—gym

**Sunday, July 2:** Sunday School and Worship Connect families are invited to *A Picnic in the Park* after church at Clearbrook Park. Bring: your family, a picnic lunch, and blanket. Please RSVP to Jen Wallace or Vanj Thiessen. Dessert will be provided! For any other questions please talk to Jen or Vanj.

**July 2-July 8**—Youth MDS Service Trip!

**July 4: 11:30am**— Lunch at Garden Park Tower, everyone is welcome to join us!

**Sunday July 9:** first summer coffee time in the gym following worship

**Saturday, July 15:** Community Gardeners Picnic at the Garden—time still to come...

**Sunday, July 16: 5pm**—Vietnamese Christian Church—gym

**Saturday, August 26:** Community Garden Harvest BBQ Potluck—time still to come...

**September 8-10**—Emmanuel Camp Squeah Retreat - Mark your calendars!!

**Sunday, September 17**—9:30 am Education and 10:30am Worship time begin.

## AROUND TOWN

**Sunday, June 18 from 2-6pm** -National Aboriginal Day Celebration—Princess Ave between East Pender & East Hastings (Vancouver). This annual celebration arose out of our desire to affirm our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit brothers and sisters by organizing an event that facilitates the building of friendships and continues the ongoing work of reconciliation between the church and Aboriginal peoples. This year, our street party will include a salmon barbeque, First Nations dancers and drummers, children's activities, and artisans booths. We will be closing the street on Princess Ave between East Pender and East Hastings for this celebration. Visit [www.mcabc.ca](http://www.mcabc.ca) to learn more

### 2017 TWU Spartans Boys Summer Soccer Camps

#### Future Spartan 'Complete Champion' Soccer Day Camp:

**Date:** July 31 - August 4

**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00pm

**Age:** Boys 11-15

**Cost:** \$250 (includes tax)

**REGISTER:** <https://goo.gl/forms/BmEDPVMYV70NlXax1>

#### Spartans Soccer U17 ID Camp:

**Date:** July 31 - August 2

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:30pm

**Age:** Boys 15-17

**Cost:** \$100 (includes tax)

**REGISTER:** <https://goo.gl/forms/KUQbcPg7uH2yjil3>



**Interested in seminary but not sure you want to commit?** You can take up to two courses through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, without being admitted to a degree or certificate program. As a nonadmitted student, your first class is 50 percent off. This applies to campus, online and hybrid courses. Check out our course list for fall. [ambs.edu/academics/one-course-options](http://ambs.edu/academics/one-course-options)

**AMBS webinar: Is God to Blame? Thursday, June 22, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT.** Scholar, author and pastor **Greg Boyd** will speak on themes from his 2003 book, *Is God to Blame? Moving Beyond Pat Answers to the Problem of Suffering*, in this Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary webinar. Cost: \$20 by noon on June 21; \$30 after. Your first webinar is free! [ambs.edu/webinars](http://ambs.edu/webinars)

**Earn an MDiv — without relocating!** Would you like to develop your leadership abilities from an Anabaptist perspective while staying in your current vocation? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **MDiv Connect** program offers you in-depth biblical and theological study, spiritual formation and vocational internships — right where you live. Students taking at least 12 credit hours per academic year are considered full-time for need-based financial aid awards. [ambs.edu/mdivconnect](http://ambs.edu/mdivconnect)

### 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).



## Camp Squeah Retreat!

### Sept 8-10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Information brochures will be in mailboxes June 18th.  
Registration deadline will be August 20th.

SEE YOU THERE!!