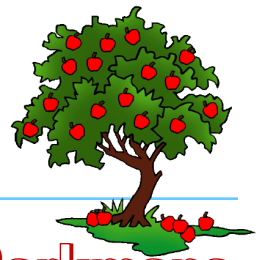




CONNECTING

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 2017 - Volume 14, Issue 6



SHARING FAITH STORIES

Telling stories brings people together in shared experience, laughter, tears, love, pain, joy, and so much more. Yet we sometimes struggle to share our faith stories with one another—

Because we feel awkward,
Because we've been on the receiving end of too many bad examples,
Because we don't know how to put into words what's in our hearts,
Or for some other reason we can't explain.

At the same time, the Bible is filled with faith stories and encourages us to share our own--to inspire and nurture faith, build community, and reach out to others.

Sharing Faith Stories is our worship and preaching focus for the coming year, beginning September 17 with Hebrews 11. Then throughout the year, we'll focus on

different faith stories from the Bible and what we can learn about sharing our own stories of faith, faith stories in the form of member testimonies, the stories behind some of the songs that we sing (to be featured in the newsletter), names for God (Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter).

We'd love for you to participate by sharing your faith story during worship or in the newsletter, contributing a devotional for the church to use during the Lenten season, reading a biography or other faith story from the church library, and other creative ways. More information to come on all of this, so please stay tuned!

In the meantime, you or your small group might be interested in the new Bible study book from Herald Press, *Sharing Faith Stories* by April Yamasaki. They are currently on order at House of James where a book launch event is being planned for October. April also has copies available now for \$13.00/book, so please contact her if you're interested.



Update from the Barkmans

News from the Barkman Family in Manila, Philippines

July 2017

Shalom Sumatra: Reg and Mel's baby arrives!

On May 15, Peace Church members, Reg and Mel Mondez Sumatra welcomed their first child, Shalom, into the world. When we first arrived in the Philippines, more than 5 years ago, Reg was our family's host, our babysitter and our mentor and has since been a part of our family- to see her happily married with a beautiful child of her own now is such a joy! We are so happy for her and Mel and wish them well in this new and exciting phase of life.

Trip to Canada

A few days after our visit to meet baby Shalom, we flew to Vancouver for 5 weeks to spend time connecting with family and friends. We had a fun-filled holiday with many meaningful visits, lots of time for the kids to enjoy with grandparents and cousins, a great time connecting with our home church family, Emmanuel Mennonite, and we loved being at Gun Lake with the Bartels spending time on the lake, ATVing with the kids (and even saw a bear!) and enjoying evening lakeside fires. We also spent a lot of time thinking about our move home (April 2018), as this was our last visit before this big transition. We look forward to moving back into our home in Abbotsford and settling into a new, yet somewhat familiar, way of life next year.

Darnell's Masters

While we were in Canada, Darnell also spent 2 weeks in Winnipeg at Canadian Mennonite University's Canadian School of Peacebuilding where he took 2 courses towards his Masters in Peacebuilding and Collaborative Development. Darnell's been doing this for the last 3 years and will complete his Masters next summer.

Peace Church as Guest Speakers

On June 12th, while the Barkmans were in Canada, Peace Church was invited to speak at a Day of Prayer organized by the Evangelical Methodist Church in the Philippines. Kathleen Lei Limayo shared about violence, peace & the Kingdom of God, while Fread, Jeff and Taki talked about poverty and led a prayer walk (pictured below), uniting the attendees in worship. Over 100 young adults attended the event and the guest speakers from Peace Church were well received.

Christina & Darnell Barkman (Cody, Makai and Teyah)

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Humans of Emmanuel



Karmen Sawatzky

1. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was young, I wanted to be the artist that painted windows for the holidays! I work at Hallmark on the Park, a retirement community, and for Canada Day this year, I got to paint the windows of my office. It was just as fun as I thought it would be as a kid!

2. Share about a memorable vacation.

My husband Greg and I were teachers in South Korea for a year and a half. We took a few memorable trips during our time there, but our favourite was the week long trip we took with our teacher friends to Japan. We all ended up staying at a bed and breakfast run by a couple from the Dominican Republic/Brazil. Since we didn't speak Japanese, we organized the trip and spoke with our hosts in Spanish! We had such a wonderful time touring the country, visiting historic sites, trying new foods and ringing in the the New Year Japanese-style. Our hosts took us to a Buddhist temple where we watched local people make wishes for the New Year. One of the most interesting things we did was a hike that ended in a nature reserve home to a kind of monkey. We could look at and feed the monkeys, but we had to be careful not to stare at them; the signs warned us that the monkeys could become aggressive!

3. What verse helps you through difficult times?

Romans 8:31-39 has always been a favourite passage of mine. It reminds us that no matter what we go through in this life, God's love is ever present and that ultimately, as His children, we are conquerors.

Kids' Communion Cookie

April Yamasaki



For our morning communion on Pentecost Sunday, I talked with the children about waiting—how when I was a child, I had to wait for an adult before I could cross the busy street to go to the park, and how some of them are waiting until they are baptized to have the bread and juice of communion.

Waiting is part of life. But because waiting can also be hard, I thought it would be good to have something special just for the kids as a reminder that God loves them and they can love God too. You should have seen their faces when I showed them my pizza-size communion cookie!

The kids loved the cookie, the adults loved their reactions, and some parents and middle schoolers thought we could make a giant cookie a regular part of our communion services. I'm still thinking about that along with our deacons, but in the meantime, here's the recipe by request. (And if anyone would like to volunteer to make it for our next communion time, please let me know!)

Kids' Communion Cookie Recipe

Cream together 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup shortening, 1 cup white sugar, 1/2 cup brown sugar.

Beat in 2 eggs.

Add 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp salt.

Stir in 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips.

Refrigerate dough for 15-20 minutes, then spread in a 16 inch (40 cm) pizza pan.

If using a pizza pan with holes, line the pan with parchment paper first. Don't worry about spreading the cookie dough to fill the pan exactly as the dough will spread on its own to fill the pan.

Bake at 375 deg. F. (190 deg. C.) for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown.

Let cool for 5 minutes, and cut into pieces while still warm.

Share with love.

A Note from the Editor

With the impending arrival of Baby Sawatzky #2, I have decided to step down as editor of the Emmanuel Mennonite newsletter. Over the last two years editing the newsletter with Roberta, I have felt it a privilege to serve the Emmanuel community in this way. I've enjoyed getting to know so many different people through articles and interviews.

At this time, we don't have a replacement editor! If you are interested, please contact myself (karmensawatzky@yahoo.com) or April Yamasaki (pastor @emmanuelmennonite.com) for more information.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER THEME:

His Name is Wonderful

For Advent and Christmas, we'll be focusing on the names of Jesus, and we invite your poems, stories, and reflections for the November/December issue

Deadline : October 23



Creation Care Chat

With Stan Olson

Plastic bags everywhere.

Abbotsford's waste disposal program had some changes in April, and now it's more challenging to recycle shopping bags and other plastic bags, leading to confusion and frustration. So I'm revisiting the topic of plastic bags this month.

We are now aware of the huge accumulation of all kinds of plastics in our oceans and the devastating effect on many creatures that mistake it for food and can often die as a result. And we know that plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to break down in the ocean or in landfills. So it's really worthwhile to make the extra effort to dispose of them responsibly.

-Refuse.

For starters, when shopping, always remember to take along your own cloth shopping bags. Or at least request "No bags." Do you really need a bag to carry a milk jug home? Also, 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 in reducing our society's addiction to plastic.

-Re-use.

What about those plastic bags you already have? Before you throw them away, can you re-purpose them? Most of them are fine to be used again. Or you can take them to MCC or other thrift stores to be re-used.

-Recycle.

Plastic shopping bags and *some* similar soft plastic can definitely be recycled. They can be made into T-shirts and playground equipment, etc.! For now, we can no longer put them out in blue bags for curbside pickup, but we do have several options. Some soft (stretchy) plastics can be taken for recycling to one of the recycling depots around Abbotsford: **Abbotsford Bottle Depot**, 33226 Walsh Avenue, near South Fraser Way and Ware; **R&T Recyclables and Bottle Depot**, Unit 23 - 31550 South Fraser Way, and **Abbotsford-Mission Recycling Depot**, 33670 Valley Rd, off Abbotsford-Mission Hwy.

-Some local stores will recycle your plastic shopping bags for you:

London Drugs in **WestOaks** mall now has a set of bins near the entrance for recycling most everything including *plastic bags*, and there is a small set of bins outside **London Drugs** in the mall, for paper, and cans & bottles (but not *plastic bags*). **Staples** has a set of bins for recycling most everything except *plastic bags*.

Super Store and **Safeway** have bins for *shopping bags*, water bottles, etc. **Save on Foods** takes *shopping bags* and water bottles at Customer Service. **Independent** grocery has bins by their connection to the main **SevenOaks** mall for recycling *plastic shopping bags*, paper, glass, cans & plastic bottles.

No other major stores in **SevenOaks** take recycling (**Best Buy**, **Sears**, **Shopper's Drug**, **The Bay**). The mall itself now has bins for cans, bottles and paper but not *plastic bags*.

Highstreet Mall has numerous bins that take paper, beverage containers, and waste, but not *plastic bags*. **Walmart** there has a bin for recycling *shopping bags*.

Shopper's Drug outlets take only water bottles. When I asked a few weeks ago, the following stores take no recycling at all: **Blackwood** (Home Hardware), **Buckerfields**, **Canadian Tire**, **Home Depot**, **Rona**, and (I'm told) **Costco**.

Questions? Comments? Updates? Suggestions? creationcarechat@gmail.com.

*"Come" said the wind to the leaves one day
"Come to the meadow with me and play
Put on your dresses of red and gold
Summer is gone and the days grow cold"*



Submitted by Vi Pawlitski.

Adapted from a poem by the poet George Cooper (1838-1927) titled *Come Little Leaves*.

What's Happening...

AT EMMANUEL

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

- Sept 4: Labour Day** - Office will be closed
- Sept 5: 11:30am** - Lunch at Garden Park Tower. Everyone welcome!
7:30pm - Education Committee meeting - fireside
- Sept 8- 10** - CAMP SQUEAH! See you there !
- Sept 12: 6:30pm** - Mini Disciples - gym/fireside
7:30pm - Worship Committee meeting - library
- Sept 13: 7pm** - Youth - fireside room
- Sept 15: 9am-4pm** - Fireside room Rental
- Sept 17: 9:30am** - Sunday Learning is back!
10:30am - Worship
12:30pm - Vietnamese Christian Church meal
1:15pm - Vietnamese Christian Church worship
- Sept 19: 9am** - Women's Blanket making - banquet room
7pm - Council meeting - library
- Sept 21: 9:30am** - Kingdom Builders - fireside
- Sept 24: 5pm** - Seniors Fellowship - banquet room
- Sept 26: 9:30am** - Women's Fellowship - fireside
- Sept 27: 10am** - Chai & Chat - fireside
- Oct 1: E-Waste Sunday** - bring in your electronic recycling!
- Oct 29: Missions Sunday** - Potluck fundraiser lunch in the gym after Worship

AROUND TOWN

- Sept 7, 6pm** - Logos Canada invites you to its Fall Fundraiser Banquet at the Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church, 2051 Windsor Street. Guest speakers are Dr. Peter & Katharina Penner, Logos Eurasian Field Directors. Heritage Quartet will provide the music. Cost \$20.00. Call 604-504-7055 or email to reserve tickets: logoscanadaoffice@gmail.com
- Sept 9, 9:30am-2pm** - A Rocha Volunteer Day! Come care for creation at our Brooksdale Environmental Centre! After work enjoy a community lunch and free site tour! Wear weather-appropriate clothing for working outside, and bring gloves if you have them.
Schedule: 9:30 am – Meet at the patio
12:30 pm – Free Lunch for volunteers
1:30 pm – Site Tour
Volunteer Days fill up fast, so please RSVP at 604-541-0475 to make sure you get a spot!
- Sept 15 & 16** - Mennonite Central Committee Festival for World Relief on September 15 & 16, 2017! Help make this year's event a success by giving of your time, talent or treasure. Visit mccfestival.com to see current volunteer opportunities or contact Hannah Toews at hannahtoews@mccbc.ca or 604-850-6639.
- Sept 30** - Mennonite Historical Society of BC presents "MennoComedyntine" Feature presenters: Orlando Braun & Matt Falk. Begins at 7pm and Tickets cost \$10.00. Call 604-853-6177 www.mhsbc.com
- October 13-15: MCBC Women's Retreat: *Courage to boldly go*** - Camp Squeah. Registration deadline is **Oct 1st**. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Centre.

October 13-15: Assembly Registration is open! You are invited to register for the October 13-15 special 2017 Assembly in Winnipeg: <http://www.cvent.com/d/c5q8ft>

Oct 14, 6pm - M2/W2 Gala: *No one leaves alone* (Magnolia Room @ Garden Park Towers). Join us for an evening of inspiration and investment in the lives of incarcerated women and men. Doors open & marketplace 6pm, Program begins at 6:45pm. \$50 per person. Call 604-859-3215 or purchase tickets online www.m2w2.com

Oct 28, 7pm - Young Artists concert at MCA Auditorium (Abbotsford City Hall). Thirteen young local musicians from Mission and Abbotsford (who auditioned for this special honour) will be featured as soloists accompanied by a professional orchestra (and the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra) directed by Calvin Dyck. Tickets are available at King's Music or on event-brite.ca

Nov 2-5 - MEDA Business As a Calling Convention 2017 Vancouver, BC • The Westin Bayshore. Full details and registration at medaconvention.org - Please plan to join us to be challenged and inspired on timely issues near to your heart and mind as we seek to create lasting change for people living in poverty.

Nov 12, 3pm - Mennonite Historical Society of BC Fall Fundraiser: "A Legacy: The Mennonite Conscientious Objectors" Conrad Stoesz presents his multi-award winning Film Presentation "The Last Objectors", Faspa (light meal) to follow at King Road MB. Tickets \$15.00, watch the website for details www.mhsbc.com



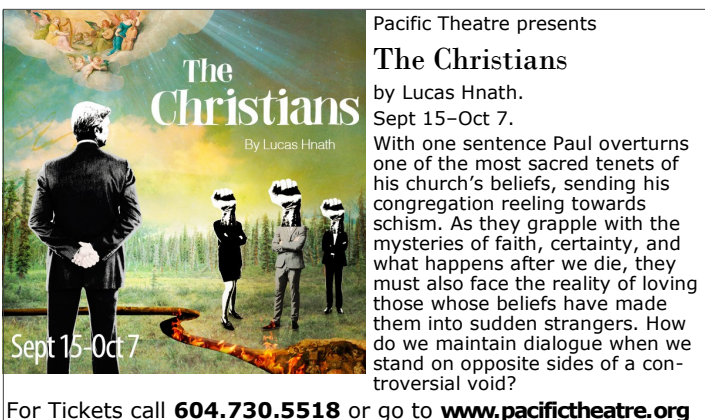
COURAGE
to boldly go
PHILIPPIANS 4: 13 NKJV

← October 13-15 | 2017
Camp Squeah →

Women's Ministry
MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Guest Speaker
Margo Hoffmann

Special Workshop with
Mennonite Girls Can Cook



Pacific Theatre presents
The Christians
by Lucas Hnath.
Sept 15-Oct 7.

With one sentence Paul overturns one of the most sacred tenets of his church's beliefs, sending his congregation reeling towards schism. As they grapple with the mysteries of faith, certainty, and what happens after we die, they must also face the reality of loving those whose beliefs have made them into sudden strangers. How do we maintain dialogue when we stand on opposite sides of a controversial void?

Sept 15-Oct 7

For Tickets call **604.730.5518** or go to www.pacifictheatre.org